

# 2010 BETHEL BASEBALL ASSOCIATION JUNIOR 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. Any player who attains the age of nine (9) before May 1<sup>st</sup> or will not attain the age of eleven (11) before May 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year shall be eligible to compete in the Junior Little League of the BBA. Any player who is considered an eight (8) year-old based on the above rules may petition the BBA Board of Directors to move up to JRLL. The approval of the petition by the BBA Board is done so at their sole discretion. In order to be considered for approval, the following conditions **must** be met:

- I. The player must reach the age of nine (9) prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the petition is filed.
- II. The parents must submit a statement demonstrating the need for the player to participate in JRLL (hardship, or safety concerns are examples).
- III. The player and parents must understand that the player will not be eligible for participation in the annual all-star day game in their first year in JRLL.
- IV. The player and parents must understand that the player will only be eligible to play travel baseball with his defined age group in the year of the petition and in all subsequent years.
- V. The player and parents must understand that by entering JRLL early, they will play there for 3 years. There is no early entry into Senior Little League.
- VI. The players most recent manager(s) from the past recreation and/or travel season (where available), must submit an evaluation detailing the players abilities. In the case where the manager is a parent of the petitioning player, a coach from the most recent team will be acceptable.

Once initial approval is granted by the BBA Board the parents will be notified. The player will then need to be evaluated by all current JRLL managers at the tryouts. **Attendance at the tryouts is mandatory.** Failure to attend will result in revocation of the initial approval. The player and parents will be notified of the final approval following the tryouts.

2. The draft shall be conducted as follows:

- a. A returning player will be assigned to the team he/she played for during the previous season.
- b. 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.
- c. 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.

d. 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. Managers must select their own children in the draft.
- 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.

3. Brothers or sisters will be drafted together. The second or third player becomes 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.

4. Active coaches who desire to change teams within the same league will not be entitled to take their own child or children with them.

5. 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.

6. Draft round selections shall continue until all teams have reached their official team roster complement. All eligible 10-year-old players will be drafted first, then the draft will be restarted in the same order and proceed to select all eligible 9 year old players. All eligible 8 year olds will be drafted with the 9-year-old players.

## **II. Official Team Rosters**

1. The official team rosters shall be determined as follows:

- a. Eligible players from last year's roster that have completed an official registration form.
- b. Players eligible for and selected in the respective league's draft.
- c. The maximum number of players on each team's roster will not exceed 13.

2. 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 respective 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.

3. The league commissioner shall equalize the number of each eligible age group on each team as much as possible.

4. 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.

5. If a player does not show up for two consecutive games and does not have 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.

6. There shall be no exchange of players on official team rosters permitted except those cases outlined in the preceding paragraphs (I.1.h.), or as approved by the league commissioner at the annual draft.

7. 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.

8. An individual may manage in only one league in the BBA.

9. The number of coaches (including scorekeepers) in the dugout shall not exceed five individuals.

## **II. Player Participation**

1. All members of each official Little League Roster shall play a minimum of four (4) innings per game except for team with less than 12 players. Players on teams with less than 12 players shall play a minimum of five (5) innings per game. All members of the team 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.

2. It is strongly suggested that managers rotate players between different field positions to enhance the child's learning experience.

3. 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.

4. Free substitution of starting players shall be permitted. However, a pitcher may not return as a pitcher.

5. There will be no call up of Minor League Players.

6. A player's lack of attendance shall allow the manager to minimize a player's playing time only after consulting the league commissioner

## **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 should be official games. This does not apply to playoff games.

c. Two games in one day may be scheduled by the league commissioner if required to make up postponed games.

d. If the home team is leading by fifteen (15) or more runs after the 4th or 5th innings the game shall be considered a complete game. However if the visiting team is leading by fifteen (15) or more runs after the top of the 4th, 5th, or 6th 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 does not reduce the lead to fewer than fifteen (15) runs after the 4th or 5th innings, the game is complete. The home team always gets to bat in the bottom of the current inning when trailing by fifteen (15) or more runs.

e. In the event that ten (10) 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.

f. The defensive team will consist of ten (10) players. Four (4) outfielders will be used. No short fielder, or "rovers" are permitted.

g. No player can pitch more than 2 innings per game and no more than 3 innings total over consecutive days regardless of the number of games played on those consecutive days. A player may not pitch on three consecutive days. A player may pitch a maximum of six innings in a calendar week, Sunday through Saturday. One pitch constitutes one inning. The penalty for violation of pitching rules is forfeiture of the game or games involved.

h. A 9 year old must pitch for 3 consecutive outs or to 6 consecutive batters before the end of the 4th inning. Failure to follow this rule will result in a team forfeit.

i. A pitcher hitting two (2) batsman in any one inning will automatically be removed from the mound and lose his pitching eligibility for that game. This restriction would be limited to pitching eligibility only and the player could continue in the game at another position.

j. A third trip to the same pitcher in the same inning will cause the pitcher's automatic removal. Crossing the baseline constitutes a trip to the pitcher.

k. At the beginning of an inning the pitcher shall be permitted to pitch up to eight (8) preparatory pitches.

l. Pitchers may not wear gloves with white coloring, and may not wear wristbands or light colored long sleeve shirts.

m. There will be no balks.

n. There will be no intentional walks.

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. Players may steal second base and third base only.

r. There will be no slug bunts allowed. A batter attempting to slug bunt will be called out.

s. A player cannot change defensive positions during an inning unless there is a pitching change or a player injury where the player needs to leave the field.

t. Play is stopped once time is granted by the umpire. Any player in the infield with control of the baseball can request time-out but ONLY the umpire can stop play.

u. Any pitcher wearing an arm band must have a long sleeve shirt covering the band

2. 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 swings and misses the pitch. If the batter strikes the ball and makes or causes an out, the play shall be ruled no play. If the batter strikes 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 pitch 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 or 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.

3. Any runner is out whenever the runner does not attempt to avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make the tag. The runner does not have to slide, just avoid contact.

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.

## **VI. Ground Rules**

1. A hit ball bouncing over, going under, or sticking in the outfield fence is an automatic two bases.

2. A fly ball over the fence is a home run, even if touched by the outfielder.

3. An overthrown ball at first or third base that stays in the playing area is a live ball and must be played.

4. An overthrown ball 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 area 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. Only the team manager and coaches may be on the team bench.
9. 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.
10. Pitching distance - 46' 6" from the back point of home plate - and the base distance - 60 feet

## **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 warrant committee action.
2. Any grievance will be submitted in writing, within 72 hours, to the league commissioner who in turn will take the grievance to the Grievance Committee.

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

1. There will be two all-star games. One for nine year olds only, and one for 10 year olds only.
2. The structure of the league and number of teams within the league will determine the method of selecting the intra-league all-star teams. The league commissioner shall submit the format of the intra-league all-star games to the Board for approval.
3. 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.
4. Only players age 10 are eligible for election to the 10-year-old all-star teams. Only players age 9 are eligible for election to the 9-year-old all-star teams. Any 8-year-olds playing up in JRLL will NOT be eligible to play in the all-star games unless approved by the commissioner of the league.
5. The player's e by ballot provided by the manager, which lists eligible players 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 business manager will count the ballots after the vote. The results will be announced to the players and parents once tallied by the business manager. The manager will inform the league commissioner immediately following the announcement.
6. 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 and second place in the divisions at the time of the all-star game. If any of these managers are not available to manage the teams or prefer not to manage, a different manager will be selected based on the team standings at the time of the all-star games. Coaches will be selected from other managers who are interested in helping and are not designated as the all-star team managers.

7. The league commissioner will prepare team rosters and provide copies to the all-star team managers and the BBA President as soon as possible after elections are conducted.
8. The all-star game will be scheduled for no less than six (6) or more than eight (8) innings.
9. All players will play a minimum of four innings.
10. A player may not pitch for more than one (1) innings and once removed from the pitching position may not return to that position.
11. Pitching rules applicable to regular league play will be waived for the all-star game.
12. 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.