

BETHEL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

SENIOR LITTLE LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. Player Draft

1. Players eligible for the annual draft will be those players who:
  - a. Are residents of the Municipality of Bethel Park or pay taxes to Bethel Park School District at the beginning of the regular season and who are not assigned to a team as a result of playing in the appropriate league during the prior season.
  - b. Who complete an official registration form.
  - c. Who register prior to the deadline date for players registration. Extenuating circumstances of late registration may be ruled on by the BBA Board of Directors (Board).
  - d. The draft shall be conducted as follows:
    1. A returning player will be assigned to the team he/she played for during the previous season.
    2. There will be tryouts for all players eligible for the draft. Each player in each age group will be rated by the managers of the league. Prior year travel players will be designated at the tryouts.
    3. Players will be drafted by the managers. The manager's children will be placed in the draft rounds commensurate with their ability as agreed upon by the league managers. The league commissioner will make the final decision on the draft positions of the manager's children.
    4. Expansion teams will draft first with the order determined by a coin flip by the league commissioner. If there are no expansion teams, then the order of team draft selections will be determined by the standings of the previous season with the team with the worst record drafting first. The draft order of teams after the first round will be determined by the league commissioner in the interest of balancing the league.
  - e. There will be no coaches' rights to draft selections.
  - f. A manager's own children who are new to the league will be considered the same as returning players.
  - g. Draft selection rights for a manager's child shall be in effect when the manager is appointed by the league commissioner.
  - h. A new manager of a team who has a child playing on another team may add the child to his team by relinquishing a similar player from his team to his child's former team. The player shall be agreed upon by both managers. If a compensation player cannot be agreed upon by both managers, then the league commissioner shall determine the compensation player with the consent of the compensation player's parents.
2. Brothers or sisters will be drafted together. The second or third player will become the team's next draft selection(s). If the parents desire that the players play on different teams, this must be made known prior to the draft. In this event each will be individually drafted.
3. Active coaches who desire to change teams within the same league will not be entitled to take their own child or children with them.
4. Any player (excluding manager's child) who desires to become a member of team other than the one that originally drafted the player must resign from the league for a period of one playing season, re-enter the player pool and submit to the draft. No guarantee will be given by the Association that the player will not be re-selected by his former team in the ensuing draft. The Board has the right to rule on extenuating situations with regard to this rule. Any requests must be submitted to the Board in writing explaining the extenuating situation.
5. Draft round selections shall continue until all teams have reached their official team roster complement. All eligible 12 year old players will be drafted first, then the draft will be restarted in the same order and proceed to select all eligible 11 year old players.

II. Official Team Rosters

1. Commissioner shall conduct and set forth all draft guidelines. The first and second rounds shall be based on previous years win – loss records. This can be altered should the league have to merge 2 teams or involve an expansion team.
2. The official team rosters shall be determined as follows:

- a. Eligible players from last year's roster who have completed an official registration form.
  - b. Players eligible for and selected in the league's draft.
  - c. The maximum number of players on each team's roster will not exceed 13.
3. The official team roster for each team shall consist of a maximum and/or minimum number of players for each eligible age group as determined by the league commissioner. The determination shall be made based on the number of existing players on each team and the number of each age group eligible for the annual draft.
  4. The league commissioner shall equalize the number of each eligible age group on each team as much as possible.
  5. No manager or coach is permitted to dismiss any player on his team roster without just cause and the approval of the Board of Directors Grievance Committee. **Under no circumstances** (except permanent injury) shall an "apparent" lack of satisfactory athletic skills (in the manager's opinion) be considered as just cause for removal of a player from the team roster.
  6. If a player does not show up for two consecutive games and does not a valid excuse, managers are to report it to the league commissioner for a determination of the player's status with regard to official team roster.
  7. There shall be no exchange of players on official team rosters permitted except those cases outlined in the preceding paragraphs (l.l.h.), or as approved by the league commissioner at the annual draft.
  8. Each manager is responsible to see that all members of his team from the previous year and his draft selections shall be residents of Bethel Park. Each Manager is also responsible for ensuring that all members of his team are not members of another baseball league. Any exceptions should be reported to the league commissioner.
  9. An individual may manage or be designated coach in only one league in the BBA.
  10. The number of coaches (including scorekeepers) in the dugout shall not exceed five individuals.

### III. Player Participation

1. **Player injuries that result in open wounds where bleeding is present require immediate removal of the player from the field of play. The player is only permitted to return once the bleeding has stopped and the wound is properly covered.**
2. **Players are required to remove all jewelry before the game begins. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a warning. If, after the warning, any other player participates in the game wearing any jewelry, that play is immediately removed from the game and his spot in the batting order will be registered as an out each time he is due up.**
3. **Players are required to have their shirts tucked in at all times and wear their hats correctly(wearing the bill of the cap in a crooked position is prohibited). Failure to comply with these rules will result in one warning. After such warning, any player violating this rule will be removed from the game and his spot in the batting order will be registered as an out each time he is due up.**
4. All members of each official Little League team roster shall play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field. All eligible roster players shall bat in order for the entire game. Under this rule, for a player to be eligible, he must be present prior to the end of the third inning. The late arriving player will bat at the end of the batting order. The penalty for violation of the player participation rule is forfeiture of the game or games involved.
5. An inning for the purpose described under the preceding paragraph shall be defined as that portion of a game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three putouts for each team. Under no circumstances will the first three outs of the final inning of a game, wherein the home team wins and the last half of the inning is not played, be considered an inning under the minimum playing time rule for a visiting team.
6. Free substitution of starting players shall be permitted. However, a pitcher may not return as a pitcher.
7. The call up of Junior Little League Players (age 10 only) will be permitted in accordance with the following conditions:
  - a. Only two players may be called up to a team to reach nine (9) players. The call up of the players will be handled through the Junior Little League Commissioner.
  - b. No players will be called up during the playoffs.
  - c. A called up player must play a minimum of three (3) innings even if some regular team players show up later during the game.
  - d. A called up player will not be allowed to pitch.

- e. There will be an attempt to rotate the player in the field.
- f. A called up player will bat last in the line-up.

**IV. Playing Rules and Regulations**

1. All league contests shall be conducted and played according to the latest playing rules and regulations set forth in the Little League Baseball Rule book except as follows:
  - a. No player is allowed in the coaching boxes. Occupants of the coaching boxes may be a manager, coach, or any representative as designated by the team manager other than a player.
  - b. Games suspended due to weather after 3 ½ or 4 innings will be considered as official games. This does not apply to playoff games. The commissioner will make every attempt to continue those games affected by limited sunlight (these games will continue exactly where game ended- players who did not participate in original game will not be allowed to participate in continuation game). Cancelled games will be scheduled first followed by any games affected by limited sunlight.
  - c. Two games in one day may be scheduled by the league commissioner if required to make up postponed games.
  - d. Sunday games are not to be scheduled before noon.
  - e. If a team is leading by fifteen (15) or more runs after 3-1/2 or more innings the game shall be considered a complete game. However if the visiting team is leading by fifteen or more runs after 3-1/2, 4-1/2, or 5-1/2 innings the home team gets to bat in the bottom half of the inning. If the lead is reduced to less than fifteen runs after the home team bats in the fourth or fifth innings then the game shall continue. If the home team is leading by fifteen or more runs, it does not bat in the bottom half of the inning.
  - f. In the event that nine (9) players per team are not available, an official game can be played using eight (8) players. If less than eight (8) players are available, the game is forfeited.
  - g. The defensive team will consist of nine players. Three (3) outfielders will be used.
  - o. All catchers are required to wear throat protectors.
  - p. In case of an injury batting or running, the player making the last out will be used as a pinch runner for running purposes only.
  - q. There will be no slug bunts allowed. A batter attempting to slug bunt will be called out.
  - r. Make up games: All make up games will be attempted to be rescheduled during the same week of the cancelled game. No more than 4 games will be scheduled during a calendar week. Note- if league experiences numerous cancellations during season, the commissioner will make every attempt to schedule those games affected in order to complete season (regardless of games played).
  - s. Bat size: Maximum barrel width – 2 ¼ " will be allowed
  - t. Double Header Games: May be scheduled no more than once per calendar week (Sunday thru Saturday), except when one game is the completion of a suspended game. The start of second game will begin 30 minutes after completion of the original scheduled game

**2. Pitching Rules**

- a. A player may pitch a maximum of 6 innings per week, with no more than 6 innings in any one game. The calendar week will be defined as Sunday through Saturday.
- b. Teams will be required to pitch an 11 year old in each game for a minimum of 6 outs or 9 consecutive batters prior to the start of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.
- c. Players are not permitted to pitch on back-to-back days **Regardless of makeup games or innings pitched in prior game.**
- d. For doubleheaders, a player can pitch a total of 6 innings in one game, or a total of 4 innings over both games of the doubleheader. For purposes of illustration, permissible scenarios are as follows:

Game 1	Innings Pitched	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Game 2	Innings Pitched	0	0	0	1	2	3	up to 6

- e. Pitchers are required to have 72 hours rest after pitching four(4) or more Innings in one calendar day (time begins from start time of game pitched)  
**Example 1: Pitcher completed 4 innings on Monday (6:00pm start) would now be eligible to pitch again on Thursday for the 6:00pm game.**  
**Example 2: Pitcher completes 4 innings on Wednesday (6:00pm game) would now be eligible to pitch on Saturday for the 6:00 game. This same pitcher would not be allowed to pitch any time prior to the 6:00 start.**
- f. Delivery of one pitch equals one inning pitched.
- g. Called up players are not permitted to pitch.

- h. A pitcher hitting three batsman in one game, or two in one inning will automatically be removed from the mound and lose his pitching eligibility for the remainder of that game.
  - i. A **second trip** by coach or manager to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal. Crossing the baseline constitutes a trip to the pitcher.
  - j. At the beginning of an inning, the pitcher shall be permitted to throw up to 8 preparatory pitches to the catcher. Relief pitchers are also permitted up to 8 preparatory pitches unless called into to replace an injured pitcher. In this case, up to 10 preparatory pitches are permitted.
  - k. Pitchers must have a glove of one color with no white for piping, circles, etc.
  - l. There will be no balks.
  - m. To intentionally walk a batter, normal baseball rules apply.
  - n. No pitcher is permitted to throw breaking balls. A breaking ball shall include, but is not limited to the following pitches: curve ball, slider, tomahawk, screwball, cut fastball, or other pitch in which the pitcher attempts to move the ball in a manner consistent with the commonly accepted definition of a breaking pitch. If the umpire detects the pitcher throwing a breaking ball, the pitch will be called a ball even if the batter swung and missed. If the batter hits the ball and makes or causes an out, the play shall be ruled "no play". If the batter hits the ball and is ruled safe for any reason (base hit, error, interference, etc.) the batter has the option of accepting the play or taking the play over. The pitcher and manager must be warned that breaking pitches are not permitted. If the pitcher throws a breaking ball after the initial warning, he must be removed from the game as a pitcher; however, he may remain in the game at a different position. Repeat violations of this rule can result in forfeiture of other disciplinary actions as determined by the BBA Board of Directors. If an umpire neglects to call a breaking pitch and the league commissioner determines that the breaking ball rules have been violated, the commissioner can recommend disciplinary action with Board approval including forfeiture and suspension.
  - o. The penalty for violation of any of the pitching rules is forfeiture of the game or games involved.
3. Any runner is out when the runner does not slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag.
  4. During any game in which an objection to an umpire's decision arises, only the team manager shall discuss the issue with the umpire. Any violation of this rule will result in the ejection of the offending person.
  5. Any manager, coach or player who is ejected by an umpire during a game will sit out the next game. The incident surrounding the ejection must be reviewed by the Grievance Committee. The Grievance Committee will make a recommendation to the full Board concerning any action taken. Further disciplinary action will be at the Board's discretion. A minimum of a one (1) year suspension is required for contact made with an umpire. Additionally, the suspended person must petition the Board for reinstatement after the suspension is completed.
  6. The Limited Tolerance Rule will apply. Umpires are instructed to apply the limited tolerance rule to players, managers, coaches, and parents as follows.
    - a. Any verbal abuse, arguing a call, or harassment will result in a warning to the offending player, manager, coach, or parent.
    - b. If the abuse, arguing, or harassment continues, the player, manager, coach, or parent will be ejected from the field. The ejected individual cannot sit in the stands or be near the field. The ejected individual should go to the parking lot or a location away from the field.
    - c. If the ejected individual refuses to leave or continues to abuse, argue, or harass the umpire, the offending individual's team will forfeit the game.

## V. Championship Playoff Rules

1. In order not to extend the season, there will be no playoffs at the end of the regular season to break any ties existing at the time. Instead, if teams are tied for any position, the higher standing will be awarded to the team winning the most games in which the tied teams played each other. If this does not break the tie, then the best intra-divisional record between the tied teams will establish the winner. If this does not break the tie, then the difference in runs scored for the regular season series between the teams will establish the winner. Finally, if the latter does not break a tie, the standing for a position will be determined by the flip of a coin under the direction of the league commissioner. Every effort will be made to assure that regular season postponed games are replayed before the end of the regular season. If it should be necessary to make up any games in the week following the regular season, a reasonable time will be permitted between the makeup games and the beginning of playoffs in order that all participating teams will have full pitching eligibility for the playoff calendar week.
2. The championship playoff at the conclusion of the regular season will depend on the structure of the league and the number of teams within the league. The league commissioner is responsible for designing the schedule and submitting it for Board approval prior to the start of the first regular season game. All team managers must be notified of their league's championship playoff schedule prior to the first regular season game.
3. All regular season pitching rules shall apply to the post season playoff games except that a pitcher will be allowed to pitch nine innings during the playoffs. **Note: all in season pitching rules will apply.**
4. **The Commissioner is required to develop the playoff format in such manner as to ensure that the highest remaining seed plays the lowest remaining seed as each round progresses. Division winners, regardless of record, are classified as the highest seeds. All subsequent seedings are determined by Won/Lost records during the regular season.**

## VI. Ground Rules

1. A hit ball bouncing over, going under, or sticking in the outfield fence is an automatic two (2) bases. A hit ball bouncing into the grass left of and beyond the center field fence is an automatic three (3) bases at the High School Senior Little League Field.
2. A fly ball over the fence is a home run, even if touched by the outfielder. A fly ball into the grass left of and beyond the center field fence is a home run at the High School Senior Little League Field, even if touched by the outfielder.
3. An overthrown ball at first or third base which stays in the playing area is a live ball and must be played.
4. An overthrown ball, including pick off plays, at first or third base in which the ball goes out of play or sticks in the fence, is a dead ball and the runner is awarded one base only. If the overthrow play occurs at first base the runner is awarded second base only. If the overthrow play occurs at third base the runner is awarded home.
5. If any pitched ball goes over, under, through, or sticks in the backstop, the runners are awarded one base only, except that a runner may not be awarded home.
6. The bench area or out-of-play will be marked off from the end of the backstop parallel to first and third baseline's and at least five (5) feet beyond the players bench.
7. No one, spectator or player, is allowed to view the game from the area behind the backstop.
8. The home team warms up for thirty (30) minutes starting one hour before game time. The visiting team warms up for thirty minutes (30) starting one-half hour before game time.
9. Runner will be called out if no attempt made to slide or get around the fielder with ball waiting to make tag.
10. Head first Slides: Runner will be called out on head first slides except when returning to previous base.

## VII. Manager Responsibilities:

- 1) Passing on all written and verbal information from the BBA Board or commissioner to the players and parents.
- 2) Responsible for collection of all outstanding fees (50/50, fundraiser etc)
- 3) Responsible for contacting umpires for all cancelled games- 1 hour notice will be required
- 4) Each manager will be required to maintain the playing field after each game.
  - a. 1st violation: one game suspension
  - b. 2nd violation: three game suspension
  - c. 3rd violation: one-YEAR suspension
- 5) Managers are responsible for making sure that all trash has been picked up from the dugouts, playing fields and spectator areas before leaving a game or practice.
  - a. 1st violation: one game suspension
  - b. 2nd violation: three game suspension
  - c. 3rd violation: one-YEAR suspension
- 6) It is the responsibility of the home team manager to ensure that all equipment is placed in the designated locked container at the end of the game
- 7) Managers shall promote and participate in all league fundraisers.
- 8) Managers and Coaches will use best efforts whenever and wherever practicable to assure that players are not left alone at a team event with members of their team without another adult present. (Team event is defined as practice and or game)

## **VII. Grievance Procedures**

1. From time to time incidents may occur wherein disputes within the Association will require resolution to restore harmony and well-being to the organization. Accordingly, the Board of Directors has established "Grievance Committees" who will bear the responsibility of resolving disputes pertaining to players, managers, coaches, umpires, and parents that in the opinion of the affected league commissioner warrants committee action.
2. Any grievance will be submitted in writing to the league commissioner who in turn will take the grievance to the Grievance Committee.

## **VIII. Intra-League All-Star Game**

1. The league commissioner shall submit to the Board for approval the format for the Intra-League All-Star Games. An eleven (11) year old All-Star Team and a twelve (12) year old All-Star Team will be selected. The structure of the league and the number of teams within the league will determine the method of selecting the Intra-League All-Star Teams.
2. Three players or a number recommended by the league commissioner and approved by the Board shall be elected from each team by a vote of the players on each respective team.
3. The players vote will be by ballot provided by the manager which lists eligible player names. The manager will conduct the election at a scheduled league game. Only players present at the time of balloting will be permitted to vote. The manager and one other adult (a coach or parent) will count the ballots after the vote. The results will be announced to the players and parents immediately following the game. The manager will also inform the league commissioner immediately following the game.
4. The all-star team managers will be designated by the league commissioner. The managers of the all-star teams will normally be the managers in first place in the division at the time of the all-star game. If a first place manager is not available to manage the game or prefers not to manage, then the manager will be selected based on the team standings at the time of the all-star game. Coaches will be selected from other managers who are interested in helping and are not designated as the all-star team manager.
5. The league commissioner will prepare team rosters and provide copies to the all-star team managers and the Association President as soon as possible after elections are conducted.
6. The all-star game will be scheduled for no less than six (6) or more than eight (8) innings.
7. All players will play a minimum of three innings.
8. A player may not pitch for more than one (1) inning and once removed from the pitching position may not return to that position.
9. Pitching rules applicable to regular league play will be waived for the all-star game.
10. If the contest continues into extra innings all substitution rules are waived except the pitching rules listed in this section.

## **IX. Awards**

1. Trophies will be awarded to all players selected for and who participated in the Intra-League All-Star Game.
2. Trophies will be awarded to members of winning teams as follows:
  - a. If the league is aligned into divisions, then the team(s) with the best won/lost record within each division. In the event of a tie, the following will serve as tie breaker:
    1. Awarded to the team with the best record in head to head competition.
    2. Awarded to the team with the best intra-divisional record.
    3. Awarded to the team with the best runs differential in the regular season series.
  - b. If the league is not aligned into divisions, then the team(s) with the best won/lost record for the season.
  - c. The winning and runner up teams in the league's post season championship series as outlined in Section V.

