

2024 Halfway National Little League By-Laws for Major Baseball

All Coaches, Managers, or volunteers who are on the field with players at any time must have a current volunteer form and background check completed.

Only individuals 18 or older may serve as managers or coaches. Individuals 16 or 17 may be rostered coaches as long as other coaches 18 years or older on the field, coaches under 18 should only be used on the field. Individuals with a volunteer application under the age of 16 may be used in a volunteer capacity during practices and pre-game activities ONLY.

Managers and Coaches are not permitted to use tobacco during games or practice. Including electronic cigarettes.

Practice:

1. There is one calendar to sign up for practices or record game changes for all divisions; it's available as a google document.
2. Schedule only for your assigned fields. (Major practice on Major field only, etc.) Practices may be held at other locations with the President's knowledge and approval. If the facility requires insurance coverage the manager is responsible for ensuring this is completed. All Washington Co. Parks , Washington Co. Public Schools, Barrel Nation and 4 Star Athletic Complex are covered by our insurance. Indoor facilities which are paid for are covered under the payment agreement with the establishment. Violation to this policy will lead to disciplinary action and/ or dismissal of the violating manager.

Game Information:

1. Manager, Coaches or designated volunteers of the home team are responsible to ensure that the field is lined and in playing condition 30 minutes prior to game time.

2. The 1st base dugout will be for the visiting team and the 3rd base dugout will be the home team.
3. Each team shall secure one adult to work the press-box, if a youth is assisting in the press box an adult must be present at all times for supervision. Managers are responsible to see that volunteers clean up the press box and that building is locked and secured. Schedule this before the season. During interleague games at HNLL, the home team is to staff the press box.
4. Managers shall provide the press box, and opposing teams their lineup 30 minutes before the beginning of the game.
5. Managers are responsible to give the press-box and the other team's scorekeeper all of their changes when they happen.
6. The official pitch count will be kept on the scoreboard. Managers are responsible to record pitch counts at the end of the game in the record book in the press box.
7. A nominated and approved parent that has his/her background checks and volunteer forms current and approved by league President and with umpire or OIC approval can substitute for an absent Manager or Coach.
8. The home team shall have the field before a game until 30 minutes prior to game-time. At that point the visitors will have the field for 10 minutes for infield. The home team will again get the field at 20 minutes prior to game-time for 10 minutes of infield. The home team shall line the field with field paint for the final 10 minutes. The visiting team will take batting practice in the 3rd base line batting cage.
9. If a player, coach, manager or fan is removed or ejected from the game or stands by an umpire or individual acting in the umpire capacity of the league, OIC must be notified immediately and the umpire must notify the league President within 24 hours via email or other means.

Post Game:

1. After the game the visiting team will be responsible for grooming the field, unless in the case of interleague play HNLL team is responsible.
2. **After the game managers and coaches are responsible to ensure that all trash is removed from the dug-out and that players take time before they are dismissed to clean up the surrounding area's trash outside of the fence area, including under the bleacher area.**
3. Make sure all field gates and equipment room doors are locked even if you are not the last person to leave the field or area for the day.

Other:

1. Sunflower seeds are prohibited on the fields and in the dugouts.
2. No food in the dugouts.
3. The manager is responsible for their team's concession stand duties. The manager or his or her designee needs to be present at the start of each shift to ensure that parents are present.
4. Managers are responsible to participate and designate volunteers to assist with the field maintenance schedule including mowing, trimming, or other projects as assigned/ requested by the field maintenance director.

Safety:

1. All catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with throat protector, mask and male catchers must wear a protective cup during games and practices.
2. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind including bracelets, necklaces or earrings at any time. This includes sports bracelets or bands. No barrettes, beads or other objects should be worn in the player's hair other than soft elastic hair ties or ribbons. Players are not permitted to wear sweatbands on their wrists. If players are wearing a long sleeve shirt under their uniform shirt it needs to be of similar color, it may not be white.

Batting gloves may be worn but they may not be white. Exception: Players may wear Medical Bracelets during field of play if required.

3. Male players must wear a protective cup during all games when in the catcher position.

District 01 Tournament Game Ejections

Any Manager and or Coach that gets ejected from a District Tournament game by an umpire, the District Administrator may discuss and request that said person not be selected as a Manager / Coach for the subsequent year's tournament teams within that league. If the President and Board decides to use this person the following year as a Manager and or a Coach, the district will review placing any tournament games at such league's facility / fields and reserve this right in accordance with tournament play rules and guidelines

Pool Play Guidelines:

Pool Play will be utilized in the Major Division in accordance to the following:

There will be a list of all major players, sorted alphabetically by age 9-12, 9 year old players will be at the top of the list. The Player Agent will start at the top of the list and work his/her way down until an available Player accepts to play. The Manager/Coaches may not find their own player, they must go through the Player Agent(s) If the player agent is not available to assist with identification of a player, the VP of Baseball Operations will assist, if the VP is unable to assist the President will assist or the President may designate someone in his/ her absence. Pool play players will bat last in a line up and will only play an outfield position.

Other:

Courtesy runner- Halfway National Little League chooses to use the courtesy runner option during the regular season

One foot in the box- Halfway National Little League chooses to require batters keep one foot in the batter's box throughout their at-bat, barring eight exceptions provided in the rule book, during **regular season** games.

Manager Signature: _____

Halfway National Little League

Local Rules of Play for T-Ball Development League

Revised 2024

All eligible players ages 4-6(age 6 who have never played), will be placed in a general pool by age and gender. The VP of Baseball Operations will then assign all players to teams trying to keep an equal balance of ages and genders on each team. At the preceding individual's discretion others may be included in this process. Special requests for placement on individual teams will attempt to be granted in the T-Ball program. The final decision will be made by the committee and will be final. T-Ball players returning to the T-Ball program the following season are not required to return to the same team.

Team managers will be assigned teams after the approval of the Board of Directors. Coaches and other assistants may be appointed by the team manager after approval by the Board of Directors.

Managers must remember that they are there to teach the fundamentals of baseball and instill the qualities of good sportsmanship.

It is the expectation that the Little League T-ball program provided to managers and also available at littleleague.org coaches corner be used as a model for practice.

All Coaches, Managers, or volunteers who are on the field with players at any time must have a current volunteer form and background check completed, this includes completion of the required abuse training program..

Only individuals 18 or older may serve as managers or coaches. Individuals 16 or 17 may be rostered coaches as long as other coaches 18 years or older on the field, coaches under 18 should only be used on the field. Individuals with a volunteer application under the age of 16 may be used in a volunteer capacity during practices and pre-game activities ONLY.

Managers and Coaches are not permitted to use tobacco during games or practice. Including electronic cigarettes. This includes leaving the field to use tobacco products during a game or practice.

Equipment Usage:

1. Only Little League approved USA stamped bats are allowed. This includes practice and games. Please check with league officers or the little league website if you have any questions. All managers are responsible to ensure proper equipment is being used. Little league insurance will not cover any accidents involving unapproved equipment. Managers and the league can be held liable.
2. All batters and base runners must wear league approved helmets during games and practices. Each team should have at least five (3) helmets in their possession.
3. Players are not allowed to touch bats, helmets or equipment at any time unless in the field of play.

Team Practice:

1. Team practice may be held at Halfway National Little League facilities.
2. Practices may be held at other locations with the President's knowledge and approval. If the facility requires insurance coverage the manager is responsible for ensuring this is completed. All Washington Co. Parks , Washington Co. Public Schools, Barrel Nation and 4 Star Athletic Complex are covered by our insurance. Indoor facilities which are paid for are covered under the payment agreement with the establishment. Violation

to this policy will lead to disciplinary action and/ or dismissal of the violating manager.

3. Managers should work with league officers and other managers to schedule practices and times that limit conflict with other teams.
4. Please be mindful of this age level and limit practices and games (events) to no more than one (1) hour. After 1 hour practices become unproductive and kids lose interest. On school nights, practices should not go past 7:30pm.
5. The district hosts several coaches' clinics during the season. Little League requires managers and coaches to attend a clinic at least once every three years. The clinics provide great instruction to develop players and offer guidance in successful ways to coach at this age level. Also, feel free to contact league officers or major league managers to discuss ways to improve your practices.
6. Coaches should be using resources available through the coaching center on the little league website.
7. All equipment will be returned and checked in at the end of the season by the Equipment Manager.

Safety:

1. Only roster players, managers and five (5) coaches will be allowed in the dugout (player's bench) area. For safety concerns, insurance reasons, and manager courtesy, parents, siblings and friends should be kept out of the dugout and off the field.
2. When practicing or playing at fields without benches, please be mindful of where players are located to avoid being hit by foul balls or balls hit by nearby teams.
3. No player may go to the concession stand during the game.
4. No player, manager or coach is to consume any food during the game in the dugout or field or leave the game to do such. The following items are prohibited in the dugouts:

- Sunflower seeds
 - Soda's (reason for no soda's it attracts bees in the dugout)
 - Food (All kids should eat before they come to game or practice)
 - Chewing gum/Candy
5. Any player who throws the bat (i.e. temper tantrum or batting) is automatically ejected from the game after one umpire or coach's warning. Base runners must remain in position.
 6. No sliding or diving for base is permitted in t-ball division.
 7. Little League baseball prohibits holding a baseball bat when on deck. With a helmet on and no bat, a player may wait behind the backstop or fence for their turn at bat. Using the on-deck position inside the field of play is not permitted.
 8. Do not overplay any of the players in hot weather. Please make sure all players remain hydrated.
 9. The onset of inclement weather should be monitored closely. Please communicate accordingly and vacate the field when appropriate or instructed by league officials.
 10. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind including bracelets, necklaces or earrings at any time. This includes sports bracelets or bands. No barrettes, beads or other objects should be worn in the player's hair other than soft elastic hair ties or ribbons. Players are not permitted to wear sweatbands on their wrists. If players are wearing a long sleeve shirt under their uniform shirt it needs to be of similar color, it may not be white. Batting gloves may be worn but they may not be white. **Exception: Players may wear Medical Bracelets during field of play if required.**

Game Day:

1. Visiting Team is designated as the first team on the schedule. Home Team is designated as the second team on the schedule.
2. Home Team will take the third base side

3. Home Team is responsible for the following:
 - Provide one new game ball and a backup game ball in good condition
 - Line the field and batter's boxes prior to the game time
 - Return lining equipment to the major league shed before game begins
 - Inspect for any safety concerns around bases (Mud, stones, etc.)
 - All volunteers must have a current volunteer form submitted and approved by league president before entering the field to help.
 - Return all bases and equipment to the major league shed at end of the game
 - Rake the infield, talk to coaches, and parents at the start of season to get volunteers to help rake the pitchers mound and home plate after every game. Rake the dirt into the bases.
4. **Each team is responsible for cleanup around the benches and bleachers after the game.** Make sure all trash is removed from benches and around the field! Managers should check their benches and the field for proper cleaning before leaving.

Time Limits:

1. First half of the season games (April) will start weekdays at 5:30pm
second half games (May) will start at 6:00pm, unless otherwise noted in the schedule. Saturday games will be played at various times. (Game times will be noted on the schedule). All Games will be 1 hour.
2. Please make every effort to start games on time. If your game starts late, you must still vacate on time for the team scheduled to follow your game. Players should arrive 15 minutes prior to game time.
3. Do not start any inning after 7:30pm
4. Four completed innings or more is considered a complete game

5. Do not continue a game if darkness is creating safety concerns for players. Coaches should work together and discuss ending a game due to darkness prior to the start of an inning.
6. The respective managers and VP of Baseball Operations will reschedule games that are suspended, canceled, or rained out on the first mutually open day that does not interfere with the regularly scheduled games.
7. If you cancel a game due to inclement weather, you must notify each parent. If the complex is closed for all games cancellations will be posted on the HNLL Facebook Page and Website.

Hitting/Base Running Rules:

1. All players present for a game will be placed in the batting order by their jersey numbers. The batting order will remain the same for the entire game unless changed due to injury or absence.
2. Approved batting helmets must be worn at all times when batting or when running the bases. Managers will not allow any player to bat or run the bases unless a helmet is in place.
3. There is no Bunting in T-Ball.
4. On an overthrow out of play a player may NOT advance to the next base.
5. The offensive team shall be retired when all players present for the game have batted in that inning.
6. Base runners must stay in contact with the base until the ball is hit off the tee. When the runners have advanced as far as practical, without being put out, the offensive manager shall call "Time" and place the ball back on the tee for the next batter. Managers are reminded that just running around the bases after a ball is hit does not teach the children the proper base running techniques. Last batter upon the coach's option shall be permitted to run the bases in their entirety provided that all prior runners for their safety depart home plate.

7. The distance between bases for T-Ball is recommended to be fifty (50) feet.
8. The offensive team shall be retired when all players present for the game have batted in that inning.
9. No Score is kept in the t-ball division.

Uniform Rules:

1. The uniform issued by HNLL is the only uniform permitted on the field of play. Approved safety equipment must be worn when batting, running the bases and playing the position of catcher. HNLL requires that certain items be returned to the team manager at the end of the scheduled playing season.

Field Rules: – All rules will apply in accordance with “Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball, Inc.” in addition to the following:

1. The defensive team shall place ten (10) players on the playing field excluding the catcher, if a team has more than 10 players add players in the outfield where needed. The location of the players shall be in accordance with standard baseball positions. The extra defensive player shall be positioned in the outfield with an outfield consisting of Left, Left Center, Right Center and Right Field. ALL PLAYERS MUST PLAY when on defense, no players sit the bench.
2. The offensive team shall be the entire team roster of those players present for the game. The players shall be listed in order in which they are to bat by the jersey number.
3. No Player will sit the bench.
4. The manager will be responsible for players to play at least two (2) different positions for no more than two (2) innings at any one position.
5. A complete game is four (4) innings there will be no extra inning games or the time limit of 1 hour whichever comes first.

6. Managers and coaches may stand in the playing field to give advice and direction to their players but may not interfere with the play. No more than two (2) coaches may be on the field at any one time. Only one (1) coach may be near the batting tee to give instruction to the batter. All coaches must make sure that all play has stopped before giving instructions or demonstrating a technique to a player during a game.

Pitching:

1. The ball **shall not be pitched** but shall be hit off of a batting tee which shall be placed at the designated home plate area. It shall be the offensive team manager's responsibility to remove the batting tee after a ball is hit into the field of play. The player that occupies the defensive position of the pitcher must stand behind the area that would normally be the pitching mound until the ball is hit. (This is for safety reasons)

The manager is responsible for their team's concession stand duties. The manager or his or her designee needs to be present at the start of each shift to ensure that parents are present.

Managers are responsible to participate and designate volunteers to assist with the field maintenance schedule including mowing, trimming, or other projects as assigned/ requested by the field maintenance director.

Manager Signature: _____

Halfway National Little League.

Local Rules of Play for Rookie Development League

Revised 2024

All eligible players ages 5-7,(age 7 who have not played), will be placed in a general pool by age. The VP of Baseball Operations will then assign all players to teams trying to keep an equal balance of ages and ability. At the preceding individual's discretion others may be included in this process of team assignment. Special request for team placement will be considered but cannot be promised. Players returning to the rookie program from the previous season will not necessarily return to the same team.

Team managers will be assigned teams after approval of the Board of Directors. Coaches and other assistants may be recommended by the team manager then approved by the Board of Directors. Each team will have 1 manager and 2 coaches. A manager may have a 3rd with approval of the BOD, as the focus of the rookie division is instructional. Managers/ Coaches must remember that they are there to teach the fundamentals of baseball and instill the qualities of good sportsmanship.

All Coaches, Managers, or volunteers who are on the field with players at any time must have a current volunteer form and background check completed including the required abuse awareness program.

Only individuals 18 or older may serve as managers or coaches. Individuals 16 or 17 may be rostered coaches as long as other coaches 18 years or older on the field, coaches under 18 should only be used on the field. Individuals with a volunteer application under the age of 16 may be used in a volunteer capacity during practices and pre-game activities ONLY.

Managers and Coaches are not permitted to use tobacco during games or practice. Including electronic cigarettes. This includes leaving the field to use tobacco products during a game or practice.

Equipment Usage:

1. Only Little League approved USA stamped bats are allowed. This includes practice and games. Please check with league officers or the little league website if you have any questions. All managers are responsible to ensure proper equipment is being used. Little league insurance will not cover any accidents involving unapproved equipment. Managers and the league can be held liable.
2. All batters and base runners must wear league approved helmets during games and practices. Each team should have at least five (5) helmets in their possession.
3. Players are not allowed to touch bats, helmets or equipment at any time unless in the field of play.
4. Any players warming up the pitcher must wear a facemask and chest protector (including practices and bullpen work).
5. All catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with throat protector, mask and male catchers must wear a protective cup during games and practices.

6. Do not allow equipment to lie on the field. Practice balls and catcher's equipment must be kept behind the fence. Only the batter should have a bat on the playing field.
7. All equipment will be returned and checked in at the end of the season by the Equipment Manager.

Team Practice:

1. Team practice may be held at Halfway National Little League facilities.
2. Practices may be held at other locations with the President's knowledge and approval. If the facility requires insurance coverage the manager is responsible for ensuring this is completed. All Washington Co. Parks , Washington Co. Public Schools Barrel Nation and 4 Star Athletic Complex are covered by our insurance. Indoor facilities which are paid for are covered under the payment agreement with the establishment. Violation to this policy will lead to disciplinary action and/ or dismissal of the violating manager.
3. Managers should work with league officers and other managers to schedule practices and times that limit conflict with other teams.
4. Please be mindful of this age level and limit practices and games (events) to no more than two hours. After two hours, practices become unproductive and kids lose interest. On school nights, practices should not go past 8pm.
5. The district hosts several coaches' clinics during the season. Little League requires managers and coaches to attend a clinic at least once every three years. The clinics provide great instruction to develop players and offer guidance in successful ways to coach at this age level. Also, feel free to contact league officers or major league managers to discuss ways to improve your practices.
6. Coaches should be using resources available through the coaching center on the little league website.

Batting Cages:

1. The Rookie league will have access to the batting cage as needed and scheduled with other divisions.

Safety:

1. Only roster players, managers and 2 coaches will be allowed in the dugout (player's bench) area. For safety concerns, insurance reasons, and manager courtesy, parents, siblings and friends should be kept out of the dugout and off the field. Extra coaches are permitted for practices as long as they are approved volunteers. If a Manager desires to have a helper in the bench to supervise players they must be an approved volunteer.
2. When practicing or playing at fields without dugouts, please be mindful of where players are located to avoid being hit by foul balls or balls hit by nearby teams.
3. No player may go to the concession stand during the game.
4. No player, manager or coach is to consume any food during the game in the dugout or field or leave the game to do such.
 - Sunflower seeds
 - Soda's (reason for no soda's it attracts bees in the dugout)
 - Food (All kids should eat before they come to game or practice)
 - Chewing gum/Candy
5. Any player who throws the bat (i.e. temper tantrum or batting) is automatically ejected from the game after one umpire or coach's warning. Base runners must remain in position.
6. If a play is going to be made at any base, **the runner may not slide.**
7. Little League baseball prohibits holding a baseball bat when on deck. With a helmet on and no bat, a player may wait behind the backstop or fence for their turn at bat. Using the on-deck position inside the field of play is not permitted.
8. Do not overplay any of the players in hot weather, particularly catchers. Please make sure all players remain hydrated.

9. The onset of inclement weather should be monitored closely. Please communicate accordingly and vacate the field when appropriate or instructed by league officials.
10. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind including bracelets, necklaces or earrings at any time. This includes sports bracelets or bands. No barrettes, beads or other objects should be worn in the player's hair other than soft elastic hair ties or ribbons. Players are not permitted to wear sweatbands on their wrists while pitching. If players are wearing a long sleeve shirt under their uniform, it may not be white. Batting gloves may be worn but they may not be white. **Exception: Players may wear Medical Bracelets during field of play if required.**

Game Day:

1. First Team on schedule designated as the home team. .
2. Home Team will take the third base bench
3. Home Team is responsible for the following:
 - Provide one new game ball and a backup game ball in good condition
 - Line the field and batter's boxes prior to the game time
 - Return lining equipment to the major league shed before game begins
 - Inspect for any safety concerns around bases (Mud, stones, etc.)
 - Return all bases and equipment to the major league shed at end of the game
 - Remove bases and install plugs. Rake home plate after the game. Get the Drag machine¹ brush in the grass to go the whole way around the field. Then go to the pitcher's mound and make circles there first. PICK THE DRAG UP before leaving the dirt field. STAY AWAY FROM HOME PLATE.

- Talk to coaches at the start of season to get volunteers to help rake fields after every game.
4. Each team is responsible for cleanup around the benches and bleachers after the game. Make sure all trash is removed from benches and around the field! Managers should check their benches and the field for proper cleaning before leaving.
 5. **Make sure the Major League shed is locked.**

Time Limits:

1. First half of the season games will start at 5:30 PM, second half games will start at 6:00 PM. (Game times will be noted on the schedule). Games have a 2 hour time limit.
2. Please make every effort to start games on time. If your game starts late, you must still vacate on time for the team scheduled to follow your game. Players should arrive 30 minutes prior to game time.
3. Do not start any inning after 8:00 pm
4. Four completed innings or more is considered a complete game
5. Do not continue a game if darkness is creating safety concerns for players. Coaches should work together and discuss ending a game due to darkness prior to the start of an inning.
6. The respective managers and VP of Baseball Operations will reschedule games that are suspended, canceled, or rained out on the first mutually open day that does not interfere with the regularly scheduled games. For inter-league play, makeup games should be played at the same host field originally scheduled.
7. If you cancel a game due to inclement weather, you must notify each parent. If the complex is closed for all games, cancellations will be posted on HNLL Facebook Page and Website.

Umpire:

1. There will be no strikes or balls called. Coach Pitch only.

2. The Managers will call outs on bases only.
3. Players get (5) pitches no contact the player returns to the bench.
4. Managers are also responsible for all players, coaches and fans that are associated with their team. If a manager has to suspend play they must contact the League VP of Baseball Operations within 24 hours.

Hitting/Base Running Rules:

1. All players present for a game will be placed in the batting order. The batting order will remain the same for the entire game unless changed due to injury or absence.
2. Approved batting helmets must be worn at all times when batting or when running the bases. Managers will not allow any player to bat or run the bases unless a helmet is in place.
3. If a batter is hit by a pitched ball it is considered a “no pitch”. The pitch will not count towards the batter’s five (5) pitches.
4. Stealing is not permitted in the Rookie League.
5. There is no “infield Fly Rule” in the Rookie League.
6. There is no bunting in Rookie League.
7. On an overthrow ball a player stays at the base.

Uniform Rules:

1. The uniform issued by HNLL is the only uniform permitted on the field of play. Approved safety equipment must be worn when batting, running the bases and playing the position of catcher. HNLL requires that certain items be returned to the team manager at the end of the scheduled playing season.

Field Rules: – All rules will apply in accordance with “Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball, Inc.” in addition to the following:

1. The defensive team shall place at least 9 players on the playing field including the catcher. All 11 players should be placed on the field if all are present. The location of the players shall be in accordance with standard baseball positions. The extra defensive player shall be positioned in the outfield with an outfield consisting of Left, Left Center, Center, Right Center and Right Field.
2. The Rookie League field dimensions such as base path distance and pitching are to home plate distance will be the same field dimensions as those used in the Minor League Program.
3. No Player will sit the bench. This includes using this as a disciplinary measure. If you are finding you are having discipline concerns with a player please document in email to the President and VP of Baseball Operations immediately.
4. If you have less than 9 players on a roster for a game. The other team may let you use a player to be used in the outfield. The player given will not bat in your lineup.
5. If you have less than 9 players to start a game you may eliminate the outfield positions. You may request a player from the other team that has made the last out in the previous inning or the last batter in the line up.
6. A complete game is six (6) innings there will be no extra inning games.
7. There will be a five (5) run limit per inning in the Rookie League or three (3) outs whichever comes first.
8. If you have a roster of 9 or more all players play the field and bat in the same batting order. No player sits on the bench.

Defensive Player Rotation:

1. The goal of Rookie League play is to see that ALL players receive adequate playing time in a variety of positions to develop their skills and keep their interest.
2. Outfielders must play at least 10 feet behind the infield.
3. Teams are required to keep accurate batting order.
4. All players must have the opportunity to play every position within the season.

Pitching:

1. Rookie League will be coach pitch with a maximum of five (5) pitches per a batter. If the ball is not hit in play after five (5) pitches, the batter is to return to the bench. Coaching staff need to be mindful of good pitching, which will often require kneeling, to encourage good player development. Coaching staff should make every effort to pitch from the mound. This will better prepare our players for Minor League.

The manager is responsible for their team's concession stand duties. The manager or his or her designee needs to be present at the start of each shift to ensure that parents are present.

Managers are responsible to participate and designate volunteers to assist with the field maintenance schedule including mowing, trimming, or other projects as assigned/ requested by the field maintenance director.

Manager Signature: _____

Halfway National Little League

Local Rules of Play for Minor Development League

Revised 2024

All eligible players ages 7-11, will be encouraged to attend an evaluation for managers and coaches to evaluate players ability. At times, a 12 year old may be allowed to play. Please refer to the President of the League or VP of Baseball Operations. Following the major draft, managers, along with the player agent and VP of Baseball Operations will conduct a draft of players. Managers will select the draft order out of a cup and that will determine the order they pick. **11 year olds will be selected first** until all 11 year olds are selected, then move to 10 year olds, 9 year olds, 8 year olds, and 7 year olds. A manager will need to select their own player or any desired coaches (with a maximum of 2 coaches) by the 3rd round of each age group or those players are open to any team. Manager should be considerate of keeping siblings together and follow the same guidelines to ensure siblings are picked. Managers will need to declare these selections prior to player draft starts. **A snake draft method will be used.** Player requests can be made but are not guaranteed and players will not necessarily return to the same team from year to year.

Team managers will be assigned teams after approval of the Board of Directors. Coaches and other assistants may be recommended by the team manager then approved by the Board of Directors. Each team will have 1 manager and 3 coaches. *The purpose of the 4th coach is to allow for adequate coverage of the dugout when coach pitch is used.* Managers/ Coaches must remember that they are there to teach the fundamentals of baseball and instill the qualities of good sportsmanship.

All Coaches, Managers, or volunteers who are on the field with players at any time must have a current volunteer form and background check completed. All team staff must have completed all required mandatory training.

Only individuals 18 or older may serve as managers or coaches. Individuals 16 or 17 may be rostered coaches as long as other coaches 18 years or older on the field, coaches under 18 should only be used on the field. Individuals with a volunteer application under the age of 16 may be used in a volunteer capacity during practices and pre-game activities ONLY.

Managers and Coaches are not permitted to use tobacco, including electronic cigarettes during games or practice. This includes leaving the field to use tobacco products during a game or practice.

Equipment Usage:

1. Only Little League approved USA stamped bats are allowed. This includes practice and games. Please check with league officers or the little league website if you have any questions. All managers are responsible to ensure proper equipment is being used. Little league insurance will not cover any accidents involving unapproved equipment. Managers and the league can be held liable.
2. All batters and base runners must wear league approved helmets during games and practices. Each team should have at least five (5) helmets in their possession.
3. Players are not allowed to touch bats, helmets or equipment at any time unless in the field of play.

4. Any players warming up the pitcher must wear a facemask (including practices and bullpen work).
5. All catchers must wear a catcher's helmet with throat protector, mask and male catchers must wear a protective cup during games and practices.
6. Do not allow equipment to lie on the field. Practice balls and catcher's equipment must be kept behind the fence. Only the batter should have a bat on the playing field.
7. All equipment will be returned and checked in at the end of the season by the Equipment Manager.

Team Practice:

1. Team practice may be held at Halfway National Little League facility. Team practice may be held at the grass practice near the minor batting cage.
2. Schedule only for your assigned fields. (Major practice on Major field only, etc.) Practices may be held at other locations with the President's knowledge and approval, however they must be covered on the LL insurance policy. If WCPS facilities are utilized additional WCPS policies must be understood and followed. All Washington Co. Parks are covered within Halfway Boundaries. In addition Washington Co. Public Schools, Barrel Nation and 4 Star Athletic Complex are covered by our insurance. Indoor facilities which are paid for are covered under the payment agreement with the establishment. Violation to this policy will lead to disciplinary action and/ or dismissal of the violating manager.
3. Managers should work with league officers and other managers to schedule practices and times that limit conflict with other teams.
4. Please limit practices and games (events) to no more than two hours. On school nights, practices or games should not go past 8 PM.
5. The district hosts several coaches' clinics during the season. Little League requires managers and coaches to attend a clinic at least once every three years. The clinics provide great instruction to develop players and offer guidance in successful ways to coach at this age level. Also, feel free to contact league officers or major league managers to discuss ways to improve your practices.
6. Coaches should be using resources available through the coaching center on the little league website.

Batting Cages:

1. The minor league will have access to the batting cage that is along the 1st base line of the minor league fields across from the parking lot. Please keep your players in the grass as they go to the batting cage. The major cages can be utilized if they are available.
2. Please work together and leave the cages in good order. Keep players not batting outside the cage to avoid accidental injuries. Non-players and young children are not allowed to be playing in the batting cages at any time.
3. Additional scheduled use of the batting cages will be allocated to each team for practice purposes during the year with a schedule to be managed by the VP of Baseball Operations.

Safety:

1. Only rostered players, managers and coaches will be allowed in the dugout (player's bench) area. For safety concerns, insurance reasons, and manager courtesy, parents, siblings and friends should be kept out of the dugout and off the field.
2. When practicing or playing at fields without dugouts, please be mindful of where players are located to avoid being hit by foul balls or balls hit by nearby teams.
3. No player may go to the concession stand during the game.
4. No player, manager or coach is to consume any food during the game in the dugout, field or leave the game to do such.
 - Sunflower seeds
 - Soda's (reason for no soda's it attracts bees in the dugout)
 - Food (All kids should eat before they come to game or practice)
 - Chewing gum/Candy
5. Any player who throws the bat (i.e. temper tantrum or batting) is automatically ejected from the game after one umpire or coach's warning. The play will continue and the ejection will take place after the play has concluded. Base runner position will be determined by the outcome of the play.
6. Using the on-deck position inside the field of play is not permitted. -

7. Do not overplay any of the players in hot weather, particularly catchers. Please make sure all players remain hydrated.
8. The onset of inclement weather should be monitored closely. Please communicate accordingly and vacate the field when appropriate or instructed by league officials.
9. Players are not permitted to wear jewelry of any kind including bracelets, necklaces or earrings at any time. This includes sports bracelets or bands. No barrettes, beads or other objects should be worn in the player's hair other than soft elastic hair ties or ribbons. Players are not permitted to wear sweatbands on their wrists. If players are wearing a long sleeve shirt under their uniform shirt it needs to be of similar color. . Batting gloves may be worn. . Exception; Players may wear Medical Bracelets during field of play if required.
10. All male players are strongly encouraged to wear a protective cup, catching requires this gear.

Game Day:

1. Visiting Team is designated as the first team on the schedule. The Home Team is designated as the second team on the schedule.
2. Home Team will take the third base dugout.
3. Home Team is responsible for the following:
 - Provide one new game ball and a backup game ball in good condition.
 - Line the field and batter's boxes prior to the game time.
 - Return lining equipment to the minor league shed before the game begins.
 - Managers will inspect for any safety concerns around bases (Mud, stones, etc.)
 - Return all bases and equipment to the minor league shed at the end of the game. Bases go to the dugout
 - Both home and away teams will assist with returning the field to playing condition. Remove bases and add plugs. Use the Drag machine as instructed by the field director.
 - The Home team will have control of the primary batting cage for 20 minutes beginning 45 minutes prior to the game start time.

4. The Visiting team will have control of the primary batting cage for 20 minutes beginning 25 minutes prior to game start time.
5. If your team arrives late to the game, you may lose your chance to use the batting cages.
6. Each team is responsible for cleanup around the benches and bleachers after the game. Make sure all trash is removed from dugouts and around the field! Please don't release players until all trash is cleaned up.
7. Visiting team Shall secure one adult to work the press-box. If a youth is assisting in the press box an adult must be present at all times for supervision. NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 12 IN THE PRESS BOX WITHOUT AN ADULT! Managers are responsible to see that volunteers clean up the press box and that building is locked and secured. Schedule this before the season. During interleague games it is the HNLL team to staff the press box fully. Please make sure that players are announced as follows; "now batting number 9 John Jones".
8. Visiting team is responsible for contacting the league information officer to report the score of the game, for the purpose of updating the website, if GameChanger is not utilized.
9. **Make sure all facilities are secured. Make sure the Minor League gates and the Minor League shed are locked.**

Inter-League Play:

Little League rule set is the prevailing rule set and shall be utilized unless the situation is expressly stated in this rule set. Visiting league will be supplied an electronic copy of HNLL rules prior to games.

Time Limits:

1. First half of the season games will start at 5:30pm, second half games can start at 6:00pm. (Game times will be noted on the schedule)
2. Please make every effort to start games on time. If your game starts late, you must still vacate on time for the team scheduled to follow your game. Players should arrive 45 minutes prior to game time, if possible.

3. **No new inning after 1 hour and 45 minutes. A Timer will be provided, game start time will be announced from the press box.**
4. Four innings is considered a complete game **or** when no new inning may be started.
5. Do not continue a game if darkness is creating safety concerns for players. Managers and umpires should work together and discuss ending a game due to darkness prior to the start of an inning.
6. The Vice President of Baseball Operations and league schedulers will reschedule games that are suspended, canceled, or rained out on the first mutually open day that does not interfere with the regularly scheduled games. For inter-league play, makeup games should be played at the same host field originally scheduled.
7. If a game/ practice is canceled due to inclement weather, you must notify each parent. If the complex is closed for all games, cancellations will be posted on HNLL Facebook Page and Website.

Umpire In Chief:

1. After the game starts, the Umpire will be in charge of the game. They will make all final decisions on plays or when the game will be called.
2. The chief umpire will arbitrate all disputes and make final decisions in consultation with the managers.
3. Managers are also responsible for controlling negative or confrontational actions toward the umpires or players and spectators.
4. Any ejections must be communicated after the game and include Umpire In Chief, VP and President.

Hitting/Base Running Rules:

1. Managers and coaches are required to keep scorebooks up to date and available for league review.
2. A full team batting roster is to be given to the opposing managers and press box before the start of the game.
3. There will be no base stealing or advancing on passed balls.

4. Base runners can only advance 1 base on an overthrown ball unless there is an attempt to make a play at another base at which time the ball is live.
5. All plays are stopped when the pitcher has the ball in the dirt of the pitcher's mound. If a runner is not halfway to the base they are advancing to once the pitcher has the ball they must return to the base they previously occupied.

Field Rules: - Unless specified below, all rules are dictated by the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball: All rules will apply in accordance with "Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball, Inc.", in addition to the following:

1. Courtesy Runner – with two (2) outs and the catcher and/or pitcher on base, the manager may have a pinch-runner enter the game for either player to save time between innings.
 - a. The courtesy runner may not be a player that is presently in the game. If there are only nine players the last recorded out(s) will be the courtesy runner(s).
2. Any play attempted on a runner is live and runners can continue to run until the ball is no longer in play.
3. **Bunting is permitted but not more than three (3) times per inning and more than two (2) consecutive batters.**
4. Team scoring shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) runs per inning and unlimited runs in the final inning (final inning to be determined by coaches and umpire).
5. All players on the team roster present for the game must play at least 2 innings and 1 at bat.
6. Any game in which four (4) full innings have been played and the losing team is behind by ten (10) or more runs, the manager of the losing team may request to the other manager or the umpire that the game be called.
7. No protests are permitted in the Minor League. Any disputes regarding rules and regulations must be presented to the VP of Baseball Operations. The outcome of a game shall not be changed due to a dispute of the rules unless for the use of an ineligible player.

8. One coach may be positioned in the outfield during their team's defensive play for the purpose of instruction during the first half of the season- this is only through the last calendar day in April.

Uniform Rules:

1. The uniform issued by the HNLL is the only uniform permitted on the field of play. Approved safety equipment must be worn when batting, running the bases and playing the position of catcher. HNLL requires that certain items be returned to the team manager at the end of the scheduled playing season.

Scoring Rules:

1. Team scoring shall be limited to a maximum of five (5) runs per inning and unlimited runs in the final inning (final inning to be determined by coaches or umpire).
2. In the final inning (6th inning or an inning agreed upon by both managers due to time, weather or darkness) there is no run limit. Both managers, prior to the start of the inning, should make this determination or the five run limit is enforced.
3. Teams are required to keep accurate scorebooks of batting order, and pitch counts for each game. Scorebooks may be reviewed by league officers at any time. Moved from Defensive Player Rotation

Defensive Player Rotation:

1. The goal of Minor League play is to see that ALL players shall receive adequate playing time in a variety of positions to develop their skills and keep their interest.
2. Ten players will be fielded (unless there are insufficient players available). This is accomplished by fielding four outfielders. (Left, Left Center, Right Center, Right) In the event that a team is short players, the opposing team will provide a player of their choosing for the outfield. That said, the player will not bat for the other team.
3. Outfielders must start the play in the outfield grass.
4. Mandatory play rules are defined in the Little League rule set.

Pitching:

1. Follow the Little League Pitch Count Book for days of rest required for pitchers. Pitch counts may be confirmed with the opposing team during each half inning or end of each inning according to Little League pitch count rules.
2. As defined in Little League rules, The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his age group as noted in the Little League Rule Book.

Little League Pitch Count Rules and Rest Requirements							
Age	Pitch Limit Per day	(0) Day Rest	(1) Day Rest	(2) Day Rest	(3) Day Rest	(4) Day Rest	(5) Day Rest
7 - 8	50	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9 - 10	75	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51 - 65	66 - 75	N/A
11	85	1 - 20	21 - 35	36 - 50	51 - 65	66 - 75	76 - 85

Note: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of the day. A catcher that catches 4 innings can not pitch.

3. No players of league age twelve (12) may pitch in the Minor League Program.
4. Intentional walks are not permitted in the Minor League Program.
5. All defensive time-outs shall be charged against the pitcher unless the time-out is to address an injury or correct an equipment problem.
6. **Warm up pitches between innings will be limited to four (4) pitches or one (1) minute.**
7. A pitcher hitting three (3) batters in one inning or a total of five (5) hit batters in any one game must be removed from pitching. Additionally, after 3 walks or 3 hit batters or combination thereof, a coach will take over pitching for the remainder of the teams at bat. *When a coach enters to pitch and a ball is live the coach becomes "invisible". Every attempt will be made to RUN into foul territory so players understand the coach is not part of the play. (off the field)*
8. Any manager that uses an illegal pitcher shall be suspended for one (1) game for the first offense. Second offense is two games. Next offense, refer to the disciplinary committee Suspended for the entire season for the second (2nd) offense.

9. Team penalty for the use of an illegal pitcher shall be if the team not using the illegal pitcher wins the game, the game shall be declared a legal game. If the team that uses the illegal pitcher wins the game, the game will be replayed from the point of the infraction.
10. The innings pitched for those players that pitched in the game in question shall be charged against their eligibility for that calendar week. Also, any ineligible pitcher that was used in the original game shall also be ineligible to pitch in the replayed game.
11. Halfway National Managers and coaches if needed will hold a monthly pitching clinic to develop pitchers skills and abilities.
12. If at any time a player walks to the pitcher's mound and picks up the ball. Then throws the ball to the catcher that said player becomes the pitcher for at least one batter.
13. All pitching rules will follow the Official Little League Rule Book. Please read and be familiar.

Coach Pitch:

1. A Manager or Coach will come in to pitch once any of the following events have occurred:
 - a. 3 walks by current pitcher
 - b. 3 hit batters by current pitcher
 - c. Or any combination thereof
 - d. Refer to Pitching, line 7.**
2. The Manager or Coach may throw up to 7 pitches. Strikes and Balls will be counted by the home plate umpire. If there are 3 strikes before the 7 pitches, the batter is out. **THE MANAGER OR COACH MAY NOT EXCEED 7 PITCHES, EVEN IF THE LAST PITCH IS FOUL.**
3. A batter may not walk during Coach Pitch.
4. Managers and coaches must pitch from the mound. Pitcher must make every effort to pitch with one foot touching the rubber.
5. Managers and coaches should do their best to eliminate any arc to their pitch. If the umpire deems the pitch to have an arc, a warning will be issued. For subsequent violations, the pitch will be called a strike regardless of the outcome of the pitch. No runners would advance.

Other:

1. The manager is responsible for their team's concession stand duties. The manager or his or her designee needs to be present at the start of each shift to ensure that parents are present.
2. Managers/ coaches are responsible to participate and designate volunteers to assist with the field maintenance schedule including mowing, trimming, or other projects as assigned/ requested by the field maintenance director.
3. It is expected that managers and coaches will cover the umpiring responsibilities for the minor league division in the following manner; Umpire In Chief will schedule managers to umpire all minor games. If teams A vs. B are playing a manager or coach from team C or D will provide the umpire coverage for that game. Managers will be responsible for no less than three (3) games per season. Managers may have their approved coaches umpire in their place if desired but must notify Umpire In Chief prior to the game. In the event that a scheduled manager or coach is unable to umpire in a minor league game, they must secure a replacement and gain approval from the Umpire In Chief prior to the scheduled game.
4. When you are the Umpire YOU MUST umpire behind home plate. NO UMPIRING BEHIND THE PITCHER'S MOUND.

Manager Signature: _____