

# Johnston Little League

## Season Disruption Policy

Approved by the Board of Directors, December 13th 2020

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### Statement of Purpose and Philosophy

The unique challenges associated with the 2020 Little League season have clarified a need for a documented policy on JLL's approach to multiple aspects of league operations should a season be canceled, shortened, or significantly altered in terms of season start and end dates. While the situation with COVID is the obvious impetus for the creation of the policy, this policy would also govern JLL's approach to any event that impacts JLL's ability to run its baseball program. Examples include public health limitations on gatherings, flooding that makes the fields unplayable, high winds or tornado damage to backstop fencing, etc.

Johnston Little League's priorities in any type of season disruption will be informed by the following overarching priorities.

- **Regular Season** - The regular season, open to all in the community primarily for recreation, is the main objective. Ensuring JLL can provide this opportunity to youth baseball players is the board's top priority.
- **All-Star Tournament Eligibility** - Little League International's All-Star tournament is the hallmark of the organization, and JLL recognizes that the potential opportunity to compete in LL tournaments is a key reason many players and families participate in JLL programs. All efforts will be made to ensure that alterations to the regular season are accomplished in a way that preserves JLL's eligibility to field teams for competition in Little League tournament play for age groups where available.
- **Financial Viability** - Preservation of JLL's financial viability is a foundational consideration in all decisions, so that the opportunities of Little League baseball in Johnston continue for years to come. JLL is financially responsible for maintenance of the playing surfaces at Lew Clarkson park and the equipment required for that purpose. There are also numerous pre-season expenses including uniform purchases, fuel, fertilizer, software, etc. that require outlay of funds prior the season. While some operating costs can be reduced if games are not played, many significant expenses remain.

### Registration Fees

Registration opens in early January with the start of the regular season scheduled for April, and a clear refund policy that outlines potential situations will ensure transparency when families make registration decisions. It will also avoid uncertainty and debate if a season disruption occurs. The specific scenarios are as follows:

- In the event that the full season is canceled, 85% of registration fees paid will be refunded
- Prior to the first game, should the season be altered significantly with the start date moving by more than 6 weeks, families will be given the following options:
  - 1) Remain registered for the altered season with no change to fees
  - 2) Opt out of the season and donate the full registration fee to JLL
  - 3) Opt out of the season and receive a 75% refund of registration fees paid

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- Any requests to opt out after the deadline communicated, will be done so with no refund of registration fees.
- Should a season be canceled by JLL prior to completion of ½ of the scheduled games for the entire league, 35% of registration fees paid will be refunded
- Cancellation of a season after 50% of the games have been played, will be considered a full season and no refunds will be issued.

Determining whether 50% of games have been played will occur at the entire JLL organization level. Individual teams or divisions results will not be considered, to ensure simplicity and clarity of administration. Any situation triggering a refund will include an option to donate the refund due back to JLL if the individual desires. Any situation outside those defined will be administered solely at the discretion of JLL, consistent with JLL's stated philosophy.

### **Team Assignments**

JLL reserves the right to modify the assignment of player to specific teams, and divisions. While requests are considered in divisions that don't hold drafts, unique situations associated with special circumstances can and do occur. Teams may be reformed, redrafted, consolidated, rebalanced, etc. at the discretion of the JLL board, considering aspects such as competitive balance and minimizing disruptions if team activities have occurred. Some cases may also involve moving participants from one division to another in which they are eligible to compete. Inter-division moves would be done as a last resort if redistribution intra-division cannot be accomplished.

Should any portion of this policy contradict with the official Little League Rule Book, the Little League Rule Book will take precedent.

Johnston Little League Board of Directors