

## GENERAL RULES AND CONDUCT

### 1. Applicability

- a. The bylaws define the play and conduct guidelines within the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE**, TBall, Baseball, and Softball divisions. These bylaws are intended to supplement the baseball and softball rule books published by Little League International, covering topics specific to the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE**.
- b. The official governing rules of play are those published in the most recent editions of the Little League Baseball and Softball Rule Books.
- c. All topics not covered in these bylaws automatically default to the guidelines and rules specified within the most recent Little League Baseball and Softball Rule Books editions.
- d. All team managers, coaches, and umpires are responsible for knowing and understanding these bylaws and the rules published in the most recent editions of the Little League Baseball and Softball Rule Books. It should be noted that rule changes occur yearly (both in the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** bylaws and the official Little League Baseball and Softball rules) and that the most recent rules apply regardless of differences from those used in past seasons.

### 2. Manager/Coach Conduct

- a. All team managers and coaches must adhere to the Coaches Code of Conduct. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action, as stated in "Board Disciplinary Action."
- b. Team managers will be responsible for their conduct and that of their coaches, players, and parents of team members.
- c. Managers and coaches (other than the first and third base coaches) must remain inside the dugout during play. Dugout gates **must remain closed** during play.
- d. Ejection of Manager/Coach or Player- In accordance with Little League rule 4.07, when a manager, coach, or player is ejected from a game, he/she shall leave the complex immediately and take no further part in that game. He/she may not sit in the stands or be recalled. Any manager, coach, or player ejected from a game is suspended for the remainder of that game plus the next scheduled game and may not enter the complex or watch the game as a fan or a spectator. The division's director shall be notified if ejection occurs and shall inform the person or persons ejected to advise them of Little League Rule 4.07.
- e. A "bench restriction" may be issued by umpires if a manager/coach is being verbally abusive. This restriction is not required prior to

ejection. Under a bench restriction, the offending person is to remain inside the dugout on the bench and cannot speak to the players/umpires on the field of play.

### **3. Parent/Spectator Conduct**

- a.** All parents and spectators must become well acquainted with the objectives of the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** and Little League Baseball, Incorporated.
- b.** All parents and spectators must recognize that these are children, not professional players, and each child needs ample encouragement, not destructive criticism.
- c.** All parents and spectators shall applaud the good play of all participants and award great effort, initiative, and hustle. Congratulate the winning team, encourage the losing team, and enjoy the game. Parents will not interact in any way with the umpires on the field or they will be asked to leave the facility.
- d.** All parents and spectators shall constructively offer any criticism of the program to League Officials and, simultaneously, be willing to volunteer their services to improve the League.
- e.** All parents and spectators shall uphold the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** Parent Code of Conduct or face removal from the premises by the Director on Duty.

### **4. Board Disciplinary Action**

- a.** Any person violating the guidelines established in these bylaws, the Manager/Coach Code of Conduct, or the official Little League Rules may be subject to disciplinary action by the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** Board of Directors in accordance with Little League Rules. The Board may levy additional penalties. Violations should be submitted in writing and must be brought to the attention of the President or an Executive Board member within 48 hours; however, at the Executive Board's discretion, serious infractions reported after the 48-hour limitation may also be reviewed. Anonymous allegations will be discarded unless they can be documented or corroborated independently.
- b.** Action levels for violations by managers or coaches:
  - i.** Consultation by the League President or the division director
  - ii.** Suspension as manager/coach for one game
  - iii.** Suspension as manager/coach for any part of the remainder of the season

- c. Players are expected to adhere to the Little League guidelines for sportsmanship and conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
  - i. 1st offense: one-game suspension
  - ii. 2nd offense: one-game suspension and ineligibility for All-Stars play
  - iii. 3rd offense: player removed from the league.
- d. The league secretary will make all levied actions against players, coaches, and managers a matter of record. Chronic offenders of minor infractions will be dealt with more severely as the violations accumulate at the discretion of the Executive Board.
- e. Repeated violation of these bylaws, or the Manager/Coach Code of Conduct, by a manager or coach, may cause that individual not to be favorably considered for future **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** appointments, including, but not limited to:
  - i. Opportunities to manage teams in future seasons
  - ii. Selection as All-Stars manager or coach
  - iii. Selection to the Board of Directors, etc.

#### **5. Alcohol and Tobacco Use, Facility Restrictions**

1. Alcohol is prohibited on any premises associated with Little League activities. This includes, but is not limited to:

.Practice areas

i. Batting cages

ii. Playing fields

iii. Adjacent parking area.

2. The use of tobacco products and vaping is prohibited at all BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE facilities. This includes tobacco use by players, managers, coaches, umpires, and spectators.\*
3. Riding Bikes and Scooters inside the complex is Prohibited.
4. Pets are prohibited. Service animals are exempt as are emotional support animals as long as supporting documentation is provided.

### **REGISTRATION AND RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Registration dates will be determined by the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** Board of Directors and announced on all social media platforms and Bayonnelittleleague.com.
2. Registration will be held mostly online, with a few in-person opportunities to do so in the office to be announced by the board.
3. For registration eligibility, players must reside inside the boundaries of the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** or the location of the school where the child

attends is located inside the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE**'s boundaries that Little League Baseball, Incorporated approves.

4. Each player shall be accepted for registration if he or she presents or has previously presented (as shown in the league's player database) a valid certified copy of his or her birth certificate. A hospital certificate is **not** acceptable.
5. Pay must be received prior to the tryout date to ensure the child is eligible for play.
6. If a player decides not to play, he or she must do so **prior** to draft day for the registration fee to be refunded (minus a \$15 processing fee). No refunds will be issued once a player has been drafted to a team.
7. A player from outside the boundaries can transfer into the league but a waiver must be completed.

**\*Hardship cases will be determined individually by the President of the League.\***

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

1. Players are eligible to participate only in divisions that include their age group. The player's league age, determined by their date and year of birth.
2. The divisions of the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** are listed below, with their associated age groupings:
  - a. **TBALL:** 5 to 8-year-olds
  - b. **COACH PITCH BASEBALL:** 7 and 8-year-olds
  - c. **MINOR SOFTBALL:** 7, 8, and 9-year-olds
  - d. **MINOR BASEBALL:** 7 to 10-year-olds
  - e. **MAJOR BASEBALL:** 10 to 12-year-olds
  - f. **MAJOR SOFTBALL:** 10 to 12-year-olds
  - g. **SENIOR BASEBALL:** 13 to 16-year-olds
  - h. **SENIOR SOFTBALL:** 13 to 16-year-olds

## **MANAGER/COACH ELIGIBILITY**

### **1. Appointment of Managers:**

- a. Those requesting to manage a team must attend the manager/coach's meeting, complete a volunteer form, consent to a background check, complete the Abuse Awareness Training, Diamond Leadership training and sign the Coach's Contract.
- b. The President and the Board of Directors will question/interview applicants during the manager's meeting.
- c. The Board of Directors will discuss and vote on applicants once all applicants are dismissed from the meeting.

d. Final approval for team managers is contingent upon completing mandatory training, having a clear background check, and/or a background check with cases that **do not** include an offense involving a child or any other serious offense(s).

## 2. Manager Duties

a. Managers will be responsible for contacting the parents of each player on their roster **within seven days following the draft**.

b. Managers are responsible for selecting coaches for their teams. Once selected, managers must submit their coach's information (name, phone number, and email address) to the division director.

c. All Managers and coaches must be in good standing with the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** and complete and pass a background check before the first team meeting or practice, whichever comes first. Failure to do so will result in suspension from the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** facilities until a background check has been submitted and approved by the Board of Directors.

d. The **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** requires that managers have a team meeting prior to the first practice, to communicate to parents to review the Bylaws and the Code of Conduct. Managers will be responsible for the actions of their players, parents, and coaches **at all times**.

e. Managers must have medical release forms available for **all players** during practices and games.

### 1. The **HOME** team is responsible for:

a. keeping the official score within GameChanger.

b. removing bases and placing plugs in the base location. Watering the mound and batters boxes and then covering.

c.

### 2. The **VISITING** team is responsible for:

a. removing bases and placing plugs in the base location. . Watering the mound and batters boxes and then covering.

b. Having someone in the Pressbox.

c. the official pitch count for each pitcher. It is recommended that the managers check the pitch counts between each inning.

### 3. **BOTH** teams are responsible for:

a. ensuring that all trash in the dugouts and under the bleachers is picked up after every game, and trash cans must be emptied if full.

b. Last game of the day must ensure everyone is safely out of facility, lock up bathrooms, dugouts, cages and exterior gates.

## **BASE COACHES**

1. Teams are allowed two adult base coaches on the field, one on first base and one on third base, as long as another adult coach is in the dugout.

## **PITCH COUNT**

1. The **VISITING** team will keep the official pitch count for each pitcher. It is recommended that managers check the pitch counts between each inning.
2. The league will be utilizing GameChanger so please make sure all stats are correct before ending the game.

## **DISCIPLINE OF TEAM PERSONNEL**

1. If the Umpire removes a manager, coach, or player from the game for disciplinary action, he/she must leave the field. The manager or adult coach may not sit on the bench or in the stands and must leave the premises for the game's duration.
  - a. If a player is removed from the game, the team manager is responsible for handling the matter appropriately.
  - b. If a manager, coach, or player is removed from a game, they must sit out the following game.
2. **Problems/Grievance Resolution:** All problems and concerns should be resolved at the lowest level possible and follow a simple order of progression:
  - a. Discuss the situation with the offending parties and seek a friendly resolution before the team's next regularly scheduled game. If it remains unresolved,
  - b. Approach and discuss it with the team manager (and coaches). If it remains unresolved,
  - c. The manager will take the issue to the division director. The division director takes a written statement from both parties and has 24 hours to review and resolve the issue. If it remains unresolved,
  - d. The division director will take the issue and the written statements to the President. The President will determine whether the problem can wait until the next scheduled meeting or if an emergency meeting is needed to resolve it.
  - e. A written explanation of the resolution will be provided to the complainant/offended party within two days of the board meeting.
- 3.

## **TRYOUTS**

1. Tryouts for baseball and softball (no tryout needed for TBall) will be held at a date, time, and location determined by the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** Board of Directors and announced on all social media platforms and the website.

2. Tryouts will consist of a series of skill tests aimed to demonstrate each player's abilities, typically consisting of throwing, running, fielding fly balls, fielding ground balls, and hitting.
3. Players **not** participating in tryouts will have their names placed in a blind draft and will be chosen by random draw at the end of the draft order.
4. The Director of each division is primarily responsible for the overall management and fairness of tryouts.

## **TEAM ROSTERS**

Team roster size will be set for each age division by the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** President and/or the division director based on the number of registered players and number of teams.

## **DRAFT**

1. A player draft will be held for each division at a date, time, and location to be determined by the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** Board of Directors. The draft will be held after the tryouts are completed.
2. Prior to the draft for each division, the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** President and/or the Directors of each division will set the roster size for each team based on the number of registered players. This will constitute the official roster size for teams in that division throughout the regular season.
3. For divisions with multiple age groups, the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** President and/or the Directors of each division will set a minimum number of players from each age group required for each team. This action aims to generally even out the age distribution throughout the league and improve competitive balance.
  - a. Team managers will be notified prior to the draft of the minimum number of players required to be drafted from each age group.
4. The draft order will be determined by random draw. Team managers will draw numbers indicating the order.
5. The draft order will be reversed in even-numbered rounds (the team with the first pick in the first round will pick last in the second round, fourth round, etc. The team with the last pick in the first round will pick first in the second round, fourth round, etc.)
6. Siblings must be drafted together and will count as two picks.
7. Trades will **only** be permitted on the day of the draft prior to leaving the building.

8. The Director of each division is primarily responsible for the overall management and fairness of the draft.

## UNIFORMS

1. Team jerseys and hats will be issued to players in all divisions. Players will be responsible for supplying their pants, socks, and belts in the color selected by their team manager, along with their bat, glove, cleats, bags, etc. (**Note:** TBall players **are not** required to wear cleats. However, closed-toe shoes **are** required).
2. No player names will be permitted on league-issued jerseys throughout the regular season. Player names on jerseys are permitted **only** for Districts.
3. The jersey must be tucked into the pants at all times while the uniform is worn, and the hat must be facing forward.
4. League-issued uniforms (jersey and hat) must be worn for all games and photos. No modifications to league-issued uniforms are permitted.

## LEAGUE EQUIPMENT

1. Equipment will be distributed on designated dates and signed out by the Manager or a Coach.
2. Care must be taken to prevent players' misuse of league equipment.
3. Broken equipment should be returned for replacement to update inventory.
4. Helmets must have cages in all minor and major divisions. Junior or Senior level play must have cage or face guard.
5. No metal cleats allowed at any level.

All equipment signed out at the beginning of the season must be returned **within seven days** of the team's last scheduled game,

## PRACTICES

1. Upon completion of the draft, team managers will be required to hold at least 2 practices a week.
2. Coaches are required to keep a record of attendance at all practices. Players who are not coming to practice can be told they can not participate in a game as long as there is documentation to support this action. Coaches will make sure this clause is in the team rules discussed at the team meeting to start the season.

## BATTING CAGES

1. Five batting cages are available for free at the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** complex. These are available to all coaches and can be scheduled by contacting the secretary. On game days the teams scheduled to play each

automatically get a cage for one hour just prior to their game. If the batting cages are damaged and/or unkept, they will be shutdown for the remainder of the season. Therefore, the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** asks the following:

- Batting helmets with a cage (up to the Senior Division for cage) must be worn in the cages if hitting
- No **metal** cleats.
- Only the players up to bat will have a bat in hand.
- No horseplay or climbing on the nets
- All trash must be disposed of properly

Limit each lane to **one** batter to prevent injuries

## **GAMES**

### **1. Coaches**

- a. A manager and two coaches (3 for minors) will be allowed in the dugout during games. Except for Coach Pitch Baseball and Softball, all coaches must remain entirely in the dugout during the game unless positioned to coach first or third base.
- b. In baseball divisions (other than Coach Pitch), managers shall be responsible for monitoring all pitch count rules.

### **2. Umpires**

- a. Only certified umpires or individuals approved by the Director of Umpires will be allowed to umpire the home plate and bases.
- i. The Director-on-Duty or the Division Director will permit exceptions to appoint emergency substitutes when necessary.
  - b. Managers have no right to reject umpires.
  - c. Only the manager can call time to confer with an umpire during the game. Managers and coaches must remain inside the dugout until "time out" is granted by the umpire.
  - d. In baseball divisions (besides Coach Pitch), the home-plate umpire will verify the pitch count, consulting with the official scorekeeper in the middle of each inning and upon each change in pitcher. However, the manager will remain responsible for ensuring an accurate pitch count.
  - e. Umpires may consult, as needed, with the official scorekeeper (supplied by the home team) to resolve disputes or confirm rulings on the field, such as pitch count, score, number of outs, batter's count, batting order, etc.
  - f. The number of umpires assigned for games in each division is summarized below:

- i. One umpire for Minor Baseball and Softball will be assigned for each game, 2 for playoffs
- ii. Two umpires will be assigned for each game for Major Baseball and Softball, Senior Baseball and Softball.

## **RAINOUTS AND MAKE-UP GAMES**

1. Only the Scheduler will reschedule rained-out games.
2. Make-up games will be rescheduled based on the availability of fields.

***\*Teams that fail to play a rescheduled game shall be subject to receiving a forfeit.\****

## **PICK-UP PLAYERS**

Forfeits are to be avoided if at all possible. To assist in this goal a team that is short players can borrow from the approved age group. The player agent will be notified a player is needed and he/she will find the replacement player.

1. If the 9th player shows up **after** the game starts, the pick-up player **will** continue to play and bat last, and the 9th player will bat after the pick-up player.
2. If a team is forced to play with eight players, they will not have to take an automatic out.
3. Pick-up players must bat last, play outfield, and are not allowed to pitch or catch.

The maximum is **two** pick-up players per team. The team must forfeit the game if more than two players are absent.

## **LEAGUE STANDINGS AND PLAYOFFS**

1. Season Champions for each division shall be awarded based on overall record.
  2. If two or more teams are tied at the top of the standings at the end of the season, the following tie-breaker system will be implemented to determine the Division Champion:
    - a. The first tie-breaker will be a head-to-head record
- i. If more than two teams are tied in the standings, the head-to-head record will be the record for each team against all other tied teams. If this step eliminates one of the teams, the head-to-head record will be re-applied for the remaining teams before moving to the second tie-breaker.
- b. The second tie-breaker will be the total number of runs allowed for the entire season.

3. For players to be eligible to play in the playoffs they must have played in 50% of their teams games. Injuries will not be held against a player for missed time.

## **DISTRICITS**

- a. All players in good standing may have the opportunity to participate in the District 7 Little League Tournaments, as approved by the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** Board of Directors.
- b. Rules and Dates will be provided when each has been finalized.
- c. To be considered in good standing the players dues must be paid in full, they played in at least 50% of regular season games and have a clean disciplinary record for that season.
  - a. Eligibility
    - i. Players aged seven years and older can be selected to a District team. If a player required a waiver to play with the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE**, *one regular season* must be played before the player's eligibility to be selected for a District team.
    - b. The District players will be chosen based on the following weighted system:
      - i. Player Evaluation (**50%**). This evaluation will involve that players regular season coach, the Division head and the Player Agent.
        1. The evaluation will occur during the spring season based on current level of play and not be based off of prior years.
      - ii. District Manager Input (**25%**)
      - iii. Board Input (**25%**)
        3. Players must completely commit to playing districts, missing games is not allowed unless the Board was aware of a conflict (such as planned vacation) prior to the player being selected. If a player also plays on a travel team the Board must receive a schedule of that's teams commitments prior to selection. If there are conflicts between Districts and that travel teams schedule Bayonne Little League reserves the right to deny that player a roster spot.
- d. The District managers will be selected by the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** Board of Directors, with final say given to the Director of travel, based on the following weighted system:
  - i. Years of coaching experience with the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** (**30%**)
  - ii. Knowledge of the game (**30%**)
  - iii. Prior experience coaching District level play (**30%**)
  - iv. Good standing, and a current coach with the **BAYONNE LITTLE LEAGUE** (**10%**)
    - e. Cost

- i.** Baseball and Softball players will pay a fee of **\$50**.
- f.** Commitment Form
- i.** Each player and parent must sign a District commitment form upon player selection. This form will consist of the tentative dates of the tournament, the fee, and the consequences of failing to abide by the guidelines stated within the District commitment form.
- ii.** Violations of any of the agreed upon rules and requirements can lead to the player being removed from the roster and replaced. District rules are very strict and every league is mandated to follow them.
- g.** Practice – District teams will practice **at least** twice and **up to** six times weekly as determined by the Manager.