



## **LOCAL RULES (Bylaws)**

Approved by the Board of Directors 2023 Season

### **1.00 – DEFINITIONS**

1.01 - “The League” or “League” refers to West Flagstaff Little League.

1.02 - “Board” refers to the West Flagstaff Little League Board of Directors.

1.03 - “Minor Divisions, Minor Leagues or Minors” refers collectively to the T-Ball, A, AA and AAA Divisions.

1.04 - “Manager” (Head Coach) refers to an individual who is approved by the Board to lead a team. The Manager is responsible for all aspects of the team both on and off the field.

1.05 - “Coach” “Assistant Coach” refers to an individual who is approved by the Board to assist the Manager of a team.

1.06 - “Age” refers to the league age of an individual as determined by the rules of Little League Baseball, Inc.

### **2.00 – APPROVAL AND SEVERALBILITY**

2.01 – The Local Rules will be approved and/or modified by a majority vote of the Board, at least annually.

2.02 – No local rule shall conflict with the rules of Little League Baseball, Inc, or the West Flagstaff Little League Constitution. In the event of a conflict, the conflicting local rule shall be severed without effect on the remaining local rules.

### **3.00 – REGULAR MEMBERS**

3.01 – Regular Members are defined by the League Constitution as any adult person actively interested in furthering the objectives of the League, including all current Managers, Coaches, Board Members, Officers of the Board and any other person who is recognized by the Board as a volunteer in the Local League. Other individuals who are actively interested in furthering the objectives of the League may be approved as Regular Members by majority vote of the Board.

3.02 – There shall be no dues required of Regular Members.

## **4.00 – VOLUNTEERS**

### **4.01 – Members of the Board**

(a) Board members are fixed at the annual General Membership Meeting each year (Article VI League Constitution).

(b) Other than a vacancy as defined by the League Constitution, the Board may add interim members by majority vote. An interim member shall have all the powers of a regular board member until the next General Membership Meeting is held, at which time the interim member must be confirmed by vote of the Regular Members.

### **4.02 – Managers and Coaches**

(a) All Managers and Coaches will be approved by the Board.

(b) Each team may have a maximum of one Manager and two Coaches on the roster. Other helpers are allowed as volunteers, but all volunteers must submit to a background check.

(c) Managers and Coaches must attend the League orientation and safety briefing (Coaches Meeting) each year. A waiver or excused absence may be granted by the Coach Coordinator or the President.

(d) Managers and Coaches are subject to the volunteer suspension rules enumerated in 4.03(b).

### **4.03 – Other Volunteers**

(a) All other volunteers are subject to approval of the Board.

(b) Any Board member may temporarily suspend a volunteer for violation of the rules of Little League Baseball, Inc., the League Constitution, the Local Rules or for conduct unbecoming a member of the League. Any suspension will be reported to the President immediately and reviewed by the Board within ten days for a formal disposition by a two-thirds vote (Article III, Section 4 League Constitution).

(c) All Volunteers must submit to a background check.

## **5.00 – PLAYERS**

5.01 – All Players must be registered with the League in accordance with the rules of Little League Baseball, Inc. and the policies of the League.

5.02 – The Board will set a registration fee for each player yearly.

(a) The President will grant a waiver of the fee (or a portion of the fee) for any player whose family's economic circumstances justify a waiver. Any denial of a waiver by the President may be appealed to the Board.

(1) Any family granted a fee waiver must participate in the League fundraiser and must assist the League to the satisfaction of the Board. Failure to do so will result in a hearing before the Board and a potential penalty up to removal of the player from the League.

5.03 – All players who are league age 9 and above must attend the evaluations each season. Players who fail to attend must report to the Player Agent for evaluation for a placement on the appropriate level team.

5.04 – Any player who has more than two unexcused absences from practices or games will be reported to the Player Agent by the Manager. If the Player Agent cannot rectify the situation, the Player Agent will declare the player's spot vacant and will initiate proceedings to replace the player.

(a) A player whose spot is vacated is not eligible to play for the remainder of the season.

5.05 – Any player injured during a League function (game, practice or any other League sponsored event) will be reported by the Manager to the Safety Officer (or another Board Member if Safety Officer is not available) immediately. If the injury is severe enough that the player will miss more than two practices or one game, the incident will also be reported to the Player Agent. The Safety Officer will ensure that any injured player is medically qualified before returning to play.

(a) A player who is injured and misses, or is expected to miss, more than five games will be replaced. An injured player who is replaced, may not return to the team as a player for the balance of the season. Notwithstanding this rule, the replaced player may return to the team as a base coach.

5.06 – Once a vacancy on a team occurs, the Manager of the team and Division Player Agent will have ten days to select a replacement from all eligible players. Exception: The vacancy will be void if an injured player returns (and is medically qualified to return) within the Manager's ten day selection period and before the Manager has selected a replacement player.

## **6.00 – DIVISIONS OF BASEBALL**

### **6.01 – Minor Division**

The League shall consist of four Minor Divisions known as T-Ball, A (Single A), AA (Double A) and AAA (Triple A).

(a) The T-Ball Division will consist of players hitting off a tee. No pitching will be allowed. Games will be non-competitive.

(b) The A Division will consist of players being pitched to by a pitching machine. Games will be non-competitive.

(c) The AA Division will consist of players being pitched to by a pitching machine. Players can start pitching halfway through the season. Games will be non-competitive.

(d) The AAA Division will consist of players pitching. Games will be semi-competitive with modified rules (See rule 9.01).

(1) Players who are League Age 12, and whose parents have expressed interest in playing in the AAA Division, are eligible to play in the AAA Division, subject to approval of the Board and District approved waiver.

(2) Players who are League Age 8 may petition the Board to attend evaluations to be considered for playing up a level.

(3) Refer to Appendix A – West Flagstaff Little League Petition Policy

### **6.02 – Major Division**

(a) The League shall consist of one Major Division, also known as the Little League Division.

(1) The Major division is for competitive play.

(b) Each team in the division shall have 12 players.

(c) Players will be drafted by a team for each subsequent seasons, subject to the rules of Little League Baseball, Inc.

### **6.03 – Junior Division**

(a) The League shall consist of one Junior Division.

(1) The Junior division is for competitive play.

## **7.00 – PLAYER SELECTION AND DRAFT**

7.01 – All players league age 9 and older must attend evaluations each year.

#### 7.02 – TBall, A and AA Divisions

(a) Player selection and team assignments will be made under the direction of the Coaching Coordinator, Registrar or Player Agent.

#### 7.03 – Juniors, Majors, and AAA Divisions

(a) Selection will be by evaluation and draft of eligible players. Players who do not attend evaluations will not be drafted or assigned to a Major Division team, except as governed by the rules of Little League Baseball, Inc.

(b) The draft will be run by the President with the assistance of the Registrar and Player Agent (or designee of the President) in the following manner:

(1) Refer to Appendix B – WFLB Draft Process for complete process & explanation.

### **8.00 – TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

8.01 – Tournament teams (All-Stars) will consist of a Manager, up to 2 Coaches and at least 12 players.

#### 8.02 – Manager Selection

(a) An interest form will need to be submitted to the Board with a brief bio. If there is more than 1 person interested in the same tournament team, a survey vote will go out to the Board for tracking purposes. The Managers must be background approved and at least assisting during the current regular season.

(b) Managers will be selected on a scoring system. Manager with the most points will be offered the position.

(1) 1 point for the Manager that advances furthest in City Tournament (in the event of a tie, Manager with best record in the regular season will be awarded the point)

(2) 1 point per vote from ALL Managers/Coaches from respective division

(3) 1 point from Board of Directors

(c) Managers will pick their own Assistant Coach(s), subject to approval of the Board. The coaches must be background approved and at least assisting during the current regular season in the respective division.

#### 8.03 – Player Selection

(a) A player who wishes to play on a tournament team must submit an interest and commitment form online by the date approved by the Board each year.

(b) The Registrar (or designee) will prepare a listing of all eligible and interested players for each team.

(c) Majors Division Managers will assist the “All Star” Managers in selecting the players for the “All Star” teams.

Selections will begin with the 9-12 Team, then the 11’s Team, then the 8-10’s Team.

(d) Juniors Division Managers will assist the “All Star” Manager in selecting the players for the Juniors team.

(e) Players are eligible for All Star Team Tryouts from the current League Age 8-14 divisions only. Those players trying out will be considered for the team that is age appropriate, but not limited to safety restrictions based on Little League rules.

(f) No tryout will be held if 14 or fewer players submit an interest and commitment form. In such an instance, the Majors Managers will pick 12-13 players for the team from the eligible and interested players and the remaining individuals will become practice team players.

## 9.00 – GROUND RULES

9.01 – Due to interleague play and the association of program(s) with other leagues, other rules effecting play and the selection and administration of Tournament Teams may be approved by the Board yearly and take precedence over these Local Rules.

9.02 – The home team is responsible for the field. This includes preparing the field for play and cleaning up after the game.

9.03 – In the AAA, Major and Junior Divisions, the home team is responsible for providing an Official Scorekeeper and Official Pitch Counter. Managers and Coaches may not act as either the Official Scorekeeper or Official Pitch Counter however, another volunteer may be responsible for both duties.

a) Managers MUST also record the final score online within 24 hours of the game concluding.

9.04 – 12 year olds are not permitted to pitch in the Minor Divisions.

9.05 - 15 year olds are not permitted to pitch in the Juniors Division.

9.06 – The protest committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, and Player Agent. In the event of a conflict of interest, the President shall appoint a replacement for the member with the conflict.

## WEST FLAGSTAFF LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL PETITION POLICY

### PETITION TO PLAY UP

All players are required to register for the Division as determined by their birth date. All Petitions are heard by the Player Agent for review and approval. You may only Petition to Play Up if you have already completed a season in the Division, you would otherwise be registered for. In addition, the policy recognizes a difference between players where the Little League age cutoff separates them from their grade level peers.

### INSTRUCTIONAL

- There are no Play Ups from T-Ball at age 5.

### COMPETITIVE

- At any level with a Skills Evaluation, players scoring in top tier of next age level may be contacted and/or asked to consider the next level up, depending on circumstances.
- At Age 8, player may Petition to Play Up to AAA.
  - Those not drafted at AAA are assigned to AA teams
- At Age 9, player may Petition to Play Up to Majors
  - Those not drafted at Majors become eligible for [AAA Draft](#)
- At Age 10, all players who chose Majors during registration are eligible for the Majors draft
  - Those not drafted at Majors become eligible for [AAA Draft](#)
- At Age 11, all players who chose Majors during registration are eligible for the Majors draft year
  - Those not drafted at Majors become eligible for [AAA Draft](#)

### PETITION TO PLAY DOWN

All players are required to register for the Division as determined by their birth date. Players are eligible to Petition to Play Down to the next lower Division. All Petitions are heard by the Player Agent for review and approval. The general policy is to allow a player to play down one division at the request of their Parents, if circumstances warrant.

### INSTRUCTIONAL

- At Age 7, player may Petition to Play Down to T-Ball if they have not previously played an organized baseball program and parents are concerned they could not hit a pitched ball.
- At Age 8, player may Petition to Play Down to A.

### COMPETITIVE

- League age 9-11 may petition to play down. The Player Agent will do an evaluation to determine they are not a safety issue before a petition will be granted
- At Age 12, Little League requires all players to be drafted into Majors, unless special circumstances warrant a District Evaluation and waiver. If a 12 year old does play AAA they are not eligible to Pitch.
- At Age 13 and above Petitions to Play Down are not heard.

Note: For all Petitions to Play Up or Down, players with experience outside West Flagstaff Little League in the prior season will be reviewed by the Player Agent to determine equivalency and treated accordingly.

## WEST FLAGSTAFF LITTLE LEAGUE DRAFT PROCESS

The draft is moderated and presided over by the Registrar (or a Board officer in their place, as directed by the President). Draft rules are in accordance with the *Little League Baseball Rulebook, Operating Policies, Local League Draft Methods, Methods for Local Leagues in their First Year of Operation, Plan A – Serpentine Draft Plan*.

### DRAFT ATTENDANCE –

Registrar, Commissioner, Division VP and other necessary board members may attend the draft.

**Juniors & Majors** - Only the Division Manager may be present.

**AAA** - Division Manager **ONLY Players may not attend the draft process at any time.**

**PLAYER NOTIFICATION** - When the draft is complete, trading period ends and the Registrar has finalized the rosters, all managers will be notified that they may contact the players on their respective rosters. **Do not contact any drafted player until you are authorized in writing by the Registrar.**

**CONFIDENTIALITY** - The Draft is kept completely confidential, including Skills Evaluation results, player draft order and trades. Each individual attending the draft is responsible for maintaining confidentiality of the draft and draft materials. All draft materials must be returned to the Registrar at the conclusion of the draft.

**DRAFT ORDER** - The Draft Order is established by managers drawing numbers to determine who will select the first player. This establishes a serpentine order throughout the draft (1-n, n-1). Teams at each end of the order effectively have two consecutive picks straddling the end and beginning of consecutive rounds.

**DRAFT POOL** - The Draft Pools are established by the Registrar in consultation with the Board of Directors. All guidelines below are adjusted for approved [Petitions to Play Down](#), removing those players from the candidate pool. The following guidelines establish candidate pools:

- **MAJORS CANDIDATES:**
  - League Age 12 year olds, unless a District evaluation and waiver have been completed
  - League Age 9-11 year olds
- **AAA CANDIDATES:**
  - 12 year olds with District waiver
  - League Age 9-11 year olds not drafted into Majors
  - League Age 8 year olds with approved Petition to play up to AAA
- **JUNIORS CANDIDATES:**
  - League Age 12-15 year olds

**DRAFT POOL CANDIDATES** - A list containing all candidates for the Division draft, along with their player number, name, Little League age, skills evaluation scores, and composite score, sorted into descending order by composite score, will be provided to all Managers at the commencement of the Draft.

**COACHES** - In accordance with Little League rules, there is no pre-selection or assignment of a Coach's child(children) to a Manager. Managers will state their preferred Coaching partner at the draft - and the Registrar will indicate which round that Coach's player would be drafted in, based on Skills Evaluation results. Managers must draft that player during normal draft process.

**PLAYER OPTIONS** - Little League rules allow for Player Option arrangements to be made with the Registrar for specific circumstances including:

- **Drafting siblings** - once one sibling is drafted an option can be placed on another sibling and the Registrar will determine which round the Manager must draft the sibling in, based on their overall ranking in Skills Evaluation results.
- **Manager's own child(children)** will be assigned to their team with no effect on draft order.

**DRAFT LIMITATIONS** - Rules will establish the minimum and maximum number of players a Manager can select, by Little League Age, for each Division's draft. The Registrar will establish and communicate these rules prior to, or at the start of, the draft selection meeting. Draft forms will be distributed which clearly indicate minimums and maximums.

## Appendix B - West Flagstaff Little League Local Rules (Bylaws)

Any Manager in jeopardy of not filling the minimum number of players for an Age will be alerted during the Draft by the Registrar - and required to make selections to come into compliance with the rule. Should an issue be caught after a selection, the Registrar may rule that a prior pick be released. The minimum number rule is waived if all players of that age have already been selected.

- **MAJORS**
  - 12 year olds: Establish minimum number of 12 year olds per team in order to ensure that all 12 year olds are placed on Majors teams. It is recommended that No team may have more than 8, per Little League rules.
  - Remaining slots on roster may be any combination of ages from those available in the candidate pool.
- **AAA**
  - 11 year olds: Establish minimum number of 11 year olds per team in order to ensure that all 11 year old candidates for AAA are placed on AAA teams.
  - Remaining slots on roster may be any combination of ages from those available in the candidate pool.

**DRAFT PROCESS** - The draft process will be used for each Division, in the following order: Majors, then AAA.

- The Registrar will call the Draft to order.
- A drawing will determine the order.
- All available candidates will be made available for viewing, either on paper or projected on a screen, or both.
- Teams make their selections by announcing the player number and the name of the player. After a selection has been made, the Registrar will repeat back the number and the name to ensure accuracy.
- All teams must select a player in every round and maintain a full roster at all times during the season.

The ongoing draft selections and remaining available players will be available for all Managers to view.

**TRADES** - Trades are allowable in the period immediately following the draft until 11:00 PM . To complete a trade, an e-mail must be sent from one manager to the Registrar, VP and cc'ing the other involved manager(s). All teams in the trade must have 12 players on their respective rosters and no trade is final until the Registrar approves the trade. Trades must be like for like skill levels, along with an explanation of reasons for the trade.