*FOOTHILL AREA LITTLE LEAGUE*

*2023-24 BYLAWS*

President – Ryan Ham

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Vice President, Softball – Justin Haynes

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Coaching Coordinator- Jake Baldwin

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Snack Bar Coordinator – Tara Day

Field Maintenance Coordinator – Clay Byddgness

Website Coordinator – Taryn Ham

Sponsorship & Fundraising Coordinator – Shelby Dunbar

Registration Coordinator – Vacant

General Board Members – Wes Stroud

Bylaws, Local Rules & Ground Rules

*(Taken from the Little League website)*

Each local Little League Board of Directors should adopt its own bylaws, local rules, or ground rules (the terms are interchangeable). This document or documents expire annually at the end of the fiscal year and must be renewed annually. They normally include the local board’s procedures for selection of Tournament Teams (All-Stars), specific ground rules for various divisions (such as whether or not the 10-run rule will be used), etc.

Because each local Little League Board of Directors should have authority to change these types of procedures, they require only board consent, without the general membership’s approval. No part of the bylaws, local rules, or ground rules can conflict with or supersede any Little League rule, regulation, or policy.

The bylaws, local rules, or ground rules are to be distinguished from the local Little League’s Constitution. The Constitution spells out the duties and responsibilities of the officers of the board, definition of membership, election procedures, meeting requirements (such as quorum), etc. The local Little League Board of Directors must make a copy of the bylaws, local rules, or ground rules available to any member of the local Little League for review and inspection if requested.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEVELOPMENT OF BYLAWS PAGE 4

CODE OF CONDUCT PAGE 4-5

MANAGER SELECTION PAGE 5-6

TEAM SELECTION: TRYOUTS PAGE 6-7

TEAM SELECTION: DRAFT PAGE 7-8

LEAGUE PLAY PAGE 8-13

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS PAGE 13-14

ALL-STAR SELECTION PAGE 14-16

ALL-STAR MANAGERS PAGE 16

**DEVELOPMENT OF BYLAWS**

1. The Foothill Area Little League (FALL) is governed by the latest version of the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules and the Operating Manual. These bylaws are only intended to address those issues that are not covered or are presented as optional in the official Little League publications.
2. Regular members are defined to include all managers, coaches and volunteers who complete the membership application, volunteer form and code of conduct, attend a minimum of one board meeting, and are thereafter approved by the majority vote of the Board of Directors. Parents not volunteering in the League in an official capacity may become regular members by attending a minimum of three (3) board meetings and being approved by a majority vote of the Board prior to the start of the annual general membership meeting. Applications for regular membership shall be accepted until the close of the regular Little League season and not later than June 15th.
3. All managers and coaches are encouraged to be regular members of the FALL by attending regularly scheduled board meetings and applying (e-mail or letter of interest to the League President or Vice President shall suffice).
4. Each year, prior to the beginning of the calendar year, the FALL Board shall review, update, amend, and adopt these bylaws. Once the bylaws are accepted, as documented into official meeting minutes, the bylaws shall not be modified unless critical to the operational needs of the League. Under such conditions, an executive committee shall be established and will be responsible for bylaw changes. Under all other circumstances, amendments to bylaws should be reserved until the next official seasonal review. These bylaws will be made available, once approved, on the website and will be posted in the snack bar.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

1. All Board members, managers, coaches, team parents, parent helpers, and umpires shall complete a Little League ‘Volunteer Application’ and submit them to the League President.
2. As required, all volunteers shall submit to, and give permission to FALL, to conduct a background check. The background check may include a review of sex offender registries, child abuse, and criminal history records. This includes Board Members, managers, coaches, team parents, and umpires. It also includes any individual who has regular contact with players (e.g., a parent that regularly helps at practices). Complete information about the background check regulation, including resources for local League volunteers, can be found at: www.LittleLeague.org/ChildProtection.
3. No coaching of players, heckling, or otherwise interfering with the game, including negatively interacting with players, coaches, managers, or umpires will be allowed from behind the backstop or dugouts. League officials and game coordinators may interact with managers, coaches, or umpires to ensure safe and efficient league play. Failure to adhere to this rule could result in immediate forfeiture of the game by the team associated with the individual(s) violating this rule, being removed from field, or permanent expulsion from League activities.
4. Per Regulation XIV Field Decorum, in the Little League Rule Book, any player, manager, coach, umpire, or League representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity, is subject to disciplinary action by the local League Board of Directors. Disciplinary action is at the discretion of the Board and may include game suspension, written or verbal warning, and/or temporary or permanent League expulsion. Board members may be voted off the Board for misconduct as well. This will need a motion to remove said member, and a 2/3 majority vote will dismiss the board member.
5. Foothill Area Little League recognizes that the character traits that embody sportsmanship are best learned and encouraged when put into practice. By doing so, parents, managers, coaches, and players can model and learn honor, respect, integrity, and citizenship. Therefore, every parent, coach/manager, and volunteer shall sign a code of conduct each season with Foothill Area Little League. Each member is bound to the responsibilities outlined in the code of conduct. Failure to adhere to the contract will result in disciplinary action as determined by the Board of Directors Conduct Committee.

**MANAGER SELECTION**

1. A manager’s committee consisting of the Vice President(s), Player Agent(s), and Coaching Coordinator shall interview prospective managers and recommend acceptable candidates to the President for approval. The President, with the approval of Board of Directors, shall appoint managers, coaches, and umpires annually. The Board has the authority to override the selections made by the President, but may not independently nominate candidates. The manager selection meeting shall be held during a closed-door executive meeting. The discussions and decisions to select or not select specific managers or coaches during this meeting shall be held in the strictest confidence. The final selections will be notified via an appointed board member.
2. The managers shall select their designated team name in the following order; returning managers, then all board members who are managers or coaches, then all new managers starting with the highest division and working downward shall choose their team names. Tball teams will have names assigned to them by the Board of Directors.
3. Individuals wishing to be appointed as managers or coaches must attend training, which will focus on: (a) safety, (b) skill development, (c) rules and decorum, (d) field set-up, equipment storage, practice drills, and techniques. Any manager not completing training prior to opening day, may be removed and a new manager may be appointed who has complied with the training requirements.

**TEAM SELELECTION: TRYOUTS**

1. The Player Agent(s) is responsible for organizing and conducting tryouts.
2. All 8 to 12-year-old baseball players must attend and participate in one tryout session to be eligible for the draft. The Player Agent(s) must approve all 7-year-olds wishing to participate in the tryouts for Minor’s to ensure their physical safety. All 11-year-olds shall attend one tryout and may be drafted into the Minor or Major Division at the discretion of the Player Agent and managers. If a parent/guardian has a strong desire for their child to play below his or her age, they should inform the League at the time of registration of this request and the reasoning behind it. 10-year-olds will be allowed to play in Major’s, and 8-year-olds in Minor’s with parent approval and only after they have had a discussion with the League President and Player Agent regarding the impact of this move.
3. Tryouts will be scheduled for two (2) days in January or February. If tryouts are canceled due to rain, a make-up day will be scheduled for all. If the player’s schedule prevents them from attending tryouts, they will be placed in a pool to be selected at their lowest eligibility level.
4. Only the Player Agent(s), Player Agent Committee members, and approved managers or manager designees are permitted to assess players during tryouts.
5. Player Agents(s) shall evaluate 8-11-year-olds participating in tryouts. If, due to safety concerns or well-being of the player it is determined that a player should play at a level lower than requested, the Player Agent should discuss their findings with the managers and shall immediately notify the League President. The League President shall immediately notify the players guardians, render a decision, and report to the Player Agent.

**TEAM SELECTION: DRAFT**

1. The Player Agent(s) shall provide the selected managers a list of eligible players for each division.
2. The following people shall attend the draft for each division: The selected managers, Coaches Coordinator, Player Agent(s), President, and Vice President(s). No coaches, parents, or players are allowed at the draft.
3. Major teams with returning players will be allowed to retain those players unless parents have requested to re-enter the draft.
   1. Returning players are afforded the opportunity to remain on the same team.
4. Managers are not allowed to let any player know what order they or any other player was drafted.
5. Managers with the best record from the previous year will pick last. The manager with the worst record will have the first pick, the next worse will have the next pick, and so on until the team with the best record being last. If there are new managers, the picking order will be determined by a blind draw. Managers will pick in a serpentine fashion. All things being equal, players that did not attend a tryout will have their names drawn out of a hat after all other players have been chosen.
6. Managers child is only protected until the round designated under the child's age (9-10-year-old 5th round, 11-year-old 4th round, 12-year-old 3rd round). A returning coach’s child may be protected, providing the coach has served as a manager or coach at any playing level for the past two years, and the coach is returning to the same division he/she coached in the prior year. That coach’s child is only protected until the age specific round as described above. Assistant coach shall be selected and reported to coach’s coordinator before the first tryout. When picking a player with a sibling, the sibling will automatically be your next pick.
7. Any player league age 9 or 10-years-old, not drafted into the Major’s, must be selected in the Minor draft unless the Player Agent has made the decision that the player should be in a lower division.
8. Players that did not attend the tryouts will have their name chosen from a hat at the end of the draft. Late Registrations: Players will be chosen from a hat once there are enough players to distribute players evenly onto each team, so that all teams have a balanced number of players.
9. No trades shall be made by and between teams unless first approved by the two managers involved and the Player Agent. In determining whether to approve such trade, the Player Agent shall consider the opinions of all of the managers in the affected level and the effect on the competitiveness of all of teams in the affected level. Unless also approved by the President, no trades shall be approved after the third full day following the draft.
10. Expansion team draft: FALL will operate the draft in accordance with Draft Plan A, as indicated in Little League International Operating Handbook.

**LEAGUE PLAY**

1. For Minor’s, Major’s, and Junior’s/Senior’s: Each baseball team must provide a scorekeeper for each game. The scorekeepers should sit on the appropriate side of the field and will use a book provided to each team by the League. The scorekeepers should consult each inning to ensure there are no major discrepancies between the books. The managers will sign the official pitch count form at the conclusion of each game. Official pitch count sheets shall be presented to the home plate umpire during the pregame meeting preceding each game. Failure to provide an official pitch count sheet (electronically or hard copy) will cause the manager of the offending team to be removed from his managerial duties for that game only. The manager must leave the field and not be involved in any team decisions. A second or subsequent offense will be cause for that team to forfeit their game.
2. FALL adopts the optional ten (10) run rule ending a game after the 4th inning (Rule 4.10.e). District rules for inter-league games would take precedence over this local rule.
3. Minor Division: FALL adopts the five (5) run per inning rule with the option to make the 6th inning unlimited.
4. All players shall play the minimum number of defensive outs and at bats per game as required by Little League rules.
5. The home team must have at least two (2) representatives prepare the field before the game and the visiting team must have at least one representative to put equipment away after the game. One manager or coach from each home team playing the last game of the day shall remain at the field until the snack bar is closed, the scoreboard is shut off, the scorekeeper’s booth is locked, and all gates to the fields are locked.
6. For inter-league games played at home, the home team shall be responsible for field prep and clean-up, as well as having a representative remain at the field until the snack bar is closed. Each team is responsible for cleaning the trash up in their dugout before they leave the dugout and for removing trash in their respective stands.
7. Field: Home team shall chalk the batter’s box, foul lines, coach’s boxes, and a three-foot base path along the first base line. Home team shall make the infield playable by raking, dragging, and/or watering as needed. At the end of the game, the visiting team shall clean-up all trash from the playing field, dugouts, stands, and surrounding area. For Inter-League play, home team shall be responsible for clean-up as well as ensuring the portable mound is pulled from the softball field.
8. Prior to the scheduled start time of a game, each team will have no more than seven minutes to warm-up on the field. The visiting team shall warm-up first. A team shall forfeit all or part of their warm-up time if they are not prepared to start warm-ups on time. Teams may not have batting practice on the field during pre-game warms-ups.

## **MINOR BASEBALL**

1. **Pitching**: Rules for Minor’s will be per Regulation VI. 12-year-olds will not be allowed to pitch in the Minor’s. Regardless of age, pitchers will not be permitted to pitch more than 45 pitches in one single game prior to spring break.
2. **Batting:** The batting order shall consist of the complete team roster. No players shall handle a bat except during their turn at bat. All other bats shall be in the bat rack or inside the dugout.
3. **Stealing:** Stealing any base, including home, will be allowed during the season. Runners must wait until the ball has crossed home plate before leaving base. Runners may advance on all overthrows and passed balls that remain in the field of play. Runners may advance one base on overthrows that travel out of the field of play. There will be no “squeeze play” at home plate allowed.
4. **Coaches:** Adult base coaches and managers shall wear their team issued jerseys and hats. Each team is required to have an adult on the bench while said team is batting.
5. **Protests:** All protests shall be resolved before the next play.
6. **Time:** No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 45 minutes for games that have a game scheduled immediately following on the same field. For games that do not have a game immediately following, no new inning shall start after two hours. Umpire shall make the determination to suspend play because of darkness unless both managers have agreed to a specific time before the start of the game. If a game is called because of time, or darkness, the score will revert to the last fully completed inning.
7. **Run Rules:** The side shall be retired if three outs occur, or five runs are scored. After the 5th run has scored, the ball is dead. A ten-run rule will be in effect at the end of, and after, the 4th inning. The five-run rule is suspended in the 6th inning.
8. **Substitution:** Substitution is unrestricted except for the rules regarding pitchers per Little League pitching rules. Minimum play time per Little League regulations is in effect (All players must play a minimum of six consecutive outs and have at least one at bat each game). Players not playing at least six consecutive outs in a game must start the next scheduled game. The player(s) must complete the remaining outs from the previous game and at least six outs in the current game before being removed. Equal playing time for all players is encouraged.
9. **Infield Fly Rule:** The infield fly rule applies to all plays (except for Tball and Farm).
10. If a player misses two (2) consecutive games, it is the responsibility of the manager to notify the appropriate Player Agent of this occurrence. The Player Agent is then to contact the player’s parent and find out how long they are expected to be absent. For Minor’s, Major’s, or Junior’s/Senior’s the absence threshold is longer than three (3) weeks after the first game was missed. Should that occur, the Player Agent will contact the player’s parents to inquire the reason for the absence and determine if the player should be removed from the team for the remainder of the season. If necessary, the player will then be replaced with an appropriate age player from the registration-based waiting list, or with another qualified player brought up from a lower level.

**JUNIOR MINOR BASEBALL**

1. Should FALL establish a Junior Minor’s League, it shall adhere to Farm League rules/regulations. A pitching machine will not be allowed during game play.

**FARM**

1. Farm games are machine/coach pitch and will last no more than five innings, and a new inning cannot be started after 1 hour 30 minutes during regular season play.
2. Only 10 defensive players are allowed on the field.
3. The offensive half of the inning ends after three (3) outs or one complete rotation of the batting order.
4. Only one base advance allowed on an overthrow.
5. Outfield hits: once the ball has been thrown to the infield and in control by a defense player, runners may not advance. The infield is defined as the dirt portion of play.
6. All male players must wear athletic protection, no exceptions.
7. Sliding is permitted and must be feet first. Head first slides are only permitted when returning back to a base.
8. Stealing and bunting are not permitted.
9. Prior to the commencement of each game, the respective managers or designees for each team will collaborate and render a decision on the method in which pitches will be delivered to the batters. Pitches may be delivered via overhand throw from the manager/coach, the pitching machine, or a combination of both. Regardless of the method of pitching used, the batter is allowed a total of seven pitches. If the pitching machine is used, it shall be placed in the middle of the 12 foot circle. If the player fouls the seventh pitch, the player will receive additional pitches until one of the following three things occur: 1) Player hits the ball in fair territory. 2) Player swings and misses. 3) Ball crosses the plate, and the player does not swing.
10. A 12 foot circle will be marked around the pitching machine. If a ball hits the machine or the coach on the mound, it is a dead ball, and the base runners will advance one base. Defensive players are not allowed to enter the circle. A ball landing within the circle is considered dead and runners advance one base. A ball that passes through the circle remains in play.
11. Coaches will be allowed on the field, for instruction purposes only, until the fourth week of league play has begun. Once that occurs, all coaches must remain in the coaching boxes at 1st and 3rd base and/or on the pitching mound and within the circle while the ball is in play unless necessary to avoid contact with the baseball/player. Coaches must remain in the dugout or behind the infield fence. Coaches are not permitted in the field of play unless time is called and acknowledged by an umpire (if applicable) or the opposing team when no umpire is available.
12. A coach may be assigned to assist the catcher retrieve passed balls, for the safety of batters, or remove obstacles/hazards (i.e. bats, balls, etc.) as needed. Active coaching from behind the plate should be limited to the catcher in order to minimize disruption to the rest of the game.

**TBALL**

1. Tball games will last three (3) innings and will not go longer than 1 ½ hours. The side is retired when the entire roster has batted. Each team will bat their complete roster. No bunting or half swings. Only one (1) base allowed on an overthrow. Base runners will stay in contact with the base until the ball is put into play. The tee shall be used for the first half of the season. During the second half of the season, if skills warrant, the batter is allowed three (3) coach pitches and then the ball will be placed on the tee. Catchers are not allowed to place the ball on the tee.

**POOL PLAYERS**

1. Players may elect to be eligible for pool play in their respective divisions. The Player Agent for said division will be responsible for assigning players needed by a league team short on players. The list of players wanting to be included in pool play will be created randomly and once a player is used that player is to be removed from the list. The player listed at the top of the list will be used first. If he/she is unable to play the next player will be used. Managers/coaches will not be allowed to randomly pick a player from the pool. Once all the players are used the list can be re-used and/or redrawn. Players used in pool play will not be eligible to pitch, or play the position of catcher, for the team in the game they play in. Pool players must play at least nine consecutive outs and bat at least one time.

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1. At the completion of the regular season, all Minor teams will be seeded based on their regular season records and participate in a single elimination tournament. If the various teams play an unequal amount of regular season games, teams will be seeded based on their overall winning percentage. The victor of the championship game will represent FALL in TOC.
2. Major’s, Junior’s, and Senior’s Baseball: At the completion of the regular season, the team with the best overall record will be the League champion. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be the FALL head-to-head record. The League Champion will represent FALL in the TOC tournament.
3. Farm League will have a two-day seeded tournament. The seeding games will take place on day one followed by a single elimination tournament on day two. The games on day one will be three innings or 45 min hard stop. The games on day two will be five innings or 1 ¼ hour hard stop. No new inning shall start after one hour. Tournament rules may be adjusted by the League Player Agent, and approval by the League President. Tournament rules will be provided to Farm managers no less than seven calendar days prior to the commencement of the tournament.
4. For Tball, there will be no championship games.

**ALL-STAR SELECTION**

1. All-Star Rosters:
   1. Major All-Stars,10/11/12-year-olds, shall be selected as follows and will be selected first:
      1. Major managers, with input from their coaches, will vote by ballot for the top 24 Major players to compete for All-Stars.
      2. Only the Major managers will meet with the President and Player Agent to select the All-Star team. The meeting is confidential. No coaches, parents, or players are to be informed as to how the players were selected or ranked.
      3. The players receiving the top 20 votes will be placed on the list for All-Star Candidates for selection.
      4. Major managers will discuss their familiarity with the 20 player candidates on the list (the list having been compiled based on C above) and come to a consensus of no less than eight players if the team will have 12 players, or nine players if the team will carry 13 or more. These players will be selected to the 10/11/12-year-old All-Star team.
      5. Based on the input of the managers, and the perceived requirements of the team, the All-Star manager may have the discretion to select the remaining players of the team. Though it would be unusual, but with the consensus of the Major managers, the All-Star manager may select a player not on the list of All-Star Candidates.
   2. 9/10/11-year-old All-Stars shall be selected as follows and will be selected after the 8/9/10-year-old All-Stars:
      1. The 9/10/11-year-old players remaining on the Major and Minor lists for All-Star Candidates will be available for selection to the 9/10/11-year-old All-Stars.
      2. Major and Minor managers will discuss their familiarity with the player candidates remaining on the Major and Minor lists and come to a consensus of no less than eight players if the team will have 12 players, or nine players if the team will carry 13 or more. These players will be selected to the 9/10/11-year-old All-Star team.
      3. Based on the input from the managers, and the perceived requirements of the team, the All-Star manager shall then have the discretion to select the remaining players of the team. Though it would be unusual, but with the consensus of Major and Minor managers, the All-Star manager may select a player not on the Major or Minor lists of the All-Star Candidates.
   3. Minor All-Stars, 8/9/10-year-olds, shall be selected as follows and will be selected after the Major All-Star selections and before the 9/10/11-year-old All-Star selections:
      1. Only Minor managers will meet with the President and Player Agent to select this All-Star Team. All Eligible 9/10-year-olds playing Majors will be automatically placed on the list for the 8/9/10-year-old All-Stars. The meeting is confidential. No coaches, parents, or players are to be informed as to how the players were selected or ranked.
      2. Minor managers, with input from their coaches, will by vote by ballot for the top 24 Minor players to compete for All-Stars.
      3. The players receiving the top 20 votes will be placed on the list for All-Star Candidates for selection.
      4. Minor managers will discuss their familiarity with the 20 player candidates on the list (the list having been compiled based on C above) and come to a consensus of no less than eight players if the team will have 12 players, or nine players if the team will carry 13 or more. These players will be selected to the 8/9/10-year-old All-Star team.
      5. Based on the input of the managers, and the perceived requirements of the team, the All-Star manager may have the discretion to select the remaining players of the team. Though it would be unusual but with the consensus of the Major managers, the All-Star manager may select a player not on the list of All-Star candidates.
   4. Junior/Senior All-Stars selection: If there is only one team in the League for Junior or Senior Baseball, the whole team will represent FALL for its respective division. If there is more than one team, the selection process will occur as noted in Section 1 above (Major All-Stars 10/11/12).

**ALL-STAR MANAGERS**

1. All-Star Managers will be selected based upon the consensus of their peer managers and in concurrence with Board approval. If peer managers cannot agree on who should be selected as an All-Star manger, a Managers Selection Committee will be formed by the League President and/or League Vice President and they shall select the manager(s). The All-Star managers will select their assistant coaches in concurrence with Board approval.

These bylaws may be altered, amended, repealed, or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority of the Directors in attendance (quorum required).

THESE BYLAWS WERE DULY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 3, 2023.

Dated December 3, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ryan Ham, President

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Rachel Kofford, Secretary