



These bylaws to the constitution may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part by a majority vote of the Board of Directors (unless where otherwise stated) once per year. The President will abstain from voting only when there is an even number of Board of Directors present at the time of the vote. Where contradictory, local league rules/ bylaws will defer to Little League Baseball Official Regulations, Playing Rules and Policies.

# DIVIDE LITTLE LEAGUE BYLAWS

## 2024

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# DIVIDE LITTLE LEAGUE BYLAWS

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### I. LOCAL LEAGUE RULES

Little League International publishes the Little League Baseball official regulations, playing rules and policies annually (Rulebook). Divide Little League has separate division rules as described below by Division, with exception to Majors and Juniors where the Rulebook Rules are followed:

- T Ball
- Coach Pitch
- Minors
- Majors, Juniors – Refer to Rulebook

#### SECTION 1: MINIMUM PLAY

All Managers must play each player the minimum as stated in the league's divisional rules and in the spirit of the guidelines set forth in the Rulebook. A violation of minimum playing time will result in disciplinary action against the Manager.

#### SECTION 2: SAFE ENVIRONMENT

In order to promote a safe environment for all Players, Coaches and spectators, Divide Little League will comply with applicable Federal, State and County Health Department requirements and standards.

### II. GUIDELINES FOR MANAGERS AND COACHES

#### SECTION 1: APPOINTMENTS

The procedures for appointing Managers and Coaches must be understood and accepted by all concerned. The policies are:

- There is no seniority or tenure in serving as a Manager or Coach.
- All appointments expire annually.
- All Managers and Coaches wanting to be considered for a position must submit a completed volunteer application and sign a [Manager / Coach Code of Conduct](#).
- Persons are only allowed to manage one team but can be named as a Coach to a second team. If there is a shortage of Coaches, the Board may approve a Manager to manage more than one team.
- The Board of Directors will vote and approve Managers by simple majority.
- The Manager is responsible for recruiting and selecting up to two Coaches. The Coaches are responsible for completing the required volunteer application, background check, and required trainings.
- All Managers and Coaches are directly responsible to the Coach Coordinator, as well as the President or his/her designated representative and the League's Board of Directors.

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- The Coach Coordinator is the liaison to the Board of Directors on behalf of all Managers and Coaches.
- There is no appeal process for reconsideration.
- Selection of Managers, Coaches and Umpires is within the Local League's jurisdiction and is not subject to intervention by the District or Region.

### SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS

To ensure that the Local League has the best possible leadership and commitment, Managers and Coaches should live within the League boundaries and should have the following qualifications:

- To Manage or Coach, volunteers must attend the annual Mandatory Coaches Meeting. The time and place will be determined by the Coach Coordinator prior to the season's opening game.
- Note: Managers and Coaches who cannot attend the mandatory meeting must request in writing to be excused and make arrangements to attend a make up meeting.

**Juniors and Majors League** — Manager and Coach candidates should have prior baseball coaching experience.

**Minor League** — Managers selected should have managed or coached previously or display sufficient knowledge of baseball to perform successfully at this level.

**Note: Managers who are approved and selected to manage an age level where they do not have a league age child are not guaranteed placement of their child on their team.**

### SECTION 3: EJECTION, SUSPENSION, TERMINATION AND ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

#### EJECTION

If a Manager, Coach, or Player is ejected from a game, that Manager, Coach, or Player is suspended from managing, coaching, or playing a minimum of one game, administered the next game played, up to permanent termination, at the discretion of the Board. For example, if the next game is rained out, the suspension is carried out on the next game that is played, not on the make-up game for the rain out. Failure to abide by this rule is grounds for permanent termination.

#### SUSPENSION

A violation of minimum play and suspension are voted and approved by the President and Vice President.

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### **TERMINATION**

Volunteers may be terminated by resignation or action by the Board of Directors. Termination results in the termination of their duties.

### **ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY**

Managers and Coaches will be held to a high standard by the Board of Directors. There is a “zero tolerance” policy for inappropriate behavior during practices and games. Failure to abide by these standards may result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate termination.

Zero Tolerance Policy - If a member of the Board receives a complaint of inappropriate Manager/Coach behavior, whether aimed at a player, umpire, or parent, the President is to be notified within 24 hours and a prudent and timely investigation of the allegation will take place.

The President of the Local League shall appoint an Incident Review Committee (hereinafter referred to as “IRC”), which shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Directors, one of whom shall be the President of the Local League.

The IRC shall have authority to review all incidents brought to its attention via the President. The IRC has sole and exclusive power to determine what incidents require a hearing and which may be summarily dismissed on their face.

If at the end of the investigation, the Board concludes the behavior was indeed “inappropriate” and detrimental to the League, the Manager or Coach will be given written notice from the Board of Directors and the opportunity to address the issue before a Board meeting. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Manager or Coach may either be suspended or terminated with no further action required by the League.

### **SECTION 4: LENGTH OF TERM**

All Managers, Coaches and umpires are appointed for one (1) season only (i.e.: Spring Season) and incumbents must be re-appointed on a season-by-season basis. At the conclusion of each season, the Board of Directors shall review the performance of the Managers and Coaches.

## **III. BOUNDARIES**

### **SECTION 1: RESIDENCY**

Little League determines the place of residence of a candidate for entry into a local Little League as:

- The place of residence of the parents (their legal residence), or
- The place of residence of the parent that has legal custody of the child, or

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- The place of residence of the guardian of the child, as established by a Court of jurisdiction.

A map of the boundaries for the Divide Little League shall be listed on the league's web site prior to the opening of Spring registration.

Refer to the current Little League rules on residency and obtaining waivers for players residing outside of local league or school boundaries.

### **SECTION 2: SCHOOL BOUNDARIES**

Little League determines the policy for school boundaries and defines as:

A player will be deemed to attend school in the boundaries if:

- The physical location of the school where they attend classes is within the boundaries established by the local league.
  1. Note: This excludes home schools, cyber schools, sports related schools, sports academies, or preschool or after school where a student participates outside of the primary school the player is enrolled in.
- "School attendance" refers to the (place) physical location the player in question attends school during the traditional academic year. Once established, a location of school attendance shall not be considered changed unless the child is enrolled and attends another school or is no longer enrolled or attending the previous school.
- School attendance shall be established and supported by a document indicating enrollment for the current academic year, dated prior to October 1 and with the physical location of the school, from ONE of the following categories to determine school attendance by such player:
  1. Official/Certified School enrollment record dated prior to October 1 of that school year
  2. A Little League issued school attendance form completed by the principal, assistant principal or administrator

## **IV. SIGN-UPS**

### **SECTION 1: SIGN-UP DATES**

Regular registration shall be online and/or at announced location(s) as required and held during the preseason. The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, provide early registration discounts, and/or late registration fee increases. Open registration will be permitted until the end of the player evaluation period. After the completion of the draft, any player who registers will be considered a late sign-up.

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### **SECTION 2: LATE SIGN-UP**

Any player who signs up after the last player evaluation will be classified as a "late sign-up" and shall be placed on a waiting list and placed on a team only if there is a Manager available and sufficient players in that player's league age division. This list is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. The League will make its best effort to place all those who desire to play.

T-Ball and Coach Pitch divisions are an exception. Late registrations may be added until two weeks prior to Opening Day. After Opening Day, those players who register late for will be added to a waitlist and added to teams if there is availability.

## **V. PLAYER EVALUATIONS**

### **SECTION 1: PLAYER EVALUATIONS**

Player evaluations will be facilitated by the Player Agents or designee(s). Player evaluations are performed per division. An objective and consistent scoring model will be employed. Participation in player evaluations is required for all players who will play above the Coach Pitch level. There will be two evaluation dates offered to all eligible players.

### **SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY**

Player candidates or responsible parties must check in at player evaluations to receive credit for attendance. All players must attend at least one of the player evaluations to be eligible for the Draft or to be considered for play outside of their league age division. Any exceptions to these rules must be approved by the Board of Directors.

### **SECTION 3: SPECIAL REQUEST TEAM PLACEMENT**

A "special request team placement" is defined as a parent requesting a player not be placed on a team with a manager, Coach or player. The parents of a player not yet drafted may request in writing to the President or his/her designated representative that their child not be drafted by a certain Manager, Coach or placed on the same team as another player and must specify the reason(s). This request must be submitted in time for the President to review and provide approval and notify impacted parties.



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### SECTION 4: SPECIAL REQUEST DIVISION

A “special request division” is defined as a request to have a player evaluated to play in a higher or lower division than their Little League age. The **Player Evaluation Request Form** must be completed and submitted prior to the player evaluation. This can be done at forms processing or assessment day.

If a child is requesting to play in a higher division, they must attend the evaluation for their Little League age in addition to the higher (requested) division. If a child is not drafted into a higher division, the player can be moved up at any time during the season.

If a child is requesting to play in a lower division than their Little League age, they must attend the evaluation for their Little League age in addition to the lower (requested) division.

It shall be noted that requests are subject to the approval of the Board of Directors and are not a guarantee of placement.

**Important:** Requests will not be honored after the player evaluations have occurred.

### VI. PARENT OR GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

At the time of sign-up, the parent or guardian agrees to all League drafting procedures prior to and during the playing season.

### SECTION 1: CONDUCT

Parents are required to sign a [Parent Code of Conduct](#) at the beginning of each season. The Code of Conduct is to be signed by any parent or guardian who will be in attendance at games and/or practices.

### SECTION 2: VOLUNTEERING

Each family is required to volunteer for five shifts per season. Volunteer hours will be tracked and sign-up information will be posted in advance. Examples of volunteer shifts include pre-game field preparation, Opening Day help, and snack bar assistance. Each family is responsible for signing up for and fulfilling the required minimum volunteer hours.

The League offers an “opt out” option for volunteering (\$100 per player). Families are required to provide a post-dated check to their player’s Manager at the first week of practice. Checks will not be cashed unless the volunteer shift requirement has not been met by the end of the regular season.

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### **SECTION 3: POST-SEASON VOLUNTEERING**

If a player will be participating in District 54 postseason play and Divide Little League is hosting any post season tournament, the player's family will be required to work one shift during the Divide Little League hosted tournament in addition to the required volunteer help during the regular season. Note that the volunteer "opt-out" fee will not be available during such postseason play.

### **SECTION 4: BOARD MEMBER AND COACH REGISTRATION FEE DISCOUNT**

Board Members who are elected as of January 1st are eligible for one free player registration in the regular season. Managers are also eligible for a free registration. A Manager may elect two Coaches to each receive a 50% discount on one player registration. The registration discount is for one player per Board Member, Manager, or Coach. Multiple registration discounts cannot be used for holding multiple positions (ie, Board Member and Manager).

## **VII. TEAM COMPOSITION**

As a policy, age requirements/limitations will be set forth by the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Inc.

### **SECTION 1: DIVISIONS**

Safety for all is the primary consideration in the placement of players. For this reason, DLL requires that players League Age 8 (assessing for Minors) and older participate in a skill level evaluation during pre-season. No player may be moved up more than one division relative to their League Age division without the approval of the Board of Directors. It is important to note that not only the player's evaluation scores, but existing divisional skills mix, number of available teams, and safety are all considerations for the final placement of players into any division. These are age guidelines for each division:

- T-Ball: Little League ages 4, 5, and 6. This division is focused on the basics of catching, throwing, and hitting using an instructional batting tee.
- Coach Pitch: Little League ages 6, 7, and 8. This division is focused on developing the concepts of baseball using the Coach as a pitcher.
- Minors: Little League ages 7, 8, 9, and 10.. This division is focused on developing baseball skills with a player as a pitcher.
- Majors: Little League ages 10, 11, and 12. This division is focused on refining the baseball skills developed in the Minors division.
- Juniors: Little League ages 13 and 14. This division is focused on competitive play in preparation for promotion to high school level baseball.

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### **VIII. DRAFT**

#### **SECTION 1: DRAFT GUIDELINES**

The Player Agent(s) is(are) responsible for conducting the Draft. Prior to the Draft, a Draft Committee will be selected by the Board of Directors, consisting of not less than 3 and not more than 5 Board Members, including the Player Agent(s). The Draft selection process and results are to remain confidential and results shall not be shared with players and parents/guardians until teams are finalized.

The Draft will be conducted for the highest division of play (Juniors) first, then the next highest (Majors), and so on. The Draft can be conducted over a period of two days if necessary to re-evaluate eligible players for each division.

Eligibility for a division is dependent upon the Player Agent's assessment of the player's skill level. Safety is the highest priority and the Board of Directors has the ultimate authority over a player's eligible division.

A "Player Pool" shall be created by the Player Agent and approved by the Draft Committee prior to the Player Draft to provide a list of eligible players for the Draft at each division.

Divide Little League shall conduct the draft following the "Plan A - Serpentine Draft Plan" per the Rulebook.

#### **SECTION 2: PLAYER DRAFT**

When a player is drafted to a team in any division, the player must play in that division according to Little League rules unless exempted by the Draft Committee due to a safety concern.

Any player who is in the Majors draft pool (League age 10, 11, and 12) may accept a mid-season call-up to the Majors Division if it is offered. This will ensure balanced team composition at the Majors level and ensure that all Majors teams will have a legal roster size to be eligible to participate in the postseason Tournament of Champions.

#### **SECTION 3: DRAFT SELECTION — CHOOSING A PLAYER**

A Manager or designee will be able to choose a player from the division's "Player Pool", as created by the Player Agent and approved by the Draft Committee.

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### **SECTION 4: PROTECTED PLAYERS**

The only situations in which players can be protected prior to the draft for a particular team are as follows:

1. Sons and/or daughters of Managers
2. Sons and/or daughters of two Coaches per team for Minors, Majors, and Juniors.

All protected players must be declared in writing by the respective Manager prior to the start of the Draft process.

Selection of siblings on the same team in the same division will be accommodated if requested by the parent/guardian(s). Draft order of those siblings shall be agreed upon by the Managers and Player Agent or designee prior to the beginning of the Draft for the children of the Manager or Coach only.

Protected players are only draft protected in their league age eligible division.

### **SECTION 5: THE DRAFT MEETING**

Electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, etc) are not permitted to be used during the draft.

The Player Agent or designee will explain the rules of the draft as well as any special circumstances, such as protected players.

The Player Pool consists of two lists:

1. "First Draft" - all league age eligible registered players who attended evaluations.
2. "Second Draft" - all league age eligible registered players who did not attend evaluations.

Managers will be provided the Player Pool, consisting of both First and Second Draft lists, at the start of their division's draft meeting.

All registered players shall be placed on a team by the completion of the draft.

The draft will begin with the manager who have the #1 pick and will continue in a serpentine manner. Each manager will select the appropriate number of players up to the point the team roster is completed.

Trades are allowed but must be made by submitting a request to the Player Agent within 48 hours of the draft prior to departing the draft.

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### **SECTION 6: LOSS OF A PLAYER**

If, in the Majors or Minors division, a team loses a player for the remainder of the season after the draft, or before or during the season due to injury, change of residence, etc., he/she must immediately notify the Player Agent, Vice President and President (or designee) to begin the process of filling the vacancy created. The vacancy must be filled, within two weeks, from the applicable waiting lists first, then from a player pool for the division, and then from the appropriate lower division if no players of the proper default division age are on the waiting list.

If a player is lost with two weeks or less remaining on the regular season schedule, no change will be required (unless needed to bring the roster to nine or to maintain eligibility for post-season tournament play). Otherwise, the team losing the player will complete the season with the reduced roster. Team composition must continue to meet all applicable Local League or National age requirements.

A Manager may request that a player lost to a prolonged injury and replaced by calling up another player as outlined above, be allowed to return to the regular season team upon physician's release. Both players will remain on the team. The Player Agent, Vice President and President or designee must approve this roster deviation. In such a case, this team must still comply with minimum play requirements with the expanded roster, and the returning player must adhere to Little League rules of season minimum playing time requirements to be considered for All-Star candidacy.

### **SECTION 7: ROSTER FORMATION**

It is critical for the League Secretary (or designee) to actively participate in the roster formation for all divisions. The League Secretary (or designee) will own the "Master" Player Pool lists of all players eligible for each division with corresponding skills evaluation scores from the Player Agent. This Master list must be updated and communicated to the VP and Player Agent after each division has completed their roster formation. It is also critical that the Master list be kept confidential and that the sharing of information by Board Members, or any league representative is subject to reprimand and possible removal from the League.

Upon completion and finalization of all rosters, the League Secretary shall distribute team rosters to each Manager. Managers must contact their players within one (1) to two (2) days after receiving the final rosters.

The League Secretary is responsible for submitting the final team rosters online to Little League International via the Data Center by the end of May.

Rosters must be completed in the following sequence:

- Juniors, Majors, then Minors

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- Division drafts are to be conducted separately, and only the Manager or Manager designee for the applicable division, Player Agent(s), Board Secretary, and Draft Committee members shall be present at the time of the draft.

The number of teams will be proposed by the Player Agent or designee and approved by the President and Vice President.

Teams will consist of no more than fourteen (14) players per team. Best efforts shall be made to ensure all teams have the same number of players. An exception to the maximum number of players on a team may be made at the discretion of the Manager and Board of Directors.

### **TEAM FORMATION (T-BALL, COACH PITCH)**

- Teams are formed by the Player Agent(s) and Vice President or designee
- Teams are formed following the completion of the Minors division draft by the President and Vice President.
- A complete list of eligible players will be provided by the Secretary.

## **IX. SCHEDULING**

### **SECTION 1: OPENING DAY**

Opening Day shall be at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will be set to accommodate adequate practices during the time between team formation and the start of the game schedule, weather permitting. League games may be played on Opening Day.

### **SECTION 2: PRACTICES**

Divide Little League maintains liability insurance for practices conducted on approved fields, as identified in the League's ASAP (A Safety Awareness Program). Practices held on private property or other fields are not sanctioned by Divide Little League.

The League Scheduler is responsible for scheduling all practices. The number of scheduled practices and frequency are dependent upon the number of teams and field availability in each division. The practice schedule will be set by March 1 on a seasonal basis. Priority for practice times and locations will be given to Juniors, then Majors, and so forth. Practices may be canceled to accommodate rescheduled games due to rain or weather conditions.

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### **SECTION 3: GAME SCHEDULES**

The League Scheduler is responsible for scheduling all games. The scheduled number of games and frequency are dependent upon the number of teams and field availability in each division. Regular season runs from the second week in March through May, with postseason tournaments being held through June.

- TBall, Coach Pitch - There will generally be one weekday practice and one game on Saturday.
- Minors, Majors, Juniors – There will generally be up to two weekday practices, one weekday game and one game on Saturday.

Interleague games may fluctuate as game times and field availability are dependent on multiple scheduling factors.

### **SECTION 4: RAINOUTS AND/OR TIE GAMES**

It is the intent of Divide Little League to play all scheduled games. In the competitive divisions (Majors and Juniors), every attempt will be made to reschedule rainouts. This may result in three (3) or more games played in a given week, or on an open date reserved by the League Scheduler. Standard Little League pitching rules and eligibility apply and cannot be waived. To avoid in-season conflict, the League Scheduler will establish standing reschedule protocols prior to Opening Day.

Failure to play an officially rescheduled rainout (or tie game) will result in a forfeit for that team. The forfeit will be reflected in the season standings as a loss for tournament play seeding.

In the Minors division, if a game ends in a tie but there is sufficient time left in the official game time to start another inning, the next inning will be played. If at the completion of that inning, the score is still tied and if time has run out, the game may end in a tie. These games will not be continued at a later date. The tie breaker process will go into effect.

### **SECTION 5: WINNING PERCENTAGE**

Minors, Majors, and Juniors: In the event the season ends with an uneven amount of games played by teams within a division, winning percentage (of total games played during the regular season) will determine that division's final standings.

### **SECTION 6: TIE BREAKER**

Minors, Majors, and Juniors: The regular season division winner will be the team with the best overall record. In the event of ties at the end of the regular season (by games, or winning percentage if utilized),

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the winner will be decided in order of: 1) Head to head results from the regular season, 2) Total runs scored during the regular season, 3) By a one game playoff (only if feasible and approved by the Board).

### **X. POSTSEASON TOURNAMENTS AND ALL-STAR TEAM**

#### **DIVISION TOURNAMENTS**

The Manager of the division winner in each of the Minors, Majors, and Juniors teams may choose to participate in the postseason division tournaments.

#### **ALL STAR SELECTION**

The League All-Star team shall not be announced prior to a date specified by Little League International, and no team practices may start until this date. Only those teams' age groups/divisions that are recognized by Little League International may be considered for post-season play.

#### **SECTION 1: ALL STAR TEAM DIVISIONS**

The Board of Directors votes on the number and division of All Star teams to participate each season, if any.

The league ages for potential All Star team divisions are:

- League Age 8, 9, 10
- League Age 9, 10, 11
- League Age 10, 11, 12 (Majors)
- League Age 13, 14 (Juniors)

#### **SECTION 2: ALL STAR MANAGER SELECTION**

In order to be considered as an All Star Manager or Coach, applicants must have served as a Manager or Coach during the current year's regular season, unless no applications have been received from that division. Exceptions must be presented by the League President to the Board of Directors and are subject to a simple majority vote by the Board of Directors. Managers must have a strong understanding of the Tournament Rules per the Little League Rulebook.

The following process for appointing All Star Managers and Coaches must be understood and accepted by all concerned:

- All Managers and Coaches being considered must complete a **Manager/Coach All Star application**.



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- The League President forwards nominees to the Board for confirmation.
- The Board of Directors will vote and approve by a simple majority.
- The selected Manager will nominate their Coach(es) for Board of Directors approval.

### **SECTION 3: ALL STAR PLAYER EVALUATION**

All league age eligible players who are interested and willing to commit to the All Star team may attend the All Star Evaluation prior to the end of the regular season. All eligible players and families for All Stars are strongly encouraged to understand the commitment expected by Divide Little League in order to be a competitive All Star team.

After the All Star Evaluation, the All Star Manager will submit to the All Star Committee, consisting of the Player Agent, Vice President, and President, in confidence, a ranked listing of suggested players to make up the All Star team. The number allowed is defined by the Rulebook. The All Star Committee will review the ranked listing and vote by simple majority.

Note: The player of the All Star Manager and Coaches is not automatically selected for the All Star team.