

**PEABODY LITTLE LEAGUE, INC.
OPERATING RULES**

Article 1 - ORGANIZATION

(A) Peabody Little League will establish operating rules for those rules not specifically defined herein.

(B) Peabody Little League will consist of:

1. One Major League of no less than four (4) teams.
2. Each Major League team will be made up of at least twelve (12) but not more than fifteen (15) players, one Manager and two Coaches.
3. Each Minor League will be comprised of no less than four (4) teams. Each Minor League is defined in Article 1, Paragraph B, Section 7 of the Operating Rules.
4. Each Minor League team will be made up of at least twelve (12) but not more than fifteen (15) players, one Manager and two Coaches. Exceptions may be made for Tee Ball, A, and AA dependent on registration.
5. Each Major League team will be limited to a maximum of eight- (8) twelve-year-olds.
6. Major League players must be at least the Little League age of 10 years old.
7. Division ages are:
 - Majors: 10 - 11 - 12 year olds
 - AAA: 9 - 10 - 11 year olds
 - Player Pitch (AA): 2nd year 7 year olds and 8 year olds
 - Coach Pitch (A): 2nd year 6 year olds and 7 year olds
 - T-Ball: 4 - 5 and first year 6 year olds

All players will be placed with their respective age groups regardless of ability.

8. The League President can serve as a Major League Manager. However, the President cannot serve as a Major League Manager and as a member of the grievance committee concurrently. The League President cannot be a Manager or a Coach of a tournament team.

Article 2 - EQUIPMENT

(A) All Majors, AAA, and Player Pitch (AA) Managers in the system will recall and inventory their uniforms at the end of the playing season each year.

Exceptions will be made for Tournament teams.

(B) In January, the Equipment Manager, as approved by the Board of Directors, will process uniform orders, in accordance with Article 5, Section 10 of the Constitution. These orders will be placed immediately.

(C) All players will be provided a game jersey and baseball hat. Majors, AAA, and Player Pitch (AA) will receive Replica jerseys and matching team hats. Coach Pitch (A) and Tee Ball will receive P jerseys and P hats.

Article 3 - PLAYING FIELDS

(A) The President, League Coordinators and Safety Officers will review the conditions of their playing fields during the period between September 22 and October 10. They will report their findings to the Board of Directors at the October meeting for such action as deemed appropriate.

(B) The President will submit a report to the Park Commission before October 31 of each year of the desired capital expenditures for equipment, rehabilitation or renovation of playing fields for the coming fiscal year.

(C) The President, with the assistance of the League Coordinators, will review the condition of the playing fields for the coming fiscal year in March and periodically thereafter. They will take whatever action is deemed necessary to implement the request as set forth in Article 3 Paragraphs A & B and to ensure satisfactory maintenance and safety at all fields.

(D) The use of playing fields within the city shall be scheduled by Division Coordinators in their respective Divisions. All fields must be policed after all practices and games.

Article 4 - LEAGUE BOUNDARIES

(A) The President and Player Agent will be responsible for assuring league boundaries in accordance with the Official Little League Rules, Article II, Paragraph H.

Article 5 - PRESEASON ACTIVITIES

(A) GENERAL

The President, Player Agent, Vice President and Major League Coordinators will submit, for approval at the February meeting of the Board of Directors, a calendar of events and activities for each League including a playing schedule for the current season. The calendar will include:

1. Publishing and distributing of the application/registration forms
2. Registration dates.
3. Tryouts - To be established by the President and Division Coordinators at or before the October meeting. Tryouts will be scheduled and finalized at that time.
4. Opening Day - The week following April Vacation is the recommended start for all Divisions. The Annual Opening Day Parade should take place in Peabody.
5. All Division schedules are to be created.
6. Clinics will be held during the winter.

(B) REGISTRATION -

All youngsters who meet the requirements as set forth in the By-Laws must register online before the registration deadline. The Board of Directors will be authorized to make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. New applicants must upload a birth certificate and proof of residency or the Little League School Enrollment Form.

(C) TRYOUTS -

Every applicant who wishes to play in the Majors Division must attend 50% of the tryouts offered, as specified each year by the Board of Directors unless the applicant is already assigned to a Major League team. Attendance lists will be compiled for each age group, listing name, league age, and assigned tryout number. Copies of these lists will be made available to all Major and AAA Division Managers. League Coordinators will be responsible for tryouts, including attendance, conduct, and duties of adult and player personnel.

(D) PLAYER SELECTION (DRAFT)-

At the conclusion of the tryouts and/or Player Evaluation Clinics, players will be selected by the Managers sufficient to fill out their team rosters. The Player Agent will conduct the player selection process for the Major League teams, at which the President will also preside. The Player Agent will conduct the player selection process for the AAA Division teams, at which the Vice President will also preside. If necessary, another member of the Board of Directors could preside over the player selection process if the Player Agent is a Manager within that particular Division. No registration will be rejected provided they meet and comply with the tryout requirements.

1. Major League/AAA Division - Major League and Minor AAA will utilize the Draft System as outlined and recommended in the Official Little League Operating Manual - THE DRAFT SYSTEM Plan A, with the following extensions:

- a. All Major League teams will select in reverse order of their overall win-loss record from the previous league regular season. Ties will be broken based upon head-to-head record (head to head against all teams tied), then divisional record and if still tied, the least amount of runs allowed during the regular season will govern. In the case of a total redraft as approved by Little League and District 16, the draft order will be determined by rules set forth by Little League and/or District 16. Minor AAA will draw numbers to determine draft position.
- b. Trading of players is not allowed in the Peabody Little League.
- c. Prior to the start of the regular season, the Vice President and AAA coordinator will schedule and conduct a draft for the AAA Division, understanding that there may not be evaluative information on all AAA candidates and that registration for this level will be continuous up until the start of the regular season.

- d. If a Major League player (10 and/or 11 years old) requests a release from his/her team, the player will be released but must play at the AAA level for one full year before becoming eligible for the major league draft again*.

** In cases regarding Sections d the Grievance Committee will hear all sides of the situation and determine the result.*

2. Minor Leagues - Tee-Ball, Coach Pitch (A), and Player Pitch (AA) will be rostered in the following order: player request, coach request, and school enrollment. Rosters will be created by the President and Vice President. Division Coordinators may assist at the discretion of the President.

**** Note: The Managers in Majors and AAA will not select assistant coaches until after the drafting or assignment of players has been completed, thus eliminating the loading up of teams.**

(E) POST-DRAFT TEAM REPLACEMENTS

(A) If a Major League player permanently leaves his/her team, the team must select a player from AAA. The replacement player must be eligible for selection in the Majors (attended a Major League tryout). If there are no other eligible players, the team may select a 10 or 11 year-old from AAA. The player will be a permanent call up for the remainder of his/her Little League career on the team.

(B) In all other cases, teams will follow the following process. A pool of players from existing regular season AAA teams will be created with players that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a known shortage of fewer than eleven (11) rostered players for a regular season game. Players may not be "borrowed" from an opponent. They must be assigned by the Player Agent. The temporary replacement pool will be administered as follows:

1. The Player Agent will create and run the pool. The Player Agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis.
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool.
3. When a player participates in a game on a team other than his or her own team, such player will not be permitted to pitch in the game.
4. Pool players who are called and show up at the game must play in accordance with the rules of Peabody Little League (3 innings, consecutive batting order).

Article 6 - PLAYING RULES

(A) MINIMUM PLAYING TIME

1. Major Leagues - For all regular season and playoff games, players will play a minimum of three (3) innings in the field and free substitution will be allowed. Continuous batting order will also be employed for all regular season and playoff games. Tournament Teams shall comply with the playing rule of the Tournament they are participating in.
2. Minor AAA and AA Divisions - players will play a minimum of 3 innings in the field and employ a continuous batting order per game. All players are to be exposed to as many different positions as possible. Managers are not to put any player at a position that would jeopardize the player's safety.
3. Major, Minor AAA and AA Divisions - In the event a player plays less than 2 innings, the player will start and play the entire game in the very next game played.

***Note: In the event, a game is rained out or halted because of darkness; the above rule does not apply.

(B) INTENTIONAL WALKS -

There are no intentional walks in the Peabody Little League. All players are to be pitched to and the catcher must be positioned behind the plate throughout the at-bat. There will be no pitching around a batter. (see Conduct Unbecoming a Manager or Coach

(C) FORFEITS

There are no forfeits in the Peabody Little League.

(D) PLAYER DISCIPLINE

Each Manager and Coach has the authority to sit out a player for a game for disciplinary action. The Grievance Committee will determine the suspension of the player.

(E) POSTPONED GAMES

1. If a Manager determines that he/she will be missing players from his/her roster for an upcoming scheduled game, the Manager must follow the procedures as set out under Article 5, Section (E), paragraph B. If, after following these procedures the team can still not field 9 players, the game will be canceled and rescheduled as outlined below.

2. The Division Coordinator will reschedule all regularly scheduled Division that are postponed for any reason. Postponed games will be scheduled for play on the next open day. All games must be made up by the end of the week.

3. Open field dates during mid-week evenings, Saturday mornings and afternoons, and Sunday afternoons and early evenings shall be used for make-up games, with the games being scheduled in order of their original schedule except where this requires teams to play more than one game in a day. The above procedure will also be applicable for completion of tied or suspended games. The decision of the Coordinator is binding and final.

(F) PROTEST PROCEDURE

Protests will be decided within each League by a three-person committee composed of Major and Minor Division Coordinators and the Umpire-in-Chief. If any of them were personally involved with the protest, they will be replaced with either the League's Safety Officer or one of the Major League Managers drawn from a hat. In the case of inter-league play, the committee will be composed of one of the Major or Minor Division Coordinators from each League and one or more members of the Board of Directors, which will be drawn from a hat. The decision may be appealed to the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting in accordance with the Little League Official Rules and Regulations - Section 4 Paragraph 19 (4.19). The Board of Directors may schedule special meetings for this purpose in order to avoid delay in consummating the schedule. The Directors not involved in the dispute will decide the issue. The President will vote only in the event of a tie

(G) SCORING RESPONSIBILITY

Both teams will be responsible for keeping a complete and accurate scoring record of each Major League and Minor League game.

H) STANDINGS

The Division Coordinator will be responsible for keeping the standings. Immediately at the commencement of the game, both managers will report the score and pitch counts to the Division Coordinator.

(I) ACCIDENT PROCEDURE

All accidents will be reported to the Safety Officer immediately after the game or practice in which the accident occurred. The League Coordinator and the Safety Officer will ensure that the forms are prepared with doctor and hospital bills attached (if available) and forwarded to the insurance Agent and to Little League Baseball Williamsport, Pa, recording the eventual disposition.

(J) STARTING TIMES

All regularly scheduled games will begin no later than a time chosen by a majority vote of the Managers of the League at the League meeting before the start of the season. No inning will start after 8:00 pm, unless agreed upon by both Managers and the Umpire in charge of the game.

(K) COMPLETION OF SCHEDULE

All scheduled games must be played if they affect the overall League standings in any way.

(L) UMPIRING RESPONSIBILITY

The Umpire-in-Chief is responsible for providing and assigning Umpires for each and every game. The umpire-in-Chief or league umpire coordinator will be given a copy of the League Operating Rules and ask that each umpire selected to work games for the League familiarize himself/herself with the rules. Each manager is expected to meet with the umpire prior to the game to explain the modified Little League International rules adopted by the League.

(M) CURVE BALLS-Regular Season, including Playoffs

During the regular season and playoffs, pitchers shall not throw curveballs. Curveballs are an illegal pitch in Peabody Little League. This rule does not prohibit pitchers from throwing changeups, knuckleballs, or split or cross-seam fastballs. The umpire's judgment on an illegal pitch is final.

On the first occasion, the umpire shall call an illegal pitch. The pitch shall become a ball and the pitcher given a warning. On the second occasion in the game, it will be called an illegal pitch. If the ball is hit, the offensive team may elect to let the play stand or impose the penalty as if the pitch had not been struck at. In either case, the pitcher shall be removed from the pitching position, but may stay in the game in another position and may not return to the pitching position in that game. In addition, the manager shall meet with a committee composed of the league president, vice president, league coordinator and the Safety Director to ensure that no further violations of this rule occur.

Should there be an occasion where an umpire is believed to be substantially misapplying this rule, a manager may request that the Board consider contacting the umpiring coordinator in order to assign another umpire for future contests.

The Board shall impose sanctions within its discretion, on any manager or coach who violates this rule during the regular season and playoffs, or otherwise, in the discretion of the Board, abuses this rule during tournament play, including removal from the League as a manager or coach.

(N)SLAUGHTER RULE-

In AAA and the Majors, if after 4 innings of play a team is ahead by 10 or more runs, the game is over. Should both managers agree to continue the game, the teams can continue to play the remaining innings even though the winner has already been declared by way of this rule.

Article 9 - ADULT TRAINING

(A) At the regular preseason meeting, the League coordinator will review the Operating Rules and give instruction of key official rules and regulations from the Official Regulation and Playing Rules from Little League Baseball of the current year as well as any rule changes that have been made. This meeting is for the benefit of all adult personnel, such as managers, coaches, and umpires. The Coordinator will also conduct a seminar on scorekeeping.

(B) All Major and Minor League Managers must be certified by the National Youth Sports Coaches Association.

(C) All junior umpires and potential umpires must attend an umpiring clinic sponsored by the Little League before the opening of the season. All managers, coaches, Board of Directors and Umpires must sign the League's Code of Ethics statement.

(D) All managers and coaches must complete and submit the certificate after completion of the Diamond Leader Training.

(E) All volunteers must complete the USA Baseball Abuse Awareness for Adults training and submit the certificate to the league.

Article 10 - REGULAR SEASON PLAY (including Playoffs)

(A) It is recommended that the season for Major and Minor Division teams consist of the following:

- 18 games for a 7 team division
- 15 to 21 games for a 6 team division
- 16 games for a 5 team division
- 15 to 18 games for a 4 team division

1. Each Division Coordinator will furnish their team managers with their division-specific playing rules and schedules. The Major League Playoffs will be scheduled to be completed prior to the Little League Tournament.

2. In the Majors, and AAA, all teams make the playoffs.

3. In T-Ball, Coach Pitch (A) and Player Pitch (AA), there are no playoffs. If available, the final week of games may be played at either James Street or MacArthur Park.

Article 11 - POSTSEASON PLAY

(A) TOURNAMENT PLAY

1. The League will participate in the National Little League Tournament (a.k.a. Williamsport Tournament). The League will also participate in District State All Star teams for the ages of 10 and 11. The League will also participate in Jimmy Fund Tournaments for the ages covered by the district that the league is in. In the event that there are no Jimmy Fund tournaments for a specific age group, the league will participate in one postseason tournament sponsored by or affiliated with the district the league is in. For the Williamsport Tournament and the District State 10s and 11s, one team per each age group will be entered for each division of the Majors (divisions as determined by Little League). For the Jimmy Fund and other tournaments, the number of teams will be dependent upon interest to be determined by sign-ups.

The National Little League Tournament District Team (Williamsport Tournament Team) manager will be selected based on the standings as of the final game of the regular season, with the manager whose team is in first place as of this date having the first option to manage a team. After the first place team chooses, the proper order will continue with the subsequent placement finishers until all tournament team managers are determined. Any managerial selection for any District All Star team, the foregoing notwithstanding, shall be additionally based on said manager being in good standing as a member of the League and volunteer coach, subject to the discretion of the Board. The tournament team manager may select his/her assistant coaches from active managers or assistant coaches, also subject to the approval of the Board. Being a manager or coach in good standing is subject to the discretion of the Board, and shall include, but not be limited to such things as attendance at monthly meetings of the Board, conduct with players, opposing players, parents, opposing coaches, and umpires, no expulsions from games, or any other conduct deemed by the Board to be unbecoming of a representative of Peabody Little League.

2. Selection of the Williamsport Tournament team will be as follows:

(i) The team may be comprised of 11 and 12-year-old players.

(ii) All Major League players (10, 11, & 12) will vote as follows:

(a) Each player will vote for up to 3 tournament team members. Players will be instructed to vote for the best 3 players.

(b) Ballots will be distributed and collected by the President and/or Player Agent on voting day.

(c) Ballots will be sealed and counted at the tournament selection meeting.

(d) Only players in attendance at games on voting day will be allowed to vote- no absentee ballots will be permitted

(e) Players will not vote for members of their own team

(f) In the event of a tie for the final (3rd) position, all Major League managers will vote to resolve the tie

(iii) All major league managers will select 8 players

(a) Managers cannot vote for players on their own team

(b) Voting will be done in rounds or until 8 players are selected

1st rd- 8 votes to be selected

2nd rd (if necessary) - 7 votes to be selected

3rd and subsequent rounds (as necessary) - 6 votes to be selected

(iv) The district team manager will select 1 to 4 players

(v) Notwithstanding the foregoing, to be eligible for selection, the player must have been in attendance for 70% of his Peabody Little League Major League team's regular season games.

3. Selection of the State Tournament 10 and 11-year-old Teams will be the same as the Williamsport Team with the exception of player voting. Players who are league age 10 and 11 are eligible and will be selected by manager voting as outlined in 2A(iii) and 5 of this section, with the exception that the managers will be voting for the twelve to fifteen players.

4. As stated previously, Jimmy Fund Teams sponsored by the league will be dependent on interest and volunteers willing to coach. First priority will go to players expressing interest who have not been selected to the Williamsport or 10 and 11-year-old State Tournament teams. In the event that District players are needed to fill Jimmy Fund Teams, their priority for practices and games are the District teams. The league will attempt to gauge player interest with sign-ups sometime in May/June.

5. Selection of the District 16 Williamsport Team and State Tournament Teams (10 and 11-year-olds), will be as follows:

(i) The Selection meeting will be held as close to the completion of the regular majors season as possible.

(ii) Only Major League Managers, Majors Coordinator, President, and Player Agent shall attend the Selection Meeting.

(iii) The Player Agent will compile the list of all eligible players for the Division managers as a whole to consider for each team.

(iv) All major league managers will participate in team selection

(v) Managers will not vote for players on their own team

(vi) Voting will be done in rounds until a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 15 players are selected as follows:

- 1st rd- 8 votes to be selected
- 2nd rd (if necessary) - 7 votes to be selected
- 3rd and subsequent rounds (as necessary) - 6 votes to be selected

(vii) Votes will be tabulated by the Player Agent or other disinterested League volunteer (in the event that the Player Agent or all other officers are also managers)

(viii) In the event of a tie the Board of Directors has the final decision.

(ix) In the event that there is a need based on numbers for players not in the Majors for these

tournaments, the league may conduct evaluations for the age brackets of 10 and 11-year-olds subject to boundaries and District approval.

6. Regarding any district-sponsored or affiliated post-season tournaments for ages not covered by the foregoing, team selection will be based on input from the level coordinators and managers, in consultation with the Board of Directors. A recommended method would be, to determine availability and ability, a tryout or evaluation. The number of teams and ultimate method of selection for this age group would be based on the tournament, level of interest, and within the discretion of the board with input from the respective level coordinator(s), with the guiding principle being to provide this age group with the opportunity for post-season play opportunities.

(B) NUMBER OF TEAMS- Except as otherwise provided, no player shall participate in more than one post-season tournament team.

Article 12 - AWARDS

(A) MAJORS -

All Major League players that were part of the Division champion and runner-up teams will receive a trophy of differing sizes. All other players will receive some other form of participation award as determined by the Board of Directors.

(B) MINORS -

All AAA League players that were part of the Division champion and runner-up teams will receive trophies of differing sizes.

All players at the TBALL, Coach Pitch (A), Player Pitch (AA), and other AAA teams other than first and second place will receive some other form of participation award as determined by the Board of Directors.

(C) TOURNAMENT TEAMS -

Any team that wins its tournament will receive a trophy.

(D) GRADUATING 12-YEAR-OLDS

All graduating 12-year olds will receive a "Peabody Baseball" sweatshirt. Sweatshirt will have Peabody Little League "P" and the words "Peabody Baseball" on left breast (or similar). Player's name and optional number will be added on sleeve or back. Cost per sweatshirt will not exceed one-third (1/3) of single season registration fee.

(E) PARTICIPATION TROPHIES

Participation trophies will be selected by a vote of the membership present at the February League Meeting. The same participation trophy will be given at all divisions.

Article 13 - ACTING MANAGERS

The President is authorized to appoint acting managers in those cases where it is necessary to do so, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If for some reason, a manager leaves his/her position during the year, one of the team's coaches, as designated by the Board of Directors, will act as the interim manager. Interviews will be conducted with those interested in the open position. After the interviews have been conducted, the Managerial Selection Committee will nominate the new manager. The board of Directors will vote on this recommendation at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Article 14 - BASE COACHING

Only the team Manager, the team Coaches, and/or a team player are allowed to be designated as Base Coaches during any regularly scheduled game. If there is a reasonable doubt that any decision made by the Umpire may be in conflict with

the rules; the Manager may appeal the decision and ask that a correct ruling be made. Such an appeal can only be made to the Umpire that rendered the protested decision. **Coaches are not allowed to communicate with the Umpire.**

Article 15 - LEAGUE CONDUCT

(A) LEAGUE CONDUCT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS, MANAGERS, COACHES and UMPIRES

1. Each member must read, sign, and commit to the League's Code of Ethics.
2. Each member must be certified by the National Youth Sports Council of America.
3. Each member must attend a pre-season meeting to go over the rules and regulations of the Peabody Little League and their specific league in general.

(B) CONDUCT UNBECOMING A BOARD OF DIRECTOR, MANAGER, COACH, and/or UMPIRE

1. Any violation of the Code of Ethics.
2. Any dismissal from a regular season, playoff, District, or tournament game.
3. Any infraction as deemed inappropriate by the Board of Directors or Grievance Committee.

The results of such violations or infractions will result in:

Minimum - Letter of reprimand and a one-game suspension

Maximum - Suspension, Impeachment, or Termination

** Note: All cases will be heard by the Grievance Committee and/or the Executive Board.

Article 16 - PARENTAL CONDUCT

Any parent who refuses to sign the Parental Code of Ethics, attached to their child's registration form, will forfeit their child's participation in the Peabody Little League

Article 17 - VOLUNTEER CONSENT FORM

All Board of Directors, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, and Umpires must sign the consent form of the Sexual Offender Registry, a CORI form, and any other background check form required by Little League International, Federal, and State Law in order to participate and serve as volunteers of the Peabody Little League. If any applicant for the foregoing volunteer positions is rejected for any offense, he/she has seven days to appeal the rejection. The Executive Board of the League will conduct a hearing with said individual. The Executive Board will render a decision within three days of this hearing.