

Vernon Rockville Little League Baseball Bylaws 2018 Final – Approved 2/8/2018

The following guidance is provided by the Vernon Rockville Little League (VRLL) Board of Directors (BOD) to all Umpires, Managers, Coaches, and parents/guardians. This information is available on the League’s website. VRLL follows the processes, procedures and rules set forth in the *Operating Manual* and the *Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules* as published by Little League Baseball, Incorporated, Williamsport, PA.

All changes, modifications, clarifications, or deviations have been reviewed with, and have been approved by, either Eastern Regional Headquarters or the Charter Committee. Each change, modification, clarification, or deviation is clearly identified as they are underlined, bold and in italics (and color coded with dates – of initial approval and most recent approval and frequency of future approval requirements). **ERH** approvals are coded in gray (yellow if they require annual review or reporting) and **Charter Committee** approvals are in yellow. Also

*** These Bylaws must be reviewed and approved annually. The review process begins when the new BOD takes over in early October with final approval of the Board required at the March Board meeting. Each year the newly approved Bylaws will become effective the day after the Major Division Draft. ***

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Vernon Rockville Little League

Board of Director Procedures

*** This section is in effect once approved by a new BOD through the final day of their term.
Each new BOD must vote on this section at their 1st meeting (ERH- approval. This does not have to be reviewed annually with ERH per C.W. 3/8/2016.***

1ST MEETING- AFTER BOARD POSITIONS ARE FINALIZED

1. Mandatory Committees Established

- a. **Audit** – Chaired by the Secretary
 - 2 Board Members
 - 1 Non-Board Member (may be a Regular Member)

Deliverable - Complete review of League's books and records prior to the Annual Meeting

- b. **Budget** – Chaired by the Treasurer
 - VP of both Baseball and Softball
 - 2 Board Members

Deliverable -Make budget recommendations for the upcoming year, by the December Board Meeting

- c. **Baseball Committee** – Chaired by the Vice President – Baseball
 - Player Agent, Division Directors, Safety Director, Director-Player Development
 - Open to all Managers and coaches from prior Spring, Summer, & Fall season.

Deliverable -Review Baseball Operating Procedures and Playing Rules and make recommendations for changes, by the February Board Meeting- final vote of approval required at the March Board meeting

- d. **Softball Committee** – Chaired by the Vice President – Softball
 - Player Agent, Division Directors, Safety Director, Director-Player Development
 - Open to all Managers and coaches from prior Spring, Summer, & Fall season.

Deliverable -Review Softball Operating Procedures and Playing Rules and make recommendations for changes, by the February Board Meeting- final vote of approval required at the March Board meeting

- e. **Disciplinary Committee**– Chaired by the President
 - VP both Baseball and Softball
 - Player Agent both Baseball and Softball
 - 2 Board Members

Deliverable -Review Disciplinary Policy and make recommendations for changes, by the January Board Meeting- final vote of approval required at the February Board meeting

2. Set Board Meeting Rules and Requirements for the Current Year

a. Constitutional Requirements

- a. A quorum shall consist of 50% +1 of the Board of Directors
- b. Each member of the Board of Directors shall have one vote at Board of Director meetings- if one BOD holds two positions they will have only 1 vote.

b. Annual Requirements- requires votes on the following, plus any new motions made

- a. Determine normal monthly meeting day, time, and place
- b. Determine Presidential voting rules – in case of a tie only – Y or N
- c. Determine if email votes are allowed during the year – Y or N
 - i. If Y – can any member object and stop the vote for debate at the next Board of Directors meeting – Y or N
 - ii. If N – is a Super-majority of 2/3 required for passage – Y or N

- d. Determine Board of Director Attendance Policy
 - i. In order to continue serving on the Board of Directors, current Board members must have attended more than 75% of the meetings during the year. An excused absent for emergency only. – Y or N
 - ii. Any Board Member that misses 2 meetings in a row will not be able to vote at the next Board Meeting they attend. Voting privileges will be restored immediately following the attendance of a regularly scheduled Board Meeting – Y or N.
- e. Determine Board of Director Code of Conduct
 - i. First instanced of use of profanity by Board Member will result in probation for 6 months – Y or N
 - ii. Second instanced within the probation time frame, Board Member will be asked to resign from the BOD. – Y or N

Baseball Operating Procedures

***** This section is in effect once approved by a BoD from the day after the Major Division Baseball Draft, through the following year’s Baseball Draft. This is to ensure that players moved between the Minor and Major Division during the season are handled based on the rules in place at the time of their movement, and not based on an off-season change in the rules. All rule changes developed by a new Board of Directors, including the handling of Draft Options, will become effective after the Major Division draft.) (ERH- approval. This does not have to be reviewed annually with ERH per C.W. 3/8/2016.*****

The following Operating Procedures apply to VRLLE Baseball. The procedures have been reviewed with Little League’s Eastern Regional Headquarters (ERH), and a copy has been sent and is in the league’s file.

Division Structure

Howard Daniels Tee Ball (4-7 yrs. old)

All registered players age 4 or 5 will be in the Tee Ball without exception. All players age 6 that have not played in a program will be in the Tee Ball. All players age 6 that have played 1 yr. of organized baseball can, upon the parent/guardian request, be evaluated to move to the Farm Division.

(Note: player’s age 6 that did not complete 1 yr. of Tee Ball with VRLLE, but did play at least 1 yr. elsewhere can petition the league to request a waiver from ERH to allow the child to move to the Farm Division. Such request must be in writing and include proof of participation in another program for 1 season. VRLLE’s BOD will make the final decision to apply for a waiver based on the number of roster spots in the Farm Division and the Player Agent’s evaluation of the player.)

Players age 6 will be eligible to move up to the Farm Division if; a) the player(s) have demonstrated the ability throw, catch, and remained focused while taking direction from the Player Agent, b) roster spots are available at the Farm Division, and c) the parents/guardians agree to allow the player to move up. Players age 7 may be recommended for the Tee Ball after evaluation if the Player Agent believes that it is in the best interest of the child(requires BOD Approval).

Farm Division (6-10 yrs. old)

The Farm Division is a subset of the Minor Division. The Farm Division is a combination of Machine and Coach Pitch, and is a developmental Division. No player pitch is allowed at this division. Players age 6 that meet the requirements above are eligible for this Division.

Most 7 year olds will be in this Division, unless;

- a) The Player Agent and the player's parents/guardians believe it is in the best interest of the player to remain in the VRLL Baseball School (Tee Ball) or,

Players age 9 or 10 may be recommended for the Farm Division after evaluation if the Player Agent believes that the player would be at risk of injury in the Minors Division and that it is in the best interest of the child (requires BOD Approval).

Minors Division (8-12 yr. Old) –Competitive- Player Pitch only

The Minors Division is a player pitch league, and is a competitive division. Players age 8 that the Player Agent evaluated highly will be eligible if the player's parents/guardians agree. Players age 10-12 that did not get selected for the Major Division will be eligible for the Minors Division. Players age 9-11 may be recommended for the Farm Division after evaluation if the Player Agent believes that the player would be at risk of injury in the Minors Division and that it is in the best interest of the child. Players age 12 may be recommended for the Minors Division by the Player Agent if, after discussion with the Major Division Managers, the Player Agent believes that the player would be at risk of injury in the Major Division and that it's in the best interest of the child to remain in the Minor Divisions. The vast majority, if not all, of the 11 and 12 year olds that do not make the Major Division will be in the Minors Division. A formal waiver process must be followed for players age 12 to in the Minors Division. Only players age 8-11 may pitch in this division, 12 yr. olds are prohibited to pitch by rules established by Little League.

Major Division (10-12) (ERH- approval to reduced roster size of 11 players per team for the 2017 season. This item must be reviewed annually with ERH per C.W. 2/16/2018.

The Major Division is made up of player's age 10-12 yrs. old. All players at this level were evaluated highly by the Player Agent (see Major Division Evaluation & Draft Processes below), and were selected by a Major Division Manager with the possible exception of some 12 yr. olds that are mandated as Major Division players by Little League. Each team normally has a roster of 12 players. Players remain (with very few exceptions) with the same team from the year drafted through the remainder of their eligibility. The number of players drafted in a given year is based on the number of open roster spots created by players leaving based on age, moving, or not registering. The addition, or reduction, of teams is based on the long term projection of players available for both the Major and Minor Divisions. This is the most competitive division in VRLL Baseball.

Registration

Registration will begin around Jan 1st of each year. Parents are highly encouraged to use the online process. Additional in person registration is scheduled each year for 2 or 3 nights in January and early February. After the 2nd in person registration Major Division Managers will be provided a list of their players that are eligible to return, that have not yet registered. Managers should attempt to contact these players and have them register. Parents can still register for baseball after the 3 official dates have past, however the late registration is guided by the following rules/guidelines that will be enforced by the VP Baseball/Baseball Player Agent/League Registrar;

- 1) All returning Major Division players must register prior to the 1st pick of the Major Division Draft. After that point they will be ineligible to play that season; **IV (f) – Note.**

- 2) To be eligible for the Major Division, players (10-12) must register prior to the last evaluation session. They also must go through at least one evaluation session to be eligible for the Major Division. **IV(f)**
- 3) Players (10-12) that register after the last evaluation session will be ineligible for the Major Division. If after a review of their skills by the Player Agent, the player's ability will allow them to play safely in the Minors Division (ie. not a risk to other player's in the division), the player will be allowed to register up until May 1st as long as there is room on a roster in that Division. 12 players is the maximum roster size in the Minors Division. If the player is 12 year old, a waiver must be obtained prior to the player joining a Minors Division team.
- 4) Players age 8 and younger will be accepted until May 1st as long as there is room on a roster in the Division the player is assigned.

Major Division Evaluation

(ERH- approval to use a modified evaluation method. This item does not need to be reviewed again with ERH unless changes are made, per C.W. 1/22/2016 – 3pm.

Initial approval for VLL between 2006-2009 seasons, reapproved during Merger - on Feb 26, 2015)

The Major Division Evaluation process is based on the method set forth in the Operating Manual. The purpose of the evaluation process is to identify players age 10-12 that are ready to play at the Major Division level. Based on the evaluation scores (see below) a “draft pool” of players that are eligible to be drafted is created. The “draft pool” will consist of enough players to fill open Major Division roster spots, plus enough players to create a “replacement pool” of players to fill roster spots that could open up during the season due to injuries or players moving out of town. A typical “replacement pool” will consist of 5-10 players, and will be made up of players that were eligible to be drafted, but were not select by a Major Division team during the draft. The players in the “draft pool” will be released by the Player Agent to only the following individuals; President, VP-Baseball, the Director-Player Development, the Safety Officer and the Major Division Managers. Major Division Managers may share the list with their coaches to prepare for the draft. This information is not published nor is the entire list disclosed to anyone other than the individuals listed above. However, the President, VP-Baseball, Player Agent, and the Director-Player Development can discuss any player's status with the parent or guardian of a player. This is for the purpose of ensuring that players made available for the draft will play in the Major Division.

Each player will be evaluated by the Player Agent (or BOD approved designee) and scored on the following 5 skills:

1. Throwing (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
2. Hitting (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
3. Fly Balls (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
4. Ground balls (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
5. Running (**2-4 - 4 being the highest**) (2 below average, 3 average, 4 above average)

The scoring of the 5 skills are listed in the order above as a guide to the Player Agent and the Managers based on safety concerns for the player and the other players in the Minors Division. Skills 1-Throwing & 2-Hitting are areas that a good player could be a risk to Minors Division players. Skills 3-Fly Balls & 4-Ground Balls are areas that the player could be at a greater risk if he/she were in the Major Division. **Running is graded on a tighter scale (2-4) so as not to keep a slower player out of the Major Division based on a low score of 1 and not to help promote a faster player to the Major Division before they are ready because of a high score of 5.**

Skills 1 through 4 are graded on a 5 point scale. The 5 points on the scale are;

(1 Needs Development, 2 Minor Division, 3 Borderline, 4 Major Division, 5 Dominate Player)

All players, age 10-12, obtaining a **total score of 17 or higher** in the 5 categories will be automatically eligible for the Major Division Draft. Any players that score a **5 in throwing and a 5 in hitting will be designated a "mandatory Major Division player"**. **Any player receiving this designation must be drafted into the Major Division in the upcoming draft.** The number of player's scoring 17 or higher will be compared to the number of players required to complete the draft. This will help determine the number of players that score below 17 that will be made eligible, and included in the draft pool.

The Player Agent and the Managers will discuss **all players that scored between 13-16**. From this group of players, the Player Agent and managers will try to identify enough players to make available to complete the draft plus have enough for a "replacement pool" of approximately 5 to 10 players. The total number of players made eligible for the draft should be based on the level of play of the returning Major Division players. The **final decision** as to which players are made eligible will be made by the Player Agent. The Player Agent and Managers **must discuss any 12 yr old that scores 13 or lower prior to the player being made eligible for the draft**. While all 12 yr. olds are automatically eligible based on the Little League rule that was passed for 2007, the Player Agent and the Managers owe it to the players and their families to continue to try to get all players drafted or assigned to the proper division based on their ability, not just their age. If after the discussion between the Player Agent and the Managers, the Player Agent believes the 12 yr. old player is at risk of injury if drafted to a Major Division team, the Player Agent **must** bring the issue to the attention of the League President and the player's parent(s) or guardian(s). The President and the parent(s), or guardian(s), will make the decision whether or not to pursue a waiver for the player to be assigned to the Minors Division.

The only exception to this process is:

The parents of any player, except 12 yr. olds (see below), have the right to request that their son/daughter not be made eligible for the "draft pool". After evaluation, if the parents of this player, after discussion with the Player Agent, Major Division Managers, and the VP of Baseball, will not allow their son or daughter to play in the Major Division; the player will be allowed to remain in the Minor Division **as long as the player is not an injury risk to the other players in that division**. As stated previously we must make sure that each player is made eligible for, or placed, in the appropriate division based on his or her ability. Any player that is not drafted because of the parents'/guardians' refusal to allow their name to be placed into the draft will not be eligible to be called up as a replacement player during the current season.

If the parents of a 12 yr. old request that their son/daughter be allowed to play in the Minors Division, they will need to have the BOD agree, and the BOD and the Parents will need to submit a waiver request to the District Administrator for approval, which may or may not be granted.

The Player Agent will ensure that only players that are ready for the Major Division will be made eligible. If there are not enough players that qualify, based on the process described above, to create a "draft pool" the Player Agent will notify the BOD. The BOD will discuss options such as (but not limited to) reducing the number of Major Division teams or petitioning Little League to play with 11 players per team for 1 season.

This process must be described to the parents of the players being evaluated. Any parents that have questions or concerns with their son or daughter playing in the Major Division must make the Player Agent and VP-Baseball aware of the situation prior to the completion of evaluations.

Major Division Draft

Major Division managers and their existing coaches, Director-Major Division, Director-Minors, the Director-Player Development, the Player Agent, VP Baseball, and President will normally meet within 2 weeks of the final evaluation to complete the Major Division Draft. Teams will select in reverse order of finish based on the prior year's regular season. Each team will fill their open roster spots during the draft. Each manager may select any

player made available (“draft pool”) for the draft by the Player Agent. All teams must carry the minimum number of 12 year olds described below.

Distribution of 12 Year Olds in Major Division Draft

Annually, prior to the draft, but after registration and the Major Division Evaluation sessions, the Player Agent, VP of Baseball, and the Director- Player Development (“League”) will;

- a) Determine the number of returning 12 yr. olds to each Major Division team,
- b) Determine the minimum and maximum number of 12 yr. olds each team can be “forced” to take in the draft. (This determination will vary each year depending of the distribution of returning 12 yr. olds, and the number of 12 yr. olds in the draft. Note- this number will vary from team to team based on the number of returning 12 year olds each team is returning.)
- c) The goal is to spread 12 yr. olds available in the draft to the teams carrying the least number of 12 yr. old on their roster. Some teams may not be “forced” to draft a 12 year old because of a larger number returning from the prior year, while other teams may be “forced” to draft multiple 12 year olds.
- d) “Forced” is defined as take with the last picks of the draft.

Example – Team A wins the championship the prior year and is selecting last. The team had 8 players not returning because of age or not registering. Based on the criteria above, the “League” determines the team has a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 player’s age 12 players they can be “Forced” to take.

- 1) The team is ok and not in violation of this requirement if all other teams decide to draft all of the 12 year olds in the draft before Team A selects 2 -12 year olds.
- 2) If Team A has the last 4 picks in the draft because no other team is drafting more than 4 players, then there can only be 3 players age 12 remaining on the draft Board when the other teams finish their portion of the draft (round 4 before Team A’s 4th pick).
- 3) If Team A picks a 12 year old in round 1, then Team A could potentially wind up with 4 12 year olds in the draft. The 1st round pick, plus 3 forced picks at the end of the draft.

Example 1) – 7 team league, 34 returning 12 year olds, 6 to be drafted;

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Returning 12 year olds	7	3	4	5	5	4	6	34
Min forced to take	None	2	1	None	None	1	none	4
Max forced to take	None	2	2	1	1	2	none	

Example 2) – 7 team league, 28 returning 12 year olds, 5 to be drafted;

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Returning 12 year olds	5	4	6	3	4	4	2	28
Min forced to take	None	None	None	1	None	None	2	3
Max forced to take	None	1	None	1	1	1	2	

Example 3) – 7 team league, 35 returning 12 year olds, 5 to be drafted;

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
Returning 12 year olds	5	5	5	5	5	6	4	35
Min forced to take	None	None	None	None	None	None	1	1
Max forced to take	1	1	1	1	1	None	2	

No team may carry more than 8 players in an age group, including 12 year olds.

Maintenance of Roster

(Charter Committee-approval to use modified player pool #3B-approved on Feb 25, 2015). Normally this item would require annual approval, per C.W he will try to get us blanket approval to continue this process without annual review – C.W. 2/16/2018)

(ERH- approval for Maintenance of Roster changes. These items do not need to be reviewed again with ERH unless changes are made, per C.W. 1/22/2016 – 3pm)

Initial approval for # 1, 2, 3a for VLL between 2006-2009 seasons, reapproved during Merger - on Feb 26, 2015)

All existing, previously **drafted**, Major Division players remain with the team that **drafted** them for the duration of their eligibility (with very few exceptions). VRLI follows the Player Selection “Plan A” as described in the Operating Manual, **with 4 exceptions related to; 1) Mandatory Major Division Players, 2) Parent declared Minor Division players, 3) Replacement Player a) Permanent and b) Temporary 4) Clarification of Major Division Draft Option Process.**

1) **Mandatory Major Division Players-**

Any player(s) that the Player Agent has designated a “mandatory Major Division player”. These players must be taken during the Major Division Draft (see Major Division Evaluation above).

2) **Parent Declared Minor Division Players-** If a player’s parents/guardians will not allow the player, after discussion with the Player Agent, Major Division Managers, and the VP of Baseball, to move to the Major Division, the player may remain in the Minors Division **as long as the player is not an injury risk to the other players in the Minor Division.** The player will not be eligible to be called up as a replacement player during the current season. (see Major Division Evaluation above)

3) **Replacement Players-**

a. **Permanent-** Any player that comes up from the Minors Division to permanently fill a roster spot created after the 1st regular season game, must be selected to the team that called them up, by the end of the third round (**Replacement Player Option**). These are mandatory picks and are required to be declared prior to any other Options.

Notes: 1) Players openings after June 1st due to injury, moving, or any other circumstance do not need to be filled.

2) Managers should give strong consideration to 11 year old players, however the ultimate decision belongs to the manager and his coaches.

3) **The player that caused the opening will stay with the team the following season if the player has any remaining eligibility.** If the player takes a year off and the returns, the player must go back through evaluations and the draft.

(waiver to use modified player pool submitted to ERH for approval of Charter Committee)

- b) **Temporary replacements** – The pool of players that was made eligible for the Major Division Draft, but not drafted, will be used to fill openings caused by a temporary absence of a Major Division Player(s).
- 1) Any player that plays 1 or more games as a temporary replacement is guaranteed to be drafted to the Major Division the following season, barring a significant injury of any nature that would prevent the player from safely playing in the Major Division.
 - 2) The Player Agent must assign the players on a rotational basis.
 - 3) Any player moving up from the Minors Division to play on a temporary basis is prohibited from pitching.
 - 4) Temporary replacement players must start the 1st game, and every other game thereafter, for each temporary assignment. Examples-
 - a) Player X comes up to team #2 for a 1 game assignment –Player X must start.
 - b) Player X comes up 2 weeks later to team #3 for a 3 game assignment – Player X must start games 1 & 3.

4) **Clarification of Major Division Draft Option Process** -

Starting with the 2016 Major Division Draft, players eligible to be selected by way of an Option (list below in order) will be selected in a round to be determined by the Player Agent ^(A) based on a) the players evaluation, b) the players history in the league, c) recommendations of the Major Division Managers and those eligible to be at the Major Division Draft. The Player Agent will make the final determination of round based on the criteria above within the following strict guidelines;

- 1) **Prior year Permanent Replacement Player(see 3.a)-**
 - a. Player cannot be slotted into the 1st round
 - b. Player must be slotted into the round the player would be selected if he/she were not eligible to be selected by way of an option.
 - c. Manager must select the player, **this is a mandatory option.**
- 2) **In Draft Brother/Sister Option** (this option only exists once the 1st sibling is selected in the draft. The option exists on any/all siblings still eligible to be drafted in the current draft. VRL has an obligation to the families in the league to ensure their sons/daughters play on the same team in the Major Division once their skills (both/all players) are at a level where **they are drafted (not just draft eligible) The Player Agent and VP-Baseball must explain to the parents of the siblings that just because 2 or more children from the same family are draft eligible, does not mean that they will both be selected to the Major Division. However, unless the family emails the Player Agent, VP-Baseball and the President that it is ok for the siblings to be drafted to different teams, VRL will ensure that if both players are drafted they are on the same team.**

Process

- a. Once the 1st of multiple siblings is drafted by a team, the draft will stop and the following steps will be taken,
- b. The Player Agent will assign a round to each of the remaining siblings.
- c. The Manager of the team that selected the 1st sibling will indicate whether he/she wants to exercise the Option(s) on the remaining siblings.
- d. If the manager (A) agrees, the Option(s) become **mandatory** and the draft resumes.
- e. If the manager (A) disagrees, and states that a) the sibling(s) should be taken in a later round, or b) the sibling(s) should be in the Minors Division, the following steps must be taken;

- i. The next manager(B) to select in the draft is asked if he/she would take the 1st sibling with his/her next pick in the draft, **AND** exercise the Option(s) on the remaining siblings in the rounds(s) determined by the Player Agent.
- ii. If the manager (B) says “no”, the same question is asked of the next manager(C) in the draft order.
- iii. These steps(i & ii) continue until all managers(B-Z) have said ‘no’, or until a manager says ‘yes’,
- iv. When the 1st manager(D) to say ‘yes’, indicates that he/she would be willing to take the 1st sibling with his/her next pick and exercise the Option(s) in the rounds determined by the Player Agent for the remaining sibling(s), the question goes back to manager (A)
- v. Manager A can either;
 1. Agree to take the 1st sibling with the current pick and the other sibling(s) in the rounds(s) determined by the Player Agent (**mandatory pick[s]**), in this case the draft resumes, or
 2. Select another player. In this case the manager (D) that indicated he/she would take the 1st sibling and the remaining sibling(s) in the rounds(s) determined by the Player Agent, would have the players penciled into the appropriate spots on the draft board for his/her team and they **become mandatory picks** when the picks come up as the draft moves forward, and the draft resumes.
- vi. If no manager (A-F) is willing to select the sibling(s) in the round specified by the Player Agent. Manager (A) can select the 1st sibling, and is not obligated to exercise the Option(s) on the remaining sibling(s).
- vii. Manager (A) may select any remaining sibling(s) at any point in the remainder of the draft.
- viii. If any manager other than (A) wants to select a sibling(s) later in the draft;
 1. He/she can do so if a **Trade** can be made with Manager (A) for the 1st sibling. The team wishing to trade for the 1st sibling can only offer players already selected in the current draft. If no Trade can be worked out within 2 minutes, move to step viii -2.
 2. If the family has emailed the Player Agent, VP-Baseball and the President that it is ok for the siblings to be drafted to different teams, the manager will be allowed to make the selection, if the parents want the players on the same team in the Major Division, the manager currently selecting cannot select the sibling and must make another pick.

3) **Brother / Sister of player currently on a Major Division team-**

- a. Player cannot be slotted into the 1st round
- b. One round later than the player would be selected if he/she were not eligible for an option. Example- if player would have been selected in the 1st round the player becomes a 2nd round option. In no event can the player be slotted later than the 4th round)^(B).
- c. If a Manager believes the player is borderline Major Division, and believes the player would benefit from another year in the Minors division, the manager must notify the VP Baseball and the Player Agent. This must be done at the last tryout when the Draft Pool is set. This is to allow time for the VP-Baseball and the Player Agent (see “Parent Discussion” at the bottom of this section) to discuss the issue with the player’s parents prior to the draft.

This is not a mandatory option.

4) **Sons/Daughters of Prior Season Major Division Coaches**

- a. To qualify for this Option the Coach must meet the following criteria;
 - i. Have been officially listed as either 1st or 2nd coach of a Major Division team the prior season.
 - ii. Have attended 75% or more of the games and practices. (This number may be lowered in extraordinary cases – ie. Death or serious illness of a family member which causes an extended absence or a **temporary** work issue causes an extended absence. The altering of the 75% requirement must have been discussed and approved during the previous season when the issue arose.)
 - iii. Have coached or managed at any level within VRLI the past 2 seasons.
 - iv. Return to the same team in the Major Division that they coached the previous season, unless the move is required by the league (example redraft, or to balance coaching staffs, etc.)
- b. Player cannot be slotted into the 1st round
- c. One round later than the player would be selected if he/she were not eligible for an option. Example- if player would have been selected in the 2nd round the player becomes a 3rd round option. In no event can the player be slotted later than the 5th round) ^(B).
- d. If a Manager believes the player is borderline Major Division, and believes the player would benefit from another year in the Minors division, the manager must notify the VP Baseball and the Player Agent. This must be done at the last tryout when the Draft Pool is set. This is to allow time for the VP-Baseball and the Player Agent (see “Parent Discussion” at the bottom of this section) to discuss the issue with the player’s parents prior to the draft.

This is not a mandatory option.

5) **Sons/Daughters of Major Division Managers**

- a. Player cannot be slotted into the 1st round
- b. One round later than the player would be selected if he/she were not eligible for an option. Example- if player would have been selected in the 1st round the player becomes a 2nd round option. In no event can the player be slotted later than the 5th round) ^(B).
- c. If a Manager believes the player is borderline Major Division, and believes the player would benefit from another year in the Minors division, the manager must notify the VP Baseball and the Player Agent. This must be done at the last tryout when the Draft Pool is set. This is to allow time for the VP-Baseball and the Player Agent (see “Parent Discuss” at the bottom of this section) to discuss the issue with the player’s parents prior to the draft.

This is not a mandatory option.

Draft Option Notes-

A) Parents Discussion – If a manager believes a son, daughter, or sibling that is draft eligible and covered by a valid option is a Borderline Major Division player and may not be drafted, he/she must notify the VP-Baseball and the Player Agent so they can discuss the issue with the player’s parents or guardians prior to the draft. The parents may select one of the following options;

- i. Declare the player to be a “Parent Declared Minors Division” player in which case the player will be assigned to the Minors division and will be ineligible to move to the Major Division for the remainder of the season.
- ii. Declare the player to be a “Temporary Replacement Player-Only”, in which case the player will be assigned to the Minors division and will be only be eligible to

move to the Major Division for Temporary assignments for the remainder of the season.

- iii. Allow the player to be eligible for the Major Division draft. The player can be drafted by any team, including the team that has the parent/sibling currently on the roster. If the player is not drafted the player will go the Minors division and will be eligible to be called up as either a “Temporary Replacement Player” or a “Permanent Replacement Player.”

– B) Exceptions to round placement of options.

- 1) Player Agent ^(A)– Managers may select a player covered by an Option in any round earlier than the round determined by the Player Agent.
- 2) X round ^(B)– In the unlikely case where a manager has 6 or more picks and has 5 or more options, to maintain the goal of allowing all teams an open pick in the 1st round, options may in this case be pushed to the 6th round or later.

Minors & Farm Division Evaluation & Team Formation

(ERH- approval to use a modified evaluation method. This item does not need to be reviewed again with ERH unless changes are made, per C.W. 1/22/2016 – 3pm. Initial approval for VLL between 2006-2009 seasons, reapproved during Merger - on Feb 26, 2015)

Evaluation;

The evaluation process of the Minors & Farm Divisions is similar to the Major Division process. Players will be evaluated in 5 skills;

- 1 Throwing (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 2 Hitting (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 3 Fly Balls (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 4 Ground balls(1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 5 Running **(2-4 - 4 being the highest)** (2 below average, 3 average, 4 above average)

Skills 1 through 4 are graded on a 5 point scale. The 5 points on the scale are;

(1 Farm Division, 2 Farm/Minors Division, 3 Minors Borderline, 4 Minors Player, 5 Dominate Minors Player)

Note: Depending on the availability of gym time, certain evaluations might be held in a facility without the pitching machine. If this is the case, a batting tee will be used for hitting evaluations. Any 6 or 7 (Farm only) or 8 (Farm/Minors) year olds that could potential move up should be evaluated against the pitching machine prior to being moved to the higher Division.

All 9 yr. olds capable of playing in the Minors Division, based on the Player Agent Evaluation will automatically be moved to Minors, unless the parent’s request that the player remain in the Farm Division. The Player Agent, VP-Baseball, and the Minors Division Director will discuss the number of openings for 8 year olds in the Minors Division and will determine based on the evaluation which player’s to offer the opportunity to move up. The Player Agent, VP-Baseball, or the Minors DD will call the parent/guardian in order of evaluation results and offer a Minors Division spot to the 8 year old player. The parent/guardian may accept or decline the offer. The calls will continue until either all spots are taken or all eligible candidates have been called. The names of the Minors eligible 9 yr. olds and the 8 yr. olds whose parent/guardian accepted the offer will be add to the list of 10-12 old

players that were not selected for the Major Division. This group will form the Minors Division (see Minors Division Team Formation below).

Minors Division - Competitive Team Formation

The Player Agent, Minors Division Director, and Minors Division- Managers will form teams based on the evaluation scores provided by the Player Agent (PA) for all players not selected to the Major Division plus the eligible 8 and 9 year olds. The Player Agent & Minors DD will ensure team balance and that players are ultimately assigned to the proper level at the Minor Division. The Managers will participate in the process to ensure each team has a few potential pitchers and catchers. Also the players that make up the “Major Division replacement pool” should be spread equally amongst the teams. All teams should have either 11 or 12 players.

Once the PA has approved the breakdown of teams, the Minors DD will provide each Manger with a list of; players, player’s parent/guardian phone numbers. Each Manager will contact the parents of each player.

This process will be completed during the 3rd or 4th week of March.

Farm Division Evaluation & Team Formation

(ERH- approval to use a modified evaluation method. This item does not need to be reviewed again with ERH unless changes are made, per C.W. 1/22/2016 – 3pm.

Initial approval for VLL between 2006-2009 seasons, reapproved during Merger - on Feb 26, 2015)

Evaluation;

The evaluation process of the Farm Division is similar to the Major Division process. Players will be evaluated in 5 skills;

- 1 Throwing (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 2 Hitting (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 3 Fly Balls (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 4 Ground balls(1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 5 Running **(2-4 - 4 being the highest)** (2 below average, 3 average, 4 above average)

Skills 1 through 4 are graded on a 5 point scale. The 5 points on the scale are;

(1. Possible Consideration for Tee Ball 2. Needs Development 3. Average 4. Farm Player 5. Dominate Farm Player)

Farm Division- Developmental Machine/Coach Pitch Team Formation

The Farm Division Director (FDD) will form teams based on the evaluation scores provided by the Player Agent (PA) for all players age 7 and all 8 year olds not moved to the Minors Division, and the eligible 6 yr. olds (see Tee Ball process below). All teams should have either 9 or 10 players, but no more than 12. The FDD will try to accommodate parent or Manager/Coach requests for players to be placed on the same team. However, the balance of players and coaches between teams has an equal priority at this level.

Once the FDD has created a draft proposal of teams, he/she will forward the lists to the PA. The PA will review the teams to check to see if the teams appear balanced.

Once the PA has approved the breakdown of teams, the FDD will provide each Manger with a list of players, player’s parents, parent’s phone numbers. Each Manager will contact the parents of each player.

This process will be completed during the 4th week of March or the 1st week of April.

Howard Daniels Tee Ball Division Evaluation

(ERH- approval to use a modified evaluation method. This item does not need to be reviewed again with ERH unless changes are made, per C.W. 1/22/2016 – 3pm.

Initial approval for VLL between 2006-2009 seasons, reapproved during Merger - on Feb 26, 2015)

Evaluation;

The evaluation process of the Tee Ball Division is significantly different from the A process. Players will be **evaluated in 3 or 4 skills;**

- 1 Throwing (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 2 Fly Balls (1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 3 Ground balls(1-5 - 5 being the highest)
- 4 **Hitting (Y/N) some 6 yr olds, see below**

Skills 1 through 3 are graded on a 5 point scale. The 5 points on the scale are;

(1 Tee Ball Division, 2 Tee Ball Division, 3 Borderline, 4 Farm Division, 5 Dominate Player)

The purpose of the Tee Ball Division evaluation is to get the players comfortable with leaving their parents and practicing and taking direction from Managers and Coaches. The scores are used to try to balance the teams. Also, 6 year olds that have played 1 year of Tee Ball and score well on the evaluation are given the opportunity to bat(4 above) against the pitching machine. Player's that do well while in the batting cage could be offered an opportunity to play in the Farm Division. While the player is in the batting cage, the Player Agent is focused on whether or not the player is paying attention and takes directions from the coaches. A player does not have to hit the ball to be considered for the Farm Division. Conversely a player that hits the ball may not be considered if the player did not follow directions or would pose a safety risk to themselves or the catchers in the Farm Division. Only 6 year olds, with 1 year Tee Ball experience, are eligible to move to the Farm Division.

The Player Agent (PA), VP-Baseball, and the Tee Ball Division Director (TBDD) will discuss the number of openings for 6 year olds in the Farm Division and will determine based on the evaluation which player's to offer the opportunity to move up. The PA, VP-Baseball, or the TBDD will call the parent's in order of evaluation results and offer a Farm Division spot to the 6 year old player. The parent's may accept or decline the offer. The calls will continue until either all spots are taken or all eligible candidates have been called. The names of the 6 yr. olds whose parents accepted the offer will be add to the list of 7 year old players and the 8 year old players (Not brought up to Farm.) This group will form the Farm Division (see Instructional Division Team Formation above).

Howard Daniels Tee Ball - Team Formation

Tee Ball meets twice a week (1 day midweek and Saturdays for approx. 1 ½ hour each session. The start season will normally be 1 to 2 weeks after the start of the higher divisions. The season will run approximately 8 weeks for a total of approximately 16 session (may be reduced because of bad weather). The first 3 sessions will be run by the Division Director with significant support of the Minors and Majors Managers/Coaches. The sessions will be clinic/station based drills to get the new coaches and players familiar with the skills that will be practiced and developed. During the 2 sessions the Division Director will try to recruit additional managers/coaches/asst. coaches. At the 3rd session the Division Director will (with input from the coaches and families) have the players assigned to teams with approximately 6 or 7 players per team. Each team should have at least 1 manager and 1 coach. The mid-week sessions will be primarily practice in nature and cover a defined list of skills related to fielding, hitting, base running, and position play. Weekend sessions after week 3 will include a 45 minute scrimmage between teams. Teams will be assigned a field at either Henry Park or Legion Field.

Tournament Team (TT) Manager (TTM) and Coach Selection

The potential levels of play are: Little League (11/12), 10/11 and 9/10 year old teams. The same person may not manage, or be an official coach, on more than one team.

MANAGER;

- A. All Major Division managers will receive an email from the VP-Baseball on or before May 9th each year asking which, if any, TT they would like to manage. The group email will include all Major Division Managers, all Major Division Coaches, all Minors Managers, all Player Agent(s), the Major and Minors Division Director, and the league President.
- B. Each Major Division manager must respond by May 15th if he/she wishes to be considered for a TTM position. The response should include any and all teams the individual would like to be considered for, in order of preference if more than one team is listed. Note: Only the Major Division managers are to reply to the email, and they must “reply to all” for the response to be considered properly submitted.
Only properly submitted responses dated prior to May 16th will be considered- no exceptions.
- C. **If no Major Division manager expresses an interest in managing the 10/11 or 11/12 team, all Major Division coaches must “reply to all” whether or not they are interested in being the 10/11, 11/12 TTM. Email replies are required by May 18th.** Note: Only the Major Division coaches are to reply at this time to the email, and they must “reply to all” for the response to be considered properly submitted.
Only properly submitted responses dated prior to May 18th will be considered- no exceptions.
- D. **If no Major Division manager expresses an interest in managing the 9/10 team, all Major Division Coaches and Minors managers must “reply to all” whether or not they are interested in being the 9/10 TTM. Email replies are required by May 18th.** Note: The email must “reply to all” for the response to be considered properly submitted. **Only properly submitted responses dated prior to May 18th will be considered- no exceptions.**
- E. The VP-Baseball and the Player Agent(s) will summarize the results of the interest for each team. If more than 1 individual is interested in the same team, they are encouraged to talk to see if they can resolve the issue between themselves. If they resolve the issue and decide to work together, ***each*** should resubmit an email indicating which individual(s) want to pull their name from consideration as manager and work as a coach/asst. on the team in question. (see coaching section below)
- F. If 2 or more individuals, after discussion amongst themselves, cannot resolve who the manager will be, there will be a vote, at Henry Park, on Monday May 23rd after games end (Meeting will be at Legion Snack Shack at 6:30pm that night if games are rained out). Each manager and coach in the Major Division is eligible to vote. Also eligible to vote, but only if they have seen the majority of at least 2 games of every Major Division team – Player Agent(s), VP –Baseball, VRLB BoD Umpire-in-Chief. The individual receiving the most votes, secret ballot, will be named the TTM. In case of a tie, there will be a round of discussion followed by a 2nd vote. If after the 2nd vote there is still a tie between 2 or more individuals, they will each draw a card from a deck of playing cards. High card (ace is high down through 2 is low) will be the manager. In the event that 2 or more individuals are still tie by pulling high cards of equal value, the process of pulling cards will repeat until there is 1 individual with the highest card.

COACHES;

- A. A second email will be send by the VP-Baseball on or before May 9th each year to gather the names of individuals that would be interested in coaching or being an assistant coach one of the 3 TTs. This email will go to all Major and Minors managers and coaches, and any other individual in the league that notifies the VP of Baseball that they are interested. The email will contain a few questions that must be answered to provide the TTM information about the individual's experience. The Player Agent(s) and league President will also be on the email distribution. **Only properly submitted responses dated prior to May 18th will be considered. The only exception will be if less than the required number of coaches, 2 per team reply. At that point the VP-Baseball and Player Agent(s) will meet with individuals of the league to obtain enough coaches for each team.**
- B. The Player Agent(s) will summarize the responses and provide a list of potential coaches to the 3 TTM.
- C. The TTM may select, from the summarized list provided by the Player Agent(s), as his 2 official coaches any active manager or coach of the Vernon-Rockville Little League from the following Divisions;
- 1) 11/12 Team - Major Division (T-3)
 - 2) 10/11 and 9/10 Team - Major, Minors, or Farm Divisions (T-3)
- Note - there should be consideration of all managers and coaches to fill the available coaching slots, with a strong consideration of the individuals that have strongest instructional abilities.
- D. The TTM may select, from the summarized list provided by the Player Agent(s), as his assistant coaches (not allowed in the dugout or on the field) during games, any individual that has passed the volunteer background check.
- Note - there should be consideration by all TTM and coaches to make use of individuals as Asst. Coaches.
- G. The VP-Baseball will provide the President with the list of manager and coaches names for each of the 3 TTs. The President will submit the names of the individuals, prior to **May 26th** to Board of Director one at a time with his/her a recommendation of approval, disapproval, or no recommendation. The Board will vote on the individual's one at a time.
- H. The Board of Directors will establish the priority of player selection during the May Board of Directors meeting. Depending on the potential strength of the teams, the Board will prioritize the following;
- 1) Selection of 11 year old players - either the 10/11 team or the 11/12 team.
 - 2) Selection of 10 year old players - either the 9/10 team or the 10/11 team.
 - 3) Whether there is enough interest and manager/coaches for a 2nd 9/10 team. If there is enough interest to form a 2nd 9/10 team, the primary 9/10 team's roster will be filled 1st. Then the 2nd team's roster will be filled. The goal of Team 1 is to compete to the best of their ability and to try to win and move on in the District tournament. The goal of Team 2 is to provide an opportunity for a) 9 year olds to experience the Tournament and to be better prepared the following year as 10 year olds, and b) allow 10 year olds that are competitive players but just missed making Team 1 the chance to play and develop for potential inclusion on Tournament teams at the age of 11 and 12.

Tournament Team Player Selection

VII. 11 and 12 Year Old Tournament Team Player Selection (6/3/3 Process).

- A. Only 11 and 12 year old players are eligible. There is up to 14 players, but not less than 12 players.
- B. Attachment A will be provided to the parents/guardians of all players age 9-12. Parents must return the bottom of the attachment to the regular season Manager by the **May 16th, 2018**.
- C. The Player Agent, Director-Player Development and VP-Baseball will distribute ballots to each Major Division team after a game during the **3rd week of May**. The ballot will contain the names of all players made available by their parents/guardians in step B. Each team's ballot will contain the **names of players from the other Major Division teams**. Players and managers **will not** be able to vote for players from their own team.
- D. All Major Division Players and Managers will vote as follows-
 - 1) Players will vote for 1-12 players. Each player vote is worth 1 pt.
 - 2) Managers must vote for 9 players (no more/no less). Each manager vote is worth 12 pts.
- E. Voting shall be by secret ballot and will be tallied by the Player Agent, VP Baseball and Director-Player Development.
 - 1) The **6 players** receiving the highest vote total will be on the team.
 - 2) In the case of a tie, the player that received more Player Votes will make the team.
 - 3) In the case of a tie, with both players receiving the same number of Player Votes, the Manager of the Tournament team will break the tie, however strong consideration should be given to placing both players on the team.
- F. A meeting will be held on or around **May 31st 2018**, to select the remainder of the team. The meeting will be attended by all regular season Major Division Managers, the Tournament Team manager, Tournament Team coaches if known, the President, Player Agent, VP baseball, and Director-Player Development.
 - 1) **Regular Season managers vote to select up to 3 players**
(Normally 3, but reduced if additional players with a tie in votes are placed on the team in E3 above).
 - a) Tournament Team manager will discuss the players currently on the team and the additional players, positions he needs filled to have a chance to be successful.
 - b) Each Regular Season manager can briefly discuss players, including players from his/her team that the manager believes should be considered.
 - c) Each manager will submit a list of names equal to the number of spots to be filled in this section of the selection process – ie **3** for the 1st round.
 - d) Player Agent, VP Baseball and Director-Player Development will tally the votes.
 - 1) 1st rd. - Any player on all ballots will make the team.
 - 2) 2nd rd. - Any player on all but 1 ballot will make the team
 - 3) Continue to reduce required votes each round.
 - e) Any player not receiving a vote will be ineligible for consideration for the remainder of this portion of the process.
 - f) Player Agent will tell the managers the names of all players that were put on to the team based on the prior vote.
 - g) If all spots (normally **3**) to be filled in this section have been selected move to F.2.
 - g) Player Agent will tell the managers which players received at least 1 vote and are still eligible for

selection in the next round.

h) Tournament Team Manager can halt the process at this point if he/she wants, if there are roster spots, for all players still eligible. Go to F.2.

i) Repeat F.1.a-h - until all spots (normally **3**) have been filled.

2) **Tournament Team Manager fills the remaining (normally 3 to get to 12 players) final roster spots**, minimum of 12 and a maximum of 14 players in total.

VII. 10 and 11 Year Old Tournament Team Player Selection. (4/4/4 Process).

- A. Only 10 and 11 year old players are eligible. There can be up to 14 players, but not less than 12 players.
- B. Attachment A will be provided to the parents/guardians of all players age 9-12. Parents must return the bottom of the attachment to the regular season manager by the **May 16th, 2018**.
- C. The Player Agent, Director-Player Development and VP-Baseball will distribute ballots to each Major Division manager with the names of all eligible players.
- D. All Major Division and Managers will vote for 8 players, each vote is worth 1 pt. Managers may vote for players from their team.
- E. Voting shall be by secret ballot and will be tallied by the Player Agent, VP Baseball and Director-Player Development.
- 1) All unanimous selections will be on the team.
 - 2) The **4 players receiving the highest** vote total, or up to 8 if unanimous, will be on the team.
- F. A meeting will be held on or around **May 31st 2018** to select the remainder of the team. The meeting will be attended by all regular season Major Division Managers, the Tournament Team manager, Tournament Team coaches if known, the President, Player Agent, VP baseball, and Director-Player Development.
- 1) Regular Season managers vote to fill the roster with 8 total players.
 - a) Tournament Team manager will discuss the players currently on the team and the additional players, positions he needs filled to have a chance to be successful.
 - b) Each Regular Season manager can briefly discuss players, including players from his/her team, that the manager believes should be considered.
 - c) Each manager will submit a list of names equal to the number of spots to be filled in this section of the selection process - 8 less the players selected in E above.
 - d) Player Agent, VP Baseball and Director-Player Development will tally the votes.
 - 1) 1st rd. - Any player on all ballots will make the team.
 - 2) 2nd rd. - Any player on all but 1 ballot will make the team
 - 3) Continue to reduce required votes each round.
 - e) Any player not receiving a vote will be ineligible for consideration for the remainder of this portion of the process.
 - f) Player Agent will tell the managers the names of all players that were put on to the team based on the last vote.
 - g) If all spots to be filled in this section have been selected move to F.2.
 - g) Player Agent will tell the managers which players received at least 1 vote and are still eligible for selection in the next round.
 - h) Tournament Team Manager can halt the process at this point if he/she wants, if there are roster

spots, for all players still eligible. Go to F.2.

i) Repeat F.1.a-h - until 8 total spots have been filled.

- 2) **Tournament Team Manager fills the remaining (normally 4 to get to 12 players) final roster spots**, minimum of 12 and a maximum of 14 players in total.

VII. 9 and 10 Year Old Tournament Team(s) Player Selection. (Feedback based)

- A. Only 9 and 10 year old players are eligible. There is up to 14 players, but not less than 12 players.
- B. Attachment A will be provided to the parents/guardians of all players age 9-12. Parents must return the bottom of the attachment to the regular season Manager by the **May 16th, 2018**.
- C. The Player Agent, Director-Player Development and VP-Baseball will distribute a list of players that are eligible for the 9/10 team(s) to each Major and Minors Division manager.
- D. All Major and Minors Division Managers will provide feedback on the players they believe should be considered for the team.
- E. The Player Agent, Director-Player Development and VP-Baseball will review the feedback with the Tournament Team manager and coaches.
- F. A meeting will be held on or around **May 31st 2018** to select the remainder of the team, the Major Division Managers, the TTM and coaches, the Player Agent(s), Baseball-VP, and the President will participate in the meeting.
- G. If the Board of Directors votes to have 2 teams at this age level, parents must be made aware that there will be a primary and a secondary team. Normally, but not always, the secondary team will be made up of a larger number of 9 year olds. Other towns have done this and the secondary team tends to struggle in games. However, the additional practices and Tournament experience is extremely beneficial to the players and provides a benefit to the players and the league in future years.

Note - the process will be overseen by the VP Baseball.

Attachment A
Vernon-Rockville Little League
Process Notification for 2018 Tournament Teams

Dear Little League Parent,

This note is intended for parents/guardians of players who are Little League age 9-12. The purpose is to inform you of the Tournament Team selection process and the commitment expected of players. The team(s) will be selected and announced on or after June 1st, based on the processes described below.

Selection – Players are selected on three main criteria as described by Little League: Eligibility, Availability and Ability.

Eligibility – Registered players in good standing and are League Age 9-12 are eligible to play for either the 9-10, 10-11, or 11-12 year old Tournament Team. Players can only be selected to one team per year. They must have played in at least 60% of their team’s regularly scheduled games(only exception is for school baseball games).(Rule Book - T5)

Availability – (Commitment to the Team)

Generally speaking, a player must be available from the approximately June 1st through the Tournament. Practices or games may be scheduled daily from approximately June 15th through the month of July, or until the team is eliminated. Prior to June 15th practices will be scheduled around regular season games, playoff games, and playoff practices. The Tournament games will begin in late June and may run through the middle of July. A minimum commitment of June 1st through July 10th is requested. **If your son/daughter is interested in playing but will be unavailable for some portion of the dates listed above please discuss the issue with the Player Agent and the Vice President.**

Ability – Players are selected based on input from the Players (11/12 only), Managers, VP-Baseball, Player Agent and a designee of the League President. The player’s ability during games, practices, and clinics will be taken into account during the selection process. In addition, all Minor and Major League Managers will be asked for recommendations of players from their own team and the other teams in the League. The Tournament Team Manager will look at specific positions he/she may need to fill when selecting the 12-14 players. All evaluations and manager recommendations are completely confidential and are never released.

Minimum Play – Tournament rules are different than regular season rules, and depending on the number of players on the team, each player may get as little as one at bat per game. **Parents and players must understand this rule**, and make their decision as to participate or not with the knowledge that up to 3 players out of 12 (or 5 out of 14) could play the minimum each game. Based on many factors, it could be the same players playing the minimum each game.

Tournament play is free and provides the players with a tremendous learning opportunity. We certainly hope that all players’ will be available for selection. However, if your son/daughter cannot meet the commitment outlined above, it is better to let the League know prior to the completion of the selection process. Please fill out the bottom portion of this letter and get it to either your manager or the Player Agent immediately. All forms must be returned by **May 16th**. If you have questions, please contact your player’s manager, the **League Vice-President – Jaime McAuliffe 860-965-5507, or the Player Agent Keith Morehouse 860 416-7733. Also, please see the Tournament Team section of our Bylaws on the league website.**

<http://rockvillelittleleague.com/>

We want to avoid a situation where a player is selected to the Tournament Team and then must withdraw.

	The player named below <u>will be</u> available for Tournament Team selection	The player named below <u>will not be</u> available for Tournament Team selection
Place X in 1 Column Only		

Player’s Name _____ Team _____

Parent’s Signature - _____ Date - _____

Please return the bottom portion to your player’s manager by **May 16th**.

Vernon Rockville Little League Local Baseball Playing Rules – 2018

The following guidance is provided to all VRLL Umpires, Managers and Coaches. ***“Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules”*** as published by Little League Baseball, Incorporated, Williamsport, PA shall be binding on this league. In addition, the following Local Rules are adopted for play:

Reference to the 2016 Baseball rule book is indicated by ***underline, bold, italic*** text.

All Divisions

1. Two adult base coaches are allowed, however there must be at least one adult in the dugout at all times. *****Any player that coaches either first or third base must wear a helmet with faceguard.*****
2. Home team will occupy the 3rd base dugout. At Legion Park- Home team maintains the scoreboard, puts out and takes in the bases. The Home team on Art St Louis Field also is responsible for the Snack Shack. Home team at Henry Park – Gill Field is responsible for the Snack Shack.
3. Mercy rule, 10 runs, will be used at the Major Division only.

Major Division Baseball -Competitive Baseball

1. The Home Team shall provide 3 new game balls for each game. There will be a supply of “Umpire Baseballs” in the Snack Shack incase additional balls are need because of weather conditions.
2. For the 2018 season pitch count and pitchers rest will be determined by regulation ***VI(c) and VI(d)***.
3. Substitution/Minimum Play:
 - a) All players will play a minimum of 3 innings per game (unless shorten due to weather or mercy rule)
 - b) Any players playing less than 3 innings because of weather or mercy rule will start the next game.
 - c) All players will play a minimum of 3 full games per season (the Manager can request the 3 game minimum be reduced due to player absences. As soon as an issue arises the Manager should coordinate a meeting with the player’s parents/guardians and the VP Baseball, Player Agent, and Director-Player Development. After consultation with the President, the VP Baseball, Player Agent, and Director-Player Development will notify the manager and parents/guardians of the decision. ***(ERH- approval to use a modified substitution method. This item does not need to be reviewed again with ERH unless changes are made, per C.W. 1/22/2016 – 3pm. Initial approval for RVLL 2016 season,***
 - e) Manager may use either the 3/3 half game substitution method used in 2015, or they may use the Rule Book substitution method(3.03) with the following changes. ***A starter may not come out of the game until he/she has had 1 at bat.*** A substitute may not come out of a game until he/she has a minimum of 2 innings in the field and 1 at bat. Starters can re-enter the game, ***ONLY, in the batting order position they were in at the start of the game*** (only exception is for rule 3.08). ***Substitutes may reenter the game, ONLY, in the same batting order position that they were original entered into*** (only exception is for rule 3.08).

4. Pitcher - 8 warm up pitches are allowed at the start of a game and when a new pitcher is brought into the game. Normally 5 warm up pitches are allowed on subsequent innings (Remember rule 8.05 – 1 minute between innings – last out to first pitch of the next inning).

Minor Divisions

Minors Division-Competitive/Developmental Baseball

The Home Team shall provide a minimum of 2 new game balls for each game. One adult must remain in the dugout at all times 4.05(2)

Game Preliminaries

1. **No new at bat shall begin after 2 and ¼ hours.** (Game shall be considered complete if three and a half innings have been completed and the home team is ahead.
2. There shall be no forfeits. A team will normally field **9** defensive players. If a team is unable to field 9 players, the other team will “loan” defensive players for each inning. Players from other Minor Levels league teams may also be used. Any “loaned” or other Minors Level player will only play the outfield. Eight players on defense are allowed, however, at no time will any team play with less than eight defensive players.

I. Batters

1. Continuous batting order - all players on a team for a given game will bat in an established order regardless if they are playing the field or not. Players arriving late will be added to the end of the order (**12th spot if the team started the game with 11 players**). Players leaving early will be removed from the line-up without penalty. Because of the continuous batting order players can be substituted each inning.
2. No more than 5 runs may be scored per half inning in the first 5 innings. This rule is suspended for the **6th inning only**, when a team may bat until either; 3 outs are made, all batters have batted 1 time*, or the home team takes the lead. **Teams may bat up to the greater of either lineup.** *If a team has 11 players and the other has 9 each team is allowed to bat up to 11 batters unless 3 outs are already recorded. 5.07
3. If the Home team is behind by 10 or more runs at the end of the 5th inning, they will bat first in the 6th inning. The visiting team will only bat (bottom of the 6th) if the Home team ties or takes the lead in the top of the 6th.

II. Pitchers

1. A pitcher once removed may not return as a pitcher. 3.03(3)
2. **Managers must follow the latest pitch count rules issued by Little League.**
3. A 12 yr. old may not pitch VI-(j)
4. 8 warm up pitches are allowed at the start of a game and when a new pitcher is brought into the game. Normally 5 warm up pitches are allowed on subsequent innings (Remember rule 8.05 – 1 minute between innings – last out to first pitch of the next inning).
5. Coaches may go to the mound to council pitchers. (No team meetings)
6. No balks will be called. 8.05 - it is an illegal pitch - except for 8.05 (l) and (m).

7. Unless there is a runner on third base, the pitcher must stay on the mound (dirt area) when receiving the throw back from the catcher.

Pitch Count Violations Minors Division Only

- 1.) 1st offense – Manager warning subject to disciplinary review
- 2.) 2nd and more offenses – Manager minimum 1 game suspension subject to disciplinary review

III. Base Running

1. Stealing is allowed on **3 pitches per inning**.
 - a) Moving up a base on a wild pitch or passed ball is considered a steal for this rule.
 - b) A double steal is allowed.
 - c) A steal of home, including wild pitch or passed ball is allowed.
2. A player must slide **or avoid contact** at all bases when a play is being made on that runner. Only feet first slides are allowed, unless returning to a base. **7.08(a)(3) and 7.08(a)(4)**
3. Limit of 1 base on each overthrow. On a throw back from the catcher to the pitcher, the ball must go **off the back of the mound (dirt area)** to be considered an overthrow.

IV. Minimum Play

1. All players will play at least 3 of the first 4 innings*. When all 12 players are at the game, each will have to sit out 1 inning of the first 4. *(Except for a starting pitcher that pitches the 1st 4 innings - in this case the player will sit if he is removed as pitcher).
2. During the 5th and 6th innings, each player will play at least 1 inning in the field. Except a player that sat out 2 of the first 4 innings (only will happen if the starting pitcher pitches 4 innings), in which case this player must be in the field for both the 5th and 6th inning.

Farm Division Baseball - Developmental Baseball (Coach/Machine Pitch)

Smaller Rosters 9/10 max per team – all kids play on defense & hit each inning. Try to play 4 inning games through the week. Play up to time limit on weekends.

The Home Team shall provide a minimum of 5 game balls for each game, but not necessarily new ones. One adult must remain in the dugout at all times. **4.05(2)**.

V. Game Preliminaries

1. ***All games played are limited to 2 and ½ hours. No new at bat shall begin after 2 and ¼ hours.***
(Game shall be considered complete if three and a half innings have been completed and the home team is ahead.)
2. There shall be no forfeits. Teams will play with a maximum of **10 players** in the field. If a team is unable to field **9 players**, the other team will “loan” defensive players for each inning. Any “loaned” player will play the outfield only. Eight players on defense are allowed, however, at no time will any team play with less than eight defensive players.

3. All players shall bat every inning; **in order in the first and third innings, and in reverse order in the second and fourth innings.** If one team has fewer players than the other team, either players may be "loaned" or the team with fewer players will "bat around" to get the same number of at-bats each inning.
4. Games are conducted with managers or coaches acting as umpires. This league is intended to be a learning environment. The pitching machine will be operated by an adult, who may advise the defense on positioning and defensive strategy. The defensive team may have a player next to the adult. If the machine is not working, an adult will pitch but will not field any live ball.
5. Coaches may also be stationed in the outfield and near the catcher, for safety reasons, to ensure they are positioned properly and are ready for the ball being pitched by the machine. **One adult must remain in the dugout at all times, if any players are on the bench.**
6. There are no strikeouts or walks. Each player will be given 5 pitches to put the ball in play. The catcher will give each missed pitch to an adult to hold until the ball is put into play either off the machine or the Tee. After the fifth pitch the ball shall be hit off the Tee. **** Coach pitch games will also be five pitches. If this limit does not work, it may be increase.****
7. When three outs are made, any base runners are cleared and the inning continues. Future base runners may score runs.
8. The two **newest** game balls should be given out to players, one per team, at the end of each game

VI. Batters

1. The maximum number of bases on a hit should be based on the number of bases the batter would get at the next level up without errors or overthrows - Minors.
 - i. Balls in the infield are a maximum of 1 base.
 - ii. Most balls in the outfield will also be 1 base.
 - iii. A ball driven to the gap or down the lines could be a double - 2 bases.
 - iv. Triples at this level are extremely rare, player should not take 3 bases based on bad relay throws, errors, etc.
 - v. Home runs are limited to balls over the outfield fence.
2. The maximum number of bases off the batting tee is 1.
3. When the final batter comes to the plate, the offensive team must notify the defensive team that this is the final batter. At that point, there are automatically two outs. If a force play is made on the batter at first base, or any forced runner at any other base, the inning ends with no other runners scoring. The play will stop after the batter advances the maximum number of bases based on XIIa – i-iv.

*** The intent of this rule is to hold batters and runners to a normal amount of bases on the last at bat of the inning, and to discourage wildly running the bases because it is the 10th batter. ***

VII. Pitchers

- a. Player may be stationed next to the manager/coach operating the pitching machine. The manager/coach must at all times be aware of the players locations related to the pitching machine and protect the player incase a ball is hit near the pitching machine.

VIII. Base Running

1. Base Stealing is not allowed. Runners may only advance when the ball is hit. Do not take extra bases on overthrows.
2. Base runners are limited to the same number of bases as the batter, see XI -1 – i - iv.

Section D - Annual Letter to ERH - sent March, 2017 (verbal approvals came from Corey in April 2017)

Corey,

Below are the item(s) we are currently requesting approval (Section 1) for use in the 2017 seasons and beyond if possible, and the previously approved item(s) contained in our Bylaws (section 2);

Sections 1 -Current year request for approval

Charter Committee Approval-

Temporary Replacement Players(Modified Player Pool)-(Charter Committee in 2015- **Currently must be approved annually by the Charter Committee –page 9)**

(waiver to use modified player pool approved by Charter Committee on Feb 25, 2016)

- b) **Temporary replacements** – The pool of players that was made eligible for the Major Division Draft, but not drafted, will be used to fill openings caused by a temporary absence of a Major Division Player(s).
- 1) Any player that plays 1 or more games as a temporary replacement is guaranteed to be drafted to the Major Division the following season, barring a significant injury of any nature that would prevent the player from safely playing in the Major Division.
 - 2) The Player Agent must assign the players on a rotational basis.
 - 3) Any player moving up from the Minors Division to play on a temporary basis is prohibited from pitching.
 - 4) Temporary replacement players must start the 1st game, and every other game thereafter, for each temporary assignment. Examples-
 - a) Player X comes up to team #2 for a 1 game assignment –Player X must start.
 - b) Player X comes up 2 wks. later to team #3 for a 3 game assignment – Player X must start games 1 & 3.

Section 2- Items previously approved by ERH (*who-when-additional approval requirements-location in 2016 Bylaws, **items requiring annual notification are highlighted in yellow***);

- a) **Request approval to run 2 sections of our Bylaws for different 1 year time periods once approved by our Board of Directors**(*Corey Wright – 3/8/2016 – no additional approval requirement as long as it is not changed – note; **must inform ERH annually that we are continuing with this option –pages 2 & 3)***);
- i) **Board of Director Procedures** - the BoD votes on these annually at the 1st meeting of the Board (early Oct.) after the Annual General Membership meeting. Once approved, this BoD Procedures will remain in effect until the next BoD is voted in to office.
 - ii) **Baseball Operating Procedures and Playing Rules(BBOPPR)** – Annually approved by the BoD these procedures will go into effect the day after the Major Division Draft (normally mid-March). The BBOPPR contain provisions that impact player call-up during the season and they also spell out how the call-ups will impact the following year draft. We do not want a new BoD to undo promises that had been made the prior summer based on the Baseball Procedures in place at that time, by claiming the Bylaws expire at the end of the prior BoD term. (Example – the 2016 BBOPPR will go into effect the day after the 2016 Major Division Draft and will remain in effect until through the 2017 Major Division Draft. The following day the BBOPPR approved by the BoD elected in late Sept 2016 will go into effect.)
- b) **Major Division Roster size approved at 11 players per team for 2017.** (*Corey Wright – 2/16/2018 – **this item must be reviewed annually by the BoD and approval must be obtained from ERH prior to***

reducing the Major Division roster size below 12 players –page 5);

- c) **Evaluation Process-** all levels (Original Approval from ERH in 2006-2009 - Corey Wright – 1/22/2016 – no additional approval requirement as long as it is not changed –pages 5&6)
Player scoring system altered to prevent running score from having too large an impact on which players are declared Major Division eligible(or moved to higher division), and putting a process in place that fosters more discussion between the managers, coaches, Division Directors and the Player Agent(s) prior to the creation of the final draft pool(or players being moved to a higher division).
- d) **Maintenance of Roster Changes** (notes provided for each item)
- i) **Mandatory Major Division Players Process** (Original Approval from ERH in 2006-2009 - Corey Wright – 1/22/2016 – no additional approval requirement as long as it is not changed –page 9)
Players that score a 5 in both hitting and throwing are to be declared Mandatory major Division players by the Player Agent. Players with this designation must be selected at some point in the upcoming Major Division draft-no exceptions.
- ii) **Parent Declared Minor Division Players** (Original Approval from ERH in 2006-2009 - Corey Wright – 1/22/2016 – no additional approval requirement as long as it is not changed –page 9)
Process defined that allows a parent to declare that their son/daughter(10 or 11 years old) cannot be drafted to a Major Division team.
- iii) **Permanent Replacement Players-**(Original Approval from ERH in 2006-2009 - Corey Wright – 1/22/2016 – no additional approval requirement as long as it is not changed –page 9)
Players that are called up from the Minor Division to fill a roster opening for the remainder of the season are declared Permanent Replacement Players, and must be drafted by the team that called them up in the following seasons draft. The player that caused the opening due to injury will remain with the team the following season if the player has remaining age eligibility.
- iv) **Clarification of Major Division Draft Options**(Corey Wright – 3/8/2016 – no additional approval requirement as long as it is not changed – **note: must inform ERH annually that we are continuing with this option –pages 10-14**;)
Addresses round placement for Draft Options based on Player Agent(PA) assessment at the tryouts and the player's ratings from the manager's in the players division the prior season-
- (1) **Prior Year Permanent Replacement player** – not in round 1, must be exercised by manager.
 - (2) **In draft brother/sister** – lengthy description of how and when in draft sibling option is handled, optional selection by manager.
 - (3) **Sibling of current Major Division Player** – not in 1st round, round +1 from where PA believes the player would be selected in an open draft, optional selection by manager.
 - (4) **Son or daughter of prior Season Major Division Manager** – not in 1st round, round +1 from where PA believes the player would be selected in an open draft, also sets minimum expectation of Coach attendance during prior season, optional selection by manager.
 - (5) **Son or daughter of Major Division Manager** – not in 1st round, round +1 from where PA believes the player would be selected in an open draft, optional selection by manager.

Vernon Rockville Little League

Cc: Joe McAuliffe – CT District 8 Administrator
Vacant – VRLI President
Jaime McAuliffe – VRLI VP Baseball