

# **FONTANA COMMUNITY LITTLE LEAGUE #4052103** **BYLAWS AND COMMON PLAYING RULES**

*Updated and approved by the Board on May 13, 2010*

## **ARTICLE I LEAGUE NAME**

This organization shall be known as **FONTANA COMMUNITY LITTLE LEAGUE**, hereinafter referred to as the “**Local League**”.

## **ARTICLE II SPONSORSHIP**

**SECTION 1:** All managers from every division are responsible for obtaining one \$225 sponsorship for their team.

**SECTION 2:** All managers must submit their required sponsorships by May 1<sup>st</sup>. If a sponsorship is not received for the season, the manager will be ineligible from managing the following spring season.

**SECTION 3:** All funds received via a sponsor must be given to the sponsorship coordinator and deposited into the sponsorship account. No manager is to receive a sponsorship directly to their team. All funds must be made payable to Fontana Community Little League.

**SECTION 4:** Any sponsorship received over the required \$225 will be deposited into the league accounts and dispersed back to the team that solicited the sponsorship.

**SECTION 5:** All monies left in a sponsorship account after June 30<sup>th</sup> will become the property of the general association and be transferred to the general membership account.

**SECTION 6:** A uniform allowance will be given to each major and junior team. The uniform allowance shall be \$40 per player (i.e. \$480.00 for 12 player roster). No parent is to be asked for additional funds to upgrade the quality of the jersey above the uniform allowance.

## **ARTICLE III BOUNDARIES**

**SECTION 1:** The Local League must adhere to all regulations as per the Little League Handbook in regards to boundaries. If it is discovered that a child has mistakenly been allowed to play, that child must immediately be removed and directed to the proper league. A full refund must be made within two weeks of any fees the Local League has charged. The Local League boundaries are established by the “Little League Baseball Incorporated” and may change by the District from year to year.

**SECTION 2:** Any inter-league play must be run according to the rules and regulations approved by Little League Baseball District 71. Headquarters will be consulted before arrangements are made.

## **ARTICLE IV DISCIPLINE**

**SECTION 1:** The Discipline Committee (the Committee) shall be made of three of the four following Board Members:

- ~~1. Commissioner (position dissolved 4/6/10).~~
2. A Player Agent
3. A Division Director
4. Vice President (Baseball or Softball)

The division, in which the infraction occurred, will determine the appropriate members that will sit on the the Committee. If the President determines there is a conflict of interest involving a sitting member of the Committee, the President shall appoint another board member of his choice to sit on the Committee for that particular infraction or protest.

SECTION 2: The objective of the Committee will be to fairly and quickly resolve any breaking of rules or protests to the best of interest of the Local League and all parties involved.

SECTION 3: Rights of the Committee and those who are brought to it are as follows:

- a. The Committee reserves the right to deliberate in private before rendering its decisions. Those who are brought before the Committee have the right to present their case in person or in writing and to bring forth any pertinent witnesses either in person or in writing. In the case of a player being brought before the Committee, the manager, coach or players parent/guardian has a right to be present.
- b. If the Committee refers a more severe penalty to the Board, all of the parties involved have the same rights as outlined in (a) above.

SECTION 4: Discipline

The Committee shall meet to determine punishment for any rules infractions by managers, coaches, and players. After considering all of the available information the Committee can hand down the following actions:

- No Action
- Written warning to include clearly defined consequences/ramifications for additional incidents/infractions, or if current action continues. Any assigned probation must include whether or not the probation is for a specific act or action(s), or whether or not it is a general probation for any further action(s) deemed not in the best interest of Little League or the local league. All warnings and probation actions will be logged in the commissioner's log.
- One or two game (next) game suspension beginning the next scheduled game
- Recommendation of more severe penalty up to and including removal from the league will need a two-thirds (2/3) Board approval.
- If there is a recommendation of more severe penalty to the Board, the matter must be taken up by the Board within 72 hours of the recommendation.
- While discipline action is pending the affected person will be considered suspended until the incident/infraction has been resolved.
- Decisions of the Committee are rendered by majority vote and are final. All decisions must be rendered within 72 hours of the action.

SECTION 5: Ejections

Ejections will be handled as per the current Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules (i.e. Rule Book). In addition, the umpire shall notify the Board member on duty (BOD). BOD shall notify the Board of all such ejections.

## **ARTICLE V MANAGERS AND COACHES**

SECTION 1: The Board shall approve by 2/3 vote all team managers and coaches. The team managers will submit their coach's names to the Board for approval. The President and the Board must approve any manager or coach changes during the season.

SECTION 2: There is no tenure for managers in the Local League. Each season, the board may, if they choose, interview all perspective managers from each division to evaluate their ability to manage prior to the start of any

season. If the board chooses to conduct interviews all perspective managers from each respective division will be interviewed (i.e. returning and new managers). Each candidate will be given an opportunity to answer several predetermined general baseball/softball playing and coaching questions. Perspective managers will be evaluated based on previous managerial/coaching experience, as well as the character and coaching philosophy. Managers will be approved with a 2/3's vote from the Board.

SECTION 3: All approved managers and coaches must have on file a completed volunteer application form and a Little League background check completed, by the start of the season.

SECTION 4: In the absence of the manager, the first coach and subsequently the second coach will assume the responsibility and authority of the manager. Therefore, attendance by the coaches at all meetings and Local League functions is strongly encouraged.

SECTION 5: All Managers must be at least 18 years of age. A coach under 18 years of age can only be used with Board Approval, but cannot be alone with the team without an adult manager or coach present at ALL TIMES.

SECTION 6: Every team must be represented at every manager's meeting by the manager, first coach, or team parent. Failure to be represented at 2 meetings without justifiable reasons is cause for the team manager to be brought before the discipline committee for disciplinary action. "Justifiable reasons" shall be defined by the Division director. The minimum punishment handed down by the discipline committee for this infraction shall be the suspension of the manager for the next game. Repeated missed meetings will be cause for the team manager to be brought before the discipline committee for further action which may include recommendation to the Board for the manager's dismissal.

SECTION 7: All Managers wishing to manage in the Senior or Big League division must have at least 1 season of managerial experience in the Junior, Senior, or Big League division of Little League, or an equivalent type baseball program with the same age group and rules. All Junior or Major division managers and coaches must have one season of managing or coaching experience. Experience in other baseball programs can be considered.

SECTION 8: Managers requesting to manage more than 1 team per season will be considered by the Board on a case by case basis.

SECTION 9: All managers and coaches are expected to act responsibly and not conduct themselves in any way that may be considered detrimental to the best interest of other players and the Local League. **NO** foul language, threats or other verbal or physical abuse will be tolerated. It is the responsibility of the managers and coaches to see that players follow all the rules.

SECTION 10: Managers and coaches shall have no trace of any alcoholic beverage on their breath, or use any tobacco products at any Little League function or appear at Little League function in such condition that indicates the usage of any prescription medicine, intoxicant or depressant to the point they could be deemed to be under the influence. Violations are considered to be of a serious nature and will result in immediate suspension.

SECTION 11: Any manager or coach suspended for 2 or more complete games during the spring season shall not be eligible for All-Star participation.

SECTION 12: Any manager who forfeits a championship or tournament game will be suspended for the remainder of the season and any follow on post season play. This manager may also be brought before the discipline committee. The team coaches will be given the option to take over the team for the remainder of the season.

SECTION 13: Attendance at managers meetings are MANDATORY. Failure to attend meetings could result in the mandatory suspension of the manager for their next scheduled game. Each manager is expected to attend and will receive personal notification 48 hrs prior to any meeting. If a manager is unable to attend he/she will ensure their team has proper representation.

SECTION 14: The manager has the right to bring any player before the player agent if that player is not following the direction of the manager. It is strongly suggested that the manager take the issue up the player's parent/guardian before taking it to the player agent. The player agent reserves the right to take any serious issues involving any player to the discipline committee for resolution.

SECTION 15: Managers and coaches may not use cellular phones or any other electronic devices on the field of play or in the dugout during games.

SECTION 16: Managers and coaches must comply with the Little League official regulations and playing rules book; failure to comply could result in disciplinary committee action. Each team will be provided with a copy of the book.

SECTION 17: All managers are required to leave a refundable \$100.00 deposit before equipment is assigned. Equipment is to be turned in within 2 weeks of the agreed upon date by the equipment manager. The deposit will be returned back to the manager at that time.

## **ARTICLE VI PLAYERS**

SECTION 1: Player registration ends 4 weeks after the conclusion of the draft. After that, a wait list will be formed. A waiting list may be started before this time period if all roster spots in a division are filled. Player order on the waiting list will be determined by date of registration, with earliest registered player being first. All division rosters will be in accordance with the Rule Book.

SECTION 2: The dress code for all players will be strictly enforced. All players are expected to wear a complete uniform. Baseball players with their shirttails tucked in and their hats worn correctly when entering the field. Softball players must have their undershirt tucked in and their visors, if worn, correct when entering the field. Players may not wear watches, rings, pins, earrings, bracelets, or necklaces, or any other jewelry. Repeated offenses will be taken to the discipline committee.

SECTION 3: All players are expected to act responsibly and not conduct themselves in any way that may be considered detrimental to the best interest of other players and the Local League. **NO** foul language, threats or other verbal or physical abuse will be tolerated.

SECTION 4: The manager has the right to bring any player before the player agent if that player is not following the directions of the manager. It is strongly suggested that the manager address any issue with the player's parent/guardian before addressing the player agent. The player agent reserves the right to take any serious issues involving any players directly to the Board for resolution.

SECTION 5: Any Player suspended for more than 2 games shall not be eligible for All-Star participation.

SECTION 6: Players shall have no trace of any alcohol, or tobacco products on their breath at any Little League function or appear at any Little League function in such condition that indicates the usage of any intoxicant or depressant to the point that could be deemed to be under the influence. Violations are considered to be of a serious nature and will result in immediate suspension from the game.

SECTION 7: Players may not use cellular phones or any other electronic devices on the field of play or in the dugout during games.

## **ARTICLE VII BASEBALL PLAYING RULES & REGULATIONS**

### **SECTION 1: Tee Ball Division**

- a. Without exception all 5 year-old players and any 6 year-old player with no previous playing experience will play in the Tee Ball division.
- b. The season shall consist of 14-21 games.
- c. All players will play in Tee Ball games they attend.
- d. Tee Ball is totally instructional. No standings will be kept.
- e. There will be no protest in this division at any time during the season. No player shall be brought before the discipline committee for any reason at any time. Manager and coaches can be brought before the Discipline Committee for not following the rules stated or for conduct detrimental to the well being of any player.
- f. Everyone will bat from the Tee for the first five games of the season. The full lineup will bat in each inning. For the remainder of the season, the manager or the coach will be allowed to pitch up to 3 under hand or overhand soft toss pitches to each player, from a minimum distance of 10 feet. After the third pitch, the ball will be placed on the tee. No 3 out rule will ever apply in any Tee Ball game.
- g. The ball must roll three 3 feet after being batted.
- h. Without exception there will be no pitching from a bucket or kneeling while delivering pitches to the batters.
- i. Each game will have a limit of one hour unless otherwise specified.
- j. There will be no recorded outs, and the line-up will finish every inning.
- k. The player will advance one base unless the ball is hit into the grass in the air. (Grounders excluded). The last batter who will advance all the bases.
- l. Defensive players shall be placed in the infield and outfield positions equally.
- m. There will be no tryouts for the Tee Ball division; all players will be assigned teams by the division player agent.

### **SECTION 2: Farm/Coach Pitch Division**

- a. Teams will be assembled by the player agent based on the child's age and level of play. All 6 year-olds with previous playing experience, and all 7 year-olds not drafted onto a Rookie team will be placed on a Farm/Coach Pitch team by the player agent.
- b. All 7 year-olds that do not attend 50% of the tryouts will be placed in the Farm division.
- c. The season shall consist of 14-21 games.
- d. All players will play in Farm/Coach Pitch games they attend.
- e. Farm/Coach Pitch is totally instructional. No standings will be kept.
- f. There will be no protest in this division at any time during the season. No player shall be brought before the discipline committee for any reason at any time. Manager and coaches can be brought before the discipline committee for not following the rules stated or for conduct detrimental to the well being of any player.
- g. Each player will not sit out 2 consecutive innings.
- h. The entire roster shall bat, using the rotating batting system (see attachment 2).
- i. This division shall utilize the 3-4-9 rule. Innings will end after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded, at the end of the play by which the 4<sup>th</sup> run scores, or the 9<sup>th</sup> batter completes his/her at bat whichever occurs first. Only 4 runs may be counted per inning.
- j. There will be no stealing at any time.
- k. Each game will have a 1 hour and 15 minute drop-dead time limit.
- l. The batter shall be allowed a maximum of 5 pitches from the pitching coach and then the player is out.
- m. The pitching coach shall stand within the circle of the pitching mound. The coach will deliver overhand pitches to each batter from a standing position.
- n. Without exception there will be no pitching from a bucket or kneeling while delivering pitches to the batters.
- o. Walks will not be permitted in the Farm/Coach Pitch division.

- p. The fourth outfielder rule shall apply to this division. The extra fourth outfielder shall play equally lined up with the other outfielders (no rover). If you move one player in from the outfield, you must bring all of the players in from the outfield; they must all play at the same distance. All four outfield positions must be played.
- q. All players in this division must play every defensive position on the field (with the exception of pitcher/catcher) at some point throughout the season.

### SECTION 3: Rookie Division

- a. All 8 year-olds must play in the Rookie division
- b. The regular season shall consist of 14-21 games.
- c. All Rookie Division teams will be drafted using the Plan B, serpentine method. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order.
- d. 7 year-olds that do not attend 50% of the tryouts will be placed in the Farm division.
- e. The fourth outfielder rule shall apply to this division.-The extra fourth outfielder shall play equally lined up with the other outfielders (NO Rover). If you move one player in from the outfield, you must bring all of the players in from the outfield; they must all play at the same distance. All four out-field positions must be played.
- f. All players in this division must play every defensive position on the field (with the exception of pitcher/catcher) at some point throughout the season.
- g. All games will have a 1 hour and 30 minute drop dead time limit. No new inning will begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes. If the last inning cannot be completed within the 1 hour and 30 minute time limit then the score will revert back to the last completed inning.
- h. The Rookie division is to be instructional. *Score and standing will be kept after all teams play each other one time.*
- i. The entire roster shall bat in this division, with free defensive substitutions as long as minimum play time rules are met.
- j. Pitchers will pitch from 42 feet for the entire season
- k. There will be no protest in this Division at any time during the season.
- l. This division shall utilize the 3-4-9 rule. Innings will end after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded, at the end of the play by which the 4<sup>th</sup> run scores, or the 9<sup>th</sup> batter completes his/her at bat whichever occurs first. Only 4 runs may be counted per inning.
- m. On an overthrow the runner can advance one base and cannot steal home.
- n. There is NO stealing home base at all.
- o. *\*\*Effective 4/12/10 in Rookies, when there have been 4 balls thrown and there are less than 3 strikes, the Manager may go out and pitch (standing up) the remaining strikes. During the time the Manager is pitching, no bases maybe stolen.*
- p. *Walks will be allowed in the rookie division.*
- q. A circle 12-ft. in diameter will be chalked on the field around the pitcher mound for all Rookie games. Once the pitcher has control of the ball within the circle, the play comes to a stop.
- r. *There may be an optional end of the year hat-seeded tournament.*

### SECTION 4: Minor Division

- a. All league age 9 year-olds will play in the minor division. All 10-11 year-olds who are not drafted in Major division will be placed in Minors.
- b. The time limit for all games shall be no new inning after 1 hour and 30 minutes, and a drop dead time of 1 hour and 45 minutes. If the last inning cannot be completed within the 1 hour and 45 minute time limit then the score will revert back to the last completed inning.
- c. There will be no Fourth outfielder in this division.
- d. The Minor Division will bat the whole roster.
- e. The 3-5 rule will apply for this division. The inning will end after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded, or at the conclusion of the play in which the 5<sup>th</sup> run scores. Only 5 runs may be counted per inning, in accordance with the Rule Book.

- f. All teams will be drafted using the Plan B, serpentine method. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order.
- g. In the event that a legitimate vacancy occurs on a Major Division team during the season, and the 12 year-old player waiting list is exhausted, a list from the players in the Minor Division may be obtained from the player agent. The team manager will have 5 days to select a player from the date the list of eligible players is received. Once a player has been selected (drafted) to play in the Major Division he will automatically move up and be dropped from the Minor Division team roster, no exceptions. Any player not wanting to move up once selected will have to make the decision whether they want to play ball or not, but their spot in the Minor Division is no longer available to them. If the selection is not made by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> day, the Board shall select a player for the team to fill its vacancy.
- h. Multiple players may be drafted up to a Major Division from any given Minor Division team.
- i. If a Minor team drops below 9 players and there is not a waiting list then a managers meeting will take place and the managers will decide how to remedy the situation and will be taken to the board for approval.
- j. During the last two weeks of the season, no minor division player will be asked to move up to the Major Division to fill a vacancy.
- k. Record will be kept in this division with running standings. The end of year standings will be used to determine overall seeding for an end of season tournament. See Article IX for ties.

#### SECTION 5: Major Division

- a. No League age 9-year-old will be eligible to compete in the major division.
- b. All league age 12 year-olds must play in the major division unless approved by Little League Headquarters District 71, the Board, and with a signed waiver by a parent or guardian.
- c. The time limit for the Major division shall be no new inning after 1 hour and 30 minutes, and play will be continued until the conclusion of this inning.
- d. All returning major division players must register by the conclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tryout.
- e. Teams will draft players in the reverse order which they finished the previous season. The division champion will be the last pick of the draft, the runner-up will be the second to last pick and the remaining draft positions will be determined by season over all record.
- f. All teams will be drafted using the Plan A. The 12 year-olds will have separate first draft. Then the 10- and 11 year-old players will be drafted after.
- g. In the event that a legitimate vacancy occurs on a Major Division team during the season; the team Manager must request a list of eligible 12 year-olds from the player agent. Once the 12 year-old waiting list players have been exhausted, and then a list from the players in the Minor Division may be obtained from the player agent. The team manager will have 5 days to select a player from the 12 year-old list or the Minor Division from the date the list of eligible players is received. If the selection is not made by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> day, the Board shall select a player for the team to fill its vacancy.
- h. During the last two weeks of the season, no minor division player will be asked to move up to the Major division to fill a vacancy.
- i. Once a player has been selected (drafted) to play in the major division he will automatically move up and be dropped from the Minor Division team roster, no exceptions. Any player not wanting to move up once selected will have to make the decision whether they want to play ball or not, but their spot in the minor division is no longer available to them.
- j. Record will be kept in this division with a split season schedule. There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> half and 2<sup>nd</sup> half winner which will play each other in a one game 6 inning championship game using regular season playing rules ~~for to determine~~ the division championship. *The winner would be the major division champion and the loser of this game would become 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the division standings. 3<sup>rd</sup> place and so on would be determined by the rest of the team's records. These standings will be used for TOC seeding, All-star Manager selection and draft order for the next year.*
- k. ~~The Major division league champion will represent the league in the cities tournament of champions as the league #1 seed. The runner up team will be the leagues #2 seed. All additional city~~

~~tournament seeding, other than #1 and #2 will be determined by the overall Major Division regular season record.~~

- ~~l. Draft order for the following year will be determined by team's previous year overall season record.~~
- m. See Article IX for ties.
- n. If a decision needs to be made in regards to tournament seeding, division championship game seeding (i.e. ½ season winners), or next seasons draft position than a play-off game will be conducted if scheduling permits.

#### SECTION 6: Junior Division

- a. All league age 13 and 14 year-old players will be eligible to play in the Junior Division.
- b. All teams will be drafted using the Plan A.
- c. If the League inter-leagues all inter-league rules will apply to this division. If there is a “rules of play” conflict then the inter-league rules shall take precedence.
- d. There will be no time limit for Junior Division games, exception no game shall play past 9:45pm.
- e. All returning junior division players must register by the conclusion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tryout.
- f. If a team drops below 9 players and there is not a waiting list then a managers meeting will take place and the managers will decide how to remedy the situation and will be taken to the Board for approval.
- g. The minimum junior division roster shall consist of 12 players; the manager may be given the option to add additional players to cover for returning high school players.
- h. Draft order for the following year will be determined by team's overall season record.
- i. Record will be kept in this division with an optional split season schedule.

##### 1) Split Season (no inter-league)

- i. If a split season schedule is used than there will be a 1<sup>st</sup> half and 2<sup>nd</sup> half winner which will play each other for the division championship. *The winner would be the division champion and the loser of this game would become 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the division standings. 3<sup>rd</sup> place and so on would be determined by the rest of the team's records. These standings will be used for TOC seeding, All-star Manager selection and draft order for the next year.*

~~ii. In a split season the Junior Division league champion will represent the league in the cities tournament of champions as the league #1 seed. The runner up team will be the leagues #2 seed. All additional city tournament seeding other than #1 and #2 will be determined by the overall Junior Division regular season record.~~

##### 2) Running Standings (if inter-league play)

- i. If running standing are kept (no split season), than these standings will be used to determine overall seeding for an optional end of season divisional tournament, *TOC seeding, All-star Manager selection and draft order for the next year.*

~~ii. The Junior Division league champion will represent the league in the cities tournament of champions as the league #1 seed. The runner up team will be the leagues #2 seed. All additional city tournament seeding other than #1 and #2 will be determined by the overall Junior Division regular season record.~~

- j. Ties see Article IX.

#### SECTION 7: Senior Division

- a. All league age 15 and 16 year-old players will be eligible to play in the Senior Division.
- b. All teams will be drafted using the Plan A.
- c. If the League inter-leagues all inter-league rules will apply to this division. If there is a rule of play conflict then the inter-league rules shall take precedence.
- d. If a team drops below 9 players and there is not a waiting list then a Managers meeting will take place and the Managers will decide how to remedy the situation.
- e. There will be no time limit for Senior Division games, exception no game shall play past 9:45pm.

- f. There will be a 10 run mercy rule after 5 innings.
- g. Record will be kept in this division with running standings. The end of year standings will be used to determine overall seeding for an end of season tournament, *All-star Manager selection and draft order for the next year.*
- h. Ties, see Article IX.

#### SECTION 8: Big League Division

- a. All league age 17 and 18 year-old players will be eligible to play in the big league division.
- b. All teams will be drafted using the plan A.
- c. If the league inter-leagues all inter-league rules will apply to this division. If there is a rule of play conflict then the inter-league rules shall take precedence.
- d. If a team drops below 9 players and there is not a waiting list then a managers meeting will take place and the managers will decide how to remedy the situation.
- e. There will be no time limit for big league division games, exception no game shall play past 9:45pm.
- f. Record will be kept in this division with running standings. The end of year standings will be used to determine overall seeding for an end of season tournament, *All-star Manager selection and draft order for the next year.*
- g. Ties, see Article IX.

### **ARTICLE VIII SOFTBALL PLAYING RULES & REGULATIONS**

#### SECTION 1: Inter-league

All divisions are subject to Inter-League play. All local rules will be agreed upon by representatives from each league in Inter-league play. The Rule Book will govern all play.

#### SECTION 2: Tee ball Division

- a. All league age 5 and 6 year-olds must play in the Tee Ball division
- b. Each inning all players will bat.
- c. After first 5 games, coach will deliver under-hand pitch from the pitching mound. After 3 pitches the player must hit off a Tee. Coach must stand and may NOT kneel or sit on bucket.
- d. In front of home plate will be a half circle that the ball must pass to be fair (the ball must go 3 feet).
- e. The "pitcher" must be in the circle around the mound to receive the ball to stop the players from advancing. If a runner is more than halfway when the ball is controlled in the circle the runner can advance to the next base, if the runner is less than half way the runner must return to the previous base.
- f. Overthrows or missed throw at 1<sup>st</sup> base can be awarded 1 base. No advancing on any overthrow or missed bases on a any base other than 1<sup>st</sup> base.
- g. The out is to be enforced to award good defensive skills but all players bat each inning regardless of outs.
- h. There will be no score kept. There will be no standings. There will be no protests.
- i. The ball must roll 3 feet after being batted.
- j. May have as many players on the field, but no more than 6 on the infield.
- k. Coaches may be on the field giving instruction as long as not interfering in play.
- l. No intentional bunting.
- m. One hour drop dead time limit, if less than 5 minutes remain do not start another inning.

#### SECTION 3: Rookies Division

- a. All league age 7 and 8 year-olds must play in the Rookie division
- b. Shall consist of 14-21 games per season.
- c. All Rookie teams will be selected by using draft Plan B, Serpentine method. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order.
- d. Game time limit: 6 innings or drop dead time of 1hr and 15 minutes, no exceptions. If the inning is not completed the score will revert back to the last completed inning.

- e. There will be no standings in this division. Emphasis should be placed on teaching fundamentals.
- f. There will be no protest in this division.
- g. This division shall utilize the 3-5-9 rule. Innings will end after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded, at the end of the play by which the 5<sup>th</sup> run scores or the 9<sup>th</sup> batter completes her at bat whichever occurs first. Only 5 runs may be counted per inning.
- h. Teams are allowed 4 outfielders during the game, however it is not required.
- i. Teams are allowed to have coaches on the field while team is on defense but only for verbal coaching and so long as it does not delay the game.
- j. After pitcher has thrown 4 balls the coach may throw one hittable pitch to the batter, if the ball is hit foul then the coach may throw another pitch.
- k. Home plate will be considered “cold” on all passed balls. Players may “steal” home if a play is being made in the field.

#### SECTION 4: Minor Division

- a. All league age 9, 10, 11 year-olds, no league age 8 year-olds. League age 12 year-olds may play only with written approval by Little League Headquarters District 71, Board, and waiver signed by parent or guardian.
- b. Shall consist of 14-21 games per season.
- c. All Minor teams will be selected by using draft Plan B, Serpentine method. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order.
- d. Game time limit: 6 innings or drop dead time of 1hr and 30 min, no exceptions. No unnecessary substitutions in the last 10 minutes, no staling. If the inning is not completed the score will revert back to the last completed inning.
- e. Ties will stand.
- f. There will be no protests in this division.
- g. This division shall utilize the 3-5-9 rule. Innings will end after the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded, at the end of the play by which the 5<sup>th</sup> run scores or the 9<sup>th</sup> batter completes her at bat whichever occurs first. Only 5 runs may be counted per inning.
- h. There will be no fourth outfielders in this division.

#### SECTION 5: Major Division

- a. No league age 9 will be eligible to play in the Major division.
- b. All league age 12 year-olds must play in the Major division unless approved by Little League Headquarters District 71, the Board, and with a signed waiver by a parent or guardian.
- c. Shall consist of 14-21 games per season.
- d. All Major teams will be selected by using draft Plan A as defined in the Operations Manual, In the event that a legitimate vacancy occurs on a Major Division team during the season; the team Manager must request a list of eligible 12 year-olds from the Player Agent. Once the 12 year-old waiting list players have been exhausted, and then a list from the players in the Minor Division may be obtained from the Player Agent. The Team Manager will have 5 days to select a player from the 12 year-old list or the Minor Division from the date the list of eligible players is received. If the selection is not made by the end of the 5th day, the Board shall select a Player for the team to fill its vacancy.
- e. Once a player has been selected (drafted) to play in the-Major Division she will automatically move up and be dropped from the Minor division team roster. There are no exceptions.
- f. The Major Division will bat a 9 player line-up, substitutions per Rule book.
- g. Game time limit: 6 innings, no new inning after 1hr 40 min. Once an inning has started, it must be completed.

#### SECTION 6: Junior Division

- a. All league age 13 and 14 year-olds will be eligible to play in the junior division. 12 year olds may play in the junior division at the board’s discretion and with the approval of the board.
- b. The division shall consist of 14-21 games per season.

- c. All junior teams will be selected by using draft Plan A. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order.
- d. Game time limit: 7 innings or drop dead 2 hours.

**SECTION 7: Senior Division**

- a. All league age 14 through 16 year-olds will be eligible to play in the senior division.
- b. The division shall consist of at least 12 games per season.
- c. All senior teams will be selected by using draft Plan A. Managers will draw numbers to determine draft order.
- d. Game time limit: 7 innings or drop dead 2 hours.

**SECTION 8: Softball Player Pool**

- a. Will be utilized as outlined in the rule book.
- b. Managers and/or coaches must inform the opposing team manager and/or coaches that they are using a player from the player pool prior to start of game.

**ARTICLE IX COMMON RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL DIVISIONS**

- a. Each eligible player must attend 50% of the tryouts in order to be eligible for the draft, unless otherwise excused by the Board per Little League rules.
- b. The order of tryouts shall be determined by the player's last name in alphabetical order.
- c. Tryouts: Each eligible player shall be given the opportunity to bat, field, throw and run in competition with other children having the same league age. These tryout periods will be conducted in the presence of all managers drafting in each respective age group.
- d. Any player excused by the Board that does not attend the tryouts will become a hat pick at the conclusion of that respective age draft.
- e. The season begins the first day of official practice.
- f. Waiting lists are to be kept confidential. Managers and coaches should only know that players are available, and will not be given access to the names and/or ages of available players. Players are placed on the waiting list by the order they registered and are assigned to a team roster in the order by which roster spots become available.
- g. The manager of the home team of the last game shall be responsible for putting the bases, scorebooks, pitch logs, and scoreboard controllers away in the storage shed. It shall be the duty of the team manager, coaches and team parent to see that his team cleans up its respective dugout area and stands immediately after the game.
- h. For all divisions that keep score, the home team will be responsible for providing an official scorekeeper that shall sit at a separate table behind the backstop. If the home team cannot provide a scorekeeper, one of the coaches from the home team will be designated as the official scorekeeper and take their place at the scorer's table. ABSOLUTELY UNDER NO CONDITIONS IS THE OFFICIAL SCORE TO BE KEPT INSIDE OF THE DUGOUT. The visiting team shall be responsible for providing someone to complete the pitching log. The pitch counter must sit behind the backstop as well. Scorekeeper and pitch counter must remain neutral while doing their job. The pitching log shall be signed by each manager following the conclusion of every game. The BOD shall be responsible for checking score books for accuracy and proper score keeping techniques. If numerous repeated mistakes are found, the division director shall direct the team manager to appoint a different scorekeeper.
- i. In the major division and below a complete game is 3½ innings if the home team is winning otherwise 4 innings. In the junior division and higher a complete game is 4 ½ innings if the home team is winning otherwise 5 innings.
- j. If a game is suspended it will resume to first available time to be completed and will follow the Rule Book for continuation.

- k. If a game is tied after regulation innings have been played, and the time limit has not been reached then extra innings can be played until a winner is determined or time limit has been reached whichever occurs first. A tie will stand.
- l. Any game that concluded in a "TIE" will be considered a half win and a half loss for each team.
- m. Any tie-breaker will be the team's head-to-head record. If a tie still exists after considering the head to head record than the teams will be officially designated "tied for the season". If a decision needs to be made in regards to tournament seeding, than a play-off game will be conducted if scheduling permits. If time does not permit, then the team with the most runs scored against the team it is tied with shall be considered for the tie-breaker, if a tie is still unbroken a coin flip will determine the tie breaker.
- n. The umpire reserves the right to speed up the game by limiting time outs.
- o. If a game is called before it is a complete game and one or more innings have been completed, the game will be resumed at a later date exactly where it left off (see Rule Book).
- p. In the event that a game does not start as scheduled, there will be a 10 minute grace period which will be counted as part of the official game time. The Board will determine if it will be considered a forfeit. The decision to play, forfeit, or reschedule the game rests with the board member(s) on duty and at the field. In most cases games will be forfeited unless extenuating circumstances exist (i.e. excessive winds, inclement weather, natural disaster, etc...).
- q. Any player missing (3) consecutive practices with no legitimate excuse maybe dropped from the team with the approval of the Board. If a player misses practice preceding a game with no legitimate excuse, that player can be benched by the team manager and that game played. The manager must notify the BOD of the benched player and the reason, and the manager must document the dates and practices missed, and supply such information to the player agent upon request.
- r. Any player may be benched by the manager for disciplinary reason and have that game counted as a game played. However, the manager must notify a BOD prior to the start of the game of his intent and provide the reason why. This must also be annotated in the official scorebook prior to the start of the game. No Board approval is required for this action.
- s. Artificial Noisemakers are prohibited at and during games.
- t. There are no "on deck" batters allowed at any time in the major division and below.
- u. Only 3 adults are designated by the team roster are allowed in the dugout at any time during the games. All must have a completed volunteer form and completed background check on file with the league. *\*\*4/6/10 Amendment: Up to 4 coaches are allowed in the dugout for Tee Ball, Farm and Rookie Baseball and Softball Divisions*
- v. Baseball catchers are to wear hard cups during practices and games. NO player shall be allowed to assume the catcher's position without a hard cup. If a manager allows a player to assume the catcher's position without a hard cup, that manager will be ejected from the game. It is MANDATORY that the rest of the male team players wear a Soft Supporter during games and practices. Female players are to wear a female supporter.
- w. No adult is allowed to warm up a pitcher during practice or games. Players must warm up pitchers only; this applies to all divisions without exception. First offense is a written warning. The second offense is the team manager suspended for the next game.
- x. Any player warming up a pitcher in between innings must wear a properly secured catcher's mask, and hard protective cup.
- y. *\*\* Amendment added 4/06/10 Catchers need to wear their masks while making plays at home plate*
- z. No manager, coach or player is allowed outside of the designated dugout area during a game unless given permission by the umpire.

## **ARTICLE X TOURNAMENTS**

**SECTION 1:** Optional end of year tournaments may be conducted in any division that keeps running standings.

**SECTION 2:** League operated tournaments are non-little league sanctioned events, and are considered "Special Games."

SECTION 3: Specific division rules must be supplied in writing to each manager prior to the start of any tournament.

SECTION 4: Time limits may be waived for some or all divisions; except those rules specifically mandated by Little League, if scheduling accommodates such a waiver.

SECTION 5: Tournament Format

- a. The decision as to which format to use will be at the discretion of the Board with a recommendation from the division director.
- b. A decision as to which format will be used, and tournament brackets will be given to the managers at least 1 week prior to the start of the tournament.

SECTION 6: Attachment 2 contains sample brackets to be used for each tournament format. Brackets may also be utilized from the official Little League website “Approved double elimination tournament brackets” found at [www.littleleague.org](http://www.littleleague.org).

SECTION 7: Seeding will be determined by overall regular season records, with the tie-breaker rules as specified in Article IX.

## **ARTICLE XI ALL-STAR SELECTION**

SECTION 1: Due to the reduced number of players and coaches to choose from in the local league softball divisions, All-Star selection will be at the discretion of the softball board with approval from the Board. Selection for softball All-Stars should be within the same spirit as the baseball selections.

SECTION 2. All-Star managers and coaches

- a. The managers of the All-Star team shall be picked based on the current year’s Majors, Junior and Senior Division *final* standings *as defined in the Sections for the applicable divisions under Articles VII and VIII*. The 1<sup>st</sup> place division manager would have 1<sup>st</sup> choice of an all star team. The 2<sup>nd</sup> place manager would 2<sup>nd</sup> choice and the 3<sup>rd</sup> place manager would have 3<sup>rd</sup> choice.
- b. If a manager opts out of taking an all star team then the remaining managers will be eligible in order of current year’s standings, until all managerial positions have been filled for each division.
- c. Any remaining open positions shall be filled by a managerial selection committee. The committee shall consist of a minimum of  $\frac{1}{2} + 1$  of the Board members. The committee should consider previous managerial/coaching experience, as well as the character and coaching philosophy of each perspective manager. Each candidate will be given an opportunity to answer several predetermined general baseball/softball playing and coaching questions. At the conclusion of the interviews managers will be selected by vote.
- d. The selected All-star manager will recommend candidates for his/her coaching staff to the Board for approval. All coaches shall be current spring season managers or coaches, from any division within the league.
- e. Should a coaching vacancy occur in All-Stars, the All-Star manager with the approval of the Board shall fill the vacancy using the same process.
- f. No manager or coach shall be eligible for All-Star selection if they have been suspended for 2 or more games during the season.

SECTION 3: 9 & 10 year-old All-Star team

- a. One 9 or 10 year-old player from each minor league team shall be nominated by the players from his/her team for the 9 &10 year-old All-Star team by secret ballot
- b. One 9 or 10 year-old player from each minor league team shall be nominated by his/her manager for the 9 &10 year-old All-Star team
- c. All nomination lists shall remain confidential until the actual All-Star voting takes place.

- d. There will be NO tryouts of the nine or ten year-olds to make the All-Star team.
- e. The All-Star team will consist of a minimum of 12 players, but not more than 14 players, as determined by the selected All-Star manager.
- f. All Managers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Coach from the major division shall meet on a day predetermined by the Board and vote in the first 10 All-Star spots.
- g. The 10 players receiving the most votes will automatically receive an All-Star roster spot.
- h. The remaining roster spots will be filled by the All-Star manager, and will be selected from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
- i. Should a vacancy occur on the All-Star team, the All-Star manager with approval from the Board will fill the vacancy from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
- j. If a parent removes a player during an All-Star game the Board has the right to not approve that player for future All-Star teams.
- k. The final roster will be submitted to the Board for final approval.

#### SECTION 4: 10 & 11 Year-old All-Star team

- a. The All-Star team will consist of a minimum of 12 players, but not more than 14 players, as determined by the selected All-Star manager.
- b. In keeping with the spirit of the Rule Book, the players will be involved in the process of All Star team selection. All-Star selections for the 10 & 11 year-old team will be completed using the following steps...
  - 1. A ballot of eligible players will be created by the player agent, listing all eligible players for each respective team age category (i.e. 10-11 year-old ballot, 11-12 year-old ballot), see All-Star bylaws attachment 3 for sample ballot.
  - 2. The division player agents will meet with all division players by team, explain the nomination process distribute and collect nomination ballots.
  - 3. Each player will vote via secret ballot for those players from their own team whom they wish to nominate for each All-Star team (players will vote for only players from their own team, not the entire league).
  - 4. Each player will nominate up to 3 from each age group.
  - 5. The player agent and one additional Board member will tally all votes cast by players and the top 3 vote getters from each age category/team will then become automatic All-Star nominees for that age category/team.
  - 6. The list of nominated player will be confidential until the All-Star selection meeting as predetermined by the Board.
  - 7. All Major Division managers and 1<sup>st</sup> coaches will then meet on a date predetermined by the Board for the All-Star selection meeting.
  - 8. At the All-Star selection meeting each manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will be informed of those players from each team that were nominated by the players
  - 9. Each respective manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will then have the option to add up to but no more than 3 additional eligible players for each age/team category from his/her team
  - 10. The total nominees from each team may not exceed 6 players for any one category/team.
  - 11. All Managers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Coach from the major division shall meet on a day predetermined by the Board and vote in the first 10 All-Star spots.
  - 12. The 10 players receiving the most votes will automatically receive an All-Star roster spot.
  - 13. The remaining roster spots will be filled by the All-Star manager, and will be selected from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
  - 14. The final roster will be submitted to the Board for final approval.
- c. All 11 year-old players who are nominated but not selected to the 11 & 12 year-old All-Star team will be eligible for the 10 & 11 year-old All-Star team.
- d. All 10 year-old players who are nominated but not selected to the 10 & 11 year-old All-Star team will be eligible for the 9 & 10 year-old All-Star team.

- e. Should a vacancy occur on the All-Star team, the All-Star manager with approval from the Board will fill the vacancy from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
- f. If a parent removes a player during an All-Star game the Board has the right to not approve that player for future All-Star teams.

SECTION 5: 11 & 12 year-old All-Star team

- a. 12 year-olds in Minor are not eligible for the 11 and 12 year-old All-Star team.
- b. The All-Star team will consist of a minimum of 12 players, but not more than fourteen 14 players, as determined by the selected All-Star manager.
- c. In keeping with the spirit of the Rule Book, the players will be involved in the process of All Star team selection. All Star selections for the 11& 12 year-old team will be completed using the following steps...
  - 1. A ballot of eligible players will be created by the player agent, listing all eligible players for each respective team age category (i.e. 10-11 year-old ballot, 11-12 year-old ballot), see All-Star bylaws attachment 3 for sample ballot.
  - 2. The division player agents will meet with all division players by team, explain the nomination process distribute and collect nomination ballots.
  - 3. Each player will vote via secret ballot for those players from their own team whom they wish to nominate for each All-Star team (players will vote for only players from their own team, not the entire league).
  - 4. Each player will nominate up to 3 from each age group.
  - 5. The player agent and one additional Board member will tally all votes cast by players and the top 3 vote getters from each age category/team will then become automatic All-Star nominees for that age category/team.
  - 6. The list of nominated player will be confidential until the All-Star selection meeting as predetermined by the Board.
  - 7. All Major Division managers and 1<sup>st</sup> coaches will then meet on a date predetermined by the Board for the All-Star selection meeting.
  - 8. At the All-Star selection meeting each manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will be informed of those players from each team that were nominated by the players
  - 9. Each respective manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will then have the option to add up to but no more than 3 additional eligible players for each age/team category from his/her team
  - 10. The total nominees from each team may not exceed 6 players for any one category/team.
  - 11. All Managers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Coach from the major division shall meet on a day predetermined by the Board and vote in the first 10 All-Star spots.
  - 12. The 10 players receiving the most votes will automatically receive an All-Star roster spot.
  - 13. The remaining roster spots will be filled by the All-Star manager, and will be selected from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
  - 14. The final roster will be submitted to the Board for final approval.
- d. Should a vacancy occur on the All-Star team, the All-Star manager with approval from the Board will fill the vacancy from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
- e. If a parent removes a player during an All-Star game the Board has the right to not approve that player for future All-Star teams.

SECTION 6. 13 & 14 year-old All-Star team

- a. The All-Star team will consist of a minimum of 12 players, but not more than 14 players, as determined by the selected All-Star manager.
- b. In keeping with the spirit of the Rule Book, the players will be involved in the process of All Star team selection. All Star selections for the 13 & 14 year-old team will be completed using the following steps...

1. A ballot of eligible players will be created by the player agent, listing all eligible players for see All-Star bylaws attachment 3 for sample ballot.
  2. The division player agent will meet with the division players by team, explain the nomination process distribute and collect nomination ballots.
  3. Each player will vote via secret ballot for those players from their own team whom they wish to nominate for each All-Star team (players will vote for only players from their own team, not the entire league).
  4. The player agent and one additional Board member will tally all votes cast by players and the top 3 vote getters from each age category/team will then become automatic All-Star nominees for that age category/team.
  5. The list of nominated player will be confidential until the All-Star selection meeting as predetermined by the Board.
  6. All Division managers and 1<sup>st</sup> coaches will then meet on a date predetermined by the Board for the All-Star selection meeting.
  7. At the All-Star selection meeting each manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will be informed of those players from each team that were nominated by the players
  8. Each respective manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will then have the option to add up to but no more than 3 additional eligible players for each age/team category from his/her team
  9. The total nominees from each team may not exceed 6 players for any one category/team.
  10. All Managers and the 1<sup>st</sup> Coach from the junior division shall meet on a day predetermined by the Board and vote in the first 10 All-Star spots.
  11. The 10 players receiving the most votes will automatically receive an All-Star roster spot.
  12. The remaining roster spots will be filled by the All-Star manager, and will be selected from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
  13. The final roster will be submitted to the Board for final approval.
- c. Should a vacancy occur on the All-Star team, the All-Star manager with approval from the Board will fill the vacancy from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
- d. If a parent removes a player during an All-Star game the Board has the right to not approve that player for future All-Star teams.

#### SECTION 7: 15 & 16 year-old All-Star team

- a. The All-Star team will consist of a minimum of 12 players, but not more than 16 players, as determined by the selected All-Star manager.
- b. In keeping with the spirit of the Rule Book, the players will be involved in the process of All Star team selection. A ballot of eligible players will be created by the player agent, listing all eligible players.
- c. All players whose name appears on a ballot shall vote for 16 All-Star nominees.
- d. Each manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will receive one ballot each and vote for 16 All-Star nominees.
- e. All ballots will be counted and the top vote getters based on the managers predetermined roster number will become the All-Star players/roster.
- f. The final roster will be submitted to the Board for final approval
- g. Should a vacancy occur on the All-Star team, the All-Star manager with approval from the Board will fill the vacancy from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
- h. If a parent removes a player or a player removes himself/herself during an All-Star game the Board has the right to not approve that player for future All-Star teams.

#### SECTION 8: 17 & 18 year-old All-Star team

- a. The All-Star team will consist of a minimum of 12 players, but not more than 16 players, as determined by the selected All-Star manager.
- b. In keeping with the spirit of the Rule Book, the players will be involved in the process of All Star team selection. A ballot of eligible players will be created by the player agent, listing all eligible players.
- c. All players whose name appears on a ballot shall vote for 16 All-Star nominees.

- d. Each manager and 1<sup>st</sup> coach will receive 1 ballot each and vote for 16 All-Star nominees.
- e. All ballots will be counted and the top vote getters based on the managers predetermined roster number will become the All-Star players/roster.
- f. The final roster will be submitted to the Board for final approval
- g. Should a vacancy occur on the All-Star team, the All-Star manager with approval from the Board will fill the vacancy from the list of voted eligible players who have 3 or more votes.
- h. If a parent removes a player or a player removes himself/herself during an All-Star game the Board has the right to not approve that player for future All-Star teams.

#### *4/6/10 Amendments*

- *Up to 4 coaches are allowed in the dugout for Tee Ball, Farm and Rookie Baseball and Softball Divisions.*
- *Effective 4/12/10 in Rookies, when there have been 4 balls thrown and there are less than 3 strikes, the Manager may go out and pitch (standing up) the remaining strikes. During the time the Manager is pitching, no bases maybe stolen.*
- *Catchers need to wear their masks while making plays at home plate.*

#### *5/13/10 Amendments*

- *Major Standings clarification*
- *Allstar Manager selection clarification*

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*League Secretary*

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