

LOCAL RULES, GROUND RULES & BY-LAWS OF THE SOUTHTON
SOUTHERN YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
(“SSYAA”)

Pursuant to Article X, Section 3, of the Constitution of the Southington Southern Youth Athletic Association (“Constitution”) dated March 17, 2016, the following Local Rules, Ground Rules, and By-Laws (“Local Rules”) are hereby adopted by the Board of Directors for the 2025 season:

1. All terms defined in the Constitution and used herein shall have the same meaning as defined in the Constitution.
2. During or before the General Membership Meeting for the month of January, the President shall present a draft of the proposed Local Rules for the upcoming season for comment and discussion, which discussion shall be placed on the agenda for the General Membership Meetings for the months of January and February. The Board of Directors shall vote on adoption of the Local Rules after the February meeting but before the March meeting pursuant to Article X, Section 3, of the Constitution. The provisions of the existing Local Rules shall remain in effect until the new Local Rules are adopted by the Board of Directors.
3. A Member in “good standing” for the purpose of Article III, Section 2(b), of the Constitution is defined as any person over the age of eighteen (18) years who has attended five (5) consecutive General Membership Meetings; however, if only one General Membership Meeting is missed, attendance at an additional General Membership Meeting is required to fulfill the attendance requirement. For example, if a Member attends the January, February, March, and April meetings, but not the May meeting, the Member must attend the June and July meetings in order to be eligible to be approved as a Member in “good standing.” Following achieving the attendance requirement, a Member is eligible to be approved as a Member in “good standing” at the next General Membership Meeting as the last business item. To maintain status as a Member in “good standing” a person must not miss more than three General Membership Meetings in a row unless he or she is excused by the Secretary. The Board of Directors may determine, by a majority vote, to consider alternate volunteer activities by individuals in lieu of attendance at General Membership Meetings due to work, personal, or other commitments or obligations that prohibit attendance at General Membership Meetings. Any disputes concerning excuses will be resolved by the Board of Directors taking into account various factors in its decision, including but not limited to illness, family and/or professional obligations. The use of the term “Member” hereinafter refers to a Member who is in good standing.
4. General Membership Meetings shall be held the first Monday of each month with the exception of holidays, at which time the meeting shall be held on the following Monday. Additionally, a General Membership Meeting may also be postponed to the second Monday of a month for reasons other than holidays, provided that a minimum of (7) seven days notice is given to all Members.

5. The following rules with respect to discipline under Article III, Section 4, of the Constitution shall apply.
 - a. Any issues that may require discipline to be considered regarding a player, manager, coach, umpire or a Member may be referred to the attention of the Board of Directors by any person.
 - b. Upon such referral, the President (or the Vice President - Little League if the President is the subject of the complaint) shall initially determine if the referral has an adequate basis in fact for the hearing on potential discipline. The President may choose to conduct an investigation and/or to consult with others in making this determination.
 - c. If the President determines that there is an adequate basis for a hearing, the President shall promptly schedule a meeting of the Board of Directors to consider the matter. The hearing shall be held by the Board of Directors as soon as practicable. Notice of no less than five (5) calendar days of such hearing shall be provided to the person who is the subject of the potential discipline; such notice may be provided by email **AND** either (1) hand delivered, or (2) certified mail, return receipt requested. Notice will be deemed to have been provided when the notice is received by the person who is the subject of the potential discipline.
 - d. The President or others at his direction may at any time investigate the issues relating to the referral. In conducting this investigation, the President may contact the person who is the subject of the referral and potential discipline or any other persons with knowledge of matters relating to the issues presented. The President shall present any information gathered to the Board of Directors during any hearing which is conducted.
 - e. If the President determines that there is no adequate basis in fact for a hearing on potential discipline, the President shall promptly inform the entire Board of Directors of his or her decision in writing. If three or more Directors provide written notice to the President within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the President's notice of the decision not to proceed that they wish to have the matter considered at a hearing, a hearing will be conducted notwithstanding the President's decision not to proceed.
 - f. All hearings shall be conducted in an informal, yet orderly fashion. The person who is the subject of the disciplinary hearing shall have the right to attend the presentation of all the evidence to be considered; shall have the right to have counsel present; and shall have the right to present evidence or rebuttal. The President shall preside over the hearing. The Local League shall have the right to have counsel present. No one other than the Board of Directors, counsel to the Local League, the person subject to discipline and his or her counsel, and witnesses called shall have the right to attend the hearing or to hear the testimony of any witness. In any hearing involving a minor, the minor shall have his or her parent(s) or legal guardian(s) present.
 - g. Any hearing on discipline may be terminated by the President upon receipt of written notice from the person subject to discipline that such person has voluntarily resigned as a Member.

9. Player Drafts:
 - a. All players league-ages nine (9) to twelve (12) who have participated in at least (1) evaluation are eligible for the Majors Division draft. Only Majors Division managers and up to two assistant coaches per Majors Division team may participate in the draft along with the President and Player Agent. The draft is confidential, and no participant shall reveal information concerning the draft to any non-attendee, except that Majors Division managers shall contact their own players as soon as possible after the draft to notify such players of their selection. Majors Division managers may not contact players other than players on their own teams to discuss the results of the draft.
 - b. All players league-ages eight (8) to eleven (11) who have participated in at least (1) evaluation are eligible for the AAA Division draft. Only AAA Division managers and up to two assistant coaches per AAA Division team may participate in the draft along with the President and Player Agent. The draft is confidential, and no participant shall reveal information concerning the draft to any non-attendee, except that AAA Division managers shall contact their own players as soon as possible after the draft to notify such players of their selection. AAA Division managers may not contact players other than players on their own teams to discuss the results of the draft.
10. Pitch count records are to be maintained for every player who plays the pitcher position by the manager of that team. Pitch counts are to be recorded and reported to the league within 24 hours of the completion or suspension of a game due to weather by the method dictated by the Board of Directors. Managers are responsible for ensuring that players remain within the pitch count limitations dictated by Little League International. Failure to report and abide by pitch count requirements is grounds for discipline per Paragraph 5 of these by-laws.
11. If a player in the Majors Division will miss the remainder of the season, including the playoffs, due to injury, illness, or any other reason, a replacement player must be selected immediately from the AAA league. Such a player becomes a permanent replacement in accordance with Little League Rules. Calling up any player will be done through the Player Agent. The Player Agent will keep a list of eligible players. The Player Agent will work with the Majors Division manager to choose a player from this list.
12. If a player in the Majors Division is out for eight (8) consecutive games due to injury, illness, or any other reason, the manager of the team must select, in accordance with the procedure in the preceding Paragraph 11 hereof, a replacement player before the absent player misses the ninth game. If the absent player returns during the season, then the team will play with an additional player for the remainder of the season.
13. If a team in the Majors Division is going to have only 8 players for a game, the manager may contact the Player Agent to arrange for a temporary substitute player from the Major's Player Pool instead of cancelling the game. The temporary substitute player may not pitch in the game. Only one (1) substitute player may be used per team.
14. An athletic supporter and cup are required for all players. All catchers must wear a hanging throat guard and catchers glove. Mouth guards are strongly encouraged to be worn by players when players are actively in the games.

15. Responsibility for field maintenance for South vs. South shall be as follows:
- a. The Home Team will conduct the following **before** the game:
 - i. Rake the infield, home plate and pitcher's mound, install bases, establish base lines, install bases and perform a safety inspection of the field.
 1. For questionable field conditions, the home team manager or coach shall contact the Fields & Facilities Manager or Committee to determine playability.
 - ii. Turn field lights on for evening games
 - iii. Choose an announcer and scoreboard operator (2 only).
 - iv. Unlock all gates and equipment shed.
 - b. The Visiting Team will conduct the following **after** the game:
 - i. Rake the infield, home plate and pitcher's mound, remove bases, and perform a safety inspection of the field.
 - ii. Turn field lights off for evening games
 - iii. Return all field equipment to the shed.
 - iv. Lock all gates and equipment shed.
 - c. For interleague games at Recreation Park, the home team shall be responsible for both pre-game (section a) and post-game (section b) field responsibilities.
 - d. Both Teams shall:
 - i. Have equal access to batting cages.
 - ii. Empty all trash cans and replace liners after the end of the game.
16. The Majors division will follow Little League Baseball's requirement for mandatory play in that every rostered player present at the start of the game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. The exceptions being:
- a. Severe discipline problems, (must be approved by the League President).
 - i. Opposing team must be notified prior to the start of the game.
 - b. A player who arrives to the game with less than six (6) defensive outs remaining.
 - c. A player who is sick, injured during a game, or rehabilitating from injury.
 - i. Opposing team must be notified prior to the start of the game.
 - d. A player leaving the game early for personal reasons.

17. All divisions will utilize a continuous batting order in that every rostered player present for the game will bat in their respective spot in the batting order.
 - a. If a player who is injured, becomes ill, or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over that spot in the order without penalty. If the player returns to the game they are inserted into their original spot in the batting order.
 - b. If a player arrives late to a game, the player shall be added to the end of the current lineup.
 - c. If a team starts a game with eight (8) players, the team may skip over the ninth (9th) position in the lineup without penalty and an out shall NOT be called for the ninth (9th) position in the batting line-up each turn at bat.
18. There will be no fake bunts/slashing. If this happens the umpire will call a dead ball and the batter will be out. There will be no warning issued.
19. The manager or approved coaches may coach at first or third base provided a manager or coach remains in the dugout at all times. At no time are coaches to direct comments to the opposing team or in any way (verbal or through gestures) to do anything to incite the spectators. Any players coaching first or third base must wear a batting helmet.
20. All rules of the regular season will apply to the playoffs.
21. Tie breaker rules for the Majors Division are as follows:
 - a. Head to Head record: The team with the better/best record(s) between the 2+ teams is the higher seed and so on,
 - b. If still tied, the team with the best interleague record is the higher seed,
 - c. If still tied, the Little League Runs-Allowed Ratio rule shall be in effect (See International Tournament Section IV of Little League Rulebook for calculation)
22. There will be no alcoholic beverages allowed in the dugouts, bench area or on the playing field before, during or after a game. No smoking is permitted in the dugout, bench area or on the playing field. No one is allowed to leave the dugout to smoke.
23. The only person allowed in the dugout will be (a) roster players, (b) the manager, and (c) two (2) coaches for a total of three (3) adults (all coaches or managers must be older than 18 years old) except that a player who was an original roster player, but was injured and has been replaced will be allowed to sit in the dugout if it will not risk further injury.
24. Managers are responsible for all team playing equipment and must report any equipment that is lost, broken or stolen to the equipment manager within twenty four (24) hours of discovery. The Board of Directors may determine by majority vote that the manager is liable for replacement if said loss is determined to be due to carelessness or reckless behavior.
25. Managers are responsible for controlling the behavior of their coaching staff. Managers and coaches are all responsible for controlling the behavior of the parents and fans of their respective teams. Managers shall report repeat offenders to the Board of Directors.

26. There shall be the following divisions for the 2025 season:
- a. For the Lower Divisions, there shall be Tee Ball; A, AA; AAA; and Majors. Rules for the Lower Divisions are to be approved by the Board of Directors and Division Coordinator and distributed to all managers of said division prior to the first game.
 - b. For the Upper Divisions, there may be 50/70; Junior League; Senior League; and Big League depending on player enrollment. The Board of Directors may also decide to combine with North and/or West based on player enrollment for one or more of the Upper Division teams.