

Taunton Western Little League

Local Rules

As amended February 1, 2014

Overview

Taunton Western Little League endorses the National Little League overarching philosophy.

The following excerpt is taken from the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of the National Little League organization:

"Little League Baseball is a program of service to youth. It is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in an atmosphere of wholesome Community participation. The movement is dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. It strives to inspire them with a goal and to enrich their lives toward the day when they must take their places in the world. It establishes for them rudiments of teamwork and fair play."

Rules set guidelines, teach discipline, and require respect.

Little League International requires that each Little League Board of Directors should adopt its own bylaws, local rules or ground rules. (The terms are interchangeable.) This document expires annually at the end of the calendar year and must be renewed annually. The Local bylaws, local rules or ground rules shall be reviewed at the December General Meeting and recommended additions, deletions or modifications shall be submitted at that time. The Local bylaws, including any recommended additions, modifications or changes shall be discussed and approved by a Board of Directors vote at the January league meeting

The Board of Directors reserves the right and authority to change the bylaws, local rules or ground rules and shall only require board consent, without the general membership approval. No part of the bylaws, local rules or ground rules can or will conflict with or supersede any Little League International rule, regulation or policy.

Additionally, as stated by Little League Baseball International, *“None of the local rules will conflict with Little League Rules, Regulations or Policies. Also, they don’t re-state any existing Little League Baseball Rule, Regulation or Policy, as this invites conflicting interpretations. (The Official Rules and Regulations published or amended each year by Little League International are always the final word.)*

Philosophy

It is the philosophy of Little League that all children's playing experience be positive and fun. TWLL will exhibit ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect, so the youth will be well adjusted, strong and happy. TWLL will operate in the interest of all the children in their program and will not tolerate the misconduct of players or adults.

League structure

Taunton Western Little League shall be structured as follows:

Major League (ages 9-12)

- American Division – Indians (est. 1957), Orioles (est. 1974), Red Sox (est. 1953), Twins (est. 1970), Yankees (est. 1953)
- National Division – Braves (est. 1953), Cardinals (est. 1974), Cubs (est. 1957), Dodgers (est. 1953), Padres (est. 1970)

Minor League (ages 8-11)

- Teams to be announced based on registration and player evaluations.

Instructional League (ages 6-7)

- Teams to be announced based on registration.

T-Ball (ages 4-5)

- Teams to be announced based on registration.

Recruitment and election of Board Members

The League annual meeting will be held in September and include the election of the board.

In an effort to establish cohesive leadership at a critical moment of transition and opportunity for TWLL, the Board of Directors shall submit a slate of candidates for election by the members of TWLL.

All who seek consideration for positions on the Board must be members in good standing. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following positions:

President

Vice President/Operations

Vice President/Purchasing

Vice President/Minor League Director

Treasurer

Secretary

Player Agent

Safety Officer

Field Manager

Building manager

Concession Manager

Head Webmaster

Volunteer Responsibilities

TWLL is a non-profit organization dedicated to keeping baseball an enjoyable and accessible activity for young people. As such, volunteers are critical to keeping the cost to families reasonable. Certain duties will be required of all parents and guardians for the current season. Teams failing to meet their volunteer duty obligations will face sanctions, including but not limited to additional in-season volunteer duties, loss of team practice time, ineligibility for all-star team coaching assignments, loss of voting rights at membership meetings, etc.

As stated in the Safety section of this document, all managers, coaches, league officials or any person who wishes to assist on the playing field or in a dugout of any practice or game must have a certified background check completed by the Safety officer, of the League, prior to the start of the season and display the approved volunteer identification pin while on any field during games or practices.

Playing rules

Little League Baseball, Inc. offers a booklet titled "*Official Regulations and Playing Rules.*" The booklets are generally available for purchase, and each team manager shall be provided with a copy. We encourage all players and parents to read and become familiar with both the Official Regulations and Playing Rules and any Local Rules that may apply.

Managers and coaches are expected to be aware of and abide by the Little League International rules found in the current *Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules* and *Operating Manual*.

Local Rules

Local rules are encouraged by National Little League to adjust for local conditions. Local playing rules are approved by the Taunton Western Little League Board of Directors at the January board meeting and may be amended only by the Board of Directors.

These local rules have been approved by the Taunton Western Little League Board of Directors and are added here to reflect the needs and philosophy of Taunton Western Little League.

Rule questions should be answered after reviewing both the current Playing Rules and these local rules.

Please review the local rules appropriate for your child's playing level:

- Majors local rules
- Minors local rules
- Instructional local rules
- T-Ball local rules

Team Rules and Conduct

In addition to the Little League Baseball and Local playing rules, each team may have additional team rules. Team rules are established to provide team, parent and player specific expectations regarding participation and other requirements. Any player (or parent) who interferes with team management, including failing to adhere to the established team rules, can expect sanctions to insure team harmony.

Game Conduct

Players are expected to arrive on time for pregame workouts and conduct themselves during the game in an acceptable manner. It is a team's responsibility to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Following are simple rules for players to follow throughout the season:

Play for the fun of playing, not just to please your parents.

Play by the rules.

- Never argue with or complain about umpire's calls or decisions.
- Control your temper and resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing baseball and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort.
- Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it is your teams or your opponent's.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Cooperate with your manager, coaches, teammates, opponents and umpires.
- Food is not allowed in the dugouts, although sunflower seeds and gum are permitted.

Any player, manager, coach, parent or spectator whose conduct is not consistent with these guidelines may be cautioned by the game umpire or any League officer.

Foul or abusive language is **STRICKLY PROHIBITED**. If an individual is unable to refrain from using foul language or making derogatory remarks to any player, manager, coach, umpire, another spectator or league official, the umpire or, any league official, may suspend the game until that individual leaves the playing area and remains in the parking lot. If the individual refuses to leave the playing area and remain in the parking lot or the disturbance continues, the umpire or any board member may discontinue the game and the police will be called for assistance. The disruptive individual may face additional sanctions recommended by the

League President and approved by a minimum of two other Board members, depending on the circumstances.

Ejection Protocol

Each umpire has the power and authority to eject players, managers, coaches and spectators from the game. If a player is ejected, the player shall immediately leave the playing area (field, dugout, bullpen etc.) before play continues, but may become a silent spectator in the stands. In addition, the player is expected to attend subsequent practices. The player shall NOT participate in the next scheduled game, but may watch the game from the stands, but shall not wear the team uniform. When a manager or coach is ejected, that individual shall IMMEDIATELY leave the vicinity of the playing fields. In addition, that individual shall have NO CONTACT with the team and shall be PROHIBITED from the vicinity of the playing fields during practices and games until the day after the completion of the next scheduled team game. Other ejected individuals, such as spectators, shall immediately leave the vicinity of the playing fields and remain in the parking lot. Refusal to do so may result in the Umpires, "Calling" the game and other sanctions may be assessed on the team associated with that individual by the Board of Directors.

The Board feels strongly that proper field decorum is an important element of the Little League Baseball experience. Any player, manager, coach or spectator who is ejected or otherwise suspended three times in a season, will have their association with Taunton Western Little League terminated.

Safety

Slash Bunting (squaring to bunt, then pulling back and hitting away) is *STRICTLY* prohibited at any level of play at Taunton Western national Little League for safety reasons.

Cages shall be worn on all batting helmets, by all TWLL players, for all practices and games at Taunton Western Little League, above the t-ball level.

Only a player at bat, on a field or in the batting cages, may swing a bat. Swinging of the bats in or near the dugouts is *STRICTLY PROHIBITED* during all games and practices.

All TWLL managers, coaches, league officials or any person who wishes to assist on the playing field or in a dugout of any practice or game must have a certified background check, completed by the Safety officer of TWLL, prior to the start of the season and display the approved volunteer identification pin while on any field during games or practices.

At least one manager or coach present in the dugout, at all Major and Minor Level games and practices, SHALL be currently certified in CPR and the use of the Defibrillator. A copy of a current certificate shall be given to the league safety officer prior to the start of the season.

All managers at the Major level SHALL complete the CDC Heads Up Online Training Course and provide a completed certificate to the safety officer prior to the start of the season. The course can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/online_training.html. This course gives managers the information needed for the prevention and symptoms of concussions in youth sports.

The league shall also recommend and encourage all managers and coaches at all levels to obtain these certifications.

TWLL LOCAL RULES:

MAJORS

- No major team shall have more than six players of any age.
- All Major teams shall consist of a twelve player roster.

THE VISITING TEAM

- Uses the third (3rd) base dugout.
- Takes infield/outfield for practice twenty (20) minutes prior to game time.
- Rakes field after the game.
- Cleans own dugout and dugout area.

THE VISITING TEAM

- Uses first (1st) base dugout.
- Takes infield/outfield for practice ten (10) minutes prior to game time and remains on field for start of game.
- Provides the official scorekeeper, scoreboard operator, and keeps track of pitch counts.
- Preps field 30 minutes prior to game time. Field prep includes prepping and chalking the field, foul lines and batter's boxes. This must be completed 20 minutes prior to game time.
- Cleans own dugout and dugout area.

GAME TIMES:

- No game may end in a tie.

TWLL has installed a darkness horn as a guideline for safe play. Although it is understood that the umpire shall have the authority to stop or continue any game, it is the recommendation of the TWLL Board of Directors that the umpires consider the darkness horn as a good guideline for safe play.

In regards to all practices at TWLL, all managers and coaches SHALL use the darkness horn as the signal to end ALL play. This includes batting cages.

In the event an umpire stops a game, at the Major level due to darkness, every effort should be made to adhere to the following TWLL Board recommendation:

- If the halted game is on the White Field, the lights shall be turned on and the game completed.
- If the halted game is on the Red field, the game shall move to the White field and complete the game under the lights as soon as the game on the White field has completed.
- If the halted game is on the Blue field, the game shall move to the White field and be completed under the lights as soon as the White field game and the Red field games are complete.
- In any circumstance no regular league game shall continue after 9:00pm. This may be waived only by the TWLL League President for tournaments or special games.
- In the event an umpire stops a game, at the major level, due to inclement weather and is not a complete game, as defined in Little League Rule 4.10 and 4.11, the game shall be continued and rescheduled, as soon as possible, by the League President.

PRACTICE

Taunton Western Little League deems its primary function to be one of training and preparation of Little Leaguers in the skills of baseball and promoting lifelong enjoyment of the game, therefore:

- Team managers should provide for an "*adequate number*" of team practices during the course of a season. An "*adequate number*" is defined as a minimum of three (3) "*contacts*" (games and practices) per week, which includes the pre-season period. The minimum may be waived if fields are not made available by the League.

- There shall be no mandatory off-site practices at any time.
- No player shall be required to arrive at a game more than 30 minutes prior to game time.

MINORS:

- All Local Rules pertaining specifically to TWLL Minor League play shall be developed by the TWLL Minor League Director and approved by the League President.
- A handout detailing these rules shall be distributed by the Minor League Director to all applicable managers and coaches.
- The Minor League Director reserves the right to change any of these local playing rules at any time to ensure safe and enjoyable play at the Minor level.

INSTRUCTIONAL:

- All Local Rules pertaining specifically to TWLL Instructional League play shall be developed by the TWLL Minor League Director and approved by the League President.
- A handout detailing these rules shall be distributed by the Minor League Director to all applicable managers and coaches.
- The Minor League Director reserves the right to change any of these local playing rules at any time to ensure safe and enjoyable play at the Instructional level.

T-BALL:

- All Local Rules pertaining specifically to TWLL T-Ball League play shall be developed by the TWLL Minor League Director and approved by the League President.
- A handout detailing these rules shall be distributed by the Minor League Director to all applicable managers and coaches.
- The Minor League Director reserves the right to change any of these local playing rules at any time to ensure safe and enjoyable play at the T-Ball level.

MANAGERS, COACHES, and UMPIRES

The President is responsible for appointing all managers and the umpire-in-chief prior to February 1.

Board members and managers may recommend candidates to fill managerial vacancies.

Managers are responsible for appointing their coaches with the approval of the board.

All managers and coaches serve at the pleasure of the President.

- The President may suspend, sanction, or terminate a manager or coach at any time for conduct detrimental to TWLL.
- Coaches may also be terminated by the manager of their team.
- No manager shall hold a managerial position in another youth baseball organization during the TWLL season.

The umpire-in-chief is responsible for assigning umpires to all regular season, playoff, and tournament games.

THE DRAFT

Majors

TWLL shall continue to use the draft method that has been used in previous years.

Players shall be selected annually by means of a reverse order draft based on regular season records from the previous year.

The league shall conduct a tryout for all Major League-eligible players by March 1.

Board Members and Managers shall conduct the tryout.

As stated in the, "*Local Rules, Majors*" section of this document:

- No major team shall have more than six players of any age.
- All Major teams shall consist of a twelve player roster.

In the event, based on registration and the number of players eligible to be drafted into the Majors, TWLL is forced, by Board Decision, to reduce the number of teams in the League during the regular season, the following guidelines shall be followed for team reduction. The first or subsequent, team to be reduced shall be determined by the following steps:

- Foremost, it shall be the team that would have the least impact on returning players. This is defined as the team who has the least amount of returning patched players.

- Second, if two teams have the same amount of returning players, the TWLL League President shall determine which team has the least amount of manager or rostered coach seniority, at the Major Level, and that team shall be reduced.
- Lastly, if teams have the same number of returning players and the rostered coach or manager seniority is equal, the League President shall have the final decision as to which team or teams shall be reduced.
- The League President shall reserve the right to rename remaining teams, after a reduction, to retain the most tenured of TWLL team names.

The Schedule

The TWLL League President, with recommendations from the Board of Directors, shall reserve the right to determine the number of regular season games to be played.

Teams shall play all other teams equally.

Every effort will be made to determine the TWLL champion by June 30.

The top four teams with the best regular end of season record shall make the playoffs.

The playoff format shall be as follows:

- The first round of the playoffs, the first place team shall play the fourth place team and the second place team shall play the third place team, in a best-of-three series.
- The second round of the playoffs shall be the winner of 1 vs. 4 against the winner of 2 vs. 3 for the League Championship.

All series shall be played on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday of the same week.

- In the event of a rainout, Monday's game would play Tuesday, Tuesday's game would play Wednesday and Thursday's game would play Friday.
- In the event of multiple rainouts, The League President shall reserve the right to determine the playoff schedule.

The winner of the TWLL Championship shall play the winner of the TELL for the City of Taunton Championship.

Minors

The Minor League Director shall reserve the right to determine the number of regular season games to be played and the format for playoffs.

Instructional

The Minor League Director shall reserve the right to determine the number of regular season games to be played and the format for playoffs

T-Ball

The Minor League Director shall reserve the right to determine the number of regular season games to be played.

ALL-STAR MANAGER AND COACH SELECTIONS

Any interested Major League manager or coach may submit their name, to the Board of Directors, for consideration to manage any level District or Tournament All-Star Team. The Board of Directors shall review all applicants and make recommendations to the league president. The League President, with consideration of Board recommendations, shall reserve the right to appoint All-Star managers.

All star managers shall appoint All-Star coaches to their respective teams with approval of the League President.

ALL-STAR SELECTIONS

11-12 Year Old District All Star Team

- The player agent shall create a ballot with all eligible 12 year old players listed on the ballot.
- Each 12 year old player, on a Major Team, may vote for up to six All-Star candidates, not including himself or herself.
- Ballots with more than six selections or where a player has selected himself or herself, shall be invalid and discarded.
- The top five vote getters are automatically selected.
- The managers from the regular season Major teams shall meet and select the next five players.
- The All-Star manager shall select the remaining players based on team size.
- The team size shall be determined by the ALL-Star Manager, within the guidelines of Little League baseball Tournament Play.

While the Major team is typically comprised of 12-year old players, the manager may select one or more 11-year old players if in his or her judgment circumstances reasonably warrant such selection.

12 Year Old Tournament All Star Team

- Tryouts shall be announced and all eligible 12-year old players shall be afforded the opportunity to attend All-Star tournament team tryouts.
- The 12-year old All Star tournament team manager shall oversee the tryout and recruit other regular season coaches or managers to evaluate players.
- The team shall be selected by the team manager after recommendations from the evaluators.
- The team size shall be determined by the ALL-Star Manager, within the guidelines of Little League baseball Tournament Play.

11 Year District Old All Star Team

- Tryouts shall be announced and all eligible 11-year old players shall be afforded the opportunity to attend All-Star tryouts.
- The 11-year old All Star manager shall oversee the tryout and recruit other regular season coaches or managers to evaluate players.
- The team shall be selected by the team manager after recommendations from the evaluators.
- The team size shall be determined by the ALL-Star Manager, within the guidelines of Little League baseball Tournament Play.

11 Year Old Tournament All Star Team

- Tryouts shall be announced and all eligible 11-year old players shall be afforded the opportunity to attend All-Star tournament team tryouts.
- The 11-year old All Star tournament team manager shall oversee the tryout and recruit other regular season coaches or managers to evaluate players.
- The team shall be selected by the team manager after recommendations from the evaluators.
- The team size shall be determined by the ALL-Star Manager, within the guidelines of Little League baseball Tournament Play.

10 Year Old District/Tournament All Star Team

- Tryouts shall be announced and all eligible 10-year old players shall be afforded the opportunity to attend All-Star tryouts.
- The 10-year old All Star manager shall oversee the tryout and recruit other regular season coaches or managers to evaluate players.
- The team shall be selected by the team manager after recommendations from the evaluators.
- The team size shall be determined by the ALL-Star Manager, within the guidelines of Little League baseball Tournament Play.

9 Year Old District/Tournament All Star Team

- Tryouts shall be announced and all eligible 9-year old players shall be afforded the opportunity to attend All-Star tryouts.
- The 9-year old All Star manager shall oversee the tryout and recruit other regular season coaches or managers to evaluate players.
- The team shall be selected by the team manager after recommendations from the evaluators.
- The team size shall be determined by the ALL-Star Manager, within the guidelines of Little League baseball Tournament Play.

8 Year Tournament Old All Star Team

- Tryouts shall be announced and all eligible 8-year old players shall be afforded the opportunity to attend All-Star tryouts.
- The 8-year old All Star manager shall oversee the tryout and recruit other regular season coaches or managers to evaluate players.
- The team shall be selected by the team manager after recommendations from the evaluators.
- The team size shall be determined by the ALL-Star Manager, within the guidelines of Little League baseball Tournament Play.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Poor sportsmanship by managers, coaches, players or spectators can result in ejection from the game and removal from the park. Examples of poor sportsmanship include throwing equipment, using illegal equipment, bad language, taunting or gesturing in an unsportsman-like manner to opponents, arguing with an umpire's judgment call or harassing ANYONE. A

manager may deny a player his/her privilege to play in one or more future games for disciplinary reasons provided that:

- The President or his/her designee approves such action in advance, and the opposing manager is notified prior to start of game, and
- The action is recorded in the scorebook as player being absent, and
- Before any action is taken, every effort is made to resolve the problem.

AWARDS

In an effort to recognize and perpetuate the memory of those who played a critical role in building and sustaining TWLL, the following awards shall be presented at the conclusion of every season.

American Division

- Most Valuable Player – William Norman Crowley Trophy
- Sportsmanship Award – Harold Cleary Trophy
- Pitcher of the Year – Lefty Enos Trophy
- American Division best season record – John Holmes Award

National Division

- Most Valuable Player – Ed Lancaster Trophy
- Sportsmanship Award – David Green Trophy
- Pitcher of the Year – George Caras Trophy
- National Division best season record – Bruce Whowell Award

TWLL

- President's Trophy – Peter Stevens Trophy (Selected by the President)
- TWLL Championship – Clem Butts Trophy
- Volunteer of the Year – The Doris Stevens Award

Violation of Local and/or National playing rules (with emphasis on participation rules) may ultimately result in sanctions including ejection and/or dismissal, as determined, by the Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Higgins

Taunton Western Little League President