

**2023**  
**MARYLAND DISTRICT 2**

**STANDARD OPERATING  
PROCEDURES (SOPs)**

**LITTLE LEAGUE  
BASEBALL AND  
SOFTBALL**

**INTERNATIONAL  
TOURNAMENT PLAY**

In June of each year, the District will meet at a predetermined site and time. The main purpose of this meeting is to discuss the upcoming tournaments and select the sites of the games to be played at the District level.

To avoid any confusion during the tournament season, the following guidelines must be followed by all leagues while playing at the District level in Maryland District 2 (MD-2). These guidelines are to be distributed to each league President or representative each year. In turn, the league will see that everyone involved with the tournament (i.e. managers, coaches, field maintenance, concession stand operators, etc.) understands the policy.

**These guidelines in no way supersede the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball and Softball, Inc. and are meant to be used by MD-2 leagues only, to keep all District tournaments as uniform as possible.**

### **Section I: June Meeting**

- A) At the June meeting, the number of leagues participating shall take turns drawing numbers until each league has a number for each division. These numbers will correspond with the games they will play in the first round.

### **Section II: Determining Round One of Bracket ( Double Elimination)**

- A) When two leagues are paired, the District Administrator (DA) shall determine if one league or the other had hosted round one from the previous year within that division. If one had and the other did not, the team that did not will be the host of game one.

- B) If it is found that both teams hosted or both teams traveled the previous year in round one, a coin toss will decide the host location.
- C) If by chance, one league did not have an opportunity to host any games during the previous year's tournament season (district play only), that league will automatically be the host location for Round one.
- D) When there are only two teams in a tournament:
  - Game 1:
    - 2 new teams - FLIP
    - 1 new / 1 old - Revert to SOP
    - 2 old - Revert to SOP
  - Game 2:
    - opposite
  - Game 3:
    - FLIP
- E) If a team wins the D2 tournament but does not send the team to the State tournament, there will be a \$100 fine and that league will be responsible for any district fees.

### **Section III: Rules**

- A) The DA will go over the Tournament Rules at this time and answer any questions that are asked.
- B) At the end of this session, the DA shall ask the body present, "Does everyone present understand the rules governing Tournament Play?" A show of hands will be used to signify in the affirmative. The DA will then ask "Does anyone present NOT understand the rules governing tournament play?" Again a show of hands will be used. If one hand is raised at this time, the DA will continue this session until the time that any person(s) not understanding is completely satisfied with the answers.

#### **Section IV: Game Day**

- A) All weekday MD-2 Little League games must begin promptly at 6 PM (weather permitting). No exceptions will be made unless authorized by the DA. Weekend games may be scheduled at other times.
- B) In the event of bad weather, the Tournament Director and/or the Game Director shall consult with the umpiring crew and make a decision as to the fitness of the field and if the game should be delayed or postponed.
- C) The DA is the Tournament Director and may be the Game Director if present. If the DA is not present, an assigned ADA will be the Game Director. If none of the above is present, the President of the Host league will be Game Director. No other person(s) shall act as Tournament Director without prior approval of the DA.
- D) The Game Director shall have a meeting with the managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials as soon as possible (approx. 15 minutes before game time) to go over the ground rules at the site. Also, a coin toss, to be held at 5:15 PM (45 minutes before game time), will be used to determine the home team. The host team will have their choice of dugouts.
- E) Each team shall be able to have use of the field for ½ hour before the game. The host team will have the field from 75 minutes before game time until 45 minutes to game time. The traveling team will have the field from 45 minutes before game time until 15 minutes before game time. Umpires should arrive at the field and be dressed & ready to start 15 minutes before game time.

- F) The 15 minutes before game time will be used to have the Game Director meeting and dress the field.
- G) 5 minutes before game time the starting players and reserve players should be called one by one to line up along the first and third base lines. Also, the team managers and coaches, the umpires, league officials, and other dignitaries should be announced at this time.
- H) At 1 minute before game time, the announcer should ask for all to rise for the playing of the National Anthem and to remain standing for the Little League pledges.
- I) At game time, the control of the game will be turned over to the umpiring crew.
- J) Each league is responsible for having two umpires present at each District game. The host league umpires will be at home and second, while the traveling league umpires will be at first and third. They will remain at these positions through the entire game.
- K) Host leagues must provide drinking water to both dugouts along with an adequate supply of cups per team unless the manager of a team has already made provisions for his or her team.
- L) Host leagues will supply all game balls. The balls must be official Little League authorized baseballs or softballs for tournament play.

#### **Section V: After the Game**

- A) Each team will cross the field, in a single file line, with the manager first and the coach(s) last. It is at this time that handshakes and the words “good game” should be exchanged by all. Slapping of hands or “high fives” is not recommended as

sometimes punches are exchanged. Also, the words “good game” or “congratulations” are the only words recommended to be exchanged at this time.

Managers are instructed not to bring a team onto the field until they have settled their teams and have complete control of all players. Instruct players, win or lose, to be “good sports”!!

- B) Before leaving the dugouts, coaches should see that players pick up and dispose of all trash. Please leave them as clean or cleaner than when you arrived.
- C) After leaving the dugout, the team should proceed, as a group with the Manager or coach supervising, to the concession stand. Each Host League is responsible for providing one cold soda and either one hot dog or slice of pizza at the discretion of the host league for each player, manager, coach, and umpires.
- D) The concession stand operator should have a count of the amount needed, in time to prepare the above. It is the responsibility of the concession stand operators to obtain this number from the teams, either before or near the end of a game. Remember a game may be shortened by the 10 run rule. Preferably, this should be done with the coach before the game. **If a team places an order and leaves the site without accepting this hospitality, the DA or Game Director should be notified and the offending team will be responsible for their own sodas and hot dogs for the remainder of this tournament and the following year as well.**

#### **Section VI: Next Game – Double Elimination**

- A) After the game, the Game Director will notify the DA as to the result of the game.

- B) The Tournament Bracket sheet, which was distributed to each league, will be followed.
- C) If after the first round, two teams are paired that have the same amount of host games, the DA will have a coin toss to decide who hosts the next game.
- D) If neither team has hosted the DA will have a coin toss to decide who hosts.
- E) Through the whole tournament, when two teams meet, the team with the least number of host games will be the host of the next game. ( Example: if team A has 2 hosts and team B has 1 host then team B will host the game between A and B).
- F) In the Final game (championship), the team coming from the winner's bracket will be the host site.
- G) In the event of the winner from the elimination bracket defeating the winner of the winner's bracket in the championship game, a final game will be held at the site of the winners of the Championship games complex.
- H) The District champion will each receive a Little League District Pin and the league will receive the District Flag.
- I) In any tournament that has round robin format, the criteria to be used to determine ties is as follows in the following order of presidency.
  - a. 2 teams tied – head to head competition
  - b. 3 or more teams –
    - 1. head to head competition
    - 2. fewest runs allowed (defensive)
    - 3. most runs scored (offensive)
    - 4. coin flip

- J) In tournaments with Pool Play format follow the guidelines of Little League Baseball Inc.

## **Section VII: Formation of these Guidelines**

- A) These guidelines were approved on February 10, 1991 at a District 2 meeting held at the Brunswick Little League Complex.
- B) No variation, gentlemen's agreement, or changes will be made by anyone to these guidelines.
- C) In the event that changes need to be made, they must be done before the start of the next season, either at the fall, January, or February President's meeting.
- D) To make a change, a District meeting must be held and a majority of those present must vote in the affirmative to have the change or addendum made with a majority of the leagues with one vote per league.
- E) In the case of violation, the DA must use these guidelines to make a ruling.
- F) In the event of something happening that is not covered, the DA will make a ruling that will be binding for that season. This will then be brought before the entire district at the meeting held in the fall and decided by a vote of the majority of the District Leagues with one vote per league.
- G) Section VI, (I) was amended on October 20, 1997 at Frederick National.
- H) Section VI (J) was amended on November 3, 2003 at East Frederick.
- I) Section II (D and E) were amended January 8, 2018 at Mountain Valley.