



2017 NEW LONDON LITTLE LEAGUE

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Local League Rules

2017

Local League Rules are the rules governing the New London Little League Inc., consisting of Little League Baseball, Little League Softball, Senior League Softball, and Minor League Baseball. These Local League Rules are written, amended and voted on by the Board of Directors and passed by the majority of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors.

These rules shall in no way conflict with any portion of the constitution and by-laws of the New London Little League or the rules of Little League Baseball Inc., Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

These Local League Rules have been amended and approved by the Board of Directors on this Wednesday, March 8, 2017, for the 2017 season.

These Local League Rules have been revised and approved by the Board of Directors on ***March 8, 2017***.

Section 1
General Administration of the League

1. Board of Directors:
 - a. Board member conduct – all Board members will follow the guidelines set forth by Little League International. Any Board member that does not act in an appropriate manner will be subject to immediate review by the Executive Board and possible suspension or expulsion from the League.
 - b. If any Board members do not fulfill their responsibilities, as set forth in the attached, they will either be asked to resign or will be removed from the Board.
 - c. Board members that wish to make purchases over \$250.00 must first gain approval from the board. If approval is not granted prior to the purchase, reimbursement may not be available. Purchases under \$250 can be approved with the consent of the President and Treasurer.
 - d. All requests to the Board must be submitted by written proposal, i.e. what the proposal is for, the amount that it will cost the league, etc.
2. Managers and Coaches:
 - a. To be elected as a manager of a league team, the nominee must have served at least two seasons as a coach of a little league team or minor league team, either in this league or in another league. (If the nominee is from another league that league will be contacted for reference purposes). The nominee should be familiar with the purpose of Little League Baseball
 - i) With positive answers to these questions:
 - (1) Is it in the best interest of the children of the community?
 - (2) Will it bring credit to this Little League program and to the community as a whole?
 - b. Manager nominees are required to fill out a Manager Application and should be received by the Baseball Director by the given due date.
 - c. The nominee should have a good understanding of the game, be able to work with young children and be a positive role model for the players. In the event that a qualified candidate for manager is not available, the league President may appoint a manager with the approval of the Board of Directors.
 - d. The President will appoint Managers from the nominated pool and managers for the upcoming season will be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at the February Board Meeting. If possible, coaches will be nominated by their manager at the March Board Meeting.
 - e. Each team will have one (1) manager and two (2) named coaches. However, other parental/adult help at practices and prior to and following games is endorsed by the League for such purposes as field maintenance, handling equipment or as directed by the manager, as long as the parental/adult help is an approved volunteer of the league. Only the manager and the named coaches are allowed in the dugout for the duration of the game. In any situation that requires a manager or a coach to leave the game, it is the manager's option to play the remaining portion of that game down one or replace with an approved league volunteer. At no time will a team be allowed only one (1) manager or coach during a game, unless the manager or coach remains in the dugout at all times
3. Manager and Coaches Responsibilities

All Managers and Coaches:

 - a. Will adhere to the organizational duties and team environment provisions as stated in the Manager/ Coach contract. These duties include, but are not limited to:
 - i) Will attend work parties when called by the President.
 - ii) Will assist in all fundraising activities.
 - iii) Will attend monthly Manager / Coach's meetings and Board of Director meetings, when required.
 - iv) Are responsible for all uniforms and equipment belonging to their team.
 - v) Will be familiar with the official playing rules of Little League Baseball, with particular attention given to the rules and regulations regarding mandatory playing time and the specific rules concerning the use of pitchers.
 - vi) Both teams are responsible for calling in the pitchers/pitch counts and game scores to the designated Board Member promptly following each game.
 - vii) Of the HOME team are responsible for properly raking the field.

- viii) Of the VISITING team are responsible for taking in the bases and, as well as emptying the garbage cans on both sides of the field.
- ix) That are ejected from a game will be immediately removed from their managing/coaching responsibilities for that game and the next, in accordance with Little League Rules. They are able to appeal the decision to the Board of Directors, but may not participate in any practice/ games during the appeal process.
- x) Of both teams are required to keep score and keep an official pitch count on each pitcher used.
- xi) Will fill out an accident report and submit it to the League Safety Director within 1 week of the incident. Additionally, a phone call is required within 24 hours.
- xii) Obtain CPR certification every two years.

Section 2 Registrations

1. The Player Agent will hold a minimum of three (3) in-person registration dates.
2. Prior to the player tryout, all eligible children must be:
 - a. Registered and qualified by being within the Little League age limits and reside within the league boundaries (with proof of residency) or meet the school enrollment requirement
 - b. Have paid the required league registration fees.
 - i) It is Little League Baseball and this Local Leagues belief that no child should ever be turned away or limited in participation because of a parent/guardian's inability to pay a fee. New London Little League has established a Hardship application process whereby family financial hardship can be established and scholarships offered to those in need.
3. Age limits
 - a. T-ball – League Age 4&5 must be born between: September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2013
 - b. Minor League – League Age 6 & 7 & 8 must be born between: September 1, 2009 and August 31, 2011
 - c. Lower Majors Baseball – League Age 8, 9 & 10 must be born between: September 1, 2007 and August 31, 2009
 - d. Upper Majors Baseball – League Age 10, 11 & 12 must be born between: May 1, 2004 and August 31, 2007
 - e. Softball Minor League - League Age 7 & 8 must be born between: January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2009
 - f. Softball 9/10 League - League Age 9 & 10 must be born between: January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007
 - g. Softball Major League - League Age 11 & 12 must be born between January 1, 2004 and December 31, 2005
 - h. Senior League softball will be 13 years old on or before December 31st 2016 will not turn 16 years old until January 1st.

Section 3 Player Tryouts

4. The league's player agent shall compile a list of candidates by name and league age. The final list from the Player Agent will be distributed to all managers prior to the beginning of the draft. This list must be maintained and is the basis for future player pool replacement.
5. The player agent will inform all eligible candidates in writing the dates and times, and the importance of attending the tryouts.
6. The league will hold tryouts in which the player candidates must attend one of the tryouts. If a player candidate does not attend any session of the tryouts and is under 12 years old, the player will not be eligible to play in Upper Majors.

7. During the tryout there will be five areas in which the player will be judged. These areas are Batting/ bunting, Fielding fly balls, Fielding ground balls, Throwing, Running.

Section 4 League Drafts

1. After the completion of the last tryout session, the draft will be held.
2. Prior to the first round and draft order selection, every manager will write down in order of preference their options, they will write a number of options equal to the number of teams in the draft. The list will be announced prior to draft order selection. This selection may be their own son/daughter. In the event that two managers select the same player a manager's son/daughter will have priority, in the event that the selected player is not a son/daughter of one of the managers it will be settled by draft order.
3. The order of selection for the player draft shall be random by pulling a number from a hat. The manager selecting #1 will be Team 1, manager selecting #2 will be Team 2 etc. The draft shall proceed in a snake.

Draft order Example:

Round 1: Team 1, Team 2, Team 3, Team 4, Team 5, Team 6

Round 2: Team 6, Team 5, Team 4, Team 3, Team 2, Team 1.

Round 3: Team 1, Team 2, Team 3, Team 4, Team 5, Team 6.

The draft will continue in this order pattern until each team has met the player limit.

4. Draft options- Siblings. If a manager chooses one of these options, it must be submitted in writing to the Player Agent prior to the start of the draft in order to allow the announcement of intentions to all managers. Except the first option:
 - a. Brothers/Sisters in the draft. - When there are two or more siblings in the draft and the first brother or sister is drafted by a manager, that manager automatically has an option to draft the other brother or sister in the following round. If the manager does not exercise this option the second sibling is eligible to be drafted by any team.
 - b. Brothers/Sister of players currently on the team- if desired, a manager shall submit an option in writing on a draftee if the player candidates' brother or sister is a member of that manager's team. If such an option is submitted, the manager must draft the sibling within the first 3 draft selections.
 - c. Sons/Daughters of Coaches: A NEW coach shall not be appointed nor approved until after the draft to avoid "red shirting" of players through selective coaching appointments. A returning coach, through the manager, may exercise an option in writing to the Player Agent, provided:
 - i) The coach has served as a manager or coach in the league (at any level) for the past 2 years
AND
 - ii) The coach is returning to the same major league team as last year.IMPORTANT: In order for a manager to exercise this option, the coach must qualify under BOTH of these conditions.
5. Special Considerations which apply
 - a. In the event the parent becomes a manager in another league, that parent may not claim the son or daughter.
 - b. Players are eligible only in the league whose boundaries include the parent/manager's home residence (as defined by Little League) or the physical location of the school where the player attends.
 - c. When a vacancy occurs during the playing season, the player selected to fill the vacancy becomes a permanent member of that team, governed by the same regulations as all members of the team selected in the draft.
 - d. Parents of players who become managers or coaches after their children have been selected to a team may not automatically claim their sons or daughters, but may trade for them at the proper time.

6. Trading Players – Following the draft, managers may, if they desire trade players until 14 days after the first scheduled game. All trades shall be made through the Player Agent with justifiable reasons and be approved by the Player Agent, President, and managers from both teams and the player’s parent/guardian. All trades must be on a one for one player basis, and player-for-draft-choice trades are not allowed.
7. Finalizing Rosters:
 - a. The player agent will finalize and submit the team rosters to Little League International, Williamsport PA.
 - b. Prior to submitting rosters, the Player Agent will provide each manager a copy of the roster for review and correct, as necessary. Each manager will provide the Player Agent any corrections within 48 hours of receiving the roster. If no corrections are required, the manager will contact the Player Agent and convey that no corrections are required within the same 48-hour period.
8. Release and Replacement of Players – if at any time during the season a player is released from their team and a replacement is required, the manager of that team is to contact the Player Agent. The Player Agent is to advise the President and the Board. If the release is approved, the President will send a letter of release to the player and parents that the player has been released from their team and league for a justifiable reason. The manager and Player Agent will review the list of available players, which the manager will choose their replacement from.
 - a. Reasons for release-which requires a letter from the parent/player
 - i) Player moves to another city or state
 - ii) Personal reasons
 - iii) Injury
 - (1) Note: with a season ending injury release and the player has remaining eligibility they will only be released from the team for the remainder of that season. This allows the team to fill their roster and allows the injured player to return the following year. In this case both players remain on the roster the following year.
 - iv) Absenteeism / disciplinary
 - v) Any other justifiable reason reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 5 Regular Season Play

1. New London Little League strictly prohibits slash bunting.
2. One foot in the Batter’s Box
 - a. New London Little League will adopt Little League International’s “Keep One Foot in the Batter’s Box” rule.
 - b. Batter’s must keep one foot in the batter’s box throughout their at-bat, barring eight exceptions provided in the Little League Rule Book during regular season and post season playoff games.
 - c. If the batter leaves the batter’s box or delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter. After one warning on the batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter.
3. Intentional Walk
 - a. New London Little League will adopt Little League International’s “Intentional Walk” Rule for Baseball only.
 - b. For Minor & Major Divisions of Baseball, defensive teams will now be able to elect to intentionally walk a batter by announcing the decision to the plate umpire.
 - c. After appropriate notification is made by the defensive manager, the ball is ruled dead and no other runners may advance unless forced by the batter’s award of first base.
 - d. Once the award is granted, four pitches will be added to the defensive pitcher’s official pitch count.
4. Stealing & Relaying of Pitch Selection & Location
 - a. New London Little League will adopt Little League International’s “Stealing & Relaying of Pitch Selection & Location” Rule.
 - b. Stealing and relaying of signs to alert the batter of pitch selection and/or location is unsportsmanlike behavior. If, in the judgement of the umpire, this behavior is occurring, both the

- player and the manager may be ejected from the game. The same rule will be mandated during tournament play.
5. On Field Altercations
 - a. A manager, coach or player shall not leave their position in the field or bench area during a fight or physical confrontation; a manager or coach who attempts to prevent a fight or restore order, in the umpire's judgement, is not in violation of this rule. The umpire shall eject the offender(s) from the game immediately.
 - b. Failure to comply with the ejection may result in the umpire suspending the game and referring it to the Board of Directors for further action.
 6. Schedule of fields for practice
 - a. The Player Agent & Secretary will schedule times for practice for "Yankee", "Fenway", Toby May #1, Toby May #2, Caulkins Park, and Bates Woods. Each team will select choice practice times/ fields, selection will go in draft order with older divisions making selections first. To use any city school field for practice a facility usage request form must be filled out and approved by the Board of Education and the Principal of each school. The Board of Directors will request the use of these fields and will be added to the available places to practice.
 - b. The schedule for practice on game day is as follows: one hour prior to the scheduled time of the game the visiting team will have 20 minutes of batting practice, followed by 20 minutes for the home team, the visiting team will then have 10 minutes of fielding followed by 10 minutes for the home team. In the event the visiting team is not ready and the home team is practice times can be switched.
 7. Field Maintenance
 - a. After each practice held on a league field, it is mandatory that all managers and coaches groom the infields including the catcher's box and pitchers mound to the specified raking and drag patterns taught at the Manager/Coach's meeting.
 - b. The dugouts and grounds surrounding the field are cleaned and garbage free.
 - c. The home team is responsible for raking the fields following the completion of every game; the visiting team is responsible for bringing the bases in/out and emptying the trashcans on each side of the field. Failure to follow this rule will result in the team Manager not being able to participate in the team's next game.
 8. Mandatory Playing Time - In accordance with the requirements of Little League Baseball, each player on all league teams must play a minimum of six defensive outs and bat at least one time in each game. Exceptions are if a player is absent, injured, or being disciplined by the manager. If disciplined the Player Agent and President must be advised. Penalties for not following the mandatory playing time a warning up to and including suspension.
 9. Rescheduling of Games
 - a. Due to inclement weather or unsafe field conditions the Safety Director will determine whether or not games will be postponed; in the event that the Safety Director is unavailable to make the call then the decision will be made by the League President or a Board Member that is not a league manager, coach, or umpire. Cancellations need to be made two and half hours before scheduled start times for games with a paid umpire. Once the game has started the home plate umpire has complete control on whether the game is played, called, or suspended.
 - b. If a game is suspended or postponed, the game will be rescheduled on the next available field on the next available day. Including weekends as an available day will be determined when the regular season schedule is adopted.
 - c. If a game is suspended the game will be continued prior to the next scheduled game between those two teams. If they do not have another scheduled game they will resume play on the next available day if necessary.
 - d. If a manager knows in advance that they will be unable to field a team for a particular game, they must notify the opposing manager and the league President no less than 24 hours prior to the schedule start time of the game. This postponement must be played on the next available field on the next available day. If this game cannot be played within seven days an explanation to the League President is required.
 - e. If a manager knows in advance that they will be unable to field a team and does not notify the opposing manager and the league President within 24 hours prior to the scheduled start time of the game they will be subject to a forfeit.

- a. If the manager and all coaches of a team are unable to make a game a substitute coach will be used which could be another teams manager or coaches or the President can appoint one.
NOTE: the substitute coach if not another league manager or coach must be a valid league volunteer.
 - f. If a game is suspended the managers have the option to complete the suspended game prior to the next scheduled game between the two teams.
 - g. If the manager and all coaches of a team are unable to make a game a substitute coach will be used which could be another teams manager or coaches or the President can appoint one. NOTE: the substitute coach if not another league manager or coach must be a valid league volunteer.
 - h. If a game being played at Fenway is about to be suspended because of darkness and Yankee is available the game will be moved to Yankee to be completed, as long as it does not exceed any time limits (Lower Majors) or curfew regulations.
 - i. The home plate umpire will request the lights be turned on at Yankee prior to the start of an inning.
10. Night Games - Baseball Only
- a. Each team will be scheduled to play the equal amount of night games starting with scheduling two games for each team.
 - b. Little league rules prohibit the start on an inning after 10:00 PM. An inning is considered to have started when the final out of the previous inning is made.
 - c. If a night game is stopped do to the curfew time it will be ruled an official game, provided the minimum number of innings have been played and the score is not tied. If the score is tied the game will be suspended and will be picked up from that point and completed within at the two teams next scheduled game.
 - d. When night games are scheduled for Yankee the starting time will be 7:00 PM. No 5:30 PM will be scheduled. Yankee can be used for practice for teams other than the ones scheduled to play the night game. If used for practice the team(s) must stop no later than 5:30 PM and allow the practicing team manager and coaches to groom the infield to make ready for game play. See Section 3 paragraph 2.
11. Lower Majors Time Limit
- a. A new inning may not begin after two hours from the scheduled start time. This will be considered a completed game as long as four complete innings have been played.
12. Regular Season Schedule
- a. The schedule of games for the regular season will be approved by the league President or by his/her appointee, and must provide not less than twelve games per team per regular season. This is exclusive of playoff and tournament games.
 - b. The team having the best record at the end of the regular season will be declared the league champion. In the event of a tie the tie breakers will be:
 - i) Head to head record to break the tie. In the event that the teams are still in a tie then champion will be determined by run differential.
 - ii) Three teams, a draw will be held one team receives a bye, the other two teams play, the winner plays the team with the bye. Coin toss determines home team in both games.
 - iii) Four teams, with a blind draw using numbers 1 through 4, team drawing 1 plays 3 and 2 plays 4. the two winners play. Coin toss determines home team in both games.
 - iv) The League Champion is eligible to represent the league in the District 10 Tournament of Champions, if held. If the team declines the next highest ranked team may take their place.
 - c. Rules for game play Softball
 - i) Softball
 - (1) A maximum of Nine (9) batters per inning is allowed or three (3) outs, which ever comes first.
 - (2) At Toby May #1 or #2 an inning cannot start after 7:30 PM. An inning is considered started when the previous inning is completed.

Section 6 League Playoffs

- 1) Post Season Playoffs
 - a. All teams from the regular season will play in a post-season playoff. The teams will be seeded based on their regular season finish. If there is a tie, the tiebreaker will be broken by the head to head records between the tied teams. If the tie cannot be broken in this manner, a coin toss will be used. The higher ranked team will be the home team. The winning team will be the league playoff champions.
 - b. Little League Tournament Rules will be used for the playoffs.

Section 7 Tournament (All Star) Play

1. Little League Baseball has three levels for Tournament Play 9-10 yr. olds, 10-11 yr. olds, and the 11-12 yr olds. On a yearly basis the Board of Directors will decide based on league enrollment, which level(s) of All Stars the league will participate in.
2. The Tournament (All Star) eligibility affidavit shall consist of, and must be limited to, a maximum of fourteen (14) Players, one (1) manager, and a maximum of two (2) coaches.
 - i) Tournament (All Star) Manager and Player Eligibility and Selection
3. Selection of the Tournament (All Star) Manager: All league managers and coaches are eligible to run for the Tournament (All Star) Manager position. After the candidates have been determined, the Board of Directors will cast one vote. The candidate receiving the majority of the vote will become the Tournament (All Star) Manager. It is *mandatory* all teams are represented at this election. The elected manager will select one or two coaches from the league to assist. Note: This selection process will repeat itself at all levels of tournament (All Star) participation. If there is a tie, the Board of Directors will make final selections.
 - a. Eligibility of Players for Tournament (All Stars) Play. All league players are eligible for Tournament team (All Star) selection. Selection will be based on the leagues level(s) of participation and the players Little League age. See number 1 above.
 - b. Selection of the Tournament (All Star) Team(s)
 - i) All team managers or a designated coach is required to attend the Tournament (All Star) selection meeting.
 - ii) The player agent will list by age group of all the players eligible. This list will be distributed to all managers prior to the selection of the Tournament Team(s).
 - iii) Prior to voting, each team manager/coach will name the players from their team that they wish to nominate for the Tournament (All Star) Team. Each manager/coach will have the opportunity to say a few words about each of the players they have nominated.
 - iv) Any manager/coach may request to have players not named by their own manager/coach nominated for selection.
 - v) Nominations for the Tournament (All Star) Team must be at least 12 players.
 - vi) By a vote the leagues managers/coaches will select ten (10) Tournament (All Star) team players. The manager will select the three (3) final Tournament (All Star) team players.
 - c. Voting for Tournament (All Star) Team
 - i) Voting will be conducted by rounds until the team is complete. In the *first round* to be selected the nominated player must receive the maximum amount of votes or less one, which is equal to number of teams in the league. In the second round the remaining nominated players require two less vote than the maximum to be selected. In each subsequent round, the required votes will be reduced by one from the previous round, but will not be lower than half of the number of teams in the league. I.E. With a six team league 6 votes required in round 1, 4 votes in round 2, 3 votes in round 3.

- ii) If a replacement player is needed at any level, the manager has the right to select an eligible player.

**Section 8
Minor League**

1. The Minor League shall operate under the supervision of the Baseball Director.
2. All players Little League age four, five, six, seven, and eight, and those players who tried out for Little League and were not selected are eligible for Minor League play and will be assigned to a team by the Baseball Director.
3. All Minor league games will be played in accordance with the rules established by Little League Baseball and will use such local rules that have been established annually by the Baseball Director.
4. At the end of the playing season, all Minor league teams will be dissolved and the Baseball Director or team manager will notify the players who are eligible to tryout for Little League the following season.

**Section 9
Banquets / Awards**

1. An event will be held at the end of the season for all levels of Little League, where awards and trophies will be handed out.