

BY-LAWS AND PLAYING RULES FOR District 2 LITTLE LEAGUE INTERLEAGUE GROUP  
(MAHONING COUNTY BASEBALL CONFERENCE)

HOW WE PLAN TO BE GOVERNED

There will be a board established that is made up of participating league presidents along with 3 nonpartisan members that do not hold any significant affiliation to any of the participating leagues. (Current members include Springfield, Struthers, Austintown, and South Range with. The plan is to expand to other area Little League communities of similar size who would benefit from a structured schedule amongst multiple communities in order to provide multiple games against multiple teams while keeping the number of different communities manageable). Once established, any changes to the By-Laws will require the proposed change to be tabled for at least one month post motion and a majority number of votes once all members have voted must be achieved. The process for adding or removing any members would need a unanimous board vote. Newly added communities will have a 2 year probationary period before they can become a voting member.

There will also be a protest committee made up of those 3 nonpartisan members. Any disputes will be handled by a majority vote of those three members. Members are Corey Yoakam, Blaine Daugherty, and Harold Porter- all are umpires long involved in baseball without any direct affiliations.

AN EXPLANATION OF HOW AGE DIVISIONS WILL BE STRUCTURED

Divisional Age Structure will always be in accordance with Little League rules. In order to make the transition for previously non-Little League communities into Little League without the loss of a developmental season due to the age change, the divisions will be structured as follows for the first 6 seasons. After that, exceptions for players born from May and August will be removed. Player safety will always be the first priority. Communities will always have the option to petition the board for a player to play down one age below where their birthdate falls. This shall only be granted if there is a genuine need for the safety of the player. Communities are expected to not take advantage of this rule. For the sake of proper development, players should always be encouraged to play in the appropriate division.

- Minor League Coach Pitch: 7-8 yrs old/or grades 1-2 with the exception made for kids born in May-August who are by Little League standards playing age 9. Any child falling under this exception is not guaranteed a place in the younger division. Their community president must make a petition to the board for them to play down with playing ability, safety, and the need for another developmental year being the deciding factors.
- Minor League Player Pitch: 9-10 yrs old/or grades 3-4 with the exception made for kids born in May-August who are by Little League standards playing age 11. Any child falling under this exception is not guaranteed a place in the younger division. Their community president must make a petition to the board for them to play down with playing ability, safety, and the need for another developmental year being the deciding factors.

- Major League: 11-12 yrs old/or grades 5-6 (AS OF NOW, AUSTINTOWN, SPRINGFIELD, STRUTHERS AND SOUTH RANGE DO NOT PLAN ON HAVING ANY TEAMS IN THIS DIVISION UNLESS IT BECOMES NECESSARY DUE TO A LACK OF OPPONENTS)
- Intermediate League (50/70): 11-12 yrs old/or grades 5-6 with the exception made for kids born in May-August who are by Little League standards playing age 13. Any child falling under this exception is not guaranteed a place in the younger division. Their community president must make a petition to the board for them to play down with playing ability, safety, and the need for another developmental year being the deciding factors.
- Junior League (If communities decide not to play in the TRI-T PONY League): 13-14 yrs old/or grades 7-8 with the exception made for kids born in May-August who are by Little League standards playing age 15 and are in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Their community president must make a petition to the board for them to play down with playing ability, safety, and the need for another developmental year being the deciding factors. (NOTE: Little League rules allow for 15-year-olds to play Junior League for regular season only and would not be eligible to play in the Junior League International tournament should the League decide to enter a team. Communities may opt to play in Tri-T instead either by choice or need due to lack of available teams. Communities may still opt to charter as a Junior League team. All games against other Little League chartered teams played under Little League rules may be counted towards their needed 12 games.)

Communities must make their best honest attempt at dividing teams up equally within each age division and according to Little League rules. Teams should not be purposefully structured in an A-B-C manner with the intent to stack a team while leaving another team unable to compete.

All drafts must be made open to MCBC members for the purposes of witnessing the process. Draft dates should be announced at least 3 days in advance to give any witnesses who wish to attend ample notification.

All team rosters must be turned in to the board as soon as complete and finalized for review. This is for the purpose of identifying any glaring issues so that they may be addressed before the season gets underway.

## SCHEDULES AND PLAYOFFS

Our plan is to have a structured schedule in place for all teams. Teams will make a 12-14 game schedule beginning the last week of April and ending approximately June 15. This is meant to allow for a proper practice season and to leave room for preseason scrimmages before the start of games and to not have game schedules interfering with Spring Break. Games will be scheduled Monday through Thursday. Teams will always have the option to schedule on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays as needed as long as it is agreeable to both teams involved. Teams will also always have the option to play extra or outside games, provided that they always make their league games the first priority. If any team cancels or fails to reschedule a league game in order to play an outside game whether scheduled first or not, that team will be dropped to last place in league standings for the remainder of the season. Only the originally scheduled league games will count towards standings and playoffs. Standings will be structured by the following order of items: a team's win/loss record, Head-to-Head match ups, and finally if needed a coin flip. Every attempt should be made to play every game. Every kid deserves a full season!!

STANDINGS AND PLAYOFFS WILL NOT BE IN PLACE FOR THE MINOR LEAGUE COACH PITCH DIVISION. The focus of this division shall be on player development and FUN while beginning to teach the competitive side of baseball with wins and losses as an outcome.

Playoffs for all other divisions will begin immediately following the end of the season. The number of teams involved will dictate the structure of playoffs. There will be a multi-tier structure if the number of teams exceeds 8 to keep the number of games played at 3 or less in order to minimize the strain on pitching. This structure shall be agreed upon at the time schedules are made. These games will count towards your regular season games for purposes of qualifying for the International Tournament. There will be a 60% rule in place for playoffs. In order for any player to play in the playoffs, they must play in 60% of their team's originally scheduled regular season league games. Exceptions may be made for injury or illness provided the community's president petitions the board for the allowable exception and provides a doctor's note for the missed games.

#### PITCH COUNT AND GAME REPORTING

All game outcomes and pitch counts for 10U and up shall be reported immediately following a game using the online reporting links. Managers should confirm these at the end of each game before leaving the field. If pitch counts are not reported by midnight that night, all pitchers who did pitch will be counted as having pitched their maximum allowance and will have to rest for the maximum days specified. The game, regardless of outcome, will count as a forfeit for the team who did not report theirs.

#### CODE OF CONDUCT

All communities shall have in place a code of conduct for their managers, coaches, players, and parents that includes wording pertaining to the appropriate treatment of umpires.

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Community

President

Vice President

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Community

President

Vice President

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President

Vice President

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President

Vice President

RULES COMMITTEE

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Corey Yoakam

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Harold Porter

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Blaine Daugherty

## HOUSE RULES

Little League rules will be followed except for the following:

- 5 Run limit per inning with unlimited runs in the 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> inning at all levels
- No new inning after 2 hrs. Drop dead at 2 hrs and 30 mins
- No new inning after 8:15 pm on a school night if either team is still in school
- One inning must be started and completed by a player(s) who is less than 10 years old in the Minor Player Pitch Division (8/9 yr old), less than 12 years old in the Major League Division (10/11 yr old), less than 12 years old in the Intermediate Division (10/11 yr old), and less than 14 years old in the Junior League Division (12/13 yr old). There will be a maximum of 2 innings pitched per game for any kid playing in 10U who will turn 11 between May 1 and August 31 inclusive. If a team begins their defensive 3<sup>rd</sup> inning with an older player on the mound and has not yet fulfilled this requirement, the game will be an automatic forfeit for that team. ALL AGES ARE A PLAYER'S LITTLE LEAGUE AGE FOR THE SEASON AND NOT THEIR CURRENT AGE.
- Games may end in a tie during the regular season. No extra innings will be played until the playoffs.
- Teams may start with 8 players. If a team is playing with only 8 players, the 9<sup>th</sup> batter out will be at the opposing manager's discretion.
- All teams will roster bat. A manager may ask for an exception if the number of players present at the game exceeds 14. Minimum 6 defensive outs rule will be in effect.
- There will be two warnings given per pitcher per game per infraction for balks before appropriate penalties are enforced. Managers may agree to be more lenient.
- USA BATS only at the Intermediate level and below
- Subs may be used only when a team's roster falls below the minimum needed to play. Any subs must play RF and bat last.

## ADDITIONAL MINOR LEAGUE COACH PITCH RULES

- The mound will be set at 35'. The player in the pitcher position will need to start each play behind the mound. The coach pitcher will pitch at a normally acceptable distance.
- Batters will be given 6 overhand pitches regardless of balls/strikes. A batter cannot strike out on a foul ball.
- If a runner is not actively in motion on his way to the next base, he cannot advance once an attempt is made to get the ball back to the pitcher. The pitcher does not have to gain control of the ball. The runner must remain on the base he was at when the ball was thrown to the pitcher, or if between bases, he must return to the previous base regardless of how far down the baseline he was. Again, this only applies when the runner is not making forward progress towards a base when the ball was attempted to be thrown into the pitcher.
- If any runner is in forward motion when the ball is attempted to be thrown to the pitcher, the ball will remain live and any further plays may be made, however, the runner is only able to attempt to run to the base in which he was headed. He may not continue onto any other base, even on any subsequent overthrow once that initial attempt to get the ball to the pitcher is made.
- Runners may advance only one base on an overthrow. The defense may attempt to make a play after the overthrow. However, if the ball is again overthrown, no runners may advance.

- If the coach is hit by a batted ball, the play is dead and the batter will bat again. The pitch will be counted as a foul ball.

The purpose in these rules is to prevent the over abuse of continuous running while still encouraging players to attempt to make normal baseball plays.