

# **Final Proposal**

## **VINE INGLE LITTLE LEAGUE**

### **2020 LOCAL POLICIES & RULES**

#### **MAJOR & MINOR LEAGUES**

##### **Baseball**

#### **ALIGNMENT OF LEAGUES**

1. The Major and the Minor League shall each consist of a number of teams and a number of players per team as set by the Board based on the registration numbers.
2. The Major League will be made up of eligible Twelves and Elevens and no more than two Tens per team. As best as possible, each Major League team will have an equal number of Twelves, as determined by the Player agent to the draft.
3. The Minor League will be made up of Nines, Tens, and Elevens not drafted in the Major League. All Twelves will play in the Major League.
4. The Major and Minor Leagues will each have two divisions: American and National. The division winners for each league will be determined by the best record for the entire season. Ties will be broken based upon head to head competition, but this will not affect how drafting positions are determined in the Major League for next season.
5. The League champion for each league will be determined by a postseason single elimination tournament in which all teams will participate. Teams will be seeded according to season records using a points system according wins three points, tie games one point, and losses no points. Two way ties will be broken by a head-to-head competition, record within divisions, and coin toss, in that order. Ties involving three teams or more teams will be broken by having an impartial person draw the names of the affected teams out of a hat with the manager of the drawn team to be given the choice of what position he deems best for his team with the last team drawn being assigned to the last slot still available. The higher seeded team will be the home team. The games will not be scheduled on consecutive days if possible. Curfew for the post season is 11:00 pm.
6. All Star selections will be made near the conclusion of the season in each league under the direction of the Player Agent. Eligible All Star will participate on the league's tournament teams. If possible, each Major and Minor League team should be represented on the respective tournament teams, and the Player Agent is encouraged to strive for this goal. Major League Tens will automatically be place on the Minor League tournament

team, if eligible. The Player Agent will inform the President of the selections and the League will make the official notifications to the District as provided in the tournament rules.

## **SELECTION OF MANAGERS AND COACHES**

7. Managers will be selected by the league Vice President subject to Board approval. Managers are not permitted to manage any other teams at Vine Ingle or any other league, although the Board may make an exception for a person with considerable experience at Vine Ingle and for whom there would be no conflict of interest or when there is a shortage of volunteers for manager positions.
8. Managers shall recruit TWO coaches who must be approved by the Board before the manager makes a commitment to the prospective coaches. Managers may use other helpers at practice, but only approved coaches will be in charge of teams at games or practices in the absence of that in the absence of the manager. Only managers and approved coaches may be in the dugouts or on the field during games. Coaching vacancies may be filled temporarily only upon the approval of the President, President-elect, or league Vice-President until Board approval can be obtained. All volunteers helping with the team, either at practice or games, must complete the Little League volunteer form.

## **TRY-OUTS**

9. Try-Outs will be scheduled by the Board on a Saturday with make-up try-outs being held on the following Monday. Try-Outs shall be organized and conducted under the supervision of the Player Agent. "Pre try-outs" are prohibited. No manager or coach may have any contact concerning baseball with any boy who will be coming through the try-outs and draft, except for boys who qualify as manager, coach, or brother options. Violators of this rule will be subject to suspension.
10. When it is needed, the President and Player Agent will appoint a Ranking Committee. The Committee will rank all players at try-outs for placement in a draft round according to the best judgement of the Committee. The Player Agent shall disclose rankings of the players subject to an option to the managers no later than the day before the draft. Other rankings of the Committee shall not be disclosed.

## **DRAFTS**

11. The drafts will be organized and conducted by the Player Agent or his designee. Minor League requests for Elevens will not be honored except for managers, but such requests for Tens will be honored.

12. In the Major League, the players shall be drafted by the managers according to their perception of the player's ability. The order of the draft will be determined by manager selection of draft position with the managers making their selections in reverse order of the previous season's final regular season standings. Two-way ties will be decided by a coin toss. Ties involving three or more teams will be broken by having an impartial person draw the names of the affected teams out of a hat with the manager of each drawn team to be given the choice of what position he deems best for his team. These draft tie-breakers will be done anew for the draft without regard to the previous season's tournament seed.

If a manager plans to draft a Ten, he must notify the Player Agent as soon as possible but no later than the Sunday before the Major League draft or, if the player goes to the makeup tryout, immediately thereafter. The Player Agent, without revealing who is interested in the player, will then seek the permission of the player's parent for the player to be made available to all teams in the Major League draft. The Player Agent will provide a list of eligible Tens to all managers as soon as possible. Any Tens drafted must be drafted in the first or second round of the draft.

13. Manager's sons will be subject to an option and will be placed in a round by the Ranking Committee, including the leveling round, if applicable, or moved to the appropriate team if the draft is done by computer. Minor League teams are allowed one coach option.
14. As to brothers, to the extent they would be playing in the same league, a request by a family that they be separated will be honored and the Player Agent will disclose such request to the managers. Otherwise, they shall be assigned to a draft round by the Ranking Committee, including leveling round if applicable, assuming the Committee believes the player should be in the same league as his brother and subject to Rule 2 concerning Tens. A manager holding an option on a brother graded by the Ranking Committee as Minor League material may still draft that player into the Major League. Brothers shall be drafted by the manager who has the option no later than the assigned round. No other manager may draft such players in any round. If the draft is done by computer, brothers will be moved to the appropriate team in accordance to fairness to all parties.
15. Major League teams shall not schedule or hold more than one practice per week for returning players prior to the draft.
16. Once the teams are in place, each team shall be limited to four events per week. Events include regular practices, practices at the batting cages, and games. No event shall last longer than three hours.

## **SECTION II (D) & IV(H) PLAYERS**

17. Each manager must notify the President immediately after the draft of any players on his team who are eligible to be claimed under either Section II (D) or IV(H) of the Little League Registration. The manager shall assist the President in obtaining all information necessary to provide to the District Administrator.

## **FILL-IN-PLAYERS**

18. Managers who are short of players and risk forfeiting a game shall promptly notify the League Vice-President who will arrange for a temporary fill-in by a player from the immediately lower league. Only the League Vice-President may make contacts for this purpose. The pool of eligible fill-in players for the Major League will consist of 15 Minor League players as determined by the Player Agent with the assistance of the Ranking Committee. The pool will include all Elevens in the Minor League and sufficient Tens to make up the balance. There will be no permanent replacements. Players called up will also to play for their regular team. When Minor League players are called up to the Major League, they: must bat at the end of the lineup; may not start a game ahead of a member of the Major League team; must receive the minimum playing time but no more playing time than any member of the Major League team; and are not allowed to pitch. This rule also applies to Mighty League players called up to the Minor Leagues.

## **SPECIAL PLAYING RULES**

The Little League rulebook shall govern play of all games at Vine Ingle Little League except as modified or supplemented below:

19. Scheduling. No game may be re-scheduled without the approval of the League Director and only if a team will be unable to field nine players. Postponed games will be re-scheduled at the earliest available date by the league Director, who shall be notified of the need for such re-scheduling as soon as possible. See LL Rule 4.10(d). Tie games which are called after becoming a regulation game will not be completed at a later time.
20. Forfeits. A game shall be forfeited if a team cannot place nine players on the field within ten minutes of the scheduled starting time. Managers must alert to the availability of their players, particularly during the spring holidays and at the end of the school year when vacation begins.
21. Protests. Protest (LL Rule 4.19) must be made in writing and delivered within twenty-four (24) hours to the President, who will promptly assign the protest to an arbitration committee. Twenty-five dollars (\$25) in cash will be posted with each protest. If the protest is upheld, the \$25 will be returned; otherwise it will be forfeited to the League.

22. Time Limit. Regular season games are subject to a 1 hour 45 minute time limit, meaning no inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the first pitch. An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the preceding inning. This rule applies regardless of score even if no game is set to follow. A game shortened by this rule will qualify as a regulation game even if shorter than four innings.

Minor League tournament games are subject to a two (2) hour time limit. In the event of a tie game play may proceed beyond the time limit so as to determine which team will advance or be declared the tournament champion. An inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the preceding inning. This rule applies regardless of score even if no game is set to follow. A game shortened by this rule will qualify as a regulation game even if shorter than four innings.

Major League tournament games will be played until completion subject to curfew and the slaughter rule.

23. Slaughter Rule. Major League: A game will be called if after four (4) innings or three and a half (3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more. In addition the game will be called after five (5) innings, or four and a half (4 ½) innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) run or more.

In the Major League games shortened by the application of this rule, the minimum playing time rule will be fully enforced as to any player who does not play at all. The minimum playing time rule will be waived as to any player who plays in the game but does not get the minimum playing time except that such player shall start the next game.

Minor League: A game will be called if after four(4) innings or three and a half(3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more. In addition the game will be called after five (5) innings, or four and a half (4 ½) innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more.

24. Eligible Participants. Only eligible players in uniform, the manager, and TWO coaches are allowed in the confines of the playing field, including the dugout, except that three coaches are permitted in the Minor League. Bat boys or girls are not allowed. During play, managers and coaches must stay within the confines of the dugout or the area marked by the by the League outside the dugout. At least one coach must be in the dugout to assist players, including getting the players in and out between innings, having the catcher ready, and having the on-deck batter ready to hit. Subject to this requirement, Major and Minor League teams have the option of using two coaches on the bases. In the Minor League, a substitute runner is required for the catcher if he is the base with 2 outs with the substitute runner being the player who made the previous out.

25. Minimum Playing Time. Major League: LL Regulation IV (i), concerning minimum playing time, will be strictly enforced in the Major League and is the responsibility of the manager. However, in the regular season the batting lineup will be made up of the entire roster in attendance at the game with pinch runners not being allowed. Free substitutions are allowed as long as players get at least 6 defensive outs but not necessarily in consecutive innings. It is not required that player's at bat occur during the player's time on the field in order to satisfy the minimum playing time rule.

In the Major League post season tournament all tournament rules will be followed, LL Rule 303 will be fully followed and pinch runners may be used in accordance with LL Rule 7.14 Official scorekeepers will be directed to notify managers if any player has not entered the game by the third inning.

Minor League: Each player must play in the field at least every other inning. Substitutes in a game must start the next game. The batting lineup will be made up of the entire roster in attendance at the game. There will be a run limit of (7) runs per team per inning during the regular season only. If this rule causes a team to become mathematically unable to at least tie the game, the game shall be called.

Both Leagues: Players who arrive late must play in the game but will not be subject to the minimum playing time requirement of LL Reg. IV (i). Players not present in the batting order first comes up will be placed at the end of the batting order. A late arriving player's absence when his name comes up in the batting order will not result in an out being called under LL Rule 6.07.

26. Regular Season Pitching Rules. Little League Regulation VI-Pitchers will be followed. However, an 11 year old pitching in the Minor League will be limited to 75 pitches.
27. Tournament Pitching Rules. Major and Minor League: The regular season pitching rules will apply with the pitch count starting over for the tournament in both leagues
28. Backstops. When a pitched or thrown ball is lodged under or behind the backstop, the ball is dead and all runners will advance one base.
29. Uniforms. Decals or other emblems on caps or any part of the uniform are not permitted. LL Regulation XII, LL Rule 1.11. Pitchers may wear white undershirts as long as the sleeves are not visible below the jersey sleeve.
30. Visits to the pitcher. A manager or coach may visit any two defensive players at the foul line, not necessarily the pitcher and catcher, but the visit counts as a visit with the pitcher even if the pitcher is not included for the purpose of LL. Rule 8.06

31. Double First Base. The Minor League will use a double first base. See Rule LL. Rule 7.15.
32. Unsportsmanlike Conduct Rule. Any player, manager, or coach who instigates or participates in any of the actions listed below while on the premises of Vine Ingle Little League will be subject to disciplinary action. If the misconduct occurs during a game, the offender is disqualified from that game in addition to any other penalties imposed. All League officials, including umpires, game directors, and Board members, have authority and responsibility to enforce this rule. All incidents involving unsportsmanlike conduct must be reported to the President or league Vice President within 24 hours of the incident. The President shall require the offender to appear before three Board members to explain his/her conduct. The Board members shall impose such penalty, as they feel justified, using these guidelines:
- a. Fighting, wrestling, pushing, shoving or any other physical contact which is not an inherent part of the game, or intentionally throwing a ball or any other object or using a bat or any other object to strike at another individual, in a manner which is not an inherent part of playing baseball
    - i. First offense—two game suspension
    - ii. Second offense—suspension for the season
  - b. Behaving in a manner which is contradictory to the rules and spirit of Little League Baseball, including, but not limited to, verbally, harassing, “trash talking,” making obscene or inappropriate gestures, spitting on, throwing water or other liquids, throwing gum or spitballs, etc. at another individual, especially umpires
    - i. First offense—one game suspension
    - ii. Second offense—three game suspension
    - iii. Third offense—suspension for the season
33. Major League Press Box and Minor League Scorekeepers Stand: Game duties (scorekeeping, pitch count, and announcing) may only be performed by someone age 16 or older. Children are not permitted in the Press Box or Scorekeepers Stand unless supervised by an adult performing game duties or other League business and only if no other accommodation can be made for the child’s supervision.
34. “Slinging or Throwing of the Bat”: If a player is deemed by the home plate umpire to have slung or thrown the bat after contact with the ball, the following actions will occur:
- a. First offense—a warning will be given by the home plate umpire to the manager of offending team and the player will be allowed to stay in the game
  - b. Second offense—an automatic out will be imposed and all advancing baserunners will return to their original base position.