

GROUND RULES

OF

WATERFORD LITTLE LEAGUE INCORPORATED



These Local League Baseball Rules were approved and adopted by the Waterford Little League Incorporated Membership on November 7, 2018.

Little League Identification Number 02071015

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ARTICLE I - AFFILIATION

SECTION A

Rules and Regulations:

The Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Baseball, and/or the Operating Manual, as published by Little League, Incorporated, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the current season, shall be binding on our Local League.

SECTION B

Local League Baseball Rules:

Our Local League Baseball Rules shall be utilized in conjunction with the Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Baseball, and/or the Operating Manual, as published by Little League, Incorporated, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, for the current season, and shall serve as a supplemental document, subject to annual review, or more frequent review as deemed necessary, and subsequent approval, with or without modification, by our Local League membership. Copies of our Local League Baseball Rules shall be made readily available to our Local League membership, and to non-members and guests, in order to observe the business proceedings of our Local League.

SECTION C

Local League Constitution and Ground Rules:

Our Local League Constitution and Ground Rules shall serve as reference and policy documents. Copies of our Local League Constitution and Ground Rules shall be made readily available for such purpose.

ARTICLE II – DIVISIONS OF PLAY

SECTION A

Tee Ball Baseball: Batting Tee Minor League Baseball Division for Little League age 4-6 year old participants.

- 1) Game scores shall not be posted; Division standings shall not be maintained; and Playoff and/or Tournament games shall not be played.
- 2) Game length shall not exceed three (3) innings or one (1) hour in duration.
- 3) A continuous batting order (CBO) shall be utilized, which shall include all players on the team roster present for the game, batting in order. The side is out when the offensive team bats through its entire roster in its half-inning.
- 4) Every player on a team roster present shall be given a defensive position on the playing field in its half-inning. Every player on a team roster present shall be given a different defensive position in each of the successive defensive innings.
- 5) Offensive and defensive team managers and coaches are allowed on the field of play. The offensive team manager or coach shall be designated to place a baseball, or as necessary, subsequent baseballs, on the batting tee, until such time the ball is batted into fair play. Walks and strikeouts shall not be permitted.
- 6) A runner, including the batter-runner, may advance no more than one (1) base if a fair ball is hit within the infield; A runner, including the batter-runner, may advance no more than one (1) base if a fair ball is hit beyond the infield; and A runner, including the batter-runner, shall not be permitted to advance an additional base on an overthrown ball remaining in play. The only exception is for the runners on base when the last batter of the continuous batter order (CBO) is up. In this instance, all runners on base, including the batter-runner, will advance every base to clear the bases to end its half-inning.

SECTION B

Minor League Baseball/Softball: Minor League Baseball/Softball Division for Little League Age 6-11 year old participants.

- 1) Game scores shall be posted for all Player Pitch divisions; Division standings shall be maintained; and Playoff and/or Tournament games shall be played for all Player Pitch Divisions.
- 2) There will be two divisions within Minor League Baseball/Softball
 - a. Baseball: 8-11 Division (Minor League) and 6-9 Division (Coach Pitch)
 - b. Softball: 9-10 Division (Minor League) and 6-8 Division (Coach Pitch)
- 3) The 8-10 Division (Minor League)
 - a. Follow Little League Baseball/Softball Rules along with local league rules b-f (detailed below)
 - b. Game length shall not be limited unless more than one game on the same night and on the same field is scheduled, in which case, the first game scheduled shall not exceed two (2) hours in duration, unless it's a playoff or tournament game, which has no time limit. Two (2) hour rule applies from actual start time of the game and not scheduled start time. If time limit is reached, any inning started should be completed.

- c. A continuous batting order (CBO) shall be utilized, which shall include all players on the team roster present for the game, batting in order.
 - d. Every player on the roster, present at the start of a game shall participate in each game so as not to miss two (2) consecutive defensive innings.
 - e. Little League Baseball pitching rule "*Option 1*" shall be utilized by all Minor League Baseball Division teams. If after four (4) innings (three and one-half (3-1/2) innings if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. Subsequently, the game may continue to be played and shall not exceed six (6) innings or two (2) hours in duration. The "posting" of runs to the scoreboard shall cease for the remainder of the game.
- 4) If a Minor League Baseball 8-11 Division player declines to move up to a Major League Baseball Division team when a vacancy occurs in the Major League Baseball Division, that player shall forfeit eligibility for the Major League Baseball Division for the current season and may be subject to further restrictions by the Board of Directors of the Local League.

SECTION C

Major League Baseball/Softball: Player Pitch Division for Little League Age 9-12 year old participants (Baseball) and 11-12 year old participants (Softball).

- 1) Baseball: Players League Age 10, 11, and 12 will be evaluated, and League Age 9 year olds can be included if requested by parent. A League Age 9 year old playing in Majors must be a majority decision of managers after evaluations.
Softball: Players League Age 11 and 12 will be evaluated, and League Age 10 year olds can be included for the purpose of balancing teams.
- 2) Game scores shall be posted; Division standings shall be maintained; and Playoff and/or Tournament games may be played.
- 3) Game length shall not be limited unless more than one game on the same night and on the same field is scheduled, in which case, the first game scheduled shall not exceed two (2) hours in duration, unless it's a playoff or tournament game, which has no time limit. Two (2) hour rule applies from actual start time of the game and not scheduled start time. If time limit is reached, any inning started should be completed.
- 4) A continuous batting order (CBO) shall be utilized, which shall include all players on the team roster present for the game, batting in order.
- 5) Every player on the roster, present at the start of a game shall participate in each game so as not to miss two (2) consecutive defensive innings.
- 6) Little League Baseball pitching rule "*Option 1*" shall be utilized by all Major League Baseball Division teams.
- 7) If after four (4) innings (three and one-half (3-1/2) innings if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. Subsequently, the game may continue to be played and shall not exceed six (6) innings or two (2) hours in duration. The "posting" of runs to the scoreboard shall cease for the remainder of the game.
- 8) Pursuant to Regulation III, Section (d), and for reason of illness or injury of a player, the manager of such player, shall comply with the selection of a replacement player, no longer than two (2) weeks after written notification by a physician or other accredited medical provider. However, no player shall be requested to move up to a Major League Baseball Division team from an 8-10 Baseball/Softball Division team during the last two (2) weeks of the regular season schedule.
- 9) Any player, not on the roster for more than three (3) consecutive weeks (or six (6) games), shall be subject to removal from their respective team, by action of the Board of Directors. However, the Board of Directors reserves the right to allow such player to remain on the roster. Should a player miss more than two (2) consecutive games for any reason, the manager shall notify the Player Agent. Failure to comply shall be cause for corrective action against the manager.

ARTICLE III - SCHEDULES

SECTION A

Practice Schedules - All Divisions of Play:

Practice schedules for all division teams shall be generated, updated as necessary, and distributed by the respective Baseball/Softball/Minor Commissioner along with the Player Agent. If necessary, and at the discretion of the respective Baseball/Softball Division Commissioner(s), scheduled practices may be superseded by Minor League Baseball/Softball, and/or Major League Baseball/Softball Division games.

SECTION B

Game Schedules - All Divisions of Play:

Game schedules for all division teams shall be generated, updated as necessary, and distributed by the respective Baseball/Softball/Minor Commissioner along with the Player Agent. Scheduled Minor League Baseball/Softball, and/or

Major League Baseball/Softball Division “regular” season games shall not be superseded by make-up games or practices, but may be superseded by playoff and/or tournament games.

SECTION C

Make-Up Games:

Make-up game “time-slots” for Minor League Baseball/Softball and Major League Baseball/Softball Division teams shall be scheduled and incorporated into the respective game schedules. A cancelled game shall be made up in the first available make-up game “time-slot”, with the only exception being, if doing so will subject a team to play two (2) games in one (1) day. In such case, this cancelled game shall be made up in the next available make-up game “time-slot”. Make-up games for Tee Ball Division teams shall be played if field time is available as determined collectively by the managers and the Commissioner.

SECTION D

Playoff and/or Tournament Games:

Playoff and/or tournament games for Major League Baseball/Softball and Minor League Baseball/Softball teams shall be scheduled and incorporated into the respective game schedules. Playoff and/or tournament games for Tee Ball Division teams shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IV – SELECTION OF REGULAR SEASON PLAYERS

SECTION A

Evaluations (Major League Baseball & Softball 10-12):

Evaluations of eligible regular season player candidates and returning regular season candidates, Little League Age 10, 11, or 12, shall be deemed mandatory and shall be conducted in accordance with “TRYOUTS” as detailed in the Little League Operating Manual for the current season. Eligible regular season player candidates, Little League Age 10, 11, or 12, failing to attend at least one of the evaluation sessions, shall lose the status of a candidate, unless such candidate presents an excuse which is accepted by a majority of the Board of Directors of the Local League. A League Age 9 year old playing in Majors Baseball must be a majority decision of managers after evaluations.

SECTION B

Evaluations (Minor League Baseball/Softball 8-10 Division):

Evaluations of eligible regular season player candidates and returning regular season player candidates, Little League Age 8, 9, or 10, shall be deemed mandatory and shall be conducted in accordance with “TRYOUTS” as detailed in the Little League Operating Manual for the current season. Eligible regular season player candidates, Little League Age 8, 9, or 10, failing to attend at least one of the evaluation sessions, shall lose the status of a candidate, unless such candidate presents an excuse which is accepted by a majority of the Board of Directors of the Local League. A League Age 7 year old playing in Minors Baseball must be a majority decision of managers after evaluations.

SECTION C

Draft (New Teams)

- 1) New Teams in the League shall redraft every year.
- 2) In the event more than one new team joins the league in the same year, they shall alternate, one-for-one, in selecting players before the first round. The new team’s members shall determine the order of alternate selection.
- 3) Each new team shall have seven selections before the first draft round begins. However, no more than three of the first seven players can be of the same league age.
- 4) The respective Player Agent shall be the final authority in setting questions concerning the roster of new teams.

Draft (Elimination of Teams)

- 1) If one or more teams are dropped, the players for those teams shall become part of the player draft pool.

SECTION D

Draft (Major League & 8-11 Baseball/Softball Division): The selection of regular season player candidates for the Major League Baseball Division shall be conducted utilizing a player selection system similar to “*Plan A*”, as detailed in the Little League Baseball Operating Manual for the current season. Once a player has made Majors in previous years, they must be drafted to a Majors team in subsequent years.

- 1) Draft order will be determined by random draw conducted by the Player Agent
- 2) Manager son/daughter options 10-12 Division
 - a) Before or during round 5- Little League Age 10

- b) Before or during round 4- Little League Age 11
- c) Before or during round 3- Little League Age 12
- 3) Manager son/daughter options 8-10 Division
 - a) Before or during round 5- Little League Age 8
 - b) Before or during round 4- Little League Age 9
 - c) Before or during round 3- Little League Age 10
- 4) Brother/Sister options must be drafted in consecutive rounds
- 5) Brother/Sister options supersede Manager son/daughter options
- 6) Options are optional and may be waived
- 7) All players are subject to draft rules
- 8) If player options are not chosen on or before the specified round, they are then available for selection to all teams in the draft

SECTION E

Draft (Coach Pitch Baseball/Softball Division):

- 1. The player agent will assign players for Coach Pitch and Tee Ball for both baseball and softball.
- 2. Each team will receive one manager and one coaches option per team

SECTION F

Player Notification:

Regular season player candidates selected to teams, for the Major League Baseball/Softball and Minor League Baseball/Softball Divisions, shall be notified within twenty-four (24) hours by an agreed upon time of team managers.

ARTICLE V – SELECTION OF REGULAR SEASON TEAM MANAGERS/COACHES

SECTION A

Managers:

- 1) At the December monthly meeting, the board of directors shall elect managers from the pool of applicants for each team to serve for one year.
- 2) Applications for managerial posts shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Majors and the Commissioner of Softball by a date set by the Board of Directors prior to the December meeting of the Board of Directors, and are available on the WLL website.
- 3) All contests will be decided by secret ballot.
- 4) If registration numbers call for an additional team or teams, a notice will be posted for additional manager(s) and will be voted on by the board of directors before the draft.
- 5) If registration numbers call for a deletion of one or more teams, the board will use the last manager in first manager out method (LIFO) to reach the number of managers needed.

SECTION B

Coaches:

- 1) After the draft each manager will name no more than 3 coaches for his or her team, subject to approval of the board.

ARTICLE VI – STARTING AND ENDING THE GAME

SECTION A

Home Team:

The “home” team pre-game schedule and pre-game responsibilities shall be detailed in a supplemental document and subsequently shall be made readily available to each of the team managers. Failure to comply with the requirements contained in the aforementioned supplemental document shall be cause for corrective action against the manager.

SECTION B

Visitor Team:

The “visitor” team pre-game schedule and post-game responsibilities shall be detailed in a supplemental document and subsequently shall be made readily available to each of the team managers. Failure to comply with the requirements contained in the aforementioned supplemental document shall be cause for corrective action against the manager.

ARTICLE VII – SELECTION OF TOURNAMENT TEAM PLAYERS

SECTION A

Players Eligibility:

- 1) League players who are unable to play in regular season games, expected not to participate in tournament teams practices and/or first game because of injury or any other reason, shall be removed from the draft.
- 2) All Little League Age 10, 11, and 12 year old players are eligible for selection to the 11/12 tournament teams.
- 3) All Little League Age 8, 9, and 10 year old players are eligible for selection to the 9/10 tournament teams.

All Little League Age 9, 10, and 11 year olds not selected for the 11/12 or the 9/10 tournament teams are eligible for the 10/11 tournament team if one is entered by the league.

SECTION B

Selections by Managers:

- 1) The Manager of each tournament team will decide the number of players for his or her team (12 up to 14 for softball or 12 to 15 for baseball) after being selected as the manager.
- 2) The Manager of each tournament team will select the last two roster spots.

SECTION C

Tournament All Star Team Selection:

- 1) The selection meeting shall only be attended by the regular season manager or his or her proxy, the league president, Commissioner of the respective division, and the league player agent. Any tournament manager applicants that are not regular season managers or his/her proxy are not permitted until they are selected as the manager.
- 2) Before each round, the numbers of votes are based on the roster spots available from the previous round.
- 3) Players (minus last 2 roster spots) shall be selected by unanimous selection during rounds 1-5.
- 4) Players (minus last 2 roster spots) shall be selected by unanimous selection less 1 during rounds 6-10.
- 5) Players (minus last 2 roster spots) shall be selected with the most votes during round 11.
- 6) Final 2 roster spots filled by manager.

ARTICLE VIII – SELECTION OF TOURNAMENT TEAM MANAGERS/COACHES

SECTION A

Managers

- 1) The tournament Manager shall be a regular season team manager or coach from the 8-11 or 9-12 year old divisions for baseball/softball. Applications to manage will be submitted in writing to the league president by May 24, and are available on the WLL website. All applicants must be approved (or denied) by the WLL BOD.
- 2) After the first ten (10) players of the tournament team have been selected as described in Article VII, the manager for the tournament team shall be voted upon using a secret ballot by the regular season managers. The applicant receiving the majority of votes for each team will be named the tournament manager. Only the manager receiving the majority of votes will be announced – vote totals will not be announced.
- 3) In the event of a tie, a second vote will take place by the regular season managers between the tied candidates only.
- 4) If the second vote is also tied, a third vote will take place by the regular season managers between the tied candidates only.
- 5) If the third vote is also tied, the board of directors will select the manager from the list of the tied applicants. Because the manager is being selected as part of the draft, the Player Agent will have collected votes for all applicants from the BOD prior to the meeting. Note – this is only necessary if there is an even number of teams in the division, and more than one candidate in the division. The Player Agent will have vote totals for each candidate, and will use those totals to decide between tied candidates. In the event the vote is still tied, the decision lies with the league president (who will not have voted originally).

SECTION B

Coaches:

- 1) The tournament Coaches shall be a regular season team manager or coach from Major League, 8-11 Baseball, and 11/12 division for softball.
- 2) The tournament Manager will be responsible for selecting 2 coaches per each tournament team.
- 3) All selections must be submitted and approved by the board of directors of WLL.

ARTICLE IX – SELECTION OF EXTENDED SEASON PLAYERS FALL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL EXTENDED SEASON

SECTION A

Player Eligibility, Fees, and Registration

- 1) All baseball/softball players Little League Aged 8-11 from the regular season are eligible.
- 2) Fees will be determined by the Board of Directors at the conclusion of the regular season before registration.
- 3) Registration dates, locations, and times will be determined by the Player Agent with approval of the Board.
- 4) Registration forms will be made available on the WLL website.

SECTION C Player Placement

- 1) Players will be placed on each team according to age and playing experience at an organizational meeting attended by the league president, player agent, and manager for each team.

ARTICLE X – SELECTION OF EXTENDED SEASON MANAGERS/COACHES

SECTION A

Managers:

- 1) E-mail and website notices for fall baseball/softball managers will be out in August.
- 2) Applications from applicants will be submitted in writing to the WLL president before August 31.
- 3) If there are more applicants than available teams, the Player Agent will notify the Board. The Board will then vote on the managers. There is no need for a vote unless the number of applicants exceeds the number of positions and the manager has submitted the proper volunteer form and passed the background check. The Board reserves the right to deny any applicant for any reason.

SECTION B


Coaches:

- 1) The Manager may select up to three (3) coaches. Coaches are required to complete the proper volunteer form and background check.
- 2) The Board reserves the right to deny any applicant for any reason.

ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS

These Baseball Rules may be amended, repealed, or altered, in whole or in part, by a majority vote at any duly constituted meeting of the membership, at which there is a quorum, provided notice of the proposed change is included in the notice of such meeting.

These Local League Baseball Rules were approved and adopted by the Waterford Little League Incorporated Membership on November 7, 2018.

<u>James Turner</u> President's Name (Print)	 President's Signature	<u>11/26/2018</u> Date
<u>02071015</u> Little League ID No.	<u>06-1037444</u> Federal ID No. (If available)	<u> </u> State ID No. (If available)