

Stafford Little League Softball

Bi-laws & Local Rules

2016 Season

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document will outline the local bi-laws and rules adopted by Stafford Little League (Stafford Springs, CT) Softball. These rules are a supplement to the Rules and Regulations of Little League Softball, Incorporated. These bi-laws and local rules will be reviewed and approved each year by the Board of Directors prior to the start of the season. These bi-laws and rules are in effect from the date of approval to December 31, 2012.

2. DRAFT RULES & ASSESSMENT

Each division will have its own draft with its own set of rules. These rules will be followed without exception. Any deviation from the rules must have approval of the Board of Directors prior to the draft.

Assessments will be held for all players ages 8 through 16 . The draft will be divided by age group and will be held on one day. Players will be judged on batting, fielding and throwing. 7 year olds will be allowed to assess on a case basis.

A panel of three judges (to be approved by the Board of Directors) will rank each player individually for each category, assigning them a rank of one through ten (one being the lowest).

Players will be given numbers only and will be announced by number only for the judging panel. Managers and Coaches will also be present and will have a list containing player's names and numbers.

The Player Agent will tally the scores of the judging panel and rank the players from highest to lowest to determine the draft pool.

A. Major League Draft

The Major League Division follows the "Plan B alternative" draft from the Little League 2012 Operating Manual as well as all rules for Options for Sons, Daughters and Siblings.

Draft pool eligibility:

Additional players may be added to the Draft with the Board's approval for special circumstances (example: injury at time of assessment)

B. Minor & Major League Draft

- Players who are league age eight to twelve are eligible for the draft.
- Players age 7 to 10 may play on a minor league team. Determination for eligibility will occur during assessments. At parental request, 11 year olds may play in the minors
- All players age 11 and 12 will be selected to Major League teams. Once all 11's and 12's have been drafted to teams, 10 year olds may be considered if necessary to fill rosters. A pool of the top 10 assessing 10 year olds will be provided by the Player Agent for the Major League managers to select from. Selection of a 10 year old will be at the discretion of the Major League managers.
- Draft order will be determined by randomly picking numbers. Draft will be "S-shaped". Example: pick one through six, then six through one, etc.
- If a player is drafted and has a sibling in the draft, the sibling may be taken in the round in which he or she has assessed.
- Returning managers (if approved by the board) shall have first right to keep the same team name from the previous year. Other teams assigned by random drawing.

Junior & Senior League Draft

- Assessments will be held with all Managers and Coaches present.
- Each Manager and Coach will assess each player according to their own standards. The players will be assigned draft rounds, based on their assessment scores..
- To keep teams evenly divided, all players will be divided into groups: pitchers, and all other players.
- Random drawing will determine the team to start the draft.

3. **DIVISION RULES**

Game times will be 6:00 PM on weekdays, with no new inning being started after 7:45 before Memorial Day, or 8:00 PM thereafter.

Weekend games should be played to their entirety, unless there is another game scheduled to follow on the same field. In this instance, these games will have a 2-1/2 hour time limit.

Makeup dates should be scheduled through the specific division coordinator. Coaches should contact their respective coordinator as soon as possible to get the makeup scheduled.

A. Junior/Seniors Rules

- The home team will maintain the official score keeping & be responsible for preparing the field (putting up banners, putting in bases, lining the fields and ensure clean and safe dugouts). The away team may keep their own record for their individual player's statistics
- Games are 7 innings long if time allows, no inning can begin after 8:00.
- Prior to the start of practice and game play, each Manager is responsible for walking the field to ensure no hazards are present.
- Managers and coaches must ensure that the dugout and field are clear of trash at the end of the game or practice.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed on any playing field during games or practices.
- Teams will use a continuous batting order. If a player is late, they will be added to the end of the lineup. If a player has to leave, they can be dropped from the lineup
- Will play an inter league schedule with other participating little league towns
- Rainouts will be scheduled based on weather, field availability and the softball coordinators discretion
- Limit 7 runs per inning per team

B. Major League Rules

- The home team will maintain the official score keeping & be responsible for preparing the field (putting up banners, putting in bases, lining the fields and ensure clean and safe dugouts). The away team may keep their own record for their individual player's statistics.
- Prior to the start of practice and game play, each Manager is responsible for walking the field to ensure no hazards are present.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed on any playing field during games or practices.

- Fans, heckling players, coaches or umpires must be dealt with by team managers and/or umpires. If the fan continues to act inappropriately, play must be suspended until that fan leaves the grounds.
- No arguing calls. All judgment calls are final. Questions regarding interpretations should involve team managers and umpire only. Remember- our goal is to get the call right.
- Games start at 5:30 pm (unless agreed upon by both teams).
- Home teams will supply the umpire. If umpires are unavailable, parents may be asked for assistance. All umpires should umpire from behind the catcher.
- Weekday games: New inning cannot be started at the judgment of the umpire that further play would no longer be safe for the children.
- A player can only sit out 2 defensive innings per game.
- Little league softball pitching rules apply with one exception:
- A: Pitcher must be removed after hitting her 4th batter in a game or 3rd batter in the inning.
- 3-6-9 rule. Each half inning will end at 3 outs, 6 runs, or 9 batters- whichever comes first.
- Continuous batting order, open defensive substitution.
- Each team may place 10 players on the field for defense. The tenth player must play an outfield position. No more than 10 should ever be used on the field.
- Infield fly rule in effect. No head first sliding.
- Dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect.
- Pitchers should be encouraged to wear face masks/guards, although not required/mandatory.
- Before the game, team managers may confer on whether to remove a rule from gameplay. Must be agreed on by both managers. The rule removed cannot counteract LL rules concerning the division. No restrictions can be added to the ruleset in this fashion.

C. Minor League Rules

- The home team will maintain the official score keeping & be responsible for preparing the field (putting up banners, putting in bases, lining the fields and ensure clean and safe dugouts). The away team may keep their own record for their individual player's statistics.
- Prior to the start of practice and game play, each Manager is responsible for walking the field to ensure no hazards are present.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed on any playing field during games or practices.

- Fans, heckling players, coaches or umpires must be dealt with by team managers and/or umpires. If the fan continues to act inappropriately, play must be suspended until that fan leaves the grounds.
- No arguing calls. All judgment calls are final. Questions regarding interpretations should involve team managers and umpire only. Remember- our goal is to get the call right.
- Games start at 5:30 pm (unless agreed upon by both teams).
- Home teams will supply the umpire. If umpires are unavailable, parents may be asked for assistance. All umpires should umpire from behind the catcher.
- Weekday games: New inning cannot be started after 7:30pm, dusk, or at the judgment of the umpire that further play would no longer be safe for the children.
- Weekend games: Maximum length of a weekend game is 2 1/2 hours. New inning cannot be started 2 hours after the first pitch.
- A player can only sit out 2 defensive innings per game. Players should be moved to different positions during each game. Players should not be designated a position for the entire game. All players should be allowed to play all positions during the course of the season.
- Little league softball pitching rules apply with one exception:
- A: Pitcher must be removed after hitting her 4th batter in a game or 3rd batter in the inning.
- 3-6-9 rule. Each half inning will end at 3 outs, 6 runs, or 9 batters- whichever comes first.
- Continuous batting order, open defensive substitution.
- Each team may place 10 players on the field for defense. The tenth player must play an outfield position. No more than 10 should ever be used on the field.
- Walks- At no time may the pitcher walk the bases loaded. In a situation where this could occur, the coach from her team will come in to pitch. The player keeps the strike count and continues her at bat until the player either hits or strikes out.
- Stealing- The catcher must have the ball or the ball must have gotten past the catcher. No runner may steal home. No stealing when coach is pitching. Runners may only advance home on a passed ball or wild pitch a total of twice per inning.

- Children should be taught to lead off the base once the pitched ball has reached the catcher.
- Throwing down. If the runner is attempting to steal a base the catcher is encouraged to throw down in attempt to throw out the runner. If the runner is tagged out, she is out. If the runner is safe no further advancement may be made even if there is an error on the play. No runner may advance home from 3rd base on a throw down attempt.
- Base Advancement. If a player gets a clean hit that reaches the outfield that player may advance as normal at her own risk of being put out.
- Runners can advance one base on an error.
- No infield fly rule in effect. No head first sliding.
- Pitchers should be encouraged to wear face masks/guards, although not required/mandatory.
- Before the game, team managers may confer on whether to remove a rule from gameplay. Must be agreed on by both managers. The rule removed cannot counteract LL rules concerning the division. No restrictions can be added to the ruleset in this fashion.

D. Grapefruit/Coach Pitch Rules

- Fans, heckling players, or coaches must be dealt with by team managers. If the fan continues to act inappropriately, play must be suspended until that fan leaves the grounds.
- No arguing calls. All judgment calls are final. Questions regarding interpretations should involve team managers only. Remember- our goal is to get the call right.
- Games start at 5:30 pm (unless agreed upon by both teams).
- Weekday games: New inning cannot be started after 7:00pm, dusk, or at the judgment of the umpire that further play would no longer be safe for the children.
- Weekend games: Maximum length of a weekend game is 2 hours. New inning cannot be started 1 1/2 hours after the first pitch.
- A player can only sit out 2 defensive innings per game. Players should be moved to different positions during each game. Players should not be designated a position for the entire game. All players should be allowed to play all positions during the course of the season.
- 3-5-9 rule. Each half inning will end at 3 outs or 5 runs- whichever comes first.
- Continuous batting order, open defensive substitution.
- Each team should be encouraged to place 10 players on the field for defense. The tenth player must play an outfield position. No more than 10 should ever be used on the field.
- Stealing- There is no stealing in this division.
- Children should be taught to lead off the base once the pitched ball has reached the catcher.
- Base Advancement. If a player gets a clean hit that reaches the outfield that player may advance as normal at her own risk of being put out.

- There is no advancement of the runner on an error. Players are still developing their throwing and catching skills.
- No infield fly rule in effect. No head first sliding.
- Pitching----The coach should not throw more than 5-6 pitches to a child. If they do not hit the ball, they will be declared out and the next batter will hit.

CHAMPIONSHIP BY DIVISION

Senior, Major League and Minor League will each have their own championship. After the season has concluded, a playoff begins with all teams (highest ranking teams playing lowest ranking teams). Each season will end with the final two teams from each division competing on Championship Night. Pool players are not allowed during playoff games.

Pitchers for Majors and Seniors games may not pitch more than 4 innings in a game.

Trophies will be awarded for playoff champions

4. **TOURNAMENT TEAM SELECTION**

Tournament Teams- ages nine through 12

- The manager of each team is recommended by the Director of Softball Operations. (Appointed by President of Stafford Little League and approved by Board).
- Each manager will supply the All Star manager with a list of 10 players ranked in order by skill. It will be reviewed by a committee made up of the All Star manager and coaches, player agent and Director of Softball Operations. The manager will decide the number of players they want to take on the team.
- Each manager presents their final roster and coaching staff to the Stafford Little League Board for approval

Tournament Teams- Seniors

- Manager of each team is selected (Appointed by Director of Softball Operations and approved by LL Board).
- Manager will complete the roster based on recommendations from manager and coaches.

5. **LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are defined as: Manager, Coach, Umpire, Team Parent, and Food Booth Working (regular worker only- not an occasional parent helping). All volunteers must complete a Volunteer Form from the current year as required by

Little League International. The form must be completely filled in and the social security number **is required**. A background check will be completed using the information on this form. This will ensure that an accurate check can be done.

Enjoy the 2016 – “Season of Smiles”

2016 Softball Contact Listing

Cliff Stoudt – VP Softball Stafford Little League – Grapefruit League contact
207-632-4132 – cstoudt0811@gmail.com

Jim King – Minors/Majors League contact – 860-573-7468 – kingjames@aol.com

Don Bergeron – Seniors League contact – 860-508-8012 – don.bergeron@kaman.com

Chris Cimmino – Umpire Coordinator – 508-826-8534 – cac2025@icloud.com