WOBURN LITTLE LEAGUE

Softball and Baseball

Local Playing Rules

2018

WOBURN LITTLE LEAGUE PLAYING RULES MANUAL

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Local Playing Rules

The official Little League Rulebook covers this program with the following exceptions. All League personnel should familiarize themselves with the complete Little League Rulebook and the following local exceptions:

1. A Woburn Little League Week goes from Monday to Sunday.
2. One (1) **manager** and three (3) **coaches** only will be allowed inside the fence at all times. No batboys, batgirls, parents, friends, or family are permitted. All coaches must have their Woburn Little League badges clearly visible to be allowed inside the fence. Any volunteer found without a badge will be warned then subject to a one game suspension.
3. If the Recreation Department or league President has not called the game 1 hour before the start time, the LEAGUE DIRECTOR has the say if the game is to be played or not due to weather or field conditions. Once the game begins, the UMPIRE will rule if the game will continue. In playoff games, either the Tournament Director or League President will make this determination. For all lower leagues (defined as AAA and below for Baseball and Double A and below for Softball), the division commissioner has the say if the game is to be played or not due to weather or field conditions. No one is allowed to prepare the fields without permission of the Rec. Dept., Parks Dept., or WLL President.
4. All makeup games are rescheduled on the following Sunday or at the discretion of the League Director.
5. All leagues can play with less than nine (9) however a minimum of 8 players is needed and the missing 9th batter is an automatic out this rule applies to only major baseball and softball.
6. **All programs** shall employ a batting order consisting of the entire team roster, or as many players as show up for the game. If a player arrives after the start of the game, his/her name will be added to the end of the batting order only, major baseball and softball, after fourth inning this rule is not allowed.
7. All programs will use free substitution, providing every player play a minimum of three full defensive innings unless you are the home team.
8. Two BADGED adults may coach base runners from the coach's boxes, provided a BADGED coach remains with the team in the dugout.
9. Except in its last at bat, a Major League team may be credited with no more than seven (7) runs in an inning; Minor League teams may be credited with no more than five (5) runs in an inning. Even if additional runners cross home plate the team will only be awarded the maximum amount of runs.
10. For Major Softball only Woburn Little League chooses to implement the dropped third strike.
11. In Minor League and below (baseball and softball), there will be no continuation games if the game meets the requirements of an official game. An official game occurs at the completion of the **Top of the 4th** inning, unless the home team is trailing due to the visiting team taking the lead in the Top of the 4th inning. In this case, an official game will occur at the completion of the bottom of the 4^{t} inning. A game that is tied after 6 innings will end in a tie.
12. In **Major** and **Minor** League baseball and softball, no inning shall begin after 8pm EST for regular season weekday and weeknight games. There is no time limit for weekday games. For games played on weekend afternoons, no inning shall begin within 15 minutes of the start of the next game. (Example, Game 1 is scheduled for 1:30, and Game 2 is scheduled for 3:30. Game 1 cannot start an inning after 3:15pm). The time limit for a playoff game should be a complete game or the applicable mercy rule.

13. Major Softball games will have a 2 hour time limit, no new innings can start after this limit.
14. Softball teams shall position short-fielder in the outfield, on the grass, not in the infield.
15. In Major and Minor softball only, a base runner who leaves early shall be given a team warning from the umpire; on the second team violation the runner shall be called out. **In Minor baseball and softball a runner can steal from 2nd to 3rd base only once the ball crosses the batters box.** Minor softball only the runner cannot advance on an errant throw or an error.
    a. Minor baseball, No runner can advance from 3rd to Home on a pass-ball
16. Players may not leave the base until the ball reaches the batter during intra-city games
    a. (National allows runner to leave on the release) Major and Minor Softball only
17. Softball teams may deploy ten defensive players in intra-city games.
18. Major Softball: Pitchers can pitch 9 innings per week**, but must have 1 game between appearances within the same week**
19. Minor softball, no pitcher may pitch more than six innings per week. The three Pitchers of maximum league age permitted to pitch in a week may not exceed a combined total of 12 innings per week.
20. A batter is out for illegal action when – he/she fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing with Intent – ALL DIVISIONS
21. No team shall be allowed to enter a tournament using WLL name or insurance without holding a try-out with proper notification given to all eligible players.

Jr./Sr. Baseball Local Playing Rules

1. Jr./Sr. Baseball shall follow the **current MBDL playing rules in addition to** the following Woburn Local Playing Rules:
    a. All Woburn Games rained out during the week will be made up on the following Sunday
    b. High School program takes precedent over all LL games and practice.
    c. Practice times will be coordinated through the JR/SR Commissioner. Games and Makeup's take precedent over all practices.
    d. The mounds and home plate will be raked after all games and practices. All dugouts will be cleaned of trash and equipment with bases put away. Failure to not follow field policy could result in suspension of team's manager for one game. If the opponent is from out of town, the Woburn team has the responsibility to follow through. If the game is between 2 Woburn teams, both teams are responsible.
    e. Light use at Ferullo will be by approval of WLL ONLY.
    f. Scores and pitching logs will be reported immediately after game to designated League representative.
    g. It is the responsibility of all teams to make sure they have enough players. A 48-hour window is required. If a team is unable to field enough players, the game will be a forfeit and not made up.
    h. A player pool will be established with all 14-year-old players before the season commences, a 14-year-old player is eligible to fill in and play in either Sr. or Jr level. 13-Year-old players are not allowed to play Sr. level until all 14-year-old availability is exhausted and must be approved by the JR/SR Commissioner.

i. On Jr. level only, 12-year-old WLL players will be allowed on a call up basis only after all 14-year-old player availability is exhausted and approved by the JR/Sr. Commissioner.
j. All call up player's first priority is always to the team he has been drafted and NO player who fills in will become the property of the team he filled in for the following year.
k. NO Manager is allowed to call up players without approval from the JR/SR Commissioner.
l. All Managers will send their respective nominations for District All-Stars by May 30, and then all Managers will vote a ballot on, with the top 10 vote getters being named to the team. The final rosters openings will be determined the All-Star Manager and Staff.
m. District 13 All Star teams will be no less than 12 and no more than 15 on the roster.
n. All schedules and scores will be available via the WLL web site with a link to the MBDL site.

Draft Rules:

JR. Baseball Draft

1. All JR. teams will be disbanded year to year. Returning managers and coaches may retain their sons or daughters for the following year if they receive a positive recommendation from the JR/SR Commissioner and are approved by the President.
2. Draft order will be by lottery, reversing order for each round (Serpentine)
3. Roster size and amount of teams will be determined by enrollment year to year.
4. Roster size will be no less than 12 and no more than 16 players.
5. All players must be registered and paid before the draft.
6. All baseball age 13 and 14 will attend a league tryout all players must be picked. All 14 year old players not wanting to play the Sr. level must declare in writing their intention before the Draft.
7. All registered players not attending the tryout will be hat picks.
8. Hat Picks may be picked at any point in the draft.
9. When there are siblings in the draft, that manager has the option to draft the other sibling if he is eligible. If a manager does not exercise the option, the 2nd sibling is eligible to be drafted by any other team.
10. If desired, a manager shall submit an option in writing on a draftee if the player candidate's brother or sister is a member of that manager's team. If such an option is submitted, the manager must draft the sibling within the first four draft selections.
11. If a manager has son/daughter eligible for the draft, and wishes to draft them; he/she must submit the option in writing. PARENT/MANAGER option takes priority over any other option. This option must be exercised within the first three draft rounds.
12. In Jr's a team may have 2 coaches approved by the President after a procurement process. Those coaches' son/daughters will be a first and second round pick respectively.

Senior Baseball Draft

1. All Managers and Coaches will put in writing by September 1 on their intention to return:
2. They must receive a positive recommendation from the JR/SR Commissioner and be approved by the procurement committee and the President.
3. A tryout will be held for player evaluations
4. All players must be registered and paid before the draft.
5. All 14, 15 and 16 year old players not attending tryouts will be a hat pick.
6. Baseball age 14 year olds attending Sr. tryouts or who have not declared in writing to not play in the Sr. Level will be draft eligible. All 14-year-old HS Freshman are encouraged to play Senior Level.
7. Hat picks may be picked any time during the draft.
8. The amount of 14 year olds to be picked will be determined by 15 – 16 year old enrollment and roster need year to year. All 15-16 year olds must be picked to a team. 14 year olds may be picked at any time.
9. Draft order will be determined by record of previous season. This may change based on number of registered players.
10. In the case of a tie, the following will be used to determine the draft order:

a. Head to head play.
b. Overall record against all Woburn Teams.
c. Drawn from hat.

11. Roster sizes will be determined by enrollment with a minimum of 12 and not to exceed 15.
12. When there are siblings in the draft, that manager has the option to draft the other sibling if he/she is eligible. If a manager does not exercise the option, the 2nd sibling is eligible to be drafted by any other team.
13. If desired, a manager shall submit an option in writing on a draftee if the player candidate's brother or sister is a member of that manager's team. If such an option is submitted, the manager must draft the sibling within the first three draft selections.
14. If a manager has son/daughter eligible for the draft, and wishes to draft them; he/she must submit the option in writing. PARENT/MANAGER option takes priority over any other option. This option must be exercised within the first five draft rounds.
15. A NEW coach should not be appointed nor approved until after the draft to avoid "Red Shirting" of players through selective coaching appointments. A RETURNING Coach, through the manager, may exercise an option in writing/email to the player agent provided:
    a. The coach has served as a manager or coach in the league (at any level) for the past 2 years
    b. The coach is returning to the team from the previous year and was an active member of the team's staff. (Active member is defined by attending 75% of all games and participated in the majority of practices)

    IF the coach meets both criteria the son/daughter may be picked as a third (3rd) round pick.
16. ALL OPTIONS MUST BE DECLARED BEFORE THE DRAFT COMMENCES.

Woburn Little League Draft Rules

(PLAYER SELECTION SYSTEM)

2018 Little League® Age Chart
FOR BASEBALL DIVISION ONLY

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	4
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	5
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	6
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	7
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	8
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	9
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	10
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	11
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	12
				2005	2005	2005	2005					12
2005	2005	2005	2005					2004	2004	2004	2004	13
2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2003	2003	2003	2003	14
2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2002	2002	2002	2002	15
2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2001	2001	2001	2001	16

NOTE: This age chart is for **BASEBALL DIVISONS ONLY**, and only for 2018.

2018 Little League® Age Chart
FOR SOFTBALL DIVISION ONLY

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	4
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	5
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	6
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	7
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	8
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	9
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	10
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	11
2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	12
2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	13
2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	14
2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	15
2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	16

NOTE: This age chart is for SOFTBALL DIVISONS ONLY, and only for 2018.

(Major Division Play Only Baseball and Softball)

1. WLL Major Baseball and Softball is comprised of one division. The draft order shall be determined based on the **prior year finish in the regular season**. The last place team from the prior year will have the first pick and the team will slot in from their prior year finish. ALL 12 year olds MUST be drafted in the **Major Baseball and Softball.** The minimum number of 12 year olds drafted to each team will determined by the total number of 12 year olds available divided by the number of teams drafting, rounded down to the nearest whole number.

2. In Minor Baseball and Minor Softball only the order of the draft shall be determined by lottery, reversing order for each **round (serpentine).**

3. Major Baseball and Softball:

   Bonus Picks: Each manager **requiring eight or more players prior to the draft to complete the roster will be allowed one bonus pick at the completion of round four.** If more than one manager is allowed bonus picks under this section, the order of rotation will be identical to that being followed in the draft.

4. **Major Baseball and Softball:** A player is **eligible for the draft** only when he/she attends tryouts. A player is eligible for the draft only when he/she is properly registered and paid for the current season.
   Minor Divisions: Any player who does not attend try-outs may not be selected in the draft as a regular draft pick, they shall be considered a "hat pick" and subject to random draw.
   ALL DIVISIONS: Players shall never be told the position in which they were drafted.

5. **All Minor League and Jr./Sr. league**
   a. Rosters will be disbanded at the conclusion of each season. There shall be no pass in the Minor League draft. Instead of a pass, a team may opt for a "hat pick", which is a random selection of all players who did not attend tryouts.

6. The roster limits for the programs are:

ROSTER LIMITS

Jr. and Sr. Softball	13-16 (ability based)	Draft
Major Softball	10-12 (ability based program)	Draft
Minor Softball	8-11	Evaluation
Double A Softball	7	Schools
Single A Softball	5-6	Schools
Jr. and Sr. Baseball	13-16 (ability based)	Draft
Major Baseball	10-12 (ability based, max 10's-4)	Draft
Minor Baseball	9-11 (ability based)	Evaluation
AAA Baseball	7-8 (ability based)	Evaluation
AA Baseball	5-6	Schools

*ROSTER LIMITS WILL BE BASED ON REGISTRATION. The Board will determine roster limits year to year.

7. A team may have a **maximum of eight players of a like League age** (exception: maximum of three 10 year olds Major Baseball only). The managers must keep in mind that they must not select more than eight players in a given age group.

8. **Brothers/Sisters in the Draft (Major, Minors, JR and SR BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL)** When there are two or more siblings in the draft, and the first brother or sister is drafted by a manager, that manager automatically has an option to draft the other brother or sister **on the next turn**. If the manager does not exercise the option, the second sibling is then available to be drafted by any team.

9. **Brothers/Sisters of Players Currently on a Team (Major, SR Baseball and Softball)** If desired, a manager shall submit an option in writing on a draftee if the player candidate's brother or sister is a member of that manager's team. If such an option is submitted, the manager **MUST draft the sibling within the first three draft selections. (Why not just a certain round?)**

10. **Sons/Daughters of Managers (Major, SR Baseball and Softball)** If a manager has sons and/or daughters eligible for the draft, and wishes to draft them; he/she must submit the option in writing. Parent/Manager **option takes priority over any other option**. This option must be exercised within the **first five draft rounds** in writing to the Player Agent provided:

    A. The Manager has served as a manager or coach in the league (at any level) for the past two years AND
    B. The Manager is returning to the same Major League team as last year. (Why does A & B matter?)

    IMPORTANT: In order for the manager to exercise this option, the manager must qualify under BOTH conditions above.
    Note: a new manager in the Major League must take his/her sibling within the first 3 rounds.

11. **Sons/Daughters of Coaches (Major, SR Baseball and Softball)** A NEW coach should not be appointed nor approved until after the draft to avoid "Red Shirting" of players through selective coaching appointments. A RETURNING coach, through the manager, may exercise an option in writing to the Player Agent provided:
    a. The coach has served as a manager or coach in the league (at any level) for the past two years AND
    b. The coach is returning to the same Major League team as last year. **IMPORTANT:** In order for the manager to exercise this option, the coach must qualify under BOTH conditions above. (The player then must be drafted in the first 4 rounds.)

12. **Sons/Daughters of Coaches (Minor League Baseball)**
    a. Manager's son or daughter will count as a 5th round pick in the perspective age group.
    b. One (1) assistant coach son or daughter pick will be allowed no later than the teams 2nd round draft pick of the perspective age group.

13. Any Manager or Coach that has been in any program, within Woburn Little League, can move to another level of the program as a Manager and take his or her son/daughter with him/her as a ***3rd round draft pick***.

14. If an entire coaching staff (Manager and Coaches), having been together for ***two consecutive seasons***, moves to a Major level within Woburn Little League (in their same capacities), the staff retains exclusive rights to their sons/daughters ***as a 1st, 2nd & 3rd round draft picks.***

15. All options ***must*** be declared before the start of the draft.

REPLACEMENTS

16. When a player is lost to a team during the playing season for any of the following reasons:
    a. He/she moves to another city or state too distant to commute for practice and play;
    b. He/she is injured and will not be able to return to play within a reasonable period of time (4 games)
    c. He/she has, for personal reasons, decided to terminate his/her association with the team;
    d. Any other justifiable reason reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors;
        i. The manager of the team losing a player shall promptly advise the Player Agent. The Player Agent (Director of that league?) shall advise the President and the Board. If loss of player is approved, the President will send a letter of release to the player and the parents stating player is released from the Major League team and the league for a justifiable reason. This action creates a legal opening for a replacement on the team roster.
        ii. The manager shall review the available player list with the Player Agent and shall select a replacement. The replacement becomes a permanent member of the team even if the injured player returns during the season. The available player list will be comprised of 1) players (baseball age 11) that attended try-outs and were not drafted, or 2) baseball age 12 players currently on Minor League rosters. All 12-year-old players on a Minor league baseball or softball rosters MUST be picked as a replacement first then the 11's and then the 10's.

NOTE: Failure by the manager to advise the Player Agent of a player's continued absence should result in disciplinary action and will result in the loss of the teams draft choice in the first round of the following draft. **Exception:** It is determined that the President, Player Agent and Manager are unable to properly replace a player after using all pliable avenues to do so.

VACANCY

17. Vacancy on a team is created when the Manager, Player Agent, and President that a player will miss a minimum of 4 games or the remainder of the season with more than two full weeks of games left. All potential vacancies ***must*** be reported to the Player Agent within three days. Failure to do so will result in the loss of the team's draft choice in the first round of the following draft. Team vacancies must be filled within one week (7 days) of the date the vacancy was determined to have occurred. With three or less weeks left in the scheduled season, a vacancy must be filled within one week (7 days). After that time, the Player Agent will have the authority to fill the vacancy. The Player Agent shall clear all reassignments of players.

NON-VACANCY

18. Any player selected by a Major League team, who declines to play for the Major team, shall have his/her situation referred to a committee consisting of the Player Agent and the commissioner (for Softball or Baseball, respectively) with the Vice President as Chairman, for disposition. Should this committee decide to have the player remain in the Minor League, the Major League team, which drafted the player, **shall retain the rights to the player as a fourth round pick** in the subsequent season. Should the Major League team choose to exercise this option, ***it shall take precedence over all other protective options.***

19. Any 9-year-old player not selected at the Minor League level will be registered to play at the AAA level. If a vacancy arises on a Minor League team, an eligible 9-year-old player at the AAA level can be selected to the team with the vacant roster spot.

DURATION OF TITLE

20. Each player acquired shall, for the duration of his or her Major Little League career, be the property of the team and league or division making the acquisition, unless subsequently traded or released. All trades & releases MUST be approved through the Board.

TRADING

21. Following the draft, managers may, if they desire, trade players. Trades MUST be COMPLETED immediately after the draft. ALL TRADES SHALL BE MADE THROUGH AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PLAYER AGENT. The following restrictions also apply
    a. 12 years olds must be traded for other 12 year olds.
    b. Minor League players may not be traded for Major Division players.
    c. All trades must be player for player only. (Example: Two players from Team A could not be traded for one player on Team B.)
    d. Trades involving a player for draft choices are not permitted. (Example: A manager cannot trade his/her right to pick the third player overall for an existing p layer on another team. However, once the draft is complete, a trade may be consummated, providing it meets all other criteria for trading.)
    e. For ALL Divisions – at the conclusion of the draft each team is permitted **ONE** transaction only player for player. No multiple player transactions allowed and no player for draft choices allowed.

    NOTE: ALL TRADES MUST BE FOR JUSTIFIABLE REASONS AND BE APPROVED BY THE BOARD.

TEAM REGISTRATION AND RELEASE OF PLAYERS

22. Five days prior to the first scheduled league game, each Manager shall register with the Player Agent the number of players as determined under Regulation III (a). Proper release of Major league player due to injury, illness, relocation or resignation is essential.

    During the season, the Player Agent must monitor teams to ensure rosters are at the proper level. Managers are required to inform the Player Agent if a player has been repeatedly absent. Failure to notify the Player Agent of a player's repeated absence is caused for disciplinary action against the Manager.

23. Once the rosters are finalized (no later than five days prior to the start of season), the league must send its rosters to Little League International in Williamsport. Little League recommends that local leagues maintain copies of rosters for the current year and the previous year at a minimum. The league may wish to maintain the rosters for longer periods, however, for archiving/historical purposes.

24. The Regular Season (Player Pool)

    a. To aid leagues that are having difficult time getting enough players for their regular season teams the following option is available:
    b. A pool of players from existing regular season teams can be created with players that

are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a regular season game.

Guidelines:

1. The league's Player Agent will create and run the pool. The league's 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. Players used from the pool will not be allowed to pitch, except during the player's own regular season scheduled game.
4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine defensive outs and bat once.
5. Pool is made up of Minor League players.

Forfeits

1. A Forfeit occurs when:

    a. A team is unable to field a minimum number of players
    b. A manager is unable to provide appropriate adult supervision for a game in the manager's absence.

The Board of Directors may define "reasonable notification lead times", if necessary.

2. If a game has not been approved to be rescheduled in advance by the league director, and:
    a. One team is unable to field the minimum number or players at the start of the game the league commissioner will declare a forfeit, assessing a loss to the team without the minimum number of players
    b. Both teams are unable to field the minimum number of players at the start of the game; the league commissioner will declare a forfeit, assessing a loss to both teams.

3. Appeals of Forfeits. A team may appeal a forfeit to the Board of Directors, provided that the league commissioner and the opposing team manager are informed of the nature of the appeal and the time and date of the Board meeting at which the appeal is to be heard.

4. A forfeit is a loss in the standings; however it is counted as a win for the purpose of establishing the order of draft for the following season.

5. A forfeit may be declared, by the game umpire in chief, for violations listed in Rule 4.15 of the Official Playing Rules of Little League Baseball (and Softball).

6. Once a forfeit is declared you may still play the game but the team that forfeited gets the loss regardless if the player shows up after the forfeiture.

Management Procurement
Manager Committee

1. All managers are to be approved for one season only.

2. Management Procurement Committee is required to discuss qualifications and cooperation of the manager of each uniformed team and return with positive recommendations only, by the July Board Meeting.

3. Managers who do not receive a positive recommendation are to be provided a hearing before the Management Procurement committee prior to the July Board meeting.
    a. Coaches Also need to be approved by the Procurement Committee

4. Committee is to make final recommendations regarding (3) at August meeting to allow adequate time to appoint replacements, if necessary.

5. Recommendations by management committee and appointment of new managers should be concluded at the February Board meeting.

6. Appointment of managers to Baseball (AAA, AA,) and Softball (Single A and Double A) is left to the appropriate commissioner but must be brought to the boards attention

7. All volunteers must authorize a C.O.R.I. background check and Little League Volunteer Application to participate at any level in the Woburn Little League Program.

8. The President has final say on all managers and coaches.

Background Check Process
Need new information if it has changed

2018 LexisNexis has been replaced with First advantage National Criminal File Database

Within thirty days of the election of officers, the President shall appoint a Volunteer Screening Committee made up of a chairman and no more than two additional members. The Board of Directors shall be required to approve the appointment of the Chairman and members of the committee.

If the President's appointment of the Committee fails approval, the Board of Directors shall by simple majority fill any open positions on the committee.

All members, 16 years of age or older, shall be required to authorize a background check.

Background Check Policy per Little League International

To begin conducting background checks, the league needs in its possession a fully completed official "Little League Volunteer Application" along with a copy of a government-issued photo ID, usually a driver's license, in order for the league to verify that the information on his/her volunteer application is correct, i.e. spelling of name, address, date of birth, etc.

Effective in 2007, the local league must conduct a nationwide search that contains the applicable government sex offender registry data. Little League International has contracted with LexisNexis Screening Solutions to provide local leagues and districts with a special Internet site that allows members to search a criminal records database of more than 270 million criminal records - instantly. This site provides searches of available criminal records from various repository sources and state-level sex offender registries. The fee for the first 125 searches per chartered league and district is free to the local league and district as the cost for these searches is being provided by Little League International. Any additional searches above 125 will cost the league and district a reduced fee of only $1 per individual search. Though Little League International requires members to search a minimum of the Department of Justice National Sex Offender Registry, this special Internet site also includes **the LexisNexis National Criminal File database that contains more than 270 million records including criminal and sex offender registry records covering 50 states and the District of Columbia.**

In addition to meeting the minimum requirement of checking the United States Department of Justice National Sex Offender Registry, (www.nsopr.gov) Little League strongly encourages all leagues to also utilize the national criminal records search available through the Little League website. This additional criminal records check may provide additional important information regarding the criminal records of individuals whose crimes do not require that they be listed on a sex offender registry. For example, convictions for assault, battery, theft or drug offenses would not result in a report to sex offender registry. Details can be found at http://littleleague.LexisNexis.com/. Just click on the "Data Matrix" section to review the records nationwide, broken down by state, which will be processed instantly when utilizing this internet based system any hour of the day.

Information on how to utilize this benefit, as well as how to conduct background checks, can be found on the Little League website at: Child Protection Page

The search conducted on LexisNexis Screening Solutions at http://littleleague.LexisNexis.com/ limits the name-only search to 10 state sex offender registries while providing a far more thorough check that includes criminal records not found on an SOR, as well as utilizing the birth dates and Social Security Numbers entered which screens additional databases.

When positive results are returned in the states with name-only searches (Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin), you are **required** to perform more research to determine whether the results belong to your candidate. To do this, please visit the individual state sites which are available through a link listed below and search for your candidate to retrieve more demographic information. This additional information will help you exclude records that do not belong to your candidate.

All information obtained as a result of a background check shall, as required by law, be held in strict confidence by the Volunteer Screening Committee.

The committee shall consider only information that shows that the candidate has a history of sexual or physical abuse, to be cause to disallow further consideration for appointment, or cause for the dismissal of the candidate.

The committee may discuss its concerns with the candidate prior to rendering its decision. Any candidate denied further consideration for appointment by the Volunteer Screening Committee shall be notified of that decision prior to the Committee rendering its report to the Board of Directors. The candidate shall have the opportunity to challenge any information that may be incorrect.

A candidate who is denied further consideration for appointment by the Volunteer Screening committee, or who has been dismissed as a result of decision of the committee, shall have the right to appeal the decision to the full Board of Directors. In order to file an appeal of the committee's decision, the candidate must provide written authorization for the results of the background check to be disclosed to the full Board of Directors.

Player Registration

1. Every player in every program shall be registered prior to the start of each season when possible.

2. League officials shall conduct the registrations; the process will not be subordinated to team managers.

3. Birth certificates are required of all registered players.

4. The minimum requirements shall be the payment of a registration/insurance fee and providing a copy of the player's birth certificate for the League's records. The fee may be waived in hardship cases by President approval only.

Dress Code for Woburn Little League

In general, common sense must rule. Coaches and Managers represent the Woburn Little League program and we require consistency in appearance. By accepting the position of Manager or Coach, you accept the responsibility of being a good steward of our program.

As a guide, not acceptable are the following:
Short shorts
Cut off shorts
Cut off shirts – (all shirts should be either short or long sleeve)
Bathing suits
Shirts that portray sexually suggestive or otherwise inappropriate messages (Big Dog, Johnson, etc.)
Shirts that advertise alcohol or tobacco products
Flip/flop style sandals
Men's tank tops
Halter-tops
Slacks/jeans or shorts may be worn.

We recognize that some coaches would like to purchase Major League replica uniforms, jackets and accessories for themselves for use during games. This is allowed.

All players of all teams are required to be consistent with the uniforms provided by the League.

Financial Disbursement

1. Our By-Laws Provide:
    a. The board shall decide all matters pertaining to finances
    b. The Board shall approve all expenditures.
    c. The President and treasurer and concession stand manager only, may spend up to $150 per month in an emergency situation without prior approval.
2. Additional action of the Board allows:
    a. Any Board member to expend up to $50 per month in an emergency, for items and services normally associated with his/her committee responsibilities.

3. No expenditure or obligation beyond these limits is permitted.
4. The above limitations do not preclude the Board from establishing a budget for a committee, which then may obligate funds to a predetermined limit.
5. No board member shall be allowed to be in possession of a league credit card without approval of the treasurer and president. The board must approve all charges.

City Series Playoff Rules Major Baseball/Softball

1. ***Softball –*** All teams will qualify for playoffs.

2. ***TIE BREAKERS –*** The following will be used for all leagues:
   a. Records against each other
   b. Runs allowed
3. Major Softball Playoffs – All teams will qualify for a double elimination playoff format.

1. **Major Baseball Playoffs – Major League Playoffs, 6 seed vs. 5 seed in Wild Card game…then remaining 5 teams play double elimination tournament.**

Higher seed team is always the home team for major softball and baseball.

A mandatory playoff meeting will be held for each division by the appropriate commissioner.

Minor League Baseball Playoff Rules

5 Team double elimination tournament

Little League Baseball Tournament Pitching rules would apply throughout the playoffs at all levels of play.

1. A game that is shortened or suspended by an umpire due to weather, darkness, or field conditions is a "called game" and it will be resumed at the point of interruption. Such games will not be considered regulation games unless 6 innings, 5 ½ with the home team ahead, have been played.
   a. ***Exception 1:*** A game halted prior to the completion of the first inning shall be replayed from the beginning and all records, including pitching, disregarded.
   b. ***Exception 2:*** A game, which is called at a point in the game that would normally qualify the game as a regulation game, and if after applying the rules for scoring a called game, one team is ahead by 10 runs or more, the game will be terminated, not resumed and declared a regulation game.

2. The Tournament Director will solve any problems at the field; there will not be any protests.

3. The official scorer will keep the book. (If there is not an official scorer present, the home team book is the official book; however the tournament director may choose to cover both positions).

4. Playing rules are the same as regular season. (Every player must field minimum innings and bat). All equipment, coaches, and players must remain in dugouts when not involved in play on the field.

5. Pitching does not reset for playoffs. Pitching rules are continuous from end of regular season.

Exception: The limit on runs in an inning does not apply, except in AAA Softball.

6. ***PITCHING RULES for Softball***
    a. A maximum of 9 innings per week may be pitched.
    b. ***Note:*** A pitcher may not pitch in consecutive games unless one inning or less is pitched.
    c. Pitching does not reset for playoffs. Pitching rules are continuous from end of regular season.

All-Star Manager Selection

1. The Procurement committee will make the recommendation to the President and the Vice President will recommend to the Board who the All-star Managers should be. The best candidate will be considered for the manager position of an All-Star team regardless if they are coaching at that level in the current year.
2. This committee will meet with the prospective coaching staff (all adult help) before the Board meeting.
3. ~~Minor Baseball (intra-city) may have up to three coaches, at the discretion of the manager.~~

Major Baseball and Softball Tournament /All-Star Player Selection

1. Teams will nominate top players for All-Stars.

2. Each player's availability to participate should be ascertained prior to his/her nomination.

3. Director of Major Baseball and Softball will compile the list of all players and send to all managers of respected teams to vote.

4. The age limits by program are: Majors 10 - 11 - 12

5. A selection committee will do the selection of players for the tournament play. This committee will consist of: the selected manager, that league's commissioner The President will be the chairman of these committees.

6. No alternate players may be named, nor may any potential alternates practice with the team.

7. If a player fails to continue with a Tournament team, the Tournament Manager ***must*** select a replacement from any team.

8. Every team must be represented on, but not limited to, 1 of the age appropriate district all star teams.

9. Top vote getters will be placed on Tournament Teams.

10. The top ten players are selected, as by virtue of being the top ten vote getters from the league wide manager vote. The final 2-3 spots on All-Stars will be manager selection. Number of spots may change year to year.

Minor Baseball/ Softball All Star Player Selection

1. (3) 9-11 year olds will be selected from each team to be represented in the All-Star Game – "intra-city" Add softball
2. The All-Star Game has no bearing on any separate tournament or non "intra-city" league team

Awards

1. No award shall be made to players on the basis of comparable skills or accomplishments.

2. **TROPHIES –** Appropriate trophies or medals should be presented to each player and coach on the following uniformed teams:
    i. Regular Season Champion
    ii. City Series Champion
    iii. City Series Runner-Up
3. Bobble Head Trophies will be presented to Single A and Double A Softball and AA Baseball for players only.

1. **JACKETS/SHIRTS –** Suitable jackets should be presented to:

    a. Softball – State Tournament Champions (all players and up to 3 supervisory personnel)
    b. Baseball - State Tournament Champions (all players and up to 3 supervisory personnel)
    c. Each ***new*** member of the Board of Directors*

2. The maximum expenditure **per person** shall be $60 per jacket

3. **PINS –** All players selected to a tournament team and all-star team will receive from Woburn Little League an all-star pin (only if available from Little League National)(Recommend to remove completely since WLL does not pay or provide)

4. **T-SHIRTS –** should be presented to:
    d. Softball – District Tournament Champions (all players and up to 3 supervisory personnel)
    e. Baseball – District Tournament Champions (all players and up to 3 supervisory personnel)
5. The maximum expenditure per team shall be $250

6. An action of the Board is required prior to the purchase of any awards.

7. Any additional awards need to be approved by the board.

8. Transportation and Lodging is the responsibility of each team. League support may be available based on the leagues financial situation each year.

Junior League Baseball Local Rules

REVISION HISTORY

Rev.	Effective Date	Revision Description	Owner
A	20-MAR-2014	Initial Version	Rick Hill
B	24-FEB-2016	Updated	Rick Hill
C	16-FEB-2018	Updated for USABat and BBCOR standard	Rick Hill

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1 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE

This document will describe additional rules used by the MDBL Junior League Baseball division above and beyond those listed in the official Little League rules. Unless specified in this document, play in this division abides strictly by the official Little League rule book.

1.2 LITTLE LEAGUE AFFILIATION

The Junior League Baseball Division is a program for boys and girls ages 13-14, using a conventional 90-foot diamond with a pitching distance of 60 feet, 6 inches. (A modified diamond is available during the regular season.) The local league has an option to choose a Tournament Team (or "All Stars") of 13-14-year-olds from within this division (and/or from within the Senior League Division), and the team may enter the International Tournament. The culmination of the International Tournament is the Junior League Baseball World Series, featuring teams from around the globe. All expenses for the teams advancing to the World Series (travel, meals and housing) are paid by Little League Baseball.

Beginning with the 2014 season, local towns (Lynnfield, Stoneham, North Reading, Woburn and Wilmington) have formed the MBDL – Middlesex Big Diamond League in order to support and promote the game of baseball in a competitive and sportsmanlike atmosphere. Wakefield was added to the league in 2017. The league will be run under the supervision of a Board of Directors, and will be affiliated wth Little League International, Massachusetts District 13.

1.3 INTENDED AUDIENCE

Users of this document include all managers and coaches of teams in the MDBL's Junior League division, parents, players and league administrators.

This document describes MDBL's local adaptations to the official Little League Rule Book. It is understood that all league participants will abide by these rules or will seek further explanation from the Player Agent.

2 Polices and Procedures

2.1 LEAGUE POLICY

Manager's responsibilities:

- The manager will ensure that all coaches have filled out and submitted CORI information to their local (town) league.
- The manager will distribute, collect and hold a medical release form for all rostered players.

- The manager will distribute, collect and hold their town league's Code of Conduct forms (if applicable) signed by parents and players.

Managers must contact the Player Agent (Town and MBDL) under the following circumstances:

- If there is a behavior problem, no severe disciplinary action should be taken by any manager. A written explanation should be submitted to the player agent, who will present same to the MBDL Board of Directors for disposition. **NOTE**: *benching a player for disciplinary reasons for the remainder of a game is not considered to be severe, while benching a player for an entire game due to a problem in a previous game would be considered severe*.
- They have a Player who misses practices or three or more games and fails to call.
- They learn of a Player who wishes to join the League. If there is no waiting list, a new Player(s) will be assigned to a team by the League. NOTE: The Player Agent is the only person who can register or add players to a team.
- A Player is lost to a team for (for 3 games or more) because of leaving town, an injury or any personal reason.
- If there is a problem with an umpire, report it to the player agent. Managers and coaches should handle any disagreements in a mature, respectful and sportsmanlike manner..

2.2 LEAGUE EXPECTATIONS & CONDUCT

Managers, coaches and players are advised of the following:

- All managers and coaches will be expected to be a positive example to their players. As such, it is expected that the appearance of each manager and coach will reflect that of an athletic event. Team hats, athletic shoes and appropriate athletic clothing should be worn by every team's staff.
- Use of any tobacco products are not allowed on any part of the playing field during games or practice.
- Managers and coaches should not use their cell phones to make or receive calls of a non-emergency nature during games. Wearing of Bluetooth ear pieces during games is prohibited.
- Players must wear the uniform provided to them by the league at each game. These uniforms should be worn with the full respect for the tradition and integrity of the game of baseball (ie. shirts fully tucked in & hats worn with the bill facing front). Players not in complete uniform will not be permitted to play.
- Players must remove all jewelry (other than medical alert tags) prior to participating in the game.
- Batting helmets **must** be worn by all batters, base runners and players acting as base coaches.
- Catchers **must** use a regulation catcher's mitt, and be equipped with a mask (including a dangling throat guard), helmet, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup. If not so equipped, the player will not be allowed to catch.

- Taunting and derogatory remarks towards the opposing team will not be tolerated.
- No profanity will be tolerated. Any person using profanity will be ejected.
- Umpires must inform the Umpire-In-Chief of any ejection(s), who will then inform the Player Agent.
- Ejected Players, Coaches, Managers, Parents, etc., shall immediately retire to an area designated by the Umpire. The penalty to a manager, coach or player for ejection is a one game suspension (next game). A second ejection will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season. Every ejection will be communicated by the Player Agent to the WLL board at the next scheduled meeting for review. The suspension may be appealed to the MBDL Player Agent, Town Player Agent, Umpire-In-Chief, Town League President and MBDL League President.
- Disruptions by Parents, Players, Coaches or Managers, who refuse to leave the field when told so by the Umpire, will cause the offending side to be held responsible for forfeiture of the game.

3 The Game

The following game policies for the Junior League Division of MDBL Baseball define how the situations specified should be addressed. It is the expectation of the League that these rules will be strictly followed.

- Teams will play seven innings.

- After 5 complete innings a 10 run mercy rule will be in affect. Once the 6th inning begins, if either team secures a 10 run lead the game will be over regardless of whether the team with the lead is the visiting or home team. NOTE: Coaches and umpires could agree to end a game due to extenuating circumstances (ie. lack of pitching)

- On days when games are played back-to-back (there is another game scheduled following the current scheduled game), no new inning will start more than two hours and fifteen minutes after that game's scheduled start time.

- Scorebooks must be kept up to date, and player's last name MUST be listed. Starting lineups must be exchanged and each manager must sign the other team's scorebook prior to the start of each game to verify number of players present.

- Before each game, the HOME team will take the first base bench, put down bases and provide the umpire two new baseballs. The AWAY team will provide two new baseballs.

- In the event that weather and/or field conditions may not allow a game to be played, the **HOME** team's manager will determine if the game will be played at least 1 hour before game time. If the decision is made to postpone the game in advance, that

determination will be made and announced to the **AWAY** team's manager no less than one hour prior to the scheduled game time. Should both teams arrive at the field only to find that the field is not in a safe condition to play, the decision still belongs to the **HOME** team's manager up to the first pitch. (In this case, if the umpire is at the field and the game is called due to unsafe playing conditions, the umpire will still receive full payment.) Any decision to stop the game once it has begun is left to the umpire assigned to that game.

- Depending upon the number of games scheduled each season, an effort should be made to reschedule postponed games within a week from the originally scheduled date. ***This policy should be re-visited prior to the start of each season.***

- The **HOME** team's manager will call their local Umpire-in-Chief in the event of a postponed game no less than 1 hour before the start time of that game.

- In order to minimize forfeits, the following roster adjustments will be allowed at the direction of either the Player Agent or the mutual agreement of the opposing managers:

    - The opposing manager may lend one or more players for defensive purposes so that each team may field nine players. In this scenario (if a team is playing with 8 offensive players) the 9th spot in the batting order will be an out. NOTE: The 9th batter out cannot be the 3rd out of an inning if the previous batter is walked or hit by a pitch.

    - A player or players from any other team within the Junior League may be used so that each team may field nine players. However, managers may not recruit "All Star" replacement players. These players cannot pitch.

    - Any player(s) used to supplement a roster must be a currently active player and registered with their own town league.

- If a game is started with 9 players or more but during the game either or both teams lose players, teams are allowed to finish the game with 8. In this case when the batting order rolls around to the spot where the player who left the game and forced the team(s) to finish with 8 (the 9th player), that spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. ***(See note above for special rule for the 9th spot in the order)*** Never will teams be allowed play with less than 8.

- Only a manager and 2 coaches are allowed for each team. During games only the manager, coaches and players are allowed on the team's bench.

- Managers are responsible for the following playing requirements:

    - **All players will bat in a rotating batting order.**

- Every player must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field during a seven inning game. Free defensive substitution is allowed as this has no effect on the batting order.

- Any player arriving after the start of the game will bat at the bottom of the batting order.

- The manager's penalty for not following these requirements may be suspension as determined by the MBDL Board of Directors.

- Pitchers are not permitted to wear white or gray on their forearm or wrist (ie. long sleeve jersey or wristband).

- Once a pitcher has been removed from the pitching position, he may NOT pitch for the remainder of that game, regardless of his pitch count.

- All bats must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League.

    - It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat).

    - Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League Junior League division shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance standard.

    - It shall not be more than 34" inches in length; nor more than 2 5/8 inches in diameter, and if wood, not less than fifteen-sixteenths (15/16) inches in diameter (7/8 inch for bats less than 30") at its smallest part.

    - **NOTE: solid, one piece wood barrel bats do not require a USA Baseball logo**.

- In addition to using bats approved for Little League play based on the USABat Standard, players in the Junior Division can also choose to use bats that have been approved and appropriately certified using the BBCOR standard. All bats not made of a single piece of wood shall meet the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) performance standard, and such bats shall be so labeled with a silkscreen or other permanent certification mark. The certification mark shall be rectangular, a minimum of a half-inch on each side and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color. Aluminum/alloy and composite bats shall be marked as to their material makeup being aluminum/alloy or composite. This marking shall be silkscreen or other permanent certification mark, a minimum of one-half-inch n each side, and located on the barrel of the bat in any contrasting color.

- **Because of the USA Baseball Bat standard, the MBDL no longer will have an approved bat list**.

- Metal cleats **ARE** allowed, per Little League's rule change in 2001. **Note: Metal cleats are not allowed when playing games at Lynnfield HS (turf field)**

- Batters are not allowed to "slash" (fake bunt to draw in the corner infielders and then swing away).

- Hidden balls are not allowed.

- A base runner must slide or try to avoid a collision with a fielder making a play. If a base runner intentionally collides with a fielder, the base runner will be out, and the ball will be dead. There will be **NO** takeout slides on crashes at home plate.

- If a base runner is injured and cannot run the bases, a courtesy runner (not the batter, on-deck batter or double-deck batter) may be inserted as chosen by the opposing team's manager.

- **Until Monday, May 14, 2018** teams are allowed three (3) stolen bases per inning (a double steal with runners on 1st and 3rd would count as two stolen bases). If a baserunner is attempting to steal and the pitch is not caught by the catcher (but is not hit by the batter) and the runner proceeds safely to the next base, the resulting play is considered a stolen base. **NOTE: Intent to steal is the key with this rule**. When a team has used it's three stolen bases for the inning, a runner may be picked off by the defense simply throwing to the base and having that throw beat the runner (no tag is necessary). Beginning **May 14th (*2018 season*) this rule does not apply.**

- After every game the winning manager/coach should forward the score to the Player Agent via email within 24 hours.

4 Pitching

The following rules outline the Little League Pitch Count Regulation for the Junior League Division of the MBDL. It is the expectation of the League that these rules will be strictly followed.

REGULATION VI – PITCHERS: (a) any player on a regular season team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.) Exception*: Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day*.

- (b) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below. **The pitcher may remain in the game at any position except for catcher. A pitcher removed after throwing more than 40**

pitches may not move to the catcher's position. A catcher, however, may move to the pitcher position. Once a pitcher has been removed from the pitching position, he may NOT pitch for the remainder of that game, regardless of his pitch count.

League Age	Number of Pitches
13-16	95 pitches per day
11-12	85 pitches per day
10 and under	75 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (b) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out.

Note: Balks will not be called unless it is determined by the umpire that the pitcher has made an obvious attempt to deceive the baserunner. *Umpires working Junior League games will be instructed to advise pitchers of their violation between innings in a manner that does not interrupt the game*.

(c) Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

Number of Pitches	Days of Rest
76 or more pitches	4 calendar days
61-75 pitches	3 calendar days
46-60 pitches	2 calendar days
31-45 pitches	1 calendar day
1-30 pitches	0 calendar days

(d) Each Manager must designate the scorekeeper or another volunteer as the official pitch count recorder. It is strongly suggested that each team's pitch count recorder checks the pitch count with the opposing team after each half inning.

(e) The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.

(f) The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (b).The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (b). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

(g)Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

(h) A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day.

(i) Each team's scorebook should clearly track innings pitched and pitches thrown for each pitcher in each game. The Player Agent reserves the right to inspect any team's scorebook at any time to ensure pitchers are being protected within the rules.

NOTES:

1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation.

2. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.

3. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.

4. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

5 Junior League All-Star Selections

With the formation of the MBDL, a league All-Star game will be played in mid-May involving Junior League teams. Teams playing in the North Division will play against teams in the South Division at Ferullo Field in Woburn.

6 Junior League Playoffs

The MBDL will hold playoffs following the 16 game regular season. Each individual town league will determine its own league champion, and those teams will play for the MBDL championship.

Rosters are frozen during the playoffs (ie. no call-ups or fill-ins). Only players who are listed on a team's official regular season roster are eligible for the playoffs.

All playoff games will be played without time limit to their completion (7 innings). The 10 run mercy rule will be in effect for all playoff games.

If any playoff game cannot be played on it's scheduled date due to field availability, pitching eligibility will be determined as if the game was played on it's originally scheduled date. This rule does not apply to playoff games not played on their original date due to weather.

Senior League Baseball Local Rules

REVISION HISTORY

Rev.	Effective Date	Revision Description	Owner
A	22-MAR-2014	Initial Version	Rick Hill
B	24-FEB-2016	Updated	Rick Hill

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1 Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE

This document will describe additional rules used by the MDBL Senior League Baseball division above and beyond those listed in the official Little League rules. Unless specified in this document, play in this division abides strictly by the official Little League rule book.

1.2 LITTLE LEAGUE AFFILIATION

The Senior League Baseball Division is for boys and girls 14-16 years old, using a conventional 90-foot diamond with a pitching distance of 60 feet, 6 inches.

Beginning with the 2014 season, local towns (Lynnfield, Stoneham, North Reading, Woburn and Wilmington) have formed the MBDL – Middlesex Big Diamond League in order to support and promote the game of baseball in a competitive and sportsmanlike atmosphere. The league will be run under the supervision of a Board of Directors, and will be affiliated wth Little League International, Massachusetts District 13.

1.3 INTENDED AUDIENCE

Users of this document include all managers and coaches of teams in MDBL's Senior League division, parents, players and league administrators.

This document describes MDBL's local adaptations to the official Little League Rule Book. It is understood that all league participants will abide by these rules or will seek further explanation from the Player Agent.

2 Polices and Procedures

2.1 LEAGUE POLICY

Manager's responsibilities:

- The manager will ensure that all coaches have filled out and submitted CORI information to their local (town) league.
- The manager will distribute, collect and hold a medical release form for all rostered players.
- The manager will distribute, collect and hold their town league's Code of Conduct forms (if applicable) signed by parents and players.

Managers must contact the Player Agent (Town and MBDL) under the following circumstances:

- If there is a behavior problem, no severe disciplinary action should be taken by any manager. A written explanation should be submitted to the player agent, who

will present same to the MBDL Board of Directors for disposition. **NOTE**: *benching a player for disciplinary reasons for the remainder of a game is not considered to be severe, while benching a player for an entire game due to a problem in a previous game would be considered severe*.

- They have a Player who misses practices or three or more games and fails to call.
- They learn of a Player who wishes to join the League. If there is no waiting list, a new Player(s) will be assigned to a team by the League. NOTE: The Player Agent is the only person who can register or add players to a team.
- A Player is lost to a team for (for 3 games or more) because of leaving town, an injury or any personal reason.
- If there is a problem with an umpire, report it to the player agent. Managers and coaches should handle any disagreements in a mature, respectful and sportsmanlike manner.

2.2 LEAGUE EXPECTATIONS & CONDUCT

Managers, coaches and players are advised of the following:

- All managers and coaches will be expected to be a positive example to their players. As such, it is expected that the appearance of each manager and coach will reflect that of an athletic event. Team hats, athletic shoes and appropriate athletic clothing should be worn by every team's staff.
- Use of any tobacco products are not allowed on any part of the playing field during games or practice.
- Managers and coaches should not use their cell phones to make or receive calls of a non-emergency nature during games. Wearing of Bluetooth ear pieces during games is prohibited.
- Players must wear the uniform provided to them by the league at each game. These uniforms should be worn with the full respect for the tradition and integrity of the game of baseball (ie. shirts fully tucked in & hats worn with the bill facing front). Players not in complete uniform will not be permitted to play.
- Players must remove all jewelry (other than medical alert tags) prior to participating in the game.
- Batting helmets **must** be worn by all batters, base runners and players acting as base coaches.
- Catchers **must** use a regulation catcher's mitt, and be equipped with a mask (including a dangling throat guard), helmet, chest protector, shin guards and protective cup. If not so equipped, the player will not be allowed to catch.
- Taunting and derogatory remarks towards the opposing team will not be tolerated.
- No profanity will be tolerated. Any person using profanity will be ejected.
- Umpires must inform the Umpire-In-Chief of any ejection(s), who will then inform the Player Agent.
- Ejected Players, Coaches, Managers, Parents, etc., shall immediately retire to an area designated by the Umpire. The penalty to a manager, coach or player for ejection is a one game suspension (next game). A second ejection will

result in a suspension for the remainder of the season. Every ejection will be communicated by the Player Agent to the MBDL board at the next scheduled meeting for review. The suspension may be appealed to the MBDL Player Agent, Town Player Agent, Umpire-In-Chief, Town League President and MBDL League President.

- Disruptions by Parents, Players, Coaches or Managers, who refuse to leave the field when told so by the Umpire, will cause the offending side to be held responsible for forfeiture of the game.

3 The Game

The following game policies for the Senior League Division of MBDL Baseball define how the situations specified should be addressed. It is the expectation of the League that these rules will be strictly followed.

- Teams will play seven innings.

- After 5 complete innings a 10 run mercy rule will be in affect. Once the 6th inning begins, if either team secures a 10 run lead the game will be over regardless of whether the team with the lead is the visiting or home team. NOTE: Coaches and umpires could agree to end a game due to extenuating circumstances (ie. lack of pitching)

- On days when games are played back-to-back (there is another game scheduled following the current scheduled game), no new inning will start more than two hours and fifteen minutes after that game's scheduled start time.

- Scorebooks must be kept up to date, and player's last name MUST be listed. Starting lineups must be exchanged and each manager must sign the other team's scorebook prior to the start of each game to verify number of players present.

- Before each game, the HOME team will take the first base bench, put down bases and provide the umpire two new baseballs. The AWAY team will provide two new baseballs.

- In the event that weather and/or field conditions may not allow a game to be played, the **HOME** team's manager will determine if the game will be played. If the decision is made to postpone the game in advance, that determination will be made and announced to the **AWAY** team's manager no less than one hour prior to the scheduled game time. Should both teams arrive at the field only to find that the field is not in a safe condition to play, the decision still belongs to the **HOME** team's manager up to the first pitch. (In this case, if the umpire is at the field and the game is called due to unsafe playing conditions, the umpire will still receive full payment.) Any decision to stop the game once it has begun is left to the umpire assigned to that game.

- Depending upon the number of games scheduled each season, an effort should be made to reschedule postponed games within a week from the originally scheduled date. ***This policy should be re-visited prior to the start of each season.***

- The **HOME** team's manager will call their local Umpire-in-Chief in the event of a postponed game.

- In order to minimize forfeits, the following roster adjustments will be allowed at the direction of either the Player Agent or the mutual agreement of the opposing managers:

    - The opposing manager may lend one or more players for defensive purposes so that each team may field nine players. In this scenario (if a team is playing with 8 offensive players) the 9th spot in the batting order will be an out. NOTE: The 9th batter out cannot be the 3rd out of an inning if the previous batter is walked or hit by a pitch.

    - A player or players from any other team within the League may be used so that each team may field nine players. However, managers may not recruit "All Star" replacement players. These players cannot pitch.

    - With prior consent of the Player Agent, Junior League players may be asked to supplement a Senior League roster. Junior League players cannot pitch in Senior League games.

    - Any player(s) used to supplement a roster must be a currently active player and registered with their own town league.

- If a game is started with 9 players or more but during the game either or both teams lose players, teams are allowed to finish the game with 8. In this case when the batting order rolls around to the spot where the player who left the game and forced the team(s) to finish with 8 (the 9th player), that spot in the batting order will be an automatic out. ***(See note above for special rule for the 9th spot in the order)*** Never will teams be allowed play with less than 8.

- Only a manager and 2 coaches are allowed for each team. During games only the manager, coaches and players are allowed on the team's bench.

- Managers are responsible for the following playing requirements:

    - **All players will bat in a rotating batting order.**

    - Every player must play a minimum of 3 innings in the field during a seven inning game. Free defensive substitution is allowed as this has no effect on the batting order.

  - Any player arriving after the start of the game will bat at the bottom of the batting order.

  - The manager's penalty for not following these requirements may be suspension as determined by the MBDL Board of Directors.

- Pitchers are not permitted to wear white or gray on their forearm or wrist (ie. long sleeve jersey or wristband).

- Once a pitcher has been removed from the pitching position, he may NOT pitch for the remainder of that game, regardless of his pitch count.

- All bats must meet the BBCOR (-3) standard and any full composite bat must be listed on the Little League approved bat list and must be in strict compliance with the Little League rules for the division of play.

- Metal cleats **ARE** allowed, per Little League's rule change in 2001. **Note: Metal cleats are not allowed when playing games at Lynnfield HS (turf field)**

- Batters are not allowed to "slash" (fake bunt to draw in the corner infielders and then swing away).

- Hidden balls are not allowed.

- A base runner must slide or try to avoid a collision with a fielder making a play. If a base runner intentionally collides with a fielder, the base runner will be out, and the ball will be dead. There will be **NO** takeout slides on crashes at home plate.

- If a base runner is injured and cannot run the bases, a courtesy runner (not the batter, on-deck batter or double-deck batter) may be inserted as chosen by the opposing team's manager.

- After every game the winning manager/coach should forward the score to the Player Agent via email within 24 hours.

4 Pitching

The following rules outline the Little League Pitch Count Regulation for the Senior League Division of the MBDL. It is the expectation of the League that these rules will be strictly followed.

REGULATION VI – PITCHERS: (a) any player on a regular season team may pitch. (NOTE: There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.) Exception*: Any player who has played the position of catcher in four (4) or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day*.

- (b) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below. **The pitcher may remain in the game at any position except for catcher. A pitcher removed after throwing more than 40 pitches may not move to the catcher's position. A catcher, however, may move to the pitcher position.** Once a pitcher has been removed from the pitching position, he may NOT pitch for the remainder of that game, regardless of his pitch count.

League Age	Number of Pitches
13-16	95 pitches per day
11-12	85 pitches per day
10 and under	75 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (b) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until that batter reaches base or is put out.

(c) Pitchers league age 16 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

Number of Pitches	Days of Rest
76 or more pitches	4 calendar days
61-75 pitches	3 calendar days
46-60 pitches	2 calendar days
31-45 pitches	1 calendar day
1-30 pitches	0 calendar days

(d) Each Manager must designate the scorekeeper or another volunteer as the official pitch count recorder. It is strongly suggested that each team's pitch count recorder checks the pitch count with the opposing team after each half inning.

(e) The pitch count recorder must provide the current pitch count for any pitcher when requested by either manager or any umpire. However, the manager is responsible for knowing when his/her pitcher must be removed.

(f) The official pitch count recorder should inform the umpire-in-chief when a pitcher has delivered his/her maximum limit of pitches for the game, as noted in Regulation VI (b).The umpire-in-chief will inform the pitcher's manager that the pitcher must be removed in accordance with Regulation VI (b). However, the failure by the pitch count recorder to notify the umpire-in-chief, and/or the failure of the umpire-in-chief to notify the manager, does not relieve the manager of his/her responsibility to remove a pitcher when that pitcher is no longer eligible.

(g)Violation of any section of this regulation can result in protest of the game in which it occurs. Protest shall be made in accordance with Playing Rule 4.19.

(h) A player may not pitch in more than one game in a day.

(i) Each team's scorebook should clearly track innings pitched and pitches thrown for each pitcher in each game. The Player Agent reserves the right to inspect any team's scorebook at any time to ensure pitchers are being protected within the rules.

NOTES:
1. The withdrawal of an ineligible pitcher after that pitcher is announced, or after a warm-up pitch is delivered, but before that player has pitched a ball to a batter, shall not be considered a violation.

2. Little League officials are urged to take precautions to prevent protests. When a protest situation is imminent, the potential offender should be notified immediately.

3. Pitches delivered in games declared "Regulation Tie Games" or "Suspended Games" shall be charged against pitcher's eligibility.

4. In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for that day, provided said pitcher has observed the required days of rest.

5 Senior League All-Star Selections

With the formation of the MBDL, a league All-Star game will be played in mid-May involving Senior League teams. Two All-Star teams will be created from the participating towns and they will play at Ferullo Field in Woburn. The method for selecting these teams is TBD.

6 Senior League Playoffs

The MBDL will hold playoffs following the 16 game regular season. All Senior League teams will qualify for the playoffs regardless of regular season record.

Rosters are frozen during the playoffs (ie. no call-ups or fill-ins). Only players who are listed on a team's official regular season roster are eligible for the playoffs.

All playoff games will be played without time limit to their completion (7 innings). The 10 run mercy rule will be in effect for all playoff games.

If any playoff game cannot be played on it's scheduled date due to field availability, pitching eligibility will be determined as if the game was played on it's originally scheduled date. This rule does not apply to playoff games not played on their original date due to weather.