

West Springfield Little League Rule Proposals
Rules and Policy Committee -- Recommendations

December 2023

#	Proposal	Submitter	Committee Recommendation (Accept, Reject, Amend)	Committee Rationale
Admin Policies				
1	Safety-Training Requirements	Todd Harding	Accept	Committee supports proposal; WSLI policies should address required training.
2	Scheduling—Only League Scheduler Changes Games	Todd Harding	Amend Adopt proposed change with addition of underlined: “The League Scheduler <u>or his or her designee</u> is solely responsible for scheduling games.”	Committee supports proposed change with addition of underlined language to give WSLI scheduler flexibility.
3	Manager Selection Committee Composition	Todd Harding	Amend Adopt proposed change with following modification: “The Committee’s membership will include the VPBBO, VP Fields, Player Agent, Chief Umpire, <u>Majors</u> League Director, and at least one <u>Two</u> Parent Representatives.”	Committee proposes slight amendments for clarification.
4	Add Word “Policy” to “Rules Committee”	Todd Harding	Accept	Committee supports. The Administrative Policies currently are inconsistent about referring to “rules” or “policies.” This proposal clarifies that both rules and policies may be modified under the process, consistent with past league practice.

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5	Contract Authority	Todd Harding	Accept	Committee supports modification of policy so that only purchases that exceed an approved budget for an activity must be referred to Executive Committee.
6	Travel Team Policy – Open Tryout	Todd Harding	Accept	Committee supports. Requiring team to hold open tryout every season doesn't further any WSLI goal and it's unnecessarily burdensome.
7	Travel Team Policy – Team Composition (Change 75% of WSLI players to 50%)	Tina Diamond Jason Gibas Kenneth Bradford	Reject	Committee believes it's important to keep use of WSLI fields focused on WSLI and its players. Lowering the threshold to 50% WSLI players would reduce ties to WSLI. The higher threshold keeps more WSLI players on WSLI fields, reduces potential league administrative burdens and conflicts, and makes it more likely the team's players, coaches and parents are experienced with WSLI policies and practices related to WSLI facilities. Lowering the threshold to 50% WSLI players would reduce ties to WSLI, and increase the number of travel teams requesting sharing fields. WSLI obtains a limited number of field permits for specific fields and it is common and practical to not occupy them all at the start of the season in order to have rescheduling options.
8	Visiting school fields during school day	Jerry Brumbaugh	Accept	This policy is set by schools. Useful to state in WSLI administrative policies so that WSLI personnel are aware.
9	Send proposed rule changes to managers for 14-day comment period.	John Mielcarek	Reject	Committee opposes proposal because: (1) managers are not in place during October-December rule process; (2) past managers already may share input on proposed rule changes, which are posted on WSLI website; (3) modification process is already extensive.

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All-Star Process				
10	Scout Team/Player Selection Committee – Only AAA and Majors managers eligible for Scouting/Playing Selection Committee; All-star manager on selection committee	John Mielcarek	<p>Amend</p> <p>Reject proposed changes to subsection c.</p> <p>Instead, add underlined to subsection d:</p> <p>The Player Agent will conduct a meeting of the Committee to select the number of players specified by the BOD. <u>The All-Star Manager may provide input to the selection committee by submitting written comments before the committee selection meeting or by attending the start of the committee selection meeting. If the All-Star Manager opts to attend the start of the meeting, he/she shall exit the meeting before the selection deliberations begins.</u> First, the Player Agent and the Committee Chair will . . .</p>	<p>The Committee opposes the proposal to change the 10/11 All-Star selection committee to be made up of AAA and major managers instead of board members. A committee comprised of board members ensures adherence to WSLI policies, and helps keep selection decisions insulated from potential biases that may arise between managers and players. The committee agrees that managers’ input is important. It is covered in the existing process since manager rankings and input are provided to the selection committee.</p> <p>Although the Committee opposes the proposal to make the All-Star manager a member of the 10/11 selection committee, we support the idea behind this proposal and offer an amendment. The all-star manager should have a formal opportunity to make recommendations to the committee. We propose that the rules allow the manager to submit written input or to join at the start of the selection-committee meeting, but then exit before the committee deliberates and makes selections.</p>
11	10, 11 AS player selection – change selection committee from board members to managers; let manager, not board,	John Mielcarek	Reject	The committee is not aware of problems related to the WSLI board determining how many players shall be on the All-Star team or how many shall be selected by the manager. This is a proper determination for the board to make. As the board determines how many players will be selected, it is free to give the All-star manager discretion with respect to the portion of players that he or she will select. According to

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	determine number of players on team.			current policy, the All-star managers already determine the final roster size of the All-start teams. In late 2022 the BOD approved a change in the administrative policy that stated that “All-Star Roster size will be 12-14 players.” This means that it is up to the All-start managers, who make the final selections to all AS teams, to determine the final roster size, as long as it’s between 12-14 players (as it has been for all All-Star teams in the last several years).
12	12 AS player selection– coach of record and manager voting added back to player selection vote	John Mielcarek	<p>Amend</p> <p>We recommend rejecting proposal, except we recommend adding the following:</p> <p>b. At least one-half of the 10/11/12 All-Star team will be selected by the Major league players and Coaches of Record. . . .</p> <p>c. The Player Agent will conduct the player/<u>COR</u> voting. Each Majors player and <u>Coach of Record</u> may vote for . . .</p>	<p>Committee supports partial adoption of this proposal. This proposal asks to reinstate the previous version of Section V.F.1.b-e. The only differences between the previous and current versions are in subsections b and c, which concern the “player vote” portion of the 11/12 All-star team. In the previous version, “Managers and Coaches of Record” – not just players – also cast votes for this portion of the team.</p> <p>The Board proposes an amendment to allow “Coaches of Record” to join players to cast votes for this portion of the team under subsection c. CORs are an important part of WSLL, and they don’t have direct input in the current All-Star process.</p> <p>The committee does not recommend allowing managers to vote for this portion of the team. Managers already meet to select a different portion of the team (subsection d).</p>
Game Rules				
13	Majors Player Participation	Matt Schettenhelm	Accept	Committee recommends adopting the proposal. The continuous batting order is simpler for managers to implement than the other LL alternative. Little League has adopted the continuous batting order for All-stars.

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				For defense, the committee recommends keeping the league's "every other inning" requirement. We discussed "at least 3 innings" as an alternative but believe "every other inning" is preferable because it's easier to manage and enforce.
14	Run Rule	Matt Schettenhelm	<p>Amend</p> <p>Run Limits. For games at any level of play, except A and T-Ball, the game shall be over if, after four or more complete innings (3 ½, if the home team is ahead), one team leads another by 10 runs. For Intermediate, the game shall be over if, after five or more complete innings (4 ½, if the home team is ahead), one team leads another by 10 runs. <u>If the visiting team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the home must bat in its half of the inning. If the home team has a lead of 10 runs or more at the start of, or during, the bottom of the inning, the game shall immediately end. WSLI adopts the option of not using the other run limits in Little League Rule 4.10(e).</u></p>	<p>Committee recommends adopting the proposal but removing proposed references to Intermediate.</p> <p>A single 10-run limit is simple. This keeps WSLI's existing 10-run limit after 4 innings (3 ½ if home team ahead), clarifies how it operates, and states that the league is not using 15-run and 8-run rule that Little League lets local leagues opt out of.</p> <p>Intermediate references aren't needed because the league's local rules generally don't try to detail Intermediate requirements. They often are set in coordination with other leagues.</p>