

# Refugio Little League Bylaws

The organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational or scientific purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

## Mission Statement

Implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

## Objective

All Directors, Officers and Members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of a maximum of nine (9) members (10-5-19). The Board of Directors must consist of: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Player Agent, Safety Coordinator and a Coaching Coordinator. Other officers may include (but not required) an Umpire in Chief, Field Manager, Equipment Manager, Fundraising Coordinator and a Concession Manager. There must be a quorum (50% + 1) of board members in attendance for voting to take place. The Board of Directors has sole authority on the business of the Refugio Little League.

## Divisions

- a. **Tee Ball Division** – operates as a baseball program for 4-6 year old players under Little League Tee Ball Rules and Regulation. Players must play at least one year of Tee Ball before being advanced to the Coach Pitch division (10-13-18).
- b. **Coach Pitch Division** – operates as a baseball and softball program for 7 and 8 year old players under District 29 Coach Pitch rules set up by the District Administrator. **Note:** 6 year olds may only play in the Coach Pitch division if they have played a mandatory year of Tee Ball or by Board Discretion after an evaluation by the Player Agent and Safety Coordinator.
- c. **Minor League Division** – operates a minor league program in baseball and softball for 9-10 year old players under Little League Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations. All participants at this level must participate in half of the tryouts to be included in the players draft. **Note:** 8 year olds may only play in the Minor League division if they participate in at least one tryout and must be deemed ready to be advanced by the Player Agent and Safety Coordinator.
- d. **Major League Division** – operates a major league program in baseball and softball for ages 11 and 12 year old players under Little League Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations. All participants at this level must participate in half of the tryout process to be included in the player draft. **Note:** 10 year olds may only play in the Major League division if they participate in at least half of the tryout process and must be deemed ready to be advanced by the Player Agent and Safety Coordinator.

- e. **Junior League Division** – operates a junior league program in baseball and softball for ages 13 and 14 year old players under Little League Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations. All participants at this level must participate in half of the tryout process to be included in the player draft. **Note:** 12 year olds may only play in the Junior League Division if they participate in at least one of the tryout process and must be deemed ready to be advanced by the Player Agent and Safety Coordinator.
- f. **Senior League Division** - operates a junior league program in baseball and softball for ages 15-16 year old players under Little League Baseball and Softball Rules and Regulations. All participants at this level must participate in at least half of the tryout process to be included in the player draft. **Note:** 14 year olds may only play in the Senior League Division if they participate in at least one of the tryout process and must be deemed ready to be advanced by the Player Agent and Safety Coordinator.

## **ARTICLE I – CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY**

It is considered critical that Members of the Board of Directors, Officers of Little League Baseball, Incorporated Committee Members, Employees, District Administrators, Assistant District Administrators and all Field Personnel shall not engage in any activity which gives rise to or could give rise to an appearance or claim of self-dealing, divided loyalty or conflict of interest by reason of such person's position with Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

In the event that any such person may, either directly or indirectly, be a party to or be in any manner financially interested in any contract or agreement with Little League Baseball, Incorporated, for any manner, cause or thing such contract or agreement shall be made in violation of this policy and they shall be null and void.

In addition, any person violating this policy will be subject to Article VIII of the By-Laws of Little League Baseball, Incorporated, entitled "Disciplining Members, Directors, Officer and Field Personnel." Article VIII provides for disciplinary action including but not limited to removal or suspension for any act, conduct or involvement contrary to the Rules, Regulations and Policies of the Corporation or which might tend to bring the Corporation into disrepute, or for any failure to perform properly the duties and responsibilities assigned to such a person.

## **ARTICLE II – AMENDMENTS**

These bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered on a whole or in part by a majority vote at any duly organized meeting of the members, provided notice of the proposed changes is included in the notice of such meeting.

## **ARTICLE III – PLAYER FEES, REFUND POLICY, FUNDRAISERS AND OTHER FEES**

All player fees are due at the time of registration unless prior arrangement and approval has been made. Those utilizing the payment plan will create a contract with the Refugio Little League in which all fees are due before March 1<sup>st</sup>. Post dated checks are accepted.

- a. **Refund Policy** – Refugio Little League incurs costs for each player that is registered. These costs are non-refundable. This fee is 75% of the amount of your registration. These costs include, but are not limited to, insurance costs, uniform fees, and charter fees. Refunds will no longer be given after the last tryout date, which also serves as the last registration date (10-18-15).
- b. **Fundraisers** - Refugio Little League may conduct fundraisers during the season that will be run by the league, parents and/or other adult volunteers.
- c. **Bank Fees** – Refugio Little League will charge the same fee as our bank (First State Bank) for any checks returned NSF.

## ARTICLE IV – PLAYER SELECTION

- I. **Tee Ball Division** – Arrangement of Teams will be selected by the President, Vice President and/or Player Agent. (non-competitive)
  
- II. **Coach Pitch Division** - All players will be placed on teams by the **Draft Plan B** method, as outlined in the Little League International Rulebook. The oldest players will be drafted first followed by the next age group, etc. until all players are selected. Consideration for team placement based on siblings or carpools will be given. Parent specific coach requests will also be considered but there is no guarantee or expectation the request can be granted. Teams will be dissolved at the end of the current season.  
(non-competitive)
  
- III. **Minor League Division** – All players will be placed on teams by the **Draft Plan B** method, as outlined in the Little League International Rulebook. Players within the division who participated in division in the previous year will be drafted first (Oldest to Youngest). Once those players are drafted, remaining players will then be drafted (oldest to youngest) until all players are placed on teams. Any 8 year old **not** participating in half of the tryouts will not be eligible to play in the Minor League Division. Player Agent and Safety Coordinator must approve any 8 year old to the Minor League Division.  
**Note:** *In the event there is only one team for the season, there will not be a draft.*
  
- IV. **Major League Division** - All players will be placed on teams by the **Draft Plan B** method, as outlined in the Little League International Rulebook. Players within the division who participated in division in the previous year will be drafted first (Oldest to Youngest). Once those players are drafted, remaining players will then be drafted (oldest to youngest) until all players are placed on teams. Any 10 year old **not** participating in half of the tryouts will not be eligible to play in the Major League Division. Player Agent and Safety Coordinator must approve any 10 year old to the Major League Division.  
**Note:** *In the event there is only one team for the season, there will not be a draft.*
  
- V. **Junior League Division** - All players will be placed on teams by the **Draft Plan B** method, as outlined in the Little League International Rulebook. Players within the division who participated in division in the previous year will be drafted first (Oldest to Youngest). Once those players are drafted, remaining players will then be drafted (oldest to youngest) until all players are placed on teams. Any 12 year old **not** participating in half of the tryouts will not be eligible to play in the Junior League Division. Player Agent and Safety Coordinator must approve any 12 year old to the Junior League Division.  
**Note:** *In the event there is only one team for the season, there will not be a draft.*
  
- VI. **Senior League Division** - All players will be placed on teams by the **Draft Plan B** method, as outlined in the Little League International Rulebook. Players within the division who participated in division in the previous year will be drafted first (Oldest to Youngest). Once those players are drafted, remaining players will then be drafted (oldest to youngest) until all players are placed on teams. Any 14 year old **not** participating in half of the tryouts will not be eligible to play in the Senior League Division. Player Agent and Safety Coordinator must approve any 14 year old to the Senior League Division.  
**Note:** *In the event there is only one team for the season, there will not be a draft.*

## **Draft Process**

The Refugio Little League shall conduct its annual Regular Season Draft using Plan B - The Redraft, from the Official Rules and Regulations Hand Book while following the Local League selection procedures outlined in the Local Leagues By-Laws.

**SECRECY: Players shall never be told the position in which they were drafted.**

**Note 1:** For the purposes of this Draft Method, the Major Division will be referred to and listed in this procedure, but Refugio Little League will use this Draft Method for all Divisions that are Minor and above. Tee-Ball Teams shall be divided as evenly as possible by the President, Vice President and/or Player Agent..

**Note 2:** If a Manager wishes to exercise the option of claiming their Child/Children, they must express this in writing at least 2 days ( 48 hours ) before the day of the Draft by turning in the appropriate form to either the Player Agent or the President of the League. ( These forms will be available at the mandatory Coaches Meeting each year or can be obtained through contacting the Player Agent or the President of the League ). If no such notice is made a Managers Child/Children will go into the Draft as Free Agents. Any Manager that has filled out the appropriate paperwork and turned it in on time has until the Third Round of the Draft to select their child/children, after the Third Round the Managers Child/Children become Free Agents in the Draft and can be selected to any Team Roster.

When one sibling is selected by a Team Manager, that Team Manager will be given the option to select the other sibling/s to their Team Roster right then. If they choose to exercise this option then the sibling/s will be added to that Team Managers Roster as their next Draft Round selection when his/her turn in the Draft comes around. No other Team Manager will select the sibling/s when this Agreement has been made. If the Team Manager decides not to exercise this option then sibling in question is still a Free Agent and may be selected to any other Team Roster.

**Each potential Manager or potential Coach must be in attendance at the MANDATORY Coaches Clinic, if they wish to be considered for either position. Copies of this procedure will be given to each potential Manager/Coach to take home. It is strongly suggested that they familiarize themselves with the Local League process and the Rules stated in the Rule Book regarding the Draft, so they may be able and ready to make decisions regarding Player Selection during the Draft to make things run as smoothly as possible.**

A thorough tryout program will be completed for the purpose of Managers having an opportunity to assess perspective players. Managers that wish to assess players before the Draft must attend the tryouts, they shall not seek out individual players and have the player in any way showcase his/her playing ability. No information about players abilities will be provided during the Draft process. However, a Manager may bring their own notes from tryouts with them. Only the Division Managers, Player Agent, Coaching Coordinator and President of the League will be allowed into the Draft room during the Draft process.

**Step 1:** Decide how many Major Teams the League will operate for the season. Take the number of eligible 12-year-olds that signed up that opted for Major level play and divide by 8 ( the legal number of 12-year-olds Little League allows ).

**Step 2:** At the Draft each Manager is assigned a team name ( i.e., Refugio Black, Refugio Orange, ect. ). Each Team shall not have more than ( 8 ) 12-year-olds unless it is mathematically impossible to form the required number of teams, in which case a Waiver to carry more than ( 8 ) 12-year-olds must be granted from the Charter Committee.

**Note 3:** All players that are returning to the same Division as the previous year must be Drafted before any new Divisional players are Drafted.

**Step 3:** A coin flip will determine which manager gets the first Draft selection. The President, Coaching Coordinator or Player Agent will flip a coin for the Managers with one of them calling a side. Whoever wins the coin toss gets the first Draft selection. When more than two Teams are determined to be in a Division, each Manager will flip a coin and the Manager that has the opposite side of the coin wins and will receive the first round Draft pick. The remaining Managers will follow the same process until all Managers are assigned a place in the order of the Draft.

Example: Managers A, B and C all flip a coin. Managers A and B coin lands with the Heads side up, Manager C's coin lands with the Tails side up. Manager C wins. The President, Coaching Coordinator or the Player Agent flips a coin for Managers A and B with one of them calling a side. Whoever wins the coin toss gets the next spot in line for Draft selections.

**Step 4:** Once the order of the Draft has been established the Managers ( staying in the established order ), will begin making their player selections one at a time adding each player to their Team Rosters as they make each selection, beginning with the returning players.

**Note 4:** According to Regulation V - Selection of Players, all candidates who are league age ( 12 ) must be drafted to a Little League ( Major ) Division, Intermediate ( 50-70 ) Division ( baseball ), and/or a Junior League team ( s ) in accordance with Regulation IV ( a ).

**Step 5:** Once all returning players have been selected and placed on a Team Roster, the Team Managers will begin making their player selections from New Divisional candidates, ( staying in the same established order starting with the Team Manager that is due the next Draft selection once all returning players have been selected to a Team Roster ) until all new Divisional players have been selected and placed on a Team Roster.

**Step 6:** Once all eligible Divisional players have been selected and placed on a Team Roster the Draft will be over and the Team Rosters will be set. ( Pending any Trades ).

**Trading:** Immediately following the Draft. Managers, if they desire, may trade players.

**ALL TRADES SHALL BE MADE THROUGH AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE PLAYER AGENT.**

The following restrictions also apply:

1. All trades must be within the same Division.
2. All trades must be player for player only. ( Example: Two players from Team A could not be traded for one player from Team B ).
3. All trades must be finalized, approved and Team Rosters updated before leaving the meeting room.
4. No trades will be allowed so that a Manager may acquire a Coach who is the Parent of a player being traded. ( If a trade is made for this reason, the Manager and the Coach that manipulated the Draft/Trade process for unethical reasons will be immediately suspended indefinitely ).

**Note 5:** Once the Draft is over and all trades are finalized, the Team Rosters are set and will only be changed to balance and fill team rosters (11-10-19).

### **Eligibility**

All players, Minors and above, participating in the draft process, must be registered prior to the draft and participate in a minimum of 50% of the tryouts. Any 8, 10, 12, or 14 year old who wishes to play up a division must participate in the tryouts for the division to which they want to participate. The Player Agent and Safety Coordinator will be on hand to make sure the player will be safe to play in that division.

A player subject to the draft who does not participate in at least 50% of the tryouts may only be a member of the draft pool and selected during the draft only if the reason for his/her absence from all or more than 50% of the tryouts was previously notified to and approved by the President or Player Agent of the League. All medical issues must be validated with a doctor's release prior to the draft (11-10-19).

### **Age Requirements**

No more than eight (8) players of league age 12 may be on a Major League Division Baseball roster, without an approved waiver to **Regulation III(c)**.

Players at least age 12 who are otherwise eligible to play on a Junior Baseball team and are selected and/or participates in one or more regular season games on a Junior League Baseball team, are ineligible to play on a Major League team during tournament season.

## **NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON THE TEAM**

**No team may have more than 15 players, not less than 12. There will be no minimum or maximum number of rostered players for the Minor League division or below.**

If there are two or more teams in the same division and one of the teams does not have enough players for a game, a “pool of players” from existing regular season teams can be created with players willing to participate in extra games during the regular season. These players will be assigned by the Player Agent, under the following guidelines:

1. The Player Agent will create and run the player pool. The Player Agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis.
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool.
3. Under the option, when a player participates in a game on a team other than his/her own team, such player will not be permitted to pitch in that game.
4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must start game and play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs (3 innings) and bat at least once.

### **Excessive Scores**

Managers and coaches are expected to do their best to prevent very lopsided scoring games. Games in which one team has a ten (10) run or more lead after four (three and a half, if the home team is leading) innings of play, the game will be called (**Rule 4.10(e)**). Mandatory play requirements are not in effect in a shortened game. Players not getting mandatory play in a shortened game, will be required to start next played game.

For Coach Pitch and Minor Divisions only: A five (5) run limit is imposed, which would complete the half inning. The five-run limit will not apply in the final inning, the sixth (6th) inning, or in any extra inning game; however, games in which one team has a ten (10) run or more lead after four (three and a half, if the home team is leading) innings of play, the game will be called (**Rule 4.10(e)**).

### **Need for a pool player**

Managers in need of a pool player will be required to call Player Agent with enough time to call player’s parents to seek approval for player to play. Pool play is not available if teams play on the same day.

### **Protests**

Protests are described in the Little League Baseball/Softball Rules and Regulations book. The Umpire and Managers are encouraged to resolve any potential protests immediately. If not, a protest shall be done in accordance with **Rule 4.19**. Judgement calls **CANNOT** be protested. A protest will be resolved by the protest committee. The protest committee consists of all available Board Members present.

## **ARTICLE V - MANAGERS, COACHES AND UMPIRES**

Team Managers and Coaches shall be appointed annually by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors. All managers are eligible for a complete refund of monies paid for their child/player upon completion of the following: (1) Successfully pass Little League mandated background check; (2) First Aid Class (with proof); (3) Attendance at the mandatory Managers/Coaches’ Meeting; (4) the return of all issued baseball/softball equipment at the end of the regular Little League season.

## Scorekeeping

The home team is responsible for providing the official scorekeeper. The home team scorebook will be the official game scorebook. A scorekeeper who is NOT on a team roster CANNOT sit in the dugout. Only the manager, two adult coaches, and team players in uniform can be in the dugout (Rule 3.17). One of the rostered adults in the dugout may be scorekeeper and sit in the dugout. Refugio Little League will make every effort to provide a scoreboard operator and scorekeeper in the press box.

Scorekeeping shall be done in accordance with Little League rules. After the game, the score sheet must be reviewed and signed by the umpire.

**MINORS, MAJORS, JUNIORS AND SENIORS DIVISIONS: All home team managers must report the game score and pitching records (pitch count for each pitcher) within 24 hours of game completion.**

**Note:** No official score is kept at the Tee Ball or Coach Pitch level.

## Umpires

Managers/coaches shall not umpire a game in which their team is scheduled to play. District 29 provides yearly rules and umpire mechanics training at the start of the season to help train those new to umpiring and to give a refresher course to those who have been umpiring for a while. Refugio Little League provides umpire gear (mask, chest protector, shin guards, and an indicator) to be used during a game if you are going to be behind the plate.

During the season, the home team is responsible for providing the umpire. The plate umpire will act as the umpire-in-charge for the duration of the game.

It is the official policy of Refugio Little League that all umpires to be used for Refugio Little League events will be strictly volunteers, offering their time and services for the good of the league, with no prior expectation of any form of payment for any services rendered. Refugio Little League expects its umpires to be of the mindset that they are there for the children, to help make their experience at Refugio Little League the best it can be.

## **ARTICLE VI - FIELD PREPARATION AND DECORUM**

The home team is responsible for the preparation and clean-up of the field.

Each team must clean its own dugout. No food is allowed in the dugout, only water or other hydration drinks. **Absolutely no alcohol, tobacco products (snuff, chew, cigarettes, e-cigs), weapons of any kind, or illegal drugs are allowed at Heritage Park or Refugio ISD property.**

The home team shall be responsible for preparing the field of play before the game. This includes marking the field, putting bases out, picking up any debris that will interfere with the game, provide water and drinking cups for both the home and visiting dugouts. Additional duties include filling in the holes in the batter's box, catcher's box and pitching mound. After the games, the home team is responsible for replacing the bases back in the storage shed and returning the water cans.

**Note:** Home team will occupy the first base dugout.



## **Warming up Pitchers**

Only players are allowed to warm up a pitcher. At a minimum, the player warming up the pitcher will have a catcher's helmet with dangling throat guard, personal protection and a catcher's mitt. At no time whatsoever (at practice, or a game) shall a manager, coach or any adult warm up a pitcher. (Rule 3.09).

## **Pitching Eligibility and Rest**

Please refer to the Little League Official Rules and Regulations for the current year (baseball and softball).

## **Base Coaches**

Base coaches will be provided as stipulated in Rule 4.05. If a rostered coach is not an adult (under the age of 18 years), that person will wear a batting helmet. Any player utilized as a base coach will wear a batting helmet at all times while on the field.

Per 2018 Little League Official Rules and Regulations, if a batter enters into the batter's box with an illegal bat, the additional penalty (other than the batter being declared out) is the loss of an eligible adult base coach. For example, if a team uses two adult base coaches, and this event occurs, that team "loses" the ability to have two adult base coaches for the duration of the game. A player must come out (with a batting helmet on) to occupy the base coach box.

## **Safety**

All safety procedures as documented in Refugio Little League's Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) plan ("Safety Manual") shall be observed at all times. In addition, the following will also be observed:

1. There will be no batting practice or any use of bats by players anywhere on the field one (1) hour before game start time. The batting cage area may be used before the game to practice batting. Once the game commences, only the current batter in the batter's box shall be permitted to hold or use a bat. **Note:** *Junior and Senior Division are allowed an on-deck batter.*

## **Uniforms**

**No uniforms, other than those approved by Refugio Little League, are acceptable. Refugio Little League will provide uniforms to all division of play.** Jerseys and Hats will be provided only. Players must have jerseys tucked in while on the playing field. Hats will be worn properly at all times while on the field. Manager and coaches must dress professionally. Cut-off shorts, spandex (bicycle) shorts, open-toed sandals or shoes, or tank-top shirts are not permitted. Refugio Little League encourages managers in each division to determine pant colors for the season. This will also help with Tournament Uniforms.

## ARTICLE VII - LOCAL PLAYING RULES

Local rules are in addition to regular Little League International rules to reflect the playing rules, conduct, safety conditions, special field conditions, All-Star selection and other league management issues. If a situation is not discussed herein, it shall be consistent with the Little League International Regulations and Rules for the current year.

### A. **Tee Ball Division:**

- a. Teams may have one (1) manager and four (4) coaches within the fence. Four positioned coaches on the field for offense (Batter coach, First base, second base, third base) and one (1) in the dugout. Defensively, coaches may be on the field, but must be positioned on the outfield grass. Defensive coaches may approach player to “teach” the player what to do, but must return to the outfield grass before play resumes.
- b. Batters are only allowed five (5) swings (foul ball on 5th swing, courtesy swing is given)
- c. Every player will be positioned on the field during defense.
- d. The pitcher and the 1st baseman must be a different player every inning.
- e. Catchers will be used.
- f. The ball must be thrown to make an out at first base. If forced at second, third or home, defense must step on base. If not forced, defense must tag runner.
- g. If a ball is over thrown to first base, the batter/runner will remain on first base and any other baserunners may only advance one base. Stealing bases is not permitted.
- h. The only time a pitcher may make an out at any base is at home plate. Either by tagging a runner, or stepping on home plate (force out). The pitcher must throw the ball to any other base.
- i. Defensive play will be stopped when the pitcher is in possession of the ball on or around the pitcher’s mound.
- j. Offensive teams will be put out of a half inning by batting through the continuous lineup (Rule 4.04, Note 1). When a defensive out is made the batter/runner will return to the dugout.
- k. Games will consist of **one (1) hour**, as many innings as can be played during the time limit.
- l. Only Saf-T balls will be used at all times.
- m. Each player gets a sno-cone after the game served by the Managers/Coaches.

- B. Coach Pitch Division:** These rules have been approved by the District 29 Administrator and abide by the Little League Baseball/Softball Rules and Regulations. The objective of the Coach Pitch League is to teach skills and an understanding of the game of baseball/softball. The Coach Pitch League is intended to be a transition from T-Ball to Kid Pitch. Players develop the skills of batting, fielding and base running in the **non-competitive** league while learning the rules that closely resemble those of traditional baseball/softball.
- a. There should be two games per week per team. Games should be no longer than 75 minutes . Score will **NOT** be kept.
  - b. **Umpires** are not required. However, coaches should serve as umpires. Their duties shall be as follows:
    1. Counting pitches, outs and runs (only for side retiring purposes)
    2. Determining foul balls
    3. Determining when the end of a play has occurred.
  - c. **Coaches:** Four (4) coaches will be allowed in the dugout during a game. While batting, one coach will pitch, one at first base, one at third base and one in the dugout. There must always be an adult in the dugout.
  - d. **Field:** an eight (8) foot diameter circle shall be drawn around the pitching rubber (softball)
  - e. **Pitching Coach**
    1. The pitching coach shall pitch from within the designated pitching rubber (35 feet). They must have contact with the pitching rubber while the pitch is released.
    2. The pitching coach shall exit the playing field away from any play being made on the field when the ball is hit into fair territory to avoid interference
    3. If the pitching coach is hit by the ball, it is a live ball and will be played as such.
    4. The pitching coach shall not umpire.
  - f. **Player Pitcher Position**
    1. The defensive team shall place a player in the designated pitching circle (softball) or near the pitching mound (baseball).
    2. The player pitcher must have one foot inside the designated pitching circle, must stand in position to either the left side, right side or behind the pitching coach, must not interfere with the pitching coach and may not be any closer to the batter than even with the 46 foot pitching rubber (35 foot pitching rubber – softball).
    3. The player pitcher cannot leave the designated area until the ball is hit.
    4. The catcher will throw the ball back to the player pitcher not the coach pitcher.
    5. Play will end when the player pitcher has the ball inside/around the designated area.
  - g. **General Playing Rules**
    1. The infield fly rule is **not** in affect. Bunting is **not** allowed. Base stealing is **not** allowed.
    2. The batter will be allowed five (5) pitches or three (3) strikes. The batter will be called out after the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) pitch unless the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) pitch is a foul ball. Then a sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) and final pitch will be delivered. If this pitch it hit foul, the batter is out.
    3. There are no walks or hit batters. If a pitch hits a batter, it counts as a pitch.
    4. Continuous batting order will be used.
    5. A side shall be retired after (a) three (3) outs or (b) 5 runs (this count is only kept for side retiring purposes – not for score keeping.)
    6. No tee will be used
    7. Base Runners must be touching their respective bases when the ball is hit. A base runner may be forced out or tagged with the ball in traditional baseball fashion. A base runner that runs wide out of the base path to avoid being tagged will be called out by the umpire.
    8. When the defensive team overthrows the ball, the base runners are entitled to only ONE (1) base. But he/she must earn it; it is not automatic.
    9. Only ten (10) players will be on the field defensively. All players will be positioned in their respective positions if playing infield or if playing outfield, shall be positioned on the grass when the ball is batter.
    10. No player shall play the position of pitcher or first base more than one (1) inning in a game.
    11. The defensive team, making every effort to make an out whenever possible, shall throw the ball, not run players down.

## ARTICLE VIII - DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

### Disciplinary Action

Disciplinary action shall be enforced against any person involved in the Refugio Little League program, including, but not limited to, Board Members, Managers, Coaches, Umpires, Parents, Players and those desiring to attend games and/or functions. Activities that may be subject to disciplinary action shall include any violation of the guidelines contained in the Little League Operating Manual, Official Regulations and Playing Rules, these by-laws, or the Refugio Little League Constitution. Any activity of conduct, which is determined detrimental to the best interest of Refugio Little League, and/or Little League Baseball by any individual, who is in any way involved in Refugio Little League, may also be subject to disciplinary action. Any action deemed detrimental could result in suspension or a ban from all Little League activities. Anybody involved with Refugio Little League shall refrain from debasing any other member of Refugio Little League. When a Board Member is speaking of duties performed by the Board, they shall not refer to one board member, but of the Board as a whole. If any member is caught demeaning another member, or charged with anything that can be detrimental to the Refugio Little League, they shall be removed from the Membership for the remainder of the season and one (1) year after the current season. Anybody involved with Refugio Little League shall refrain from debasing any other member of Refugio Little League. When a Board Member is speaking of duties performed by the Board, they shall not refer to one board member, but of the Board as a whole. If any member is caught demeaning another member, or charged with anything that can be detrimental to the Refugio Little League, they shall be removed from the Membership for the remainder of the season and one (1) year after the current season. This includes social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc) (11-10-19). A zero tolerance policy will be in effect with regards to any business of Refugio Little League.

### Filing a Complaint or Charge

To initiate an investigation by the Board of Directors, a written complaint shall be filed, setting forth the grounds upon which the complaint is based. The complaint shall contain the necessary information so that an investigation of the charges can be made. It shall be signed by the complainant and shall be delivered or mailed to the league (to the attention of the League President or Vice President) within three (3) calendar days following the occurrence of the alleged violation. Any Board member may initiate an investigation of wrongdoings at any time. **Note: upon request, the complainant's name will be held in confidence.**

### Notification of Charges

Normally within three (3) days of receipt of a complaint alleging the need for disciplinary action, and after the Board of Directors have found merit in the allegations, the President/Vice President of the Board shall give written notice to the alleged violator stating the substance of the charge in concise terms and requesting that the alleged violator appear at a meeting before the Board of Directors; such meeting to be held no sooner than three (3) days, and not later than ten (10) days from the date of the notice. The notice shall contain a statement that failure to appear at the meeting shall constitute default and admission of the conduct alleged in the complaint. The notice shall also state that such a default shall allow Refugio Little League Board to discipline the alleged violator as it deems appropriate including suspension or removal from the Refugio Little League program. In no event shall any member have any direct involvement with the alleged violation.

## Decision by the Board of Directors

At the conclusion of the fact-finding meeting, the Board shall adjourn for deliberation. The Board must be represented by a valid quorum as stated in the Refugio Little League Constitution. If a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) majority of the Board finds that adequate grounds exist for disciplinary action, then the President/Vice President shall issue a written decision setting forth the rule, regulation, or policy violated, and the sanction ordered as a result of the violation. Sanction may include, but not limited to, reprimand or censure, dismissal or suspension from any further Refugio Little League activities.

## Emergency Disciplinary Action

Under emergency circumstances, when immediate action must be taken to protect the welfare of any individual involved in any Refugio Little League program, the President or any other person specifically designated by the President may suspend an individual from further participation in Refugio Little League activities. Following emergency suspension, a complaint shall be made and a meeting shall take place.

## ARTICLE IX - ALL STARS (TOURNAMENT TEAMS)

### General Information

Refugio Little League will have the following All Star Tournament teams for baseball and softball divisions, as long as there are sufficient players to field a team. If there is a tie, coaches will be called in to break the tie (10-13-18).

- 8-10 year old Minor League Division (13/14 players, 1 manager, 2 coaches) (10-13-18)
- 10-12 year old Major League Division (13/14 players, 1 manager, 2 coaches) (10-13-18)
- 12-14 year old Junior League Division (13/14 players, 1 manager, 2 coaches) (10-13-18)
- 14-16 year old Senior League Division (13/14 players, 1 manager, 2 coaches) (10-13-18)

The Board of Directors have sole discretion as to how many players are placed on the tournament team in all divisions (10-13-18).

### Board of Directors

The purpose of the Refugio Little League Board of Directors at the end of the regular season is to assemble the most competitive teams (managers/coaches/players) for district, sectional, and state tournaments. **Note: Major, Junior and Senior Divisions can also advance to the Regional and World Series Tournaments.**

The Board of Directors shall appoint one manager for each team and approve the two coaches of each tournament team.

### Manager and Coaches

All managers and coaches who have managed or coached in the appropriate division for at least one-half of the regular season (# of games) are eligible to serve as Tournament team Manager or Coaches.

The Manager with the best win/loss record will become the manager of the tournament team. Coaches will be manager of the second place team and the third coach will be chosen by the Board of Directors from the available pool of coaches, unless a third team exists, therefore the manager of the third place team will become the third coach (10-13-18).

All managers and coaches **must** be approved by the Board of Directors.

## **Player Eligibility and Selection**

To be eligible a player must have played in 60% of team's scheduled games and has committed to being available to all practices and tournament games, unless due to injury, illness, or other circumstances, with prior approval by the All Star Manager. Each regular season team must have played at least a 12 game schedule. All-Star players will be listed on a ballot and will be voted on according to the Board of Director's discretion for the current year. If a player is named an All Star and decides to quit the All Star team, said player will no longer be eligible for All Stars for one (1) year after the current season.

## **All Star Uniforms**

Jerseys and hats will be provided. Fundraising for uniforms is permitted and encouraged by each team.

## **ARTICLE X - CONCESSIONS**

All teams will be expected to operate the concession stand. A schedule will be posted and it is going to be the responsibility of the team managers to provide volunteers to operate the concession stand under the direction of a Refugio Little League Board Member. Volunteers are required to be at least 13 years of age (10-13-18). Responsibilities include opening the stand before the game, operating the stand during the game, and cleaning and closing the stand after the game. Each team will be required to donate time in the concession stand during the season and during All Star tournaments.

## **ARTICLE XI - EQUIPMENT**

At the end of the regular season, the team manager is responsible for cleaning and inspecting all of the equipment provided by the Refugio Little League. Managers will be notified of the date and time when the equipment will be turned in. If the manager cannot be present, an assistant coach or a representative will turn in the equipment. If the equipment is not turned in, the manager shall be invoiced the replacement cost of the equipment, and may not be eligible to manage the following year.

## **ARTICLE XII - PLAYER REGISTRATION**

Late registration will be considered only if space is available within the division requested. Once the team rosters are filled with the required number of players, registration will be closed.

## **ARTICLE XIII - DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose.

These Bylaws were amended and approved by the Refugio Little League membership on November 10, 2019 ..

Ryan Linney  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President's Name (Print)

*Ryan Linney*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President's Signature

11/10/2019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Little League ID No. 343-29-09

Make one copy for the District Administrator and copies for each Board of Director. Send original to Regional Headquarters. Refugio Little League's Bylaws on file at Regional Headquarters (most recently-approved copy) is the official Bylaws of Refugio Little League.

Little League Baseball, Incorporated does not limit participation in its activities on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, national origin, gender, sexual preference or religious preference.