

Hedgesville Little League Local By-Laws and Amendments

SECTION 1 Registration: Hedgesville Little League, hereby known through this document as HLL, is open to any child between the ages of 4-16 in both baseball and softball. Registration dates will be established by the Board of Directors, hereby known through this document as BOD, usually in November of the following year. Example: HLL BOD will set 2023 registration dates in November of 2022. The BOD will establish dates, fees, and all information pertaining to registration. The BOD reserves the right to change the dates and fees of registration on a year-to-year basis. There will be no refunds given after March 1st.

SECTION 2 Placing a Player Back in The Draft: If a player is requesting to be placed back in the draft, the following guidelines will apply:

A. On or before February 1, a written letter must be sent to the HLL BOD requesting the player be placed back into the draft. This letter must contain player's name, age, prior year's team, and reason for the request. In addition, the request must specify the critical reasons that the player should not continue with their current team. Playing time cited in the request is not considered a critical reason for returning to the draft.

B. Parent/Guardian must appear at the BOD meeting prior to the try-out dates to address critical reasons and to answer questions by the Board Members concerning the request.

C. A vote by the BOD will be immediately taken, and the parent/guardian will be informed of the Board's decision within 24 hours.

D. If the player is approved by the Board to return to the draft, this player forfeits their Little League eligibility, and the following will apply:

1. Player must attend 1 (Regulation IV F) of the scheduled try-out dates in March.
2. Player could be drafted back onto the same team.
3. Consequently, if a player is not drafted onto a LL team, he/she will return to the Minor League Division.

E. If a player is on a team roster for 50% or more of the season, that player will not be permitted to go back into the draft for the following season unless the proper guidelines are followed as outlined in the above paragraphs. If that player quits and still intends to play the following season, and the parents do not write the requested letter by the due date, that player will remain on the same Little League team.

SECTION 3 Manager Selection: Any person who would like to become a manager must complete their application to HLL prior to the deadline of February 1st of the current year. This can be done by filling out a volunteer form online. Spring Season Managers are selected by the League President and submitted to the HLL BOD. For divisions of major and above, managers

will be voted on individually by the BOD for approval. Consideration will be given to the following and in no particular order:

1. Ability to work with assistant coaches
2. Attitude
3. Baseball knowledge
4. Interview with BOD if President deems necessary
5. Conduct
6. Ejection reports
7. Excellent role model for players
8. High level of integrity in front of players

The BOD will vote on the Managers, and selection decisions will be posted on the HLL website within 24 hours of the Board's decision.

SECTION 4 Manager Expectations: Only the manager and coaches that have gone through the background check process with approval and are approved by the HLL Board of Directors shall occupy the bench or dugout. One (1) adult must be in the dugout at all times. Scorekeeper/Pitch Counter can be outside the dugout but must be located immediately beside the dugout.

All managers and coaches are required to umpire at least six (6) games during the season, Major and above, to remain eligible to manage or coach with HLL. No one (1) manager or coach may umpire the required minimum games for any other manager or coach. Each manager/coach is responsible for their own six (6) minimum games.

All managers are required to keep a written account of manager, coach, and player attendance for all games via a scorebook or an electronic format. This requirement applies to AAA and above (for baseball) and Minor League and above (for softball).

SECTION 5 Manager Code of Conduct: Each Manager, coach, and parent or guardian will sign a Code of Conduct agreement during registration. In addition, the parent or guardian will relay these expectations to any family members or friends who also attend games. Each spectator at HLL is solely responsible for his/her conduct at the facilities during games and practices. Violation of the code of conduct, which includes public displays of obscene or vulgar language, and disruptive behavior, will result in the immediate removal of those persons involved. The Board Member on duty during a game will ask the violator to leave or will telephone the police to have the violator escorted from the facility. The BOD will be informed of any such activity. Any further violations of this rule could lead to suspension from the facility at the Board of Directors' discretion.

Failure on the part of a manager or coach to comply with any of the Little League International and HLL rules will result in the following action being taken by the Board of Directors:

A. First Offense: A written warning will be issued and documented to the manager/coach by the BOD, respective division VP, or Manager's Committee.

B. Second Offense: The manager/coach will be immediately suspended from the next game played by his/her team. During the suspension, the manager/coach will be barred from all HLL facilities, even as a spectator, during their team's game.

C. Third Offense: The manager/coach will be suspended for the remainder of the season and barred from all HLL facilities.

For any offenses, the violation will be documented by the Board Member on duty, (kept by the home team), and the manager or coach may be required to meet with the Manager's Committee and/or HLL BOD.

No tobacco or alcohol products of any type or in any form shall be permitted on any part of the facilities; dugouts, practice fields, game fields, stands, concession area, etc. (There is a designated smoking area located behind the main Little League concession stand next to the road.) This rule is not only an HLL rule, but also a Berkeley County School rule. It is in effect, for managers, coaches, players, umpires, and spectators. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages or illegal substances will be allowed on HLL property. Violators will be asked to leave the premises by the Board Member on duty. If a manager, coach, or player is removed for violation of this rule, they will remain suspended until a meeting of the BOD is held and the consequences addressed.

SECTION 6 Playing Rules: During regular season and tournament play, no practice shall last more than 3 hours or exceed a curfew, whichever comes first. Curfew times are as follows: 10:00 pm for Majors and below, 10:30 pm for Junior, and 11:00 pm for Senior League. Under no circumstances will there be any exceptions to this rule.

For regular season only, Major division and above are permitted only four (4) events per week, and Minor divisions and below are permitted only three (3) events per week. An event is defined as a game or practice. The week begins on Sunday and ends on Saturday. Managers are strongly encouraged to have three (3) events per week in Majors and above. When two games are scheduled on the same field, no inning will begin after 7:30 pm for the first game. The second game will begin immediately after the first game is ended. During the second game, no new inning will start after 10 pm. Refer to Inter-League rules for other Divisions. Under no circumstances, will there be any exceptions to this rule.

(Rule 4.10 e) If after three (3) innings (Intermediate (50/70), Junior, Senior Leagues-four innings) one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, if after four (4) innings (Intermediate (50/70), Junior, Senior Leagues-five (5) innings) one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, and eight (8) runs after (5) five innings. The manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. Under no circumstances will there be any exceptions to this rule.

Baseball only: All HLL baseball teams will use the pitching affidavit to determine pitcher eligibility and enforcement of Little League pitching rules. The date of game, number of

pitches thrown, pitcher's name, uniform number, pitcher's league age, and next date eligible to pitch shall be recorded for each game. The affidavit is to be signed in ink by the game's opposing team manager and the umpire. The pitching affidavit form shall be continuous for the season.

In accordance with Rule 4.16(a), HLL will allow teams to start a game with eight (8) players, but the game also must be finished with eight (8) players.

SECTION 7 Player Selection: The player selection process will be made using the following Little League International methods, all based on complete registration numbers:

A. If the number of teams remains the same as the previous season, **Plan A** – Conventional Draft Plan will be used (Found under Policies Local League Draft Methods). When a thorough tryout program has been completed, the last-place team of the preceding season gets the first choice in every round of the draft, the next-to-last-place team gets the second selection in every round, and the remaining teams select in the reverse order of standing.

B. If an additional team is to be added, increasing the number of teams from previous season, Expansion – Option Three will be used:(Found under Policies Local League Maintenance of Rosters). This plan provides the most favorable competitive balance between existing teams at the Major League level over Options One and Two when a local league expands its Major League to provide additional opportunity for more candidates to participate at the Major League level. Plan Three incorporates many basic features of a plan used successfully in professional baseball. This plan has every existing team placing players in a player pool from which the new expansion teams will draft players in a preliminary draft. The Player Pool Procedure listed in the Little League Rule Book will be followed. Once a single team has three players selected in the expansion draft, the remaining players in the pool from that team are no longer eligible to be selected.

C. If a team needs to be removed, decreasing the number of teams from previous season, Reduction – Option B will be used:(Found under Policies Local League Maintenance of Rosters) If the number of teams is to be reduced at the Major League level, the Board of Directors decides which team is to be deleted from the division. All current Major League players affected must be reassigned to a Major League team by using Method B: Through a regular draft wherein, if several returning Major League players have not been drafted by the time the same number of draft picks remain, those returning players must be the only players eligible from that point forward in the draft.

1. Player's league age of 11 will be drafted to a major league division.
2. Exception to this rule will be that if the player poses a safety risk to themselves, their skill levels are not at a safe development to play in this division.
3. This is not for the managers to say they don't want to draft a League age 11-year-old.

4. To be determined to be a safety risk, the managers must bring it to the League Player Agent, the Director of baseball/softball, and the President immediately after the evaluation. This will then be discussed among the managers, League Player Agent, Director of baseball/softball, and the President. If it is determined that there is a safety concern, the child will then be placed in the minor league.
5. The league President, managers, and player-agent will be the only ones allowed in the draft room.

If a player quits during the season, the player will lose Little League eligibility. The player is not eligible to return to that team or any other team for the remainder of that season and will not be considered for All-Star Selection. Any player(s) suspended or expelled from a Berkeley County School is eligible to participate in any HLL event.

SECTION 9 Board Members: Being a board member requires a great deal of additional time and effort and is not to be used just as a means for voting. Each board member must attend at least eight (8) meetings during the fiscal year beginning on October 1. In a case of work or a family emergency, this will not count towards an absence if the President is notified prior to the meeting. If a board member fails to attend the number of required meetings, they can be removed from the board with a 2/3 vote of current board members.

Each board member must perform three (3) nights and one (1) weekend per month during the season. Members who work high school games will not have their time counted towards their HLL board duties.

Each board member must participate in league-wide fundraising activities, clean-up days at the beginning and end of the season, league-hosted tournaments, and in-person registration and evaluations.

Failure to meet a board member's minimum requirements throughout the season will make the person ineligible to be a board member the following year.

SECTION 10 All-Star Code of Conduct: Selection to an All-Star team requires a strong desire and commitment from the managers, coaches, players selected, and parents/guardians. This commitment is both a time commitment and a financial one. Once selected for the All-Star team, the HLL BOD expects all managers, coaches, and players to attend all scheduled practices and games. The Board also expects all managers, coaches, players, and parents to conduct themselves professionally according to the All-Star code of conduct form that will be signed during All-Star registration. In addition, each person must represent HLL professionally and respectfully while traveling to other facilities during the All-Star season.

SECTION 11 All-Star Manager Selection: For all Managers and Coaches to be eligible for selection as an All-Star Manager, all the following must apply:

- A. Must have umpired at least six games at major league and above.
- B. All debts must be paid to the HLL prior to the All-Star application date.
- C. Must have attended 75% of their regular season games
- D. Must make an application to BOD prior to the deadline of May 1st.

All-Star Managers will be voted upon and selected by the HLL BOD. Assistant Coaches will be chosen by the team's respective managers and approved by the BOD. Anyone may apply for an All-Star manager/coach position, but consideration will be given to the following in no particular order:

- A. Ability to work with assistant coaches
- B. Anticipated absences during the All-Star season
- C. Attitude
- D. Softball/Baseball knowledge
- E. Board of Director's interview
- F. Conduct
- G. Ejection reports
- H. End-of-season evaluations
- I. Excellent role model for players
- J. High level of integrity in front of players
- K. Number of games attended during the regular season
- L. Number of practices held and attended during the regular season
- M. Position with regular season team
- N. Win/loss record

All applicants will be provided a set time to appear before the BOD for an informal interview process, at which time both applicants and members can ask questions. Then, the BOD will vote on the Managers, and selection decisions will be posted on the HLL website within 24 hours of the BOD decision.

Any team wishing to have an all-star team mom must submit their request to the Board of Directors prior to the first all-star practice. The team mom will be responsible for various duties including, but not limited to, ensuring meals are coordinated with the team, uniforms are clean, collecting all monies from fundraisers, and giving it to the HLL BOD. In addition, the team mom must accompany the team during all team activities. Any team mom not fulfilling their responsibilities may be removed to include follow-up from the BOD.

SECTION 12 All-Star Player Selection: Players must turn in their all-star commitment form by the May 15th deadline

A. The All-Star player selection will be made as follows: a combined player vote to serve as one vote. The player must receive a minimum of 50% of the votes to be counted as one vote, and each Division Team Manager to serve as one vote each. If a Team Manager cannot be present for the vote, one of the Team's Coaches will take the Manager's place during the voting.

B. The All-Star Manager will have the option of picking the last one, two, or three players for the team. The Manager must declare at the beginning of the vote how many players he will be selecting. Eleven players will require an approved waiver by the District 6 Administrator.

C. For HLL divisions, 12-year-olds will vote only for 12-year old's, 11-year old's will only vote for 11-year-olds, and 9 & 10 year old's will only vote for 9 & 10-year-olds.

Voting is strictly confidential and not to be discussed outside the voting room. The only persons who will be in the voting room are the voting Managers, Player Agent, and HLL President.

If a person present in the voting room has a child eligible for All-Star selection, that person will step outside for any discussions pertaining to that child.

SECTION 13 All-Star Fundraising: All funds raised (cash & checks) by any player, manager, coach, parent, or any individual acting as an agent on behalf of HLL are the property of HLL and must be deposited in the common League treasury, as specified by the HLL Constitution. All monies received from fundraising activities must be turned in to the league within 48 hours of the fundraising.

We are committed to upholding our trustworthy reputation within the business community, and all must recognize that we have a responsibility to the local community and HLL children to see to it that funds collected in the name of the League are used for League purposes and not for any other extravagant or individual purpose.

It is the Board's responsibility to spend money wisely, and not extravagantly, to cover basic and necessary expenditures for a traveling team, with expenditures over and above what is outlined in these By-Laws to be voted upon by the BOD.

After each All-Star fundraising effort, a fundraising information sheet will be submitted, along with the matching monies collected, to the President for immediate review and deposit into the HLL account.

All individuals must recognize that the BOD takes this very seriously, and any violation of this regulation will be dealt with severely. Immediate removal of the violator from the team will occur.

HLL BOD will appoint a representative to accompany any team traveling outside the district area during tournament play. This person will not be a manager or coach of the All-Star team. This

individual will act as the HLL representative and will handle all financial transactions and assist the team with logistical responsibilities for the team. The representative will have his/her expenses paid for by HLL (i.e., hotel room, team meals, gas, and team recreation). The representative may elect to take a spouse or child with them, but that spouse or child's meal and entertainment expenses are not reimbursed by HLL. A full accounting of all expenses handled by the representative will be provided to the President for review within seven days of return to Hedgesville.

For All-Star tournaments involving travel outside of the district, hotel rooms paid for by the league will be as follows:

SECTION 14 All-Star Reimbursement: HLL will pay for five (5) rooms per night, with a maximum dollar amount allotted by the board. The total amount for five (5) rooms will then be divided evenly amongst the number of players on the team per night stayed.

Example: Room is \$125/night; league would pay five rooms for a total of \$625 total per night. If there are 11 players on the team, each player will receive \$56.81/night.

For All-Star tournaments involving travel outside of the District, HLL will allow for reasonable meal expenses per day per player, manager, 1st & 2nd coaches, and approved necessary chaperone(s). All meals must be eaten together as a team. Those eligible to receive meal allowances, who do not eat meals with the team, will be responsible for their meals and will not be reimbursed.

For All-Star tournaments, at the State Tournament level or above, each All-Star team will be given a reasonable expense amount to provide team entertainment. The League representative must approve entertainment options.

Gas costs for managers, coaches, and chaperones transporting three (3) or more players to All-Star tournaments outside of the district shall be reimbursed by HLL. Reimbursement shall be limited to gas costs for a maximum of five (5) vehicles. Gas cards will be provided to the League Representative to cover this expense.

Within seven days of return to Hedgesville, expenses, along with receipts for meals, entertainment, and gas, must be submitted on an expense report and must include receipts and must be submitted to the By-Laws Committee.

All-Star Players will pay for and keep their uniforms.

Players, managers, coaches, and parents will be required to sign and abide by an HLL All-Star Expectations Sheet. This sheet will outline the expectations of everyone's duties and financial burden. A member of the By-Laws committee will be available for any questions regarding these rules. Any coach or player who violates these rules may be removed immediately from the team.

The HLL BOD must approve changes to the All-Star selection process or guidelines.

SECTION 15 By-Law Updates: The by-laws will be reviewed and updated (if necessary) by the Hedgesville Little League Board of Directors before the beginning of each spring season. Any changes must be approved by 2/3 of the Hedgesville Little League Board of Directors.