

NORTHERN COLUMBIA LITTLE LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS

As of January 8, 2016

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1.0 – GENERAL

1. GENERAL – Additional NCLL Documents

The following additional documents also provide information concerning the operation of the NCLL:

- A) NCLL, Inc. Constitution & By-Laws
 - B) Little League Baseball, Inc. Official Regulations & Playing Rules
2. GENERAL – Modifications of Official Rules & Regulations
 - A) Any of these rules and regulations may be changed by a majority vote of the NCLL Board of Directors at any meeting.
 - B) Any change to a rule or regulation affecting competition must be proposed one month prior to a vote for adoption and will take effect on the next Opening Day.
 - C) Any dispute as to whether a rule or regulation affects competition will be decided by a majority vote of the Board of the NCLL.

3. NCLL Player Placement Rules (General)

All children who turn four on or before August 31 are eligible to participate in NCLL sponsored baseball or softball that year. There will be no exceptions for children who turn four after that date.

For all baseball divisions, a player's age is determined as of August 31 of the year of the season.

For all girls' softball divisions, a player's age is determined as of December 31 of the year prior to the season.

- A) Rookie Ball: All pre-kindergarten players, male or female, who are at least 4 years old on August 31 are eligible to play in the Rookie Ball division.
- B) T-Ball Division: All kindergarten players, male or female, and any pre-kindergarten players who are 6 years old on August 31 are eligible to play in the T-Ball division.
- C) Intermediate Baseball – All first grade players and those aged 7 or 8 are eligible to play intermediate baseball.
- D) Minor League Baseball – All players aged 9, 10, or 11 are eligible to play minor league baseball. Additionally, those players who are 7 and 8 years old and who have completed one season of intermediate baseball or the equivalent are eligible to try out for minor league baseball. Prior to the season, the minor league baseball coordinator and Baseball Player Agent will determine whether any of the 7 or 8 year old players will be advanced to the minor league.
- E) Major League Baseball – All players aged 9, 10, 11, or 12 are eligible to try out for major league baseball. Those players not selected for major league baseball will be placed in the minor league.
 - a) Those players who are 10, 11 or 12 and played at the major level the prior season are automatically placed in the major league.
 - b) All 12 year old baseball players shall be drafted onto major league rosters.
 - c) Prior to the draft, the Player Agent will bring up the name and grade of each of the 11 year old players attempting to move up to the major league. The managers will discuss whether or not the player should be playing at the major level and vote on the issue. If a majority vote to place him in the majors, he will be added to the list of players who must be drafted. If the managers are deadlocked, the Player Agent shall cast the deciding vote.
 - d) Those 9 year old baseball players with one year of experience at the minor league level may try out for the major league.
- F) Junior Division Baseball – Those players aged 13 and 14 are eligible to play in the Junior Division.
- G) Senior Division Baseball – Those players aged 15 and 16 are eligible to play at the Senior Division. Those players aged 14 may be eligible to play at the Senior Division level if the NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations determines there is space available and the Junior Division will not be negatively impacted.
- H) Intermediate Softball – All first grade players and those aged 7 or 8 are eligible to play intermediate softball.
- I) Minor League Softball – All players aged 9, 10, or 11 are eligible to play minor league softball. Additionally, those players who are 7 and 8 years old and who have completed one season of intermediate softball or the equivalent are eligible to try out for minor league softball. Prior to the season, the minor league softball coordinator and Softball Player Agent will determine whether any of the 7 and 8 year old players will be advanced to the minor league.
- J) Major League Softball – All players aged 9, 10, 11, or 12 with previous experience at the minor or major league level are eligible to try out for major league softball. Those players not selected for major league softball will be placed in the minor league.
 - a) Those players who are 10, 11 or 12 and played at the major level the prior season are automatically placed in the major league.

- b) All 12 year old players will be drafted onto major league rosters.
- K) Junior Division Softball – Those players aged 13 and 14 are eligible to play in the Junior Division.
- L) Senior Division Softball – Those players aged 15 and 16 are eligible to play at the Senior Division. Those players aged 14 may be eligible to play at the Senior Division level if the NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations determines there is space available and the Junior Division will not be negatively impacted.
- M) Big League Softball – Those players aged 17 and 18 are eligible to play at the Big League level. Those players aged 16 may be eligible to play at the Big League level if the NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations determines there is space available and the Senior Division will not be negatively impacted.
- N) Temporary and Permanent Advancement – Players may be advanced from the intermediate league to the minor league or the minor league to the major league during the season on either a temporary or permanent basis. In order to obtain a replacement player, the manager of a major league team shall contact the appropriate major league coordinator and the appropriate Player Agent who will maintain a list of eligible candidates. The manager of a minor league team shall contact the appropriate minor league coordinator and appropriate Player Agent to discuss potential candidates.

4. Roster Sizes – General

All competitive divisions of play should strive for team roster sizes of 12 to 13 players. A lower number has resulted in teams having insufficient numbers to play a game. A higher number limits the playing time for all.

5. Awards – General

The Board will determine the appropriate participation awards for younger players and other awards as are deemed appropriate.

A. Sportsmanship:

- i) Managers of each junior league baseball and softball team, each senior league baseball and softball team, and each Big League softball team will select one player to receive the Walter Speanburg Memorial Sportsmanship Award. This award will be a plaque.
- ii) Managers of each major league baseball team will select one player to receive the Jim Dunham Sportsmanship Award. This award will be a plaque.
- iii) Managers of each major league softball team will select one player to receive the Lee Norton Sportsmanship Award. This award will be a plaque.

6. Uniforms/Behavior/Decorum – General

- A. Uniforms – Players will wear team shirts to every game. Players should also wear team caps and should never wear any other cap. Players will not be prohibited from playing simply because they fail to wear the team shirt.
- B. Managers/Coaches – The managers and coaches have a responsibility to set an example for the players. The following rules will apply:
 - a) No use of foul language.
 - b) No arguing with umpires or other managers.

- c) No use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages on the playing field, bench, or dugout.
 - d) Attire will be appropriate.
 - e) Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all practices and games.
- C. Players – The players have a responsibility to set an example for all the young people in the community. The following rules will apply:
- a) No use of foul language.
 - b) No arguing with the umpires or managers.
 - c) No use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages on the playing field, bench, or dugout.
 - d) Unless given permission by the manager, players must remain in the dugout when not on the field, in the coaching box, or in a designated warm up area.
 - e) Attire will be appropriate. The coordinator of each division will determine the required shoes, socks, pants, etc. although the sponsor shirts and caps should be worn at all games.
 - f) Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all practices and games. Thus, there will be no ridiculing or taunting of players from opposing teams or umpires.
- D. Parents/Fans – The parents and fans also have a responsibility to set an example for the players. The following rules will apply:
- a) No use of foul language.
 - b) No arguing with the umpires or managers.
 - c) No smoking or drinking.
 - d) Attire will be appropriate.
 - e) Parents will not sit on the bench or enter the dugout without the permission of the manager.
 - f) Sportsmanlike behavior is expected at all practices and games. Thus, there will be no ridiculing or taunting of players from opposing teams or umpires.

7. Suspensions – General

- A. Manager/Coach Suspensions – The first time a manager or coach is expelled from a game, he will be suspended for the next game; including playoffs and championship games. If there is a second occurrence within two years, the manager may be banished from the NCLL forever. If there are no further problems during that period, the original expulsion will be forgiven, and the manager will start with a clean record. The NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations will review the details of any baseball related incident to determine if the enforcement of this rule is appropriate. The NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations will review the details of any softball related incident to determine if the enforcement of this rule is appropriate. All appeals will be to the Board of Directors.
- B. Player Suspensions – A player who is ejected from a game by an umpire will be suspended for the remainder of the current game and for the next game. Also, players have a responsibility to notify the manager when they are unable to attend a game or practice. A manager may suspend a player for a game for repeated absence without notice upon written notice to the league coordinator.

8. Publicity – General

- A. The Board of Directors may authorize individuals to release information to the community regarding the NCLL and related events.
- B. Coordinators should strive to publicize the activities of their divisions and players.
- C. At the major league level and above, the manager of the winning team should notify the Register Star and Independent of the game results and highlights following each game.

1.9 Concession Stand – General

Revenues from the concession stand are important for the successful operation of the NCLL.

- A. Staffing of the concession stand is the responsibility of both teams playing at the K-1 field. Each team should have two adults in the concession stand at all times during the game.
- B. The manager of each team should devise a concession stand schedule for parents as soon as game schedules are available in order to fairly distribute this task and to give parents advance notice of their responsibility in this area.
- C. During playoffs, tournament games, and all-star games, concession stand workers will be recruited and paid (if necessary) by the NCLL.

95. Fall Baseball & Softball

The NCLL will offer fall baseball and softball as a developmental opportunity for players at as many levels as is possible.

- A. The NCLL vice-presidents and coordinators of each division will be charged with organizing the fall sports.
- B. The managers at each level will work with the coordinators and vice-presidents to enable the NCLL to offer a fall sports program.

2.0 - JUNIOR, SENIOR, BIG LEAGUE DIVISIONS (Baseball & Softball)

2.1 Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (Junior, Senior & Big League)

- A) Player Inning Requirements
 - a) If there are 13 players or fewer per team, then each player on the team will play for a minimum of 3 complete innings in the field and bat at least once in each game.
 - b) If there are 14 or more players per team, then each player on the team will play for a minimum of 2 complete innings in the field and bat at least once per game.
 - c) Regardless of team size, one player per game may be designated as the extra hitter. This player need not be used in the field during the game. If for any reason, the player occupying the extra hitter position is removed from that slot during the game, then that player must play the field as stated in paragraphs a or b.
 - d) The same player cannot be used as the extra hitter more than once per week, unless the player has fulfilled the requirements stated in paragraphs a or b.
 - e) If a player does not play the required innings in a game which is less than seven official innings, then the player must start the next game and fulfill the requirements of the previous game plus the requirements of the game being played before being removed.
 - f) If any of the above rules are broken in a seven inning game, then the violation will be reported to the league coordinator, and the manager will receive a warning. A second occurrence will result in the manager's suspension for the next game, and a third occurrence will result in the manager's suspension for the remainder of the season.
 - g) Each player must play a minimum of one complete game during the course of the season.
 - h) All of the above rules should be conveyed to all players in the league before the season begins.

- B) Rain – The Home team manager, after consultation with the visiting team manager and umpires, will decide whether the game will start. After the first pitch, it is the umpires' decision to continue, delay for up to 30 minutes, or postpone the game. The home team manager will notify the coordinator of the make up date and umpires will be scheduled. If at all possible, the game should be rescheduled the same week.
- C) Disputes - All problems and disputes should be directed to the junior/senior/big league baseball or softball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved in the dispute, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Baseball Operations or the Vice-President for Softball Operations.

2. Try-outs & Player Draft (Junior, Senior & Big League)

If necessary, drafts for the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions will be held in April, or as soon thereafter as possible.

3. Draft Rules (Junior, Senior & Big League)

General - The NCLL will use a draft system to fill each roster when necessary. Each roster will consist of at least 12 players. The number of players per team will be determined by the division coordinator. The number of teams per division will be determined by the Board of Directors.

- A) Teams in these divisions will be redrafted each season. The coordinators will determine whether a tryout is necessary before any draft. If a conventional draft is utilized, teams will draft in an order determined by lot. The goal will be to establish teams of equal talent, therefore, the quality of players with options will be considered in determining draft order.
- B) Siblings - Unless otherwise requested by parents, siblings will be placed on the same roster.
- C) Children of Managers – If a manager has a child eligible for the draft and wishes to exercise an option on that player, the manager must give notice to the coordinator prior to the draft. Options must be taken as explained in Paragraph D.
- D) Exercising Options – Options for the children of managers or siblings will be exercised during a round appropriate to the skills and talent of the player. The appropriate Player Agent, baseball or softball, will consult with the managers to determine the appropriate round for which an option shall be exercised.
- E) Trading – There will be no trading of players.
- F) Release – A committee consisting of a player's manager, the Baseball Player Agent, and the Vice-President of the NCLL will approve any release of a player under Little League Baseball regulation III (e).

4. Filling Player Vacancies During the Season (Junior, Senior & Big League)

The manager must obtain the approval of the League Coordinator and appropriate NCLL vice-president (baseball or softball) in order to fill a roster vacancy.

5. Regular Season Standings Tie-Breakers (Junior, Senior & Big League)

- A) Head-to-head winning percentage.
- B) Winning percentage against other NCLL teams.

- C) Highest Number of Points: Points will be awarded for each victory with one point awarded for a win against the last place team, two points awarded for a win against the next to last place team, etc. If there are four teams in the league, a team beating the first place team will earn four points.
- D) In the event teams are still tied, co-champions for the regular season will be declared. A coin flip will be conducted by the league president to determine playoff seed at the conclusion of the regular season.

6. Manager Selection for Tournament Teams (Junior, Senior & Big League)

The managers of the teams with the best record on the day before the tournament rosters must be submitted to Little League District officials will have the first choice of managing the tournament team in their respective division. If one of those managers declines, the manager of the team in that division with the next best record has the next option. If none of the managers in a division are available, then the appropriate NCLL vice-president (baseball or softball) will select a manager for the tournament team. The managers will choose as many assistant coaches as the tournament rules permit.

7. Player Selection for Tournament Teams (Junior, Senior & Big League)

- A) The division coordinators will schedule a meeting of the managers near the end of the regular season to select a tournament team for each division. This meeting should be attended by a minimum of two members of the NCLL Board who are not managers in that division.
- B) At these meetings, each manager will recommend players on their teams which should be given consideration for spots on the tournament team. Discussion is encouraged.
- C) The managers will each vote for players, but can not vote for a player on the team he manages. The tournament team manager will then select two additional players from those receiving votes.
- D) Tournament team votes should be counted immediately after they are cast and the results announced to the managers. If another vote is required to resolve a tie, this should be done immediately.
- E) Meetings should be held before the first practice for all players on each team. Parents should be encouraged to attend as well. At this meeting, tournament rules – especially those affecting playing time – should be explained. The manager should make clear to all present the playing time which can be expected by the players.
- F) If there is only one NCLL team participating at any of these levels of play, then that team will become the tournament team although the roster may have to be trimmed to meet the maximum roster size permitted by tournament rules.

3.0 – MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

1. NCLL Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (Major League Baseball)

- A) Player Inning Requirements – Each player must play at least nine defensive outs and bat at least once in each game. There would be an exception if the game is ended prematurely due to rain or darkness. In those cases, the manager will start the player the next game and the player will remain in that game until meeting the requirement or the game ends prematurely.

- a) If a player does not appear or bat due to disciplinary reasons, the manager is not required to start the player in the next game.
- B) Home Team Bench – The home team will occupy the bench nearest third base.
- C) Rain – The home team manager, after consultation with the visiting team manager and the umpires, will decide whether the game will start. After the first pitch, it is the umpires' decision to continue, delay for up to 30 minutes, or postpone the game. The home team manager will notify the coordinator of the make up date and umpires will be scheduled. If at all possible, the game should be rescheduled to be played the same week.
- D) Behind the Backstop – Managers, coaches, and players are not permitted to stand behind the backstop.
- E) Line-Up Exchange – The line up card exchanged before the game. The batting order will include all members of the team available to play.
 - a) If a player arrives late, his or her name will be added at the end of the line-up.
 - b) If a player is injured or must depart the field, that spot will be considered vacant and skipped without penalty; although no player will be encouraged to leave in order to advantage the team at risk of forfeit.
 - c) Free substitution is permitted into the field during the game. Players may meet the minimum defensive inning requirements with non-consecutive innings of play.
- F) Disputes - All problems and disputes should be directed to the major league baseball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved in the dispute, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Baseball Operations.

2. Tryouts & Player Draft (Major League Baseball)

Two tryout sessions will be scheduled prior to the regular season. The draft follows the last spring tryout.

- A) General – The NCLL will redraft major league baseball rosters prior to each season. Each major league team roster will consist of at least 12 players, but not more than 14 players. The number of teams and the number of players per team will be determined by the major league baseball coordinator and the NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations.
 - a) The Baseball Player Agent shall administer the tryout program and the draft. The Player Agent shall keep attendance records of those participating in the tryout.
 - i) A player assigned to a major league roster for more than half the scheduled games for a team from the previous season is automatically eligible for the major league draft.
 - b) A player not already in the majors must attend at least one tryout session to be eligible for the draft, except a player need not try out if an option is available for that player and the manager has notified the Player Agent prior to the tryout of his intention to exercise that option.
 - c) The NCLL recommends that each team make every effort to have at least three, but not more than six, 11 year old players on the roster.
 - d) A 9 year old player must have previous experience at the minor league level or above to be eligible for the draft. A committee consisting of the Baseball Player Agent, the Vice-President for Baseball Operations, and the major league baseball coordinator may designate a player age 10, 11 or 12 without minor league experience as eligible for the draft, so long as the player is deemed to be capable of playing with undue risk of injury to the player or to others.
 - e) The NCLL may opt to utilize a blind draft whereby players of similar talent are assigned randomly to create teams of similar talent and strength.

- f) After the tryouts, a committee consisting of the major league managers, major league coordinator, Baseball Player Agent, and Vice-President for Baseball Operations shall determine collectively which players will be promoted to the major league each season.
 - g) The number of 9 year old players promoted to the majors in the draft will not exceed the total number of major level teams.
- B) Siblings of Players - If two or more siblings are subject to the draft and one is taken, the manager may immediately take an option on the other sibling. The league recommends that an effort be made by the managers to have siblings on the same team. Options must be taken in accordance with paragraph D.
- C) Children of Managers – If a conventional draft is held and manager has a child eligible for the draft and wishes to exercise a draft option, the Baseball Player Agent must be notified prior to the draft of the manager's intention to exercise this option. If the manager so chooses, the option on a child may be waived. Options must be taken in accordance with paragraph D.
- D) Exercising Options – If a conventional draft is held, the Player Agent, through discussion with the managers, will determine the appropriate round in which an option must be exercised.
- E) Parents Named Managers – Parents of major league players who become managers during the season may not automatically claim their children, but may trade for them at the proper time (See Trading).
- F) Trading – There will be no trading of players except in the case when a parent is named as the manager of a team after the teams have been established for the season and the manager's child is on the roster of another team. In that case, the parent may select the child, and the manager losing the player may select one player from the parent's team. This second player should be of equal age and ability as the player traded. In the event that a sponsor has a child playing on a team, the sponsor's child will not be subject to trade. All trades are subject to the approval of the Baseball Player Agent.
- G) Permanent Vacancies During the Season – In accordance with Little League Baseball regulation III (d), when a permanent vacancy occurs during the playing season, the player selected to fill the permanent vacancy becomes a permanent member of that team; governed by the same regulations as all members of that team selected in the draft. A vacancy shall be determined to be a permanent vacancy when a player on the permanent roster is absent for more than one half of the regular season scheduled games. The player that previously filled the permanent roster slot must be released from the team for the remainder of the season.
 - a) The team losing such a player shall have an option to select this player in the next draft. This option must be taken in accordance with paragraph D.
- H) Temporary Vacancies During the Season – If a manager sees a problem in maintaining a full roster because a player will be absent for more than two consecutive games, the problem shall be brought to the attention of the Baseball Player Agent. The Player Agent may determine that a temporary vacancy exists (e.g. an injured player will be unable to play for two weeks.) and inform the manager that he may temporarily fill the vacancy. The vacancy shall be filled by allowing the manager to select a minor league player from a list provided by the Player Agent. Once the absent player is able to resume play, the Player Agent shall be notified by the manager and the minor league player shall be returned to the same minor league team.
 - a) A minor league player shall not play any minor league games while filling a temporary major league vacancy.
 - b) The major league team shall have no permanent rights to the minor league player.

- c) If a team has multiple temporary players filling vacancies, each player will be assigned to a specific vacancy. If one of those vacancies becomes permanent, only the player assigned to that vacancy may be designated as a permanent replacement for that roster spot. The manager may not substitute one temporary player for another.
 - d) The Player Agent shall ensure that the minor league player and that player's manager understand that the player is only temporarily filling the vacancy on the major league team if the vacancy is not a permanent vacancy.
 - e) If a player does not play in three consecutive games, for any reason, the manager must notify the Baseball Player Agent. The Player Agent will notify the Board of Directors and the Board will take appropriate action. As a penalty for not notifying the Player Agent, according to this rule, the Board of Directors may recommend that the manager be suspended for at least one game.
- I) Eligibility to Fill Vacancies – If a vacancy occurs because a player is injured or quits before the first game of the season, the manager must select a replacement from the list of players who attended a major league tryout session in either the fall or spring. If the vacancy occurs because a player is injured or quits after the season has started, the manager may select any minor league player deemed by the Player Agent to be capable of playing in the major league. A player must have previous minor league or equivalent experience to play in the major league.
- J) Ineligibility – If a player who tries out for the major league in either the Fall or Spring decides not to play at that level, the player will return to the minor league and will not be eligible to play in the major league for the remainder of the season.
- K) Release – A committee designated by the Board of Directors must approve any release of a player, permanent or temporary, under Little League Baseball regulation III (e).
- L) Drafting 12 year old Players – All 12 year old players who wish to play in the major league will be drafted.
- a) The number of 12 year old players that each team is required to pick in the fall draft is as follows: The total number of 12 year old players divided by the number of teams drafting. The remainder must be chosen by the teams drafting last, second last, etc., until the remainder is selected.
 - b) The 12 year old players may be picked in any round as long as each team picks the number required under the formula above.
 - c) If a team picks more than the number of 12 year old players which is required, then the team with the lowest draft number still required to take a 12 year old will be released from the requirement to take an additional 12 year old. If that team has already picked the required number of 12 year old players, then the team with the next lowest draft number will be released from the requirement.

3. Filling Player Vacancies During the Season (Major League Baseball)

- A) A major league manager who has a roster vacancy must contact the Baseball Player Agent and/or the minor league baseball coordinator for a list of minor league players who are considered to be ready to play in the major league. A list of at least five eligible players will be compiled by the first scheduled major league game, and this list will be maintained throughout the season.
- B) A vacancy which occurs before Opening Day can only be filled by a player who attended at least one tryout.

- C) After Opening Day, any eligible player on a minor league roster may be brought up to fill a vacancy provided the Baseball Player Agent has deemed them ready to play in the major league.
- D) If a player who is chosen in the first four rounds of the draft decides not to play in the major league, that player must go back to the minor league for the full season and cannot return to the major league for any part of the regular season or playoffs.
- E) Managers may call up players on a short term basis in order to avoid forfeit.

4. Non-Association Umpires (Major League Baseball)

Payment for individuals who umpire major league games, due to the unavailability of association umpires, will be determined by the Board of Directors.

5. Playoffs & Regular Season Standings Tie-Breakers (Major League Baseball)

- A. All regular season games must be completed by the Saturday of the week before the playoffs are scheduled to begin. If any games are not completed by that time, it is up to the major league baseball coordinator to determine whether a forfeit should be declared. If the coordinator has a conflict of interest, the NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations will make the determination. If the Vice-President also has a conflict, the President of the NCLL will make the determination.
- B. If two or more ties exist in the standings, then the ties will be broken as follows: ties for first place, then ties for second place, etc.
 - a) Head-to-head winning percentage.
 - b) If more than two teams are involved in the tie, then the winning percentage against all other teams involved in the tie.
 - c) Winning percentage against other teams in the playoffs which are not involved in the tie.
 - d) Highest Number of Points: Points will be awarded for each victory with 1 point awarded for a win against the last place team, 2 points awarded for a win against the next to last place team, etc. If there are seven teams in the league, a team beating the first place team will earn 7 points.
 - e) In the event teams are still tied, co-champions for the regular season will be declared. A coin flip will be conducted by the league president to determine playoff seed at the conclusion of the regular season.
- C. Playoffs
 - a) The first round of the playoffs will match the first place team against the fourth place team at K-1 for games 1 and 3 and at V-1 for game 2. It will also match the second place team against the third place team at V-1 for games 1 and 3 and at K-1 for game 2. If the third game of the first round of the playoffs is scheduled for V-1 and K-1 is available, the game will be played at K-1.
 - b) The first round winners will meet for the championship. These games should be played at K-1.
 - c) All series are best 2 out of 3.
 - d) The highest seed is the home team in games 1 and 3 of each series. The other team is the home team for game 2.
- D. Complete Games – All NCLL post-season games will be continued on another day, if called due to darkness or inclement weather; unless one of the teams chooses to concede the game.

6. Manager Selection for Senior Game & Tournament Teams (Major League Baseball)

- A) The manager of the team that finishes first in the regular season will have the first choice of managing one of the following: a) 11 & 12 year old tournament team, b) eleven year old tournament team, or c) 9 & 10 year old tournament team.
- B) The manager of the team finishing second has the next option, and so on.
- C) In the event a tournament team manager is not selected as a result of the above process, then the NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations will appoint a manager.
- D) The manager of each tournament team may choose as many assistants as tournament rules permit.
- E) The manager of each All-Star team should be assisted by the other managers whose players compose the team. If more help is needed, coaches should be recruited.
- F) The Vice-President for Baseball Operations will appoint managers and coaches for the senior game.

7. Player Selection for Senior Game & Tournament Teams (Major League Baseball)

- The major league baseball coordinator will schedule a meeting of major league managers during the last week of the regular season for the purpose of selecting the tournament teams.
- At this meeting, managers will recommend players on their teams whom they feel should be given consideration for selection to the tournament teams. Discussion is encouraged.
- 11 & 12 year old tournament team: The manager and Baseball Player Agent will determine the size of the roster. Players will be selected by a vote of the managers, each manager may vote for the number of players on the roster. The players receiving the most votes will be selected. If there is a tie for the last spot, another vote will be taken to break the tie. If additional players are subsequently needed, players will be selected in accordance with the voting order with the player receiving the highest number of votes given the first opportunity to join the tournament team. If a team has co-managers, only one set of votes may be cast per team.
- 11 year old tournament team: The manager and Baseball Player Agent will determine the size of the roster. Players will be selected by vote using the same process described in paragraph C. If the district tournament rules differ considering the number of players allowed, the district rules will prevail.
- 9/10 year old tournament team: The manager and Player Agent will determine the size of the roster. All 9 & 10 year old players in the major league are eligible to participate on this team. Each major league manager will provide the major league baseball coordinator with the names of all such players on their rosters. If there are more eligible players in the major league than would complete a roster, then players will be selected using the same process described in paragraph C. If there are not enough major league players to fill the tournament roster, the minor league baseball coordinator and Baseball Player Agent shall be consulted to determine which minor league players should fill vacancies. The NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations shall approve these selections. If the district tournament rules differ considering the number of players allowed, the district rules will prevail. The following rules shall apply to games:

- a) It is required that each player play nine defensive outs and bat once in each game.
- Tournament team votes should be counted immediately after they are cast, and the results announced to the team managers. If another vote is necessary to resolve a tie, it should be taken immediately. A minimum of two Board members, who are not major league managers, should be present during the balloting.
- Meetings should be held before the first practice for all players and parents on each tournament team. At this meeting, tournament rules, especially those affecting playing time, should be explained. The manager should make clear to all present what kind of playing time can be expected in the tournament. Board members should be notified of this meeting and are encouraged to attend.

4. MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

4.1. NCLL Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (Minor League Baseball)

All rules not covered here are in accordance with Little League Baseball's Official Regulations and Playing Rules for the Minor League.

- A. Getting Started – The home team will be responsible for setting up the field.
 - a) The home team will provide two new baseballs and an umpire to call balls and strikes.
 - b) The visiting team should provide the base umpire.
 - c) For games at K-1, each team must supply two people to work the concession stand throughout the game. Managers are encouraged to provide parents with a concession stand work schedule at the beginning of the season in order to distribute this duty fairly.
- B. Uniforms – Team caps and shirts should be worn. Players forgetting them may play, but should be reminded to wear them at the next game.
 - a) Shorts should not be worn.
 - b) Rubber cleats are permitted, but not necessary.
 - c) Catchers must wear a metal, fiber, or plastic athletic cup.
- C. Time Limit – Games will consist of six full innings, if time allows. No inning will begin after 8:00 PM. (An inning is deemed to begin the moment the third out is recorded in the previous inning. Managers will determine together as to whether there is sufficient time before dark to continue.
- D. Scoring – The score will be kept, and players will play their best in an attempt to win, but no league standings will be maintained.
- E. Base Running
 - a) Players may continue running until the ball is returned to the pitcher. Play is dead when the pitcher has possession of the ball in the vicinity of the pitcher's mound. A runner half way to the next base at the time the pitcher gains control of the ball shall be permitted to advance to that next base.
 - b) There will be one extra base allowed for runners after an overthrow.
 - c) There will be no leading off the bases. Runners must remain in contact with the base until the ball is hit or reaches the catcher.

- d) A runner may steal second or third base if the catcher either catches the ball or if the ball makes contact with the catcher's glove. There will be no stealing during coach pitch.
- e) A runner cannot go home on a steal, overthrow on a steal attempt, or passed ball.
- f) Sliding is permitted; however, head-first sliding is prohibited. A player sliding head first shall be called out.

F. Batting

- a) All players on the roster will be in the batting line-up.
- b) Outs will be called on the base paths using the normal rules of baseball. A player who is called out will return to the bench.
- c) Once three outs have been recorded or the scoring limit is reached, that half of the inning is over.
- d) Scoring Limit: The run limit for each inning is five runs per team, except for the last inning, where there is no limit. If a batter hits a ball with runners on base, all of the runs from that at bat will count, even if it is more than five.
- e) Bunting is allowed and encouraged.
- f) A batter should be called out by the umpire for throwing the bat.
- g) There will be no walks during coach pitch.

G. Pitching

- a) The batting team may supply a coach to pitch the first two innings of the game. Additional coach pitch innings are at the discretion of the Minor League Coordinator, with input from the current Minor Baseball Managers.
- b) A volunteer umpire will call balls and strikes. A walk will consist of four balls and a strikeout will consist of three strikes (either called or swinging).
- c) Pitchers may pitch two consecutive innings per game (one pitch constitutes an inning), and no more than five innings per week as long as the player does not exceed the maximum pitch count permitted under Little League rules.
- d) Twelve year old players are not allowed to pitch in minor league games.
- e) When a pitcher encounters the fourth walk in an inning, a walk will not be awarded to the batter, and a coach from the batting team will come in to finish the current at bat. The strike count will remain the same and the pitching rules resort back to coach pitching. After that at bat, the pitcher, or a new pitcher, will pitch. Any subsequent walk scenario in a single inning, regardless of whether the pitcher remains the same or changes, will be handled with a coach from the batting team coming in to pitch. A hit by pitch does not constitute a walk.

H. Positions – Four outfielders, a catcher, four regular infielders, and a pitcher or “pitcher” for defensive purposes will be used for a total of ten positions.

- a) Outfielders will remain on the outfield grass or eight steps beyond the base path until the ball is batted.
- b) Infielders, other than the pitcher, will remain no closer to the batter than within two steps of the base path until the ball is pitched.
- c) A player fielding the pitching position while a coach pitches will remain beyond the pitching rubber until the ball is batted.
- d) No more than ten defensive players should be on the field at one time.
- e) Free substitution will be permitted.
- f) If there are more than ten players on the team; the players shall split the innings on the bench equally.
- g) A team may not play with fewer than nine players present; however, intermediate division players or players from other minor league teams may be used to avoid forfeit.

- I. Regular Balls – Regular baseballs, similar to those used in the major league, will be used throughout the season.
 - J. Benches – The bench areas should be as defined as possible and kept as far back from the field of play as possible. Spectators should also be encouraged to stay back from the field for safety reasons.
 - K. No On-Deck Circle - Players should be instructed that bats are not to be touched without a coach's permission. There is no on-deck circle in Little League. This rule applies to both practice and games.
 - L. Sportsmanship - Cheering will be of a positive nature only. There will be no taunting, name-calling, nor conduct which attempts to distract a member of the other team. No equipment is to be thrown. Coaches, umpires, and parents should conduct themselves appropriately and encourage good sportsmanship.
 - a) A player will be removed from play for displaying unsportsmanlike conduct or abusing equipment. The decision to remove a player may be made by the manager or umpire.
 - M. Coaches on the Field – No coaches for the team in the field may be on the field during play except as umpires or to back up the catcher (to keep the game moving).
 - a) The batting team may have an adult pitcher for two innings and coaches at first base and third base.
 - b) One adult coach will be in charge of the bench area.
 - c) Players wearing helmets may coach first or third base. An adult coach may accompany a player base coach.
 - N. Post-Game – Immediately following the game, both teams will line up and shake hands in the area around home plate. Both teams will assist in returning all equipment to the proper locations, raking the field, and in disposing of any litter.
 - O. Attendance – A player will not be allowed to play in league games, if he repeatedly misses team practices. Players may be suspended from the team for repeatedly failing to attend scheduled practices or games without permission of the manager. All suspensions must be approved by the minor league baseball coordinator and the NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations.
 - P. Disputes - All problems and disputes should be directed to the minor league baseball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved in the dispute, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Baseball Operations.
2. Tryouts & Player Draft (Minor League Baseball)
- A. Try-Out: A tryout will be held in March for all minor league baseball players. The purpose of the tryout is to evaluate players and attempt to create equal and competitive teams. Players will be graded as follows:
 - a) A = outstanding
 - b) B = above average
 - c) C = average
 - d) D = below average
 - B. Try-Out for 7 & 8 year old Players – Those players who are 7 or 8 years old and have completed at least one season of intermediate level baseball may try out for the minor league. In order to ensure the safety of the players and to assess the players' abilities, all 7 and 8 year

old players trying out for the minors must be able to successfully complete this minimum skill set:

- a) Consistently, defined as 4 of 5 attempts, throw a ball from shortstop to first base on the fly (no bounce).
- b) Consistently, defined as 4 of 5 attempts, catch a fly ball tossed from a coach.
- c) Consistently, defined as 4 of 5 attempts, field a batted routine ground ball and make a generally accurate throw to first base on the fly (no bounce).
- d) Consistently, defined as 7 of 10 attempts, hit an accurately pitched ball from minor league regulation distance, getting either a base hit or solid contact with the ball.

If unsuccessful in attempting to make the minors, the 7 and 8 year old players will be placed on intermediate level teams.

Exceptions to this rule may be made only with the approval of the intermediate baseball coordinator, the minor league baseball coordinator, the Baseball Player Agent, and the NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations.

- C. Roster Selection - The minor league baseball coordinator shall oversee a draft in which the players are randomly selected for teams based on their ratings as set forth in 4.2 A.
- D. Siblings – Siblings will be assigned to the same team unless their parents request otherwise.
- E. Practice Fields – The minor league baseball coordinator will arrange for a draft of practice fields, dates, times, etc.

3. Manager Selection for Tournament Teams (Minor League Baseball)

The minor league baseball coordinator and NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations will select the managers for any post season games involving minor league players.

4. Player Selection for Tournament Teams (Minor League Baseball)

The manager and Baseball Player Agent will determine the size of the roster. Players will be selected by a vote of the managers, each manager may vote for the number of players on the roster. The players receiving the most votes will be selected. If there is a tie for the last spot, another vote will be taken to break the tie. If additional players are subsequently needed, players will be selected in accordance with the voting order with the player receiving the highest number of votes given the first opportunity to join the tournament team. If a team has co-managers, only one set of votes may be cast per team.

5. Minor League Field Day (Minor League Baseball)

The minor league coordinator may organize a skill evaluation field day for all minor league baseball players.

5. INTERMEDIATE BASEBALL

5.1. NCLL Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (Intermediate Baseball)

The goal of the intermediate baseball league is to build upon the introduction to baseball players received in the T-Ball League. This division of play is a non-competitive, developmental league which hopes to teach children more about the game of baseball in a fun-filled environment in which all games to end in a “tie”. With that in mind, the rules that will apply to this level of play are as follows:

- A) Length of Games – Games will consist of at least 3 innings (more if time allows). Games will be no longer than 90 minutes in length.
- B) Scoring – No score will be kept.
- C) Batting – Each player on the roster will be in the batting line-up. Teams will continue batting until three outs are recorded or all players have batted once during the inning.
- D) Base Running – There will be a one base limit on a ball hit in the infield. If the ball is hit into the outfield, the player may keep running until the ball is returned to the infield.
 - a) Outs will be called on the base paths using the normal rules of baseball. A player who is called out will return to the bench.
 - b) There is no base stealing and no additional bases awarded for overthrows.
- E) Pitching – Coaches will pitch to their players from an appropriate distance. Coaches will have the discretion to pitch overhand or underhand depending on each batter's level of development. Coaches will decide if the batter should use a tee.
 - a) After 7 pitches, the pitcher will decide whether to award the batter first base or have the player hit off a tee. It is strictly up to the batter's coach to make this decision.
 - b) There are no strikeouts or walks.
- F) Positions – There may be more than nine fielders, however, all extra fielders will be in the outfield.
 - a) The players will be rotated between the infield and outfield equally.
 - b) Outfielders must start each play with both feet in the outfield grass or 15 feet behind the baseline if there is no infield cutout.
 - c) One player will field the pitching position while a coach pitches.
- G) Benches – The bench areas should be as defined as possible and kept as far back from the field of play as possible. Spectators should also be encouraged to stay back from the field for safety reasons.
- H) On-Deck Circle - Players should be instructed from day one that bats are not to be touched without a coach's permission. There is no on-deck circle in Little League. This rule should be followed in both practice and in games.
- I) Sportsmanship – All cheering will be of a positive nature only. Taunting, name-calling or conduct which attempts to distract a member of the other team, is not allowed at any level of Little League. There may be some long at-bats. This is an opportunity for you to teach your team the values of patience and encouragement of a teammate, as well as perseverance.
- J) Coaches on the Field - Coaches are permitted on the field during games.
 - a) The fielding team's coaches may be on the field during play for the purpose of instruction and keeping order.
 - b) The batting team will place coaches at first and third base. These two coaches, in addition to the coach who is pitching, will act as umpires for all plays on the bases.
- K) Immediately following the game, both teams will line up and shake hands in the area around home plate.
- L) Disputes - All problems and disputes should be directed to the intermediate baseball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved in the dispute, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Baseball Operations.

5.2 Tryouts & Player Draft (Intermediate Baseball)

Following the last registration date, the coordinator will organize an evaluation in order to divide the players into competitive teams of equal talent. Requests from players for assignments with other players or specific coaches will be considered, however, players may not be placed together if it would disrupt competitive balance.

5.3 Manager Selection for Post-Season Contests (Intermediate Baseball)

If there are any post-season games, the intermediate league coordinator and NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations will designate one or more managers.

5.4 Player selection for Post-Season Contests (Intermediate Baseball)

If there are any post-season games, the intermediate league coordinator and NCLL Vice-President for Baseball Operations will select the players for the roster after consultation with the managers.

6.0 T-BALL DIVISION

1. NCLL Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (T-Ball)

The goal of the T-Ball league is to introduce players to the rules of baseball. This division of play is a non-competitive, developmental league which hopes to teach children more about the game in a fun-filled environment. With that in mind, the rules that will apply to this level of play are as follows:

- A) Getting Started – The home team will be responsible for setting up the field. Before the game begins, both teams will gather around the pitcher’s mound while one member of the home team reads the Little League pledge.
- B) Time Limits – When possible, games will consist of at least three full innings. Each player on both teams will bat once per inning.
- C) Scoring – No score will be kept.
- D) Base Running
 - a) There will be a one base limit (for the batter and base runners) on a ball hit in the infield.
 - b) If the ball is hit into the outfield on a fly, players may continue running until the ball is returned to the infield.
 - c) There will be no leading off bases or stealing bases.
- E) Recording Outs – Outs will be called on the base paths using the normal rules of baseball, however, at the beginning of the season, a player who is called out will remain on base. All batters will bat each inning regardless of how many outs have been recorded. The last player up each inning will try to hit a “home run” and continue running until scoring or being tagged out.
 - a) As the season progresses, managers may decide to begin calling outs and returning players to the bench. Regardless, all batters will bat each inning.
- F) Batting – For the first game, all players will bat off a tee. As the season progresses, the managers may begin pitching to their batters. The goal is to have all players hitting coach pitching by the end of the season.
 - a) The tee will be placed just in front of home place.

- b) Once a batter hits the ball, the bat must be placed on home plate or in a designated area before the batter runs to first base.
 - c) No bunting is permitted.
- G) Pitching – As the season progresses, coaches will begin pitching to their players from an appropriate distance.
- a) There are no strikeouts or walks.
 - b) After five good pitches, the coach pitching will decide whether to have the player hit off a tee or try another pitch or two before using the tee. It is up to the batter’s coach to make this decision.
- H) Positions – All of the players the team will play in the field at the regular positions and to fill extra spots if there are more than eight players at the game. There will be at least three outfielders, a rover, four regular infielders, and at least one “pitcher” for defensive purposes.
- a) Outfielders will remain on the outfield grass or eight steps beyond the base path until the ball is batted.
 - b) Infielders will remain no closer to the batter than two steps in front of the base path until the ball is batted.
 - c) The rover should be located behind second base.
 - d) The “pitchers” will begin the play beyond the pitching rubber. There can be two pitchers – one on either side of the pitching circle.
 - e) Players will be rotated through all positions and none should play the same position two innings in a row.
 - f) No player will play in the outfield more than one inning of a 3 inning game.
 - g) No player should play the same position twice in one game. Ideally, all players will play every position at least once every three or four games.
 - h) Free substitution is permitted as the batting line-up will include all players on the roster.
 - i) A team may play with fewer than nine players present.
- I. Soft Balls – Soft practice balls will be used all season long.
- J. Benches – The bench areas should be as defined as possible and kept as far back from the field of play as possible. Spectators should also be encouraged to stay back from the field for safety reasons.
- K. No On-Deck Circle - Players should be instructed that bats are not to be touched without a coach’s permission. There is no on-deck circle in Little League. This applies to both practice and during games.
- L. Sportsmanship – Cheering will be of a positive nature only. There will be no taunting, name-calling, nor conduct which attempts to distract a member of the other team. There may be some long at-bats. This is an opportunity to teach players the values of patience and encouragement of teammates, as well as perseverance.
- M. Coaches on the Field – Up to three coaches for the team in the field may be on the field during play for the purpose of instruction and keeping order.
- a) The coaches for the fielding team should be located behind home plate and in the outfield.
 - b) The batting team will have a pitcher and coaches at first and third base.
 - c) The coaches on the field will act as umpires for all plays on the bases. One adult coach will be in charge of the bench area.

- N. Post-Game – Immediately following the game, both teams will line up and shake hands in the area around home plate. Both teams will assist in returning all equipment to the proper locations and in disposing of any litter.
- O. Disputes - All problems and disputes should be directed to the T-Ball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved in the dispute, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Baseball Operations Operations.
- P. These rules will also apply to the Rookie Ball division of T-Ball if it is offered for 5 year old players.

2. Roster Selection (T-Ball)

Following the last registration date, the T-Ball coordinator will divide the players into competitive teams of equal talent.

Players will be notified by their coach concerning practice times, field maintenance dates, the schedule, and additional relevant information. The schedule will consist of one game per week, and when possible, one practice per week.

7. MAJOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The goals of the major softball league are to build upon the introduction to softball that players received in the minor league and prepare players for higher levels of competition. This league is competitive and standings will be maintained as teams pursue the league championship. Although teams will make serious attempts to win each game, the general purpose of the league is to provide an enjoyable learning experience for all players. With that in mind, the rules that will apply to this level of play are as follows:

- 7.1. NCLL Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (Major League Softball)
 - A) Minimum Inning Requirement – Each player must play at least nine defensive outs. Free substitution is permitted, and the players are not required to play their innings consecutively.
 - B) Time Limit -- Games will consist of six full innings if time allows. Game duration is 90 minutes with no new inning allowed to begin after time has expired. Weeknight games will begin at 5:45 PM. If the home team is ahead after the 90 minute time limit has expired and the visiting team has completed their half of the inning, the game is officially considered over.
 - C) Batting – All players on the roster will be included in the batting line-up.
 - a) Bunting will be allowed throughout the season.
 - D) Mercy Rule – After four complete innings of play, the game will end as soon as a team attains a 15 run lead.
 - E) Pitching – Pitchers may pitch nine innings in a week (Sunday through Saturday), but no more than 3 innings per game. Once a pitcher is removed from the mound, they may not return to pitch during that game, but may play other positions. One pitch thrown during an inning constitutes an inning pitched.
 - F) Base Running – Runners may steal or advance on a passed ball.
 - a) Base Runners must remain in contact with the base until the pitcher releases the ball.

- G) Base Coaching – The batting team is permitted to have a coach at first base and a coach at third base.
 - a) The fielding team may not have coaches in the field of play.
- H) Postponing Games – If games must be postponed for any reason, they must be rescheduled for the next available date; preferably during the same week. The managers should agree to a date at the time of the postponement. The major league coordinator must be notified when a game is postponed and rescheduled.
 - a) Games should be postponed due to weather by 4:30 PM; otherwise, teams must report to the field.
- I) Game Preparation – The home team is responsible for umpires and field preparation. The home team will occupy the bench nearest third base.
- J) Minimum Player Requirement – Teams must play with no more than nine players in the field. A team may start a game with eight players but if fewer than eight players are available, then the game must be rescheduled or players from the minor league may be promoted on a short term basis.
- K) Disputes - All problems and disputes should be directed to the major league softball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved in the dispute, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Softball Operations.

7.2. Tryouts & Player Draft (Major League Softball)

At least two tryout sessions will be scheduled by March. A spring draft follows the spring tryout.

7.3. Draft Rules (Major League Softball)

- A) General – The NCLL will redraft major league softball rosters prior to each season. Each major league team roster will consist of at least 12 players, but not more than 14 players and the method of draft will be determined by a committee consisting of the President, Vice-President for Softball Operations, the Softball Player Agent, and the major league coordinator. The number of players per team will be determined by the major league softball coordinator and the NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations.
 - a) The Softball Player Agent shall administer the tryout program and the draft. The Player Agent shall keep attendance records of those participating in the tryout.
 - 1) A player assigned to a major league roster for more than half the scheduled games for that team from the previous season is automatically eligible for the major league draft.
 - b) A player not already in the majors must attend at least one tryout session to be eligible for the draft, except a player need not try out if an option is available for that player and the manager has notified the Player Agent prior to the tryout of his intention to exercise that option.
 - c) The NCLL recommends that each team make every effort to have at least three, but not more than six, 11 year old players on the roster.
 - d) A 9 year old player must have previous experience at the minor league level or above to be eligible for the draft. A committee consisting of the Softball Player Agent, the Vice-President for Softball Operations, and the major league softball coordinator may designate a player age 10, 11 or 12 without minor league experience as eligible for the draft, so long as the player is deemed to be capable of playing with undue risk of injury to the player or to others.

- e) The NCLL may opt to utilize a blind draft whereby players of similar talent are assigned randomly to create teams of similar talent and strength.
 - f) After the tryouts, a committee consisting of the major league managers, major league coordinator, Softball Player Agent, and Vice-President for Softball Operations shall determine collectively which players will be promoted to the major league each season.
- B) Siblings of Players – If two or more siblings are subject to the draft and one is taken, the manager may immediately take an option on the other sibling. The league recommends that an effort be made by the managers to have siblings on the same team. Options must be taken in accordance with paragraph D.
- C) Children of Managers – If a conventional draft is held and manager has a child eligible for the draft and wishes to exercise a draft option, the Softball Player Agent must be notified prior to the draft of the manager's intention to exercise this option. If the manager so chooses, the option on a child may be waived. Options must be taken in accordance with paragraph D.
- D) Exercising Options – If a conventional draft is held, the Player Agent, through discussion with the managers, will determine the appropriate round in which an option must be exercised.
- E) Parents Named Managers – Parents of major league players who become managers may not automatically claim their children, but may trade for them at the proper time (See Trading).
- F) Trading – There will be no trading of players except in the case when a parent is named as the manager of a team after the teams have been established for the season and the manager's child is on the roster of another team. In that case, the parent may select the child, and the manager losing the player may select one player from the parent's team. This second player should be of equal age and ability as the player traded. In the event that a sponsor has a child playing on a team, the sponsor's child will not be subject to trade. All trades are subject to the approval of the Softball Player Agent.
- G) Permanent Vacancies During the Season – In accordance with Little League Baseball regulation III (d), when a permanent vacancy occurs during the playing season, the player selected to fill the permanent vacancy becomes a permanent member of that team; governed by the same regulations as all members of that team selected in the draft. A vacancy shall be determined to be a permanent vacancy when a player on the permanent roster is absent for more than one half of the regular season scheduled games. The player that previously filled the permanent roster slot must be released from the team for the remainder of the season.
- H) Temporary Vacancies During the Season – If a manager determines the team will not be able to maintain a full roster because players will be absent from games, the problem shall be brought to the attention of the Softball Player Agent. The vacancy shall be filled by allowing the manager to select a minor league player from a list provided by the Player Agent. Once the absent player is able to resume play, the Player Agent shall be notified by the manager, and the minor league player shall be returned to the same minor league team.
- a) A minor league player filling a temporary vacancy returns to their minor league roster after the completion of the game or duration of the temporary promotion.
 - b) The major league team shall have no permanent rights to the minor league player.
 - c) The Softball Player Agent shall ensure that the minor league player and that player's manager understand that the player is only temporarily filling the vacancy on the major league team if the vacancy is not a permanent vacancy.
 - d) If a major league player does not play in three consecutive games, for any reason, the manager must notify the Player Agent. The Softball Player Agent will notify the

Board of Directors, and the Board will take appropriate action. As a penalty for not notifying the Player Agent, according to this rule, the Board of Directors may recommend that the manager be suspended for at least one game.

- I) Eligibility to Fill Vacancies – If a vacancy occurs because a player is injured or quits before the first game of the season, the manager must select a replacement from the list of players who attended a the major league tryout session in either the Fall or Spring. If the vacancy occurs because a player is injured or quits after the season has started, the manager may select any minor league player deemed capable of playing by the Softball Player Agent.
- J) Ineligibility – If a player who tries out for the major league in either the Fall or Spring decides not to play at that level after being drafted, the player will return to the minor league and will not be eligible to play in the major league for the remainder of the season.
- K) Release – A committee consisting of the Softball Player Agent, major league softball coordinator, and NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations, must approve any release of a player, permanent or temporary, under Little League Baseball regulation III (e).
- L) Drafting 12 year old Players – All 12 year old players will be drafted.
 - a) If a random draft is conducted, the 12 year old players will be dispersed somewhat equally.

7.4. Filling Player Vacancies During the Season (Major League Softball)

- A) A major league manager who has a roster vacancy must contact the Softball Player Agent and major league softball coordinator for a list of minor league players who are considered to be ready to play in the major league. A list of at least five eligible players will be compiled by the first scheduled major league game, and this list will be maintained throughout the season.
- B) A vacancy which occurs before Opening Day can only be filled by a player who attended at least one major league tryout.
- C) After Opening Day, any eligible player on a minor league roster may be brought up to fill a vacancy; provided the Softball Player Agent deems them able to play at the major league level.
- D) Players may be called up on a short-term basis to ensure that major league teams have sufficient players to play games. These minor league players automatically return to their minor league rosters after the game.

7.5. Payment of Umpires (Major League Softball)

Payment for umpires for major league games will be determined by the Board of Directors.

7.6. Playoffs & Regular Season Standings Tie-Breakers (Major League Softball)

- A) All regular season games must be completed by the Saturday of the week before the playoffs are scheduled to begin. If any games are not completed by that time, it is up to the major league softball coordinator to determine whether a forfeit should be declared. If the coordinator has a conflict of interest, the NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations will make the determination. If the Vice-President also has a conflict, the President of the NCLL will make the determination.

- B) If two or more ties exist in the standings, then the ties will be broken as follows: ties for first place, then ties for second place, etc.
 - a) Head-to-head winning percentage. If more than two teams are involved in the tie, then the winning percentage against all other teams involved in the tie.
 - b) Winning percentage against other teams in the playoffs which are not involved in the tie.
 - c) Highest Number of Points: Points will be awarded for each victory with 1 point awarded for a win against the last place team, 2 points awarded for a win against the next to last place team, etc. If there are seven teams in the league, a team beating the first place team will earn 7 points.
- C) Playoffs
 - a) The first round of the playoffs will match the first place team against the fourth place team, and also match the second place team against the third place team.
 - b) The first round winners will meet for the championship.
 - c) All series are best 2 out of 3.
 - d) The highest seed is the home team in games 1 and 3 of each series. The other team is the home team for game 2.
 - e) All teams will choose among the available fields as their home site. The higher seeded team will have the first claim for each available field.
 - f) All NCLL post-season games will be continued on another day, if called due to darkness or inclement weather; unless one of the teams chooses to concede the game.

7.7. Manager Selection for Senior Game & Tournament Teams (Major League Softball)

- A) The manager of the NCLL team which finishes with the best record in the regular season (playoff and championship series games excluded) will have the first choice of managing a tournament team.
- B) The manager of the team that finishes second has the next option, and so on.
- C) In the event a tournament team manager is not selected as a result of the above process, then the NCLL Vice President for Softball Operations will appoint a manager.
- D) The manager of each tournament team may choose as many assistants as tournament rules permit.
- E) All of the managers will assist in managing the teams for the senior game. If more help is needed, coaches should be recruited.

7.8. Player Selection for Senior Game & Tournament Teams (Major League Softball)

- A) The major league softball coordinator will schedule a meeting of major league managers during the last week of the regular season for the purpose of selecting the tournament team. The NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations or NCLL President should attend this meeting, and all Board members are eligible to attend the balloting.
- B) At this meeting, managers will recommend players from their teams who should be given consideration for selection to the tournament team. Discussion is encouraged.
- C) The managers will determine the number of players on the roster. Players will be selected by a vote of the managers, who may vote for players, however, they cannot vote for any player from their own team. The players receiving the most votes will be selected. If there is a tie for the last spot, another vote will be taken to break the tie.

- a) If additional players are subsequently needed, players will be selected in accordance with the voting order with the player receiving the highest number of votes given the first opportunity to join the tournament team.
 - b) If a team has co-managers, only one set of votes may be cast per team.
- D) Tournament team votes should be counted immediately after they are cast, and the results announced to the team managers. If another vote is necessary to resolve a tie, it should be taken immediately.
- E) A meeting should be held before the first practice for all players and parents on the tournament team. At this meeting, tournament rules, especially those effecting playing time, should be explained. The manager should make clear to all present what kind of playing time can be expected in the tournament. Board members should be notified of this meeting and are encouraged to attend.
- F) Senior Game – At the conclusion of the regular season, the NCLL will schedule a softball game for all 12 year old players in the major and minor leagues. Major league managers will divide players into two teams of whatever size necessary to accommodate all eligible players.
- a) Eleven year old players may only be used to fill out the rosters if necessary.
 - b) The teams will play each other on the closing weekend of the regular season or as soon thereafter as possible.
 - c) All players will receive an acknowledgement of their participation to be determined by the Board.
 - d) Participation in the game will have no bearing on NCLL tournament teams.

8.

MINOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL

The goals of the minor softball league are to build upon the introduction to softball that players received in the T-Ball and intermediate leagues and prepare players for major league softball. This division of play is a non-competitive, developmental league which hopes to teach children more about the game in a fun-filled environment. With that in mind, the rules that will apply to this level of play are as follows:

8.1. NCLL Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (Minor League Softball)

- A. Getting Started – The home team will be responsible for setting up the field, but both should assist with the preparations and post game clean up. Before the opening game begins, both teams will gather around the pitcher’s mound while one member of the home team reads the Little League pledge.
- L) Time Limit – Games will consist of six full innings if time allows. Game duration is 90 minutes with no new inning allowed to begin after time has expired. Weeknight games will begin at 5:45 PM. If the home team is ahead after the 90 minute time limit has expired and the visiting team has completed their half of the inning, the game is officially considered over.
- B. Scoring – The score will be kept, and players will play their best in an attempt to win, but no league standings or statistics will be maintained. The emphasis is on player development rather than winning.
- C. Base Running

- a) There will be one extra base beyond the one to which the runner is headed if there is an overthrow which travels out of play.
- b) There will be no leading off the bases until the pitch reaches the plate.
- c) After half the season, base runners will be permitted to advance on wild pitches and passed balls. If the catcher blocks the pitch and keeps it within 10 feet of the plate, the runners will not be able to advance.
- d) Runners attempting to advance on a wild pitch or passed ball may not advance further on an overthrow.
- e) Runners must halt their progress when the ball is returned to the pitcher's circle. Those at least half way to the next base may continue at their own risk.
- f) Sliding is permitted, however, no head first sliding is allowed. A runner making such a slide is to be called out. This does not apply to players returning to a base.
- g) A runner involved in a collision with a defensive player at a base or home plate and who has not attempted to slide is to be called out.

D. Batting

- a) All players on the roster will be in the batting line-up. If a player arrives late, she will be inserted at the end of the line-up.
- b) Outs will be called on the base paths using the normal rules of softball. A player who is called out will return to the bench.
- c) Scoring Limit: Teams will be permitted to score five runs per inning. Once the fifth run has scored, the half inning is over. This scoring limit does not apply in the sixth inning.
- d) A base on balls will be awarded after four non-strikes are pitched.
- e) Bunting is permitted and encouraged.

E. Pitching

- a) The batting team will supply a coach to pitch the first inning, while a player on the defensive team may pitch the other five innings of the game. Managers may agree before the game to have more or less player pitch innings.
- b) A volunteer umpire appointed by the home team will call balls and strikes. A base on balls will be awarded after four non-strikes are pitched. A strikeout will consist of three strikes (either called or swinging).
- c) Pitching with windups is permitted; however, it should be discouraged if the pitchers cannot throw strikes.
- d) Pitchers may pitch no more than three innings per game or five innings per week.
- e) Coaches will take over pitching duties after five walks are given up in one inning. A player hit by pitch will be considered a walk. Player will remain in the pitcher's circle for defensive purposes.

F. Positions – Four outfielders, a catcher, four regular infielders, and a pitcher or “pitcher” for defensive purposes will be used for a total of ten positions.

- a) Outfielders will remain on the outfield grass or, when there is no dirt cutout, eight large steps beyond the base path until the ball is batted.
- b) Infielders and a pitcher or player fielding the pitching position while a coach pitches, will remain at the pitching rubber or beyond until the ball is batted.
- c) No more than ten defensive players should be on the field at one time.
- d) Managers should strive to give all players an opportunity to play a non-outfield position in the field for at least one inning of every game.
- e) Managers should strive to have players play various positions throughout the season.
- f) Pitchers may pitch no more than three innings per game or five innings per week.
- h) If a team has more than 10 players at the game, then the batting line-up will include everyone and free substitution will be permitted.

- i) Players may rotate sitting on the bench while the team is in the field. Health permitting, all players must play at least 3 innings in the field during a six inning game.
 - j) A team may play with fewer than 10 players present. If they have fewer than nine players at the game and the other team has extra players, then these players may play with the other team. A team may also call up intermediate level players for a game provided they are deemed capable of playing at the minor league level.
- G. Regular Balls – Regular 11 inch softballs will be used throughout the season.
- H. Benches – The bench areas should be as defined as possible and located a safe distance from the field of play. Spectators should also be located a safe distance from the field of play for safety reasons.
- I. No On-Deck Circle - Players should be instructed that bats are not to be touched without a coach's permission. There is no on-deck circle in Little League. This rule applies to both practice and games.
- J. Sportsmanship - Cheering will be of a positive nature only. There will be no taunting, name-calling, nor conduct which attempts to distract a member of the other team. There may be some long innings. This is an opportunity to teach players the values of patience and perseverance as well as the importance of encouraging teammates.
- K. Coaches on the Field – Coaches for the team in the field of play should remain in the dugout area during play but can enter the field of play for the purpose of instruction and keeping order during inactive periods between pitches.
- a) The batting team will have a coach pitcher for some games and coaches at first and third base.
 - b) One adult coach will be in charge of the bench area.
 - d) The home team is will assign one parent or coach to umpire home plate for the entire game. The visiting team will assign one parent or coach to umpire the bases for the entire game.
- L. Post-Game – Immediately following the game, both teams will line up and shake hands in the area around home plate. Both teams will assist in returning all equipment to the proper locations, raking the base paths, and disposing of any litter.
- M. As this is a non-competitive, developmental league, all players in the league, regardless of age, will be eligible to play any position – including pitcher. Managers should use good judgment not to place individuals in positions which would place them or other players at undue risk of injury.
- N. Disputes - All problems and disputes should be directed to the minor league softball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Softball Operations.
- 8.2. Tryouts & Player Draft (Minor League Softball)
- A) Those players who try out for the major league, but are not selected will be assigned to the minor league. Information regarding the skills of these players should be provided to the minor league softball coordinator.
 - B) A skills evaluation workshop should be held for all girls registering to play in the minor league. The minor league softball coordinator shall use these evaluations and information

available from the players' previous minor league and intermediate league managers to conduct a draft in which the players are randomly selected in an attempt to create competitive teams of equal talent.

- C) Try-Out for 7 and 8 year old Players – Those players who are 7 and 8 years old and have completed at least one season of intermediate level softball may try out for the minor league. In order to ensure the safety of the players and to assess the players' abilities, all 7 and 8 year old players trying out for the minors must be able to successfully complete this minimum skill set:
- a) Consistently, defined as 3 of 4 attempts, catch a popup tossed from a coach.
 - b) Consistently, defined as 3 of 4 attempts, field a routine ground ball and make a generally accurate throw to first base on the fly (no bounce).
 - c) Consistently, defined as 3 of 5 attempts, make solid contact with an accurately pitched ball from minor league regulation distance.

If unsuccessful in attempting to make the minors, the 7 and 8 year old players will be placed on intermediate level teams. Exceptions to this rule may be made only with the approval of the intermediate softball coordinator, the minor league softball coordinator, the Softball Player Agent, and the NCLL Vice-President for Softball Operations.

8.3. Manager Selection for All-Star Game (Minor League Softball)

All the minor league managers will work together to manage the teams assembled for the All-Star Game. The managers will determine the rules which will apply, and they may differ from those used during the regular season.

8.4. Player Selection for All-Star Game (Minor League Softball)

The minor league softball coordinator will organize a meeting of the managers to select the players for the All-Star game or otherwise establish a procedure for player selection which is agreeable to the managers.

- A) Each manager will determine which of their players should participate.
- B) Preference will be given to the older players who are most likely to be moving up to the major league the following season.
- C) The major league managers will be notified of the All-Star game in order to observe the players available in the next draft.

8.5 Player Selection for Tournament Teams

The minor league softball coordinator will organize a meeting of the managers to select the players for any Tournament Teams and to make recommendations to the coordinator as to the managers of those teams.

9. INTERMEDIATE SOFTBALL

The goal of the intermediate softball league is to build upon the introduction to baseball/softball that players received in the T-Ball League. This division of play is a non-competitive, developmental league which hopes to teach children more about the game in a fun-filled environment. With that in mind, the rules that will apply to this level of play are as follows:

9.1. NCLL Modifications to Official Regulations & Playing Rules (Intermediate Softball)

- A) Getting Started – The home team will be responsible for setting up the field. Before the game begins, both teams will gather around the pitcher’s mound while one member of the home team reads the Little League pledge.
- B) Time Limits – Games will consist of at least three full innings. Weeknight games will begin at 5:45 PM and end at 7:15 PM or dusk – whichever comes first. Each player on both teams will bat no more than once per inning. Weekend games should last no longer than 90 minutes.
- C) Scoring – No score will be kept.
- D) Base Running
 - a) There will be a one base limit (for the batter and base runners) on a ball hit in the infield.
 - b) If the ball is hit into the outfield on a fly, players may continue running until the ball is returned to the infield.
 - c) There will be no leading off bases, stealing bases, nor advancing on passed balls.
 - d) Sliding is permitted.
- E) Recording Outs – Outs will be called on the base paths using the normal rules of softball. A player who is called out will return to the bench. A team will bat until three outs are recorded or all batters have batted once. If three outs are recorded, the batting order continues from the point where the last out was made. The last player up each inning will try to hit a “home run” and continue running until scoring or being tagged out.
- F) Pitching – Coaches will pitch to their players from an appropriate distance.
 - a) There are no walks.
 - b) After seven good pitches, the batter will be called out on strikes (determined by the batter’s coach). Strikeouts count toward the three outs in any given inning. The use of a batting tee is acceptable if it is determined by the batter’s coach to be in the best interest of the player’s development.
- G) Positions – There will be four outfielders, a catcher, four regular infielders, and a “pitcher” for defensive purposes for a total of ten positions. No more than ten players should be on the field at one time.
 - a) Outfielders will remain on the outfield grass or eight steps beyond the base path until the ball is batted.
 - b) Infielders will remain no closer to the batter than two steps in front of the base path until the ball is batted.
 - c) The “pitcher” will begin the play beyond the pitching rubber. There can be only one pitcher.
 - d) Players will be rotated through all positions and none should play the same position two innings in a row.
 - e) Players are encouraged, but not required to play catcher.
 - f) No player will play in the outfield more than one inning of a three inning game or more than two innings in a four or more inning game.
 - g) No player should play the same position twice in one game. Ideally, all players will play every position at least once every three or four games.
 - h) Free substitution is permitted as the batting line-up will include all players on the roster.
 - i) Players will rotate sitting on the bench while the team is in the field and no player will sit more than one inning per game.
 - j) A team may play with fewer than ten players present.
- H. Soft Balls – 11 inch Soft practice balls will be used all season long.

- I. Benches – The bench areas should be as defined as possible and kept as far back from the field of play as possible. Spectators should also be encouraged to stay back from the field for safety reasons.
- J. No On-Deck Circle - Players should be instructed that bats are not to be touched without a coach's permission. There is no on-deck circle in Little League. This applies to both practice and during games.
- K. Sportsmanship – Cheering will be of a positive nature only. There will be no taunting, name-calling, nor conduct which attempts to distract a member of the other team. There may be some long at-bats. This is an opportunity to teach players the values of patience and encouragement of teammates, as well as perseverance.
- L. Coaches on the Field – Up to three coaches for the team in the field may be on the field during play for the purpose of instruction and keeping order.
 - a) The coaches for the fielding team should be located behind home plate and in the outfield.
 - b) The batting team will have a pitcher and coaches at first and third base.
 - c) The coaches on the field will act as umpires for all plays on the bases. One adult coach will be in charge of the bench area.
- M. Post-Game – Immediately following the game, both teams will line up and shake hands in the area around home plate. Both teams will assist in returning all equipment to the proper locations and in disposing of any litter.
- N. Disputes – All problems and disputes should be directed to the intermediate softball coordinator for resolution. If the coordinator is involved in the dispute, it should be directed to the Vice-President for Softball Operations.

9.2. Roster Selection (Intermediate Softball)

The league coordinator may hold a pre-season player evaluation workshop. Regardless of whether a workshop is held, the league coordinator will attempt to create competitive teams of equal talent.

Players will be notified by their coach concerning practice times, field maintenance dates, the schedule, and additional relevant information. The schedule will consist of one or two games per week. Should a team have only one game in a particular week, they may meet on another day for practice.