

PEABODY TANNER LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL INCORPORATED

2016



*From the ranks of youngsters who stand now
on the morning side of the hill will come
the leaders, the future strength
and character of the nation*

Little League Pledge

I trust in GOD
I love my country
And will respect its laws
I will play fair
and strive to win
But win or lose
I will always
Do my best

These operating rules were approved by the Peabody Tanners Little League Softball Board of Directors on November 4, 2015.

President's Name (Print) Lauren Bettencourt_____

President's Signature_____ (date).

Little League ID No. _ 00296769_____

Federal ID No. (if available) 47-2127488_____

State ID No. (if available) 001161873_____

Make one copy for the District Administrator and copies for the Local League. Send original to Regional Headquarters. This Local League's Constitution on file at Regional Headquarters (most recently-approved copy) is the official Constitution of this Local League.

Little League Baseball, Incorporated does not limit participation in its activities on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual preference or religious preference.

OPERATING RULES

Article 1 - EQUIPMENT

All Managers in the system will recall and return their uniforms and equipment at the end of the playing season each year.

Exceptions will be made for Tournament teams.

Article 2 - PLAYING FIELDS

- (A) The President, League Coordinators and Safety Officers will review the conditions of their playing fields during the period between September 22 and October 10. They will report their findings to the Board of Directors at the October meeting for such action as deemed appropriate.
- (B) The President will submit a report to the Park Commission before October 31 of each year of the desired capital expenditures for equipment, rehabilitation or renovation of playing fields for the coming fiscal year.
- (C)

Article 3 - LEAGUE BOUNDARIES

The President and Player Agent will be responsible for assuring league boundaries in accordance with the Official Little League Rules

Article 4 - PRESEASON ACTIVITIES

- (A) **REGISTRATION**
The President and Player Agent will submit for approval at the October meeting of the Board of directors, Registration dates - Citywide All Sports Registration dates as set forth by the Park & Recreation Department and fall registration in September if applicable.

All youngsters who meet the requirements as set forth in the By-Laws must register on the approved registration dates, except that the Board of Directors will be authorized to make exceptions to for such situations as illness or new residency. New applicants must present

a birth certificate, which will be returned to them. Donations will be solicited and accepted, but no applicant will be refused for failure to make a donation.

- (B). TRYOUTS - To be established by the President and League Coordinators at or before the November Board of Directors' meeting. Tryouts will be scheduled and finalized at that time.

The league will hold 2 tryout sessions annually for players wishing to play in the Majors and Junior/Senior divisions. Every applicant who wishes to play in the Majors and Junior/Senior divisions must attend 1 complete tryout as required by Little League Baseball, unless applicant is already assigned to a team in the desired division. Waivers for attendance may be considered by the Board of Directors with documented evidence (for example, a doctor's note, or travel documents) proving attendance would not be possible.

Attendance lists will be compiled for each age group, listing name, address, phone number, birth date, previous experience, ratings of their previous division Manager (if applicable) and assigned tryout number. Copies of these lists will be made available to all Managers and Coaches. The Division Coordinator will be responsible for tryouts, including attendance, conduct, and duties of adult and player personnel. The Player Agent shall compile the list of eligible players assist with tryouts.

- (C) OPENING DAY - to be determined at February's meeting of the Board of Directors. The last Sunday in April is the recommended start of the Major and Junior/Senior League season, with the Minor Leagues to follow over the following two weeks.
5.
- (D) LEAGUE SCHEDULES are to be drawn up by the League Coordinators.
T-Ball schedule will be determined by agreement between the League Coordinators
.
- (E) Clinics will be held during the spring for all age levels.
- (F) PLAYER SELECTION (DRAFT)-
Managers will select players to fill out their team rosters. The Player Agent and the President will conduct the player selection process for the Major and Junior/Senior division teams, at which the Player Agent will also preside. If necessary, another member of the Board of Directors could preside over the player selection process if the Player Agent is a Coach or Manager within that particular division. No registration will be rejected provided they meet and comply with the tryout requirements.

Majors and Junior/Senior divisions will utilize the Draft System as outlined in the Official

Little League Operating Manual - THE DRAFT SYSTEM Plan A.

Minor Leagues - The Coordinator will attempt to equally distribute the talent at each level. A reasonable effort should be made to fulfill all parent requests, but the fairness of the league shall prevail in all cases.

**** Note: Managers will not select coaches until after the drafting or assignment of players has been completed, thus eliminating the loading up of teams. Selection of coaches is subject to appointment of the League President and approval of the board of directors annually.**

Article 5 - PLAYING RULES

(A) PLAYER POOL

For each division (Majors, Junior/Senior), a pool of players from existing regular season teams will be created with players that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of players for a regular season game. Players may not be “borrowed” from an opponent. They must be assigned by the Player Agent. The player pool will be administered as follows:

1. The Player Agent will create and run the pool. The Player Agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis.
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to pick and choose players from the pool.
3. When a player participates in a game on a team other than his or her own team, such player will not be permitted to pitch in the game.
4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game must play in accordance with the playing time rules of the league (2 innings, consecutive batting order).

Excessive numbers of games with a team showing up to a game with less than their full roster and failing to use the procedure outlined in above, with the claim by the manager and/or coaches of not knowing in advance of said absences will be addressed by the Board, if brought to its attention.

(B) MINIMUM PLAYING TIME

1. Majors/Junior/Senior Leagues - For all regular season and playoff games, players will play a minimum of two (2) innings in the field and free substitution will be allowed. Continuous batting order will also be employed for all regular season and playoff games. Tournament Teams shall comply with the playing rule of the Tournament they

are participating in.

2. Minor Leagues - players will play a minimum of 3 innings in the field and employ a continuous batting order per game. All players are to be exposed to as many different positions as possible. Managers are not to put any player at a position that would jeopardize the player's safety.
3. All Levels - In the event a player plays less than 2 innings, the player will start and play the entire game in the very next game played.

***Note: In the event, a game is rained out or halted because of darkness, the above rule does not apply.

(C) FORFEITS

There are no forfeits allowed. Every effort will be made to play scheduled games. Refer to paragraph (E) for Postponed Games

(D) PLAYER DISCIPLINE

1. Each Manager and Coach has the authority to sit out a player for a game for disciplinary action. Such actions should be reported to the President and Player Agent immediately.
2. The Board of Directors may on request of a Manager, approve the suspension or dismissal of a player if that player misses three (3) or more consecutive games or practices. If a player misses two (2) games or practices, or combination thereof, and then reports, and then misses again and continues this pattern, this will cause dismissal from the team. In any event, a player who misses three (3) out of five (5) games or practices or combination hereof may be dropped from a team's roster. Each Manager must keep attendance records of practices as well as games to support his/her position. The League shall be tolerant of illness and will follow a consistent policy and apply it in each case.

(E) POSTPONED GAMES

If a Manager determines that he/she will be missing players from his/her roster for an upcoming scheduled game, the Manager must follow the procedures as set out under Article 5, Section (A), PLAYER POOL. If, after following these procedures the team can still not field 9 players, the game will be cancelled and rescheduled as outlined below. **If a team is unable to field 9 players by the start of the game, the game can be played if**

agreed to by both coaches.

1. The League Coordinator will reschedule all regularly scheduled League games that are postponed for any reason. Postponed games will be scheduled for play on the next open day. All games must be made up by the end of the week.
2. Open field dates during mid-week evenings, Saturday mornings and afternoons, and Sunday afternoons and early evenings shall be used for make-up games, with the games being scheduled in order of their original schedule except where this requires teams to play more than the allowable number game in a day. The above procedure will also be applicable for completion of tied or suspended games. The decision of the Coordinator is binding and final.

(F) PROTEST PROCEDURE

Protests will be decided within each League by a three person committee composed of three members of the Board of Directors appointed by the League President. Any Board member personally involved with the protest shall not participate on the Protest committee. The decision may be appealed to the full Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with the Little League Official Rules and Regulations - Section 4 Paragraph 19 (4.19). The Board of Directors may schedule special meetings for this purpose in order to avoid delay in consummating the schedule. The Directors not involved in the dispute will decide the issue. The President will vote only in the event of a tie.

(G) SCORING RESPONSIBILITY

Both teams will be responsible for keeping a complete and accurate scoring record of each game

(I) STANDINGS

The League Coordinator will be responsible for keeping the standings

All scheduled games must be played if they affect in any way the overall League standings. The standings will be determined by the team with the best winning %. In the case of teams with equal winning percentage records against each other, a coin flip will govern.

(H) ACCIDENT PROCEDURE

All accidents will be reported to the Safety Officer immediately after the game or practice in which the accident occurred. The League Coordinator and the Safety Officer will insure that the forms are prepared with doctor and hospital bills attached (if available) and forwarded to the League President and to Little League Baseball Williamsport, Pa, recording the eventual disposition.

(I) STARTING TIMES

All regularly scheduled games will begin no later 15 minutes after the scheduled start. No inning will start after 8:00pm, unless agreed upon by both Managers and the Umpire in charge of the game.

(J) COMPLETION OF SCHEDULE

All scheduled games must be played if they affect the overall League standings in any way.

(K) UMPIRING RESPONSIBILITY

The Umpire Assignor is responsible for providing and assigning Umpires for each and every game. The Assignor will be given a copy of the League Operating Rules and ask that each umpire selected to work games for the League familiarize himself/herself with the rules. Each manager is expected to meet with the umpire prior to the game to explain the modified Little League International rules adopted by the League.

(L)PLAYOFFS

1. The playoff format in Majors and Seniors will be double elimination. If it is determined that the play-offs will not be completed in time for the start of tournament play because of significant regular season rainouts then the play-off format will be changed to single elimination. Each team will be seeded by order of regular season finish. In all levels, the higher seed has the choice of being the home team in the first round of playoff games. All other rounds including the Finals, the home team will be determined by a coin flip. In the event that a playoff game cannot be played due to coaches being unavailable, the board may designate a board member to coach the team.
2. Trophies will be award to the Play-off champion at each level.

- (L) SLAUGHTER RULE- Majors, Junior/Senior if after 4 innings of play a team is ahead by 12 or more runs, the game is over. Should both managers agree to continue the game, the teams can continue to play the remaining innings even though the winner has already been declared by way of this rule. **In Senior, if after 5 innings (4.5 innings home team winning)a team is winning by 12 or more runs the game will be officially over. In the Majors and Minors, if after 4 innings (3.5 innings home team winning) a team is winning by 12 or more runs the will be officially over. The game may continue at the option of the managers for the full 7 innings for Seniors and full 6 innings for Majors and Minors or league time limit, which ever comes first. All pitches still count and should be logged. If the game continues, the umpires will stay for the remainder of the game.**

Article 6 - ADULT TRAINING

- (A) Each League Coordinator will hold a preseason meeting with all managers and coaches. The League Coordinator will review the Operating Rules and give instruction of key official rules and regulations from the Official Regulation and Playing Rules from Little League Baseball of the current year as well as any rule changes that have been made. This meeting is for the benefit of all adult personnel, such as managers, coaches, and umpires.
- (B) All Managers and Coaches are required to attend the Annual First Aid and Safety Meeting as defined in the League Safety Plan. Failure to attend may be grounds for disqualification for tournament participation.

Article 7 - REGULAR SEASON PLAY (including Playoffs)

(A) SCHEDULE

It is recommended that the season for Major and Junior League teams consist of the following:

- 18 games for a 7 team league
- 15 to 21 games for a 6 team league
- 16 games for a 5 team league
- 15 to 18 games for a 4 team league

1. The Board of Directors shall establish playoff format and rules. League Playoffs should be completed prior to the Little League Tournament.
2. All teams make the playoffs.

(B) COACHING

Majors, Juniors, Seniors: Each team must have minimum of one manager and 2 coaches. Teams are allowed to have 1 manager and no more than 2 coaches on the playing field during games with unlimited number of coried volunteers.

Only the team Manager, the team Coaches, and/or a team player are allowed to be designated as Base Coaches during any regularly scheduled game. If there is a reasonable doubt that any decision made by the Umpire may be in conflict with the rules; the Manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such an appeal can only be made to the Umpire that rendered the protested decision. **Coaches are not allowed to communicate with the Umpire.**

Article 8 - POST SEASON PLAY

1. TOURNAMENT PLAY

- A) The League will participate in the Little League World Series Tournament. The League may also participate in District/State Tournaments for the ages of 10 and 11 if offered and there is sufficient interest.
- B) All players must play in 60% of regular season and "Special" to be eligible to play on an All-Star team. Players missing a game because they have a High School game at the same time will not be penalized for missing the Little League softball game.
- C) If a player did not meet the 60% requirement rule for regular season games due to an absence that is supported by Physician's documentation, the Board may waive the participation requirement. See Little League rule for full details.
- D) The Tournament Manager, together with the Player Agent and League President, is required to conduct a team meeting with the parents of the players on the team. They will explain the League's philosophy regarding the tournament and their guidelines. Each parent will receive a letter from the Board of Directors outlining the tournament playing time requirements.
- F) The cost per player to play on a tournament team will be \$100. This covers the cost of the uniforms as well as tournament fees, umpires fees, etc. Player uniforms will consist of a game shirt, pants, socks and visors. Managers and coaches will receive a coach's shirt and hat with League logo on it.
- G) Championship jackets will be given to the Majors team if they win the District 16 Championship. Junior and Senior teams will only receive a Championship jacket if they win the State Championship. Players and coaches receive jackets. The cost of the jacket should not exceed \$55 unless the Board approves a higher amount. Jackets will not be awarded if for some reason the League does not have the funds to pay for the jackets.

2. TOURNAMENT MANAGERS AND COACHES

- A) The selection of the manager for tournament teams for Majors, Juniors and Seniors will be done by the Managers and coaches of each level. Any approved manager or coach can be considered. The Managers and coaches will vote or agree on who should be the tournament manager for that year. The decision should be made based on best qualified as well as who will have the time to commit to managing the team. The recommendation will be made to the League President for appointment and subsequent approval by the Board of Directors. If the Managers and coaches are unable to come to a decision, then the decision would be made by the Board of Directors.
- B) Tournament Coaches are selected by the Tournament Manager and must be approved managers and coaches for the current season in the appropriate division. When this selection process is exhausted, only then can the manager select from the board approved volunteer pool subject to eligibility based on Little League Baseball rules and regulations.
- C) Any manager or coach selected for any Tournament team shall be additionally based on said individual being a member in good standing of the League as defined in the League Constitution subject to the discretion of the Board

3. PLAYER SELECTION

- A) Selection of the tournament team will be as follows: Team Selection - The first 6 players will be selected by a majority vote of all the players in the Major, Junior and Senior League. The player's ballot will consist of no more than 6 selections.
- B) Ballots will be distributed and collected by a non-interested board member. Once collected, the ballots should be sealed in an envelope.
- C) The votes shall be tallied during a meeting of the board of directors with the level managers present.
- D) The manager of the tournament team will select the remaining players from the list of available players. It is recommended that the Manager seek out input from the remaining managers in the same division regarding players. These final selections will be combined as the Manager and players' selections. They will be announced in alphabetical order by last name. The selection process will include players with a league age of 11 or 12 for the Majors division. The selection process will include players with a league age 13 or 14 for the Junior division. The selection process will include players with a league age of 15 or 16 for the Senior division. The remaining players will be selected by the tournament manager.
- E) There will be a tournament ballot for the Majors, Junior and Senior levels. All players in the Senior division will place votes for the top eight Juniors and the top eight Seniors. Any tournament ballot sheet with more than eight selections will not be counted.

- F) In the event that one of the top six players voted on by the players decides to decline playing, the Manager must select the player with the next highest votes so that we have at least 6 players voted on by the players in the league. This should be coordinated through the player agent. If the Senior tournament team is short eligible players then the tournament manager will be allowed to select a 13 or 14 year old player that was not selected to play on the Junior tournament team. This must be approved by the Board of Directors.

Article 9 - AWARDS

(A) END OF SEASON TEE-SHIRTS

All players will receive a league tee-shirt at the end of the season in exchange for returning their team jersey (if required).

(B) GRADUATING 12-YEAR OLDS AND 16-YEAR OLDS

All graduating 12-year olds and 16-year olds will receive a "Peabody Tanners Softball" Sweatshirt. Cost per sweatshirt will not exceed one-third (1/3) of single season registration fee.

Article 10 - ACTING MANAGERS

The President is authorized to appoint acting managers in those cases where it is necessary to do so, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If for some reason, a manager leaves his/her position during the year, one of the team's coaches, as designated by the Board of Directors, will act as the interim manager.

Article 11 - LEAGUE CONDUCT

(A) LEAGUE CONDUCT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGERS, COACHES and UMPIRES

1. Each member must read, sign, and commit to the League's Code of Ethics.
2. Each member must attend a pre-season meeting to go over the rules and regulations of the Peabody Tanners Little League and their specific league in general.

(B) CONDUCT UNBECOMING A BOARD OF DIRECTOR, MANAGER, COACH, and/or UMPIRE

1. Any violation of the Code of Ethics.
2. Any dismissal from a regular season, playoff, District, or tournament game.
3. Any infraction as deemed inappropriate by the Board of Directors or Grievance Committee.

The results of such violations or infractions will result in:

Minimum - Letter of reprimand and a one game suspension

Maximum - Suspension, Impeachment, or Termination

** Note: All cases will be heard by the Grievance Committee and the Executive Board.

Article 12 - PARENTAL CONDUCT

Any parent who refuses to sign the Parental Code of Ethics, attached to their child's registration form, will forfeit their child's participation in the League.

Article 13 - VOLUNTEER CONSENT FORM

All Board of Directors, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, and Umpires must sign the consent form of Little League Volunteer Application form authorizing a MA CORI check and any other background check required by Little League International, Federal and State Law in order to participate and serve as volunteers in the League.

If any applicant for the foregoing volunteer positions is rejected for any offense, he/she has seven days to appeal the rejection. The Board of Directors will conduct a hearing with said individual. The Board will render a decision within three days of the hearing.