

# NBLL Bylaws 2026

*NBLL shall follow all rules and regulations as specified in the then-current Little League Official Regulations, Playing Rules, and Policies (the “LL Rule Book”) except as modified or expanded below.*

## I. League Operations & Conduct

a. Players, parents, managers, umpires, and other volunteers will be provided a copy of the NBLL Code of Conduct to be signed and submitted to the Board of Directors (the “Board”) at the beginning of the season. Each member of the Little League community will be asked to adhere to the guidelines in the relevant document. Players, managers, and coaches will not be permitted on the playing field prior to acknowledging the relevant Code(s) during the on-line registration process or returning the signed documents to the respective Vice Presidents of their divisions.

b. An Executive Committee may be used to settle any disputes that may arise during the year, and it will handle any matters the Board delegates as specified in Article XIII of the Constitution. The Executive Committee shall consist of such members of the Board as may be determined by the Board from time to time.

c. Board members may attend meetings via teleconference when necessary, and such member(s) shall be counted as “present” for purposes of determining quorum.

d. Minutes from regular board meetings shall be made available in a reasonably timely manner to Regular Members in good standing upon request to the Board President and Secretary.

e. The Board may approve motions or business requiring votes through email or other similar electronic methods.

i. A majority of all Directors is necessary to approve business by email or electronic methods.

ii. The Secretary shall keep a record of such votes in a similar method as meeting minutes.

## II. League Structure and Team Formation

All players who submit their registration prior to the published deadline and attend any applicable tryouts or assessments will be guaranteed placement on a roster; applicants who register after the published deadline will be placed on a waitlist pending space and coaching availability.

All parent/guardians must certify the age and residency of each player at registration. Parent/guardians **may** be asked to provide proof of both for the spring/summer seasons and **will** be required to provide proof for the tournament/All-Star season. Guidelines for proof of age & residency can be found on the Little League website.

The Board of Directors may move players between divisions they are eligible for based on the skill level and safety of players involved (ex: an 11-year-old player registered for Minors may be moved to Majors by the board, and vice versa).

a. Seniors: All players of League Age 15-16 shall be eligible to play in the Seniors division; League Age 13-14 players are also eligible for Seniors with Board approval. If enough players register to form one team within NBLL, the Board will form the roster(s). If fewer than 11 players register in Seniors, NBLL will pursue a co-charter arrangement with another Little League, if possible.

b. Juniors: All players of League Age 13-14 shall be eligible to play in the Juniors division; League Age 12 players are also eligible for Juniors with Board approval. The VP of Juniors or Board shall form the rosters for that division.

c. Intermediate: All players of League Age 13 shall be eligible to play in the Intermediate division; League Age 12 players are also eligible for Intermediate with Board approval. Intermediate division tryouts will be held in accordance with the procedure specified in the LL Rule Book.

d. Majors: All players of League Age 12 will be drafted to a Majors team per Regulation 5(a) of the LL Rule Book. Players of League Ages 10 and 11 will be eligible to try out for Majors selection. All players who wish to be considered for the draft must attend a tryout session, including those players of League Age 12, new, and returning Majors players. Extenuating circumstances for players who cannot attend the tryouts will be reviewed and approved by the Player Agent. Attendance at tryouts may be waived with approval by the Player Agent and Majors VP.

e. Majors division tryouts shall be held in accordance with the procedure specified in the LL Rule Book.

iii. Each year, all Majors players will be drafted from “scratch”. That is, all Majors teams will begin the draft with 0 existing players on their roster. All returning Majors players must be drafted to a Majors team.

iv. The Majors division draft shall be held in accordance with the procedures defined in the LL Rule Book.

v. The draft order will be determined through a random draw by Majors managers.

f. Minors: The Minor League shall be structured as follows (all ages are “Little League Ages”):

i. Double A (AA): Ages 7-9.

ii. Triple A (AAA): Ages 9-11.

Parents who wish to have their child play outside the designated Minor League age level/division will be required to submit an Exception Request form to the applicable VP, and the player will be required to attend an assessment to evaluate skill level. These players will not be allowed to “skip” an entire division or level. Other exceptions related to first-year players or players from other leagues, etc. will be evaluated by the applicable VP and will require approval by the Board.

g. Farm: The Farm League shall be structured as follows (all ages are “Little League Ages”):

- i. T-Ball: Ages 4-6 (all 4-year-olds and first-time players ages 5-6).
- ii. Single A (A): Ages 6-8.

Parents who wish to have their child play outside the designated Farm League age level/division will be required to submit an Exception Request to the applicable VP, and the player may be required to attend an assessment to evaluate skill level. Other exceptions related to first-year players or players from other leagues, etc. will be evaluated by the applicable VP.

The Minor League and Farm League divisions *may* be further subdivided by age and/or skill depending on the number of players in each division. This decision will be made by the applicable VPs at the conclusion of the registration period.

h. Minors Team Formation:

i. AA (Double A) teams will be formed by the VP of AA with the intent to provide each team with relatively equal skill and experience levels. Managers’ evaluations from prior seasons and/or results from assessments, if applicable, may be used to facilitate this process.

ii. AAA (Triple A) teams will be formed via a collaborative draft conducted by the Player Agent. Results from the player assessments and/or end-of-season manager evaluations from the prior season (if applicable) may be used to ensure distribution of skill across teams.

iii. Trading players once teams have been officially announced will not be permitted in the Minors divisions unless approved by the Player Agent and confirmed by the Board or NBLL Executive Committee.

iv. Per Regulation III(a) of the LL Rule Book, Minors teams shall have no minimum or maximum number of players; however, all team rosters may or may not have an equal number of players.

i. Farm Team Formation: T-Ball and A (Single A) teams shall be formed by the VP of A/T-Ball based on coach and/or parent request. Players with no specific requests will be assigned to a team with space available based on school, age, etc.

- j. Summer League teams shall be formed based on spring ratings with the intent to provide competitive balance across the divisions. The number of players enrolled at each age level will determine the number of divisions in Summer League. At the board's discretion, the Summer League may be run as a "sandlot" style of play.
- k. Tournament Teams (All-Stars) shall be formed no earlier than May 15th, 2026, according to regulations set forth in the LL Rule Book.
  - i. Tournament team rosters shall be selected from eligible players in the AAA, Majors, Intermediate, Juniors and Seniors divisions.
  - ii. AA Division players shall not be selected to Tournament Team rosters, unless there are not enough eligible and interested players in AAA and/or Majors.
- l. Manager Candidates: Managers and coaches do not have tenure, regardless of their previous years of service. Prior service does not guarantee reappointment; all managers and coaches must be appointed annually by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
  - i. All persons interested in applying to be a Farm, Minors, Intermediate, Juniors, or Seniors manager should follow the process defined on the NBLL website, or contact the League President by the date published on the website. Managers and coaches for the Farm, Minors, Intermediate, Juniors and Seniors shall be appointed by the President in accordance with Regulation I(b) of the LL Rule Book.
  - ii. All people interested in applying to be a Majors manager must submit the application available on the NBLL website no later than the deadline published on the NBLL website. A manager selection committee may make recommendations to the President for appointment in accordance with Regulation I(b) of the LL Rule Book.
  - iii. All eligible persons interested in managing or coaching a tournament (allstar) team should apply to the League President and Player Agent no later than May 13 of the current year. All Tournament managers and coaches shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Board in accordance with Regulation I(b) of the LL Rule Book. If the President is a Tournament manager or coaching candidate, the Vice President shall appoint all Tournament managers and coaches. If the President and Vice President are both Tournament manager or coaching candidates the Player Agent shall then appoint all Tournament managers and coaches. As a condition of eligibility for selection as a tournament team manager/coach, the regular season manager/coach must have also completed the Little League Diamond Leader Training Program ([LittleLeague.org/Diamond Leader](http://LittleLeague.org/DiamondLeader)).

### **III. Scheduling**

Regular season games shall begin on March 09, 2026. Majors and AAA Minors will conclude on or around May 22, 2025; AA Minors and Farm will conclude by no later than June 9, 2023. Tournaments for Majors and Minor leagues may be scheduled following the conclusion of the regular season at the discretion of league VPs.

Summer league games shall begin around mid June 2026 and conclude mid August 2026. Summer league tournaments may be scheduled for the various divisions at the discretion of the Board or summer league committee members.

All dates are subject to adjustment based on weather conditions.

### **IV. Game Interruption and Postponement**

It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors or their designees to determine if a game shall be postponed due to adverse weather or field conditions. In most cases, the decision should wait until as close to game time as possible to allow every possible opportunity for the game to be played as scheduled.

NBLL uses the Weatherbug application to monitor temperatures. If the “feels” like temperature at game time is below 40F the game will be postponed and rescheduled for another time. Consideration is also given to the projected temperature during the game to ensure reasonable conditions.

Per LLI policy, if lightning strikes within 10 miles games are halted and can NOT restart until 30 minutes after the last strike. Each time a new strike is recorded within 10 miles the 30 minute timer restarts. Please see NBLL’s safety plan to see what players and fans should do if lightning strikes at the various playing sites.

In the event that either manager determines a field is unplayable upon arrival for a game, the managers shall have the discretion to postpone the game to a later time. If a game is postponed under these circumstances, the home team manager is responsible for contacting the Chief of Umpires immediately to notify the umpires; the managers are then responsible for notifying the players. The two managers should then work together with the appropriate Vice President to identify a mutually agreeable time and location to reschedule the game and contact the Scheduler or Division VP to revise the master schedule. If the managers cannot find a mutually agreeable time, or if fields are unavailable at their chosen time, or if they fail to do so within a reasonable period of time from the original game cancellation, the Division VP or Scheduler will determine and communicate a time for reschedule based on field and team availability.

If the league cancels a game prior to game time, then the league will determine a time for reschedule.

The Plate Umpire is responsible for terminating a game in progress due to adverse field conditions, adverse weather, darkness or other safety issues. In the Farm League (T-Ball and A) or in AA when no Plate Umpire is present, the managers shall have such responsibility.

In the case of a tie game in the Majors, Juniors, or Seniors divisions, the umpire may elect to continue playing if field conditions permit. However, if another game is scheduled on the same field immediately following the game in question, the tie game should be rescheduled to resume on another day or another field, by mutual agreement of the managers.

## **V. Forfeit Policy**

Forfeited games are addressed by Rules 4.15, 4.16, 4.17 and 4.18 in the LL Rule Book. Only the Chief of Umpires may declare a game to be forfeited; the managers or the Plate Umpire may not make that determination. This decision will be reached after consultation with the game umpire(s) and, if necessary, the Board of Directors. Once a game has been declared a forfeit, any subsequent activities by the players of either team shall not be considered a game under any circumstances or for any purpose.

Managers may begin or continue a game with 8 players, per the “Local League Option” in Rule 4.00 in the LL Rule Book. The 9th position in the batting order shall be skipped and not recorded as an out.

## **VI. Substitute Players (For AAA, Majors, Juniors, & Intermediate, Majors)**

- a. Prior to Opening Day, the VP of each division shall create a pool of players from existing regular season teams who are willing to play in extra games when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a game. Players who wish to be added to this substitute pool may do so at any point in the season provided they are placed in the last spot on the substitute list.
- b. Players in the pool will be listed in order of next availability and assigned on a rotating basis; however, priority will be given to potential substitutes who do not have a scheduled game with their existing team on the day that a substitute is needed.
- c. Managers and coaches do not have the right to request or select specific players from the pool.
- d. Managers must request a substitute from the appropriate league VP (or other designated Board member) no later than four hours prior to the scheduled game time.
- e. No more than two substitute players may be used for a single game. If a manager knows he/she will not have enough players, even with substitutes, then he/she should contact the opposing manager to arrange to reschedule the game.
- f. Substitute players will not be allowed to pitch or play an infield position as a substitute in the Majors, Intermediate and Juniors; in the Minors, substitute players may not pitch but may play any other position. The substitute player(s) must occupy the last spot(s) in the batting order.
- g. Substitute players must play at least nine consecutive defensive outs and bat once, even if additional rostered players arrive at the game after it has begun.