

Exeter Little League

2017 Bylaws

Approved by the Board of Directors Summer 2016

Revised 07/14/2016

Exeter Little League Board Mission Statement

Exeter Little League will provide a healthy environment for the youth of our communities. Our focus is to encourage participation, develop character and discipline, promote teamwork, and advocate citizenship and community pride. We will strive to provide quality instruction in the development of baseball skills, sportsmanship, competitiveness and fair play. Exeter Little League is committed to enriching the lives of our youth and fostering a love of the game.

Bylaws, Local Rules & Ground Rules

Each local Little League Board of directors should adopt its own bylaws, local rules or ground rules (the terms are interchangeable.) This document or documents expire annually at the end of the fiscal year and must be renewed annually. They normally include the local board's procedures for selection of Tournament Teams (All-Stars), specific ground rules for various divisions (such as whether or not the 10-run rule will be used), etc.

Because each local Little League board of directors should have authority to change these types of procedures, they require only board consent, without the general membership's approval. No part of the bylaws, local rules or ground rules can conflict with or supersede any Little League rule, regulation or policy.

The bylaws, local rules or ground rules are to be distinguished from the local Little League's Constitution. The Constitution spells out the duties and responsibilities of the officers of the board, definition of membership, election procedures, meeting requirements such as quorum, etc. The local Little League board of directors must make a copy of the bylaws, local rules or ground rules available to any member of the local Little League for review and inspection if requested.

Adopted for 2017 Season

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DEVELOPMENT OF BYLAWS

1. The Exeter Little League (the “ELL”) is governed by the latest version of the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules and the Operating Manual. These Bylaws are only intended to address those issues that are not covered or are presented as optional in these official Little League publications.
2. Regular Members are defined to include all elected Board members, as well as all managers, coaches and volunteers who complete the membership application, volunteer form and code of conduct, attend a minimum of three board meetings and are thereafter approved by majority vote of the board of directors. Individuals elected to the Board of Directors may be made Regular Members following their election by vote of the Board. Parents not volunteering in the league in an official capacity may become regular members by paying the \$5.00 membership fee, attending a minimum of three board meetings and being approved by a majority vote of the board prior to the start of the annual general membership meeting. Once approved each Regular Member will be issued a membership card and membership ID number. Applications for Regular Membership shall be accepted until the close of the regular little league season and not later than June 15, 2015.
3. All managers are encouraged to be regular members of the ELL by attending regularly scheduled Board meetings and submitting their application.
4. Each year the ELL Board shall review, update, amend and adopt these Bylaws. These Bylaws will be made available to Regular Members by Opening Day.

CODE OF CONDUCT

5. All Board members, managers, coaches, team parents, parent helpers and umpires shall complete a Little League “Volunteer Application” and “ELL Volunteer Interest Form” and submit them to the league president.
6. As required, all volunteers shall submit to, and give permission to ELL to conduct, a background check, which may include a review of sex offender registries, child abuse, and criminal history records. This includes Board Members, managers, coaches, team parents. It also includes any individual who has regular contact with players (e.g., a parent that regularly helps at practices).
7. Exeter Little League recognizes that the character traits that embody sportsmanship are best learned and encouraged when put into practice. By doing so, parents, managers, coaches, and players can model and learn honor, respect, integrity, and citizenship. Therefore, every parent, coach/manager and volunteer shall sign a code of conduct each season with Exeter Little League. Each member is bound to the responsibilities outlined in the code of conduct. Failure to adhere to the contract will result in disciplinary action.

BOARD APPOINTMENT

8. Each year a Board of Directors (“Board”) shall be elected to operate the ELL pursuant to the League Constitution.

The 2017 Board will consist of 16 executive officers including but not limited to President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Head Player Agent, Field Maintenance Coordinator, Rules and Safety Officer, Umpire-in-Chief, Fundraising Coordinator, and Coaching Coordinator.

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9. Any Regular Member in good standing is eligible for nomination to the Board.
10. Board nominations and volunteer applications for the following season will be accepted at the ELL Snack Bar between late April and the end June of the current season.
11. All nominees will be presented to the Board. The Nominating Committee, appointed by Board, will contact each nominee to confirm his or her willingness to serve on the Board and in August, the Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of proposed officers for the upcoming season.
12. Ballots will be made available to all Regular Members after the Nominating Committee has prepared a slate. Signed ballots can be returned to the League Secretary, Vice-President or President.
13. The Board election shall take place in August during the annual general membership meeting. The board for the next season shall be posted and elected. The incoming and outgoing board will work to transition the league by the September Board meeting. The treasurers will work together until October 1st to ensure that the transition is smooth and that the knowledge regarding the year end filings is passed on.
14. The Board shall be elected for the period of one year. This term shall run from Sept 1 to August 31.
15. Vacancies that occur during this term shall be filled as needed by majority vote of remaining Board members.

BOARD OPERATIONS

16. All Board Members are expected to regularly attend Board meetings. Failure to attend two-thirds of regular meetings may result in removal from the Board.
17. All Board Members shall be entitled to one vote. To the extent that two Members share one Board position, that position is entitled to only one vote.
18. 51 percent of the Elected Board Members shall constitute a quorum and a simple majority of those eligible to vote shall carry a vote.
19. Each year the Board shall prepare a list of Board Member position descriptions, which will be set forth in a separate addendum and incorporated into these Bylaws as if set forth in full. Board Members who do not meet their position descriptions may be removed by a vote of the Board. The current list of board and volunteer descriptions is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
20. The ELL bank account shall have three non-related, not living in the same household, officers as signers on the account and require two signatures for all disbursements over \$250.00. The Board shall select a bank based on its costs, fees, ease of use and support of ELL. The ELL may vote to allow for the issuance of a league check-card to specific officer(s). Signers shall be Treasurer and two other officers approved by Board.

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21. The Treasurer shall keep league financial records. The Treasurer shall submit a written report to the Board on a monthly basis.
22. An independent audit of the books shall be conducted on an annual basis on or before late September in conjunctions with the filing of the yearend tax documents.
23. The Secretary shall attend the Draft and All-Star selection meetings and keep notes on what occurred.
24. The Board shall hold at a minimum ONE public board meeting per month announced no later than 7 days in advance through reasonable means of electronic communication, such as posting to the league website (www.ExterLLB.com), emails or posts to Facebook.
25. The board shall hold Executive meetings as needed to prepare for the board meetings, to conduct League business, to discuss and evaluate league policies, to address league discipline issues and to ensure the successful operation of the ELL, attendance at these meetings by non-Executive Board members is by invitation of the Board. The Board may hold email or text votes as necessary to conduct league business.
26. The board may hold emergency meetings as necessary to conduct league business with 24 hours email notice. The board may also hold email votes as necessary to conduct business.
27. League committees shall meet independently as needed. The Chair of each committee should report to the board the business and activities of their committee.

REGISTRATION

28. Early Registration shall normally occur in November. Regular Registration will occur during December and January and tryouts shall take place in February. However, players can continue to register thereafter in accordance with Little League rules.
29. The ELL may offer early registration fees and multi-player discounts. The Board shall determine a fee schedule and any discounts prior to opening registration.
30. No refunds is the general policy. A refund minus the cost of baseball uniforms and a \$15 processing fee will be given only in the event of an injury which prevents the child from playing for the rest of the season or so much of the season that it is not worth the child coming back. The board will consider other requests with unusual circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

MANAGER SELECTION

31. The Player Agent shall provide the Board with an estimate of the level of registration. This estimate will be used to determine the number of teams and, therefore, the number of managers that will need to be selected. It is in the best interest of the League to try and have a minimum of four teams at each level of baseball.
32. A Manager's committee consisting of at least three Board members who shall investigate prospective managers and coaches and recommend acceptable candidates to the President for approval. The President, with approval of Board of Directors, shall appoint managers, coaches, and umpires annually. The Board has the authority to override the selections made by the

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President but may not independently nominate candidates. The Manager's committee shall, during the playing season, observe the conduct of the managers and coaches and report its findings to the President of the Local League. The committee shall, at the request of the President or Board investigates any complaints concerning managers and/or coaches and makes a report thereof to the Board. The Manager Selection meeting shall be held during a closed door Executive Meeting, the discussions and decisions to select or not select specific managers or coaches during this meeting shall be held in the strictest confidence. The final selections will be announced on the web-site or by the Coaching Coordinator. It is the goal that Minor and Major Managers will be notified of their selection no later than February 1st.

33. Individuals wishing to be appointed as managers and coaches must attend training prior to their appointment, which will focus on: (a) safety, (b) skill development, (c) rules and decorum, (d) field setup and equipment storage and (e) practice drills and techniques. Any manager not completing training by the day prior to the draft may be removed and a new manager may be appointed who has complied with the training requirements.

TEAM SELECTION: TRYOUTS

34. The Player Agent is responsible for organizing and conducting tryouts.
35. All 7-16 year old baseball players must attend and participate in one tryout session to be eligible for the draft. 6-year-olds who demonstrated high level of play the previous season may attend try-outs. The Player Agent must approve all 6-year olds wishing to participate in the try-outs for Minors to ensure their physical safety. The league will require all 11 year olds to play in Majors unless there is a safety concern and all 9 year olds to play Minors unless there is a safety concern. If a parent/guardian has a strong desire for their child to play below his age, they should inform the league at the time of registration of this request and the reasoning behind it.
36. The Player Agent committee will assess the skill level of any player that does not participate in the full tryout sessions during a supplemental tryout and notify any managers interested in attending of any supplemental tryout. These players skill rankings will be made available to all managers and may be either be drafted or assigned to a team at the recommendation of the Player Agent and approval by the Board.
37. Tryouts will be scheduled for two days in February. A make up day will also be scheduled to accommodate inclement weather. A make-up or late tryout may be scheduled depending on the number of players who missed the regularly scheduled try-outs.
38. Only the player agent, player agent committee members and approved managers or manager designees are permitted to assess players during tryouts.

TEAM SELECTION: DRAFT

39. Following tryouts, the managers within each of the level (Minors, Majors, Intermediate and Junior) shall rank each of the players (including each of the managers' children) in terms of skill by assigning each player a 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 ranking (with 5 being most skilled) and submit the results to the Player Agent.

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40. All 11 and 12 year olds must try out for Majors. (*12 year olds must unless an approved Little League waiver is signed by the parents and approved by the Board and only 11 year olds receiving and exception from the ELL Board due to safety concerns will be allowed to play down).
41. ELL adopts “Draft Plan B – Alternate Method” from the Operating Manual. All Major Division players from the previous season must be drafted into the Major Division. Team selection order will be determined from the drawing of numbers from a hat. Draft will follow serpentine format. For example, in a 4 team league, Team 1 will draft 1st, 7th then 8th. Managers kids are protected in the draft and any manager with no children in the Division will be allowed to protect one player. If manager has siblings in the division then one sibling will be protected and the Player Agent (with help from the other managers) will assign the siblings a draft round.
42. The following people shall attend the draft for each division: the selected Managers, Player Agent, Player Agent Committee Members, President, Vice President and Secretary. Coaches are invited into draft room only after their children have been assigned a draft round by the Player Agent (with help from the other managers). During the draft, only Managers are allowed to address the Player Agent and/or group.
43. A Manager with no child in the league will be able to protect one player in the draft using the same draft rules as those managers with children.
44. The Player Agent shall assign with board approval players who register after the draft to a team based on their assessment and the average skill ability ranking of each team in their division if an opening exists.
45. No trades shall be made by and between teams unless first approved by the two managers involved and the Player Agent. In determining whether to approve such trade, the Player Agent shall consider the opinions of all of the managers in the affected level and the effect on the competitiveness of all of teams in the affected level. Unless also approved by the President, no trades shall be approved after the third full day following the draft.
46. Siblings will be drafted together as follows. When the first sibling is selected the Player Agent will then assign, with input from the Board and Managers, the round that each of the next siblings will be assigned. A parent or guardian may waive this requirement with a signed release submitted to the President or Player Agent clearly detailing the fact their children will have different practice and games schedules and that they will not later be able to have the children moved to the same team).

LEAGUE PLAY

47. For Minors, Majors and Intermediate - Each baseball team must provide a scorekeeper for each game. The scorekeepers should sit on the appropriate side of the field and will use a book provided to each team by the League. Scorekeepers will identify themselves to the umpire prior to the start of the game. **The visiting team is responsible for designating an adult to be an official pitch counter for each game while the home team score keeper shall be the “official” score book for the game (and operate the score board). Both these individuals must be in the scorer’s booth or at the scorer’s table.** The score keepers should consult each inning to ensure

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there are no major discrepancies between the books. The managers will sign the official pitch count form and it will be filed in the snack bar immediately following each game.

48. ELL adopts the optional ten (10) run rule ending a game after the 4th inning.
49. All players shall play the minimum number of defensive outs and at bats per game as required by Little League rules. **For Minors:** Each player must play a minimum of 2 innings per game (they don't have to be consecutive) and the batting order is continuous. If only 4 innings are played then players must play at least two innings. Minors will also use a continuous batting order.
50. The two teams that have concluded play will prepare the playing field for the following game. The teams playing the final game of the day will put away all items. A list of responsibilities will be provided each Manager by the Field Committee. Also, each team is responsible to cover their share of concession stand duties per the schedule distributed by the Board. If a team does not perform any of these duties they will be issued a warning for the first offense and the Manager will be subject to league discipline by the Board for the second offense.
51. All games played on weeknights will have a 1hr 30 min time limit. All games played on weekends will have a 1hr 45min time limit. (This is NOT a hard stop and teams finish the inning being played). There is no time limit if daylight is available and no game is scheduled afterwards. For Majors - if the score is tied after 6 complete innings, play shall continue until 1) the visiting team has scored more total runs than the home team at the end of a completed inning, or 2) the home team scores the winning run in an uncompleted inning. Games stopped by lack of lighting will revert to the score of the previously completed inning.
 - a. For Minors, if game ends in tie and time limit has not been reached, extra innings are permitted.
52. The infield fly rule applies to all play. This is a judgment call made by the umpires.
53. For Minors Only: 3rd Base Rule in effect for 1/2 of the regular season, the last time through the schedule normal baseball rules will apply. In the event of an unbalanced schedule, the Board will declare when/if normal rules will apply.

How a runner may advance when occupying 3rd base:

Batter hits a fair ball.

Pitcher throws a wild pitch or passed ball by the catcher.

With bases loaded, batter is walked or hit by pitch.

Catcher attempts to "pick off" runner on 3rd base.

Pitcher attempts to "pick off" runner on 3rd base.

Catcher throws to any base after passed ball/wild pitch.

Runner on 3rd base CANNOT advance if:

Runner on 1st base attempts to steal and the catcher attempts to throw out that runner.

Catcher attempts to pick of a runner on 1st or 2nd base.

Catcher overthrows the pitcher after a pitch.

Catcher overthrows the pitcher after passed ball/wild pitch in which the runner did not advance; the runner on 3rd was held and so cannot advance.

Runner on 3rd cannot delay steal.

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54. The following local rule applies for all Minor Division games and Major Division exhibition games (not regular Major Division Games): LL rules stipulate that a maximum of five runs by any team can be scored in one inning. ELL will follow this, but adopts the option of having an open sixth (**or last**) inning where this five run maximum rule does not apply for either team.
55. If a player misses two consecutive games it is the responsibility of the manager to notify the appropriate player Division Representative of this occurrence. The player Division Representative is then to contact the player's parents and find out how long they are expected to be out. If in Minor or Majors the period is longer than three weeks after the first game missed, the Player Agent will contact the player's parents to inquire of the situation and determine if the player should be removed from the team for the remainder of the season. The player will then be replaced with an appropriate age player on the registration-based waiting list, or with another qualified player brought up from a lower level. Managers and Coaches kids are exempt.
56. Rain Outs – Any games rained out will be made up as follows: Minors will be made up on the first available Sunday, Majors will be made up on the first available Saturday afternoon. All Managers will be given make-up game times as soon as possible. Any games suspended due to weather will follow Little League rulebook in regards to how to proceed.

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

57. For all divisions, Regular Season Champion will advance to Division City Championship Game to play Tournament Champion. At the conclusion of the regular season, a tournament in each division will be held including the top four teams from each division. 1 seed will play 4 seed and 2 seed will play 3 seed. Winner will advance to Tournament Championship game. If Tournament Champion is different than Regular Season Champion then Division City Championship game will be played.
58. In case of a tie in record after regular season play, head to head records will break the tie among teams. If head to head is tied than total runs scored against each other will break the tie. If still tied, winner will be decided by a coin toss.

ALL-STAR SELECTION

59. All Minor and Major baseball managers must turn in league issued equipment to the equipment manager when their team is eliminated from the Play-off tournament.
- a. Failure to turn in equipment SHALL disqualify the manager from All-Star coach/manager consideration and may eliminate him from managing or coaching the next season.
60. All-Star Rosters
- a. All discrepancies, conflicts, problems or issues not addressed by these by-laws will be settled solely by the Board.
 - b. Team Members
 - i. All-Stars teams will consist of 9 players selected by the Board and the remaining roster being selected by the All Star Manager.
 - c. Player Agent will contact “considered” players to determine All Star commitment/eligibility prior to May Board meeting.

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- d. Players **must** meet age and residency requirements in accordance with Little League eligibility rules.
 - e. Players must meet the Little League participation requirement by playing in at least 60% of his/her team's scheduled regular season games. (Players are excused from games per Little League rules where conflicts with School baseball teams occurred).
 - f. Player/Parent-Guardian commitment
 - i. Players eligible for selection for All-Stars must be prepared to commit to a 4 week (possibly longer) intensive baseball schedule from June 15 through roughly July 15. And possible through late July if advancing to state play and to the end of August if advancing to International play.
 - 1. Players selected can expect to practice every day and play multiple games.
 - 2. Players must commit to being team players and understand that they will be subject to the minimum play requirements.
 - ii. They **MUST** have submitted a signed commitment application prior to being placed on the official all-star roster.
 - iii. They **MUST** have on file birth-certificates and proof of residence documents or approved waivers prior to their selection to the All-Star team roster.
 - iv. They **MUST** pay any necessary All-Star fees (with-in one-week of selection) as dictated by league finances or contact the league President to discuss a payment plan.
61. If the District decides to host an 8 year old All-Star team. The Board will decide the appropriate process for selecting the 8 year olds to represent the league and the coaches.
62. The All-Star Manager/Coach Selection:
- a. All Managers (or Major Coaches) interested in coaching the All-Star team must submit an all-star manager application to the League President no later than the May deadline announced by the Board. Board will select All- Star Managers/Coaches at its May meeting
63. The managers and coaches of each All-Star team selected and confirmed by the board shall be brought together for the finalization of the All-Star Rosters. This meeting shall only be attended by the Board members and selected All-Star managers/coaches. The proceedings of the meeting shall be held in the strictest confidence.
- a. Each manager will select his/her "manager selections" players at this meeting.
 - b. Any replacement players during All-stars shall be done pursuant to Little League rules and selected by the Manager and Player Agent and approved by the Board
 - c. Coaches selected by managers will be approved by the board.
 - d. The 12 year old Manager may *request* to move specific 11 year-olds to the 12 year old team to balance his roster.
 - e. The 11 year old Manager may then *request* to move specific 10 year-olds to the 11 year old team to balance his roster.
 - f. Any All-Star manager may raise behavioral or attitude issues with a selected player and request to have him removed from the all-star roster. Such a request shall be solely approved by the Board during a closed secret ballot vote.
 - g. The appointment of any coach's child to the all-star roster through a manager selection will be approved or denied by the board.

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- h. Following the closing of this meeting but not before the cutoff date set by Little League International the All-star teams will be publicly announced.**
64. The Vice-President is responsible for selecting and ordering All-Star uniforms.
- a. Uniforms shall consist of at a minimum: Hat and Jersey top.
 - i. The cost should be kept to as close to \$50 per player as possible and the cost being passed on to each player's family.
 - ii. Exeter teams shall wear the same blue based jerseys.
 - b. All-star managers and coaches shall each be provided with a Hat and an All-Star Polo.
 - c. After evaluating equipment, Managers may request any specific equipment items for the all-star team. Such items must be approved by the board and shall remain property of the league at the close of the All-star tournaments.

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Appendix A

2014-2015 ELL

Voting Board Members – Responsibilities:

1. President –
2. Vice President –
3. Treasurer –
4. Head Player Agent –
5. Safety/Rules Officer –
6. Field Maintenance
7. Snack Bar Coordinator
8. Secretary–

9. Equipment Coordinator
10. Umpire Coordinator
11. Fundraising Coordinator:
12. Coaching Coordinator: