



BENNETT'S CREEK LITTLE LEAGUE
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BCLL Bylaws – Updated March 2016

These Bylaws are applicable to all levels of baseball and softball unless specifically stated otherwise. NO LOCAL RULES established by Bennett's Creek Little League are to supersede Little League International, Inc. rules.

Administration

1. Managers and Coaches

- A. The Board shall ensure that Managers and coaches have been thoroughly reviewed and understand the Managers/Coaches Code of Conduct form and responsibilities. **MANAGER APPLICATION AND BACKGROUND CHECK ARE REQUIRED PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT OF ANY MANAGER OR ASSISTANT COACH.**
- B. Managers shall attend a mandatory League Orientation. The Board shall ensure that Managers are familiar with Little League Rules, Bennett's Creek Little League rules and policies by providing Official Little League Rule Books, and Bennett's Creek Little League Bylaws, as well as providing classes on training and safety.
- C. All Managers shall attend the scheduled mandatory Safety Clinic.
- D. All Managers must provide the Player Agent with their official Coaches of Record (up to 2) no later than 10 days before the first scheduled game of the season.
- E. The Manager shall conduct a mandatory meeting of all players and parents prior to the first practice to ensure completion of all medical forms, discussion of safety rules, and coverage of general guidelines for play at BCLL. Throughout the season, Managers are responsible for keeping parents informed of meetings, picture dates, Opening Day ceremonies, fund-raisers, Concession Stand duties, and ensuring that their side of the field is cleaned up after each game. Each Manager may set up their own communications plan for parents and players at the team parent meeting.

- F. Managers shall provide each parent and child the Bennett's Creek Little League Code of Conduct. He/She shall stress to both parents and players the importance of following the Code of Conduct.
- G. The Manager must report to the Player Agent any player who misses three pre-season practices without informing the Manager. The Player Agent shall investigate and may replace the player if the situation warrants.
- H. The Manager will immediately notify the Player Agent of any player who has moved out of league boundaries, has quit or who has suffered injuries that may cause the player to miss three or more consecutively scheduled games. The Player Agent will determine whether such player will be replaced on the roster based on consideration of Little League Rules, replacement player availability, point in the season when the vacancy occurred, and other relevant factors.
- I. During the preseason, except in extenuating circumstances, BCLL teams shall practice no less than two (2) times a week. During regular season, except in extenuating circumstances, BCLL teams shall meet no more than five (5) times per week (including practices and games). This rule applies for both spring and fall seasons.
- J. Managers are responsible for scheduling concession workers and ensuring their timely attendance as requested by the Director of Operations. Concessions are a vital part of our League's operating budget. Failure to cover a scheduled concession stand duty will result in a forfeit of that day's game. In the event the team is scheduled on a non-game day, the forfeit will be enforced at the next regularly scheduled game. (Note: Driver concession shifts require a minimum of 4 persons on week nights & 6 on weekends.)
- K. Managers shall ensure that field lighting is extinguished following practice and games and not later than 10:30 PM each night.
- L. It the Manager's responsibility to ensure that the field is ready for play prior to game time. Typically the home team sets up the field and the visiting team puts away the bases and rakes the field after the game. However, it is highly recommended that both teams work together before and after the game to accomplish these tasks. The Manager may ask for a team parent to help take on the responsibilities.
- M. Equipment must be properly cared for during the season. The Manager must return issued equipment to the Equipment Director in a timely manner at the conclusion of the season. Additionally, Managers will be asked to make recommendations for equipment replacement.
- N. If a Manager finds that he/she is unable to fulfill the Manager commitment, the Baseball or Softball Commissioner must be notified immediately. The Commissioner shall inform the Player Agent, Vice President and President for replacement.

- O. Interleague rules will be established at the beginning of each season and provided to the managers by the division Commissioner. Interleague rules will also be posted on the Virginia District 6 website.

2. Registration

- A. Registration will be performed online during the time period set forth by the Board of Directors.
- B. Cost for registration will be determined on a yearly basis. Late fees will apply after the last regularly scheduled announced registration day.
- C. All new and returning players must provide a copy of their birth certificate, 3 proofs of residency and a medical release form before taking the field. Once this information has been verified, a player will not need to supply this documentation unless where needed for All-Stars requirements.
- D. All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to the League via email or regular mail. The Board of Directors will consider each request on an individual basis.

3. Player Eligibility, Tryouts, and Player Evaluation

- A. Player eligibility for each division is as follows:
 - a. Minor Division: Age 8-11 (Younger players may be eligible based on player evaluation)
 - b. Major Division: Age 9-12
 - c. Junior Division: Age 13-14
 - d. Senior Division: Age 15-16
- B. All Minor division players and new Major division players are required to attend tryouts to be held in accordance with the Little League Operating Manual. Returning Major and Jr/Sr division players are not required to tryout unless they submit a letter stating that they wish to be released from their current team and desire to be re-drafted. Managers will make the determination whether or not a player is to be drafted to a specific division based on player evaluations at tryouts. If a Manager cannot attend tryouts, he/she must have one of the team coaches attend. Team coaches are welcome to attend with the Manager if the Manager chooses.
- C. Player evaluations will be made in accordance with the Little League Operating Manual.

4. Draft Policy and Player Assignments

- A. T-Ball and Coach Pitch division teams will be drafted via a blind draft conducted by the Player Agent.
- B. Minor and Major division player drafts will be conducted in accordance with Little League Operating Manual. Modifications may be made by the Player Agent to accommodate special circumstances.
- C. Returning Major division players will be automatically placed on their previous team, unless that player submits a release request as stated in 3.B. above. If the returning Major players result in unbalanced rosters, each Manager who requires additional players to complete their initial roster will be allowed a bonus pick(s) prior to the first round of the draft. The order of rotation for bonus picks will be identical to that being followed in the draft.
- D. At Player Agent discretion, Minor and Major division Managers are permitted to name one Assistant Coach prior to the draft.
- E. Only the Managers of the division teams are permitted to attend that division's draft. If the Manager is unable to attend, the designated Assistant Coach may attend in his/her place, with prior approval from the Player Agent.
- F. If the Manager and/or Assistant Coach has sons or daughters eligible for the draft, he or she must submit the Draft Option to the Player Agent no later than 48 hours prior to the draft, in accordance with the Little League Operating Manual. The Manager/Assistant Coach is then required to exercise that option prior to the close of the appropriate draft round, based on the player's league age. See the Little League Operating Manual for additional information regarding Draft Options.
- G. All draft information is confidential in nature; particularly information regarding player evaluation ranking and player draft selection round.
- H. No Manager shall release team assignment information until a time determined by the Player Agent.
- I. No player will be placed on a team by a Manager or a coach. All placements, including late registrations and mid-season replacements, must be facilitated by the Player Agent.
- J. In the event of a potential "call up", Player Agents will contact the parent and player confidentially to determine whether or not a player will accept the "call up". All Managers in the affected Division will be notified of potential player movement. Player names and specific teams will not be announced. Should a player need to be moved up from a lower division, Managers and coaches shall do everything possible to encourage the player to move up. Managers/coaches who interact with a player or parent with the intent of discouraging a player from moving up shall immediately be suspended from his/her position pending Board

review of the situation. No players will be called up for any reason during the last 14 days of the season.

5. Chain of Responsibility

The administrative chain of responsibility shall be followed by all parties and enforced by Board and league personnel. This chain begins with the team Managers and is as follows: Manager, League Commissioner, Vice President, and President. (Note: No decisions will be made without board approval unless deemed necessary by the League President)

Batting Cages

1. Batting cage sessions shall be from 4:00 - 8:00 PM on weeknights, and beginning at 8:00 AM on Saturdays.
2. Rain-outs of batting cage reservations shall not be rescheduled.
3. Once regular season play begins, both baseball and softball teams will be permitted one reserved hour per week in the batting cages. Only one team per cage is permitted. Reservations are made in the book kept in the maintenance storage container. Reservations shall be made no more than one week in advance.
4. Different pitching machines are provided for baseball and softball practice in batting cages and shall be used accordingly.
5. A Coach or Manager shall supervise the use of the batting cage at all times. Children under the age of sixteen shall not be permitted to operate the pitching machine at any time.
6. Any player using the batting cage shall wear an approved batting helmet.
7. Batting cages are provided for batting practice only. No pitcher warm-up or other activities are permitted.
8. No more than two persons (batter and pitcher) shall be allowed in the batting cage while balls are being pitched.
9. T-Ball players are not permitted in the batting cages.
10. Batting cages will not be used by a team while that team is playing a game.

Clean-Up and Game Preliminaries

1. The Manager of the home team is responsible for having the field ready for play no less than 30 minutes prior to game time. If the field is not ready, the home team will lose the opportunity for infield practice.

2. The Manager of the home team shall bring at least two new balls to be used as game balls.
3. Both Managers are responsible for the policing of their teams' dugouts, stands, and adjacent areas immediately following each game.
4. After the completion of every game, the Managers of the visiting team shall ensure that the field is thoroughly raked and scoreboard equipment is returned to the board room/concession stand and scoreboard is turned off. Scoreboard equipment can only be checked out by Managers and coaches. Please do not allow parents or children to remove equipment from the board room/concession stand.
5. The Manager of the home team shall ensure that the trash receptacles are emptied on both sides of the field.
6. Both Managers will ensure their dugouts are clean prior to leaving the field area.
7. For interleague team games at DES/JYMS, the BCLL team is responsible for both home and visitor duties. For "away" games, the BCLL Manager shall ensure the dugout is cleaned out, bleacher area on the visitor's side is free of trash, and offer to assist the home team in raking the field, etc.
8. Teams who fail to uphold their field preparation and/or clean-up duties may be forfeited one game.

Discipline

1. Misconduct by players, managers, coaches, board members, staff and/or spectators, at any time while in the BCLL complex, will be reported to the Board of Directors for possible disciplinary action.
2. If an individual is ejected by an umpire or a board member, the ejected person shall immediately leave the field. **Little League Rule 4.07 states "When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled."** Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next scheduled game and may not attend or be physically present at the BCLL complex. This includes the game of another child or sibling as applicable.
3. A second incident of ejection during one season shall be cause for indefinite suspension of the manager, coach, player or spectator, until such action is reviewed by the Board of Directors and a definite penalty is defined and imposed.
4. The Board of Directors shall review all incidents of ejection. The Board will not review the imposed suspension, which is automatic and irrevocable (Little League rule 4.07). All involved parties may be asked to present information if a consideration of further disciplinary action by the Board is needed on a case-by-

case basis. The review is for the determination of additional sanctions regarding an incident and for investigation of preventive measure for future incidents.

5. Managers are responsible for actions and behavior of their players, coaches, and spectators. Arguing with or harassing an umpire shall be grounds for immediate ejection from the League's complex.
6. Physical confrontations with an umpire or league official will result in an immediate, indefinite suspension of the manager, coach, player, or spectator, until such action is reviewed by the Board and a definite penalty is defined and imposed. Physical confrontation is defined as not only hitting or striking the person of the umpire or league official, but also throwing objects at or toward the individual, spitting, interfering with passage, and/or assaults via derogatory or abusive language, or other actions deemed serious and inappropriate by the Board of Directors.
7. Managers have the right to discipline their players for missing practice, tardiness or disruptive behavior. Disciplinary action may include benching a player or referring the situation to the Board of Directors. If the action is benching a player, the Commissioner should be notified as well as the Manager of the opposing team prior to the start of the game.

Safety

1. BCLL appoints a Safety Officer each year who shall be introduced at the Managers/Coaches league orientation. All accidents must be reported to the Safety Officer.
2. All Managers shall attend the scheduled mandatory Safety Clinic, and follow safety checklist per Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules Book.
3. Managers will ensure that properly signed medical release forms are at each practice and game.
4. For any injury during practices or games that require medical attention, report to the Safety Officer with the completed insurance form (kept in the Concession Stand), and the Safety Officer will then take appropriate action.
5. Any player requiring doctor's care that causes the player to be unable to play shall produce a signed release before participating in practices or games.
6. Practices and games shall be cancelled if there is any question of safety due to weather or other factors. The League Safety Officer and Commissioners will make this determination and will call the Managers.
7. Any Manager during practice or game shall have full authority and responsibility for safety matters on that field and adjacent areas.

8. Coaches shall not warm-up pitchers during official games. This is due to Little League policies and safety regulations. If a Coach is injured while warming up a pitcher during practices or games they will not be covered by the Little League Insurance Policy.
9. Any player in a squatted position behind the plate, whether on a field or in a bullpen, shall wear a complete set of catchers protective equipment. If warming up a pitcher in a non-squatted position, a child must wear a protective face mask.
10. All players swinging a bat during warm-ups, at practices, or prior to games, etc., shall wear an approved batting helmet.
11. Bandannas and other such accessories shall not be worn under the baseball cap, visor or batting helmet. If it is necessary that a hat be worn under a batting helmet, it shall be worn in the normal, i.e., bill to the front fashion.
12. No earrings or other cosmetic jewelry shall be worn during practices or game play.
13. Any and all pets are prohibited from the BCLL complex at all times, with the exception of service animals with proper endorsements.
14. Bicycles, unicycles and all other wheeled vehicles powered or un-powered, are prohibited from the BCLL complex at all times during the playing season. Wheelchairs and similar medical appliances, along with vehicles used for BCLL business, are excluded from this prohibition.
15. Children under the age of 16 shall not be permitted inside the concession stand or any other area where cooking or any other food preparation is in progress.
16. Children under the age of 16 shall not be permitted to operate lawn mowers or any other power equipment including pitching machines in the BCLL complex.
17. Children under the age of 16 shall not operate lights, scoreboards, public address systems or any other electrical or electronic equipment within the BCLL complex, unless under the immediate supervision of an adult.
18. Climbing of fences and backstops and sitting atop dugouts is prohibited.
19. Only Little League approved equipment, bearing appropriate certification labels, shall be used in practices and during game play.
20. There shall be no on-deck circle and no batter warm-up (including soft toss).
21. Throwing of rocks, dirt clods, etc., is prohibited in the BCLL complex at all times.
22. Throwing, pitching, and batting will be confined to the playing fields, bullpens, and batting cages built for those purposes. Throwing, pitching and battings are prohibited in common areas of the BCLL complex, especially around the

concession stand and in the roadway between the fields. NO SOFT TOSS IS ALLOWED INTO ANY OF THE FENCES!!

23. Parking will be in designated areas only. Do not park in handicap spaces unless you have a state issued permit. Do not park in or along the tree lines surrounding the BCLL facility.
24. Routes for emergency vehicle access to the field will be kept clear at all times. Access to the driveway on the north side of the field shall also be kept clear.
25. The use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes/vaping are not permitted within the BCLL complex or parking lots.

Schedules

1. The division Commissioner is responsible for the development and modification of the League's practice and game schedules. Managers may not make any changes to the schedules unless it has been approved by the division Commissioner and communicated to all of the division Managers.
2. Make-up games may be scheduled for the first available Friday evening or Sunday afternoon following the rainout. (Games on Fridays will usually be played at 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM and Sundays will be played at 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM).
3. Saturday game schedules will commence no earlier than 9:00 AM.
4. Weeknight games will begin no earlier than 6:00 PM. When necessary, second games can be scheduled to begin at 8:30 PM unless make-up games are schedule for Friday night, at which time these would be played at 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM (Time limit is in affect)
5. Interleague games may be scheduled as approved by VA District 6.
6. Official school functions will be the only justification for rescheduling a game, in which case 48 hours advance notice shall be given to the division commissioner. All rainouts and rescheduled games should be played on the first available Friday or Sunday. Junior and Senior League games may be rescheduled for any convenient day and time.
7. A post season tournament may be held upon mutual agreement between the division Managers and the commissioner and approval of the Board. The decision to hold a tournament shall be made prior to the first game of the regular season. The tournament format shall be single elimination with team seeding based on regular season BCLL division win/loss records (interleague results shall be omitted). The T-ball division shall not hold a tournament, per Little League rules.

Length of Games

1. T-ball games are three innings in length and shall not exceed 90 minutes.

2. For Coach Pitch Baseball games, there shall be a time limit of 1 hour and 40 minutes, with no new inning starting after the 1 hour and 30 minute time. Home team has the official score book and will register the official start time
3. Minor League Baseball, and Minor League Softball games are scheduled for six innings, but are considered to be official games after four innings are completed. Extra innings shall not be played. No new inning shall be started after 1 hour and 40 minutes have elapsed from the official starting time of the game. The inning in progress at 1 hour and 40 minutes from the official starting time shall be completed.
4. For Coach Pitch, Minor League Baseball, and Minor League Softball, a half-inning is completed when the defense makes three outs or the offense scores three runs. However, a final inning of play that includes unlimited runs is allowed provided it begins prior to 1 hour and 40 minutes of elapsed time (1 hour and 30 minutes for Coach Pitch) from the official starting time of the game. This “unlimited” inning will be completed only when the defense(s) makes three outs or either team obtains a lead of 10 runs or more. Managers should collaborate to ensure that the “unlimited” inning is started prior to 1 hour and 40 minutes of elapsed time (1 hour and 30 minutes for Coach Pitch) from the official starting time of the game.
5. All Major League and above baseball and softball games shall be played through six innings. If a game is tied at the end of six innings it will be played until a winner is determined on the field of play, except for the first game on weeknights with multiple games. In that case, the first game shall be played through six innings or to the point that no new inning shall be started after 1 hour and 40 minutes have elapsed from the official starting time of the game. On weeknights with multiple games, the second Major League Baseball shall have a time limit of 1 hour and 40 minutes and no new inning shall start after 10:00 PM.

All-Star Procedures

1. Little League gives the local Board of Directors the authority to determine the best All-Star selection process for their league.
2. All-Star team Managers will be selected by all Major and Minor division Managers in a closed meeting with the Player Agent and President. If agreement cannot be made among these individuals, the player vote, from Major division and Minor division players only, will be in effect. This vote will be used for a tie breaker situation. The player vote is confidential and is delegated through the Player Agent and President only. Jr./Sr. divisions will follow the same procedure. The Board of Directors will be advised and make the final determination. **NO MANAGER WILL BE SELECTED BASED ON TENURE.**
3. The regular season division Managers will select the players, by a confidential vote through the Player Agent, that will field the 9/10, 11/12 and Jr/Sr All-Star tournament teams. This selection will be based on eligibility, performance throughout the season, statistics, positions critical for tournament play (catchers

and pitchers) and overall contribution to the team. Teams must field at least 11 players. Managers are not required to vote for a minimum number of players but must not exceed 11 players. The Player Agent and President will act as mediator to ensure fairness to all players and help resolve any conflict that may arise.

4. Tied votes or players without majority vote: It is the All-Star team Manager's decision to finalize roster and determine if a player who did not receive a majority vote or tied vote meets the qualifications for the All-Star team. No player will be selected that does not receive at least half of the division Managers' votes. 9/10 year olds will not automatically be selected for the All-star team due to major division status. Player selection for the 9/10 team will be from both the minor and major division and will be based on eligibility defined by Little League and criteria above. In the event that a division has only two regular season Managers, one assistant coach from each team will participate in the voting process.
5. Release of names before June 15 or 2 weeks prior to the first tournament game is in violation of Little League rules and may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.
6. **Participation in the All-Star tournament teams does require a fee and tournament rules and regulation are in affect. Once selected, more information will be available to players.**