



BENNETT'S CREEK LITTLE LEAGUE
P.O. Box 5011
SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23435

www.bennettscreek.org

2023 Bennett's Creek Little League (BCLL) Bylaws

These Bylaws are applicable to all levels of baseball and softball unless specifically stated otherwise. NO LOCAL RULES established by Bennett's Creek Little League supersede Little League International, Inc. rules.

Administration

1. Managers and Coaches

- A. MANAGER APPLICATION AND BACKGROUND CHECK ARE REQUIRED PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT OF ANY MANAGER OR ASSISTANT COACH.
- B. Managers are responsible for ensuring that no adults enter the dugouts or playing field that are not registered volunteers with current background checks.
 - 1. The Board shall ensure that Managers have digital access to the Leagues approved volunteer list.
- C. Managers and Coaches shall attend a mandatory Manager's Meeting. The following topics will be covered, at a minimum:
 - 1. Little League Rule Book and Operating Procedures.
 - 2. Bennett's Creek Little League Bylaws.
 - 3. Bennett's Creek Little League Safety Plan.
- D. All Managers shall attend a mandatory Safety Clinic. Safety Clinic's shall be conducted by District 6 or Bennett's Creek Little League's Safety Officer.
- E. The Manager shall conduct a mandatory meeting of all players and parents prior to the first practice to ensure the following:
 - 1. Completion of all medical forms.
 - 2. Discussion of safety rules.
 - 3. Discussion of general guidelines for play at BCLL.
 - 4. Discussion of Bennett's Creek Little League Code of Conduct for parents and players.
- F. The Manager must report to the Player Agent any player who misses three pre-season practices without informing the Manager. The Player Agent shall investigate and may replace the player if the situation warrants.
- G. The Manager will immediately notify the Player Agent upon the discovery of any player who has moved out of league boundaries, has quit or who has suffered

injuries that may cause the player to miss three or more consecutively scheduled games. The Player Agent will determine whether such player will be replaced on the roster based on consideration of Little League Rules, replacement player availability, point in the season when the vacancy occurred, and other relevant factors.

- H. Managers are responsible for ensuring their team provides adequate volunteers for concession duties when requested by the Director of Operations.
- I. Managers shall ensure that field lighting is extinguished following practice and games and not later than 10:30 PM each night.
- J. It is the Home Team's Manager's responsibility to ensure that the field is ready for play prior to game time. Typically, the home team sets up the field and the visiting team rakes the field after the game. However, it is highly recommended that both teams work together before and after the game to accomplish these tasks.
 - 1. Managers are encouraged to utilize players and parents to assist with field maintenance. **ADULTS WHO ARE NOT LISTED ON THE APPROVED VOLUNTEER LIST CANNOT ASSIST WITH FIELD MAINTENANCE WHEN PLAYERS ARE ON THE FIELD.**
- K. Equipment must be properly cared for during the season.
 - 1. Managers shall inform the Equipment Manager when League equipment is found to be damaged, inoperable, or unsafe for use.
 - 2. Managers shall return all League equipment that is in their possession immediately upon the conclusion of the season.
- L. If a Manager finds that they are unable to fulfill their Manager commitment, they shall notify the Coaching Coordinator immediately. The Coaching Coordinator shall inform the Baseball/Softball Commissioner, Player Agent, Vice President, and President.
- M. Managers shall familiarize themselves and their players when Interleague rules are provided to them by the Baseball/Softball Commissioner.

2. Registration

- A. Registration will be performed online during the time period set forth by the Board of Directors.
- B. Registration fees and discounts will be determined by the Board prior to registration opening.
- C. All new and returning players must provide a copy of their birth certificate, three proofs of residency or school verification form, and a medical release form before taking the field. Once this information has been verified, a player will not need to supply this documentation unless where needed for All-Stars requirements.
- D. All requests for refunds must be submitted in writing to the League via email or regular mail. Unless otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, refunds shall be issued as follows.
 - 1. Prior to season opening:

- a. Full refund if refund request is received prior to uniforms being ordered.
 - b. Amount of registration minus the cost of the player's uniform if the refund request is received after uniforms have been ordered.
2. After season opening:
 - a. Refunds are not usually issued after the season has opened. Requests will be evaluated by the Board of Directors on an individual bases.

3. Player Eligibility, Tryouts, and Player Evaluation

Player eligibility for each division is as follows:

A. Baseball:

1. T-Ball: Age 4-6
2. Minor Machine/Coach Pitch: Age 6-8
3. Minor Player Pitch: Age 7-10
4. Major: Age 9-12
5. Intermediate (50/70): Age 11-13
6. Jr/Sr: Age 13-16

B. Softball

1. Minor: Age 6-10
2. Major: 10-12
3. Jr/Sr: 13-16

C. The following players are required to attend tryouts:

1. All players registered for Minor Player Pitch divisions.
2. All new players in the Major and above divisions.
3. All players in the Major and above divisions who requested to be released from their previous Spring season team.

NOTE: A team is defined by the players, not the coach.

4. The Baseball/Softball Player Agent will have the final determination on whether a player is to be drafted to a specific division based on player evaluations at tryouts and the input of the evaluating Managers.

D. Player evaluations will be made in accordance with the Little League Operating Manual.

4. Draft Policy and Player Assignments

- A. The Baseball/Softball Player Agent shall conduct all drafts in accordance with Little League Rules, Little League Operating Policies, and Bennett's Creek Little League Bylaws.
- B. The President shall ensure that all drafts are conducted in accordance with Little League Rules, Little League Operating Policies, and Bennett's Creek Little League Bylaws.

- C. Unless authorized by the Little League Charter Committee, the Local League shall not waiver from the draft methods outlined in the Little League Operating Policies.
 - 1. When clarification of draft polices cannot be determined by resources provided by Little League International, the President shall request clarification (in writing) from the District 6 Administrator.
- D. T-Ball and Minor Machine/Coach Pitch divisions shall utilize Draft Method C as defined in the Little League Operating Policies.

Minor divisions shall utilize Draft Method B as defined in the Little League Operating Policies.
- E. Major divisions and above shall utilize Draft Method B as defined in the Little League Operating Policies.
- F. Unless specified below, Assistant Coaches cannot be assigned to a team prior to the draft.
 - 1. For Major divisions and above, when a parent has volunteered as an Assistant Coach and their child is a returning player to that team.
 - 2. The Baseball/Softball Player Agent may assign one Assistant Coach to a Manager when:
 - a. There is no Assistant Coach in accordance with 4.F.1 above and
 - b. The Manager informs the Player Agent that they will not be able to attend tryouts and the draft for logical and explainable reasons.

NOTE: When 4.F.2 is executed above, the team's 1st round draft pick is utilized for the Assistant Coaches child.
- G. Only the Managers of the division teams are permitted to attend the draft. If the Manager is unable to attend, the designated Assistant Coach as defined in 4.F. above may attend in their place.
- H. All draft information is confidential in nature; particularly information regarding player evaluation ranking and player draft selection round and shall not be discussed outside of the draft.
- I. No Manager shall release team assignment information until a time determined by the Player Agent.
- J. No player will be placed on a team by a manager or a coach. All placements, including late registrations and mid-season replacements, must be facilitated by the Player Agent.
- K. In the event of a potential "call up", Player Agents will contact the parent and player confidentially to determine whether or not a player will accept the "call up". All Managers in the affected Division will be notified of potential player movement. Player names and specific teams will not be announced. Should a player need to be moved up from a lower division, Managers and coaches shall do everything possible to encourage the player to move up. Managers/coaches who interact with a player or parent with the intent of discouraging a player from

moving up shall immediately be suspended from their position pending Board review of the situation. No players will be called up for any reason during the last 14 days of the season.

5. Chain of Responsibility

1. The administrative chain of responsibility shall be followed by all parties and enforced by Board and league personnel. This chain begins with the team Managers and is as follows: Manager, League Commissioner, Vice President, and President. Note: No decisions will be made without board approval unless deemed necessary by the League President.

Batting Cages

1. Managers shall schedule batting cage sessions with the Baseball/Softball Commissioner.
2. Once regular season play begins, both baseball and softball teams will be permitted one reserved hour per week in the batting cages. Only one team per cage is permitted.
3. Unless authorized by the Baseball/Softball Commissioner, reservations shall be made no more than one week in advance.
4. Different pitching machines are provided for baseball and softball practice in batting cages and shall be used accordingly. The Manager is responsible for ensuring that pitching machines are removed from the batting cages and properly stored upon completion of their team's session.
5. A Coach or Manager shall supervise the use of the batting cage at all times. Children under the age of sixteen shall not be permitted to operate the pitching machine at any time.
6. Any player using the batting cage shall wear an approved batting helmet.
7. Batting cages are provided for batting practice only. No pitcher warm-up or other activities are permitted.
8. No more than two persons (batter and pitcher) shall be allowed in the batting cage while balls are being pitched.
9. T-Ball players are not permitted in the batting cages.
10. Batting cages will not be used by a team while that team is playing a game.

Clean-Up and Game Preliminaries

1. The Manager of the home team is responsible for having the field ready for play no less than 30 minutes prior to game time. If the field is not ready, the home team will lose the opportunity for infield practice.
2. The Manager of the home team shall bring at least two new balls to be used as game balls.
3. Both Managers are responsible for the policing of their team's dugouts, stands, and adjacent areas immediately following each game.

4. After the completion of every game, the Managers of the visiting team shall ensure that the field is thoroughly raked and scoreboard equipment is returned to the board room/concession stand and scoreboard is turned off. Scoreboard equipment can only be checked out by Managers and coaches. Please do not allow parents or children to remove equipment from the board room/concession stand.
5. The Manager of the home team shall ensure that the trash receptacles are emptied on both sides of the field.
6. Both Managers will ensure their dugouts are clean prior to leaving the field area.
7. For interleague "away" games, the BCLL Manager shall ensure the dugout is cleaned out, bleacher area on the visitor's side is free of trash, and offer to assist the home team in raking the field, etc.

Discipline

1. Misconduct by players, managers, coaches, board members, staff and/or spectators, at any time while in the BCLL complex, will be reported to the Board of Directors for possible disciplinary action (see Section 5; Chain of Responsibility).
2. If an individual is ejected by an umpire or a board member, the ejected person shall immediately leave the field. **Little League Rule 4.07 states "When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They may not sit in the stands and may not be recalled."** Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her team's next scheduled game and may not attend or be physically present at the BCLL complex. This includes the game of another child or sibling as applicable.
3. A second incident of ejection during one season shall be cause for indefinite suspension of the manager, coach, player, or spectator; until such action is reviewed by the Board of Directors and a definite penalty is defined and imposed.
4. The Board of Directors shall review all incidents of ejection. The Board will not review the imposed suspension, which is automatic and irrevocable (Little League rule 4.07). All involved parties may be asked to present information if a consideration of further disciplinary action by the Board is needed on a case-by-case basis. The review is for the determination of additional sanctions regarding an incident and for investigation of preventive measure for future incidents.
5. Managers are responsible for actions and behavior of their players, coaches, and spectators. Arguing with or harassing an umpire shall be grounds for immediate ejection from the League's complex.
6. Physical confrontations with an umpire or league official will result in an immediate, indefinite suspension of the manager, coach, player, or spectator, until such action is reviewed by the Board and a definite penalty is defined and imposed. Physical confrontation is defined as not only hitting or striking the person of the umpire or league official, but also throwing objects at or toward the individual, spitting, interfering with passage, and/or assaults via derogatory or abusive language, or other actions deemed serious and inappropriate by the Board of Directors.

7. Managers have the right to discipline their players for missing practice, tardiness or disruptive behavior. Disciplinary action may include benching a player or referring the situation to the Board of Directors. If the action is benching a player, the Baseball/Softball Commissioner and Baseball/Softball Player Agent should be notified as well as the Manager of the opposing team prior to the start of the game.

Safety

1. BCLL appoints a Safety Officer each year who shall be introduced at the Managers Meeting. All accidents must be reported to the Safety Officer.
2. All Managers shall attend the scheduled mandatory Safety Clinic, and follow safety checklist per Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules Book.
3. Managers will ensure that properly signed medical release forms are at each practice and game.
4. Managers are responsible for informing the Safety Officer when a player has been injured during a practice or game.
5. Any player requiring doctor's care that causes the player to be unable to play shall produce a signed release before participating in practices or games.
6. Practices and games shall be cancelled if there is any question of safety due to weather or other factors. The League Safety Officer and Baseball/Softball Commissioners will make this determination. The Baseball/Softball Commissioners and will notify the Managers.
 - a. Managers are encouraged to monitor bennettscreek.org and the official Bennett's Creek Little League Facebook page to check filed status prior to contacting the Baseball/Softball Commissioner.
7. Any Manager during practice or game shall have full authority and responsibility for safety matters on that field and adjacent areas.
8. Any player in a squatted position behind the plate, whether on a field or in a bullpen, shall wear a complete set of catcher's protective equipment (**to include a dangly through guard**). If warming up a pitcher in a non-squatted position, a child must wear a protective face mask.
9. All players swinging a bat during warm-ups, at practices, or prior to games, etc., shall wear an approved batting helmet.
10. Bandannas and other such accessories shall not be worn under the baseball cap, visor or batting helmet. If it is necessary that a hat be worn under a batting helmet, it shall be worn in the normal, i.e., bill to the front fashion.
11. No earrings or other cosmetic jewelry shall be worn during practices or game play.
12. Excluding service animals, dogs and other pets are prohibited from the BCLL complex at all times.
13. Bicycles, unicycles and all other wheeled vehicles powered or un-powered, are prohibited from the BCLL complex at all times during the playing season. Wheelchairs and similar medical appliances, along with vehicles used for BCLL business, are excluded from this prohibition.

14. Children under the age of 16 shall not be permitted inside the concession stand or any other area where cooking or any other food preparation is in progress.
15. Children under the age of 16 shall not be permitted to operate lawn mowers or any other power equipment including pitching machines in the BCLL complex.
16. Children under the age of 16 shall not operate lights, scoreboards, public address systems or any other electrical or electronic equipment within the BCLL complex, unless under the immediate supervision of an adult.
17. Climbing of fences and backstops and sitting atop dugouts is prohibited.
18. Only Little League approved equipment, bearing appropriate certification labels, shall be used in practices and during game play.
19. Except for JR/SR divisions, there shall be no on-deck circle and no batter warm-up.
20. Throwing of rocks, dirt clods, etc., is prohibited in the BCLL complex at all times.
21. Throwing, pitching, and batting will be confined to the playing fields, bullpens, and batting cages built for those purposes (exceptions may be made during practice while supervised by a Manager/Coach. Throwing, pitching and battings are prohibited in common areas of the BCLL complex, especially around the concession stand and in the roadway between the fields. NO SOFT TOSS IS ALLOWED INTO ANY OF THE FENCES!!
22. Routes for emergency vehicle access to the field will be always kept clear. Access to the driveway on the north side of the field shall also be kept clear.
23. The use of tobacco products and e-cigarettes/vaping are not permitted within the BCLL complex.

Schedules

1. The Baseball/Softball Commissioner is responsible for the development and modification of the League's practice and game schedules. Managers may not make any changes to the schedules unless it has been approved by the Baseball/Softball Commissioner and communicated to all the division Managers.
2. Make-up games shall be scheduled by the Baseball/Softball Commissioner on the earliest available day. For Interleague games, the Baseball/Softball Commissioner shall work with the other league's Baseball/Softball representative to schedule the make-up game as soon as possible.
3. Unless deemed necessary by the Baseball/Softball Commissioner, weekend game schedules should commence no earlier than 9:00 AM.
4. Weeknight games will begin no earlier than 6:00 PM.
5. Interleague games may be scheduled as approved by VA District 6.
6. Official school functions will be the only justification for rescheduling a game, in which case 48 hours advance notice shall be given to the Baseball/Softball Commissioner.
7. A post season tournament may be held upon mutual agreement between the division Managers and the Baseball/Softball Commissioner. The decision to hold a tournament shall be made by the Board of Directors. The tournament format and

rules will be defined by the Board of Directors. The T-Ball division shall not hold a tournament, per Little League rules.

Length of Games

1. T-Ball games are three innings in length and shall not exceed 90 minutes.
2. For Machine/Coach Pitch Baseball games, no new inning shall begin after 1 hour and 15 minutes. Innings already in play after 1 hour and 15 minutes shall be completed.
3. Minor Player Pitch and above game time shall be in accordance with the Little League Rule Book and District 6 Interleague Rules.

All-Star Procedures

1. Little League gives the local Board of Directors the authority to determine the best All-Star selection process for their league.
2. All-Star team Managers will be selected by all Major and Minor division Managers in a closed meeting with the Player Agent and President. If agreement cannot be made among these individuals, the player vote, from Major division and Minor division players only, will be in effect. This vote will be used for a tie breaker situation. The player vote is confidential and is delegated through the Player Agent and President only. Jr./Sr. divisions will follow the same procedure. The Board of Directors will be advised and make the final determination. NO MANAGER WILL BE SELECTED BASED ON TENURE.
3. The regular season division Managers will select the players, by a confidential vote through the Player Agent, that will field the 9/10, 11/12 and Jr/Sr All-Star tournament teams. This selection will be based on eligibility, performance throughout the season, statistics, positions critical for tournament play (catchers and pitchers) and overall contribution to the team. Teams must field at least 11 players. Managers are not required to vote for a minimum number of players but must not exceed 11 players. The Player Agent and President will act as mediator to ensure fairness to all players and help resolve any conflict that may arise.
4. Tied votes or players without majority vote: It is the All-Star team Manager's decision to finalize roster and determine if a player who did not receive a majority vote or tied vote meets the qualifications for the All-Star team. No player will be selected that does not receive at least half of the division Managers' votes. 9/10-year-olds will not automatically be selected for the All-star team due to major division status. Player selection for the 9/10 team will be from both the minor and major division and will be based on eligibility defined by Little League and criteria above. If a division has only two regular season Managers, one assistant coach from each team will participate in the voting process.
5. Release of names before May 15 is in violation of Little League rules and may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.