

RICHMOND COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE BYLAWS

ARTICLE I - NAME, LOCATION, AND MEETINGS

The name of the corporation is Richmond County Little League, Inc., a Virginia corporation, not for profit, hereinafter referred to as the "Local League". The principle office of the location shall be located at 321 Community Park Drive in Warsaw, Virginia. The principal mailing address shall be: P.O. Box 608, Warsaw, VA 22572.

SECTION 1 - Absence at Board Meetings

The league Secretary shall maintain a log of all Board Members present for each meeting. Any Board Member who is absent from two (2) regularly scheduled board meetings with unexcused absences (no advanced notice by phone or email), will be subject to removal from the Board of Directors following the rules set forth in the Richmond County Little League Constitution.

SECTION 2 - Board Member Voting Procedures

Voting will be conducted as set forth in *Robert's Rules of Order* and the RCLL Constitution.

ARTICLE II - ADMINISTRATIVE RULES & REGULATIONS

SECTION 1 - Amendments to the Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered, only for safety concerns or situations that conflict with the Little League rule book(s), or property agreement in whole or in part by a majority vote at any duly organized meeting of the Board of Directors, provided notice of the proposed change is included in the notice of such meeting.

SECTION 2 - Player Registration

Players may register online or in person at a pre-determined registration location. Any players seeking hardship waivers or payment arrangements will be required to complete the proper request form and submit the form along with all required documents to the RCLL Board of Directors for approval.

Parent/Guardian is responsible for reading the Parent Code of Conduct and will be prompted to verify understanding during the registration process. (see attached Parent Code of Conduct Policy)

SECTION 3 - Disciplinary Action

The Board of Directors (or a disciplinary committee appointed by the Board of Directors) will review all infractions of the Code(s) of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or the frequency, the board may assess disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the league. The following shall be considered as grounds for dismissal from the league:

- Lack of attendance at regularly scheduled monthly meetings
- Lack of participation in scheduled events or maintenance days
- Failure to follow the Code(s) of Conduct
- Failure to follow the Richmond County Little League Constitution/Bylaws

(see attached Disciplinary Policy)

ARTICLE III - FACILITY RULES AND USAGE

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All field usage must be approved and scheduled by the Field Scheduler.

Any non-Little League teams must submit proper paperwork and be voted on and approved by the Board of Directors (see attached Field Agreement Policy)

SECTION 1 - Game Rules and Schedules

No games shall be canceled or rescheduled by managers, coaches or parents without receiving approval from the Scheduling Coordinator. The Scheduling Coordinator must be notified, in advance, should there be a need to cancel a game for any reason. In the event of field availability issues, the Scheduling Coordinator will make any necessary adjustments to game start times and the length of games.

ARTICLE IV - LOCAL LEAGUE STRUCTURE

SECTION 1 - Division Structure

A player's League Age determines their division eligibility as set forth in the Little League Baseball Rule Book. The divisional Vice-President can require a player to move to a different division if deemed necessary for safety reasons. RCLL Division Structure for Regular Season Play is deemed as follows.

- A. **TEE BALL DIVISION – (4-7 year olds)** League age four thru seven year olds
Objective: To instruct players in the fundamentals of the game in a fun, low-key atmosphere. At no time should winning or losing take priority in this program!

- B. **ROOKIE BALL – (4-7 year olds)** League age four thru seven year olds
Objective: To instruct players in the fundamentals of the game in a fun, low-key atmosphere. At no time should winning or losing take priority in this program!
One year of experience, unless otherwise determined by player agent. Soft toss pitching by coach.

- C. **MINOR LEAGUE DIVISION (MACHINE PITCH) - (7-8 year olds)** - League age seven and eight year olds.
Objective: To further instruct the player coming out of Tee-Ball, the fundamentals of the game in a fun, low-key atmosphere. Emphasis in this program should be on the proper technique of throwing, catching, running, hitting and field positions.

- D. **MINOR LEAGUE DIVISION (PLAYER PITCH) - (8-10 year olds)** - League age eight, nine and ten year olds.
Objective: To instruct players in the fundamentals of the game in a fun, low-key atmosphere. Provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership. Establish the values and concepts of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. To further develop the techniques of throwing, catching, running, hitting, and pitching.

- E. **MAJOR (LITTLE LEAGUE) DIVISION – (10-12 year olds)** - League age ten, eleven and twelve year olds.
Objective: To establish the values and concepts of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play. To challenge the players towards the perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy.

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F. **JUNIOR DIVISION – (12-14 year olds)** League age twelve thru fourteen year olds.

Objective: To further establish the values and concepts of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play. To challenge the players towards the perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy.

G. **SENIOR DIVISION – (13-16 year olds)** League age thirteen, fourteen, fifteen and sixteen year olds.

Objective: To implement the values and concepts of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play. Continue to challenge the players towards the perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy.

H. **CHALLENGER DIVISION** – The Challenger League of Richmond County Little League, is a program for mentally and physically disabled youth of Richmond County between the ages of 5 to 18 years old that need one on one with a more relaxed baseball setting.

Objective: The Challenger League offers children that are unable to play a “regular” game of baseball an opportunity to play with the help of a “Buddy”. The role of the Challenger Buddy during game play is to protect the Challenger player and to assist in anyway necessary.

SECTION 2 - Requests to Play Down a Division

Normally, players will not be allowed to play down a division unless the parent or guardian submits a written justification requesting a waiver prior to the conclusion of the registration period. This move can only take place if this player satisfies the Little League age requirements of the lower-level Division. The Vice President and Player Agent will provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors who will approve or deny such requests. A decision denying the request may be appealed to the RCLL President. The following guidelines will apply:

1. Coach Pitch Division: Coach Pitch players will be allowed to play down in the Tee Ball Division at the age of 7 only. In the case of returning players, the Vice President and Player Agent may consult with the player’s previous year manager and coach(es) to obtain a skill assessment.
2. Minor Division: Minor Division age players will be allowed to play down in the Coach Pitch Division at the age of 9 only. In the case of returning players, the Vice President and Player Agent(s) may consult with the player’s previous year manager and coach(es) to obtain a skill assessment. The player will be asked to participate in the Minor Division Skills Evaluation.
3. Major Division: Major Division age players will be allowed to play down in the Minor Division at the age of 10 only. In the case of returning players, the Vice President and Player Agent may consult with the player’s previous year manager and coach(es) to obtain a skill assessment. The player will be asked to participate in the Major Division Skills Evaluation.

Exceptions

- a. Safety Concerns: Following the evaluation period for Machine Pitch and above or upon receiving feedback from a team manager, the RCLL BOD may assess a player’s skill

level and recommend to the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a player that the child might benefit by “playing down” for safety reasons.

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b. Division Composition: For the Junior and Senior Divisions (or for any Fall Ball Divisions), players may be asked by the RCLL BOD to play down in order to adequately fill teams. This will provide the opportunity to allow more intraleague play by structuring the league divisions to align with those of other leagues in the district

SECTION 3 – Request to Play Up a Division

Normally, players will not be allowed to play up in the next age level division. In fact, it is strongly discouraged. Requests to play up a division can only be made by the parent or guardian via a written justification submitted prior to the conclusion of the registration period. This move can only take place if the player satisfies the Little League age requirements of the upper level division. The Vice President and Player Agent will provide a recommendation to the Board of Directors who will approve or deny such requests. A decision denying the request may be appealed to the RCLL President. The following guidelines will apply:

1. Coach Pitch Division: Only league age six-year-olds may request to play up in the Coach Pitch Division. Note that in order to qualify for the Coach Pitch Division, the player must have played one Spring season of Tee Ball. In the case of returning players, the Vice President and Player Agent may consult with the player's previous year manager and/or coach(es) to obtain a skill assessment. If no assessment is available, or if the previous manager is uncertain about the player's skills, the player will initially be assigned to a team in the Tee Ball division. Once practices begin, the player's current manager can be consulted to determine whether he/she agrees that the player should be considered for play in the next higher division.
2. Minor Division: League age eight year olds may request to play up in the Minor division. In the case of returning players, the Vice President and Player Agent may consult with the player's previous year manager and/or coach(es) to obtain a skill assessment. If the Vice President and Player Agent agree that the player should be considered for play in the higher division, the player will then be subject to a skills evaluation to determine their placement within the league.
3. Major Division: League age ten year olds may request to play up in the Major division. In the case of returning players, the Vice President and Player Agent may consult with the player's previous year manager and/or coach(es) to obtain a skill assessment. If the Vice President and Player Agent agree that the player should be considered for play in the higher division, the player will then be subject to a skills evaluation to determine their placement within the league.

Exceptions

- a. Safety Concerns: Following the evaluation for minors and above, or upon receiving feedback from a team manager, the RCLL BOD may assess a player's skill level and recommend to the parent(s) or guardian(s) of a player that the child be placed in an upper level division for safety reasons.
- b. Division Composition: For the Junior and Senior Divisions, (or for any Fall Ball division), players may be asked by the RCLL BOD to play up in order to allow more intraleague play or more interleague play, by structuring the league divisions to align with those of other leagues within the district.

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SECTION 4 – Player Draft

The following draft procedure shall be used for All Divisions of Play (Tee Ball - Senior Divisions). In the event of one team, there will be no draft.

- The Divisional Vice President of each Division shall schedule, coordinate, and conduct the draft between Managers of their respective Division within the timeframe designated by the Local League.
- The managers shall draw numbers before the draft begins to determine the order of the player selection process.
- The draft will be a "snake draft" meaning the manager receiving the first pick in round 1, will receive the last pick in round 2. The manager receiving the last pick in round 1 will receive the first pick in round 2. This will continue until all players have been selected.
- Children of a manager or coach will be placed on the same team as that manager/coach. Manager and coach's children must be their 3rd and 4th round pick. (5th round if needed)
- Unless parents request separate teams for siblings, they will be kept together and drafted to the same team.
- Once the player draft is completed, the managers will have a maximum of 30 minutes to complete any trades. No trades will take place once the managers leave the draft room.
- In the event of contraction of teams, players from the teams contracted will be placed back in the draft pool to be chosen by the other managers.
- The Team Manager is responsible for contacting each player selected for their team with in the time frame specified by Divisional Vice President set forth by the Local League.
- The Divisional Vice President is responsible for submitting a complete and verified roster to League Officers for submission to Little League International.

SECTION 5 – Local Rules of Play

- **Home team will occupy the first base dugout on the assigned field.**
- **Home team is responsible for preparing the field prior to the game. This includes but is not limited to dragging field/raking bases if needed, lining field for play, safety check, etc.**
- **Visiting team (if visiting team is an Interleague game, this defaults back to home team) is responsible for field maintenance after completion of game. This includes but is not limited to dragging field/raking bases, dumping of dugout trash cans and replacement of bag, field clean up, etc.**
- **Manager is responsible for reporting game cancellations or incomplete games to Scheduling Coordinator and respective Divisional Vice President. Make up games will be scheduled as able. Please pay proper attention to numbers of games played and allow time to make up games as necessary to play required 12 games.**

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- **Managers are responsible for proper documentation of games played. This includes but is not limited to correct score keeping, correct player first and last names, game start time, pitch counts, innings pitched, innings played for all games with high regard to complete games, umpire signatures for verification, etc.**
- **All Divisions of Play are required and expected use a Continuous Batting order. All players must play a minimum of six (6) consecutive defensive outs per game. This is only in effect for League Play. D15 Rules will apply to Interleague Play.**
- **If an offensive player is injured while on base and cannot continue due to this injury, the player who made the last out will become the pinch runner.**
- **Major Divisions and below, with proper Manager and Umpire approval prior to start of game, can field up to 10 defensive players if both teams field the same amount of defensive players. D15 Rules will apply to Interleague Play.**
- **Minor Softball Division (Machine Pitch) and above – All Defensive Infield Players (except for Catcher who is required to wear complete catching gear including catching mask) are required to wear a Little League approved face mask. If player is unable to purchase, the Local League will provide one (1) face mask per team. Manager must request this before the start of season. Players who fail to bring necessary safety equipment will be required to play in an outfield position.**
- **Minor Baseball Division (Player Pitch) and above – Defensive players are required to wear appropriate mouth guard to be able to Pitch. All Players are required to wear a protective athletic cup. Players who fail to bring necessary safety equipment will not be allowed to Pitch or play accordingly.**
- **Minor Divisions (Machine Pitch) – Complete games are to be considered 3 innings or 1 hr. 30 mins. time limit (whichever comes first) as stated in Machine Pitch Rules. If both teams agree, and field is available without interfering with another scheduled game or practice, game can be extended to 4 innings upon both Managers approval.**
- **Minor Divisions and above – Game time limit is 1 hr. 45 mins. No new inning shall be started after this time unless needed/required to complete game according to the Little League handbook.**
- **Any player participating in Pool Play will be required to bat last in the line up and must play an outfield position. This means they cannot play infield, pitch, or catch.**

ARTICLE V - ALL-STAR SELECTION PROCESS

OVERVIEW

The Local League President will serve as the director of the All-Star Selection Committee. Prior to the end of the regular season, All-Star Teams will be selected by vote. All rostered managers, coaches and players will be allowed to vote for the division in which they participated during regular season. All

voting shall be done in person. All regular season managers and coaches will be listed on the ballot for the division in which they participated during the regular season. Players will be listed on the ballot(s)

for which they are eligible based on their league age. If a player is eligible for more than one All-Star team, that player shall decide which team they will participate prior to vote.

VOTING

Each manager, coach, player will receive a ballot of all eligible players. Each person will choose no more or no less than 3 coaches and 13 players. Ballots with the incorrect number of selections circled/marked must be thrown out and not counted. Manager and coach votes receive five (5) points and player votes receive one (1) point. The manager/coach receiving the highest number of votes will

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be the manager of the All-Star team for that division. The manager/coaches receiving the 2nd and 3rd most votes will be the coaches for the All-Star team. The top 13 players who receive the most votes will be the All-Star team. If a player is unable to commit or are unavailable, the player with the next highest number of votes will take their place.

COUNTING

The All-Star Selection Committee is responsible for designating not less than two (2) Committee Members to be responsible for each Division. The Members responsible for a Division cannot have a child on the respective roster. This Committee recognizes the complete importance of error-free counting, recounting for verification, confidentiality, and agrees to adhere by strict conformity to the Rules as outlined.

TIE BREAKER

In the event of a Tie for Manager, Coaches, or Players, the person receiving the highest number of Manager and coaches votes will be added to the roster. In the event the results are inconclusive, the player with the most games played during the season will be selected to the roster. If results are still unsatisfied, only then shall the decision be determined by the Board of Directors.

UNPAID FEES/OUTSTANDING DEBTS

Any player with outstanding debts to RCLL is deemed ineligible for All-Stars. Outstanding debts include but are not limited to Regular Season Registration Fees, All-Star Fees, Concession Tabs, Returned Check Fees, etc. Completed Bingo hardships and Fulfillment of Volunteer Umpire Commitment will be accepted as payment of Regular Season Registration Fees.

PLAYER COMMITMENTS/AVAILABILITY

Consideration to a Richmond County Little League All Star Team is an honor and great accomplishment. Player and Player Parent/Guardian shall be prepared, prior to the Selection of All Star Teams, to fully commit to their team. Player is expected and required to have no less than 2/3 Attendance to All Star practices and 100% Committal to All District Games. Failure to disclose or follow through will be submitted to The Board of Directors (or appointed Disciplinary Committee) for review. Player and Player Parent/Guardian will be required to sign 3 documents - All Star Travel Policy, Post Season Letter of Commitment, and Code of Conduct as soon as teams begin to practice.

(see attached All Star Travel Policy, Post Season Letter of Commitment, and Code of Conduct)

*Manager of All Star Team may petition the Board of Directors in writing, in a timely manner, to deviate from this policy. This shall be determined by the Board of Directors vote.

DISCLAIMER

The RCLL Board of Directors reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of players from thirteen on an All-Star team in which there may be only one regular season team. This shall be determined by Board of Directors vote.

****All selected players must meet eligibility requirements as set forth by Little League Baseball All-Star Tournament Rules.***

THE RELEASE OF NAMES OF PLAYERS FOR THE ALL-STAR TEAMS SHALL NOT BE MADE BEFORE THE DATE SET FORTH IN THE LITTLE LEAGUE RULE BOOK!

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These Bylaws have been reviewed and approved by the RICHMOND COUNTY LITTLE LEAGUE Board of Directors.

February 28, 2022

Signature

Date

Title

Federal ID Number

Little League ID Number