

Sammamish Little League

# Local League Operating Guidelines

Baseball and Softball Divisions



Approved – Sammamish Little League  
Board of Directors  
November 2020

# **LEAGUE ORGANIZATION**

The mission of Little League Baseball, Inc., a non-profit organization, is “to promote, develop, supervise, and voluntarily assist in all lawful ways the interest of those who will participate in Little League Baseball and Softball.” Little League programs are designed to assist youth in the development of citizenship, discipline, teamwork and physical well-being. Advocating the virtues of character, courage and loyalty, Little League Baseball and Softball programs focus on developing superior citizens rather than superior athletes.

As a chartered Little League Organization, Sammamish Little League (SLL, the league, or local league) supports these virtues through its own mission and administration. Little League International has recognized and approved the charter for SLL and its operation as a single-league organization; however, SLL maintains two divisions to facilitate scheduling and game play - the National League Division and the American League Division. The Little League Baseball Manual, the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules (Baseball/Softball), and the Little League Operational Handbook, prepared and presented by Little League Baseball, Inc., represent the core governance of SLL operations and activity.

## **LEAGUE STRUCTURE**

SLL is administered and managed as an all-volunteer organization providing a safe, educational, and fun environment for kids to enjoy the sports of baseball and softball. The league is presently chartered to offer the following programs:

### **1. Tee-Ball Division – Baseball and Softball**

The League offers a Tee-Ball Division for baseball and softball. Age-eligible boys and girls are invited to play baseball while age-eligible girls invited to play softball. Baseball’s Tee-Ball Division is managed by the Senior Vice-President of the Minor League and coordinated by the VP of each age division. Softball’s tee ball division is managed by the Senior Vice-President of Softball Minor League and the Vice-President of Tee Ball.

### **2. Minor League Baseball and Softball**

The League offers Minor League Divisions for both baseball and softball. Age-eligible boys and girls are invited to play baseball in the league’s Instructional (A) and Rookie (AA) sub-divisions. These baseball divisions are managed by the Senior Vice-President of the Minor League and coordinated by each respective division Vice-President.

Age-eligible girls are invited to play softball in the league’s A and AA sub-divisions, which are managed by the Senior Vice-President of Minor League Softball and coordinated by the Vice-President of the AA Division.

### **3. Little League Baseball and Softball**

The League offers Little League Divisions for both baseball and softball. Age-eligible boys are invited to play baseball in the league’s AAA, Coast, and Majors sub-divisions, while girls are invited to play softball in the league’s AAA, Coast, and Majors sub-divisions. These baseball divisions are managed by the Senior Vice-President of Major League Baseball and coordinated by each respective division Vice-President.

Age-eligible girls are invited to play softball in the league's AAA, Coast, and Majors sub-divisions, which are managed by the Vice-President of Major League Softball and coordinated by each respective division Vice-President.

#### **4. Juniors Division Baseball and Softball**

The League offers Junior Divisions for both baseball and softball. Age-eligible boys and girls are invited to play in baseball's Junior Division, which is managed by the EVP of Baseball and coordinated by baseball's VP of the Junior Division.

#### **5. Challenger Division**

The League offers a Challenger Division for mentally and/or physically disabled youth boys and girls to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities.

## **LEAGUE BOUNDARIES**

SLL serves the south end of the Sammamish Plateau located in eastern King County in Washington State. The league boundaries encompass the southern portion of the city of Sammamish and selected unincorporated areas with an Issaquah mailing address. The schools that feed SLL are Challenger, Sunny Hills, Endeavor, Discovery, Cascade Ridge and Grand Ridge Elementary Schools, as well as Pacific Cascade, Pine Lake and Beaver Lake Middle Schools.

All interested individuals are eligible for membership in the league, provided they reside within the league's defined boundaries. Parents of players residing outside the league's operating boundary may petition the league for registration when the league governing their residence does not offer the program being sought.

## **LEAGUE VOLUNTEERS**

Practically speaking, Little League is an adult, all-volunteer work project constructed, supervised and assisted by parents, who desire to make its benefits extend to their children. To ensure SLL is a successful organization, SLL relies upon the generous contributions and commitments it enjoys from those parent volunteers to effectively deliver its programs and fulfill its mission of youth development through team sports.

The primary roles for parent volunteers include the Board of Directors, Manager/Coaches, and Umpires; however, parent volunteers are incorporated in all functions supporting the league's overall activities.

And despite the seasonal nature of baseball and softball in the Pacific Northwest, it is the parent's responsibility to volunteer and to participate within SLL throughout the year in one or more capacities explained below.

### **Player Parents**

Parents should accept the fact that they must demonstrate responsibility and take the initiative to make the local program successful. There is a place and a job to do for all and each parent can contribute to the total effort. The parent who shirks their responsibility cannot, in turn, expect someone else will assume the burdens.

## *At Home*

Learning how to throw and catch with a parent is virtually a rite of passage for many kids. However, the role played by parents in mentoring their children in the positive values of team sports should not be overlooked. Parents are the first and best teachers of good sportsmanship, fair play, focused effort, and team spirit. Taking a few minutes to counsel your child on their contribution to the quality of their little league experience, and that of others, reinforces the lessons and guidance that coaches will impart during practices and games. This active and positive parent influence provides the essential character-building foundation for players that – win or lose - fosters team cohesion, respect for teammates and coaches, and respect for themselves.

## *Parent Duties*

Managers and coaches tackle the observable tasks of teaching skills, conducting drills, and controlling games. The league looks to parents to share the burden of the myriad other little leagues tasks that make successful practices, games, and seasons possible. Throughout the season, parents should be prepared to assume such responsibilities as:

- Assisting managers and coaches with practice and game-day field preparation, including raking the infield, placing chalk lines, and clearing any debris that could injure players or disrupt play.
- Learning scorekeeping and serving as the team's official scorekeeper for home games.
- Learning the fundamentals of umpiring and assuming the role of home plate or field umpire for games.
- Collecting orders and payment for team and individual photos prior to the team's scheduled photo session early in the season.
- Leading the planning and coordination of any season-ending team celebration or gathering.
- Participation in work parties designed to maintain or improve league facilities and grounds.
- Other coordination and communication needs as determined by the team manager or head coach.

## *Parent Conduct*

Parents are expected to model the same behavior that the league expects from its coaches and players. As such, parents should:

- Deliver their players to practices and games on-time, alerting coaches in advance to the extent possible if their child will be absent or otherwise unable to participate. Similarly, parents bear responsibility for child pick-up at the conclusion of practices and games.
- Become students of the game, learning the rules and regulations in place at their child's level of play and sharing their understanding with other interested parents and spectators.
- Refrain from questioning or challenging decisions of coaches and umpires during games, instead addressing questions and concerns with coaches and managers away from the game being played.
- Cheer for the players and accomplishments of both teams while supporting the reasonable conduct and effort of all managers, coaches, and umpires involved in the game. Abuse of players, managers, coaches, and umpires shall be subject to the discipline of the umpire-in-chief during the game and, subsequently, designated league officials.

## **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors is responsible for the management of the property and affairs of the local league. It shall have the power to appoint such standing and special committees as it shall determine by the constitution and to delegate such powers to them as the board shall deem advisable and proper.

The board may also adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its meetings and the management of the league.

### **Board Officers**

The SLL Board Officers include: President, President-Elect, VP Baseball, VP Softball, Webmaster, Registration, Secretary, Treasurer, Player Agent, and Safety Officer.

### **Executive Committee Members**

Pursuant to the League's Constitution, the Board of Directors shall appoint a limited number of members of the Board to form an Executive Committee on an annual basis. The Executive Committee shall have the powers specified in the Constitution and the Local Rules. In addition, the Executive Committee shall have the power to act for the Board of Directors on an interim basis regarding any issue that might properly be decided by the Board, subject to the right of the Board as a whole to approve or disapprove the actions of the Executive Committee at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting. The purpose of this provision is to allow the Executive Committee to act for the Board in a timely fashion when a particular issue needs quick resolution.

The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Board. Generally, the Executive Committee should include all officers of the League (President, President-Elect, VP Baseball, Webmaster, Registration Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, and Player Agent) and shall not consist of less than five (5) Board members. Other members of the Board may be added to the Executive Committee at the discretion of the Board, not to exceed 15 Board members total.

### **Managers/Coaches**

Managers and Coaches are appointed with the expectation that they will respond to a breadth of League needs over the course of the little league season that extend beyond team practice and game responsibilities.

### ***League Meetings***

SLL conducts several orientation and training meetings and presentations that cover topics which are vital to the quality, safety, and efficiency of the league's operation. As team representatives, managers and coaches in all divisions are expected to attend these sessions for their own benefit as well as the benefit of their players and parents. Managers and coaches will be provided a calendar of events and should check the SLL Website regularly for any pertinent announcements and schedule changes.

### ***Team Coaching and Administration***

Between practices and games, on-field coaching commitments range from 2-4 times per week, depending upon the program division and season calendar, with the early-season reflecting a heavier practice schedule to accelerate player skill development and effective team execution. Managers and coaches are expected to spend the time necessary with the team at practices and games.

At a minimum, a manager should:

- Be available to meet the team practice and game commitments associated with their team's schedule throughout the season.
- Make up any cancelled or rained out games or continue them as required on the day and at the time assigned by the appropriate league official.

- Handle or properly delegate administrative requirements of the team, including:
  - Obtaining and disseminating an accurate team roster, names and addresses, e-mail and phone contact information
  - Collection and retention of medical release forms for all team members.
- Attend league and/or District 9 clinics on coaching, rules and safety.
- Learn and abide by the national Little League, Inc. Rules & Regulations and the local SLL Rules & Regulations.
- Be willing to learn more about baseball and how to teach young people the proper way to play the game through both independent and peer study.
- Be responsible for proper safeguarding and use of all league equipment and uniforms at the end of the season.
- Participate and solicit parent participation in scheduled league functions including Opening Day ceremonies, fundraising efforts, work parties, and Team Picture Day.
- Maintain and teach players and parent's fair play and sportsmanship, team play and respect for the opponent and umpires.
- Work with league personnel and assist in providing an umpire core for the league, including the identification of at least three umpire volunteer candidates from among parents for AAA, Coast, and Majors teams.
- Accept the decisions of the SLL Board of Directors as final. Understand that if found in violation of any of these rules, policies or proper conduct that any individual in the league is subject to immediate suspension and/or dismissal from SLL, in accordance with the League Constitution and By-Laws and the SLL Local Rules.

Additionally, each coaching staff is required to have a parent's meeting before the first regularly-scheduled team practice. Experience has shown that informed parents are more inclined to help out with many tasks associated with a Little League team and program. This meeting should be held away from the practice field where the manager has the attention of all his/her parents. Each player on the team roster should be represented by a parent or guardian at this meeting.

Managers and coaches should use this opportunity to explain league and team schedules, practice goals, attendance expectations, volunteer needs and general responsibilities. Little League playing rules and regulations affecting the team should be introduced to begin setting parent expectations and to avoid rules abuses. Additionally, a review of the league structure should be offered to identify individuals, including the League President, League Vice Presidents, Player Agent, Safety Officer, and Umpire-in-Chief of a particular league who may assist in answering questions during the year.

### **Umpires**

Umpires are an integral part of completing a successful learning experience throughout SLL. They have the task of insuring that all playing and safety rules are enforced, while tactfully coping with difficult situations. SLL shall encourage parents to become umpires by providing access to instructional booklets and clinics designed to teach parents the game's core rules and regulations and to introduce techniques of effective game management and adjudication. Knowledge of the game and confidence in its conduct ensures effective officiating and fair play.

### ***SLL Youth Umpire Program***

The Sammamish Little League Youth Umpire Program is a program intended to increase involvement of neighborhood youth in the game of baseball, increase participant's knowledge of the rules of the game, and enhance our community's volunteer umpire resources. Active participation in the program can result in either community service learning hours or monetary compensation. The ultimate goal of this program, like all Little League programs, is to give you the opportunity to learn, succeed and be rewarded in a challenging, but safe environment.

Youth Umpires are between the ages of 13-17. Sammamish Little League provides training, equipment and a rule book. Currently, the program covers the 3 highest levels of baseball and the two highest levels of softball. Youth Umpires cover both field and plate positions for Coast and AAA games. They are in the field for Majors games with a Senior Umpire behind the plate.

# **VOLUNTEER PROCESS**

## **Volunteer Application**

All volunteers will complete a Little League Volunteer Application. At a minimum, SLL has identified the following positions requiring a volunteer application: Managers, Coaches, Umpires, League Officials (BOD Officers and BOD Members), Score Keepers, and any adult that participates during a Little League game inside the dugout or fence line.

## **Background Checks**

All volunteers having access to the field during a baseball game and/or having frequent access to the players will undergo a records check as required by Little League, Inc., Regulation I (c) (8), to determine if any criminal convictions disqualify them from participation in such positions. At a minimum, SLL has identified the following positions requiring a records check: All managers, coaches, umpires and league officials (Board of Directors Officers and Members) and any adult that participates during a Little League game inside the dugout or fence line or having regular contact with players.



## **DISCIPLINE POLICY**

Sammamish Little League has the right to discipline any person associated with the league when it determines that league rules, regulations, or operating policies have been violated. Disciplinary matters regarding any player, manager, coach, umpire or Member shall be resolved by the Executive Committee of the Board, and there shall be no appeal from the decision of the Executive Committee on any such disciplinary matter. Disciplinary matters involving any member of the Board, the Executive Committee, or any other league committee, shall be resolved by the Board.

The Executive Committee (or Board, as applicable) shall have the right to impose any or all of the following as discipline:

1. Termination of the person from Sammamish Little League.
2. Suspension of the person from league activities for a specified period of time and/or a specified number of games and/or from specific league positions (such as coach or umpire); and/or
3. Caution or censure of the person.

## **REFERRALS PROCESS**

Any issue that may require discipline regarding any player, manager, coach, umpire or Member to be considered may be brought to the attention of the league by any person. The President shall initially handle any such referral (except if the President is the subject of the potential discipline, in which case the referral shall be handled at all points by the Player Agent).

The President shall initially determine if the referral has an adequate basis in fact for a hearing on potential discipline. The President may choose to conduct an investigation and/or to consult with others in making this determination. If the President determines that there is an adequate basis for a hearing, the President shall promptly schedule a meeting of the Executive Committee to consider the matter. The hearing shall be held by the Executive Committee as soon as practicable. At least five days' notice of the hearing shall be provided to the person who is the subject of the potential discipline; such notice may be provided by email, and shall be also provided either by hand delivery or certified mail, return receipt requested. Notice will be deemed to have been provided when the email is sent to the affected person.

## **REFERRALS INVESTIGATION**

The President or others at his direction may at any time investigate the issues relating to the referral. In conducting this investigation, the President may contact the person who is the subject of the referral and potential discipline or any other persons with knowledge of matters relating to the issues presented. The President shall present any information gathered to the Executive Committee during any hearing which is conducted.

The President may determine that any referral of potential discipline should not be considered by the full Executive Committee because of insufficient grounds to impose discipline or to pursue the matter further. In that event, the President shall promptly inform the entire Executive Committee of his or her decision in writing. If three or more members of the Executive Committee provide written notice to the President within five days of receipt of the President's notice of the decision not to proceed that they wish to have the matter considered at a hearing, a hearing will be conducted notwithstanding the President's decision not to proceed.

## **TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS**

Prior to a hearing, the President shall have the power to temporarily suspend any player, manager, coach, umpire or Member on an interim basis. The President is to use this interim power sparingly, and only in situations where the safety of any person might be placed at risk, where there may have been violation of a law, or where there has apparently been flagrant violation of league rules. The President will take such interim action by providing email notice and a telephone message to the person who is the subject of the potential dispute. The Executive Committee shall have the power to revoke any interim suspension at any time.

## **DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS**

All hearings shall be conducted in an informal but orderly fashion. The person who is the subject of the disciplinary hearing shall have the right to attend the presentation of all evidence to be considered; shall have the right to have counsel present; and shall have the right to present evidence. The President shall preside over the hearing. The league shall have the right to have counsel present. No one other than the Executive Committee, counsel to the league, and the subject and his or her counsel shall have the right to attend the hearing or to hear the testimony of any witness. In any hearing involving a minor, the minor shall have the right to have his/her parents or legal guardians present.

Any hearing on discipline and any interim suspension may be terminated by the President upon receipt of written notice from the person affected by the hearing/suspension that the person has voluntarily resigned his or her position and/or terminated his or her Membership in Sammamish Little League.

# **PROTESTING GAMES**

## **REGULAR SEASON GAMES**

No protest of any regular season game will be accepted or considered. Any and all regular-season game disputes will be handled and resolved on the field by the umpires of that game. Those decisions are final.

## **END-OF-SEASON SEASON GAMES**

A game protest may be made by the designated manager of any team involved in a game played under the End of Season Tournament guidelines as outlined in Exhibits E-1 and E-2 of these Local Rules. The protest must follow the guidelines as set out in the official Little League rule book as outlined in Rule 4.19. Game protests may only be considered by the Protest Committee when based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule, use of an ineligible pitcher or the use of an ineligible player. No protests will be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment. SLL is the final authority for all protests during SLL End of Season games.

## **PROTEST COMMITTEE**

Whenever a protest is submitted in accordance with Rule 4.19, a Protest Committee will be formed, and will include at least three individuals. Any person who is an umpire, manager or coach at the level of play where the game being protested may not participate on the Committee in regards to that particular protest. The Protest Committee shall initially consist of those of the following individuals who qualify:

- League President
- One of the following: VP Baseball/Majors and Coast (for BB Majors/Coast protest); or VP Softball (for SB protest); or VP Baseball Minor Leagues (for AAA protest)
- League Umpire-in-Chief
- Player Agent

If additional individuals are required to have three members on the Protest Committee, the replacements (none of whom can be participants at the level of play involved) will be "drafted" in the following order:

1. VP Baseball/Majors and Coast (for SB protest)
2. VP Softball (for any BB protest)
3. VP Baseball Minor Leagues (for SB or BB Majors/Coast protest)
4. VP All-Stars
5. Division VP's (for level where game is played)

## **MANAGER SELECTION**

All managers/head coaches (aka coach of record) must apply for the position desired on a year-to-year basis. The President appoints managers and coaches, subject to approval by the Board of Directors. A manager selection committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, reviews applicants and recommends manager candidates to the President. This committee should be made up of the VP Baseball/Softball, Division Directors for Baseball/Softball, and the Player Agent. If the SLL President does not appoint an individual as a manager, then that person is simply not approved and no Board of Directors action is needed. Coaching commitments range from 2-4 times per week and reflect, but are not limited to, the obligations explained in Section C – League Volunteers under “Managers”.

All manager candidates, or a designee, will be notified by the manager selection committee prior to player evaluations/workout in order to have the opportunity to review player capabilities/abilities. All candidates **are strongly encouraged to** attend the entire evaluation/workout as part of the application process for further consideration.

The President, with approval of the Board of Directors, will appoint Majors managers.

# **PLAYER REGISTRATION**

## **REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS**

Every administrator, coach, manager and player must be duly registered. Every player must sign up at the time designated for registration, or in the case of a known absence, must make arrangements must for pre-registration with the appropriate Player Agent. Players will normally not be signed up after registration closes except in T-Ball, Instructional, Rookie, AAA and Coast.

A player who is eligible by age and boundary rules will have an opportunity to register to play in SLL. A player must reside within the SLL boundaries or attend a school within SLL boundaries to qualify to play in SLL. This rule is a Little League, Inc. rule and must be followed; there are some exceptions for players moving outside the SLL boundaries after they have been placed on a team or if a sibling to such a player. If any doubt exists about eligibility contact your Player Agent or League President.

## SOFTBALL-LEVEL OF PLAY POLICY

Softball players are assigned to a level of play based on their league-age as defined by Little League, Inc. and SLL operating guidelines (this document). League age is determined by a player's age based on birth year. For players in the 2021 season, the following table will be used to determine league age:

### **2021 Little League® Age Chart FOR SOFTBALL DIVISION ONLY**

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	4
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	5
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	6
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	7
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	8
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	9
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	10
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	11
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	12
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	13
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	14
2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	15
2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	16

**NOTE: This age chart is for SOFTBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2021.**

## **BASEBALL-LEVEL OF PLAY POLICY**

Baseball players are assigned to a level of play based on their league-age as defined by Little League, Inc. and SLL operating guidelines (this document). League age is determined by a player's age on August 31 each season year. Exception: Players born prior to August 31, 2005 will continue to utilize the age determination date of April 30 for the remainder of their Little League career, per Little League rules. Example: For such players in the 2021 season, the following table will be used to determine league age:

### **2021 Little League® Age Chart FOR BASEBALL DIVISION ONLY**

**Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.**

<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>	<b>AGE</b>
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	4
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	5
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	6
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	7
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	8
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	9
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	10
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	11
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	12
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	13
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	14
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	15
2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2004	2004	2004	2004	16

**NOTE: This age chart is for BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2021.**

In addition to the Little League table above, SLL provides following general guidelines for level of play by grade level:

Grade	Level of Play
K and pre-K	T-Ball
1	A
2	AA
3	AAA
4	Coast
5	Coast
6 - 7	Majors

**Additional Notes on level of play:**

**1. Majors, Coast, AAA Play Up Request**

All players requesting to play up for any division in majors (e.g. AAA, Coast, Majors) must meet the following criteria: attend SLL evaluations, score in the top 25% of the player pool for divisions being requested, selected by team in requested division, and approved by the SLL Player Agent.

**2. Playing Up or Down to School Grade Level**

While not required, during online registration players with a league-age that places them into a level of play higher or lower than indicated may choose to play up or down one level of play. Selecting this option during on-line registration satisfies the requirement of written notification. If player is requesting to play up in Majors, the player must quality per number one (Play Up Request) above. Note: The parent’s selection of this option serves as their written consent allowing the league to contact the player’s school to verify his/her grade level, as appropriate.

**3. Skills Evaluation Play Down Option**

At the completion of skill evaluations of players, the Player Agent will **notify** the parents of all 12-year-olds, 10-year-olds, and 9-year-olds who scored in the bottom 15% of skill evaluations to inform them that they have the option to have their son/daughter play down one level. Players of ages 12, 10, and 9 will NOT be moved down one level of play without consent of parents. Note: SLL reserves the right to have District 9 evaluate or review the skill level of any 12-year-old to determine their appropriate level of play.

**Other Requests for Exceptions**

There will be NO EXCEPTIONS to this written policy.

**REFUNDS**

Written notification of cancellation received by SLL:	Refund
Before team formation/ Meet the Coach Day	Full refund less a \$20 non-refundable registration fee



Prior to 2/1/2021 for Majors Divisions and 3/1/2021 for Minors divisions	50% Refund. Additional donations will not be refunded unless specifically requested by the account holder.
No Refunds after 3/1/2021 for Majors Divisions and after 3/20/2021 for Minors	0% Refund

Any requests for registration refunds must be submitted by the Registration Secretary to the Treasurer. If the party requesting the refund has paid by credit card, the amount to be refunded to the party will be credited back to their credit card only. If the party paid by check, the amount will be returned to them by SLL check once the treasurer has verified that the requesting party's check has been deposited and cleared the requesting party's bank. If payment was made by cash, the party will receive a refund in the form of a SLL check upon the next run of checks by the League Treasurer.

## **WAITING LIST**

If all positions on all teams in any particular league are full and a waiting list is established, the first player on the waiting list is assigned to the team with the first opening. Assigning is to be completed by the Player Agent, the SVP of Baseball/Softball, the VP of Baseball Coast and Majors, VP Minor Leagues or VP Softball. If a player refuses to go to the first available team the player will be dropped from the waiting list.

## **REQUIRED FORMS**

In addition to completing the on-line player registration, the parent of guardian must complete and sign the approved medical release form for their player. This form must be provided to the player's assigned team manager before that player will be permitted to practice.

# **PLAYER EVALUATIONS/WORKOUTS - BASEBALL**

All baseball players of league ages 9, 10, 11 & 12 will be notified of an impending skill evaluation, including dates, times and the locations. Each player must attend the evaluation/tryouts to be eligible to be assigned to a Major, Coast or AAA level Team. Players failing to participate in evaluations shall forfeit eligibility, unless an excuse is presented to and accepted by the Board of Directors.

Evaluations assess each player's skills and abilities to place them in the proper level of play where appropriate. All players participating in skill evaluations should be registered to play Little League; however, late registrations will be considered at the evaluation site.

League Volunteers will evaluate each player in running, throwing, pitching, fielding, handling a bat, and overall coordination. All skills (except running) will be graded on a scale of 1 to 9 with descriptions of the end point and mid-point (5) scores provided to aid graders in scoring accuracy and to familiarize them with the scale range. (For instance, a score of 1 may read: Needs one-on-one instruction. Needs help with the most basic elements of this skill.)

## **RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Equipment***

	<i>Wiffle Ball Hitting Station</i>
	<i>Wiffle Balls (One 5-gallon bucket)</i>
	<i>RIF-5 Baseballs (Filling three 5-gallon buckets)</i>
	<i>Baseball Bats</i>
	<i>Home Plates</i>
	<i>Batting Helmets (5 of varying sizes)</i>
	<i>Stop Watches (3 primary - 1 back-up)</i>
	<i>Clip Boards and Pencils/Pens (At least 10)</i>
	<i>T-Ball Batting Tees (2)</i>
	<i>Hitting Net (1)</i>

### ***Evaluation Administration***

	<i>1 Captain</i>
	<i>2 Registrars</i>

### ***Timed Run Station***

	<i>1 Starter</i>
	<i>2 Timers w/Stop Watches</i>
	<i>1 Recorder with Clip Board</i>

1 Station Captain
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### ***Fielding Station***

1 Coach – oversees two players warming up
1 Thrower – throwing pop-ups and grounders
1 Fielder – flanking Thrower to accept player return throws
3 Graders – with clip boards
1 Station Captain

### ***Batting Station***

2 On-Deck Coaches – oversee two players on-deck
1 Ball Feeder
2 Fielders – shagging balls from net back to buckets
2 Graders – with clip boards
1 Station Captain/WORKOUTS

### ***Pitching Station***

1 Coach managing players and giving direction
1 Catcher
1 Helper transitioning balls back to the Pitchers
3 Graders – with clip boards
1 Station Captain

### ***T-Ball Station***

1 Coach – placing balls on tee
2 Graders – with clip boards
1 Station Captain

## **CHECK-IN / REGISTRATION**

Prior to start-time, players will check in as follows:

1. Check in with one of two REGISTRARS at the front table.
2. REGISTRARS check players off master list.
3. REGISTRARS give each player a bib/badge/sticker with a unique number and their league age

(pre-assigned, see master list). All grading of players will be accomplished using this tracking number only.

4. Players will place their number on the upper left chest for identification to be visible throughout the evaluations.

## **STATION EXECUTION**

Weather permitting and provided availability of field space, station evaluations will be conducted outdoors. The following evaluation process, which yields four individual scores, is recommended but not required.

### ***Timed Run Station***

*Timed by three watches on a fixed straight line.*

*Using in a long hallway if conducted indoors*

*Timers encourage repeat runs to correct mistakes*

*Recorder w/out stop watch records all times*

### ***Fielding Station***

*Issue 3-4 ground and 3-4 fly balls*

*Separate grading of fielding from throwing*

*Throw back at full speed*

### ***Batting Station***

*Take 8 pitches - soft toss into batting net*

*2 on-deck batters warm up*

*All 3 batters wear helmets*

### ***Pitching Station***

*5 pitches to catcher from 46'*

*Focus of grading is on Speed and Accuracy*

*1 helper relaying balls (in bucket) back to pitching area*

### ***T-Ball Station***

*Take 5 cuts off the tee into the batting net*

*3 evaluators plus one to reset the tee*

Throughout the skill evaluations, station captains shall maintain player and evaluator safety while verifying that each player number and grade is recorded legibly. When all players have completed the station, an escort leads the group to the next station.

# **PLAYER EVALUATIONS/WORKOUT - SOFTBALL**

All softball players will be notified of an impending skill evaluation, including dates, times and the locations.

Evaluations assess each player's skills and abilities to place them in the proper level of play where appropriate. All players participating in skill evaluations should be registered to play Little League; however, late registrations will be considered at the evaluation site.

League Volunteers will evaluate each player in running, throwing, pitching, fielding, handling a bat, and overall coordination. All skills (except running) will be graded on a scale of 1 to 9 with descriptions of the end point and mid-point (5) scores provided to aid graders in scoring accuracy and to familiarize them with the scale range. (For instance, a score of 1 may read: Needs one-on-one instruction. Needs help with the most basic elements of this skill.)

Use the rating below for each activity. Use 1-9 only and avoid decimals or fractions. We will round up or down if a decimal or fraction is used. After the skill evaluation all the rating will be tabulated in preparation for the drafts. There is very little time to tabulate after the evaluations and before the team formation, and all rating sheets must be turned in at the conclusion of the skill evaluations. Drafts at the AAA, Coast, Majors and Juniors will be based on a serpentine method that evenly distributes the players based on each player's scores for from the skill evaluations. Draft rules will be explained in detail at each draft session.

## **RATING      General Skill for this Rating**

1. No skills, no previous softball experience, does not hustle
2. Very few skills, appears to have no prior experience
3. Low skill set, weak player but appears to have some previous experience
4. Has previous experience, has skills but poor mechanics
5. Well rounded, average skills, hustles and mechanics will improve with coaching
6. Good skill with sound mechanics
7. Good skills, a strong player with good mechanics
8. Very strong, reliable player with good mechanics, hustles with each repetition
9. Exceptional impact player to build a team on, outstanding skills and a cut above all others

**Players attend skills evaluation based on their last name. names beginning with letter A-M participate during the first session, N-Z during the second session.** Please remember that the teams are developed based on your accurate ratings. Be consistent, accurate and thorough with your player ratings.

# **TEAM FORMATION - BASEBALL**

## **TEAM FORMATION COMMITTEE - BASEBALL**

AAA, Coast, and Majors division teams will be formed through a multi-step team formation process that includes a comprehensive skill evaluation of all eligible players and the determination of a composite score derived by an algorithm applied to each player's raw skill station scores. The process will be led by the Team Formation Committee, whose members shall include:

- League President
- EVP of Majors Baseball
- Majors Baseball Division Manager
- Coast Baseball Division Manager
- AAA Baseball Division Manager
- League Player Agent

A minimum of 3 individuals will comprise this committee. If 3 members are not eligible from this core group, the VP-All Stars will participate as a replacement for that division only.

### **TEAM FORMATION**

SLL will use the following process in order to provide an equitable distribution of player talent and team parity. Deviations to these rules will only be allowed provided they are in compliance (or an approved alternative) to the Little League Operational Handbook.

Team formation will occur by division in the following order, with the pool of eligible players for each division determined by the SLL Level of Play policy, above:

1. Majors Level
2. Coast Level
3. AAA Level

### **Number of Teams**

Majors EVP and Baseball Division Managers will determine the number of teams playing in each Division (AAA, Coast and Majors) based on the pool of eligible players as determined by the SLL Level of Play policy, above. Number of teams playing in each division will be reviewed and approved by League President, Majors EVP and League Player Agent prior to the team formation process.

### **Team formation policies**

At each level, all eligible players in the candidate pool for that level (as determined by the SLL Level of Play policy, above) will be drafted onto a team.

### **Juniors**

All players shall be placed on teams according to District 9 policy to distribute player talent equally across all teams being formed when more than one team is required or combined with another League.

### **Majors/Coast/AAA**

- At the completion of the team formation process, each team will have 11 or 12 players on their roster, with the exception of Majors, for which 12 players per team are required by Little League rules. Rosters for each division will be filled from the pool of eligible players for that division on draft day.
- Any team with less than the minimum required number of players will be assigned additional players from the SLL late registration wait list until the minimum player requirement is met.
- All 12 year olds are to be placed on Majors teams, except in cases where a request to play down has been granted. No team may have more than eight 12 year olds, per Little League rules. Remaining slots on Majors rosters may be any combination of ages from those available in the candidate pool as determined by the SLL Level of Play policy, above.

## **TEAM FORMATION PROCESS – MAJORS BASEBALL (Majors, Coast, and AAA)**

SLL’s team formation goal is to develop teams that are balanced and competitive utilizing skill evaluations, prior season Manager evaluations, Team Formation Committee assessment and Managers review and input.

Majors, Coast and AAA division teams will be formed through a multi-step team formation process that includes comprehensive skill evaluation of all eligible players and the determination of a composite score for each player, including prior season Manager evaluations (where available). Based on this composite score, players will be assigned to teams utilizing a rotational or ‘serpentine’ system (ex. In a 6 team division, team 1 receives player number one, team two receives player number two, etc. with team 6 receiving players number 6 and 7, team 5 receives player number 8, team 4 receives player number 9, etc. with team 1 receiving player numbers 12 and 13 until all eligible players are placed on teams.)

### **Assignment of Players**

1. For each projected division of play, the pool of eligible players (as determined by SLL Level of Play policy, above) will be stack ranked in order of skill evaluation pitching score. The team formation committee will review stack ranking and compare to prior year Manager evaluation to determine if pitchers are properly ranked.
2. Pitchers will be assigned to teams utilizing the rotational (serpentine) method described above until each team has 3 pitchers.
3. Remaining eligible players will be stack ranked in order of their skill evaluation composite score.
4. Remaining eligible players will be assigned to teams utilizing the rotational (serpentine) method described above based on their skill evaluation composite score.
5. After all eligible players are assigned to teams, the resulting rosters will be reviewed by the Team Formation Committee to assess overall balance and equitable distribution of pitchers and catchers. Where appropriate, players will be ‘traded’ to achieve balanced teams.
6. Division Managers will meet with Team Formation Committee to review the team formation process and team rosters.
7. Managers will comment on overall balance and distribution of pitchers and catchers. Any Manager may recommend players ‘trades’ to achieve balanced teams. Recommendations will be adopted with League President, League Player Agent and EVP Majors approval.
8. After Team Formation Committee and Division Managers have reached consensus that the teams are equal, Managers will draw team numbers to assign teams.
9. Manager/Coach player assignment – each team will be allowed one Manager son/daughter player trade and one Coach son/daughter player trade. Such players will be traded for players with similar evaluation scores in order to preserve overall competitive balance. Trades are limited to one manager and one coach only.

10. After Manager/Coach son/daughter trades are completed, the Team Formation Committee and Managers will review teams a final time for balance. The Team Formation Committee may make additional trades to ensure all teams have at least 3 qualified pitchers and 2 qualified catchers.
11. At this point the team formation process is complete.
12. Upon the completion of a draft for Majors, Coast and AAA, each Manager will draw their team name from a hat. Trades of team names can be done by agreement of the two managers involved. All names will be final at the completion of the draft meeting.

### **TEAM FORMATION PROCESS – MINORS BASEBALL (T-ball, A/Rookie) and AA/Instructional)**

Team formation within T-Ball, A (Rookie) and AA (Instructional) divisions shall be performed by the Division Managers of each respective division and subject to review and approval by the EVP Minors Division Baseball, League Player Agent and League President. Each Division Manager shall attempt to group players according to school attended and will honor friend and manager/coach pairing requests whenever practical.

### **TEAM FORMATION OPTIONS (All Divisions)**

An option is an agreement between a Manager and the Player Agent covering a special condition. All options must be in writing and be submitted to the Player Agent prior to the draft. Player options will be monitored closely by the Player Agent. Draft options adhere to the Little League Operations Manual.

### **Brothers / Sisters - Current Year Draftees**

Brother/sister options take priority over age level rules if the players involved are capable of playing at the given level, as stated above, and an option is exercised. This exception must be reviewed and approved by the Player Agent and the League President. If approved, the Team Formation Committee will place division eligible brothers/sisters on the same team during the team formation process.

### **SECRECY**

ALL DIVISIONS Players shall never be told the position in which they were drafted or the number of votes they received in Tournament Team selection.

### **TRADES**

Upon the completion of a draft, the Player Agent shall announce a 15-minute period for trades for that draft only (this time may only be extended by the Division EVP or VP). There shall be no trades between levels of play (i.e., trades from Majors to Coast, etc.). All trades must be submitted to and approved by the associated Divisional VPs and the Player Agent for approval.



# **TEAM FORMATION - SOFTBALL**

## **TEE BALL AND MINOR LEAGUE - SOFTBALL**

Team formation within Tee Ball/A and the AA division shall be performed by the Vice-Presidents of each respective division and subject to review and approval by the Senior Vice-President of Softball and the League President. Each Vice-President shall attempt to group players according to school attended and will honor friend and manager/coach pairing requests whenever practical.

## **LITTLE LEAGUE - SOFTBALL**

AAA, Coast, Majors, Junior, and Senior division teams will be formed through a multi-step team formation process that includes a comprehensive skill evaluation of all eligible players, noted below, and the determination of a composite score for each player – the aggregate of the player’s raw skill station scores.

1. All girls will be rated from 1-9 during skill evaluations. The ratings are established as follows:
  - 1) No skills, no previous softball experience, does not hustle
  - 2) Very few skills, appears to have no prior experience
  - 3) Low skill set, weak player but appears to have some previous experience
  - 4) Has previous experience, has skills but poor mechanics
  - 5) Well rounded, average skills, hustles and mechanics will improve with coaching
  - 6) Good skill with sound mechanics
  - 7) Good skills, a strong player with good mechanics
  - 8) Very strong, reliable player with good mechanics, hustles with each repetition
  - 9) Exceptional impact player to build a team on, outstanding skills and a cut above all others
2. After all players have been rated in skill evaluations, their scores will be combined into a spreadsheet. The spreadsheet tabulates their total score based on input from managers. An exceptional player with ratings of 9 for all five skills will achieve a score of 45.
3. Every player will receive a set of ratings from the managers at the skill evaluation in order to achieve a fair comparison of final ratings. If a player is missing a complete set of rating numbers, or the entire set, we will average the scores from the other managers to ensure all players are compared equally.
4. The spreadsheet is sorted with total ratings from highest to lowest. This sort excludes pitching scores. The spreadsheet is sorted a second time to reflect only the pitching scores in order to determine the pitching ranks.
5. Draft nights will start with the Majors draft on the first night. After all Majors team are established the Coast draft will take place with the remaining players. The Juniors draft will take place on a third night or be combined with the Majors draft night.
6. The first three lines of the draft sheet are filled with two pitchers and one catcher for each team. The pitchers are divided between teams based on their skill evaluation pitching scores. Catchers are established through skill evaluations and manager input from past coaching experience.
7. After pitchers and catchers are set, the highest rated player is at the top of the spreadsheet and names are then fed into the draft sheet by rating. All draft positions are filled through the first round from left to right. The second round is filled from right to left and then left to right in the third round. The serpentine approach fills the teams with an equal number of players with similar skills. Our goal is to develop teams that are even and competitive.

# **ROSTER CHANGES**

## **PLAYER RELEASE**

A player may be dropped from a league roster under the following conditions:

1. Doctors medical determination
2. Moving from area
3. Written resignation
4. Non-registration
5. Non-attendance or discipline reasons (See Discipline)

A player who finds it necessary to seek release from a roster, or a manager seeking the release of a player on his/her current roster, must ask for the release through the Player Agent and in accordance with the Little League, Inc. Regulation III (e). If the Player Agent is convinced the reason for the release is in the best interest of the player and the league, the Player Agent will present the appeal to the appropriate Board of Director Members.

## **ROSTER REPLACEMENT - COAST AND MAJORS**

In the event that a roster needs a replacement player of an injury or family relocation outside the boundaries of the Sammamish Little League that would vacate the roster spot for the remainder of the season, the following steps should occur:

1. The Majors or Coast Manager should notify their respective VP of the upcoming roster vacancy, the reason for the vacancy and the date of the opening as soon as they are made aware of the change.
2. VP will alert the Player Agent of the change and the need for a replacement player.
3. If the opening is at the Majors level and there is a 12-year old on the wait list, the 12-year old will take priority in consideration to fill the vacancy. In the event that the team with the vacancy already has a full allotment of 12-year old players, the Player Agent will consider if the replacement will create an unfair advantage prior to making a final decision. If the opening occurs at the Coast level, we will look at the Coast Wait List for both the 11 and 10 year olds prior to bringing up a player from the AAA Division. Only players who are league age 10 will be considered to serve as a replacement at the Coast level unless there are no 10 year olds willing to move up. If that is the case the Player Agent may start with the 9 year old players. Only players who are league age 11 will be considered to serve as a replacement at the Majors level unless there are no 11 year old Players willing to move up. If that is the case the Player Agent may start with 10 year old Players.
4. Player Agent will involve VP's of both the division with the vacancy and the VP's of the division of which the replacement player will be drawn from to discuss candidates. Manager evaluation forms (Majors only) used for All Star nominations will be considered. Coast VP's will work with AAA VP's and Managers to establish a list of qualified players that could potentially fill a Coast vacancy since evaluation forms and All Star Nomination data is not available.
5. The final decision on the nomination of the replacement player will be the responsibility of the Player Agent.

6. Any player whose roster spot is replaced through this process will not be allowed to resume his roster spot in the event of a change in moving plans, quick recovery from injury, etc. If a player is replaced and later is eligible to resume play, he will be put on the waiting list and considered as any other player would in the process.
7. Any player approved by SLL as a replacement player will be removed from the roster of the lower level team and permanently placed on the roster of the higher level team.
8. No request for replacement players will be considered after game #11 of the regular season.

### ***Replacement of Players on Majors/Coast Teams between Game 11 and End of Season***

After completion of regular season game #11, SLL and its Player Agent will not entertain requests for replacement players, and will not assign replacement players, to facilitate completion of regular-season games, unless the number of players per team is nine or fewer.

### ***Replacement of Players on Majors/Coast Teams for End-of-Season Tournament Play***

SLL and its Player Agent will not entertain requests for replacement players, and will not assign replacement players, to facilitate completion of End-of-Season Tournament games, unless the number of players per team is nine or fewer.

## **INTER-LEAGUE PLAY**

To ensure adequate competition for the players and teams in all SLL divisions, it may be necessary to schedule inter-league play at selected baseball and softball levels. Inter-league play – play between the teams of two or more local little leagues - requires a Request for Inter-League Play to be reviewed and approved annually through the District Administrator.

In SLL divisions scheduled for inter-league play, games will not governed by SLL local rules but instead will be conducted in accordance with the Little League Baseball Manual, the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules (Baseball/Softball), and their interpretation by the Little League District 9 administrator.

Request forms can be found on the SLL web site

## **END-OF-SEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY**

SLL will conduct an End-of-Season Tournament for each of the AAA, Coast, and Major divisions. All regular-season teams are qualified for participation regardless of their regular-season record. Teams are expected to play in all tournament games for which they are scheduled.

### **TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

The VP – Baseball for each division (AAA, Coast, Majors) will place division teams in playoff brackets randomly through blind draw.

#### **Majors Division**

Tournament format recommendation for Majors will be prepared by the Tournament Committee.

#### **Coast Division**

Tournament format recommendation for Coast will be prepared by the Tournament Committee.

#### **AAA Division**

Tournament format recommendation for AAA will be prepared by the Tournament Committee.

### **COMMON RULES**

See regular season local rules.

### **USE OF UNAUTHORIZED PLAYERS**

Any SLL Manager, Coach or league official who allows an unauthorized player from another regular season team to play in a play-off, league championship or other special game will be immediately dismissed from SLL. Such stacking of teams will not be allowed under any circumstances. If a team is unable to field the minimum number of players, then that game will be forfeited, postponed or scheduled as appropriate, but it will not be played with players filling in from another team or league except as otherwise provided by Little League Regulation V (c), and approved by SLL.

### **CHAMPIONSHIP SATURDAY CONDUCT**

Championship Saturday – the conclusion of the SLL End-of-Season Tournament - is normally conducted at the Beaver Lake Parks ball fields. Scheduled championship and consolation games for the Majors, Coast, and AAA divisions may coincide with the play of T-ball Jamboree and Sportsmanship games. To allow the safe and timely conduct of all Championship Saturday and related games, the following rules shall apply exclusively to the tournament games conducted at Beaver Lake Park during that day.

- Teams should warm up behind the white outfield fences when the preceding game is in progress.
- Each team must supply one adult to sit in press box to keep score or announce on the PA.

- The visiting team shall take 10 minutes of infield 30 minutes prior to scheduled start time.
- The home team takes 10 minutes of infield 20 minutes prior to scheduled start time.
- Full rosters of both teams are announced 10 minutes prior to schedule start time. Each player lines up along their respective foul line once their name is announced.
- Following player announcements on all three fields the Little League Pledge will be recited by players, coaches, and parents and the National Anthem will be played.
- During the game all players warming up including pitchers must do so behind the white outfield fence only.

# **ALL-STAR AND POST-SEASON GAME PLAY**

Under the single-division format adopted by SLL in 2010, the league will field one All-Star team from each eligible division to represent SLL in all-star tournament play and post-season “special games”.

## **ALL-STAR SELECTION PROCESS**

The League’s local rules use of “All-Star Team” refers to the tournament team definition found in the Tournament Rules and Guidelines for Little League Baseball & Softball. The schedule for all-star roster selection will adhere to the schedule outlined in that document. The identical roster selection process will be used for all League operating divisions in a given year.

## **ALL-STAR COMMITTEE**

The League will form an All-Star Committee for the purpose of managing the selection of players, managers, and coaches participating in all-star teams at each division level. This committee shall consist of the Vice-President of Baseball/Softball, the respective League VP, the Player Agent, the VP All-Stars and the League President.

## **MAJORS DIVISION**

### ***Candidate Eligibility***

Eligible all-star team candidates are:

1. Selected from players on a Major's team roster (11 and 12 year olds) who have played in at least 60% of their team’s regular season games through Championship Saturday AND;
2. Required to submit a commitment letter to their respective All-Star team Manager, signed by the candidate and his parents/guardians, prior to the start of All-Star practices.

### ***Player Selection***

To form the most highly skilled and competitive team possible, players will be nominated and selected by division managers based upon the following criteria:

- The most highly skilled players as evidenced by the players' performance during the season;
- Sportsmanship, conduct, personality and attitude as evidenced by the players’ performance during the season;
- Availability of the players and his/her families to meet commitments required of All-Stars;
- Factors that may reflect upon a candidate's fitness and ability to play on an All-Star team.

### ***Roster Size***

Teams will consist of 12 players unless a smaller/larger number is authorized by the League President.

### ***Selection Process***

The League All-Star Selection Committee and Division Managers will meet at the end of the regular season to identify All-Star candidates and select the League All-Star tournament team utilizing the

following nomination and voting process. All teams must be represented in the All-Star Selection process by one representative Manager or Assistant Coach.

- The Division VP will communicate the All-Star selection process to Managers prior to and at the start of the All-Star selection meeting.
- Each Manager/Team Representative will nominate players that should be considered for All-Star selection. Managers may nominate players on their own or other teams. Managers may provide a one minute overview of each nominee's skills and sportsmanship characteristics. Nominees' names will be recorded and displayed during the selection process.
- Each Manager/Team Representative will cast one ballot consisting of 12 players for the tournament team for which they are eligible to vote.
- The league Player Agent and Division VP will tally votes and communicate the players receiving the highest vote totals. These players will be considered tournament team selections. A player must get a majority of votes to be cast to a team (example – 8 majors teams: a player must get 5 votes to be nominated).
- Managers/Team Representatives will have the opportunity to discuss the skills and sportsmanship characteristics of the remaining nominees.
- Each Manager/Team Representative will cast one ballot consisting of the remaining players for the tournament team for which they are eligible to vote.
- The league Player Agent and Division VP will tally votes and communicate the next set of players receiving the majority of votes. These players will be considered tournament team selections.
- The league Player Agent and Division VP will communicate the 3 players receiving the next highest vote totals. These players will be considered tournament team alternates. Alternates will be utilized in the event selected players are not able to fulfill their commitments.

## **11-YEAR-OLD DIVISION**

Candidate Eligibility Eligible all-star team candidates are: 1. 11, 10 or 9-year-olds selected from players on a Major's or Coast team roster who have played in at least 60% of their team's regular season games through Championship Saturday, AND; 2. Required to submit a commitment letter to their respective All-Star team Manager, signed by the candidate and his parents/guardians, prior to the start of All-Star practices.

### ***Player Selection***

The same process and policies described for Baseball Majors Division apply to the 11 and 10-year-Old Division.

## **10-YEAR-OLD DIVISION**

Candidate Eligibility Eligible all-star team candidates are: 1. 10, 9, or 8-year-olds selected from players on a Majors, Coast or AAA team roster who have played in at least 60% of their team's regular season games through Championship Saturday, AND; 2. Required to submit a commitment letter to their respective All-Star team Manager, signed by the candidate and his parents/guardians, prior to the start of All-Star practices.

### ***Player Selection***

The same process and policies described for 11 Year-Old Division apply to the 10 - Year-Old Division.

## **MANAGER/COACH SELECTION**

Any regular-season Manager or Coach may submit his name for consideration as an All-Star Team Manager. The individual must be named on the regular season roster as team Manager or assistant Coach and that service must have been performed at the level of play from which the desired All-Star team will draw the majority of its players. The President can approve an exemption to the level-of-play requirement. Candidates must notify the Commissioner of baseball prior to the selection meeting.

Applicants will be interviewed by the Division VP and VP All-Stars. Following the selection of the All-Star teams, the President, after consultation with the All-Star Committee and with approval of the Board of Directors, will select the All-Star team manager for respective level. Managers will be notified and asked to select two assistant coaches who were named on regular season rosters as team Manager or assistant Coach. The President, after consultation with the All-Star Committee and with the approval of the Board of Directors, will select the All-Star assistant Coaches for each tournament team.

### ***Player Notification***

Players will be notified by their Tournament Team Manager on the date indicated in the Little League Green Book.

- The teams may not be announced, and no practices or games conducted, until allowed by the Official Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball (usually no earlier than June 1).

### **Travel Reimbursement**

The league shall not be responsible or pay for any travel related expenses for any all-star teams, players, coaches, or umpires. This also includes teams that advance to the Washington state tournament as well as regionals. The executive committee of the SLL Board reserves the right to revisit this policy in the event that an exception is requested due to unforeseen circumstances.



## **LEAGUE SPORTSMANSHIP PROGRAM**

*Currently the SLL sportsmanship program applies as follows:*

- *Instructional and Rookie games are evaluated, with the two top-scoring teams from each division during the course of the season playing in a Sportsmanship Game on Championship Saturday.*
- *A Sportsmanship Report is prepared in the AAA, Coast, and Majors divisions for games in which a conduct violation occurs related to sportsmanship. Game reports and team reports are not otherwise generated.*
- *Each AAA, Coast, and Majors team designates a Sportsmanship Award winner from its player roster; the team winner is selected by a vote of the team's players and coaches and is recognized by the league at-large with a certificate and other award.*

Webster's describes sportsmanship as the qualities and behaviors of a person who can take a loss or defeat without complaint, or victory without gloating, and who treats his opponents with fairness, generosity, courtesy and respect. This definition applies not only to the athletes on the field, but also to the coaches and spectators who come to participate in the game. SLL has prepared a Sportsmanship Program to encourage sporting behavior from everyone involved in Little League games and to provide recognition and rewards for those teams exhibiting exemplary sportsmanship.