

Federal Way National Little League

Charter 4-47-08-10

Policies and Procedures

Section 1 Baseball 50-70 Division:

All rules for the 50-70 Division follow the Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published by Little League Baseball, except as stated below.

- Only League age 12 and 13 year old players are eligible for the 50-70 division.
- The family of a Majors or 50-70 12 year old candidate must declare which division they will participate in by midnight of the last Majors tryout.
- FWNLL player may only participate in one division per season. Once a player is drafted into a division, they are no longer eligible to participate in any other division until the following season.

Section 2 Procedure for the “Expansion” of Majors Teams (Baseball and Softball)

- Based on Option #3 from the 2016 LL Operating Manual. This Option has been chosen by FWNLL as it the best of all available options made available by LL.
- This rule consists of the following procedure:
 - 1) Create a pool of eligible existing players from which the expansion team will draft
 - a. A “baseline” number of players for each team to retain is calculated by taking the team with the fewest returning players (e.g. 4) and having them contribute one player to the pool – (so in our example, 3 players are retained).
 - b. Each other returning team will likewise retain the number of baseline players and the rest of their players are put into the pool
 - c. No extra players are protected for any reason
 - 2) Expansion team drafts the “baseline” number (e.g. 3) players from the pool
 - a. If the number of players to be drafted is less than or equal to the number of returning teams, the expansion team will be limited to selecting no more than one player from each returning team
 - b. If the number of players to be drafted is greater than the number of returning teams, the expansion team will be limited to selecting no more than two players from any returning team

- 3) Any players in the pool that are not drafted by the expansion team return to their original team
- 4) The players now on the expansion team are considered existing players on
 - a. that team for league purposes (e.g. cannot be traded in the draft)
- 5) The regular draft of new players is conducted, with the expansion team drafting first and the rest of the league drafting in reverse finish order as usual.
- 6) Any returning player who declines to accept placement on the expansion team via the expansion draft forfeits their participation for that league year (i.e. cannot go back to their original team, another team, or a lower level of play).

Section 3 Baseball Majors Season and Postseason Format:

- Regular Season standings (reverse order) determine draft order in the following year. (Head to head is tiebreaker, when teams play 3 times)
- End of Season Majors Tournament winner determines TOC representative.
- Post-season tournament can allow for single or double elimination play (or both in the event of the need for a “play in” game) depending on the number of teams. The tournament format will be determined before the beginning of the regular season and voted on by the league managers.
- Majors Director / Rules Committee / Board oversees any potential actions that could jeopardize tournament integrity.

Section 4 Baseball and Softball Minor Divisions and Age Eligibility

The Board of Directors can from year to year change the configuration of the minor baseball or softball divisions as the number of player registrations may necessitate such a change. Player safety and appropriately challenging player skills shall be considered along with registration numbers in the determination of whether to make any changes.

League age is determined by the player age as of August 31 of the league year (current cutoff date as of 2016 LL rules) or as LL National determines.

Baseball Minor Divisions:

T-Ball	4-6 years old
A:	6 and 7 years old
AA:	8 and 9 years old
AAA:	9, 10 and 11 years old

Notes –

- 9 year olds that are deemed unsafe to play AAA will play AA.

Softball Minor Divisions:

Machine Pitch: 6, 7, 8, and 9 year olds

AAA: 9, 10, 11 and 12 year olds

AAA softball will not be a drafted division

- Note –
- 5 year olds with 2 years of T-Ball can play Machine Pitch
 - 8 year olds with 3 years of Machine Pitch can play AAA
 - 12 year olds can play Juniors
 - 14 year olds can play Seniors
 - 16 year olds can play Big League

Section 5 All-Star Selection Process for Managers, Players and Coaches**All Star Teams – Baseball and Softball**

- (a) One Baseball and one Softball from all eligible 14, 15 & 16 year old players (Senior Division)
- (b) One Baseball and one Softball from all eligible 13 & 14 year old players (Junior Division)
- (c) One Baseball and one Softball from all eligible 11 & 12 year old players (Majors Division)
- (d) One Baseball and one Softball from all eligible 10 & 11 year old players (Majors/AAA Division)
- (e) One Baseball 50/70
- (f) One Baseball and one Softball from all eligible 9 & 10 year old players (Majors/AAA Division)
- (g) A player may only be selected to one (1) All Star tournament team in a season. (LL rule)

All Star Equipment and Uniforms: To be provided by FWNLL.

- (a) FWNLL Board of Directors will determine complete uniform to be used during All Star Tournament games for all divisions Complete uniform includes the following: hat/visor, game jersey, game pants, belt, provided by FWNLL. A shirt of similar style worn under the jersey to be player's responsibility. Additional items may be purchased at the discretion and expense of the parents.
- (b) All Star uniforms provided by the League are the property of FWNLL and must be returned to the Uniforms Director with exception of the hat/visor and socks.
- (c) Manager and Coaches shall be provided the following: hat/visor. FWNLL polo shirts may be provided for the Managers and Coaches on the affidavit.
- (d) FWNLL Equipment Director will determine all essential tournament game equipment required for LL sanctioned games under tournament rules.
- (e) After completion of All Star Tournament games, all FWNLL baseball and softball equipment supplied shall be returned to the Equipment Director.
- (f) The All Star Fee will be set by the Board of Directors each year.

All Star Manager Selection Process for Baseball and Softball:

- All Star Selection Committee shall consist of 3 people without eligible players of that age group.
- One of the primary responsibilities of Managers and Coaches should be to model, encourage and reward good sportsmanship. Any of the following will eliminate a person from consideration as a Manager or Coach:
 - i. Any suspension for personal behavior.
 - ii. More than 1 suspension due to a Manager or Coach's behavior.
 - iii. Conduct that the Board determines to be detrimental to the League.

(a) All-Star Team Manager Eligibility Requirements

The selection of the coaching staff is a very important step in the process. In order to be selected to manage or coach a team, the candidate must meet the eligibility requirements as specified in the Official Regulations and Playing Handbook. In addition to the handbook the candidate will adhere to the FWNLL policies and procedures listed below.

Candidates for Manager nominate themselves in writing for the desired age group (Sr., Jr., 50-70, Majors / 10-11 yr. old / 9-10 yr. old) they want to manage. All candidates should provide their qualifications (years of experience, coaching/managing levels, including All-Star experience, approach to managing/coaching).

Note: To participate on the Little League (Majors Division) All-Star staff, you must be an approved manager or coach of record for 60% of the Majors regular spring season.

- i. The All-Star Selection Committee will review any and all information gathered about the candidates and discuss their qualifications with the League President. Information gathered may come from the candidate, season record, interviews, parent coaching evaluation form, compliance with the FWNLL manager requirements policy and divisional director input.
- ii. Similar to the regular season selection process for managers, the League President nominates the managers to the Board. The Board of Directors votes on the managers. Managers are approved or denied by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

(b) All-Star Team Assistant Coach(es) Eligibility Requirements

The All-Star team Manager and Selection Committee jointly nominate assistant coach (es) for the All-Star team.

- i. The 8-10 year old All-Star Coaching staff SHOULD include a qualified AAA Manager or Coach.
- ii. Assistant coach candidates will provide their qualifications (years of experience, coaching/managing levels, approach to managing/coaching) to the All-Star Selection Committee for review.

- iii. The All-Star Selection Committee will review any and all information gathered about the candidates and discuss their qualifications with the League President. Information gathered may come from the candidate, interviews, parent coaching evaluation form and divisional director input.
- iv. Similar to the regular season selection process for assistant coaches, the League President nominates the assisting coaches to the Board. The Board of Directors votes on the coaches. The coaches are approved or denied by majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Note: If the nominee is not approved, the Manager and/or Coaching Staff selection process begins again and more candidates are reviewed.

Note: Selected All-Star team managers are required to provide parent volunteers during any tournament held at the National Complex. Field Preparation, Concessions and Complex Maintenance are needed to hold a successful tournament.

Player Selection Process: The All Star selection process for each team will be posted on the FWNLL website no later than June 1.

(a) Senior, Junior and 50-70 Divisions

All Star Manager and Division Vice President will select the minimum of 12 and maximum of 14 players per team. The Manager may elect to have a tryout. Players will be selected from the Player Agent's list of qualifying players.

(b) 10-12-year-old All Stars

All Star Manager may elect to have a tryout or select and announce the teams. Players will be selected from the Player Agent's list of qualifying players

(c) 9-11-year-old & 8-10 year old All Stars

Tryouts will determine the players for the 9-11 year old and 8-10 year old All Stars. No one related to a player trying out may be involved with the try-out or selection process. Team selection will be determined by tryouts. Regular season play may also be considered.

All Majors/AAA/AA players who meet eligibility requirements may try out. The Player Agent will provide a list of qualifying players.

The All Star Manager with the Player Agent present for verification will select players.

The results of the All Star tryouts/selections will be posted within twenty-four (24) hours after tryouts/selections on the League Website and at the Complex.

All Star Coach Selection Process: *To be completed after each team's roster is chosen, unless the candidate does not have a child in that team's eligible player pool.*

(a) All Star Coaches shall be selected by the Manager for the respective All Star Teams and must have been a manager or a coach per Little League rules. .

(b) A maximum of two (2) Official Coaches will be selected for each All Star Team.

Section 6 FWNLL Local Rules for Minor and Major Divisions:

Baseball AAA Division:

All rules for the AAA Division follow the Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published by Little League Baseball, except as stated below.

(a) Time Limits

- i. Run Limits – There is a 5 run limit per inning.
- ii. The final inning of the game is an “open inning” where there is no maximum of runs that can be scored. If an inning other than the 6th inning is going to be the “open inning”, it must be discussed between the 2 Managers and Umpire prior to the start of that inning. Otherwise it will be a 5 run inning, even if for some reason it ends up being the last inning.
- iii. In games that go to extra innings, the 6th and all extra inning are open innings.

Baseball AA Division:

All rules for the AA Division follow the Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published by Little League Baseball, except as stated below.

(a) Time Limits

- i. A 1:45 time limit applies before any new inning can begin. All games will finish after 2 hours.
- ii. A 5 run per team per inning rule will apply to all innings played.
- iii. No game shall exceed 6 innings in length.
- iv. No new inning will begin after the time limit.
- v. Game time will be 5:30 PM during the weekdays.
- vi. Weekend games will start per league issued game schedule.

(b) Machine/Coach Pitch:

- i. Each game will consist of 3 innings Machine/Coach pitch and 3 innings kid pitch
- ii. Each batter will receive 6 pitches with 3 swinging strikes constituting an out. No balls will be recorded. As long as a player continues to hit foul balls he/she will continue to bat.
- iii. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine the ball is live and playable. If the ball hits the machine and goes across the baseline the ball is dead and the runner/runners get the base they were running too.
- iv. During Machine pitch coaches of the team up to bat operate/pitch to their own team.

(c) Player Pitch:

- i. After a player pitcher has hit 3 batters he /she must be removed from any further pitching in that game.

- ii. Managers are required to record all pitchers, innings pitched and number of pitches at every game in the scorebooks. Any FWNLL Board Member can and will periodically check or collect scorebooks for pitcher violations.
 - iii. All batters will start with a 0 & 0 count (no balls and no strikes) each turn at bat.
 - iv. During kid pitch a batter can earn a walk with four balls.
- (d) Fielding:
- i. There will be (10) defensive players on the field. (Four in the outfield).
 - ii. On an overthrow to first or third, the base runner will only receive the base they are advancing to. If the ball overthrown travels out of the field of play, the base runner will receive one additional base.
 - iii. Outfielders must be at least 15 feet behind the baselines.
 - iv. The infield fly rule does not apply.
- (e) Base running:
- i. Steal of home will only be allowed when a wild pitch occurs. Only the runner at third base may advance.
- (f) Playing Positions
- i. No player can play the same position for more than 3 innings and every player must play at least one inning in the infield and the outfield.
- (g) Playing Time
- i. In a 6 inning game, no player shall sit for more than 3 innings

Baseball A Division:

All rules for the A Division follow the Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published by Little League Baseball, except as stated below.

- (a) Time Limits:
- i. Each game is has a 1 hour 45 minute (1:45) "new inning" time limit:
 - ii. No inning can begin after 1:45. All games will finish within a 2 hour game time limit.
 - iii. No game shall exceed 6 innings in length
- (b) Scoring Limits:
- i. A "5-run rule" applies: A team can score no more than 5 runs in each inning played
- (c) Pitching:
- i. A-Division is a "coach-pitch" division: any FWNLL manager, coach, or adult parent volunteer may pitch for their team during the game.
 - ii. During the adult pitch, the player in the pitcher position will stand within 5 feet to the left or right of the adult pitcher.
 - iii. If a batted ball hits an adult pitcher, the ball is dead and no pitch is charged to the batter.

- (d) Batting:
 - i. No batter will “walk” during adult pitch.
 - ii. Each batter will receive 6 pitches.
 - iii. Only “swung at and missed” strikes will be counted.
 - iv. If the batter has received 6 pitches but has not struck out, the batter is retired and no out is recorded.
 - v. If the batter fouls the 6th pitch, one additional pitch will be provided. If that pitch is fouled, the batter is retired and no out is recorded.
 - vi. No Bunting.

- (e) Fielding:
 - i. There will be 10 defensive players on the field (4 outfielders).
 - ii. On an overthrow, each base runner is allowed to attempt to reach one base beyond the base they are advancing to at the time of the overthrow, regardless of whether the ball stays inside or outside the foul lines.
 - iii. If an overthrown ball goes beyond the fence line, time out will be called and each base runner will proceed to the base they are advancing to at the time that the ball passes the fence line.
 - iv. Outfielders must be at least 15 feet behind the baselines.
 - v. A play is complete when the infield has control of the ball and no further defensive play is attempted. From this point, base runners shall not attempt to advance further.
 - vi. The infield fly rule does not apply.

- (f) Base Running:
 - i. No base stealing is allowed.

- (g) Playing Positions
 - i. No player can play the same position for more than 3 innings and every player must play at least one inning in the infield and the outfield.

- (h) Playing Time
 - i. In a 6 inning game, no player shall sit for more than 3 innings

Baseball Majors Division:

All rules for the Majors Division follow the Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published by Little League Baseball, except as stated below.

- (a). Playing Time
 - i. All players must play 3 complete games in the Regular Season. Games must be ‘official games’
 - ii. If a player does not play in 3 complete official games by the end of the Regular Season they will play the entire first two End of Season Tournament games.

- (c). Roster

- i. ONLY two 9 year olds can be on a Majors Roster at any time.

Softball AAA Division:

All rules for the AAA Division follow the Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published by Little League Baseball.

Softball MP Division:

All rules for the AA Division follow the Official Regulations and Playing Rules as published by Little League Baseball, except as stated below.

Section 7 Procedure for the “Reduction or Contraction” of Majors Teams (Baseball and Softball)

- If the number of teams is to be reduced at the Major League level, the Board of Directors decides which team is to be deleted from the division. FWNLL has chosen the following LL approved method to reassign all current Major League players affected by the reduction of team(s).
 - A. Through a preliminary draft (reverse order of finish) prior to the regular player draft involving new candidates. Once the preliminary draft is complete, the regular player draft starts over in the reverse order of finish, without regard to the last team to pick in the preliminary draft.

Section 8 Rules of Order

- In addition to Roberts Rules of Order used to govern the proceedings of all meeting, Board Members, not in attendance at a meeting, may proxy their vote to another Board Member for that meeting. The written proxy must be submitted to the Secretary prior to the beginning of said meeting.

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