

# **MARANA LITTLE LEAGUE LOCAL RULES & BY-LAWS**

**APPROVED FOR USE BY THE MARANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**LAST REVISED ON JANUARY, 2011**



**Marana Little League**

## **PREFACE**

Marana Little League, Inc. (MLL) is governed by regulations listed by priority as follows:

Official Little League Baseball, Inc.  
Little League Operational Handbook  
District 5 Administrator's Interpretations & Rules  
MLL's Constitution and Local Rules & By-laws

This document addresses the Local Rules and policies of MLL. No rule or policy may be passed by MLL, which is in direct conflict with rules, and regulations contained in publications of a higher priority as listed above.

**NOTE:** If a rule or policy is not specifically covered as a Local Rule interpretation in this document; board members, managers, coaches and umpires should assume that the Official Little League Rules apply in all cases.

## **MLL BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL**

### **A. OBJECTIVE AND PHILOSOPHY:**

To firmly implant in the children of Marana, the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens. Behind every game and practice is the driving spirit of adult volunteers working toward a common goal of training for life through the sport of baseball. Little League's focus is to teach players the game of baseball and softball and to focus on teamwork. Little League is not a program that emphasizes win-at-all cost or individual achievements, it emphasizes teamwork and every player plays in every game. Little League is a symbol of youthful enthusiasm and spirit. Little League is not intended to build stars—but as a vehicle to help shape tomorrow's leaders.

### **B. PURPOSE:**

To assist youth in developing qualities of citizenship, discipline, teamwork and physical well being with proper guidance and exemplary leadership through sports. To instruct on how to play baseball and softball; to continue to build upon existing skills established at previous levels of play.

## **PERSONNEL**

### **A. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. **Board Member Positions:** Board members are required to be elected from the membership. All Board Members shall have one vote in board decisions. Typical board member positions are as follows (other positions may be deemed necessary and voted upon by the existing Board):

<b>Position</b>
President
Vice President Softball Operations
Vice President Baseball Operations
Secretary
Treasurer
Player Agent
Safety Officer
Coaching Coordinator
Umpire Coordinator
Information Officer
Equipment Manager
Fundraiser Coordinator
Snack Bar Coordinator

2. **Board Election:** Board elections shall be held during the closing ceremonies of the spring season to elect the Board for the following season. All general members may vote for up to 13 Board member candidates (including any write-in candidates). Four weeks prior to Closing Ceremonies, the existing Board Secretary shall request names of interested individuals who would like to be considered for election to the following years' Board of Directors. The list of all interested parties will be placed on a ballot and shall be made available to all general members at the official Closing Ceremony. The ballot issued at Closing Ceremony shall allow for any number of write-in candidates. Each family is allowed one vote. Any community volunteer with the MLL may cast one vote as well. The Secretary or another identified Board member shall issue and track ballots to ensure there are no duplicate votes. The Secretary shall collect all ballots and tally the scores for all candidates. The list of candidates and their corresponding number of votes shall be presented to the current Board. The Board shall approve the 13 candidates with the highest number of votes. The new Board of Directors shall become effective October 1<sup>st</sup>. These 13 candidates will fill the 13 identified positions listed in these By-Laws as determined by the new Board. In the event 13 candidates cannot be identified, the new Board of Directors shall determine which positions shall not be filled (for example, a single Vice President may deem acceptable to cover both baseball and softball). Once the core Board positions are filled, the new Board of Directors may then offer Committee Chair positions to the next highest vote receiving individual(s) from the ballot.

3. **Leadership Qualities of Officers:**

- Thoroughly acquainted with the objectives and the philosophy of Little League Baseball and are able to guide the efforts of League personnel towards these goals.
- Knowledgeable of both the Little League Rules & Regulations and **MLL** Local Rules. As well as be able to interpret them correctly to parents, the public, and to other League personnel.
- See that League personnel are kept up-to-date with all current Little League information, such as rule changes, tournament plans, training clinics, etc.
- Program the work load and delegate responsibility so that the burden does not fall on a few individuals.
- Provide an apprenticeship and training program for all managers, coaches and umpires whenever possible.
- Make provisions for new personnel to be exposed to training or preparation before they assume an active role in **MLL**.
- Work together in a professional manner that gains favorable support for the Little League program members and Board of Directors.

## **B. VOLUNTEERS**

### **MANAGERS AND COACHES:**

All managers and coaches are held in high regard for their willingness to volunteer their time and demonstrate their appreciation of the philosophy of Little League Baseball. The manager of each team has total responsibility for their team and the overall welfare of all players as well as participating in all activities in MLL whenever possible. The managers will place their emphasis on teaching the skills of baseball/softball and sportsmanship to all their players, regardless of talent. The managers are required to always display good sportsmanship in their dealings with parents, players, other managers and coaches, umpires and members of the Board. Managers may select no more than two coaches to assist them with their team.

Each year, the Board shall select managers and coaches, as established in this By-Law document. Managers and coaches are selected for a period of one season and/or one All Star season. No commitments are made to coaches beyond this period of time.

#### **1. Expectations of Managers and Coaches:**

- Managers are required to evaluate players during the Player Evaluation sessions in support of the Player Agent and as directed by the Board.
- Managers are expected to conduct at least one parents' meeting;
- Managers and coaches are expected to be prepared for practice and games;
- Managers and coaches are expected to ensure adherence to all applicable Little League Rules & Regulations as well as all of applicable MLL Local Rules;
- Managers are expected to appropriately maintain all equipment, facilities, uniforms and resources provided by the league. Managers must return all issued equipment to the League at the end of the season;
- Managers and coaches are expected to work with the Board in all matters pertaining to the league and its business;
- Managers and coaches are expected to attend mandatory training, coaching and umpiring clinics/classes;
- Managers and coaches are expected to participate in League functions. (i.e., Opening day ceremonies, fundraising, field work days, picture day and various training, coaching, safety and umpiring clinics).
- Managers and coaches are expected to spend the time necessary with the team at practices and games;
- Managers are expected to make-up "rained out" games or continue a game as required on the day and at the time assigned by the appropriate League official;
- Managers are expected to manage the administrative requirements of their team;
- Managers are expected to learn about baseball or softball and how to instruct young people in the proper way to play the game. Managers and coaches shall teach players and parents fair play, sportsmanship, teamwork and respect for the opponents and umpires;
- Managers are expected to work with all League personnel and assist in providing an umpiring core for the League;

- Managers and coaches are expected to accept the decisions of the **MLL** Board of Directors as final. Violation of any of these rules, policies, improper conduct, or behavior deemed to be detrimental to the best interest of **MLL** is subject to immediate suspension and or dismissal from **MLL**.

## **2. Leadership Qualities of Managers and Coaches**

- Reflect an understanding of the age group they supervise;
- Serve as a positive role model to all players in the league with whom they interact;
- Demonstrate an appreciation of the philosophy of Little League Baseball and cooperate with others in making the program of mutual benefit to all players;
- Respectful of the judgment and the position of authority of the umpires;
- Exercise their leadership role adequately, but leave the ball game in the hands of the players;
- Instill in their players a respect for the authority and decisions of the adult leaders in the League;
- Encourage their players at every opportunity to play to the best of their abilities and to learn as much about the game as possible;
- Encourage good health habits, good grooming and care of the uniform;
- Knowledgeable about the Rules & Regulations of Little League, Inc. and **MLL**, and able to apply them correctly. Play by the rules and encourage players to respect for the rules of the game;
- Use sound, reasonable judgment in a protest situation;
- Trained in first aid and safety (either through **MLL** or other acceptable means);
- Behave in a professional, respectful manner at all times when representing **MLL**, including refraining from using in appropriate language.

## **3. Parent Meeting**

Each manager is required to hold at least one parents' meeting before the first game. Schedules, practices, attendance and parental responsibilities should be discussed at said meeting. Experience indicates that informed parents are more inclined to help out with the many tasks associated with a Little League team and program. A familiarization of Little League, Inc. rules should be conducted in order to help prevent any abuses of such rules. Additionally, a review of the League structure should be done in order to identify such individuals as the members of the Board and the Umpires Coordinator, who may assist in answering questions during the season. The parents' meeting(s) should be held separately, away from the practice field, where a manager has the individual attention of all his/her parents. Each player should have a parent present at the parents' meeting(s).

## **4. One-Team Rule**

A person may be the manager of record for only one (1) team during the regular season within **MLL**. Those individuals willing to manage a second team can act as a coach to help out if selected by that team's manager.

## **5. Practice Fields**

The manager and coaches have the full responsibility of a practice area and may not conduct a practice on any field not registered with the League for insurance coverage purposes. That includes batting cages and/or batting practice. All practices, including batting cages, must be approved by the Board of Directors prior to scheduled date. Safety standards are to be strictly observed (i.e., catcher's gear and protective helmets to be used, care in swinging the bats, supervising the players at all times, etc.). If there is a requirement for materials or an additional practice area, the manager must contact the Community and Fields Coordinator. Remember, the success of the team at game time is directly the product of their reaction and conduct at practice. Use of school, church, city/village and township facilities is a privilege not a right. Adhere to their facility rules, park in authorized areas, adhere to speed limits and coordinate field use with the Community and Fields Coordinator.

NOTE: Managers and Coaches are reminded that NO practice can be conducted until after equipment is pickup from the League. Prior practice is a violation of **MLL** policy and players are NOT covered by insurance. Only **MLL** league sponsored events such as training clinics, player evaluation day and other **MLL** clinics are covered to some extent by Little League insurance.

## **6. Statistics**

For Minors level play and above, managers and coaches may maintain team scorebooks and individual statistics. It is always a good idea to check the team scorebook with the official scorebook, especially concerning innings played or pitched. Make sure scorekeepers note clearly how many innings have been played or pitched. Pitch counts shall be maintained for all minor level players and above.

## **C. UMPIRES**

Umpires are an integral part of completing a successful learning experience throughout **MLL**. Umpires are responsible for ensuring that all playing and safety rules are enforced, while tactfully coping with difficult situations. Umpires are provided instructional booklets and expected to attend umpiring clinics to gain confidence and knowledge of the game. Umpires are held to the same conduct rules and expectations of all volunteers in **MLL**.

## **CONDUCT**

**MLL** prides itself on providing the players with a clean wholesome environment in which to play baseball and softball games and practices. This is a reminder to all League personnel, managers, coaches, and parents to report any suspicious behavior or report any unidentifiable strangers hanging around the ball parks or practice fields to the Marana Police Departments and any **MLL** Board member.

**MLL** does not allow "booing" or verbal abuse of umpires, managers, coaches or players from anyone in or near the stands. The home plate umpire will warn spectators, in most instances, and if the abuse continues, the person or persons will be ejected from the ball park. League Officials also have the authority to remove anyone from the stands for inappropriate behavior. Managers and coaches can also be removed from a game by the home plate umpire or League Official for inappropriate behavior. It is the responsibility of each team's manager to keep his/her spectators under control. Managers, coaches, parents and fans are advised that "a person ejected from the ball park will leave the ball park, to include the parking lot and surrounding area, within five (5) minutes." Failure to do so could result in a possible forfeiture to one of the teams playing. If a manager or coach is ejected twice in one season, he/she will be suspended the following game after the second ejection with the possibility of further suspension or dismissal, if warranted.

### **A. CONDUCT & DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

These By-Laws set forth the authority for the **MLL** Board to establish rules of conduct for all persons associated with the League.

#### **1. Factors to be considered in Determining an Appropriate Course of Action**

- a. Reasonableness of Action: No disciplinary action shall be taken against a person associated with the League unless the allegations against that person are supported in writing by the preponderance of the evidence.

- b. Factors to be Considered in Selecting Penalties: In selecting a proposed penalty or deciding what penalty to impose for an offense, the Board considers the following factors:
  - i. the nature and seriousness of the offense, including whether the offense was intentional, technical or inadvertent, was committed maliciously for gain, or was repeated;
  - ii. the individual's past disciplinary record;
  - iii. the individual's past work for the League;
  - iv. consistency of the penalty with those imposed upon other people for the same or similar offenses;
  - v. impact upon the reputation of the League; and
  - vi. mitigating circumstances surrounding the offense such as personality problems, provocation on the part of others involved in the matter, or malice.
  
- c. Nondiscrimination: Under no circumstances shall **MLL** discriminate against any person by taking disciplinary action on the basis of any of the following:
  - i. race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, disability or sexual orientation;
  - ii. partisan political beliefs, affiliations or activities; or
  - iii. marital status.

## 2. Record Keeping

The League President or designee shall maintain a record of the allegations, deliberations, and decisions of the Board for all issues raised concerning any disciplinary action(s).

## B. GUIDELINES FOR DISCIPLINARY OFFENSES & PENALTIES

The guidelines of disciplinary offenses and penalties are established to provide uniformity in determining actions taken against individuals who have violated League rules. The offenses listed do not address game rules that are covered by Little League, Inc. Rules and Regulations. For the purpose of the table, the following terms are defined:

- a. **Assault:** Includes, but is not limited to the following acts committed on or threats against an individual: hitting, kicking, punching, choking, spitting at or on, grabbing or bodily running into; the act of kicking or throwing any object that could inflict injury; damaging property.
  
- b. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct:** Includes, but is not limited to: any actions taken that disrupts or makes a mockery of the game; use of obscene or vulgar language or gestures; baiting or inciting opposing players or manager/coaches; repeated ejection from the game; throwing or kicking equipment.
  
- c. **Safety Violation:** Includes, but is not limited to: any conditions during a game or practice that poses a threat to the safety or endangerment of players, coaches or spectators.
  
- d. **Drug and Alcohol Use:** Includes the use of any legally controlled substance; use of any alcoholic beverage or prescription drug(s) that impairs the judgment of the manager/coach, especially as it pertains to the safety of the players. Players are prohibited from the use of such substances. League officials are prohibited from using alcoholic beverages during all League sanctioned games and practices, including post-season and tournament play.

- e. **Harassment:** Includes unsolicited remarks, gestures or physical contact; display or circulation of written material or pictures derogatory to either gender or to racial, ethnic or religious groups; or basing personnel decisions on a volunteer's, member's or official's response to sexually oriented request. Sexual harassment is a type of harassment and occurs when this type of verbal or physical conduct is sexual in nature or is gender based; that is, directed at a person because of their gender.

Type of Delinquency or Misconduct	Penalty For First Offense	Penalty For Second Offense	Penalty For Subsequent Offenses
Assault or Harassment	Expulsion from the game and premises; removal from any official duties and responsibilities pending hearing. Suspension to permanent banishment from the League.	1 year to banishment from the League.	Permanent Banishment from the League.
Safety Violation	Warning.	1 game suspension for repeated violation.	3 game suspension for each repeated violation including post-season play.
Unsportsmanlike Conduct	Expulsion from the game and premises; minimum 1 game suspension.	2 to 4 game suspension, including post-season play.	1 year to banishment from the League.
Drug and Alcohol Use	Expulsion from the game and premises; minimum 1 game suspension.	2 game suspension to banishment from the League.	1 year to banishment from the League.

**C. DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROCEDURES**

**1. Disciplinary Action**

Disciplinary action may be commenced against any person involved in the MLL program, including, but not limited to MLL officers, umpires, managers, coaches, parents, players and those desiring to be allowed to view or attend Little League Baseball games and or functions. Activities that may be subject to disciplinary action shall include any violation of any Little League, Inc. Rule & Regulation, any MLL Local Rules or policy, any individual League program rules or policy, Board of Director rules or policy, the Little League Operating Manual, or official Little League Baseball Rules & Regulations. Any activity or conduct, which is unbecoming of an individual who is in any way involved in MLL, may also be subject to disciplinary action.

**2. Filing of Charges**

To initiate consideration by the Board of Directors of disciplinary action, a written complaint shall be filed with the **MLL** Board setting forth grounds upon which the complaint for disciplinary action is based. The complaint shall contain a brief statement of the violation or violations, the alleged violator's name, and the date, time and location of the alleged violation. The complaint shall set forth the complainant's name, address, telephone number, team (if known) and shall be signed by the complainant. The complaint shall either be mailed to the **MLL** Board, or hand delivered to a **MLL** officer or Board member within a reasonable time following occurrence of the alleged violation; provided, however, that it shall be presumed that a reasonable time should not extend beyond 14 calendar days of the alleged violation. However, if during the course of its investigation, or the Board later learns of, or the Board determines that other reportable incidents have occurred and were not reported, for whatever reasons, then those incidents can be used, when appropriate by the Board, for determining behavioral patterns or in adding additional charges to the original complaint.

### **3. Determination by Board to Institute Disciplinary Action**

Normally within 7 calendar days of receipt of a complaint alleging the need for disciplinary action, the MLL Board shall discuss the complaint, and determine whether disciplinary action should be initiated. In the event that the MLL Board member is the complainant, he/she shall not be present at this initial determination phase. With the above exceptions, a preliminary committee shall review the complaint, discuss the same, and make a determination by majority vote on whether there exists reasonable cause to believe that the conduct has in fact been engaged in, is in fact a rule or policy violation that merits disciplinary action, and if so, the committee shall proceed as provided in Section 4 for disciplinary action. If a majority of the committee decides that disciplinary action is not merited at that time, then it shall advise the complainant with a brief statement of the Board's reasons for its determination not to initiate disciplinary action.

### **4. Hearing Procedure:**

#### **a. Majority Determination**

Whenever the MLL Board determines that a complaint alleging the need for disciplinary action is merited, the MLL Board shall give written notice to the alleged violator stating the substance of the charge in concise terms and requesting that the alleged violator appear at a hearing before the Hearing Committee to be held not sooner than three (3) days nor later than thirty (30) days from the date of the notice. The notice statement shall contain a statement to the alleged violator that his or her failure to attend or participate in the hearing shall constitute default by him or her, and an admission of the conduct alleged in the complaint. The notice shall also state that such default shall allow the MLL Board to discipline the alleged violator as it sees fit including suspension or removal from the MLL program.

#### **b. Composition of the Hearing Committee**

Following a determination that a complaint should proceed to a hearing, the MLL League President, or his/her designee, shall select at least three (3) MLL Board members to act as the Hearing Committee. If the complaint is brought by or brought against the President of the MLL Board, then the Board shall select six (6) Board members who will hear the complaint. In no event shall any hearing member have any previous direct involvement with the alleged violation.

#### **c. Public Hearing**

The hearing shall, under normal circumstances not be open to the public.

#### **d. Hearing Procedure**

The MLL Hearing Committee shall appoint a presiding officer for the hearing. The presiding officer shall regulate the course of the proceedings in conformity with these rules. To initiate the hearing, the presiding officer shall introduce the Board, and read the complaint. The accused shall have a right to appear personally and to have counsel. The presiding officer shall afford all parties the opportunity to make opening statements, present evidence and argument, and to conduct cross-examination. The hearing need not be conducted in accordance with legal rules of evidence, and any relevant evidence, whether or not admissible in a court of law, shall be admissible at the disciplinary hearing if the presiding officer deems the same admissible. At the discretion of the presiding officer, the hearing may be recorded by written and/or voice

recording. The presiding officer shall also have the discretion to allow all or part of the hearing to be conducted by telephone, television, or other electronic means. Each party to the hearing shall be given an opportunity to participate effectively in the hearing and to see the entire proceeding while it is taking place.

#### **5. Decision of Hearing Committee**

At the conclusion of the fact-finding hearing, the Hearing Committee shall adjourn for deliberation. Unless a 2/3 majority of the Hearing Committee finds that adequate grounds exist for disciplinary action, the complaint shall be dismissed. If the 2/3 majority of the committee finds that adequate grounds exist for disciplinary action, then the committee shall issue a written decision setting forth the rule, regulation or policy violated, and the sanction ordered as a result of the violation. Sanctions may include reprimand or censor, dismissal or suspension from any further **MLL** activities. The decision may also contain conditions for continued involvement in **MLL** activities and may contain steps to be completed to remedy the problem giving rise to the violation. The decision of the 2/3 majority of the Hearing Committee shall be final.

#### **6. Request for Reinstatement**

The disciplinary decision of the Board hearing committee shall be final, and shall not be subject to appeal. A disciplined individual may, however, submit in writing a request for early termination of disciplinary sanction, including a request for reinstatement in **MLL** related activities. Any such request shall be made in writing, directed to the **MLL** Board, and shall set forth the reasons why the requested relief should be granted. Following the written request for relief for reinstatement, the Board may consider the request at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If the majority of the Board votes to terminate or modify the sanctions, the same shall be terminated or modified as set forth by the Board in a written decision to the violator. Such written decision may contain conditions to the violator for further involvement in **MLL** activities.

#### **7. Emergency Discipline Action**

Under emergency circumstances, when immediate action must be taken to protect the welfare of any individual involved in any way in **MLL** programs, including spectators and those affected by the **MLL** program, the **MLL** President, or any person specifically designated by him/her, may summarily suspend an individual from further participation in **MLL** activities. Such emergency suspension may be made orally or in writing at the President's or his/her designee's discretion. Following emergency suspension, a complaint shall issue as set forth in Section D (2) above, and a hearing shall take place as set forth in Section D (4) above.

#### **D. EJECTION FROM A GAME**

Managers, coaches, parents and fans are reminded that a person ejected from a game will leave the ball park, to include the parking lot and surrounding park area, within five (5) minutes. Failure to do so could result in a possible forfeiture to one of the teams playing. **MLL** will absolutely not tolerate uncontrolled or unsportsmanlike conduct. If a parent or fan is ejected from a game, for whatever reason, twice in one season, they will be persona non grata for the remainder of the season; they will not be allowed to come to any **MLL** games.

## **MLL SAFETY CODE**

Safety is the first consideration at all times in all aspects of games and practices. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that safety rules are followed and to make immediate corrections when necessary.

### **A. ACTION PLAN ELEMENTS**

- Managers, coaches, umpires and **MLL** officials should have some training in first-aid.
- Managers should conduct on-going safety instruction on the mechanics of baseball for their players.
- First-aid kits will be made available to each team and will be brought to each game and practice.
- No games or practices should be held when weather or field conditions are unsafe, particularly when lighting is inadequate or when lightening storms are nearby. Play must be halted in these situations! **NOTE:** Home Plate Umpire may suspend or terminate play at anytime if they feel the field is not playable or weather conditions are unacceptable.
- Before each game or practice, the Manager(s) and home plate umpire will inspect the field for holes, field damage, stones, trash, glass and other foreign objects.
- Before each game or practice, arrangements will be made for the availability of a cell phone that can be used in the case of an emergency.
- Only players, managers, coaches, umpires and designated volunteer parents are permitted on the playing field during games and practice sessions.
- During warm-up drills, players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by wild throws/missed catches.
- Equipment will be inspected before each use, especially for cracked or damaged batting & catcher helmets.
- Break-away bases are required for all MLL games.
- At no time should "horse play" be permitted on the playing field or in the dug out.
- Parents of players who wear glasses should be encouraged to have their child wear "safety glasses."
- No manager, coach or parent is allowed to "coach" a player from the backstop area.
- All volunteers of MLL (managers, coaches, umpires, etc) shall abide by the Marana Safety Plan
- Please drive carefully around the ball fields. Please park in designated parking areas and be courteous to the private residents. Vehicles parked illegally are subject to being ticketed by local law enforcement.

### **B. PLAYER SAFETY RULES**

- Batters must wear approved protective helmets during batting practice, as well as during games. Helmets must meet NOCSAE specifications and standards and bear the NOCSAE stamp and warning label.
- Catcher's must wear catcher's helmet, throat guard, chest protector and shin-guards at all times while acting as catcher in the crouched position for games, warm-ups or at practice. All male players must wear a protective supporter and cup!
- Catcher's must wear the facemask and helmet when warming-up pitchers at any time, even when standing and between innings.
- No metal cleats for major teams and below.
- No on-deck batters are allowed. (Little League Rule-1.08)

- Only the batter may have a bat in his/her hand (warm-up in the on-deck circle once it is their turn to bat).
- No head first sliding is allowed, except when returning to a base. (Little League Rule-7.08)
- During practice and games, all players/base coaches should be alert and watching the batter on each pitch.
- Runners must slide or attempt to get around a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag at any base. A catcher cannot “block the plate” without the ball. A runner who deliberately collides with a fielder is called out and will be removed from the game for poor sportsmanship. (Little League Rule-9.01-d)
- No player shall throw his/her bat. (1st offense-player given a warning, 2nd offense-player is removed from the game---in either case the batter completes his/her turn as the batter-runner until he/she is put out or scores.

### C. **JEWELRY RULE**

- Pursuant to Little League, Inc. Rules, all players at all levels, may not wear watches, rings, pins, jewelry, earrings or other metallic items, except eyeglasses, during a game or practice. (Medical alert bracelets can be worn if taped down.).
- Umpires will not wear pins or jewelry while working a game.
- Umpires are advised to reiterate to the managers, coaches and players, prior to the start of each game, the need to remove such items and that if a player fails to do so that he/she could be subject to ejection.

## **REGISTRATION**

Every player must be registered to play with MLL. Player registration is normally completed by a walk-in registration, which is conducted during the month of January. An announcement of **MLL** registration will be posted on the league web site and to each child attending a school within the **MLL** boundaries in early January. Every player (new or returning) must register each season during the registration period or risk being put on a waiting list. A valid birth certificate is needed for each player.

A player who is eligible by age and boundary rules will have an opportunity to register to play in **MLL**. A player must reside within **MLL** boundaries and not merely attend a school within **MLL** boundaries to qualify to play in **MLL**. Little League rules will be followed to address any exceptions permitted. Questions regarding registration eligibility shall be submitted to the Player Agent or **MLL** President.

Late Registration: A deadline for late registration will be established each year by the MLL Board. No further player registrations will be accepted after the late registration deadline, unless a special circumstance exists that has been presented, reviewed and approved by the Board. All decisions by the Board are final. Only exception to this rule for only Junior and Senior baseball teams that season’s start later then the rest of the league.

## MLL SCHOLARSHIPS

The MLL President has the authority to offer a full or partial scholarship to qualified players. He/she shall use whatever financial criteria he/she deems appropriate in determining if a player and his/her family qualifies for an MLL Scholarship. The scholarship is good for one year, and may be renewed. In compliance with Little League International rules, no player shall be turned away from registration due to the inability to pay.

## PLAYER ASSESSMENTS

At the time of registration, all players age 7 to 12 will be notified of the Player Assessments dates, times, and the location. The Player Assessments will be conducted by MLL Board members and/or individuals identified and approved by MLLB. **Managers are not permitted to participate in the facilitation the Player Assessments and are only permitted to observe and score the players.** Players will, when ever possible, be split into groups by age (i.e. 11-12 years olds in one group, and 9-10 year olds in another group. Each player will be evaluated by the mangers as to their ability and skill in order to place them at the proper level of play. Any player failing to attend at least 50% of the scheduled Player Assessments shall lose their registration status and will be required to contact the MLL Board to provide justification and request reinstatement. The MLL Board will determine whether a make-up Player Assessment should be conducted and will coordinate such through the Player Agent.

Players will be assigned a number upon registration at the Player Assessment and will only be identified by their assigned number throughout the Player Assessment and the Majors Draft. During the Player Assessments, each player will be required to bat, field fly balls, field ground balls, throw and run in a competition with other players in their assigned group. Managers will rate each player in each of the identified skill areas on a 1 to 5 scale (1 being poor and 5 being excellent). A total score of 25 possible points is the highest rating. Players of major league level need to receive a minimum score of 15 to become part of the eligible draft (eligible player is age 9 to 11 and not a returning major player).

NOTE: The scores of the players will only be discussed with the MLL Board and managers. The parents and spectators will not be informed of the Player Assessments scores.

NOTE: Evaluations for 7 and 8 year olds is for draft purposes only in order to aide in creating fair teams.

NOTE: Managers' and coaches' children who are players within the intended age range as well as any players eligible for the brother/sister option (as defined in the Little League Handbook), are required to go through Player Assessment.

In order to prepare for the Player Assessment, the Coaching Coordinator will identify the Baseball and Softball Majors managers from the list of managers approved by the MLL Board. To ensure a sufficient number of managers attend the Player Assessment and Player Draft, alternate managers may be identified.

Managers may not select Coaches until the completion of the Player Draft. Potential coaches may not participate in the Player Assessments and the Player Draft. Once teams are drafted, managers may choose coaches for their team.

# MLL DRAFT

## **A. DRAFT SYSTEMS :**

**Unless otherwise specified in these By-laws, Marana Little League will follow Draft Option B as specified in the Little League handbook.**

Prior to beginning the Draft, the Player Agent and at least one other Board member shall tally all scores from the Managers. Scores from the Managers will be averaged to establish the number of potential draft players meeting the minimum score of 15. Three lists may be created. One list will be considered the Core List of Eligible Draft Players and will include all twelve year olds and all returning Major players. The second list will be considered the Secondary List of Eligible Draft Players and will include all remaining players with an average score of 15 or more. A third list may be created and will be considered the Alternate List of Eligible Draft Players and will include all remaining players who receive a score of 15 or more from the majority of managers. Once the number of eligible draft players is identified on all lists, the Player Agent will determine whether it is in the best interest of the league to utilize the Alternate List to balance the teams or create enough draft players for an additional team. Once that decision is made, the Player Agent will inform the Coaching Coordinator of the number of managers required for the draft. The Coaching Coordinator will identify which Managers will participate in the Player Draft.

Once identified the Managers participating in the draft will be provided with the list of all eligible draft players (Core, Secondary and if applicable, Alternate) as well as the listing of any eligible draft players exercising the Managers Child Option or the Sibling option.

The managers will draw numbers to determine who will select the first player. In a three team league the manager who draws number one make the following selections: 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, etc; The manager who draws number 2 makes the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> etc; The manager who draws third, third choice, 4<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 15 etc; until all selections are completed.

First round of draft must include all 12 year olds and any returning major players. This will also apply to specialty players.

Specialty Player: Is a designated pitcher and/or catcher in divisions major and above.

### **1) OPTION ON SONS, DAUGHTERS AND SIBLINGS**

#### **Brothers/Sisters in the Draft**

- When there are two or more siblings in the draft and the first brother or sister is drafted by a coach, that coach will hold the rights to the other sibling for the second and third rounds after the first sibling is picked only. If the other sibling is not drafted by the third round after the first sibling is chosen then the non drafted sibling will be put back into the open draft pool to be selected by any manager.

#### **Sons and Daughters of Managers**

- Sons and Daughters of Managers will be selected using the following chart for both Baseball and Softball (coaches who meet requirements per Little League International Rules Page 61, Para. 4, Section A & B).

<b>Baseball Draft</b>				
Round	Little League	Juniors	Seniors	Big League
Round 5	7-10	12	14	16
Round 4	11	13	15	17
Round 3	12	14	16	
<b>Softball Draft</b>				
Round 5	7-10	12	13-14	14-15-16
Round 4	11	13	15	17
Round 3	12	14	16	18

NOTE: If son/daughter is considered a specialty player, the manager must waive son/daughter option however son/daughter may still be protected from being chosen before the parents first draft choice.

Specialty players: First round draft of specialty players would be held as follows:

- \*A minimum of one designated pitcher will be picked per team.
- \* A minimum of one designated catcher will be picked per team.
- \* Upon conclusion, after specialty player picks, normal draft procedures will apply.

## 2) **POST DRAFT ROSTER TRADES**

Trades after the draft will be allowed up to 5 days after the first scheduled practice. All trades must be worked out between the coaches and then submitted to the Player Agent. The Player agent will then submit the trade request to the MLL board for approval. All trades must be approved by the MLL board before they can be finalized.

## 3) **PRIVACY**

For the protection of the players, the players shall never be told the position in which they were drafted or the number of votes they received in the All-Star Tournament Team voting/selection process. Violation of this rule will be considered a serious infraction and not considered in the best interest of the program. The Board also feels that statistics may be kept by a team's coaching staff, but are not to be released to any player or parent in MLL.

# **MLL BASEBALL/SOFTBALL**

## A. **AGES & LEAGUES**

One of the Board's main goals is to provide an environment conducive for the development of each player in the program at the rate that is in the best interest of the player. With safety, well being and the development of each player in mind, there is flexibility within the Little League, Inc. policy to place players in different leagues based on their age and ability.

**NOTE:** MLL WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTING PLAYERS 4-18 YEARS OF AGE

## **B. STRUCTURE OF LEAGUES & TEAMS**

### **SENIOR LEAGUE ( Gold and Silver) - 15 & 16 yr. olds.**

Uses a conventional diamond (90' foot bases / 60'6" pitching distance, elevated mounds required). A "draft" procedure will be used to construct each team. Once a player is drafted onto a particular team, he/she becomes the property of the team until he/she graduates to the next league level. Games will be played against other Little League affiliated programs assigned by District 5.

### **JUNIOR LEAGUE (Gold and Silver) - 13 & 14 yr. olds.**

Silver uses a conventional diamond of 80 ft. bases / 54 ft. pitching distance (dimensions may extend to 90 ft. bases / 60 ft. 6 in. pitching distance at mid-season). Gold will use 90ft. bases/60ft 6 in pitching distance. A "draft" procedure will be used to construct each team. Once a player is drafted onto a particular team, he/she becomes the property of the team until he/she graduates to the next league level (Senior League). Games will be played against other Little League affiliated programs assigned by District 5.

### **MAJOR LEAGUE – "Little League"- 10, 11, 12 yr. olds. (a 9 year old player could be eligible with Board of Directors approval)**

A "draft" procedure will be used to construct each team.

### **MINOR LEAGUE - 7 - 11 yr. olds**

A "draft" procedure will be used to construct each team.

### **MINI MINOR LEAGUE (Coaches Pitch) – 6, 7, 8 year olds.**

Players will be assigned via a modified "draft" procedure to construct each team (together for one season). Efforts are made to create teams based upon common schools attended, with consideration to balancing ages across teams.

### **TEE BALL LEAGUE - 4,5, 6 yr. olds.**

Typically, the level a player would play if it was their first year playing baseball. Efforts are made to create teams based upon common schools attended, with consideration to balancing ages across teams.

## **C. NUMBER OF PLAYERS ON TEAM**

- Senior League teams will consist of between eleven (11) and fifteen (15) players per team.
- Junior League teams will consist of between eleven (11) and fifteen (15) players per team.
- Major League teams will consist of between eleven (11) and fifteen (15) players per team.
- Minor League teams will consist of between eleven (11) and fifteen (15) players per team.
- Mini Minor League teams will consist of between eleven (11) and fifteen (15) players per team.
- Tee Ball League teams will consist of between eleven (11) and fifteen (14) players per team.

NOTE: The Player Agent monitors the make up of each team throughout the season. Every effort will be made to balance the number of players on each team within the same division.

#### **D. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT**

##### **Purchasing Authority**

- No one may charge items of clothing, equipment or other materials to **MLL** unless duly authorized by the **MLL** Board
- All equipment and Little League supplies and uniforms will be purchased by **MLL**
- All players are required to be in full uniform: cap, pants, shirt, socks, and belt for all games. Shirts must be tucked in the pants at all times.
- No uniform change or modification will be allowed without MLL Board approval. This will include practice uniforms and or parent shirts.

All **MLL** uniforms and equipment are to be used only for use in **MLL** and Little League, Inc. approved games, practices, etc. Unauthorized use of such equipment or uniforms is strictly prohibited. Equipment is the responsibility of the Manager and Coaches and shall be returned in good condition at the end of the season.

#### **E. PARENT VOLUNTEERS**

Parents are encouraged to become involved. The success of every league hinges on the number and quality of its volunteers. The experience of the players and the ability to provide services to the players is substantially impacted by the volunteers of the league.

Parents should demonstrate responsibility and take the initiative to make the **MLL** program successful. Parents are responsible to ensure their children are picked up after games and practices on time or have made other arrangements.

##### **Parents are asked to assist by:**

- Helping managers and coaches prepare the field for play, i.e., raking the infield, putting down chalk lines and putting out the bases.
- Serving as the team's official scorekeeper.
- Serving as a Team Parent, helping to coordinate picture orders, raffle tickets, parent shirts, team activities, etc.

# MLL SPECIAL RULES

## PITCHING

1. Pitchers of the listed league ages must adhere to the following pitch counts per Little League Rule VI.  
(c)

17-18	105 pitches per day
13-16	95 pitches per day
11-12	85 pitches per day
9-10	75 pitches per day
7-8	50 pitches per day
2. The only exception to this rule is that if the pitcher reaches his pitch count while facing a batter, the pitcher is allowed to continue until the batter he/she is facing is placed on base, put out or that the 3 out of the inning is completed during that batters turn.
3. BALKS are ONLY enforced at the Senior & Junior League level. For all other Leagues, Umpires are to award the batter a ball or based on their judgment, have the pitcher start his/her motion over again (always let the pitcher know what they did wrong). NOTE: Balks are general a result of improper pitching mechanics (winding-up from the stretch position, dropping of the hands, etc.) and should not be called unless severe.
4. Trips to the pitching mound: Manager/coach is allowed to visit with a pitcher “at the mound” three (3) times (a pitching change must occur on the third visit). NOTE: A manager/coach may visit with a pitcher at the mound during Little League International Tournament Play.

## GAME PRELIMINARIES

### Home Team Responsibilities:

- Provide “official” scorekeeper. (Not required for tee-ball, Coach Pitch games)
- Occupy the 3rd base dugout.
- If the last game to be played on the field pull bases and other equipment and return to equipment shed.
- Remove/collect all trash or items left on the field, in the dugouts and in the stands.

### Visitor Team Responsibilities:

- Occupy the 1st base dugout.
- Remove/collect all trash or items left on the field, in the dugouts and in the stands.

## STARTING AND ENDING A GAME

- Before the start of the game, the teams will line-up on the 1st and 3rd base lines while the Pledge of Allegiance & Little League Pledge is cited. NOTE: This is mandatory!
- At the conclusion of the game, each team will line-up and shake hands as a sign of sportsmanship.
- There is a 2 hour time limit for all Major, Minor games (no new inning will start after 1 hr. 50 minutes has elapsed). There is a 1 ½ hour limit or 3 innings which ever comes first for Mini Minor and Tee-Ball. There is a 2 1/2 hour time limit for all Junior and Senior games (no new inning will start after 2 hr. 20 minutes have elapsed). This is not an optional requirement that can be changed prior to a game by the managers or home plate umpire. Game time is not suspended for rain or inclement weather.

- Game time commences at the scheduled start time or when the home plate umpire is present. The home plate umpire will make all decisions regarding the start time if the field is still being prepared due to wet conditions. The home plate umpire has complete and final say on continuing play if threatening weather is present. He will instruct both teams to wait 20 minutes and make final determination if play is to continue.
- Tie games -- see Little League Rule 4.11. It is the responsibility of the home team manager to coordinate with league officials to reschedule tie games. **MLL** Local Rule regarding pitchers and innings pitched remains in full force and effect.
- A game that is not started due to weather or other cause shall be rescheduled. The home team manager is responsible to contact league officials to get the game rescheduled, and to coordinate the revised game time with the home plate umpire and the visiting team's manager.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these Local Rules & Bylaws are allowed with an approval of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **MLL** Board of Directors. All Board Members and managers will be notified of any changes within ten (10) days after the change(s) have been made.

### **INQUIRIES**

Any and all inquiries, questions or complaints by parents, managers, coaches or any interested party shall be directed in writing, to the Baseball Vice President or Softball Vice President who will in turn direct the inquiry to the League President. Members of the Board of Directors of **MLL** and the District Administrator shall be contacted, if necessary, after the respective Player Agent and League Officers have been properly informed of the facts and are given an opportunity to resolve the inquiry to the satisfaction of all parties involved. To accomplish the goal of dedication to the total effort of the program, the necessity of establishing levels and channels of administrative procedure are paramount. Please concur in principle and action with this line of authority to allow the program to be efficient and successful.