



# Groton Little League

## 2019 By-Laws

Groton, CT 06340

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### 1. Rules & Regulations

Unless noted within this document, the By-Laws of Groton Little League are governed by the rules and regulations of Little League International as defined in the Little League Official Regulations and Playing rules.

### 2. Geographical Boundaries

Players within the geographical boundaries as submitted to Little League International are eligible to play in the Groton Little League.

### 3. Registration

- a. Registration events may be held online and/or on selected dates in selected locations. The League will provide applicants with all necessary documents needed to register for the Little League program. Only League-sanctioned and League-run registration events are authorized.

- b. Applicants will fill out the current year registration form, medical release form, and any and all other documents as required.
- c. New applicants will provide proof of age (original birth certificate), and proof of residency (official documents identifying address).
- d. Applicant League Age will be determined from the current year Little League International-provided age chart. This information will be entered onto the registration form.
- e. The final cost for league participation will be calculated and will include all applicable discounts and participation in any current fund-raising actions. A receipt for the payment will be provided to the applicant.
- f. Registration payment can be in the form of cash, money order, or personal check. In the event that a check is returned for insufficient funds, the issuer will submit a different form of payment and pay the returned check fee. Failure to reconcile the insufficient funds situation in a timely fashion (no longer than two weeks) will result in the suspension of the player, since the league insurance will only cover those players held in-good-standing.
- g. Registrations submitted through an on-line service will contain all information found on the paper-based registration and medical release forms. On-line registration service carries an extra charge. The President or his designees will be responsible to provide all on-line received registration information to the League Secretary. If possible, the on-line information should be capable of being exported as a form for the formation of team books.
- h. The Player Agent shall retain all original registration, medical release records and volunteer forms for the scheduling of tryouts and team organization. Upon such creation, the League Secretary will receive and maintain all original registration and medical release records. Copies will be generated and provided to the Player Agent and Team Managers (Team Books). The original records will be retained for a period of five years.
- i. The League Treasurer will receive all collected monies and will maintain all original receipts for registration activity, to include records of any fund-raising action. These records will be retained for a period of five years.
- j. Groton Little League may offer scholarships for families in need. Families may apply for a scholarship by contacting the President, Vice-President, League Secretary, or Treasurer. Scholarship families will still be required to participate in all League fund-raising activities and will be required to volunteer in various League activities.

- k. Registration refunds will only be granted by receiving a written request from the interested party, showing just cause, on or before the league's official Opening Day. All issued uniforms and equipment must be returned prior to the refund being issued.

#### 4. Try-Outs

- a. Try-outs are for applicant's league age 9 to 12 years old that have not played in the Major-League division (baseball or softball).
- b. If a player fails to attend at least 50 percent of the tryout/candidate evaluation, the first step is to find out why. The player agent obtains an excuse from the parents. If the excuse is acceptable to a majority of the board, the child can enter the draft and be placed on a team. If the excuse is not acceptable, the child will be placed in the upper minors with all rights of a minor player.
- c. Exception: All league-age 12-year-old players must be drafted onto a Major Division team whether or not they attend tryouts/candidate evaluations with proper prior notification to the Player Agent. Exceptions to this can occur only if the District Administrator, Board of Directors and parent agree in writing (on a specific form provided by Little League International) that the player should be placed in the Minor Division.
- d. Any child who is placed on a Minor League team (and is the correct age for the Major Division) is IMMEDIATELY eligible to be called up to the Major Division, in the event of a vacancy – with the exception of those 12-year-olds noted in the previous paragraph. (Regulation IV f.)
- e. Try-outs will consist of skill-assessments in the following areas:
  - i. Fielding -ground balls
  - ii. Fielding -fly balls
  - iii. Hitting
  - iv. Throwing
  - v. Motor Skills (running, bending, hand-eye coordination)
- f. Managers and coaches will be in attendance to observe the applicants through all phases of the events.

- g. Ideally, the hosting facility will be equipped with the means to perform baseball/softball activity. An indoor facility is preferred due to the time of year the try-outs are conducted.
- h. Managers will score each applicant using a League-provided evaluation form.

## 5. Player Draft

- a. At the completion of the try-outs, managers will make player selections, using the preceding years standings (i.e. last place team picks first) to order the selections.
- b. No draft position trading is allowed (i.e. Team 1 trades their 1st pick to Team 2 for consecutive 2nd & 3rd picks).
- c. Selections will continue until either the player pool is exhausted or the number of team vacancies is filled.
- d. Twelve (12) year old eligible players must be drafted in a special draft round at the conclusion of the third round.
- e. Managers will be required to draft their own son/daughter in the round designated by Little League guidelines or they become unprotected draft assignments.
- f. Managers will be required to draft sibling options at the conclusion of round 3 or they become unprotected draft assignments.
- g. Any player currently playing on a major-league team that wishes to be removed from their present team may, at their request (formally submitted to the President & Player Agent. This position must be made known to the President and Player Agent prior to the February Monthly General meeting, at which point, subsequently, the Board will make final determination as to whether or not such player will be allowed to return to the draft.

## 6. Manager/Coach Selection

- a. A Major team will consist of a manager and a maximum of two (2) coaches.
- b. Individuals interested in managing a major league team will submit a letter of intent outlining their qualifications to the President or his/her designee.
- c. Major League Managers will be selected by a majority vote by the Board of Directors by the February General Meeting.
- d. Upon resignation or termination of a major league manager prior to the season, the President or his/her designee shall appoint a replacement from the remaining candidates.

- e. Upon resignation or termination of a major league manager during the season, the President or his/her designee shall appoint a replacement if possible from the remaining coaches of that team.
- f. Managers may select the coach(s) that they will be working with.

## 7. Replacement of Players

- a. Player loss due to relocation of the family out of Groton, injury or other voluntary or involuntary means. This vacancy must be filled except when the player can continue to be an active participant in his/her team's remaining games.
  - i. Manager shall advise the player agent
  - ii. Player agent shall advise President and Board
  - iii. If approved, President communicates release to player and parents stating release for justifiable reason
  - iv. Manager reviews eligible player list with Player Agent and selects replacement
  - v. Replacement becomes permanent player on team
- b. Failure of manager to report vacancy should result in disciplinary action

## 8. Weather

- a. The Town and City of Groton will determine whether the fields are in playable condition up to three and a half (3 1/2) hours prior to the scheduled start time. Once the game is started, the Umpire will decide whether to continue.
- b. The President or his designee will make a determination on weekend games when the Town or City of Groton cannot.
- c. No field maintenance on wet fields will be conducted at Washington Park.
- d. Rained out games must be played during the same week whenever possible, preferably the next available date. The Player Agent has the responsibility of rescheduling games.

## 9. Player, Coach, Manager Board and Parent Conduct

- a. All Player, Coach, Manager Board and Parent Conduct are required to sign the Groton Little League Coach's Code of Conduct and Responsibilities on an annual basis.

- b. Any breach of the Code of Conduct by Managers Coaches, Players or Parents will be reviewed by the Board and voted on appropriately.

First Offense – receive a written warning.

Second Offense – a suspension for the next scheduled game.

Third Offense – a suspension for the rest of the season.

Note: If the violation is determined to have been intentional or grievous, a more severe penalty may be assessed by the Board of Directors.

- c. If an umpire throws out a player, the player is automatically suspended for the next game they attend. The player MUST dress and be on bench, but may not participate. The Disciplinary Committee will review all suspensions of players.
- d. If an umpire throws out a coach or manager, the coach or manager is automatically suspended for the next game. The Board of Directors will review all suspensions of coaches and managers within 48 hours. A coach or manager is suspended until this review.
- e. Managers are responsible for grooming the field prior to every game.
- f. All major players must play league minimum of two (2) consecutive innings in the field and one (1) at bat. If a player does not play the minimum playing time, said player shall be required to start the next game said player is in attendance plus meets minimum play time for both games before being removed.
- g. The penalty for the manager of said player will be as follows:

First Offense – receive a written warning.

Second Offense – a suspension for the next scheduled game.

Third Offense – a suspension for the rest of the season.

Note: If the violation is determined to have been intentional or grievous, a more severe penalty may be assessed by the Board of Directors.

- h. Children/Parents/Board members/Managers/Coaches are expected to build a positive image of the Groton Little League at all times. If anyone is reported to the Executive Board to be “badmouthing” “The League” or those acting within “The League” at any time, GLL disciplinary actions will be followed. This rule will include all public media including Facebook and other online communities.

## 10. Dress Code For Players

- a. Ball players must be in full uniform, including jerseys tucked in.

## 11. Starting Times

- a. No game can start after 6:15 PM on an unlit field.
- b. An inning in progress is to be completed unless umpire calls on account of darkness or weather.
- c. Weekend games are to be played to completion.

## 12. Standard Ground Rules

- a. Home team is to have 1st base bench, visiting team to have 3rd base bench.
- b. Home Team has initial use of cages and pitcher warmup mounds (if at Calvin Burrows, team on the field has use of single warm-up mound on left field line) until 30 minutes prior to game. Home team is advised to let pitcher and catchers hit first.
- c. Visiting team has the field until 30 minutes prior to the start of the game.
- d. Home team is responsible for grooming the field including lines at Calvin Burrows before the game.
- e. Home team is responsible for covering mounds and home plate upon threat of inclement weather and completion of game.

## 13. Tie Games

- a. Regular Season – After the completion of six innings you must immediately go into the International Tiebreaker rule. If the game does not directly go into the International Tiebreaker rule, both teams forfeit the game.
- b. If after playing you cannot break a tie game it will be entered as a tie score and will not be continued at a later date.
- c. Playoff Ties - All ties will be played to completion unless darkness or weather is the factor. Tie games will be completed separate from other playoff games.
- d. The Player Agent and President must be notified of all Tie issues.

## 14. Major League Playoffs

- a. Standing is defined by the best overall record. The first tie-breaker will be head to head. The second would be runs allowed. The third will be a coin flip.

- b. Playoffs are single elimination.
- c. All standard pitching rules apply
- d. Team with best record is home team.
- e. Playoff structure:
  - i. All teams qualify.
  - ii. All standard single elimination tournament structure would be in effect.
  - iii. The playoff schedule is contingent on how much time is available for playoffs before all stars start. Any change must be Board approved.
- f. Ties – Tie games during playoffs will be continued on the next playable date until a winner is determined. After 15 innings, a coin flip will determine the winner.
- g. All games are to be played to completion.
- h. When tiebreaker applies to more than two teams in standings, to determine draft order for the following year we will apply the following: Head to head and if no clear decision can be made we will go to standard Little League regulations.

## 15. Playing Time

- a. All major players on the particular GAME roster and ready to play MUST play league minimum of two (2) consecutive innings in the field (six defensive outs) and one (1) at bat.
- b. All teams have the option to begin a starting line up with a continuous batter order or straight nine (9); however both teams must follow the same batting structure.
- c. A player must be present at a game by the fourth inning in order to be eligible to play in the game. The player must be announced ASAP to the opposing team when he shows up late. **The late entering player must be on the roster, in the batting order and in the field before an official pitch is thrown in the fourth inning.**
- d. A starter may be removed from the starting line-up provided that the starter:
  - i. Has batted at least once and
  - ii. Has played defensively for a minimum of 6 consecutive outs.

If the visiting team is losing going into the last half of the 6th inning and, therefore, does not take the field, then there is a violation to this rule if some

players do not play 6 outs in the field. The manager must make a *best effort* to try to have the player play the minimum outs in the field.

**iii. In the event a player is injured during the course of the game and cannot play, a courtesy runner will be allowed. The courtesy runner will be chosen by the injured player's Team Manager from the player/s who is not in the lineup at the time of the injury.**

- e. Starters may re-enter the game one time. However, a player in the starting lineup who has been removed for a substitute for any reason may re-enter the game for another starting player, in any position in the batting order, provided the substitute (that entered for the starting player about to re-enter):
  - i. Has batted at least once before the re-entering player comes to bat and
  - ii. Has played defensively for a minimum of 6 outs.

This rule will also not apply for any game that is shortened due to weather, darkness or any other factor.

## 16. Player Voluntary Resignations

Any player, who voluntarily resigns from a Major League team during the season must submit a request to enter the draft the following season. If such player's request to move to a different team follow section 5 subsection f. Per the Board of Directors, the original team maintains the "rights" to this player. The Board of Directors will review and make exceptions to this rule only in special situations deemed applicable on a case by case basis.

## 17. SECTION 21: Pitching rules

- a. Major League pitching will follow the rules set forth by Little League International on ages in relation to pitch counts and days' rest.
- b. A player in the catcher position will not catch more than three (3) innings to be available to pitch that day. No pitcher who pitches 41 or more pitches will not be able to catch in any game that day.
- c. Trips to the mound: A pitcher must be removed if a manager makes 2 trips in an inning and or 3 in a game.
- d. Each team must inform the Player Agent of their team's pitching results no later than the close of the day's game.
- e. The home team report the score for the game.

## 18. Safety rules

### a. **Catcher's Mask, Helmet and Throat Protector**

Any player, warming up a pitcher at home plate shall wear a mask. A throat protector is considered part of the catcher's mask.

### b. **Protective Cup, Athletic Supporter**

Catchers must wear this equipment at all times while behind the plate during a game or practice.

**If the catcher refuses to wear this equipment, he shall be removed from the game.**

c. **There will be NO "slash bunting" allowed in the game. There will be one warning provided per team if an attempt is made. If contact is made or if there are further violations of the rule the batter will be called out.**

d. **Intentionally obstructing the catcher or the pitcher is forbidden such as waving or rolling of a bat during the pitch. There will be one warning provided per team. Any further violations of the rule will result in the batter being called out.**

## 19. Protests

- a. Protests must be done at time of game before leaving the field. If a manager chooses to protest a game, he must do so at the time the incident occurs. The umpire and opposing manager must be notified after the rule infraction has occurred.
- b. Protest committee will be the League President, Vice- President and Player Agent.
- c. If the President or Vice President are also one of the managers involved in the protest, they will be recused and the highest remaining member of the board shall appoint another board members in their place.

## 20. All Star Selection

- a. All Star selection dates will be promulgated to the league as determined by the district All Star schedule provided by the District Administer, no earlier than June 1. These established dates will be communicated to the league members and players via email distributions as soon as possible once dates are set.
- b. All Star balloting will be comprised of manager/assistant coaches' recommendations. Assistant coaches may be consulted as part of this recommendation process.

- c. Managers will submit their All Star recommendations utilizing a consistent league-wide evaluation process.
- d. The Player agent will present the final tabulated data and determine the total number of players qualified for All Star competition. This information will be used to determine the number of teams and the numbers of players per team, separated by age group.
- e. The Managers of both all-star teams will be selected by the eligible managers. A majority vote of the Executive Board will decide in the event of a two person tie. A three or more person tie will require a runoff of the tied candidates until either a majority is received or a two person tie is achieved.
- f. A full team will be selected (minimum of 12 players). Managers can elect to increase the number of roster players at their discretion. If there are an excess number of players qualified for All Star competition, a “Special Practice Player” category will be created that will contain the names of those players. These players can be selected to the All Star Team through attrition or injury, where the rostered All Star player will not be capable of returning to the team.
- g. Player notifications will be held until the approved information release date established by the District Administrator. All Star candidates will sign commitment forms. Candidates will not be considered to be assigned to a team until the signed commitment form is received by the Manager.
- h. If the All Star program is combined with an adjacent District 10 town program, the involved League Presidents and Player Agents will meet prior to balloting to determine the drafting method to ensure parity in the player selection. It is understood that all necessary forms will be filed in advance with the District office.

## 21. Concession Program

- a. At the time of league elections, the Concession Coordinator position should be filled.
- b. The Concession Coordinator will develop a budget for the upcoming season and submit this budget to the league for approval.
- c. The Concession Coordinator is responsible to ensure the stock program maintains the correct inventory levels at all times.
- d. The Concession Coordinator will ensure that all vendor invoices are delivered to the League Treasurer for payment within the specified payment window.
- e. If it is the intent of Groton Little League program to sell any unused inventory to the Babe Ruth program or Groton Mystic Football program, liaison with a representative from Babe Ruth or Groton Mystic Football program will be made prior to fixing the

inventory, to ensure consensus with the product line. Groton Little League and Babe Ruth or Groton Mystic Football program will enter into a formal agreement, signed by the presidents of both programs, to execute the inventory turnover.

- f. Food handlers will take the local Health District training course and submit their completed certificate to the Concession Coordinator prior to being assigned concession stand duties.
- g. The League Treasurer will develop a cash control plan for the Concession Program that ensures accuracy and ease of use.
- h. The Concession Coordinator is responsible to utilize the cash control plan, make deposits, and provide the deposits slips to the League Treasurer.
- i. The Player Agent will schedule a majority of games (all divisions) at the fields with concession stands.
- j. A volunteer schedule will be developed prior to the first major league game.

## 22. Annual Team Pictures

- a. The league will elect a single vendor to conduct the annual pictures.
- b. The league will, to the greatest extent possible, select the vendor with the most comprehensive photo package, in order to provide the greatest value to the league.
- c. The league may receive vendor marketing packages and/or vendor presentations prior to the beginning of the playing season in order to finalize the selection and schedule the picture dates. Vendors will not be required to present their proposals on the same date, in order to minimize any perceived advantage.
- d. Incumbent vendors will not automatically be selected based principally on historic service.
- e. All teams will utilize the selected vendor.

## 23. Manager/Coach Training

- a. All Managers and Coaches will undergo training from a source selected by the League Board of Directors. Failure to complete this training may result in removal from the position. This requirement cannot be waived for any reason.
- b. Any cost for the training will be borne by the league, provided sufficient funds exist in the treasury. If sufficient funds are not available, the cost borne by the individual

Manager/Coach will be off-set by the league, in a value to be determined by the Board of Directors, and only when sufficient funds are available.

- c. The League will schedule a sufficient quantity of training sessions to ensure that all incumbent and prospective Managers/Coaches have ample opportunity to attend the required training sessions prior to assuming their position.
- d. If feasible, the League will partner with other District teams to offer combined training sessions.
- e. All teams are required to have one official (Manager and or Coach) certified in CPR and First Aid training. The League will schedule and fund sufficient training sessions to ensure all incumbent and prospective Managers/Coaches have ample opportunity to attend the required training sessions prior to assuming their position.

#### 24. Non-League Tournaments

- a. Players registered in the Groton Little League are eligible to play in non-league tournaments.
- b. Groton Little League funds may be disbursed to support any costs associated with non-league Little League approved tournaments.
- c. Funds will not be used for AAU teams.
- d. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, Groton Little league equipment and uniforms may be authorized for use in non-league Little League approved tournaments.
- e. Selection of teams is under the discretion of the Groton Little League Board and manager assigned.

#### 25. Major League Division Team Standings

- a. As a competitive division the Major League Baseball regular season win/loss records will apply to the following:
  - i. Player selection at the pre-season draft
    - 1) Regular season last-place team will have the first draft pick throughout the following year's draft process (i.e. each round).
    - 2) Each other team in order (last to first) will then select their draft choices, throughout the draft process, until the pool of players is exhausted or the team rosters are filled out.

- b. Final standings are determined by the win/loss record of each of the competing teams in the Major League Baseball division during the regular season.

## 26. League Expansion

Upon the expansion of Groton Little League the following Little League approved process will be followed under the guidelines of the Little League rulebook on expansion.

**Option Three:** This plan provides the most favorable competitive balance between existing teams at the Major league level over Options One and Two when a local league expands its Major League to provide additional opportunity for more candidates to participate at the Major League Level. Plan Three incorporates many basic features of a plan used successfully in professional baseball. This plan has every existing team placing players in a player pool from which the new expansion team will draft players in a preliminary draft.

The player pool is formed by the following procedure:

1. The team with the fewest returning players will place one player into the pool and in doing so, will establish the key to the number of players all other teams can retain.

For example, let's assume a division expanding from five teams to six:

Major Team A has four returning players—contributes one player to expansion pool;

Major Team B has five returning players—contributes two players to expansion pool;

Major Team C has five returning players—contributes two players to expansion pool;

Major Team D has six returning players—contributes three players to expansion pool;

Major Team E has six returning players—contributes three players to expansion pool;

2. In one-team team expansion using this example, the expansion team manager chooses three players in a preliminary draft. All players remaining in the Major League expansion pool then return to their original teams. (If the expansion is by two teams, each chooses three players, alternating picks.)
3. The regular draft of Minor League players will begin with the expansion team(s) drafting first in each round. The established teams then draft in reverse order of the finish in last year's schedule.

4. Any trading of players, which may be a necessity, will follow immediately after the draft has been completed. Trading of players can continue until the 14<sup>th</sup> day after the start of the playing season.

## 27. Team Reduction

If the number of teams is to be reduced at the Major League level, the Executive Board decides which team is to be deleted from the division. All current Major League players must be reassigned to a Major League team through a preliminary draft (reverse order of finish) prior to the regular player draft involving new candidates. Once the preliminary draft is complete, the regular player draft starts over in the reverse order of finish, without regard to the last team to pick.

## 28. League Awards:

Awards will be issued to those participating in GLL as follows:

- Participation medals, certificates or trophies will be decided by the Executive Board or designee for those participating in the regular season.
- A trophy of (16") will be issued to the team with the best Regular Season record/win percentage.
- A trophy of (14") will be issued to the second place Regular Season record/win percentage.
- A trophy of (12") will be issued to all players that made and participated in All-star play.
- A plaque of (6 x 8 up to 8 x 10) will be issued to the Sportsmanship Award winner.
- A plaque of (6 x 8 up to 8 x 10) will be issued to each graduating player.
- A shirt, selected by the Executive Board or designee will be issue to the GLL Post Season Tournament winners.