

2017 Wakefield Little League - Local Rules

Table of Contents

1. Introduction and Officers

Application of Rules

2. General Local Regulations

Registration

Manager/Coaches Requirements

Tryouts

Draft

3. Baseball Local Regulations

Major League Baseball Teams

Schedules/Practices, Game Preliminaries

Makeups, Umpires, Official Scorer, Discipline

Pitching, Tie Breaker Rules, Playoffs

Minor League Baseball

4. Softball Local Regulations

Starting, ending, makeups, batting, running, fielding

Tiebreakers, post season,

Seniors and Majors specific rules

Minor and Farm Softball specific rules

1. Introduction and Officers

The Wakefield Massachusetts Little League Executive Board of Directors puts forth the following rules. Their signatures designate approval of the rules and a commitment to uphold them.

Executive Board of Directors:

Andy Jamerson, President

Bryan Fabbri, Vice President

Marty Kane, Treasurer

Dena Domey, Player Agent

Tim O'Brien, Safety Officer

The Wakefield Little League Board of Directors, elected from and by the adult members of the league, is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the league within the rules, regulations and policies of Little League. This board does not have the authority to alter, suspend or change any of the rules, regulations or policies of Little League. However, wide latitude is given to this board in many areas of operation so that the local needs of the community may be met. The board may adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the league as it may deem proper. The board has the power to discipline, suspend or remove any director, officer or committee member including managers, coaches, or players of the league, subject to provisions of the local league constitution.

Application of Rules:

As indicated by Little League International the rules expire at the end of our fiscal year and must be renewed annually. Rule changes cannot be made during the regular season Wakefield Little League and its Board of Directors will renew and approve any new rules prior to the first game being played.

WLL follows all Little League rules except where local rules are specified in this document.

2. General Local Regulations – applies to all divisions

Registration:

The BOD will conduct registrations each year to enroll players in the program. Registration dates will be determined and announced in the paper as well as school based flyers in ample time prior to registration. Online registration will also be available and is the preferred method of registration. Fees structure including late fees will be established by the board to cover operational expenses.

Tryouts:

The BOD will conduct tryouts to form teams of appropriate age groups. The tryout will be advertised in the local paper, school flyers and email as best possible. Ages 9 and up can participate in tryouts. Non drafted and all other younger players are placed on teams by the

age directors and player agent. There will be two scheduled tryouts to accommodate all participants.

Manager/Coaches Requirements:

- Must have up to date CORI form.
- Team manager may not occupy bench until annual roster is passed in to Player Agent.
- The Board of Director's MUST approve all managers and coaches.
- Must have 2 adults in attendance at their scheduled field maintenance day. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action for the Manager.
- Inform Player Agent of any player missing a game due to injury. All injuries must be reported to the Safety Officer and/or the Player Agent. This is the Manager's responsibility.
- Notify Player Agent of any needed call-ups within 24 hours of game.
- Shall adhere to ALL local and National rules.
- Shall be subject to annual Board of Directors evaluation.
- May be terminated by a 2/3 vote of the Board of Directors present. Must have at least 2/3 of BOD's present to take this vote.
- Shall make certain that he/she coaches adhere to WLL's zero tolerance policy. (Please refer to WLL's zero tolerance policy)
- Allowed an alternate coach/es (must have up to date CORI form) to enter dugout area in the event either the Manager or one of his coaches is not available for a game.
- Both teams should perform pre game field maintenance as time allows.
- Both teams must clean dugouts after each game and secure all doors, bathrooms and clubhouse before leaving the field.
- Coaches and assistants must wear shirt purchased by the Board to be on the bench, (MLB teams may wear shirts that match their team colors). This is a safety issue and must be taken seriously. This is for identification purposes as only coaches who have been CORI checked will be issued a coaches shirt.
- Managers are required to practice their teams at least once a week. Twice a week is recommended.
- It is the Managers responsibility to ensure he has a minimum of 9 players available for his/her game. A manager who does not meet this obligation will be required to appear before the Coaches Committee to explain their actions.

Draft:

- Draft will be scheduled as soon after the final tryout as possible once a complete draft list can be compiled.
- W.L.L will operate using the Open Pool Draft order for all major teams.
- There is no "gentlemen's agreement" allowed for any purpose for the draft.
- All managers must strictly follow the draft process put forth by the Little League Operating Manual. Player Agent shall determine all disputes to National Little League rules.
- ***A Minimum number of 12's required will be determined by the following: Total number of 12's returning will be added to eligible 12's in draft to comprise total "pool of 12's." Total pool of 12's divided by total ML teams to come up with minimum/maximum 12's per team. Example: (75/12=6 with remainder of 3). Hence- No team may have fewer than 6 twelve's. Managers will be responsible for leaving room in there draft for mandatory 12 selections.*** Player agents can advise managers as required. Failure to pick 12's at/on appropriate rounds will require returning previous non 12 or special pick(s) to pool and drafting consecutive 12 picks until corrected. The BOD each year will determine the number and ages of the MLB players eligible.

- No trades will be allowed

Safety: No batters are allowed “on deck”. Absolutely no swinging of bats at any time unless you are up. This is a major safety issue and must be strictly enforced. Players must wear helmets when batting, on base or while coaching bases. Catchers must wear helmeted mask while warming up pitchers.

3. Baseball Local Regulations by Division

Major League Baseball Teams:

Schedules/Practices:

Season schedules & times will be determined by the Board of Directors and will be strictly adhered to. Practice time will be assigned at weekly meeting by the practice field signup sheet or pre assigned scheduled times during the week. The order of priority for assignment of practice fields & games is:

Regular season teams Playoff teams All Stars Summer Sandlot League Jimmy Fund Any Non Wakefield Little League teams

Game Preliminaries:

At the beginning of each Major League game, HOME TEAM managers will present two game balls to the umpire-in-chief. The team roster plus the manager and two (2) coaches present at the start of the game are allowed in the dugout or on the field. A manager or coach may be replaced if a member of the coaching staff has to leave the game.

Starting and Ending the Game: During the first four- (4) weeks of the season, no inning shall start after 7:45p.m. During the remainder of the season, no inning shall start after 8:00 p.m. (By definition a new inning begins as soon as the 3rd out of an inning occurs) All games will be called at the fields in case of bad weather unless everybody was notified before hand. The two managers decide if playing conditions are safe. Once the first pitch is thrown, the umpire is in charge and will determine if the game is to be stopped because of weather conditions or darkness. There are no “Mercy” or “Slaughter” rules in effect.

Makeup Games:

The President (and or designee) is responsible for re-scheduling rainouts, suspended or and continuation games. All game should be made up in the same week they were scheduled in the first available opening. Teams should not be forced to play a make-up on a day that would result in playing 3 days in a row. Make-up games take precedence over practices. A team may not play more than 4 games in a week. The player agent must approve waiver of this rule. Failure to abide by this rule may result in forfeiture for the offending team or teams. The Board of Directors will make this decision. Levels lower than Majors are made up at the direction of the Division Director. Directors should make every effort to see that a full schedule is played.

Umpires:

Any person, in case of an emergency, may be called on to umpire a game. This must be done with the agreement of both managers. If a base umpire is chosen from the stands,

permission must be secured from the official umpire and both managers must be in agreement.

Official Scorer:

All team books are subject to examination by the player agent at any time during the season. Manager or scorekeeper shall sign opposing scorebook after the game and verify final score and pitch counts.

Discipline:

A manager has the right to suspend a player for 1 game, with the approval of the Player Agent and the notification of the child's parents. A second offense may be grounds for the disqualification for the remainder of the season per a vote by the Board of Directors. Player agent must notify President and Board of any Suspensions.

Pitching:

All pitching rules are subject to National Little League Pitch count Rules. Local rules include: Balks will not be called at any time. Intentional throwing of a curve ball is prohibited. The first and second infraction of intentionally throwing a curve ball will be called a ball. On the third infraction, the pitcher will be removed from the mound, but is eligible to take another position in the field subject to playing rules. MLB (and AAA) are to report pitch counts and scores (if required) on the website within 4 hours. Continued failure to do so will result in disciplinary action by the BOD. If unable to access the website, please contact your player agent and or division director to report scores (both teams) and pitch counts within the above time frame. MLB Teams must report pitch counts for their team and their opposition.

Tie Breaker Rules:

1. Best overall record (all games)
2. Head to head record Record within your league
3. Runs against in head to head games
4. Runs against in division games
5. Runs against in all games
6. Best record in inter-league play

Playoffs: All major league teams will make the playoffs. An exciting double elimination playoff will determine the American and National League champions. The first and second place teams In each league will be seeded and receive a first round bye. League champions play a best 2 out of 3 Town Series. Every effort should be made to conclude the Town Series prior to the beginning of District All-star Tournament play. Tournament pitching rules will be used for playoffs and Town Series games. See Green Book rules for specifics.

Team with best season record shall have option to choose home or away team. After first game home and away shall alternate. This rule shall apply to BB and SB, on Minors, Majors and Seniors. Home team chooses dugout. If no record maintained first game by coin flip and alternate thereafter

Minor League Baseball:

Minor League rules are to see that we are working to develop players to the best of their ability while applying fair play. The emphasis is on participation and sportsmanship.

General: 6 innings - 2 hour time limit - use your best judgment on darkness, rain, field

conditions. Prior to the last inning, half innings are 3 outs or a ten-batter limit (whichever comes first). Players must not play the same position for more than two innings per game. Exception: Pitchers and Catchers (see below). Scores and standings are not kept during the regular season.

League Structures and Drafting: Minor League Director(s) will review registration headcounts each year to determine the number of teams in the minor leagues (AA and AAA) to strive for competitive balance. AAA Players are selected by coach's evaluation at the league tryouts. All 10, 11 and (12 year old players with a MLB waiver) must be drafted by AAA teams. All 9 year olds who tryout, are eligible for the AAA draft. 9 year old players not drafted or who do not tryout for AAA will make up AA teams. AAA Draft will be held shortly after the MLB draft when a complete AAA draft list can be compiled. AA players will Draft after AAA. Teams in all other divisions will be selected by the Age directors. Exclusion 2014, 2015, No AA. The league will consist of 9,10,11's & 12's that have signed a waiver.

Coaches: Managers are required to practice their teams at least once a week. Twice a week is recommended. (See General Local Rules for Manager/Coach requirements) Coaches will umpire behind pitching mound if no ump is present. Please report to the age director when no umps arrive to a scheduled game. Coaches should work together and set ground rules with the ump before the game. Coaches will decide if rain-outs are necessary. You must e-mail/contact the Age Director and try and re-schedule as soon as possible). Umpires will also need to be notified. Umps will have a game card that needs to be signed by the coaches after each game.

Pitchers / Catchers:

Pitchers and Catchers are allowed to play 3 innings at the same position. (Little League Pitch count rules are in effect which sets limits on pitching and catching. (See LL Green Book for specifics). Pitchers may not re-enter as pitchers once they are relieved. No intentional walks. Only players with a mask/helmet may warm up the pitcher. Coaches are not permitted to warm up pitchers. All players are eligible to pitch. The manager should teach the player to pitch with accuracy not speed.

Pitch counts: (See Green Book for details) Coaches are required to keep and report their own team's counts using the leagues prescribed method of reporting. Counts must be reported promptly (4 hours after game) (See Majors Local Rules)

Batting:

Continuous batting order. Everyone who shows up is in the batting lineup. If the 5th batter makes your last out in the first game of the season, the 6th batter will lead off second game, batter 7 will bat second etc.... 10 batter rule: Inning is over after three outs or the 10th batter has hit. 10 Batter limit is removed for the last inning.

Runners:

Runners may steal 2nd and 3rd but not Home and advance on pass balls except from 3rd. The ball must pass plate before runners can steal. Tagging up is allowed. Runners cannot advance on throw back to mound. (REVIEWABLE after first couple weeks) Must slide rule: If there is a play at any base, the base runner must slide. If in the judgment of the ump there was a play and the runner does not slide, he can call the runner out. No crashes or collisions are allowed.

AAA player replacement:

When a minor league player leaves a team, the AAA manager will have to pick a player in AA subject to the player agent's / Age Directors discretion. Pool players will be maintained by the Director.

Playoffs:

A Double Elimination tournament is traditional. Scores will be kept to determine a Champion. All teams make the playoffs. A bye may be necessary (due to an odd count of teams). Team that drafted first will get the bye (if necessary). The batting order can be changed for each game. All players bat. Further details to be discussed at a league meeting prior to playoff start. Other rules may be modified for playoffs by a coach's vote.

4. Softball Local Regulations all divisions

- **Must Play rule** - In the Regular Season, a player must play at least 3 innings. In the Playoffs a player must play at least 2 innings
- **Starting and Ending the Game (Forfeits)** - All Softball games are 6 innings except Senior Division which is 7 innings. In order to avoid make-ups. Majors and Seniors can start with 8 players. If less than 8 players to start, wait 10 minutes, and if still less than 8 players, it's a forfeit. If during the game a team gets into a situation that they have less than 8 players, stop the game and finish later. All Minor games are encouraged to play if possible no minimum required.
- **Cancellations:** All games will be called at the fields in case of bad weather unless everyone was notified beforehand. The two managers decide if playing conditions are safe. Once the first pitch is thrown, the umpire(s) (or coaches at lower levels) are in charge and will determine if the game is to be stopped because of weather conditions or darkness.
- During the first four (4) weeks of the season, no inning shall start after 7:45pm to be determined by coaches for the safety of the players. During the remainder of the season, no inning shall start after 8:00 p.m. (By definition, a new inning begins as soon as the 3rd out of an inning occurs) (This rule is waived for Town Series and All Stars)
- **Must slide rule:** Must slide to avoid collisions at 2nd 3rd and home, player may be called out at umpire's discretion (ALL DIVISIONS)
- **Make Up's:** *Seniors, Majors:* All make-up and continuation games will be made up in the same week they were scheduled (as practical as possible). A team may not play more than 4 games in a week. All games that cannot be made up in that week due to the 4 game limit will be made up the following week. The player agent or League Director must approve waiver of this rule. Failure to abide by this rule may result in forfeiture for the offending team or teams. The Board of Directors will make this decision. *Minors, Farm:* Make-ups are at the direction of the Division Director. Directors should make every effort to see that a full schedule is played.
- **Scoring Limits:** Seniors /Majors/Minors Divisions have a six run per inning maximum rule, waived in the last inning of the game. Exception is Continuation of Play but play stops when in hands of pitcher within circle.
- **Rosters:** Number of teams and roster size will be determined by the player agent.
- **Batting:** Seniors/Majors/Minors/Farm: Play by continuous batting order by game through Regular Season.
- **Runners:** Must return to base when pitcher has control of the ball.
- **Fielding:** Outfielders must play their respective outfield positions prior to the pitch.
- **Softball Tie Breaker Rules:** Best overall record (all games) Head to head record Comparative record vs. the top teams in the standings, in descending order Coin flip Runs for or against are not used as a tiebreaker in Softball.
- **Post Season:** Eligibility for all stars is in accordance with National Little League tournament rules.
- **Safety Mask** shall be worn by the third, pitcher and first basemen and every other

infield position is highly recommended. This applies to Wakefield teams only, does not apply to other teams within our District or other Districts playing interleague ball with Wakefield.

- **League Playoffs** will go by tournament rules.
- **Max Run Rule – 5 runs per inning max**

Seniors Softball:

Outfielder Option: 10 players on defense is (optional) ; the fourth outfielder shall be a short fielder, the short fielder shall play on the outfield grass, ALL FIELDS ,no exceptions. Four across outfield set not allowed.

Majors Softball:

Pitching: A pitcher may pitch up to 4 Innings or 12 outs per game per day.

Upper Minors:

Minors Softball:

All players bat.

No Bunting

Stealing allowed as agreed upon by coaches and VP and player agent.

Runners allowed to lead once the ball crosses the plate.

Runners can't advance on Wild Pitch.

Pitching: A pitcher may pitch up to 4 Innings or 12 outs per game.

Please enter game results on web

Minors Playoffs:

Games are 6 innings .There is no time limit innings are 3 outs or 10 Batters whichever comes first. Last inning, the 10 batter rule is waived. You must get 3 outs. There are no ties in playoffs, you will need to play extra innings. Please Note, a pitcher can only pitch 6 innings in a game. No runner may advance to the next base if the ball is under the control of an infielder, unless more than halfway to the next base.

Lower Minors (Farm):

Pitching mound: Pitcher's Plate is 40' from home plate. Coaches can use portable pitching plates and may move pitchers in no closer than 35'.

There is no bunting allowed in Farm League.

Coaches pitch up to mid-season, players pitch optional per VP and Players Agents discretion.

Coaches should use discretion and must keep the game moving at an acceptable pace when a player pitches.

Base Running: No stealing. No advancing on passed balls. No player may advance to the next base once the ball is controlled in the infield.

5. Tournament Play Rules for both baseball and softball will be voted and posted prior to June 1.

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