

Granite Falls Little League ByLaws

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Granite Falls Little League (GFLL) is to assist our youth in developing qualities of discipline, teamwork, courage and loyalty. The Little League Baseball program is designed to develop superior citizens rather than superior athletes.

LOCAL RULES

Local rules are in addition to regular Little League rules to reflect the playing rules, conduct, safety conditions, special field conditions, All-Star selection and other league management issues. If a situation is not discussed herein, it shall be consistent with the Little League Regulations and Rules for the current year.

PROGRAMS

1. TEE BALL DIVISION

operates as a program for 4 -6 year old players under Little League Tee Ball Rules and Regulations.

2. ROOKIE DIVISION

operates as a program for 7 and 8 year old players under Little League Minor League Baseball Rules and Regulations, however, it is coach, kid or machine pitch depending on the opponent

Note: 6 year olds may only play Farm if they have played Tee Ball for one (1) year.

3. MINOR AAA DIVISION

operates a minor league program for baseball and softball for 9 through 10 year old players under Little League Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations.

Note: 8 year olds may only play in Minors if they participate in at least one tryout. All participants at this level must participate in one tryout to be included in coach draft.

Any 9 or 10 year old who fails to participate in tryouts will enter in blind draft.

(The board may move players at their discretion if it is to complete a roster in order for that team to be filled in order to compete)

4. MAJOR DIVISION

operates a major league program for baseball and softball for ages 11 through 12 year old players under Little League Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations.

Note: 10 year olds may only play in Majors if they participate in at least one tryout. All participants at this level must participate in one tryout to be included in coach draft. Any 11 or 12 year old who fails to participate in tryouts will enter in blind draft.

If for any reason the registrant decides to withdrawal their registration prior the draft or practice season (typically March 1st), the registrant will only be entitled to receive a full refund of registration and fundraiser fees less the 4%.

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If for any reason the registrant decides to withdrawal their registration once practices have begun and prior to the start of the regular season (typically April 1st), the registrant will only be entitled to receive a full refund on the registration fee only less the 10%.

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If for any reason, the registrant decides to withdrawal their registration once the regular season has begun and prior to mid-season (typically May 7th), the registrant will only be entitled to receive 50% refund on the registration fee only less the 4%.

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If for any reason, the registrant decides to withdrawal their registration after mid-season, the registrant will NOT be entitled to receive a refund. All refunds must be approved by Granite Falls Little League board prior to distribution.

Fundraising

GFLL may have one fundraiser involving players during the season. GFLL may put on additional fundraisers during the season (spaghetti feed, raffles, etc.) that will be run by the league, parents and/or other adult volunteers.

GFLL will charge the same fee as our bank (Key Bank, NA) for any check returned NSF.

Scholarship Requests

Granite Falls Little League requires scholarship applicants to volunteer 10 hours of time per child on scholarship within the League. These hours are in addition to the two volunteer hours requested for each family in the league.

See scholarship form for list of possible volunteer activities.

ARTICLE IV

PLAYER SELECTION

1. TEE BALL AND FARM DIVISION

All players will be placed on teams by coach draft.

The oldest Players in each division will be drafted first followed by the next age group etc until all players are on teams.

Consideration for team placement based on siblings or carpools will be given.

Parent specific coach requests will be considered but there is no guarantee or expectation the request can be granted.

Teams will be dissolved at the end of the current season.

2. MINORS DIVISION

Player selection shall be placed on teams by coach draft. Oldest in the age group will be drafted followed by next oldest, etc.

until all who participated in tryouts have been drafted. In the case of Minors, any 8 year old not participating in at least one tryout is not eligible to play in Minors. Any eligible player not participating in tryouts shall be placed in blind draw.

Note:

In the event there is only one team for the season, there will not be a draft.

3. MAJORS DIVISION AND HIGHER

Player selection shall be placed on teams by coach draft.

Oldest in the age group will be drafted followed by next oldest, etc until all who participated in tryouts have been drafted.

In the case of Majors, any 10 year old not participating in at least one tryout is not eligible to play in Majors.

Any eligible player not participating in tryouts shall be placed in blind draw.

Note: In the event there is only one team for the season, there will not be a draft..

Eligibility

All players, Minors and above, participating in the draft must be registered prior to the draft and participate in a minimum of 50% of the player evaluations. Any 8 year old who wishes to play up to Minors must participate in Minors tryouts or will not be eligible to participate in Minors. Any 10 year old wishing to play up to Majors must participate in Majors tryouts or will not be eligible to participate in Majors. A player subject to the draft who does not participate in at least 50% of the player evaluations may be a member of the draft pool and selected during the draft only if the reason for his/her absence from all or more than 50% of the evaluations is excused, and the player has been evaluated by the board.

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Age Restrictions

No more than eight (8) players of the league age of 12 may be on a Major Division BB/SB roster, without an approved waiver to Regulation III(c). Players at league age 12 who are otherwise eligible to play on a Junior BB team and is selected and/or participates in one or more regular season games on a Junior BB team, is ineligible to play on a Majors team during tournament season.

Number of Players on the Team

No team may have more than 15 (18 for Big League) players, nor less than 11.

There will be no minimum or maximum number of rostered player for Minors and below.

If there are two or more teams in the same division and one of the teams does not have enough players for a game, a "pool of players" from existing regular season teams can be created with players willing to participate in extra games during the regular season.

These players will be assigned by a Player Agent, under the following guidelines:

1. The Player Agent will create and run the pool.

The Player Agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis.

2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool.
3. Under the option, when a player participates in a game on a team other than his/her own team, such player will not be permitted to pitch in that game.
4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs and bat once.

Replacement of a Major Division Player During the Season

If a player cannot complete the Major Division season, the manager must notify the Player Agent within 48 hours.

The Player Agent

will contact the player and his family to determine whether the player cannot play and determine whether he or she should be removed from the roster.

Once the Player Agent has determined the player's status, he/she shall promptly notify the President.

The President will present the loss of the player to the Board by the quickest means possible (Board meeting, email, phone, etc.).

If the Board approves the loss/removal of the player, the President shall send a letter of release to the player and the player's parents stating the player has been released from his/her team and the league for a justifiable reason.

This action creates a legal opening for a replacement on the team's roster.

The manager shall review the major draft eligible players list with the Player Agent and shall select a replacement.

The replacement shall be notified by the Player Agent and now becomes a permanent member of the team.

No replacement players will be selected within the final two weeks of the season. If a Minors Division player is chosen to move up to the Majors Division, and the player declines the move, the manager will take his second choice.

The spot vacated by this choice will be filled with the player that declined to move up. Said player will remain with that Minor team for the remainder of the season with no further option to move to a Major team until the following year.

Excessive Scores

Managers and Coaches are expected to do their best to prevent very lopsided scoring games. Games in which one team has a ten (10) run or more lead after four (three and a half, if the home team is leading in score) innings of play, the game will be called (Rule 4.10(e)).

For Minor Divisions and below only

A five (5) run limit is imposed, which would complete the half inning. The five run limit will not apply in the 6th or final inning or in any extra innings; however, the ten run rule remains in effect.

Protests

Protests are described in the Little League Baseball/Softball Rules and Regulations. The Umpire and Managers are encouraged to resolve any potential protest immediately. If not, a protest shall be done in accordance with Rule 4.19. Judgment calls are not protestable.

ARTICLE V. MANAGERS / COACHES AND UMPIRES

Managers and Coaches

Team Managers and Coaches shall be appointed annually by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors.

All Managers are eligible for a complete refund of monies paid for their child/player upon completion of the following

- (1) successfully pass Little League mandated background check;
- (2) GFLM membership form (3) First Aid Class (good for two years);
- (3) Attendance at the Mandatory Managers/Coaches' Meeting;
- (4) the return of all issued baseball/softball equipment at the end of the regular Little League season.

Umpires

Managers and coaches are required to perform umpire duties for two games during the season, alternating at the plate and the bases per game.

Managers/coaches shall not umpire a game in which their team is scheduled to play. District 1 provides yearly rules and umpire mechanics training at the start of the season to help train those new to umpiring and to give a refresher course to those who have been doing it for a while.

Additionally, the GFL Umpire in Chief (UIC) is available to help with any questions or training needs. The UIC will also schedule umpires for games. GFL provides umpire gear (mask, chest protector, shin guards, and an indicator) to be used during a game if you are going to be behind the plate.

During the season, the home team is responsible for providing the umpire, and every effort to coordinate with the UIC is required. The plate umpire will act as the umpire in charge for the duration of the game. During the end of season tournaments (Tournament of Champions), the GFL UIC will assign umpires.

Scorekeeping

The home team is responsible for providing the official scorekeeper. The home team scorebook will be the official game scorebook. A scorekeeper who is not on a team roster cannot sit in the dugout. Only the manager, two adult coaches, and team players in uniform can be in the dugout (Rule 3.17). One of the rostered adults in the dugout may be scorekeeper and sit in the dugout.

Scorekeeping shall be done in accordance with Little League rules. After the game, the score sheet must be reviewed and signed by the umpired.

The GFL Information Officer will keep records of the games scores.

MINORS AND MAJORS DIVISIONS: All home team managers will report and post the game score and turn in the pitching record (pitch count for each pitcher) to District 1 within 24 hours of game completion.

Note 1: No official score is kept at Tee Ball or Rookie Division.

Note 2: Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball are required to notify the identified District ADA to pass on that same information.

ARTICLE VI

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FIELD PREPARATION AND DECORUM

The field management crew is responsible for the preparation and clean up of the fields.

Each team will clean its own dugout.

No food is allowed in the dugout, only water or other hydration drink.

Absolutely no alcohol at Perrigoue Memorial Fields or Granite Falls School District property. The restriction includes smoking (cigarettes, cigars, vape , etc.), to include chewing tobacco.

Note: Home team will occupy the third base dugout.

Warming Up Pitchers

Only players are allowed to warm up pitchers. At a minimum, the player warming up the pitcher will have a catcher's helmet w/dangling throat guard and a catcher's mitt.

At no time whatsoever (at practice, or a game) shall a manager, coach, or any adult warm up a pitcher.

(See Rule 3.09.)

Pitching Eligibility and Rest

Please refer to Regulation VI of the Little League Official Regulations and

Rules for the current year (baseball and softball).

Base Coaches

Base coaches will be provided as stipulated in Rule 4.05.

If a rostered coach

is not an adult (under the age of 18 years), that person will wear a batting helmet. Any players utilized as base coaches will wear a batting helmet at all times while on the field.

Per 2012 Little League Official Regulations and Rules, if a batter enters into the batter's box with an illegal bat, the additional penalty (other than the batter being declared out) is the loss of an eligible adult base coach. For example, if a team uses two adult base coaches, and this event occurs, that team "loses" the ability to have two adult base coaches for the duration of the game. A player will have to come out (with a batting helmet on) to be a base coach.

Safety

All safety procedures as documented in GFLL's A Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) plan ("Safety Manual") shall be observed at all times.

In addition, the following will also be observed:

Any player swinging a bat at practice or game shall be wearing a helmet at all times the bat is being swung.

1. There will be no batting practice or any use of bats by players anywhere on the field 1 hour before game start time. Once the

game commences, only the current batter shall be permitted to hold or use a bat.

Note: Junior Divisions and above are allowed an on deck batter.

Uniforms

No uniforms, other than those approved by GFLL, are acceptable. GFLL will provide uniforms to all divisions of play. Full uniforms will be provided

(except for Tee Ball and Farm, only shirts and hats are provided): hats, visors, jersey, pants (belts where applicable) and socks. The uniforms are the property of GFLL and WILL be returned to the Equipment Manager at the end of the regular season. Players will have the shirts tucked into the pants of the uniform throughout the game. Hats will be worn properly at all time when playing on the field. The player keeps the hat and socks. Any uniform that is not returned or is damaged in any way (except for normal wear and tear) will have to be paid for by the player. Managers and coaches cannot wear cut-off shorts, spandex (bicycle) shorts, open toed sandals or shoes, or Tank top shirts.

Note: For Juniors and above, managers and coaches are allowed to wear a uniform as the players.

ARTICLE VII \

LOCAL RULES

Rules of Play

Tee Ball

- 1 -Game length is one hour.
- 2 -No score shall be kept during the game.
- 3 -All defensive players should be used on the field. All infield positions shall be covered with remaining players being used in the outfield.
- 4 -A continuous batting order will be used following Rule 4.04, Note 1.
- 5 -All batters will hit off the tee as per Little League rules.
- 6 -Each batter will be allowed five (5) swings. To be called a hit, the ball must travel ten (10) feet. No bunting or walks allowed.
- 7 -No infield fly rule.
- 8 -Last Batter Rule

This rule intends to limit the number of batters in a single inning. The limit is the number of players on

the roster; each player may not bat more than once in an inning. An inning will end in one of the following two (2) ways: (1) if the last batter of the innings gets a fair hit, the base runners may cross home plate until a defensive player touches home plate with the ball in his/her possession; (2) all present team members have batted and the last batter makes an out or doesn't get a hit.

9 -Stealing bases is not permitted. Runners must stop advancing once the ball enters the infield AND becomes under control of a defensive player. Any runner over halfway to the next base may continue to that base.

10 -Managers and Coaches are allowed on the field.

11 -Only Safety Balls will be used at all times.

Rules of Play

-Farm Division

1 -Only Safety Balls used at all times.

2 -All defensive players should be used on the field. All infield positions shall be covered with remaining players being used in the outfield.

3 -If a pitch hits a batter, batter may not take a base.

4 -No infield fly rule.

5 -This rule intends to limit the number of batters in a single inning. The limit is the number of players on the roster; each player may not bat more than once in an inning. An inning will end in one of the following three (3) ways:

1. Defensive teams records 3 outs;

2. If the last batter of the innings gets a fair hit, the base runners may cross home plate until a defensive player touches home plate with the ball in his/her possession;

3. All present team members have batted and the last batter makes an out or doesn't get a hit.

6 -Each player is given five (5) swings or eight pitches, whichever comes first. If the ball is not placed in the field of play, the batter is out (no exceptions). No balls or strikes are called.

7 -Stealing bases is not permitted. Runners must stop advancing once the ball enters the infield AND becomes under control of a defensive player. Any runner over halfway to the next base may continue to that base.

8 -Managers and Coaches are allowed on the field.

ARTICLE VIII

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DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action may be commenced against any person involved in the GFL program, including, but not limited to, GFL officers, directors, umpires, managers, coaches, parents, players and those desiring to attend

games and/or functions. Activities that may be subject to disciplinary action

shall include any violation of the guidelines contained in the Little League Operating Manual, Official Regulations and Playing Rules, these By

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Laws, or the GFL

Constitution. Any activity or conduct, which is determined detrimental to the best interest of GFL, and/or Little League Baseball by

any individual, who is in any way involved in GFL, may also be subject to disciplinary action.

Executive Committee

The GFL shall establish an Executive Committee for the purpose of investigating and determining the merit of allegations which may require

disciplinary action. Upon finding merit in the allegations, the Executive Committee will turn the matter over to the Board with its recommendations for disciplinary action.

Filing a Complaint or Charge

To initiate an investigation by the Executive Committee, a written complaint shall be filed, setting forth the grounds upon which the complaint is based.

The complaint shall contain necessary information so that a proper investigation of the charges can be made. It shall be signed by the complainant and shall be delivered to or mailed to the league (to the attention of the League President or Vice President) within seven

(7)

calendar days following the occurrence of the alleged violation. Any Board

member may initiate an investigation of wrongdoings at any time.

Note: Upon request, the complainant name will be held in confidence.

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Notification of Charges

Normally within three (3) days of receipt of a complaint alleging the need for disciplinary action, and after the Executive Committee has found merit in the allegations, the President or presiding officer shall give written notice to the alleged violator stating the substance of the charge in concise terms and requesting that the alleged violator appear at a hearing before the Board of

Directors; such hearing to be held no sooner than three (3) days, and not later than ten (10) days from the date of the notice.

The notice shall contain a statement that failure to appear at the hearing shall constitute default and

an admission of the conduct alleged in the complaint.

The notice shall also state that such a default shall allow the GFLB Board to discipline the alleged violator as it deems appropriate including suspension or removal from the

GFLB program. In no event shall any member of the hearing have any direct involvement with the alleged violation.

Decision of the Board. At the conclusion of the fact-finding hearing, the Board shall adjourn for deliberation.

The Board must be represented by a valid quorum as stated in the GFLB Constitution. If a two-thirds (2/3)

majority of the Board finds that

adequate grounds exist for disciplinary action, then the

President or presiding officer shall issue a written decision setting forth the rule, regulation, or policy violated, and the sanction ordered as a result of the violation.

Sanctions may include, but not limited to, reprimand or censure, dismissal or suspension from any further GFLB activities.

Emergency Disciplinary Action

Under emergency circumstances, when immediate action must be taken to protect the welfare of any individual involved in any GFLL program, the President or any person specifically designated by the President may suspend an individual from further participation in GFLL activities. Following emergency suspension, a complaint shall be made and a hearing shall take place

ARTICLE IX

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ALL STARS

General Information

The League will have the following All-Star teams for baseball and softball divisions as long as there are sufficient players to field a team:

- 9-10 year old team
 - Major 11-12 year old team
 - Junior 12-14 year old team
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- Senior 13-16 year old team
- Big League 15-18 year old team

If necessary, the age ranges for the upper division teams may overlap in accordance with Little League Official Regulations and Rules.

Executive Board

The purpose of the Granite Falls Little League Executive Board at the end of the regular season, is to assemble the most competitive teams (managers/coaches/players) for district, state, regional, national and international tournaments. These teams must also best represent sportsmanship and team attitude for the Granite Falls Little League community.

The Executive Board shall appoint one manager for each team and approve the managers' selections for his/her coaching staff, create a timeline and oversee the All-Star selection process.

Manager and Coach Eligibility and Selection

All managers and coaches who have managed or coached in the appropriate division for a least one-half of the regularly scheduled season games are eligible to serve as All-Star Team Manager.

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Any Minor or Major Manager or Coach may be a 9-10 year old All-Star Team Manager.

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Any Minor or Major Manager or Coach may be a 10

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11 year old All-Star Team Manager.

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Any Major Manager or Coach may be an 11-12 year old All

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Star Team Manager.

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Any Manager or Coach in the Junior, Senior or Big League, can become an All

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Star Manager, if it is in the division in which he/she coached during the regular season.

The Manager for each All Star team shall be selected by the Executive Board following review of a written "Statement of Interest" which all interested Managers and/or Coaches must submit. All Star Managers selected by the Executive Board may select their coach(es) for final approval by the Executive Board.

Candidates for manager/coach will be evaluated by the following criteria in no specific order of importance:

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Experience managing/coaching tournaments (e.g., All Stars, TOCs, etc.), Granite Falls Little League, and/or outside league teams
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- Game/rules knowledge and ability to teach fundamentals, positively motivate and bring out the best in every player
- Sportsmanship and conduct throughout the season on and off the field
- Able to represent Granite Falls Little League in a positive way
- Ability to assess the skill levels of players without bias towards own child or current team players and to assign players to the appropriate positions to field the most competitive team
- Ability to communicate positively with players, parents, league and district officials

- Commitment to practice and game schedules throughout the district, state, regional, national and international levels

Player Eligibility and Selection To be eligible a player must have played in 60% of their team's games and has committed to being available for all practices and tournament games, unless due to injury, illness, or other circumstances, with prior approval by the All-Star Manager.

All-Star players will be nominated by their teammates, and the regular season managers/coaches.

The Executive Board will prepare nomination ballots and manage the nomination process. The target date for submission of All

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Star nomination ballots will be approximately one week before the Tournament of Champions

. Nominations will be based on the following process:

Minors/Majors

Nominations will be made in the Minors/Majors division by giving each player an All-Star Nomination Ballot Players

will be asked to individually vote on

who they believe are the top four (4) choices from their team only

for nomination to the All-Stars.

The top 4 players from each team shall be put on a ballot to be distributed to all Minors/Majors of their own division, who shall then choose top 4 from this new list. The Player Agent shall provide a list of the names selected by the players to the team managers for their selection of the next four (4) players. The All Star Manager shall then be announced and will choose the final 4-7 players for his/her roster. The All -Star coach shall decide on roster size and shall choose alternates for the purpose of filling said roster if initial picks are not available to commit.

The All-Star Manager will select the players based on the following criteria in no specific order of importance:

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Teamwork

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Sportsmanship

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Attitude

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Commitment

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Regular season on

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field performance