

**TURLOCK LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL**  
**2020 LOCAL GROUND RULES**

These Local Rules are required by **regulation 1-c-1** of the *2020 Little League Softball Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Operating Policies*.

**Age Divisions:**

AA Minors – 6-9 year olds: Any player who will be 6 years old by January 1, 2020 and who will not be over 9 years old by January 1, 2020 shall be eligible to compete in the AA Minor League Coach Pitch Division. Per Little League regulation VIII-d note a 5 year old may play in the AA division provided they will turn 6 years old by the day of evaluations for 6 year olds AND they have completed playing a season of tee ball (whether Little League or a locally run program, like the City of Turlock).

AAA Minors – 8-12 year olds: Any player who will be 8 years old by January 1, 2020 and who will not be over 12 years old by January 1, 2020 shall be eligible to compete in the AAA Minor League Player Pitch Division. A waiver of Regulation V(a) must be obtained to allow any 12 year old to play in this league, in accordance with Little League International regulations.

Majors – 9-12 year olds: Any player who will be 9 years old by January 1, 2020 and who will not be over 12 years old by January 1, 2020 shall be eligible to compete in the Major League Division. Draft requirements apply.

**Draft Requirements:**

1. All Players age 9 thru 12 years must participate in the appropriate Division evaluations unless they are a returning player from the Major League Division.
2. Any player who fails to attend 50% of the try-out evaluation sessions will forfeit league eligibility unless a waiver is granted by a majority vote by the Board of Directors.

Draft Policy:

1. Draft Order: The team that wins the League Championship in the prior year, drafts last. The remaining teams draft in reverse order of last season's overall record. Teams with the same record will determine draft order according to head-to-head results. The team with the most losses in head-to-head competition drafts first. If head-to-head results do not break a tie, a coin flip will determine the draft order.
2. Adding new teams: When new teams are added to the existing league the new team/s will draft in order determined by coin flip until they have an equal number of players as the existing teams at which time the Draft Order rules would apply.
3. Draft Participants: All players NOT returning to a Major League team are eligible for the draft unless the Board of Directors exercises their options to draft the entire league. If the League options to redraft the entire division, all returning players and players who have met the draft requirements will then be eligible to be drafted. The returning players must be drafted during the draft. Only approved managers will be allowed to participate in the draft selections.
4. Returning player draft re-entry: If a returning Major League Division player opts to, they can reenter the draft. The player must meet all draft requirements to reenter the draft.
5. Both Managers and two rostered coaches, determined by the Team Manager, have the option to draft their players onto their team automatically. Players must be taken by the draft round specified in the LL rulebook by player age.
6. When a returning Majors player has a sibling entering the draft (12 year olds only) they will automatically be assigned to the returners team.
7. If siblings are entering the draft for the first time they must be drafted together in the same round. The Manager choosing the siblings would then skip their next draft pick (or more based on the number of siblings drafted together).

Draft Procedure:

1. Drafting into the Major League Division will be for ages 9 through 12 only.
2. Prior to the draft, the number of 12 year olds in the draft, plus the number of 12 year olds returning to the Major teams will be averaged. This sum (or quotient) will be the number of 12 year olds required to be on each Major League team. Returning players will not be forced to trade or switch teams.
3. The draft will be monitored to ensure that all 12 year olds will be drafted prior to close of draft.
4. All option will be taken in the draft according to the 2020 LLI Softball Rulebook.

## Player Replacement Policy:

1. Before the Draft: If for any reason, a returning player wants to change teams or a manager wishes to release a player, the following process will be followed:
  - a. A written notice from the parents or manager must be submitted to the Player Agent.
  - b. In the case of a parent request, the Player Agent shall notify the Manager of the team that the player wishes to leave the team.
  - c. If this is the parent's request, the Manager of the team will decide if he wishes to release the player, trade the player, or retain the player on his team.
  - d. If this is the manager's request, the request must be made between the conclusion of 1 season and seven days prior to the evaluation period of the second season.
  - e. The Player Agent will notify the League President and the Board of Directors of the parents and manager's wishes.
  - f. If the manager decided to release the player, and upon approval by the Board of Directors, that player shall be removed from the team roster and then go through the evaluation and draft process as previously noted.
  - g. Once a decision is made, the Player Agent, acting for the League President will notify the player of the decision.
2. Trades: If a returning player wishes to change teams, the following process will be followed:
  - a. Steps A through D above will be followed.
  - b. The manager decides to trade the player.
  - c. Only players participating in the draft process are eligible to be traded.
  - d. All trades will be final at the conclusion of the draft.
  - e. The Player Agent will monitor any attempts by managers and parents to manipulate the draft system and thus create an imbalance in the league.
  - f. Once a decision is made, the Player Agent, acting for the League President will notify the player of the decision.
3. After the Draft: If for any reason a player refuses, or is unable to play for a major league team;
  - a. Notice must be given to the Player Agent by the manager within 24 hours.
  - b. The Player Agent shall notify the League President and the Board of Directors.
  - c. Upon approval of the Board of Directors, the Player Agent shall send a letter of release to the player and parents.

## Rosters:

1. LL Majors: At no time shall a team have on its roster more than eight players of 12 year olds or more than seven players of either age 9, 10 or 11.
2. The Board reserves the right to adjust rosters to accommodate the number of draft eligible players.

## LOCAL RULES FOR ALL DIVISIONS

1. Managers, coaches, players, parents, and spectators shall abide by the League's Code of Conduct.
2. Umpires will be directed to begin play at the scheduled time. In an effort to speed up the game, the umpire will observe the "1 minute rule" between innings.
3. Only the manager and two adult coaches will be permitted in the dugout with the players. Managers and coaches must have been approved by the Board of Directors. All managers and coaches who are not functioning as base coaches will remain inside the dugout. There must be at least one adult in the dugout at all times. A player in uniform (AA, AAA Minors, LL Majors only) may be used as a base coach, provided the player is wearing a batting helmet. Two adult base coaches are permitted at all levels provided one adult coach/manager is present in the dugout. No more than three adults can be in the dugout or on the field at any time with the exception of AA whom can have 4 (1 adult in the dugout, 2 base coaches, and a "pitcher").
4. **Only the manager, or designee, will be recognized by the umpire in the event of a dispute.** The manager, or designee, must obtain permission to discuss a possible violation of the rules. *Arguing an umpire's judgment will result in the manager being ejected from the game and serving a one game suspension.*
5. All divisions have a mandatory play rule. All players must play six consecutive defensive outs and bat one time before the starter can return to the game. Only the starter may re-enter the game in the Major League. Please see clarification of Continuous Batting Order (CBO) for AA/AAA in AA/AAA Minors section of ground rules. PENALTY: See regulation IV-i.

6. The manager or designee must sign the game cards and pitching eligibility forms at the conclusion of each game.
  - a. **NOTE:** Failure to sign the game cards and pitching eligibility forms will result in each pitcher appearing in the game to be charged with the maximum inning count per game. The managers or team representatives' signature indicates that the lineup card is correct, and shows an accurate representation of the game. This lineup card will be used to determine if players have played the minimum time, if pitchers have pitched the correct amount.
7. There is no "on-deck" hitter from LL majors down. All players must stay inside the dugout until their turn to bat.
8. No player in the Little League majors, AAA, or AA divisions shall have a bat in their hand until they are ready to go up to home plate to bat. Players may not stand in the dugout with a bat in their hand.
9. No batboy or batgirl is permitted at any level.
10. The HOME team scorekeeper will maintain the Official Scorebook of the game. The Official Scorekeeper must be stationed in the press box behind the home plate area if the field has one available. If the field has no press box then they must be stationed in the stands nearest the plate umpire. The Official Scorekeeper is not permitted in the dugout or on the field. Pitcher inning counts shall be kept by this scorekeeper. This scorekeeper shall advise the umpire of the score and innings pitched at the end of each inning. The team manager is responsible for knowing the innings pitched for their respective pitchers.
11. *Any player warming up the pitcher must be wearing a mask with a dangling throat guard. Any player warming up an outfielder must wear a batting helmet. Managers and coaches are not permitted to warm up players at any time (Per Regulation XIV (f) of the Little League Rules and Regulations).* This includes any warm up period on the field at any location. **Player must wear catcher's mask with a dangling throat guard during any type of pregame warm ups when a player is used to catch for the Manager or coach.** PENALTY – The first incident will constitute a warning to the manager. A second incident will result in the manager's ejection from the game.
12. Umpires:
  - a. AA managers will be responsible to umpire their own games.
  - b. AAA managers and coaches will be scheduled to umpire games as needed by the League UIC.
  - c. Major league managers & coaching staffs will be responsible to umpire AAA games as scheduled by the League UIC.
  - d. **NO GAMES at any level of play shall be delayed or rescheduled** due to an absent or tardy umpire. **Managers, Coaches, Parents shall be enlisted as umpires so the players can play the game as scheduled.**
  - e. No umpires will be paid by the league for their service.
13. No players, coaches, and or managers that leave the field without the umpire's permission will be allowed to reenter the game.
14. The manager shall hold his/her team responsible for the condition of the dugout area at the end of each game. No sunflower seeds are permitted on the field/in the dugout.
15. Field Preparation and Clean up:
  - a. See the League Field Procedures Sheet for directions.
  - b. A safety base will be used at first base when available on the field of play.
16. The Player Agent must be notified if a player misses more than one week (7 days) of scheduled practices or games for any reason. A continued absence is seven continuous days of missed practice or games, NOT seven practices and games. Excused absence is medical and/or school related absence. Players who have missed games and/or practices due to an injury cannot return to play without medical release (per Regulation III (d) Note 2.)
17. A player must participate in 50% of regular season games, or be replaced on the roster.
18. All injuries sustained during practice or a game must be reported to the Safety Officer on an accident form. This must be done within 24 hours of injury. Reporting of injuries during a practice or game is the responsibility of the team Manager.
19. If a parent seeks medical treatment for the injury, they have 20 days to initiate a claim with the League Safety Officer for use of the Little League International insurance program. While the League will assist in this process, it is the responsibility of the parent to initiate the claim.

20. "The 10 Run Rule": Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rule 4.10 (e) shall be in effect during regular season games.
21. Batting with an Illegal bat: If prior to the next batter entering the batter's box, it is determined that batter is using or did use an illegal bat, the batter who used the bat shall be called out. The illegal bat will be handed to the official scorekeeper in the score booth, and will not be given back to the player, or player's family or the manager or coach until the end of the game. The umpire will make a report of the use of the illegal bat on the back of the lineup card, and if the player attempts to use the bat a second time, the batter will be brought before the discipline committee.
22. All players within 10 feet of a batter swinging a bat for any reason must wear a helmet. This is to prevent injuries caused by the bat hitting any unprotected player.
23. The "Inning Count" pitching regulation will be in effect for all pitchers. See Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rule, Regulation VI (b).

## **AA/AAA Minors:**

1. Pitching:
  - a. **AA will be coach pitch.** A maximum of three (3) pitches will be delivered to each batter. If the batter has not hit the ball in the first three pitches a tee will be placed at home plate to allow the batter to hit the ball from the tee. Each manager shall designate an adult to pitch while their team is at bat. **This adult shall perform the duties of umpire** for that half inning. Coaches will pitch from behind the designated line near the pitching plate.
  - b. **AAA will be player/coach pitch.**
    - i. 12 year olds are not eligible to pitch in this division.
    - ii. LL inning count rules shall be followed. Managers and League Officials shall maintain pitching records throughout the season.
    - iii. A player will pitch up to a count of four balls at which time a coach/manager will come into the game to pitch up to three pitches to the batter. (Three coach **pitches** & the at-bat is finished, **not** three (3) **swings**). A batter is "out" when they are unable to hit a ball fair within the 3-pitch limit, unless they foul the third pitch. If a player fouls the third coach pitch they can continue to bat until they hit the ball fair or do not swing at the pitch or they strike out.
    - iv. Coaches will pitch from behind the designated line near the pitching plate.
    - v. The game should keep moving and therefore a coach pitching to their player should limit their direction to the batter.
    - vi. Pitchers can use a slingshot pitching style, but should be working towards a windmill pitching style.
    - vii. There is no balk/illegal pitch rule.
    - viii. There will be no walks.
2. Base stealing:
  - a. **AA** – No base stealing.
  - b. **AAA** – No base stealing.
3. Defensive Alignment:
  - a. **AA** teams may use 10 players on defense. The 10<sup>th</sup> defensive player shall only be used as a fourth outfielder.
  - b. **AAA team can use a maximum of 9 players on defense, however a game can begin with less players.**
4. Batting Order:
  - a. The batting order shall consist of the entire roster (**CBO**). With Continuous Batting Order; the batting order will not change when players have been substituted on defense. **Please see rule 4.04 in the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules, and Operating Policies for clarification.**
  - b. If a player leaves the game for injury or illness, the batting order will skip that spot in the line-up.
5. Run Limits:
  - a. After **five runs** have scored, the half-inning shall end.
  - b. The final inning is a closed inning – only 5 runs may be scored.
6. Time Limits:
  - a. **AA and AAA games** - No new inning will start after one hour and thirty minutes unless approved by the umpire and the two managers. No new inning may start after 10:00 p.m.

7. Tie Scores: All ties will be recorded as a tie for each team.
8. Champions:
  - a. AA – Score should NOT be kept. There will be no first place trophies at the AA League level. All AA players will receive an award to recognize the accomplishment of playing a team sport. This award will be awarded during the league championships at the end of the season.
  - b. AAA Champion: The league champion will be decided in a double elimination tournament between the four AAA league teams with the best records. The best record will play the fourth best record, the second best record will play the third best record, the winning teams will meet to determine the Champion, at the TOC.

## **L.L. Majors:**

1. Base stealing:  
Runners may steal a base when the ball leaves the pitchers hand.
2. Tie Scores: All ties will be recorded as a tie for each team.
3. Run Limits:  
After **five runs** have scored, the half-inning shall end, however the final inning is an open inning (no run limit).
4. Time Limits: Each team will be limited to 10 minutes of infield/outfield warm-up. No inning will start after one hour and thirty minutes.
5. Tied Games: All tied games will be continued prior to the start of the next regularly scheduled game. This may result in a change of the start time when the two teams meet next. If the teams are not scheduled to meet again, if necessary, the game may be made up at a later date. The game will resume from the point where the game ended and play to a conclusion (pitcher inning count shall determine eligibility of the original pitchers of the game).
6. Champion: The league champion will be decided in a double elimination tournament between the four major league teams with the best records. The best record will play the fourth best record, the second best record will play the third best record, the winning teams will meet to determine the Champion, at the TOC.

## **All-Star Selection**

1. At all times, All Star selection must be kept confidential.

### Player Selection:

1. Players must participate in a minimum of 60% of the regular complete season games. Note the LL rule that allows for a medical excuse in the case of a player who does not meet the 60% requirement. Players must be in good standing (Guidelines found in the 2020 Rulebook in the Tournament Rules and Guidelines Section).
  2. The teams that TNLL shall have are:
    - a. Major or Little League All Stars (10-12 year olds)
    - b. Based on pitching level the League will vote to run an 8-10 year old division team by the beginning of May each season.
  3. The managers of the division shall select by written ballot the members of the team All Star Team.
  4. The method of the All Star draft shall be as follows;
    - a. Managers shall nominate players from their regular season team.
    - b. Once all players are nominated by the managers all managers will be able to discuss any players that have not been nominated.
    - c. A paper ballot will then be used for voting. Players receiving the most votes will be placed on the team. The voting procedure will continue until all positions are filled.
1. The team will be composed of a minimum of 12 players.
  2. A majority vote of all managers will determine if more than 12 players will be placed on the team.
  3. The managers shall also determine the order of replacement players.

### Manager and Coaches Selection:

1. The Managers of the All Star teams will be selected by the Board of Directors.
2. The All-Star manager will then select the coaches of the All-Star team.
3. All-Star Managers and coaches must be approved by the Board of Directors.

4. Managers and Coaches must participate in a minimum of 60% of the regular season games and be in good standing.
4. Managers and Coaches will be selected from those names submitted to Little League International off the official Roster forms.

Approved by Board of Directors on 1/18/20.