



Knik Little League Local Rules & Bylaws

Mission Statement

The mission of Knik Little League is to provide an environment in which young athletes are inspired to develop positive character traits like sportsmanship, respect, and honesty while learning the skills and strategy of baseball and softball. Knik Little League is committed to creating a culture in which coaches, parents, fans, umpires and athletes work together to achieve this mission. Measures of our success will be athletes that have fun playing the game, feel like an important part of the team regardless of performance, and learn the game in a respectful and sportsmanlike way. Knik Little League will not tolerate abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct. This document outlines local Knik Little League rules that supplement official Little League rules. In the case of a direct contradiction or discrepancy, the official Little League rules for the current year take precedence. These bylaws reflect Little League rules contained in the 2017 Official Regulations and Playing Rules.

Reviewed/Approved by the Knik Little League Board of Directors: February 2017

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Article I. Volunteer Responsibilities

Section 1.01 Managers

There is one Manager in charge of each team and is considered the head coach. The Manager organizes the team, schedules practices and makes preparations for games. The Manager is the main contact person for information from the league to the teams. Managers are required to complete the Heads Up concussion training every year from the CDC website prior to the first game of the season. Managers will provide proof of training to the coaching coordinator. Team volunteers should look to the Manager for direction.

Section 1.02 Coaches

There are one or more Coaches per team. The Coach assists the manager during practices and games. Coaches are highly encouraged to complete the Heads Up concussion training every year from the CDC website prior to the first game of the season. Coaches will provide proof of training to the coaching coordinator. A coach may also perform the duties of the Manager in the event of their absence.

Section 1.03 Scorekeepers

The home team will provide a scorekeeper for each game in the Minor Division and above. Only one is required per game, but it is good to have another trained in case of absence. The scorekeeper records the game in a score book provided by the league and, for baseball, tracks pitches thrown. The scorekeepers are encouraged to attend a scorekeeper's clinic provided by the league before the season begins and/or have prior training.

Section 1.04 Field Decorum

Have fun and tuck the shirt in. This applies to all coaches, players and umpires.

Article II. Administrative Rules

Section 2.01 Registration & League Age Designations

Players should register for the appropriate division by league age.

The league age can be found on the little league international website and also a link is posted on the Knik Little League website.

Tee Ball:	Ages 4-6
Coach Pitch:	Ages 7- 8 (See note 1)
Minor Baseball/Softball:	Ages 9-10 (See notes 2 and 3)
Major Baseball/Softball:	Ages 11-12 (See notes 2 and 3)
Intermediate Baseball/Softball:	Ages 13 (See notes 2 and 3)
Junior Baseball/Softball:	Ages 13-15

Notes:

- 1) 8 year old girls interested in softball are strongly encouraged to play Minors division.
- 2) 8, 10 and 12 year old players desiring to play in the higher division are required to attend the skills assessment/safety tryout to determine if they are appropriate for that level, must meet a minimum cut off score*.
- 3) All Minors level and above players are required to attend skills assessments /safety tryouts. 9 year olds and 11 year olds may be placed in the next lower division depending on skill level, parental requests, or safety considerations with approval of the Player Agents, Vice President of Baseball/Softball and League President.

** cut off score calculation (average of top 10 for that division divided by 2)*

Section 2.02 Field Preparation and Pre-Game Warm Ups

The home team shall prepare the field if both teams are from Knik Little League. If the home team is not from Knik Little League, the visiting Knik team shall prepare the field. This includes chalking lines, raking, water (if required), etc. If both teams are from Knik the visiting team will rake, remove bases, and lock the field after the game. If only one team is from Knik, the Knik team will perform the after game clean-up.

Infield practice is a courtesy extended to both teams. The home team should take the infield first, leaving the visiting team at least 10 minutes before game time to take infield. Umpires are to start games on time, regardless of whether teams have taken infield.

Section 2.03 Inter-League Games

Alaska District 1 Inter-league rules will be used for all inter-league games, supersede all local rules and are found on the district website. <http://www.eteamz.com/akd1/>

Section 2.04 Minimum & Fair Playing Time Policy

Failure to comply with minimum play rules may result in disciplinary action toward the manager.

Section 2.05 Pitching Restrictions

Failure to comply with pitching restrictions may result in disciplinary action toward the manager.

Section 2.06 Protest Committee

The Protest Committee consists of 3 people: The Head Umpire (Chair), the League President (or Vice President if delegated by the President), and the Division's Player Agent. Protest protocol outlined in rule 4.19 will be followed. In the absence of the committee, the League President will make a ruling. All decisions of the League President may be appealed to the board.

Section 2.07 Rain Outs

Before the schedule game time, the managers confer to determine if the game should be delayed, postponed, or played. Once a game commences, the decision becomes that of the umpires and only the umpires at the field can determine whether a game should be suspended from further play. The umpires should confer with the managers, but ultimately it is the umpires' decision. Their decision is not subject to protest.

Section 2.08 Scorekeeping

No scores are kept in Tee Ball or Coach-Pitch.

Section 2.09 Team Selection Methods

(a) Coach Pitch and below

For Coach Pitch and below, teams will be assembled by the respective Player Agent during the registration process. Siblings who are in the same division will be placed on the same team unless directed otherwise by their parents or guardian. Parental requests (for specific coaches or teams, etc...) will be honored when possible, but the Division Player Agent retains final responsibility for team formation. See Notes 1 & 2 in section 2.01 for age specific requirements.

(b) Minor and above

All players wishing to play Minors or Majors or older age groups must attend evaluations to be placed on a team. Players are judged on skills at tryouts by a panel of coaches and then placed on teams according to the Knik Little League team selection procedures that are included as an addendum to these bylaws. All 12 year olds must play majors unless approved by the League President (Little League Reg. IV (a)).

Section 2.10 Time Limits

(a) All Divisions

All games must stop no later than 10 pm. No new inning may start after 9:30 pm. A new inning starts when the 3rd out of the bottom of the previous inning is made.

(b) Minor

Minor games will consist of six innings, weather and time permitting. No new inning may start after two hours of play. An inning starts when the 3rd out of the bottom of the previous inning is made or the 5th run of the bottom of the prior inning is scored.

(c) Coach-Pitch

Coach-Pitch games will consist of 5 innings. No new inning may start after 1 ½ hours. An inning starts when the 3rd out of the bottom of the previous inning is made or the final batter of an inning completes their at bat.

(d) Tee Ball

Tee Ball games will consist of 4 innings or 1 ½ hours of play. Each game shall be stopped after 1 ½ hours of play. Outs will be called in Tee Ball, but each half inning will continue until all players on a team have completed their at bat.

Section 2.11 Umpires

Knik Little League strives to provide umpires for all Minor and higher games. The home team is responsible for providing an adult Game Coordinator, if an adult umpire is not assigned. Game Coordinator responsibilities are defined in the Little League Rule Book. Tee Ball and Coach-Pitch coaches will also serve as umpires for their games.

Article III. Playing Rules

Section 3.01 Thrown Bats

Thrown bats present a safety hazard and cannot be tolerated. If a batter throws the bat, the umpires will issue a warning to the batter and the manager, stating that another thrown bat will result in that player's disqualification from the game. In the event of a second thrown bat by the warned player, the umpires will disqualify the batter from the remainder of the game. The disqualified player may remain in the dugout, but may not participate in any game activities. The player's position in the line-up will be skipped with no penalty and the disqualification will be lifted when the game is final. Post game, the head umpire will notify the umpire-in-chief of the disqualification, who will notify the safety officer. The manager of the offending player will notify the division's player agent, who will notify the head player agent and the appropriate VP.

Section 3.02 Drink, Food, and Tobacco

Water, "Gatorade" (or other sport beverages), and small snacks are the only items allowed in the dugouts. All food (including sunflower seeds and gum) are not allowed outside the dugouts at any time. Managers are responsible for ensuring the dugouts are clean and trash cans empty after the game. A messy dugout will lead to forfeiture of these privileges. Tobacco products including smokeless tobacco and vapor products are not allowed to be used anywhere on the premises. This rule pertains to managers, coaches, players, spectators, and umpires.

Section 3.03 Continuous Batting

The little league continuous batting option will be used in all divisions during regular season play.

Section 3.04 Softball Alaska District 1 Inter-League Rules apply and are listed below. Refer to the Alaska District 1 website for latest changes and updates. <http://www.eteamz.com/akd1/>

(a) Game Time and Duration

When two games are scheduled on the same field on weeknights, the first game will be suspended after 2 hrs. If the game qualifies as a regulation game at that point according to rule 4.10 (c) after 2 hours and a winner can be determined according to rule 4.11 (d) that game will be over. If it is not a regulation game or if a winner cannot be determined, the game will be suspended and resumed at a later date as provided by rule 4.11 (e).

There will be a two (2) hour time limit imposed on **ALL** Minor Softball games no matter when they are played. This means no new top half of an inning may start after two hours. An inning is considered as started when the last out of the previous inning is made or the 9th batter has finished her turn at bat, whichever occurs first. Any inning started before two hours shall be

completed, unless the home team is ahead after the top half of that inning is completed at which point the game will be considered finished.

(b) For the 2017 season, rule 6.02 (c) (batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box), will be in effect at all times, but prior to June 1 umpires will only warn batters and not call a strike, on June 1 the full rule will be in effect as written..

Section 3.05 Baseball

(a) Intermediate/Junior Baseball

- (i) For the 2017 season, rule 6.02 (c) (batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box), will be in effect at all times, but prior to June 1 umpires will only warn batters and not call a strike, on June 1 the full rule will be in effect as written.
- (ii) On Deck batters – On deck batters are permitted in the on deck area.
- (iii) Pitcher Warm-ups - It is desired for pitchers to warm-up outside of the playing area. If this is not possible, pitchers may warm-up on the playing field, in foul territory, with a safety observer.

(b) Major/Minor Baseball

- (i) On Deck batters – On deck batters must remain in the dugout.
- (ii) Pitcher Warm-ups - Pitchers may warm-up outside the field of play. At no time will pitchers be permitted to warm-up on the playing field.
- (iii) For the 2017 season, rule 6.02 (c) (batter must keep at least one foot in the batter's box), will be in effect at all times, but prior to June 1 umpires will only warn batters and not call a strike, on June 1 the full rule will be in effect as written.

(c) Minor Baseball

- (i) 5-Run Rule – After 5 runs have scored, the half inning is complete even if fewer than 3 outs have been recorded. If three outs are recorded before 5 runs are scored, then the inning is over. On a play that the 5th run of the inning is scored the play is not over until the ball is dead, **however only 5 runs will count**. The 5-run rule is in effect for all innings except the last inning as agreed by both managers prior to the two hour limit.
- (ii) Coaches in the field – The defensive team may have managers/coaches standing on the field in fair territory at least fifteen feet from the foul line to help the team on defense. All other coaches must be in the dugout. There must be at least one adult in the dugout at all times.

(d) Machine/Coach-Pitch

- (i) 6-Pitch Maximum – Batters will get a maximum of 6 hittable pitches. If after 6 pitches the batter has not put the ball into play, a tee will be utilized to allow the batter to place the ball in play.
- (ii) Overthrows – Coach-pitch will limit runners to a maximum of one extra base on an overthrown ball. Over-aggressive base running is discouraged in coach-pitch.
- (iii) Coaches in the field – The defensive team may have managers/coaches standing in the field in addition to the pitcher. There must be at least one adult in the dugout at all times.
- (iv) Defense – All players shall play defensively in the field each inning. The 6 infield positions shall be occupied with the remainder of the players distributed evenly in the outfield.
- (v) Player rotation – Coaches should rotate players such that each player has an opportunity to try each position during the season.
- (vi) Underhand Pitching – Only girls will be allowed to receive underhand pitching. Boys must receive overhand pitching only (pitching from a standing or kneeling position is acceptable).
- (vii) 3 Outs – Each half inning is complete when three outs are recorded or all batters have batted in that inning.

(e) Tee Ball

- (i) Overthrows – Tee Ball shall limit runners to a maximum of one base on an overthrown ball.
- (ii) Batting – Each player on the team shall bat in order. When all batters in the line-up have batted in a half inning, then the half inning shall be declared complete.
- (iii) Coaches in the field - The defensive team may have managers/coaches standing in the field. There must be at least one adult in the dugout at all times.
- (iv) Strike Outs – There are no strikeouts in Tee Ball.
- (v) Pitching – Tee Ball batters must hit off a tee, Tee Ball coaches are not permitted to pitch to hitters.
- (vi) Defense - All players shall play defensively in the field each inning. The 6 infield positions shall be occupied with the remainder of the players distributed evenly in the outfield.
- (viii) Player Rotation - Coaches should rotate players such that each player has an opportunity to try each position during the season.
- (vii) Outs – Runners are to be called out or safe to help teach them basic baseball rules.
- (viii) Last Batter – The last batter of each inning and all runners on base at the time will continue running upon the ball being placed in play until the bases are clear.

Article IV. All Star Teams

The goals of the Knik Little League All Star programs vary with level. The goals of the Junior Division (14), Intermediate Division (13) and Major Division (11/12) teams are to develop players with the intent of winning their tournaments. The goals of the 9/10 and 10/11 teams are to develop players, provide a familiarity among the younger players with the All Star tournament format and promote cohesive teams in later years, yet be competitive.

Section 4.01 Selection of All Star Managers

All Star Managers and Coaches will be selected from a pool of volunteers by the League President, with the understanding that all decisions by the president may be appealed to the board. Managers and Coaches will be selected based upon their demonstrated abilities, commitment to sportsmanship and desire to represent Knik Little League in a positive manner. Managers and Coaches must be able to devote the required time to the All Star program.

Section 4.02 Selection of All Star Teams

All Star teams will be assembled based upon tryouts or voting processes overseen by the appropriate league Vice President/Player Agents. Tryouts will consist of an evaluation of skills by a committee of Managers and Coaches assembled for that purpose. Scores provided by the evaluation committee will be tallied by the Vice President and used to identify All Star players and form the final All Star rosters which are approved by the League President.

**Knik Little League
Team Selection Procedures
Adopted by the Knik Little League Board of Directors on 2/18/2008
(Amended 3/12/2014)**

Introduction

The following player assignment procedure has been approved by the Knik Little League Board of Directors (BOD) after careful consideration of the Little League Operating Manual, past experience and the input provided by returning Knik coaches. This procedure is to be used by the player agents (PA) and managers to conduct player assignments for the minor, major and junior divisions of baseball. This procedure is consistent with the Plan B Method for First Year of Operation under the Player Selection System, as provided in the Operating Manual.

The BOD has approved an annual full redraft of the minor, majors and juniors in order to balance player talent and to be prepared for the expansion/contraction of some divisions if needed. This procedure requires the evaluation of all players in each division, including those players returning to the same division. A copy of this procedure will be made available to all team managers and PA prior to tryouts.

Overall Rules

The player assignment procedure will consist of three processes: talent evaluation, player assignment, & balance verification. The following rules must be kept in mind and observed throughout this procedure and the playing season.

1. The PA will select who will participate in the talent evaluation and assignment process.
2. No team may have more than eight 12-yr olds on its roster. The ages of players shall be recorded during the assignment process, and the PA will verify that all final rosters do not exceed this maximum.
3. Any player not attending tryouts will not be available in the assignment process. Their name will be placed on a waiting list to be administered by the PA.
4. Any trade, deletion, replacement or other change in a team roster must be approved by the PA. The playing ability of a child shall not be considered a justifiable reason for replacement.
5. Specific options are given in the Operating Manual for handling trades for children of coaches, siblings, and other special considerations. The PA shall refer to the Operating Manual for these matters when appropriate.
6. Any reference to the age of a player is by definition the league age of the player as defined in the current appropriate Little League Playing Rules book.
7. If an eight year Old player trying out for the minors is deemed a safety hazard due to a lack of physical maturity, this decision must be reached by a majority of the team managers and the player agent and must be approved by the league president before the return of the player to the coach pitch division is considered final.
8. If a player trying out for majors is deemed a safety hazard due to lack of physical maturity, this decision must be reached by a majority of the team managers and the PA, and must be approved by the League President before the move of the player to the minors division is considered final. No 12-yr old will be placed on a minor team's roster.
9. It is incumbent upon every evaluator to provide an objective and honest evaluation of each player at tryouts, even one's own child. These ratings will be used in part to evaluate the balance of talent in the league.

10. It is incumbent upon any manager to honestly inform the other managers of a player's ability. Any manager familiar with a player's ability should record an objective rating of that player in the tryout process.
11. The PA will determine the number of teams for each division.
12. All decisions of the PA can be appealed to the League President.

Procedure

1. Talent Evaluation Process

One tryout will be provided for all players to be evaluated. All managers are asked to participate in this process.

Managers and those selected to evaluate players will be provided with standard evaluation sheets on which to record a rating of each player in each of the following categories: Hitting, Fielding Fly Balls, Fielding Ground Balls, Throwing, and Pitching. The players will be evaluated using the following scale: 5-excellent, 4-good, 3-average, 2-poor, and 1-undeveloped. Managers should also annotate if they feel the player poses a safety hazard in a particular division. At the end of the tryout session, the evaluations will be submitted to the PA for tabulation.

All numeric scores will be tabulated and averaged for each player. An overall score will be calculated for each player by summing the categories evaluated. A spreadsheet will be provided by the league to the PA to facilitate this process.

When all tryouts and calculations are complete, a summary of player and team ratings will be provided to each manager for review. The summary sheet will include the player's name, age and overall rating. The players will be listed by tryout number to facilitate recall.

2. Player Assignment Process

All managers will meet with the PA at a designated time and place after tryouts are complete. Each team will have only one representative. If a manager is unable to attend at the designated time, the PA may choose to 1) reschedule the meeting, 2) conduct the assignment process on the manager's behalf, or 3) allow a designated substitute to act on the manager's behalf, provided the designee is not another manager from the same division. The PA shall have sole discretion in cases of manager absence from the assignment process. A stair-step or serpentine distribution is required. Players will be assigned in order according to their overall tryout score from highest to lowest until all players have been assigned to a team. Once this is complete, the PA will ensure that no team has more than eight 12-yr olds. If a team has more than eight 12-yr olds, the PA will balance the teams according to tryout score. Once team balance is verified by the PA, the PA will assign teams to the managers randomly. Managers will then be afforded the opportunity to trade for their child if they are not on the team roster. The order for trading will be the manager's child, followed by coaches' children, and finally any siblings. There is a limit of one manager and two assigned coaches to a team. Any trades must be approved by all managers and the PA. When all players from the tryout pool have been assigned, the PA will verify the rosters and once again verify numerical balance among the team's aggregate tryout scores. No manager shall contact players until notified by the PA that the team balance has been verified and the rosters are approved.

3. Balance Verification Process

After the assignment process is complete and records verified, the average of the overall ratings for each team will be calculated. These team averages will then be averaged for the entire division, and a standard deviation calculated (entire population method, STDEV in Excel). The PA will notify the manager of any team that is more than two standard deviations below the division average. The manager will be given the option of keeping the team as drafted or asking the PA for a balancing trade. If chosen, the PA may facilitate a balancing trade by exchanging a player (not a manager or coaches child) from another team with a player from the given manager's team, provided the trade reduces the deviation to an acceptable level. Balancing trades, once requested as described above, are at the sole discretion of the PA and do not require manager's approval. The balance verification process must be completed within 24 hours of the end of the assignment process.

4. After the Player Assignment Procedure is Complete

Once the player assignment procedure is complete, the PA will notify the managers, so that they can contact their players. The PA will also notify the League President of the results of the assignment procedure, including the overall balance of the division's teams. Any players not participating in the tryout/assignment process will be put on a waiting list. The placement of wait-list players will be at the discretion of the PA with approval of the League President. No guarantee is made that a wait-list player will be placed on any team roster. The PA will not be required to consider the assignment order nor list order when placing wait-list players on teams. All players are subject to evaluation prior to team placement. The PA will consider overall team balance, the welfare of all players, and the skill level of the player if known in all roster placements. If a player misses seven (7) consecutive practice/game events during the regular season, the manager is required to notify the player agent. The player agent may consider replacing the player if it is determined that the player is not likely to return to the team, subject to the requirements of the Operating Manual and the Playing Rules book.