

Grandville Little League 2017 Season Guidelines

GENERAL INFORMATION

Grandville Little League Board of Directors would like to welcome you to the new season. We would like to thank you in advance for your dedication to Grandville Little League and to **the youth we serve**, with the hope that you find this a rewarding experience.

2017 GvLL Chain of Command



Contact by Email or Phone on the Board of Directors page at WWW.GrandvilleLL.com

Follow the chain of command for questions, problems, or any other concern.

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- **CLEAN UP DAY – A Chance for *Everyone* to Volunteer!**
 - An area of assignment for your team will be published the week before.
 - Needed equipment to bring: rakes, Blowers, flat shovels, wheelbarrow etc..
 - GvLL will provide paper bags for yard waste for transport to the large dumpster(s).
 - Plastic bags of trash are disposed of in the smaller trash dumpsters
 - People are also needed for special projects like painting, carpentry, Batting cages, Field base and pitching rubber replacements. Take one on if your able.
 - It is the responsibility of each division director and associated team coaches to organize the efforts for their designated area of clean-up.

- **EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS**
 - The team's equipment can be picked up per dates on the website.
 - The pick-up location is the garage off the Canal Street parking lot.
 - All coaches must have their equipment returned within two weeks of their last game. The coach needs to sign the returned equipment clipboard hanging in the garage. **Used game and practice balls are to be returned for re-use as practice balls for next season.**
 - Coaches supporting tournament play must make arrangements within two weeks of completion with their director for their equipment return.
 - Uniforms shall be distributed by the Uniform Director either to the Division Directors or directly to the coaches prior to opening day.

- **PLAYER PICTURES**
 - Picture order forms are distributed at the coaches meeting who will distribute to the parents. This form with payment must accompany the player at your scheduled picture time.
 - Typically, teams will be scheduled for pictures an hour before their opening season game. Your time will be scheduled on the GvLL Web Site.
 - **Arrive 10 minutes early so your team does not delay everybody else.**
 - Pictures are mandatory for Sponsor plaques' even if players are not buying them.

- **OPENING DAYS**
 - AA Minors thru Juniors typically the 3rd Saturday in April
 - T-Ball and Division A Minors and Challengers the next Saturday
 - Senior Baseball starts in June.

- **FIELD/DUGOUT UPKEEP**
 - **We need everyone's help in keeping our fields clean. Volunteer to pick up a piece of trash each time you visit the fields.**
 - Teams are responsible for picking up their respective dug-out and bleacher area.
 - Immediately report any safety or repair items to your director or the safety director.
 - **If you're playing the last or only game of the day the Home team must put away the bases, outfield cones (if used) and cover up the mounds and home plate surfaces with the tarps.**

- **PARKING/PRIVATE PROPERTY**
 - **Please, always be considerate and respectful of the nearby Home Owners.**
 - Do not park in front of mail boxes on Saturdays, don't trespass onto private property when parking or walking to the field.
 - Please don't park on lawn areas or in NO PARKING Areas.
 - Fields can be accessed from an easement from the Grandville Baptist Church parking lot on 40th Street.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our goal is to insure that each Little Leaguer be given the best possible opportunity to grow and develop mentally, emotionally, socially, morally, and physically through participation in our baseball and softball programs. **The Board of Directors recognizes that the persons who most effect growth and development are the coaches.**

- BOARD OF DIRECTORS COACH SELECTION CRITERIA
 - Positive influence. Maintain that we are here to have fun and enjoyment no matter the situation.
 - Work toward the improvement of every player on the team.
 - Treat every player as a valuable, worthwhile individual that has potential to grow in stature and understanding.
 - Adhere to and teach the rules of fair play.
 - Follow all of the rules of the local and national Little League governing bodies.
 - Epitomize the good sportsmanship image.
 - Exemplify patience and respect in dealings with all umpires/league officials and strive to teach Little Leaguer's the same accepting attitudes with respect to umpires/league official's decisions.
 - Diligently attempt to improve their own ability to instruct softball/baseball skills and also attempt to broaden their own understanding of the rules and regulations of the game by attending approved demonstrations or seminars for this purpose.
 - Endeavors to enter into fair competition applying great effort, skill, and strategy with the purpose of sustaining winning results. But paramount to winning is preserving the Little Leaguer's opportunity to have healthy, emotional, social, and physical experiences that will improve the player's ability to meet life's larger challenges.

- BOARD SERVES THE LEAGUE
 - Do everything possible to provide a safe experience.
 - Conduct Background checks annually on all volunteers including board members.
 - Liaison between you and District # 9 Michigan, and National (Williamsport, PA).
 - Arrange for insurance and charter of your team.
 - Maintain fields, coordinate scheduling of games and assist in planning tournaments.
 - Keep you informed of procedural changes and arbitrate internal conflicts.
 - Manage concession stand, plan/run Fund Raisers, a purchase/distribute awards.
 - Secure team sponsors.
 - Organize registration and communicate important dates.
 - Recruit, select, and evaluate coaches.
 - Supply proper equipment.

- LEAGUES RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE BOARD
 - Support us in spirit and in discussion with friends and neighbors.
 - Keep us informed, tell us what you like and dislike.
 - If you volunteer, carry out your expected duties to the best of your abilities.
 - Never hurt a child by pushing your own ego and need to win.

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COACHES GUIDELINES

- PRACTICE GUIDELINES
 - Practice as much as possible, make it fun, keep it moving, stress fundamentals, have a plan.
 - Stretching and other warm-ups are very important at all ages. Include jogging & sprints.
 - Establish a throwing routine ending with long toss with good form.
 - In Cold Weather focus on activities that keep the players moving.
 - Plan each practice with an ultimate goal in mind.

- MINIMUM PLAY REQUIREMENTS
 - Published in supplementary rules. Let's do better than the league's minimum! We all must remember that Baseball & Softball is a game, and the game must be fun for everyone. The experience you provide for your players can have a huge impact on them, make it a positive one.

- PITCHING GUIDELINES
 - Baseball Pitch Count Rulebook will be followed. Pitch counts are to be recorded on the website after each game.
 - Restrictions for softball pitchers are found in GvLL supplementary rules in addition to the rule book. Innings pitched are recorded on the website after each game.
 - Pre-game – stretches, shoulder circles, bullpen warm-ups (give the pitcher a warm-up routine).
 - Remember pitchers still play other positions – be careful they don't over throw from position play after pitching.
 - Do not encourage curve balls before age 13 - & then only if the pitcher is physically mature for his age.
 - If curve balls are thrown, coaches should limit it to 20% or less of total pitches.
 - Pitchers should focus on controlling their fastball and developing a change-up.

- RESPECT THE UMPIRE
 - Players and coaches must respect the umpire.
 - Help Develop young umpires in a positive manner.
 - As an organization we cannot tolerate disrespectful behavior from teams or spectators.

- FOLLOW THE RULES
 - Read your provided rule book at your leisure so you do not have to use it in a game.
 - Read and follow GvLL "Supplementary Rules" for your division that are published in the coaches corner of the website.

- REVIEW PROCESS
 - If inappropriate conduct is witnessed and reported a review of the facts and possible next steps will occur with the coach, the division director and executive board members. Each situation will be reviewed and on an individual bases with the following guidelines for disciplinary action.
 - 1st violation could be up to a two game suspension and probation for the current year and the following year.
 - 2nd violation will be immediate removal as coach.
 - Any board member who also volunteers as a coach who behaves inappropriately will lose their position on the board at the first infraction.

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- COACHES DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO YOUR PLAYER
 - You are the Coach of a Little League Team, and your primary responsibility is to teach the players about the game of softball/baseball. Teaching lessons of the “game” involves the teaching of these life-related skills:
 - The development of physical skills.
 - Mental alertness and thinking skills.
 - The emotions of winning and losing.
 - Social growth within the peer/team group.
 - The “team effort” concept –cooperation and mutual support.
 - Respecting other players, umpires, opponents and the GAME.
 - Personal growth – potential and limits of individual talent.
 - Another important responsibility of the Coach is to maintain a careful organization of all phases of coaching. Some of the important areas include:
 - An organized practice session
 - Equipment Management
 - Game time management
 - Statistics and records
 - Extra-curricular activities
 - A third area of responsibility of the Little League Coach is that of controlling the Little Leaguers behavior. Your ball players must be properly disciplined, or they will miss much of what is to be learned through their Little League experience. Examples include:
 - Appropriate dugout behavior.
 - Behavior and attentiveness during practices.
 - Expected behavior during a game.
 - Suggested off-field behavior.
 - You can make a large and significant contribution to the Life of your Little Leaguer. Try to make it a very Positive One. All coaches need to remember this is developmental and is intended to teach kids how to play at appropriate levels of techniques and strategy.
- GOALS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE COACHES
 - Teach, coach and be a mentor. We want players to develop a passion for the game.
 - Educate yourself in the art of coaching the game at the level you’re at.
 - Practice age appropriate fundamentals and remember, it’s a developmental process.
 - Provide an organized practice, keep them moving, and make it as fun as possible, utilize multiple stations at a time, small group drills, and additional parent helpers.
 - **Be a positive coach.** Build-up, don’t tear down players. You control the experience, make it a good one.
 - Develop all the players. Play them at many positions. Make everyone feel that they are an important part of the team.
 - Be a coach of character, a coach that players are proud to have.
 - Remember, your success as a coach has everything to do with the experience you provide for the players, not the win-loss record.
 - Bottom line, this is a game, make the experience a fun one.
- CONCESSION STAND TEAM TREATS
 - Team treats may be purchased at the concession stand at a special team rate before or after games. Check with the concession stand Manager for prices and options.

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○ PARENTS MEETING

- The following is a guideline for a “Parents Meeting”. We strongly recommend coaches taking a few minutes to meet with all of the parents, best done after the first practice session. It will be time well spent and will have a positive impact on the entire season.

- Introduction
 - Coaches
 - Parents
 - Players
- Rules
 - Playing Time
 - Pitching Regulations
 - Supplementary Rules
- Emergency Procedures
 - Weather Policy
 - Emergency procedures – Accident Insurance, potential for injury, how injuries are handled.
- Equipment Needs
 - League provided equipment
 - What players must provide
- Coaching Philosophy
 - Goals- Enjoyment
 - Skills development
 - Develop friendships
 - Sportsmanship
 - Participation & Commitment
 - Policies – Practices
- Child Responsibilities
 - Understand the purpose and commitment of being involved in Little League
 - Learn what your child wants from baseball/softball
 - Be realistic about your child’s ability
- Participate in our program
 - Conduct at games
 - Game/Practice Schedule
- Questions and Answers.

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GRANDVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE WEATHER POLICY

- GvLL enforces all Little League rule book weather policies for games, practices, scrimmages, and any other associated outdoor activity.
 - Tornado Watch or Tornado Warning
 - All functions to stop if in progress, no function to start.
 - Anytime lightening is detected
 - Take cover in dugouts, pavilion or vehicles. A 20 minute period without lightening must occur before resuming the activities.
 - Thunderstorm/Severe Watch or Warning
 - If function is in process, it is up to the umpire's discretion for games, and the coach's for all other functions.
 - Prior to the game starting
 - The League President or designated Official will call a "rainout" no sooner than 4:30 P.M. weekdays and 8:00 A.M. on Saturdays.
 - Games may also be delayed for weather or field preparation after a rain. This could push out other scheduled games if on a Saturday.
 - Help clearing water from infields is welcome.
 - GvLL will send out an email/text blast to everyone on the list as well as post on the GvLL Web Site home page banner.
 - Games Scheduled at other leagues
 - If you're traveling to an Inter-league game check that leagues website or have your coach contact the division director for cancelation confirmation.

GAME RESCHEDULED GUIDELINES

- Teams are expected to play all games as originally scheduled.
 - **Coaches are not authorized to cancel games.**
 - Weather cancellations will be re-scheduled at the very first opportunity. Often Friday night.
 - Games must be played if a team can field a minimum of 8 players.
 - If you must re-schedule due to 7 or fewer players notify your director as soon as you know.
 - Directors will work with player agents to assign pool players according to rule book procedures to prevent canceling games.
 - **Coaches are not authorized to assign pool players.**
 - Request to re-schedule a game must be approved by your director and are not finalized until the master schedule is updated on the website.
 - If the same team fails to field a team twice, against the same opponent it may at the discretion of the director, be declared a forfeit.
 - All forfeits to be avoided if possible.
 - For Tie breaking purposes the team that could not field a team, will assume the lower position in the standings.

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CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEERING

- WORK SCHEDULE
 - **Each team is required to provide (3-4) helpers, 12 years of age or older, with two helpers being an adults. Each team will be scheduled at least one 2 to 3 hour shift.**
 - Coaches, recruit your volunteers early in the season. Have back ups.
 - Your schedule will be posted on the GvLL Website after games schedules are published.
 - It is the team manager's responsibility to assure volunteers are committed to cover the teams shift. It is very important to have workers on the specific day and time scheduled.
 - Please contact a concession stand manager if you need further information.
 - Help your Manager out! **Go to the [Volunteering](#) schedule** on the left menu and sign up for your team's obligation today.
 - You can also sign up for additional times if you would like or your team did not get an assigned time.
 - **Thanks for Volunteering and helping generate funds to keep costs down at GvLL!**

- CONCESSION STAND RULES
 - **The health department forbids unauthorized personnel in the food service area. This includes coaches, umpires and ball players not volunteering in concessions.**
 - Follow safety guidelines published in the GvLL ASAP and posted in the concession stand.
 - Those people who work in the concession stand are allowed to have one fountain drink and a hot dog at no cost to them. Other items purchased from the concession stand **MUST** be handled by the person in charge.
 - When the concession stand closes items on the shelves must be restocked as directed by the Concession Manager.

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Revision	Author	Change Description	Approved Date
A	T. Laurent	Changed format to Word. Removed dates to make generic to year. Rearranged information and updated index.	3/18/13
B	T. Laurent	Deleted sections that are now covered in ASAP. Updated for the 2015 Season.	3/22/15
C	T. Laurent	2016 Updates – Chain of Command Page Changed	3/21/16
D	T. Laurent	2017 Updates	3/20/17