

West Springfield Little League Rule Proposals

November 2023

#	Proposal	Submitter
Admin Policies		
1	Safety-Training Requirements	Todd Harding
2	Scheduling—Only League Scheduler Changes Games	Todd Harding
3	Manager Selection Committee Composition	Todd Harding
4	Add Word “Policy” to “Rules Committee”	Todd Harding
5	Contract Authority	Todd Harding
6	Travel Team Policy – Open Tryout	Todd Harding
7	Travel Team Policy – Team Composition (Change 75% of WSLP players to 50%)	Tina Diamond Jason Gibas Kenneth Bradford
8	Visiting school fields during school day	Jerry Brumbaugh
9	Send proposed rule changes to managers for 14-day comment period.	John Mielcarek
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
11	10, 11 AS player selection – change selection committee from board members to managers; let manager, not board, determine number of players on team.	John Mielcarek
12	12 AS player selection– coach of record and manager voting added back to player selection vote	John Mielcarek
Game Rules		
13	Majors Player Participation	Matt Schettenhelm
14	Run Rule	Matt Schettenhelm

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Todd Harding
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	Admin Policy, Pages 26
Section:	Rules Modification Process
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	No change
Proposed Change/Language	Add: Managers and coaches must complete the Little League required safety and education training programs. This includes, at a minimum, the concussion training. The Safety Officer will make this training available to all managers and coaches via the required course link. Other Little League training requirements will be sent by the Safety Officer
Rationale (required)	We are seeing some increased requirements for training and are being held accountable through digital databases for adhering to training requirements. We need to make training mandatory that is required by the State, LL or other entities.

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Todd Harding
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	Admin Policy, Pages 28
Section:	Scheduling
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	No change
Proposed Change/Language	<p>Add: The League Scheduler is solely responsible for scheduling games. Managers may not make changes to their game schedule without coordination with the League Scheduler. Managers should also be aware that a request to reschedule a game is not guaranteed.</p>
Rationale (required)	<p>We've seen an increase in managers trying to reschedule games amongst themselves. This is not permitted and should be made clear in our policies.</p>

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Todd Harding
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	Admin Policy, Page 17
Section:	C. Manager Selection, Section 1
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	<p>After conferring with the VP of Baseball Operations, the President will appoint a slate of at least seven Board members who will comprise the Manager Selection Committee ("Committee"). The role of the manager/coach selection committee is to recommend to the League President a slate of managers for each level and to preliminarily approve coaching candidates. The ultimate appointment of coaches depends upon their selections by team managers. Ordinarily, the VP of Baseball Operations will serve as the head of that committee. In the event that the VPBBO is a candidate for a Majors manager position, the Executive Committee shall appoint a chair of the selection committee who will take on this role. The Committee slate must be approved by the Board. At the minor leagues level, the League Directors ("LDS") operate at the direction of the Manager Selection Committee and may interview manager candidates at those levels.</p>
Proposed Change/Language	<p>After conferring with the VP of Baseball Operations, the President will appoint a slate of at least seven Board members who will comprise the Manager Selection Committee ("Committee"). The Committee's membership will include the VPBBO, VP Fields, Player Agent, Chief Umpire, League Director, and at least one Parent Representatives. The role of the manager/coach selection committee is to recommend to the League President a slate of managers for each level and to preliminarily approve coaching candidates. The ultimate appointment of coaches depends upon their selections by team managers. Ordinarily, the VP of Baseball Operations will serve as the head of that committee. In the event that the VPBBO is a candidate for a Majors manager position, the Executive Committee shall appoint a chair of the selection committee who will take on this role. The Committee slate must be approved by the Board. At the minor leagues level, the League Directors</p>

	<p>(“LDS”) operate at the direction of the Manager Selection Committee and may interview manager candidates at those levels.</p>
<p>Rationale (required)</p>	<p>This change aligns with previous practice and ensures that we are covering the parts of our organization that deal with managers. Parents, LD, Player Agent, Parent, etc. Seems like a reasonable composition to ensure manager selections reflect our league.</p>

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Todd Harding
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	Admin Policy, Pages 22-26
Section:	Rules Modification Process
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	
Proposed Change/Language	Adds the word policy anywhere the word rule appears.
Rationale (required)	Since we moved a lot of information from the gray book to the administrative policy, it seems reasonable to have the rules change process section include administrative policy changes as well.

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Todd Harding
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	Admin Policy, Page 5,
Section:	B. Contracts, 1. Authority
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	The authority to sign contracts resides only in the President. The President may delegate this authority, in writing and with approval of the Board of Directors, to other Officers of the Board, to effect efficient operations of the League. In particular, this authority might be delegated to the VP of Fields during season preparation time to ensure fields and facilities are ready for the season and in-between Board meetings. In any event, all purchases more than \$1000 must be referred to the Executive Committee, who will review the contract for compliance with this policy and approve or deny it. The President, or their designee, may only
Proposed Change/Language	The authority to sign contracts resides only in the President. The President may delegate this authority, in writing and with approval of the Board of Directors, to other Officers of the Board, to effect efficient operations of the League. In particular, this authority might be delegated to the VP of Fields during season preparation time to ensure fields and facilities are ready for the season and in-between Board meetings. In any event, all purchases <u>that exceed the approved budget for an activity</u> must be referred to the Executive Committee, who will review the contract/ <u>purchase</u> for compliance with this policy and approve or deny it. The President, or their designee, may only execute a
Rationale (required)	The Board approves the budgets annually. There is no need to have any additional votes on an expense within an approved budget line. We shouldn't need to approved expenses above \$1000 if it is covered by the budget line. We should only be approving expenses that exceed an approved budget line.

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Todd Harding
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	Admin Policy, Pages 57
Section:	Travel Team Policy
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	<p>4. Team Qualifications</p> <p>To qualify for consideration for shared use of WSLI field resources, travel teams must satisfy the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The travel team must comprise at least 75% of players who have played for WSLI in the current spring or fall season. b. The travel team must hold an open tryout every year to fill open slots on the team, if any exist. c. The travel team must be insured (not covered by Little League insurance) d. The travel team may NOT use the WSLI name, logo, or insignia. e. The travel team must submit to WSLI an official request to utilize WSLI permitted fields, services and supplies (see Appendix B) between April 1st and June 1st each year. f. No travel team associated with an organization or coach with an outstanding debt with WSLI from previous seasons will be considered.
Proposed Change/Language	<p>4. Team Qualifications</p> <p>To qualify for consideration for shared use of WSLI field resources, travel teams must satisfy the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The travel team must comprise at least 75% of players who have played for WSLI in the current spring or fall season. b. The travel team must hold an open tryout every year to fill open slots on the team, if any exist. c. The travel team must be insured (not covered by Little League insurance) d. The travel team may NOT use the WSLI name, logo, or insignia.

	<p>e. The travel team must submit to WSLI an official request to utilize WSLI permitted fields, services and supplies (see Appendix B) between April 1st and June 1st each year.</p> <p>f. No travel team associated with an organization or coach with an outstanding debt with WSLI from previous seasons will be considered.</p>
Rationale (required)	<p>This requirement seems overbearing. I don't know what rationale would be used where WSLI can force a travel team to have tryouts to fill roster spots. We can't provide travel teams with League information, we can't support them in anyway. They pay to use our fields AND we require them to prove they have rosters comprising 75% of players who have played for WSLI. That requirement seems sufficient. We should not be detailing how they fill their rosters.</p>

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Tina Diamond Jason Gibas Kenneth Bradford
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	59
Section:	VI. D. 4.a.
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	<p>Team Qualifications</p> <p>To qualify for consideration for shared use of WSLI field resources, travel teams must satisfy the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The travel team must comprise at least 75% of players who have played for WSLI in the current spring or fall season. b. The travel team must hold an open tryout every year to fill open slots on the team, if any exist. c. The travel team must be insured (not covered by Little League insurance) d. The travel team may NOT use the WSLI name, logo, or insignia. e. The travel team must submit to WSLI an official request to utilize WSLI permitted fields, services and supplies (see Appendix B) between April 1st and June 1st each year. f. No travel team associated with an organization or coach with an outstanding debt with WSLI from previous seasons will be considered.
Proposed Change/Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The travel team must comprise at least 50% of players who have played for WSLI in the current spring or fall season.

Rationale (required)	<p>Fairfax County has a very small number of baseball fields available to travel players that are not already associated with a specific little league. The current policy benefits a small group of players in our community who happen to fill the rosters of specific travel teams. Many WSLI players choose to gain travel baseball experiences from teams that have mixed groups of players from other little leagues. These teams should have equal access to the use of WSLI fields during the fall season if the majority of the players are from WSLI.. As long as the teams are willing to pay the fees, broader access to our WSLI fields would support the local baseball community.</p>
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POLICY PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Jerry Brumbaugh
Type: Amend/New/Delete	New
Page:	44
Section:	Admin Policies III. G.
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	NA
Proposed Change/Language	<p>When visiting Fairfax County Public School fields, WSLI volunteers should not go onto school property until the school day has been completed. As an example, if there is a need to assess field conditions during a school day to determine if a field should be used for a practice in the evening, the WSLI volunteers(s) should not do so while school is in session. If there is a pressing need to visit the field, WSLI volunteers will check in with the respective school's front office and register as a visitor.</p>
Rationale (required)	<p>This policy proposal is to formally document and clarify this issue. Various FCPS have asked WSLI officials to refrain from being on school property during the school day – the school property includes the fields.</p> <p>While FCPS enforcement has varied from school to school recently, all FCPS have a visitor policy posted that visitors must check in with the office – this includes visiting the property in any way. Many schools also have posted outdoors that use of equipment (i.e. playgrounds) and other school facilities is not permitted during school hours.</p>

1. F. Rules and Policy Modification Procedures

2. The President of the League will appoint a Rules and Policy Committee to review and submit recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval. The Committee will be approved by the Board of Directors. Recommended members include: the Chief Umpire, Executive Vice President, VP of Baseball Operations, and at least two to four other members, including a manager. Upon the recommendation of the Rules and Policy Committee, the Board of Directors may:

1. ● Accept the recommendation as written.
2. ● Reject the recommendation as written.
3. ● Amend a modified version of the recommendation.

The details of the rules modification process is described below:

23

4. ● A rules modification is a revision to or clarification of an existing rule or a new rule not included in the most recent WSLI Local Rules.
5. ● Any person affiliated with WSLI may submit a rules or policy modification proposal to the League for consideration by the Rules and Policy Committee. An email requesting rules and policy proposals will be sent to members of the League. All rules modification proposals submitted in proper form must be considered.

6. ● In order for a rule modification proposal to be considered for adoption for the current season, it must meet the following criteria:
- o It must be submitted in writing in a form consistent with the published rules. If it is an amendment to an existing rule, the existing rule must be cited, and revised wording must be provided. If it is a new rule, the section of the rules in which it is to be included must be cited and specific wording must be provided. The proposal should include a brief statement of the purpose of the proposed modification and an explanation of why the modification is an improvement over the existing rules.

[Rule changes must be presented to all current managers for a comment period of 14-days before presentation to the board].

Rationale: Rules impact managers and managers are in the best position to advise on rules that have impact on the field of play.

2. 8/9/10 and 9/10/11 year-old All-Stars

c. Scout Team Selections

Early in the season, the Player Agent will solicit from the ~~Board members~~ [AAA and Major managers] interested in serving on a Scouting/Player Selection Committee (“Committee”). No later than the mid-point of the regular season, the Player Agent will nominate for the Board’s approval, the members of that Committee and a Committee Chair. The Committee chair must not have a child eligible for selection on teams being considered by that committee. The Committee, based upon its observations, statistics, and discussions with knowledgeable observers may add additional players to the list of eligible players. **Potential All-Star Managers may serve on the Committee. However, if they are selected as an All-star Manager, they cannot vote during the Committee selection voting, although they may provide input prior to the vote (for team needs)[The All-Star Manager must be reinstated to be able to provide input to the committee].** The Player Agent may attend Committee deliberations and will act as an advisor to the Committee. Before the selection meeting, the Committee chair will ask all Majors and 3A Managers for their ranking and input of all eligible players.

Rationale: The All-Star Managers are uniquely qualified to make recommendations and decisions about the players who will represent WSL during the AS season. The All-Star Managers are approved by the full board, therefore, he/she should be able to act on their behalf.

2. 8/9/10 and 9/10/11 year-old All-Stars

b. Selection

~~A portion~~ [Seven] of the All-Stars will be selected by a Selection Committee. [Selection committee for the 8/9/10 year old All-Stars shall be comprised of current AAA Managers and the selection committee for the 9/10/11 year old All-Stars shall be comprised of the current Major League Managers]. The remaining players will be selected by the All-Star Manager. The [All-Star Manager] Board will determine how many players will be selected [to the All-Star teams]. ~~, and which portion will be selected by the All-Star Manager.~~

Rationale: Currently, the selection committee is formed of board members. Committee (board) members have a defined limited window to observe and evaluate players during the end of the regular season from outside the fence.

Managers have the entire pre-season and regular season to observe and evaluate players first hand on the field and can communicate with each other within the committee on the attributes of each player that current policy committee members are not exposed to watching from outside the fence.

Managers, and managers only, are uniquely qualified to make recommendations and decisions about the players who will represent WSLI during the All-Star season. Board members, unless they are also managers, are not in a position to make these decisions.

F. Selection of All-Star Players

b. Selection

At least one-half of the 10/11/12 All-Star team will be selected by the Major league players, Managers, and Coaches of Record. In the event of a tie for the final position, all players tied shall be on the team. Another portion will be selected by the Majors Managers. A final portion will be selected by the All-Star Manager. The Board will determine how many players will be selected and how many will be selected by each group.

c. Player/Coach Voting

The Player Agent will conduct the player/coach voting. Each Majors player, Manager, and Coach of Record may vote for up to the specified number of players from the All-Star Ballot. Voting will be by written secret ballot. No proxies will be permitted. Prior to voting, voters will be instructed that their responsibility is to vote for the most deserving players. Voters shall not vote for players on their own team. Votes will be counted in the presence of the President or his designee. The players receiving the most votes, up to the number of players specified by the BOD, will be named to the 11/12 All-Star team.

d. Majors Managers' Voting

The Player Agent will conduct a meeting of regular season Majors Managers and the All-Star Manager to select the portion specified by the Board. All teams must be

represented. The meeting will be conducted as follows. First, each Manager or his designee will identify the potential All-Stars from that Manager's team and provide statistics. Second, the Player Agent will lead a discussion aimed at identifying all worthy players. Finally, the Player Agent will conduct a two-phase process for selecting the number of players designated by the BOD for selection by the Majors Managers. In the first phase, the Managers (including the All-Star Manager if he is a Manager) or their designees will select the "All-Star Pool," which, including the players voted by the players/coaches, will be no more than 22 players. In the second phase, the managers will select from the All-Star Pool the number of players designated for the managers' selection by the BOD. The goal is to select the "All-Star Pool" and All-Star Team members by consensus, but if consensus is not achieved, the Player Agent will conduct a secret ballot. If a vote is needed, a voter shall not vote for players on his or her own team in any phase. The Player Agent will count the votes in the presence of the President or his designee, but not reveal the tally. The players receiving the most votes, up to the number of players specified by the BOD, will be named to the All-Star Team.

e. All-Star Manager Selections

The Player Agent will promptly inform the All-Star Manager of the Managers' player selections. The All-Star Manager may then select that number of players specified by the BOD. The Manager's selections must be made from the "All-Star Pool" but may include one "wild card" candidate from individuals eligible for the 10/11/12 All Star team (10- and 11-year-olds

must have agreed to play on the 10/11/12 All Star team if chosen), if the manager so desires. The Manager will notify the Player Agent of his selection(s).

Policy above which is on the WSLL web site should be reinstated.

Rationale: Managers/CORs have the entire pre-season and regular season to observe and evaluate players first hand on the field and know attributes of each player that a LA-12 year old would not recognize.

It's time we take statistics out of the AS discussion. It's too dependent on GC, which we know is extremely flawed. The LL season is such a short sample size and it isn't an indicator of success against higher level competition. If it isn't part of the AS equation, perhaps people will stop spouting off statistics, as if they make any difference.

Statistics in Little League are 100% useless and should not be used as a selection tool. In fact, relying on statistics leads to unhealthy behaviors in the regular season.

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Matt Schettenhelm
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	9
Section:	I.A (1-6)
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	<p>1. When a team plays six defensive innings in a game, each player present at the beginning of the game shall play defensively for a minimum of three complete half innings and bat at least one time.</p> <p>2. When a team plays less than six defensive innings in a game, each player present at the beginning of the game shall play defensively for a minimum of two complete half innings and bat at least once.</p> <p>Notes for items 1 and 2 above: a. Bat at least one (1) time” is defined as: A player enters the batter’s box with no count and completes that time at bat by being retired, retired as a batter-runner or runner, scores, or the inning or game ends. b. Minimum 1 at bat rule now means that during a player’s first at bat, if he/she reaches base, you can’t use a special pinch runner at any time. c. There is no exception to this rule unless the game is shortened for any reason.</p> <p>3. Each player present at the beginning of the game must play an entire inning defensively, at least every other inning of the game; regardless of the length of the game, and regardless of whether the player is in the batting lineup at the time of his or her defensive play. Accordingly, a player’s entry on defense does not require that he or she be inserted in the batting order, nor does a player’s entry on defense require that the substituted player be removed from the batting lineup. The batting order is the traditional 9-player order regulated by Little League Rule 3.03, which requires that a player substituted for in the batting lineup may not reenter the batting lineup until his or her substitute in the batting lineup has batted at least once. Clarification: Offensive substitutions may only be made at the time the offensive player has his/her turn at bat or is on base and must be announced to the umpire and official scorekeeper. Further, the batting order announced at the beginning of the game must be followed until an offensive player is substituted for in accordance with this rule (which can only happen when it is his/her time at bat.) You may NOT declare that a player “is not in the batting order” before the player is up at bat. Example1: Batting order ANDY, BAKER, CHARLIE, etc, with ZACK on the bench and not in the batting order. ANDY singles and BAKER is at bat. Manager declares that ZACK is now in batting order for CHARLIE, and places CHARLIE as special pinch runner for ANDY. This is not allowed under this rule. Example 2: Batting order ANDY, BAKER, CHARLIE, etc. with ZACK on the bench and not in batting order. ANDY singles and BAKER is scheduled to bat. Manager declares that ZACK is now in batting order for BAKER, and places BAKER as special pinch runner for ANDY. This is allowed under this rule. Offensive substitutions are limited to 3 per inning. Note regarding defensive play: The combinations are endless but, in almost every case, teams will be able to provide more playing time with this added flexibility in substitution. For example, a team could have a game with 9 players playing 4 defensive innings and 3 players playing 6 defensive innings; or a game with 2 players with 3 defensive innings, 2 players with 4 defensive innings, and 8 players with 5 defensive innings.</p> <p>4. Any player reaching the dugout after the plate conference has begun shall play subject to the manager’s discretion. Managers will endeavor to play the player a suitable amount of time, considering the amount of lateness, the reason for lateness, and any pattern of lateness.</p> <p>5. Players failing to meet player participation requirements shall start the next game, make up the missed requirement from the previous game, and the requirements for the current game, before being removed.</p> <p>6. This rule shall not apply in the event of due cause (e.g., injury).</p>

<p>Proposed Change/Language</p>	<p>Replace 1.A.1-6 with new 1.A.1-4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All players present at the start of the game shall be listed on the batting order and shall bat in turn. 2. Each player shall play an entire inning defensively at least every other inning. Defensive substitutions have no effect on the batting order. 3. Any player reaching the dugout after the plate conference has begun shall be added to the bottom of the batting order, and shall play an entire inning defensively at least every other inning after his/her arrival. Missed batting and defensive opportunities shall not be made up. 4. This rule shall not apply in the event of due cause (e.g., injury).
<p>Rationale (required)</p>	<p>District 9 informed WSLI that it will no longer grant a waiver to allow WSLI's substitution rule at the majors level. As a result, WSLI needs to change its rule to comply with LL rules.</p> <p>This proposed change moves from a 9-player/sub-in-any-spot order to a continuous/"all player" batting order, and retains WSLI's defense-substitution rule. LL recently changed its rule for tournament play to require the "continuous" batting order.</p> <p>The LL rules require "mandatory play": "Every rostered player present at the start of a game will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time." The LL rules allow either: (1) continuous batting order with free defensive subs meeting "mandatory play"; or (2) batting order of 9 defensive players, with substitutions in which a starter can re-enter the game in the same lineup spot only after his/her substitute has completed "mandatory play."</p> <p>This proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offense: Continuous batting order of all players • Defense: Each player plays entire inning defensively at least every other inning. <p>WSLI's longstanding defensive substitution rule – which this proposal preserves -- exceeds LL's "mandatory play" (6 defensive outs).</p> <p>Note: For defense, WSLI majors rule differs from the WSLI AAA rule because it does not say "No player shall sit out a second time until all other players have sat out once." (I.B.4) The effect: in majors, some players may play defensively the entire game, while other players sit out as much as every other inning.</p>

RULE PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Submitter name	Matt Schettenhelm
Type: Amend/New/Delete	Amend
Page:	12
Section:	II.B
Current Rule as stated in Local Rule Book	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.
Proposed Change/Language	<p>Add after "except": "Intermediate,"</p> <p>Add: "For Intermediate, the game shall be over if, after five or more complete innings (4 ½, if the home team is head), one team leads another by 10 runs. 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)."</p>
Rationale (required)	LL Rule 4.10(e) applies 15, 10, and 8 run limits but gives little leagues the option of opting out of the rule. This proposal keeps the league's current 10-run rule, and clarifies the rule.