

# Bylaws, Local Rules and Ground Rules

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Each local Little League Board of directors should adopt its own bylaws, local rules or ground rules (the terms are interchangeable). This document expires annually at the end of the fiscal year and must be renewed annually.

Bylaws normally include the local board's procedures for selection of Tournament Teams (All Stars), specific ground rules for various divisions (such as time limits on games and practices), etc.

Because each local Little League board of directors should have authority to change these types of procedures, they require only board consent, without the general membership's approval. No part of the bylaws, local rules or ground rules can conflict with or supersede any Little League rule, regulation or policy.

The bylaws, local rules or ground rules are to be distinguished from the local Little League's Constitution. The Constitution spells out the duties and responsibilities of the officers of the board, definition of membership, election procedures, meeting requirements such as quorum, etc. The local Little League board of directors must make a copy of the bylaws, local rules or ground rules available to any member of the local Little League for review and inspection if requested.

# Lumberton Little League

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# Lumberton Little League

## 1.0 General Policy

It is the intent of Lumberton Little League to accommodate any player who wants to play baseball or softball, lives within the Lumberton Little League boundaries (established by Little League Inc.) and meets registration requirements established by Little League Inc. No player will be turned away except for severe disciplinary reasons or restrictions. Managers, coaches, players, parents, spectators, etc., shall not consume alcohol, tobacco products, or be in possession of a firearm (exception law enforcement) at any Lumberton Little League function.

Lumberton Little League follows the rules as set forth in the Official Regulations and Playing Rules for the current year for each chartered division for the current year. Lumberton Little League has adopted supplemental rules (Bylaws) (contained herein) that augment the Official Regulations and Playing Rules. These Supplemental Rules are mandatory during regular season but are not applicable during post-season tournament play.

Managers and coaches (and players and parents) are responsible to know these Supplemental Rules as well as the Official Regulations and Playing Rules authorized and published by Little League Baseball, Inc. Games played by teams in an "interleague" format, regardless of their opponent, will be governed by the interleague rules.

Lumberton Little League shall enforce the following age and residence rules during registration in compliance with Little League, Inc.

## 1.1 Player's League Age

A player's league age for the current season of baseball and softball is his/her age based on the official League age charts below. See Little League Baseball Proof of Age Requirements document for details on acceptable proof of age documents that must be submitted at registration (<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/forms.htm>).

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## 1.2 Player Residence Location

The player must reside within the Lumberton Little League boundary at least 51 percent of the time and indicate residence location on boundary map during registration or have a completed and approved Regulation II (d) waiver on file. See Little League Baseball Proof of Residency Requirements document for details on acceptable proof of residency documents that must be submitted at registration (<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/forms.htm>).

- 1.2.1 Players who move outside of Lumberton Little League boundaries may continue to play for Lumberton Little League provided a Regulation II (d) waiver has been submitted and approved by Little League, Inc.
- 1.2.2 The proofs of residency shall be kept with the waiver until the player no longer plays for Lumberton Little League.
- 1.2.3 Per Little League rules, if a player playing under a Regulation II(d) waiver does not play the following year, that player is not eligible to play for Lumberton Little League unless that player establishes residency again within the Lumberton Little League boundaries.
- 1.2.4 Our facilities are periodically surveyed and maintained to the highest standards to prevent injuries and mishaps.
- 1.2.5 No player shall be subjected to abusive language, harassment, severe or injurious discipline, anger of the coaches, teammates, etc.

## 1.3 Background Checks

Per Little League Inc. Regulation 1 (c), Lumberton Little League is required to conduct an annual, nationwide background check on all personnel and hired personnel. Each volunteer or hired personnel is required to complete and submit a “Little League Volunteer Application” and provide a copy of a valid government-issued photo identification to the president or board member(s) designated by the president.

- 1.3.1 No one will be allowed to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor.
- 1.3.2 Lumberton Little League may also prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer if the individual is deemed unfit to work with minors.

Lumberton Little League shall perform background checks as follows:

- The president or designee(s) shall conduct a background check on all managers using the JDP background screening database.
- The president shall name one or more Lumberton Little League Board of Directors to perform background checks under the direction of the president.

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- The president shall review the results of any background check that returns information that warrants further investigation.

Each Lumberton Little League Board of Directors member, manager, coach, adult umpire, and all other adult volunteers or hired personnel shall complete and submit a “Little League Volunteer Application” for the current fiscal year and a copy of valid, government-issued photo identification to the president or designee(s).

The president or designee(s) shall conduct a background check on all other volunteers using the JDP background screening database. The president or designee(s) shall complete the “Little League Volunteer Application” as required by Little League.

If the background check returns information or Lumberton Little League subsequently becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that an individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers and players, has been convicted of or pled guilty to any crime involving or against a minor, the president must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. The president or designee(s) shall also notify the individual of the action that is being taken so that the individual can offer any response or comment to the president and the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors. Upon confirmation of a conviction for, or guilty plea to, a crime against or involving a minor, Lumberton Little League shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner. That person shall be dismissed immediately.

If the background check reveals that the individual, including, but not limited to, volunteers and players, has been convicted of or pled guilty to any other type of crime not involving nor against a minor, the president must contact the applicable government agency to confirm the accuracy of the information. The president or designee(s) shall present the findings to the investigation committee. The individual shall have the opportunity to present his or her side of the case to the executive committee. executive committee shall determine whether the individual will be able to continue participating in Lumberton Little League.

Any felony involving physical harm to an individual (for example, murder, kidnapping, spousal abuse) is reason for immediate dismissal.

Any felony not involving physical harm to an individual (for example, extortion, theft) shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. However, the individual cannot hold a board position, manage, or coach.

Misdemeanors (for example, a minor fist fight), infractions (for example, a speeding ticket), and DUIs (driving under the influence) shall be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

All decisions by the President and Lumberton Little League Board of Directors are final.

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All forms submitted for and created because of the background check shall remain in the possession of the president or designee(s) for a minimum of 2 fiscal years. Except as required by law, no other person shall have access to or see the forms.

## 2.0 Seasons

Lumberton Little League offers up to two seasons:

Spring Season - February - May	Open to all youth who properly register and meet age and residency requirements per Section 1.0.
Fall Season – September - November (if applicable)	Open to all youth who properly register and meet age and residency requirements per Section 1.0 and is intended for skill development and improvement.

## 2.1 Season Length

- Mini-Tee will play a 10-game season offering no post-season or all-stars.
- Tee-Ball will play a minimum of a 10-game season
- All other divisions will play a minimum of 12 games, consisting of, a regular season, a post-season, and all-stars

*Note:* Mini-Tee and T-Ball will not be provided trophies. The manager may elect to take up donations to provide his/her team participation trophies.

## 2.2 Division Champion and Post-season Tournament

The team with the best win/loss record shall be declared the “Division Champion” if a tournament is not to be played. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be head to head win/loss record. In the event a further tiebreaker is needed, the team with the lowest runs scored against total for the season shall be declared the champion. 1<sup>st</sup> place Division Trophies shall be provided for each applicable division champion.

Each division that qualifies (coach pitch and above) may play an end of the year tournament to determine the division champion. Teams will be seeded based on their regular season win/loss

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records. The tournament will be single elimination. If a team has not played a minimum of 12 games, then a separate consolation game shall be played.

Tournament format is as follows:

- The tournament will last roughly 1-week, and a team could play up and may exceed 3 games in that week
- Highest seeded teams will play lowest seeded teams. (i.e. 1 vs 4, 2 vs 3)
- The winning team advances in the bracket, the losing team is out of the tournament pending a consolation game
- Games may be played on a different field other than their normal regular season field • No ties. Extra innings may be played to determine the winner. (within time limits)
- The winner of the tournament is declared tournament champion.
- Lumberton Little League will provide tournament champion rings for each player for each applicable division tournament winner.

## 3.0 Divisions of Play

Lumberton Little League offers the following baseball and softball divisions. The number of teams in the chart below is subject to change due to the number of registered players.

<b>Division</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Ages</b>
<b>Mini-Tee</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Tee Ball</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>5, 6</b>
<b>Coach Pitch</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>7, 8</b>
<b>Baseball Minors</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>9, 10</b>
<b>Baseball Majors</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>11, 12</b>
<b>Baseball 50/70</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>13</b>

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<b>Baseball Seniors</b>	<b>Boys &amp; Girls</b>	<b>14, 15, 16</b>
<b>Division</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Ages</b>
<b>Softball Coach Pitch</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>6, 7, 8</b>
<b>Softball Minors</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>9, 10</b>
<b>Softball Majors</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>11, 12</b>
<b>Softball Juniors</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>13, 14</b>
<b>Softball Seniors</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>13, 14, 15, 16</b>

### 4.0 Code of Conduct

All Team Managers, Coaches, and assistants must sign a "Code of Conduct Agreement" approved by the Board of Directors. Whenever practical, in enforcing the Code of Conduct and Agreement adopted by the Board, written notice will be provided in advance to individual managers, coaches, or assistants about any conduct which is considered by the Board of Directors to be in violation of the Code of Conduct and Agreement. Should any substantial violation of the Code of Conduct Agreement occur the offending individual will be subject to penalties ranging from written and/or oral warning, season suspension, to expulsion from the league depending on the severity of the offense or uncorrected behavior as judged by the Board of Directors.

After notification of the nature of the offence, the accused offender will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations in person or in writing. However, if the gravity of the alleged offense or the safety of players or integrity of the Little League program warrants the immediate suspension of the accused, the President may implement a suspension or other corrective measures prior to any hearing.

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Lumberton Little League will enforce the following disciplinary actions based on the “1 and then Gone” policy. First offence warrants an in-person meeting with the accused from the President of the league, if guilty then 1 written reprimand will be issued. The warning will be provided in person, signed by the individual, and written documentation will be kept on record for a minimum of 2 years detailing the incident. A 2<sup>nd</sup> offence in the same fiscal year warrants a suspension from Lumberton Little League premises for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Board of Directors will review the case the following fiscal year to determine if the individual(s) will be granted permission to return to Lumberton Little League.

## 5.0 Managers and Coaches

### 5.1 Manager Selection

Individuals interested in managing a Lumberton Little League baseball/softball team must complete and submit the following to the Coaching Coordinator:

- Lumberton Little League Manager Application.
- Little League Volunteer Application Form.
- Provide a copy of USA government issued photo ID

Each manager candidate shall be reviewed by the Board of Directors. Manager positions are for one-season only. Having previously been a manager in Lumberton Little League is not a guarantee of a managing position in any subsequent season.

All manager candidates for Baseball/Softball Minors and up must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- One year as a Little League Baseball Tee Ball or Coach Pitch manager, or
- Two consecutive years as a Little League Baseball Mini-Tee - Coach Pitch coach, or •  
One year as a Little League Baseball Minors - Seniors manager or coach, or
- Equivalent experience as a manager or coach (must provide proof).

### 5.2 Coach Selection

Each manager shall select additional coaches as stated in their division’s rules. While it is desired that the coaches be fathers/mothers of a player on the team, the manager may ask another individual (who does not have a son/daughter playing in Lumberton Little League) to be a coach. All Managers must declare their coaches in writing to their division Player Agent prior to their first regular season game. Note: All volunteers are required to complete and submit a

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“Little League Volunteer Application” and provide a copy of a valid government-issued photo identification to the president or board member(s) designated by the president.

### 5.3 Manager Training

Every manager shall attend classroom and field training classes as directed by the leagues Coaching Coordinator. This includes Coaching Fundamentals training and any other training as directed by the leagues coaching coordinator. Failure to attend these classes may result in dismissal of that manager from Lumberton Little League at the discretion of the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors.

### 5.4 Manager / Coach Responsibilities

Managers are responsible for the following:

- Strive to ensure the physical and emotional safety of all players on their team.
- Strive to ensure the proper moral and ethical conduct of players, coaches, players’ parents, and him / her.
- Know, teach, and follow all rules and regulations as set forth by Little League, Inc. and Lumberton Little League.
- Strive to ensure that volunteers are obtained from among the team’s parents to keep the scorebook, run the scoreboard, perform field maintenance, safety, and other responsibilities as determined by the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors.
- Umpire a minimum of 2 games for their division or outside of their division.
- Attend all required manager meetings (Lumberton Little League and Texas East District 12) and training classes.
- Accept all decisions of Lumberton Little League Board of Directors and/or President as final.
- Look for ways to improve Lumberton Little League and convey them to the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors.

### 5.5 Manager /Coach Discipline

Failure to follow Little League rules and/or Lumberton Little League Bylaws and/or failure to manage/coach in the spirit of Little League may result in a reprimand, suspension or dismissal by the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors following an investigation into alleged infractions and/or failings.

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Investigations will be conducted by a committee consisting of the President, Director of Baseball/Softball, Coaching Coordinator, and Safety Officer (if applicable) for the effected division. Decisions of this committee are final.

Infractions include but are not limited to:

- Foul language.
- Yelling at or intimidating a player, umpire, or spectator.
- Following umpire off the field.
- Inappropriate behavior.
- Use of tobacco products at Lumberton Little League. (Outside of designated area)
- Drinking alcohol at or before a practice and/or a game - includes having the odor of alcohol on the person or breath.
- Failure to follow Little League Rules, Lumberton Supplemental Division Rules, or Lumberton Little League Bylaws.
- In possession of a firearm or harmful device

### 5.6 Manager Requirements to Manage

Managers shall not be allowed to manage any regular season games for their team until the following requirements have been met:

- A completed manager application is on file with the coaching coordinator.
- A completed volunteer application form for the manager for the current year is on file with the president or designee.
- A completed volunteer application form for all coaches for the current year is on file with the president or designee.
- Makes sure that a completed volunteer application form for each parent listed on the parent volunteer sign-up sheet is on file with the president or designee.
- Attended the manager training classes.

Any manager who has not met ALL the above requirements shall not be allowed to manage their team until they have met those requirements or granted permission from Lumberton Little League.

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## 6.0 Parents

### 6.1 Parent Involvement

Lumberton Little League is a volunteer organization. It cannot be effective if only the board of directors and a few other parents do all the work. It is critical that each parent be involved with the everyday operation of Lumberton Little League. Parent involvement help ALL the kids playing in Lumberton Little League. Therefore, ALL parents shall be accountable for one of the areas of responsibility on their child's team. Each parent shall have something to do that will foster team spirit and take burdens off the managers' shoulders.

Areas where team parents should help include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Coaching
- Keeping the official scorebook / Running the scoreboard
- Distributing Uniforms / Team Picture Forms • Help with Fundraiser activities and collection
- Pre-game field preparation and post-game field repair.
- Field Maintenance
- Team Parent/ Team Mom

The team manager will be provided with a parent volunteer form listing the areas where volunteers are needed for his/her team. The parents are required to select an area to volunteer for prior to the beginning of the season.

### 6.2 Parent Conduct

Parents must exhibit good sportsmanship always, especially from the stands. Coaching from the stands is not allowed, but encouraging players is. Negative comments will not be tolerated. The Umpires are volunteers and can be as young as 14-years-old. Absolutely NO yelling, or negative comments towards the Umpires.

### 6.3 Parent Discipline

Failure to follow Little League rules and/or Lumberton Little League Bylaws and/or failure to support the children in the spirit of Little League may result in a reprimand, suspension or dismissal from the league by the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors following an investigation into alleged infractions and/or failings.

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- Yelling at or intimidating a player, umpire, or spectator.
- Following umpire off the field.
- Inappropriate behavior.
- Use of tobacco products at Lumberton Little League. (Outside of designated area)
- Drinking alcohol at or before a practice and/or a game - includes having the odor of alcohol on the person or breath.
- Failure to follow Little League Rules, Lumberton Division Rules, or Lumberton Little League Bylaws.
- In possession of a firearm or harmful device

## 7.0 Team Formations

### 7.1 Mini-Tee / Tee Ball

Mini-Tee / Tee Ball division teams are established by the Director of Baseball based on several factors.

Players in this division can request to play with certain players and /or a certain Managers. An annual division manager's meeting will be held each season to trade players. Other factors may include:

- Equal distribution of age
- Neighborhood school residence
- Geographic location

NOTE: There are no evaluations, tryouts, or draft for this division.

### 7.2 All Other Baseball/Softball Divisions of Play

All other Baseball/Softball divisions of play are formed using a draft. This division shall hold tryouts each year. Tryouts are conducted under the direction of each division's Director of Baseball/Softball. The President and the Secretary should also be at the draft to assist the division Director to record and verify the result.

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## 8.0 Draft Plan

Lumberton Little League will use draft plan 'C' per Little League International guidelines for the Mini Tee and Tee Ball Division. Managers will be appointed rosters through an automated or randomized draft. Considerations shall be made to pair siblings and/or friends on the same team if requested.

All Softball divisions and Baseball divisions Coach Pitch and up will use draft plan "B" per Little League International guidelines. This is the redraft option whereby all teams are redrafted in entirety every season. The draft will be a serpentine method (i.e. R1- 1,2,3,4, R2- 4,3,2,1 etc.). Managers will draw numbers from a hat to determine what position they will draft. Whoever draws first will have the first selection of player followed by 2,3,4 etc. The manager who drew last will have first selection on team name followed by next to last and so on. Managers are permitted one "manager's exception" only, in that they may draft their own son/daughter but must do it by a certain round based on the player evaluation process for that division. All other players will be "unprotected" and can be drafted by any manager. A manager can exercise the option to "protect" multiple children of the manager but must do so in writing 48 hours prior to the draft and submitted to the Director of Baseball/Softball.

At the President's and/or Director of Baseball/Softball's discretion, it is possible for each manager to exercise an option for one assistant coach per team for that coach's son/daughter to be protected in the draft. If planning to apply for this option, the manager must submit the details of this to the President and/or Director of Baseball/Softball at least 48 hours before the draft begins. Just like the Sons/Daughters of Managers Option, this option must be exercised before a specified round, which depends on the division and league age of the player, as well as each player's evaluation by the Player Agent. Failure to exercise the option in or before the specified round results in the son/daughter of the assistant coach becoming eligible to be drafted by any other team.

The details to provide 48hrs ahead of draft time include:

- Manager's proof of completion of all required training
- Assistant Coach's name and proof of completion of all required training
- Child's name and proposed fair draft round to be selected to Manager's team

## 8.1 Trading Players

All player trades must be made through the Director of Baseball/Softball. Player trades must be completed the day of the draft in the draft room. All trades must be player for player only. Trades for future draft choices are not permitted. The President and the Director of

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Baseball/Softball must approve trades involving drafted players. If not approved, the trade is vetoed, and the board decision is final. Trades should be within 1 round they were drafted in to be considered an eligible trade.

## 8.2 Player Draft Re-entry

The spirit of the player draft re-entry is to protect the relationship between the player, parent, and manager/coach. When a problem exists between a player and manager/coach, or parent and manager/coach, the following steps must be taken, in the order listed prior to the first scheduled practice day of the season:

- Discuss the situation with the player's team coaching staff.
- If no resolution is reached, the manager and parent(s) shall notify the division Coaching Coordinator.
- If the Coaching Coordinator is unable to resolve the situation, then he or she shall notify the Director of Baseball or Softball (whichever is applicable).
- The Director of Baseball/Softball shall address the situation and attempt to solve the problem fairly for all.

The Lumberton Little League Board of Directors shall grant or deny requests for re-entry into a draft based on how well the previous conditions were met. All considerations for the best interest of the player will be given.

## 8.3 Player Vacancy

If a vacancy occurs, the Replacement procedure shall be as follows:

The manager of the team losing a player shall promptly advise the division Coaching Coordinator when a player is lost to a team during the playing season for any of the following reasons:

- He/she moves to another city or state too distant to commute for practice and play;
- He/she is injured (does not matter how, where, or when the injury occurred) and it is a season-ending injury (based on a doctor's opinion);
- He/she has, for personal reasons, decided to terminate his/her association with the team;
- Any other justifiable reason reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

The Director of Baseball/Softball shall advise the President and the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors. If the loss of the player is approved, the President will send a letter of release to the legal guardian of the player stating that the player is released from the team

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(except for injury) and the league for a justifiable reason. This action creates a legal opening for a replacement on the team roster. If the vacancy prevents the team from rostering the minimum required number of players, the Director of Baseball/Softball shall select a replacement from the team rostering the most players. The Director of Baseball/Softball and President will discuss with the parents of the selected player, the possibility of their child moving to another team. If the parents and player agree, the replacement player becomes a member of the team.

If a player is injured prior to the first regularly scheduled game, the manager must notify the division Coaching Coordinator. The parents or legal guardians of the player must provide the division Coaching Coordinator a note containing the physician's opinion of how long the player should not play. If the player is unable to play as of April 1, the manager may select a replacement player from the draft if available unless the Director of Baseball/Softball agrees to an extension (e.g., the player can return a few days after the April 1 deadline).

Players who quit are to be treated as move-outs. A player who misses three consecutive unexcused regularly scheduled games will be considered to have quit. This will be subject to the judgment of the Board and President who will consult with the player's parents.

All movements of players must be handled by and through the Director of Baseball/Softball. The Director of Baseball/Softball, parents, and player must approve ALL movements of players to and between Teams.

### 9.0 Safety

Lumberton Little League will provide the safest playing environment possible. The Lumberton Little League Safety Officer will be able to handle most minor accidental injuries. Our facilities are periodically surveyed and always maintained to the highest standards to prevent injuries and mishaps.

- ALL male catchers MUST wear an athletic supporter to prevent injury that could occur from a hit or thrown ball at all games and practices. It is recommended that female catchers also wear a protective cup.
- The player catching balls for a coach/manager hitting infield practice or fly balls MUST wear a catcher's helmet during games and practices.

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- Plate umpires MUST wear the same protective equipment as required for catchers, including a protective facemask. Catchers under the age of 18 are required to wear a protective cup. No exceptions are allowed.
- Managers shall check the playing facilities for safety prior to starting practices. Umpires and managers shall check the playing facilities for safety prior to starting games. All problems must be reported to the Groundskeeper, Board Member on Duty or Safety Officer.
- Each incident or accident must be documented and reported to the President or Safety Officer immediately of its occurrence.
- Managers and coaches will attend Coach's training prior to the season. The training session will include basic safety principles.
- Each manager MUST know the location of the Lumberton Little League supplied first aid kit at all practices and games on league premises. The Safety Officer MUST check supply levels weekly prior to practices and games and replenish as required.
- When there is lightning and/or thunder within 7 miles or less, all practices and games must stop immediately, and everyone must go to a safe location. Lightning strikes within 7 miles (checked by the board member on duty using a common radar application used by all Board members) suspends all games and practices and all players must remain in the dugout or covered area until the board member on duty has determined it is safe to play. Lightning Strikes within 3 miles warrants ALL persons on Lumberton Little League premises to return to their vehicles and remain there until either the game is cancelled, or it is safe to return to play. Warnings shall be given when impending lightning has reached 10 miles.
- Managers and parents will utilize safety and security policies as they pertain to dropping-off and picking-up of players at all practice and game fields.
- Equipment shall be stored in an orderly manner in the dugouts to prevent hazards.
- Guests are NOT allowed in the dugout area or on the field during games.
- Each manager must inspect equipment for wear and tear before each practice or game and repair or replace defective equipment (Contact Lumberton Little League equipment coordinator for replacement equipment) Ensure that all player-supplied equipment meets Little League regulations and requirements.
- All batters, base runners, and youth base coaches shall wear a batting helmet.

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- Arrangements shall be made to ensure a mobile phone is available at each practice and game for emergencies.
- During games, managers will ensure that players not currently participating in the game remain in the dugout.
- On-deck batters are not allowed in any division except 50/70 and above.
- Breakaway bases or throw-down bases must be used on all fields for all divisions for practices and games.
- One adult must be present by the dugout always.

### 9.1 Emergency Policy

In the event of a major injury on Lumberton Little League premises the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors, Managers, Coaches, or Umpires are not trained to provide medical care. Lumberton Little League will follow these steps to assure timely care is provided for the injured. The Board Member on Duty will immediately call 911. The manager and/or person(s) selected by the board member on duty will secure the area and remove all persons from the injured. Parents of the injured must immediately be notified if they are not present. The President of the league will also be immediately notified if not present. The board member on duty will stay with the injured until Emergency Care has arrived and assist EMS. Once the injured is in medical hands the President and/or Safety Officer will leave to the hospital and meet with the parent(s)/guardian of the individual and remain with the family until their help is no longer needed. When the situation is stable, the President and/or Safety Officer shall meet with the family to help fill out the necessary insurance paperwork for the injured to be covered under the Lumberton Little League Liability and Accident insurance coverage. Lumberton Little League will continue to remain with the family until our help is no longer needed.

### 10.0 Equipment

Lumberton Little League issued equipment (tees, bats, balls, etc.) are the property of Lumberton Little League and must be returned at the end of each game (exception catchers gear).

- Each Manager that chooses to rent equipment shall contact the Equipment Coordinator to be issued a full set of catcher's gear. (Unreturned catchers gear will result in a loss of coaching eligibility for future seasons. Coaches are required to return gear or payment of \$200 dollars for lost gear at a date established by the Coaching Coordinator in

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conjunction with the end of the regular season. Exceptions will be made for coaches that are voted to continue service through the post-season.)

- Managers are responsible for maintaining the provided equipment and notifying the Equipment Coordinator when gear needs to be replaced.
- Managers are responsible for returning gear that was check out at the beginning of the season.
- Managers are responsible for and must replace any lost or stolen equipment belonging to Lumberton Little League
- Lumberton Little League will provide a tee, if requested, to each Tee Ball manager.

*Note:* Lumberton Little League will provide all game balls and tees for games.

## 11.0 Shortage of Player Rules

### 11.1 Player Pool

If a team cannot roster the minimum number or required players for a game, they may utilize the player pool process. Any team that uses a player from the player pool is considered an official game. If no player from the player pool is available, the game may still be played under alternative methods but will be considered a forfeit. Managers are required to submit a list of a minimum of 2 players from their team to be added into the player pool to the Coaching Coordinator.

The player pool process is as follows:

- The Manager must notify the Coaching Coordinator a minimum of 1 hour before the start of the game of a shortage of player(s). (The coaching coordinator is not responsible for locating a player on game time decisions and the team must use the alternate method to play)
- The Coaching Coordinator will contact the first player on the player pool list to confirm eligibility to play.
- Once a player has been selected to play, all information regarding the game will be relayed to the player's parent or guardian by the Coaching Coordinator.
- The player will wear their regular game uniform, play for the assigned team and will be temporarily a member of that team for the duration of 1 game.

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- The manager must play the replacement player in the outfield and bat the player last in the lineup.
- Once a player has been activated to play from the player pool their name will drop to the bottom of the player pool list.

### 11.2 Game Time Shortage of Player

If a team cannot roster the minimum number or required players for a game and is not notified until game time the manager may utilize the alternative method. The alternative method to play a game with a shortage of players is to “borrow” the last recorded out of the opposing team to fill in defensively on the team with the shortage of player(s). The game shall be played but considered a forfeit. No game shall be played without a minimum of 8 rostered players (exception Mini-Tee).

The Alternative method is as follows:

- The team with the shortage of players will bat only their teams rostered players. No “automatic out” will be recorded for not having a 9<sup>th</sup> batter.
- Each half inning the opposing team will lend the player with the last recorded out from the previous inning (last batter to start the game) to the opposing team to fill in defensively
- The borrowed player must play in the outfield
- The game is played as normal but will be considered a forfeit for the team with the shortage of players.
- Any game that is played with only 8 players whether the Manager chooses to use the alternative method is considered a forfeit.

### 12.0 Supplemental Playing Rules

Lumberton Little League supplemental playing rules are intended to supplement and/or emphasize the Little League Baseball/ Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules. These supplemental rules are mandatory during regular season – tournament exceptions are noted. Conflicts with these supplemental rules must be brought to the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors in writing for resolution. Review each division supplemental rules online at [lumbertonlittleleague.com](http://lumbertonlittleleague.com) under the rules and documents drop down menu.

*Note: Leagues that participate in Interleague play will be governed by the District 12 provided Interleague Rules*

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## 13.0 General Game and Park Rules

This section is applicable to all Lumberton Little League divisions.

### 13.1 General Game Rules

- Teams shall occupy the correct dugout as stated on the scoreboard. If a field does not have a scoreboard the first base dugout will constitute the Home team dugout.
- Each team shall complete their designated responsibilities as stated in their division rules.
- Games will not start until manager, coach, or parent is keeping the official scorebook, and if applicable the scoreboard. (although game clocks will start)
- Game time clocks on games per division will promptly start at their designated start time whether the teams are ready to play or not. (exceptions will be made if waiting on an umpire)

### 13.2 Park Rules

The park will open at roughly 5:00 P.M. and close no later than 10:00 P.M. The park will be open regularly on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. All other days a board member will have to be contacted to open the park unless previously scheduled.

- NO Outside Food and Drinks
- NO Pets of any kind
- NO Tobacco use inside the park other than the main parking area. (largest parking lot)
- NO Alcohol or drug use
- NO Fighting, bullying, or rough housing
- NO Foul language directed at Coaches, Players, Umpires, Concession Workers, or Spectators
- NO Climbing on fences, tables, bleachers, or batting cage netting
- DO NOT Throw rocks or hard objects
- DO NOT Use batting cages without prior approval for the Board of Directors
- NO Soliciting of other baseball/softball organizations
- NO Vandalism of any kind
- NO Trespassing when the park is closed
- DO NOT Park in non-designated areas or block emergency access routes. (YOUR VEHICLE WILL BE TOWED)

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- DO NOT Go outside of Lumberton Little League premises other than the main gate.

## 13.3 Cancelled and Suspended games

Only the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors have the authority to suspend or call a game. Every reasonable effort must be made to make fields playable when they are scheduled. On bad weather days the Board of Directors will decide on the days scheduled games at 4:00 P.M. Only the managers, umpires, and concessions workers will be notified. It is the manager's responsibility to relay the information to their player's parents.

Reasons for cancelled and suspended games include, but not limited to:

- When a field is too wet to play safely
- When there is insufficient light to safely play
- When a team does not have nine players
- When there is severe lightning

Cancelled games will be rescheduled, the manager notified, and schedules updated online. Suspended games that did not meet the minimum official game length (3 completed innings, 4 for 50/70 and above) will be rescheduled to complete the game.

## 13.4 Forfeits

Forfeits can occur for the following reasons:

- A team was unable to supply to minimum number of required players
- Playing rules were not followed including the use of an ineligible player or pitcher.
- A game was cancelled or suspended without Lumberton Little League Board of Directors approval.
- The Board of Directors calls a game due to failure to follow rules from the manager, coaches, players, or spectators.

All reasonable action should be completed to avoid a forfeited game. Forfeited games will only be rescheduled to meet the minimum game requirements for the division.

## 13.5 Run/Pitch Rules

- Mercy run rules will be in effect for a 15-run lead after 3 innings, and a 10-run lead after 4 innings. 50/70 and above: 15-run lead after 4 innings, 10-run lead after 5 innings and 8-run lead after 5 innings.
- The minimum player playing time rule is not enforced when a game is conceded.

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- Pitching regulations (not applicable to Tee ball and Coach Pitch) are clearly defined within Official Regulations and Playing Rules. Managers must ensure they keep track of and can make available all pitching records to Umpires, Opposing Manager and League Officials, if requested.

Lumberton Little League reserve the right to audit pitching records and take appropriate action to ensure regulations are being followed. The disciplinary action for the manager for not following the pitch count, rules including days of pitcher rest, are as follows:

- 1st offense: 1 game suspension and forfeiture of all-star coaching eligibility.
- 2nd offense: Permanent suspension for the rest of the season.

### 13.6 Protests

- Protests shall be made in accordance with Official Regulations and Playing Rules. Reference Official Playing Rule: 4.19.
- Chain of Command for a protest is the Plate Umpire, then Board Member on Duty, then President, then District Administrator
- No protests shall be considered involving an umpire's judgment. *I.E Out/Safe, Fair/Foul, Strike/Ball*
- Pitch count violations are grounds for protest.

### 14.0 Tournament Team Process

As a league, Lumberton Little League strives to make sure that the regular season offers as much opportunity to play and experience baseball and softball as possible. The League implements numerous local rules to make for a more enjoyable playing experience for ALL players. Our League has many different playing levels, each geared to accommodate players based on their age and ability of play.

#### 14.1 Selection Policy and Basic Overview

The All-Star Season is a separate season from the regular season. It is an opportunity for a significantly higher level of play within the regional Little League system. Players will have a significantly higher level of commitment and will receive higher-level instruction to compete against other All-Star teams.

When it comes to All-Star teams, it is the intent of Lumberton Little League to field teams that will best represent our league in competition and character. All baseball and softball players need to have an opportunity to make the team regardless of popularity, school affiliation,

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parental influence, or manager prejudice. For those that are not selected for the team the details regarding their candidacy shall be held in the strictest of confidence and remain private.

Several characteristics influence our selection process for players and managers for the All Stars team:

- Skill-level and ability to compete
- Attitude, hustle, team spirit, team leadership, and
- Overall character, integrity, and sportsmanship.

Winning is fun, but it is very important that we remember that Little League is a Child Development Program and that we are about teaching life lessons, building and demonstrating the positive ideals and characteristics that we hope for all our children.

## 14.2 General Selection Process and Procedure

### Timing

The All-Star team selection process will begin approximately two weeks prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>. The All-Star teams cannot be announced at any earlier date than is prescribed by Little League Rules each year. This date is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

### Number of Players

Each All-Star team representing Lumberton Little League will consist of a minimum of 12 players. Teams shall have 1 manager and up to 2 assistant coaches. The All-Star Manager shall appoint a new player of their choosing should the team need to replace a player due to injury, lack of commitment, ineligibility, or other unforeseen circumstance. This appointment will be approved by the Lumberton Little League Board of Directors.

## 14.3 Teams and Age Groups

### Baseball

- Coach Pitch shall represent a 7u and an 8u non-sanctioned tournament team to play in local tournaments.
- Minor League shall represent a 9u non-sanctioned team to play in local tournaments and a 10u chartered all-star team eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Texas East state level.

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- Major League shall represent an 11u chartered all-star team eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Texas East state level and a 12u chartered all-star team that is eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Little League World Series.
- 50/70 shall represent a single 13u chartered all-star team consisting of 13-year old and eligible 12-year-old players. The team is eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the 50/70 Intermediate League World Series.
- Senior league shall represent a single 16u chartered all-star team consisting of selected 14, 15 and 16-year-olds. The team is eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Senior League World Series.

Note: Teams may be combined based on ability to compete at each level of each age group. Teams may only be combined into one team that are in the same division. Divisions of more than 5 teams will not be considered for combination or individual age divisions of more than 24 players in any specific division.

### Softball

- Coach Pitch shall represent a 7u and an 8u non-sanctioned tournament team to play in local tournaments.
- Minor League shall represent a 9u non-sanctioned team to play in local tournaments and a 10u chartered all-star team eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Texas East state level.
- Major League shall represent an 11u chartered all-star team eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Texas East state level and a 12u chartered all-star team that is eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Little League World Series.
- Junior league shall represent a single 14u chartered all-star team consisting of selected 13 and 14-year-olds. The team is eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Junior League World Series.

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- Senior league shall represent a single 16u chartered all-star team consisting of selected 13, 14, 15 and 16-year-olds. The team is eligible to play in regulated tournaments up to the Senior League World Series.

Note: Teams may be combined based on ability to compete at each level of each age group. Teams may only be combined into one team that are in the same division. Divisions of more than 5 teams will not be considered for combination or individual age divisions of more than 24 players in a specific age group.

### 14.4 All Star Manager & Coach Selection Process

Eligible managers from each division will meet to vote on which manager they feel should represent Lumberton Little League at the next level. Managers can vote for themselves. The manager with the most votes will have their choice on accepting the Manager role for the voted upon All-Star team. The Manager can concede the chance to Manage the team, and, in that case, whoever is 2<sup>nd</sup> in the voting will have the opportunity and so on and so forth.

If no manager accepts the role of All-Star Manager, the delegation can fall to Regular Season Assistant Coaches or Members of the Board of Directors by approval of the League President.

The managers shall be selected based on the following traits in mind:

- Attitude
- Fairness
- Teamwork
- Sportsmanship
- Coaching and organizational ability

Managers may select up to 2 additional eligible assistant coaches to participate with in game on the field activities but may select as many coaches and parent volunteers that have a complete background check during practices.

### 14.5 All-Star Player Selection Process

Players are evaluated on multiple criteria including: Player's performance, attitude, sportsmanship and teamwork. The team is completed based on these criteria and on the needs of the All-Star team (i.e. are there adequate catchers and pitchers, and other key positions

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represented). The process and meetings are facilitated by the League President and assisted by the Director of Baseball/Softball. The selection results (number of votes, selection order, etc.) and Manager Deliberations about the prospective players are strictly confidential.

## **Balloting**

A list will be comprised of all players from each division separated by age and sent back to each manager.

## **Voting**

Each manager will then select 15 players in the older age bracket and 15 players from the younger age bracket. The players will be listed in reverse numerical order (15 being the player with the highest score and 1 being the player with the lowest score) and sent to the Director of Baseball/Softball.

## **Tallying**

The lowest and highest singular score for each candidate will be removed from the tally as to reduce any major positive or negative bias. The Director of Baseball/Softball will tally all the votes (1 other board member to verify correct count) and verify the top 15 players of eligibility and submit the top ten list back to the All-Star Manager.

## **Final Team Configuration**

The top 10 players with the most votes are locked onto the All-Star team and the manager will have authority to select a minimum of 2 but up to 4 players-from the remaining players receiving votes. The final roster shall be sent back to the Director of Baseball/Softball for record keeping.

Note: Managers may only replace a player due to injury. The manager may then select a replacement from the players who have received votes in the all-star voting. If no other players are available any other player in the age group will be eligible to be selected. Replacement of a player must be approved by the Board of Directors.