



## Bridgewater Little League Local Rules

2018

*Revisions approved by BLL BOD on 1/9/2017*

Below are rules which supersede the official Little League Rules. Each league has their own rules as well (Senior, 50/70, Majors, Minors & Instructional). League rules will not supersede the Bridgewater Little League Local Rules.

1. All batters and base runners must wear chinstraps on their helmets. Safety helmets will be available for batters to wear at each field. They are in the equipment shed for anyone to use.
  - a. All Managers and coaches shall wear a team hat during games.
2. Managers shall check their catchers for all required equipment, i.e. mask, helmet with throat protector, chest protector, and shin guards, and will request validation that the catcher is wearing a protective cup.
  - a. All male players must wear athletic supporters and/or protective cups during both games and practice sessions.
3. Postponing games:
  - a. A determination will be made by at least two of the following Board members of Bridgewater Little League; League President, League V.P, Safety Officer, and the Umpire in Chief. Notifications will be communicated and available on the league's website.
  - b. A League Official shall be the sole judge as to when play shall be suspended during a game, because of unsuitable weather conditions or unfit condition of the playing field.
  - c. The League President, or League V.P., or Safety Officer, or Head Umpire (or any other BLL BOD member if none of the others were available) shall determine when play shall be suspended during a game because of darkness. All games must end immediately when the light and alarm sounds, with the outcome of the game being determined under section 4:00 of the Little League Rule book.
  - d. All postponed games shall be rescheduled by the Vice Presidents on the next available date following the date of the postponement, as determined by the respective League Vice President. All postponed games shall have regular starting times unless prior arrangements have been made with League V.P.'s. Each League V.P. shall be responsible for posting a make-up schedule.
4. Player Eligibility
  - a. All players must have attained a League age of 4 years old (new in 2017) to be eligible for the T-Ball League.
  - b. All players must have attained a League age of 9 years old to be eligible for the Minor League.
  - c. All players must have attained a League age of 10 years to be eligible for the Major League.



- d. All deviations from A, B, or C will be determined by the Board of Directors.
5. Every Player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of three complete innings, game conditions permitting. Any infractions of this rule will result in disciplinary action. The innings are not required to be continuous and (as long as there is a continuous batting order) free defensive substitution maybe used.
  - a. A player shall be considered as having entered the game when he/she assumes a defensive position, becomes a batter, takes a position on the pitcher's rubber and throws one warm-up pitch to the catcher, or takes the place of a runner.
  - b. The name of any player being withheld from action for disciplinary reasons shall be given to the V.P. and the opposing team Manager prior to the game.
    - i. Superseded rule 3:07 of the Little League rules.
  - c. Courtesy runner will be allowed in the case of injury to a player.
    - i. The new pinch running rule 7:14 will not be used in Bridgewater Little League
    - ii. The runner will be the person that made the last out for that team.
6. Practice Sessions
  - a. Pre-game practice: The visiting team will have the field 15 minutes prior to game time for infield practice. The home team will have the field up to 15 minutes prior to game time.
  - b. Practice sessions will be scheduled by the Vice President of the respective league.
7. Appointment of Managers
  - a. Manager openings will be announced at the earliest possible general meeting. All candidates will be reviewed by the Board of Directors after submission by the President of the League (per Little League rule I(b)).
  - b. A person will remain as Manager until a formal, written, resignation is received by the League or if the League determines that the Manager of record is not actively managing the Team.
  - c. If a new Manager is named during the season, this temporary manager will be appointed for the remainder of the season only, by the Board of Directors.
  - d. Three team coaches will be selected by the Team Manager with the approval of the Board of Directors
  - e. An Alternate Coach (1) may be selected by a team (and approved by the Board of Directors) in the rare instances when a rostered coach is not available for a game. This alternate coach is not considered as a rostered coach and therefore does not retain protection capabilities for future draft purposes nor are they allowed in the field of play when all rostered coaches are present. This Alternate coach must be CORI'ed before he/she is allowed to assist with the respective team.



- f. The B.O.D. must approve all coaches and managers at the beginning of each season.
    - i. This includes any Alternate Coach as per Rule 7.e above
  - g. Managers and Coaches may be listed on the rosters of both the Majors and Minors Leagues. One person cannot be named Manager of both a Major League team and a Minor League team. A Manager/Coach of one team can help coach (Not manage) on another team as long as a son/daughter is on each team.
  - h. In the case of a team having one listed Manager or coach available for a game, that team may ask for a temporary listed coach or Manager from a Minor League roster for one game only. This will be done on an emergency basis only.
8. Only rostered Managers, Coaches, or Players will be allowed on the field or in the dugouts both for the game warm-ups and the games. No parents or other parties may take part in the game for any team. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) violation of this will result in a verbal warning for the offending team's manager. A second offense in the season (and any subsequent offense) will result in an automatic 1 game suspension and an appearance before the Board of Directors.
9. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. All Managers, Coaches and players are subject to review by the Board of Directors in any case of unethical behavior. Including, but not limited to, profanity, gestures or abusive language, toward anyone associated with the game. Any infraction of this rule must be submitted to the Board of Directors. Anyone ejected from a game will be suspended for at least the succeeding game.
- a. Any physical violence shall be grounds for a minimum of one full season's suspension.
  - b. Any swearing, vulgar or abusive language, the penalty shall be; immediate suspension for the remainder of the game in question, and at least the following game, and any other games, as determined by the B.O.D.
10. All managers and coaches are responsible for knowledge of the rules. Ignorance of the rules is subject to penalties as determined by the B.O.D.
11. The game will be replayed, if the winning team has violated the pitching rule, from the point in the game when the violation occurred. The number of pitches for the violated game will count in the players pitch count, as per Rule 6, Option 2d(d).
12. Once a game begins, no player shall have food in the dugout, or leave the dugout area, except to go to the rest room. Water and sports drinks are allowed.
13. Any rule not specifically outlined or covered in the Local Rules, Major Rules, Minor Rules, Instructional Rules or "T" Ball Rules will go before the Board of Directors if a question needs interpretation or a ruling needs to be made.
14. The runner will be called out, if he does not slide or try to avoid contact, with a fielder in the process of fielding a batted or thrown ball at any base. This is intended as a safety rule when a



fielder and a runner come together at a base. Any flagrant violation of this rule will result in ejection from the game and a review by League Officials.

15. Bunting / Slashing
  - a. No hitter shall show an attempt to bunt and swing away on the same pitch.
  - b. The penalty for violating this rule will be the batter will be called out and the ball will be dead with no runners advancing
  - c. This is a safety issue with players in this age group.
16. No jewelry will be worn during games. This includes earrings, necklaces, and watches. Etc.
17. All managers and coaches must attend a youth sports safety course, approved by the Little League, or show proof of current certification of a safety course.
18. Player movement, after the Senior, Major, and Minor Draft, must be approved by the Board of Directors.
19. Player movement after the Draft. Any Player determined to be a safety hazard will be moved to the Majors as follows;
  - a. The Board of Directors will determine the order of selection for this process base on the evaluation of the Teams during the current year.
  - b. The team determined by the B.O.D. to have the first choice will be able to select this player or pass on the player. The following Teams will have the same choice.
  - c. If all Teams pass on the player, this player will be placed automatically on the team determined to have the highest selection option. If that Team has already taken an additional player, the next Team in line will get this player.
  - d. All players will be evaluated by a committee comprised of the Safety Officer,
  - e. Minor League V.P., Major League V.P., Player Agent and the Rules Chairman. Majority vote will rule for the status of any player brought before them.
20. Bridgewater Little League does not recognize the Sibling Rule in the Major Division.
21. To resolve all ties in the final League Standings for Playoff and / or draft pick position.
  - a. In the event 2 teams finish with identical won / loss records, the following tiebreakers will be imposed in order until the tie is resolved.
    - i. The Team which gave up the least amount of runs against each other.
    - ii. The Team giving up the least amount of runs against all opponents.
    - iii. The Team with the most shutouts in their favor.
    - iv. The Team with the most shutouts in their favor *against tied opponent*.
    - v. The Team with the most shutouts in their favor *against all opponents*.
    - vi. The Team scoring the most runs against.
    - vii. Ten runs will be the maximum credit for any game (i.e. team scoring 11 or more runs will only be credited with 10 runs for the purpose of this ruling).



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- b. If 3 or more Teams are tied, the identical tiebreakers in sequence will be utilized.
  - c. The combined won / loss records of all tied opponents will be used
  - d. Once a tie is broken and a Team is declared a winner, the remaining tied Teams will start the tie breaking sequence over.
22. All League Officials and Managers must do everything possible to avoid scheduling Playoff games after the 4th of July weekend.
23. When 2 games are scheduled for the lighted fields, the first game will end at 8:00pm regardless of the inning or score. The second game will not have an inning start after 10:00pm.
24. Rules Committee
- a. This committee is setup to review the Bridgewater Little League rules and to discuss any improvements or adjustments that may be approved by the Board of Directors.
  - b. Members are as follows:
    - i. Rules Chairman, Player Agent, Safety Officer, Umpire in Chief, Field Chairman, Major V.P., Minor V.P., and Instructional V.P
25. Bridgewater Little League Membership
- a. To be considered as a General Meeting voting member of the Bridgewater Little League you must meet the following criteria: All active members of the previous year, with a minimum of 10 hours of substantiated service to the league, and have filed for membership for the next year. This includes all members of the Board of Directors, active managers and coaches, adult umpires, concession stand workers, and field maintenance workers. All members of the league must have an approved CORI / Volunteer Application form on file. Anyone not meeting all of the above criteria may be considered a member without voting privileges.
26. Prohibited Use Policy
- a. There shall be no use of tobacco (including smokeless tobacco products), alcohol, or vaping devices during all Little League activities.
27. Field Preparation and Maintenance
- a. The home team will be responsible for raking/dragging and lining the field before the game.
  - b. Home team is responsible for raking/dragging the field after the game. Home plate, pitcher's mound and around each base must be raked. Failure to do so can result in forfeiture.
  - c. Refer to individual league rules for specific rules that apply to that league.