

# Spotsylvania County Little League



## 2020 Local Rules And General Points of Emphasis

**Spring/Fall Specific Rules are notated as such.  
All other rules are applicable to both Spring and Fall.**

Significant changes from previous year are highlighted.

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## **All Levels -- Local Rules**

1. No manager, coach, umpire, or parent may make any agreement that overrules any Little League Regulation or Rule or these by-laws.
2. Regulation X (a) is revised to read: "Tee Ball, Minor League, Little League (Majors) Division, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League games may be played after sundown under artificial lights. This responsibility shall rest with the Local Leagues. In any event, no inning of a Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday game shall start after 9:00 p.m. prevailing time (8:00 p.m. for Tee Ball; 10:00 p.m. for Senior League). In accordance with Rule 2.00, an inning starts the moment that the third out is made, completing the preceding inning."
3. The home team shall occupy the first base dugout. The visiting team shall occupy the third base dugout.
4. The home team shall be responsible for game balls, field preparation, and all equipment and material within the "blue box" storage units. It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure these units are locked at all times when not in use.
5. Regulation XIV (d) – Field Decorum – is revised to read: "A manager or coach shall not leave the bench or dugout except to confer with a player or an umpire and only after receiving permission from the plate umpire." (Exception: In Tee Ball and Coach/Machine Pitch divisions, managers and coaches may be on the field for instructional purposes, but shall not assist runners or touch a live ball. At least one rostered adult manager or coach must be in the dugout at all times.)
6. Managers and coaches of all divisions shall take Spotsylvania County Little League (SCLL) approved training to become certified. The Vice-President of the respective division must maintain these certifications on file.
7. Each team must appoint a scorekeeper and a pitch counter that are approved volunteers of SCLL and have passed the required background check. In accordance with Regulation VI (f), the home team shall provide the official scorekeeper and official pitch counter for the game. The official scorekeeper cannot be a manager or coach of the team or be in the dugout during the game except during inclement weather.
  - a. This rule does NOT apply to the T-Ball Division.
  - b. The home team manager will report the official game score and pitch counts (baseball) or innings pitched (softball) for both teams via the SCLL (spotsyll.org) website within 24 hours of game completion. Teams are not required to submit pitch counts or innings pitched for Out of County teams.
  - c. The scorekeepers and pitch counters for both teams must confer with each other after every half-inning to ensure both scorebooks are consistent.
  - d. Discrepancies must be resolved before leaving the field. Once the visiting manager and official scorekeeper have signed the official scorebook, that scorebook is the official record of the game and must be turned into SCLL.
  - e. In baseball, pitch counters must use the official SCLL Pitch Count Log.
  - f. All pitching records, including number of pitches per game in baseball and number of innings pitched in softball, must be recorded on the official SCLL Pitcher Eligibility Form.



5. The defensive team shall take the proper positions in the infield, with an extra player positioned directly behind second base. The remaining players shall be placed in the outfield in the grass. There are no catchers in the T-Ball division.
6. There is no rule that prohibits sliding in this division. However, SCLL discourages sliding at this level. If a player does slide they must slide feet first, including when returning to a base.
7. Batter/runners may advance only to the base that is earned by the hit. There is no running on over-thrown balls.
8. **Spring Season:** Starting with games after April 25, 2020, managers have the option to pitch the ball to batters.
  - a. The coach must stand half-way between the pitcher's rubber and home plate. The ball may only be pitched under-handed in a "soft-toss manner."
  - b. The player will be given no more than 3 pitched balls, after which the tee must be brought out.
  - c. It is incumbent upon the manager to ensure each member of their team is ready to bat a pitched ball. If a member of the team is not ready or comfortable to hit a pitched ball, the player will be allowed to exclusively hit from a tee.

### **Coach/Machine Pitch Local Rules**

1. Coach Pitch Softball and Machine Pitch baseball games shall be six (6) innings in length. However, no inning shall begin after the official game clock reaches 2 hours. The game is complete after 6 innings or after 2 hours, whichever comes first. If the score is tied at that time, the tie will not be broken.
2. An inning ends with 3 outs or when 5 runs are scored, whichever comes first. The bottom of final inning shall be completed when the home team is behind by more than 5 runs and the time limit has not been reached. The bottom of the final inning shall be completed when the home team is ahead and the time limit has not been reached.
3. The Coach/Machine Pitch division is a free substitution division utilizing a continuous batting order. No player shall sit for 2 consecutive innings and no player shall sit for more than 3 innings in a 6 inning game.
4. For Coach Pitch Softball, the coach pitcher must be a SCLL approved adult volunteer and must pitch from an area not to exceed 5 feet from the pitching rubber/plate. Coach pitchers are encouraged to pitch in a manner to increase the likelihood of contact by the batter. Rule 5.09(f) shall apply when a fair ball touches the coach pitcher.
5. For Machine Pitch Baseball, each team will be given a portable pitching machine, which will be used to pitch during all games. The home team will be responsible for providing the machine for each game. A SCLL approved volunteer will operate the machine for his/her own team. Rule 5.09(f) shall apply when a fair ball touches the machine or machine operator.

6. The defensive team shall take the proper positions in the infield at proper depth and shall place four players in the outfield (left, left-center, right-center, and right), who must be physically in the grass. If a team has only nine players present, the normal outfield positions will be used.
7. Balls will not be counted in this division. The normal baseball/softball rules governing pitched balls that have been swung at and missed or hit foul shall apply. However, once a player has reached a pitch count of six (6) total pitches his/her time at bat shall be terminated and he/she will be called out. If the sixth pitch is a foul ball, the batter will continue their turn at bat until the batter reaches base on a hit or swings and misses the ball, whichever comes first.
8. There is no stealing or bunting in the Coach/Machine Pitch division.
9. The play is considered dead and no player may advance when the ball returns to the infield (dirt) area after a hit whether or not a player has the ball. Players may not advance on overthrows to any of the infield positions. For the purposes of this rule, the infield constitutes the entire area of the field covered in dirt not just the area inside the foul lines.

### **Minor Division (AA / AAA Baseball and Minor Softball) Local Rules**

1. Minor Division games shall be six (6) innings in length. However, no inning shall begin after the official game clock reaches 2 hours.
2. If time has expired during the top of the 4th or 5th inning with the home team leading, the bottom of the inning shall not be played.
3. An inning ends with 3 outs or when 5 runs are scored, whichever comes first. The bottom of the final inning shall be completed when the home team is behind by more than 5 runs and the time limit has not been reached.
4. In accordance with Rule 4.05, players may be a base coach, provided they are eligible players in the uniform of their team and they wear a batting helmet. Persons wearing casts must remain in the dugout and may not be on the field in any capacity during the game per Rule 1.11(k).
5. Stealing any base, to include home, is allowed at the sole discretion of the offensive team with liability to be put out. The offensive team must still comply with Rule 7.13 regarding leaving base before the ball has reached the batter.

## **Major Division Local Rules**

1. Major Division games shall be six (6) innings in length.
  - a. **Spring Season:** There is no time limit for Major Division games except if there is a game scheduled immediately behind on the same field when no new inning will begin after the official game clock has reaches two and a half (2 ½) hours.
  - b. **Fall Season:** No new inning shall begin after the official game clock reaches two (2) hours.
2. If a time limit is in effect, and time has expired during the top of the 4th or 5th inning with the home team leading, the bottom of the inning shall not be played.
3. In accordance with Rule 4.05, players may be a base coach, provided they are eligible players in the uniform of their team and they wear a batting helmet. Persons wearing casts must remain in the dugout and may not be on the field in any capacity during the game per Rule 1.11(k).
4. SCLL has adopted a policy of a continuous batting order for the Major Division in accordance with Rule 4.04.
5. Stealing any base, to include home, is allowed at the sole discretion of the offensive team with liability to be put out. The offensive team must still comply with Rule 7.13 regarding leaving base before the ball has been released by the pitcher (softball) or reached the batter (baseball).

## **Junior / Senior Division Local Rules**

1. Junior and Senior Division games shall be seven (7) innings in length.
  - a. **Spring Season:** There is no time limit for Junior or Senior Division games except if there is a game scheduled immediately behind on the same field. In that case, no new inning shall begin after the official game clock reaches 3 hours.
  - b. **Fall Season:** No new inning shall begin after the official game clock reaches two and a half (2 ½) hours.
2. If a time limit is in effect, and time has expired during the top of the 5th or 6th inning with the home team leading, the bottom of the inning shall not be played.
3. In accordance with Rule 4.05, players may be a base coach, provided they are eligible players in the uniform of their team and they wear a batting helmet. Persons wearing casts must remain in the dugout and may not be on the field in any capacity during the game per Rule 1.11(k).
4. Stealing any base, to include home, is allowed at the sole discretion of the offensive team with liability to be put out. In softball, the offensive team must still comply with Rule 7.13 regarding leaving base before the ball has been released by the pitcher.
5. If the on-deck circle is utilized, the on-deck batter must be on the same side of the field as the batter.

## **Umpire Local Rules**

Without parents, players and friends of Little League volunteering as umpires, there may be games held with no umpires or even cancelled. The Spotsylvania County Little League Board of Directors, with input from the General Members of SCLL, has enacted the following to help supply the league with a sufficient number of umpires to cover games.

1. Game assignments shall be through the League Umpire in Chief, our scheduling website (<https://www.scllumpires.org>), or designated individual and no umpire shall solicit or accept assignments except through the Umpire in Chief, or designated individual.
2. Umpires who are unable to cover assignments must contact the League Umpire in Chief in a reasonable time frame to allow replacements to be scheduled.
3. In instances in which only a plate umpire is assigned to a Junior or Senior Division baseball game, the umpire may request that each manager provide a coach or approved volunteer parent to serve as a field umpire for the half innings in which their team is in the field on defense.
4. All plate umpires must be properly equipped to provide sufficient protection for work behind the plate. This includes at a minimum, the use of a mask (with dangling throat guard), chest protector, and shin guards.
5. To recognize the valuable effort of the volunteer umpires and to help defray the many costs associated with umpiring, the SCLL Board has approved an umpire incentive program. More details on this program can be found on the Umpire page on the SCLL Website.

## **Weather Policy**

1. When lightning is seen or thunder is heard all game or practice participants to include players, managers, coaches, and umpires must clear the field and seek shelter in cars or a substantial building for a minimum of 30 minutes. Under no circumstances should a team be permitted to take the field before the minimum 30 minute delay is completed.
2. The following scenarios determine postponement or resumption of league games:
  - a. Games that begin before 5:30 pm must adhere to a minimum 30 minute delay after the last bolt of lightning is seen or the last roll of thunder is heard. If the delay will continue due to continued lightning or thunder for at least 1 hour, the game will be postponed.
  - b. Games that begin after 5:30 pm and scheduled on a field with no lights will be postponed at the first sign of thunder or lightning.
  - c. Games that begin after 5:30 pm and scheduled on a field with lights must adhere to a minimum 30 minute delay after the last bolt of lightning is seen or roll of thunder is heard. If the delay will continue due to continued lighting or thunder for at least 1 hour, the game will be postponed.

3. The use of weather apps are encouraged to track storms in the area, but do not replace or supersede adverse conditions seen or heard at a field. During a delay, Umpires (when present) and managers can use these apps to determine the likelihood of being able to resume or complete the game.
4. If during a delay, it becomes apparent that field or weather conditions will not allow the start or continuation of play, the practice or game should be postponed.
5. In accordance with Rule 3.10(b) and 4.01(d), once the home team's lineup card has been handed to the umpire at the plate conference, he or she shall be the sole judge as to whether or when play shall be suspended or if a game can be resumed.
6. Depending on resource availability and season game requirements, SCLL will attempt to reschedule postponed games or games which were suspended prior to becoming a regulation game.
7. In the absence of a league decision, the determination to play will be a game time decision made at the field. This decision will be made by either the managers or the umpire, if present, in accordance with Rule 3.10 and 4.01(d). SCLL will attempt to make a determination prior to 4 pm on weeknights and as soon as feasible on weekends.
8. Unless otherwise announced by the league, managers have the responsibility to determine if their practice will be cancelled or delayed/resumed as long as the 30 minute minimum delay is adhered to.

### **Selection of All-Star Managers and Coaches (Spring Season)**

1. Anyone who wishes to be considered as an all-star manager must submit their name, in writing (email is acceptable), to the President and respective Vice-President by 9:00 p.m., April 18, 2020.
2. All candidates for all-star manager must ensure they are available for all practices and tournaments starting on or about June 1st and potentially running through August if their respective team advances. The tournaments may require travel outside of the area and game play during the day and on weekdays at the various levels.
3. The SCLL Board of Directors shall review all candidates and place only those who are approved volunteers, who have no written disciplinary actions, and who are in good standing with the league on the final voting ballot according to the criteria below.
  - a. Any SCLL Board of Directors member who is an all-star manager candidate may not vote to finalize the ballot for the age-group and sub-division in which they are a candidate.

4. To be placed on the ballot, candidates must fall into one of the following categories. Candidates from levels 4.b to 4.d will be considered only if there are no eligible candidates in the prior levels.
  - a. Current Year Regular Season Managers from the specific division/sub-division
  - b. Current Year Regular Season Assistant Coaches from the specific division/sub-division
  - c. Current Year Regular Season Managers from within the league, as a whole, who do not have a child on a competing all-star team
  - d. Current Year Regular Season Assistant Coaches from within the league, as a whole, who do not have a child on a competing all-star team
  
5. The all-star managers for the various teams shall be chosen by a vote consisting of the following people: the SCLL Board of Directors and the managers of the respective divisions that have players in that age grouping. Assistant coaches will not sit-in for managers for this vote. This vote shall take place on or around Sunday, April 26, 2020.
  - a. The following stipulation will apply – the candidate selected to be an all-star manager must have been chosen by a majority of the ballots cast.
  - b. If more than two persons are listed on the ballot and no one receives a majority of votes cast, there will be a run-off between the top two candidates.
  - c. At any time during the process, a ballot may be cast with no candidate chosen. This will be considered an “abstention vote” and will count in the final tally of ballots.
  - d. Members of the SCLL Board of Directors who are also managers in the respective division will have only one vote.
  - e. If there is no candidate who receives a majority of the ballots after three ballots, the SCLL Board of Directors shall convene an executive panel to determine the all-star manager from the final candidates.
    1. The panel will consist of the President, Vice-President, Vice-President of the respective division, Umpire-in-Chief, Coaching Coordinator, and the respective Player Agent.
    2. Alternate panel members will be chosen from the Board of Directors if one of the members of the panel is on the ballot.

### **Selection of All-Star Teams (Spring Season)**

1. Spotsylvania County Little League will strive to fill each all-star team with a minimum of 12 players on the roster.
  - a. In rare cases, where not enough eligible or available players are available, the SCLL Board of Directors may approve fielding an all-star team with 11 players pending approval from District 15.
  - b. In cases where injuries cause a team to drop below the minimum 12 players, players will not be replaced once the tournament affidavit is approved and the team has begun play.
  
2. The Spotsylvania County Little League President will appoint, with Board of Directors approval, an All-Star Committee to oversee the selection of players for the various all-star teams. This committee will consist of the President, Vice-President for Operations the respective Vice-President for the division, the respective Player Agent for the division, and the Umpire-in-Chief.
  - a. If one of the committee members has a child who is nominated by his/her team for an all-star team, the member will not be eligible to validate the ballot, approve the

breaking of ties by the manager, and/or approve the final roster for all teams for which their son/daughter is considered.

- b. If a committee member must step aside, he or she will be replaced by other members of the SCLL Board of Directors.

### **Senior and Junior All-Star Teams (Spring Season)**

1. Players who played in the Junior and Senior Divisions during the Spring 2020 Regular Season are eligible to be selected to the age appropriate all-star team if they:
  - a. Meet the Player Eligibility requirements documented in the Little League Tournament Rules and Guidelines.
  - b. Submit the SCLL Tournament Commitment Letter and disclose any conflicts they may have that would prohibit their full participation.
2. Eligible players are nominated by their respective teams according to the following method:
  - a. Each team must hold a vote to choose five (5) eligible players from their team to nominate for the all-star team.
  - b. The manager, 1st and 2nd assistant coaches of record, and all players shall cast a ballot choosing five (5) players. The Manager's vote shall break any tie votes.
  - c. This vote must take place between May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The results must be provided to the respective Player Agent.
3. After all teams have voted, the ballots will be tallied and all nominations will be listed on a final ballot. This ballot will be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will verify eligibility of all players listed on the ballot and approve the ballot.
4. On or about June 1, 2020, the Managers for each team in the Junior and Senior Divisions will meet with the Board of Directors All Star Committee to vote on the final members of the Junior and Senior All-Star Teams.
  - a. Each team will go over their nominated players so everyone in the room is given the opportunity to hear the skills and abilities of each player.
  - b. After all nominations have been presented, the managers will vote for nine (9) players to be placed on each all-star team (each team is entitled to vote only once).
  - c. The all-star manager for the team may also cast a separate ballot even if he or she submitted a ballot as a regular season manager.
  - d. The All-Star manager for each team will break all ties with the consent of the Board of Directors Committee for all-stars.
  - e. The top nine (9) vote getters will be placed on the all-star team.
5. After the vote is completed, the all-star manager will select the remaining players to fill out the roster. These players may be selected from all eligible players even if not nominated.
6. The team(s) will be announced no earlier than June 1<sup>st</sup>. All vote tallies and player discussions will remain strictly confidential.

## **11/12 (Little League Division) All-Star Teams (Spring Season)**

In baseball, SCLL will field a 10/11/12 All-Star Team for both the American and National Sub-Divisions. In softball, SCLL will field a single 10/11/12 All-Star Team.

1. Players who played during the 2020 Spring Regular Season are eligible to be selected to the age appropriate all-star team if they:
  - a. Meet the Player Eligibility requirements documented in the Little League Tournament Rules and Guidelines.
  - b. Submit the SCLL Tournament Commitment Letter and disclose any conflicts they may have that would prohibit their full participation.
2. Eligible players are nominated by their respective teams according to the following method:
  - a. Each Major Division team must hold a vote to choose a maximum of five (5) eligible players from their team per player age to nominate for the all-star team.
  - b. The manager, 1st and 2nd assistant coaches of record, and all players shall cast a ballot choosing a maximum of five (5) players per player age. The Manager's vote shall break any tie votes.
  - c. This vote must take place between May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The results must be provided to the respective Player Agent.
3. After all teams have voted, the ballots will be tallied and all nominations will be listed on a final ballot specific to the division (Softball, American Baseball or National Baseball). This ballot will be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will verify eligibility of all players listed on the ballot and approve the ballot.
4. On or about June 1, 2020, the Managers for each team in the Majors Division will meet with the Board of Directors All Star Committee to vote on the final members of the 10/11/12 All-Star teams.
  - a. Each sub-division (Softball, American Baseball, and National Baseball) will meet separately and vote separately forming distinct teams.
  - b. Each team will go over their nominated players so everyone in the room is given the opportunity to hear the skills and abilities of each player.
  - c. After all nominations have been presented, the teams will vote for nine (9) players to be placed on each all-star team (each team is entitled to vote only once).
  - d. The all-star manager for the team may also cast a separate ballot even if he or she submitted a ballot as a regular season manager.
  - e. The All-Star Manager for each team will break all ties with the consent of the Board of Directors All-Star Committee.
  - f. The top nine (9) vote getters will be placed on the all-star team.
5. After the vote is completed, the All-Star manager will select the remaining players to fill out the roster. These players may be selected from all eligible players within the same sub-division (Softball, American Baseball, or National Baseball) including those not nominated.
6. The team(s) will be announced no earlier than June 1<sup>st</sup>. All vote tallies and player discussions will remain strictly confidential.

## **8/9/10 and 9/10/11 All-Star Teams (Spring Season)**

In baseball, SCLL will field 8/9/10 and 9/10/11 All-Star Teams for both the American and National Sub-Divisions. In softball, SCLL will field a single 8/9/10 All-Star Team and a single 9/10/11 All-Star Team.

1. Players who played during the 2020 Spring Regular Season are eligible to be selected to the age appropriate All-Star Team if they:
  - a. Meet the Player Eligibility requirements documented in the Little League Tournament Rules and Guidelines.
  - b. Submit the SCLL Tournament Commitment Letter and disclose any conflicts they may have that would prohibit their full participation.
  
2. Eligible players are nominated by their respective teams according to the following method:
  - a. Each Minor Division Team (in Baseball -- AA and AAA teams) must hold a vote to choose a maximum of five (5) eligible players per player age from their team to nominate for the All-Star team
  - b. The manager, 1st and 2nd assistant coaches of record, and all players shall cast a ballot choosing a maximum of five (5) players per player age. The Manager's vote shall break any tie votes.
  - c. This vote must take place between May 7<sup>th</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The results must be provided to the respective Player Agent.
  
3. After all teams have voted, the ballots will be tallied and all nominations will be listed on a final ballot specific to the sub-division (Softball, American Baseball, or National Baseball). This ballot will be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will verify eligibility of all players listed on the ballot and approve the ballot.
  
4. On or about June 1, 2020, the Managers for each team in the Minors/Majors Division will meet with the Board of Directors All Star Committee to vote on the final members of the 8/9/10 and 9/10/11 All-Star teams.
  - a. Major division teams, from the appropriate sub-division, that have nominated 10/11-year olds that were not selected for the 10/11/12 team will be included in this group for the 8/9/10 and 9/10/11 team voting.
  - b. Each sub-division (Softball, American Baseball, and National Baseball) will meet separately and vote separately forming distinct teams.
  - c. Each team will go over their nominated players so everyone in the room is given the opportunity to hear the skills and abilities of each player.
  - d. After all nominations have been presented, the managers will vote for up to nine (9) players to be placed on each all-star team (each team is entitled to vote only once).
  - e. The all-star manager for the team may also cast a separate ballot even if he or she submitted a ballot as a regular season manager.
  - f. The All-Star manager for each team will break all ties with the consent of the Board of Directors All-Star Committee.
  - g. The top nine (9) vote getters will be placed on the all-star team.

5. After the vote is completed, the all-star manager will select the remaining players to fill out the roster. These players may be selected from all eligible players within the same sub-division (Softball, American Baseball, or National Baseball) including those not nominated.
6. The team(s) will be announced no earlier than June 1<sup>st</sup>. All vote tallies and player discussions will remain strictly confidential.