

**West Brownsville Little League  
League ID Number 3432403  
By-Laws & Codes of Conduct  
2024 Season**

**SECTION I  
PURPOSE**

**ARTICLE I – MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the West Brownsville Little League, (WBLL), is to implant in our youth the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority (leadership).

**ARTICLE II – AUTHORITY AND VALIDITY**

The West Brownsville Little League Board of Directors shall be governed by the Constitution of the WBLL on record with the Little League Southwest Region in Waco, Texas. The WBLL Operating Rules and Bylaws shall be approved by a majority vote of the WBLL Board of Directors. Following the adoption of these rules by the Board of Directors, they may only be changed upon the concurring vote of a majority of the Board of Directors. These rules pertain to the West Brownsville Little League.

**ARTICLE III – CONSTRUCTION OF THE RULES**

The WBLL operating rules shall be constructed in such a manner and with the intent to conform to the Operating Manual and Official Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball. WBLL is a chartered component of Little League Baseball (LLB) and intends to continue as such.

1. Wherever these rules stand silent, the regulations and playing rules of LLB shall be followed. Wherever these rules conflict with LLB's Operating Manual and/or Official Regulations and Playing Rules, LLB's Operating Manual / Official Regulations and Playing Rules shall prevail.
2. Whenever WBLL engages in regular-season interleague play with another chartered little league, the division involved shall play by interleague rules as may be negotiated with the other league and approved by the Board of Directors. Interleague Rules shall take precedence over these Operating Rules.

The Bylaws, Local Rules, and Ground Rules of West Brownsville Little League shall continue in effect until they are changed upon the concurring vote of a majority of the Board of Directors. These Bylaws, Local Rules, and Ground Rules shall be reviewed by the Board yearly. The Bylaws, Local Rules, and Ground Rules are not considered part of the West Brownsville Little League Constitution.

**SECTION II  
FEES**

**ARTICLE I – PARTICIPATION FEES**

A reasonable Little League participation fee of \$65 may be assessed as a parental obligation to assure the operational continuity of the West Brownsville Little League. The participation fees shall be determined yearly by the Board of Directors and shall be approved yearly by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE II – FUNDRAISER**

It is recommended that every Board Member, Manager, Coach, and Registered Players Parents in West Brownsville Little League participate in the league fundraiser to assist in defraying the costs of running the league. The fundraiser shall be determined each year by the WBLL Board of Directors. WBLL Board of Directors shall only use the funds collected for league purposes and not for any other purpose.

## **ARTICLE III – WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE**

If the league's expenditures are greater than its expected income a Ways and Means Committee shall be formed from the ranks of the board members to determine how additional income can be generated and or the excess expenditures reduced. It would be a legitimate goal for the league to maintain, at all times, a cash reserve as determined by the Board of Directors.

# **SECTION III WBLL BOARD MEMBERS, MANAGERS, COACHES, AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

## **ARTICLE I – LITTLE LEAGUE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION**

All Members of WBLL's Board of Directors, Managers, Coaches, and Any Other Persons, Volunteers, or Hired Workers, who provide regular service to WBLL and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams, **must** complete, and submit an official "Little League Volunteer Application" to the Safety Officer or President and satisfactorily complete a background check. Refusal or failure to submit a fully completed "Little League Volunteer Application" will result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the League. Volunteers can include but are not limited to umpires, team moms, concession workers, and parents who assist at practice.

## **ARTICLE II – MANAGER AND COACH SELECTION**

The President selects and appoints, managers, coaches, umpires, and committees. All appointments are subject to the approval of WBLL's Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE III – MANAGER AND COACH FIELD RESPONSIBILITIES**

All managers and coaches are responsible for helping on announced workdays to clean the field before and following their respective games. Managers and coaches from both teams should work on these duties and be responsible for cleaning out all trash from their respective dugouts after each game while returning equipment and bases to the storage room after games.

# **SECTION IV DISCIPLINE**

## **ARTICLE I – BOARD MEMBER, MANAGERS, COACHES AND VOLUNTEER CONDUCT**

Any Board Member, Manager, Coach, Volunteer, Umpire, Contract Worker, or Hired Worker who is arrested for any felony offense or any offense involving a minor after they have been approved by the Board of Directors to be a volunteer shall report the arrest to the President within 72 hours of the arrest. Any volunteer who is charged, convicted, pleads guilty, or no contest, or receives deferred adjudication for such an offense shall also report that event to the President within 72 hours. A failure to report these charges to the President within 72 hours shall result in an automatic and immediate suspension of all Little League activities. The President will bring such offense and or violation before the Board of Directors within 48 hours of receiving this news. The Board of Directors may take disciplinary action against the volunteer, including but not limited to immediate dismissal from the league.

Managers will be responsible for their conduct, their coaches, team players, and parents/fans of team members. Board Members, managers, and coaches will abide by each of their respective Codes of Conduct.

An ejection from a game or league complex of a board member, player, manager, coach, volunteer, parent, and/or fan due to unsportsmanlike conduct will be followed up and brought to the attention of the Board of Directors. The meeting will consist of the Board of Directors, manager, coach, volunteer, parents, fan, and/or player and legal guardian of persons involved on a case-by-case basis for status review. Upon review of any league violation and/or unsportsmanlike conduct, any individual and/or player associated with the West Brownsville Little League can have action taken by the Board of Directors.

Any person in violation of any of the Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules and/or Rules established in these By-Laws may result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors, per Little League Rules. Additional penalties may be levied by the Board. As stated, violations will be brought to the attention of the Board within 48 hours after the President has been notified; however, at the Board's discretion, serious infractions reported after the 48-hour limitation may be reviewed. Anonymous allegations will be discarded unless they can be documented or corroborated in writing through independent means.

Action levels to be taken by West Brownsville's Board of Directors include but are not limited to:

- (1) Consultation by the League President.
- (2) Letter of Reprimand from the Board of Directors.
- (3) Suspension as Manager or Coach for one game.
- (4) Suspension as Manager or Coach for any part of the remainder of the season.
- (5) Not favorably considered for future Little League appointments.
- (6) Dismissal from ALL West Brownsville Little League activities.

## **ARTICLE II – PLAYER CONDUCT**

Players are expected to adhere to the WBLL Player Code of Conduct for sportsmanship and conduct. Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action for player misconduct is covered in the Little League Player / Parent Code of Conduct.

All levied actions to players, coaches, and/or managers will be made a matter of record by the WBLL Secretary. Chronic offenders of minor infractions will be dealt with more severely as the violations accumulate at the discretion of the West Brownsville Little League Executive Board.

## **SECTION V UMPIRES**

### **ARTICLE I – UMPIRES**

Umpiring is one of the most important and often overlooked aspects of the Little League program. The volunteer umpire is as much a part of Little League as the volunteer manager, coach, or concession stand worker. According to Little League Baseball, there is no sound reason for paying umpires or any other person whose services should be provided on a volunteer basis.

While West Brownsville Little League's Board of Directors may or may not have agreed with Little League International that there may truly be no valid reason to pay umpires, there is a need during the season to pay a reasonable fee to the home plate and base umpire. The Board of Directors has given authority to the League President and/or Umpire-in-Chief to determine a reasonable fee to be paid. A reasonable fee may

be paid for umpires when volunteer services cannot be met. Umpires will only be paid when they are in full uniform and have/use their equipment.

The Umpire-in-Chief will make the umpiring assignments for all games. Only West Brownsville Little League approved umpires recommended by the Umpire-in-Chief will be allowed to umpire both the home plate and bases, provided they have submitted a fully completed "Little League Volunteer Application," a photocopy of a government-issued photo ID, and consented to the required background check.

All Board Members, Umpires, Managers, and Coaches will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. A qualified umpire knows the rules (West Brownsville's Ground Rules and Little League Official Rules and Regulations) and can conduct themselves per Little League Rules and Regulations. Managers will be given copies of each before the season and are expected to read over them, study them, and know them.
2. All WBLL Board Members, Managers, and Coaches (T-Ball through Big Leagues) are encouraged to attend an Umpire / Rules Clinic, when available.
  - a. T-Ball Division – This is an instructional league. One umpire will be utilized.
  - b. Coach Pitch Division – This is an instructional league. One umpire will be utilized.
  - c. Minors Division – It is recommended that there be one umpire per game at this level.
  - d. Majors Division – It is recommended that there be one or two umpires at this level.
  - e. Juniors / Seniors - It is recommended that there be one or two umpires at this level.
3. VERIFICATION OF THE BASEBALL PITCH COUNT RULE WILL BE CONFIRMED BY THE UMPIRES WITH THE OFFICIAL / HOME TEAMS SCOREKEEPER IN THE MIDDLE OF EACH INNING, AND UPON THE REMOVAL / CHANGE / RETIRE OF EACH PITCHER. THIS APPLIES TO THE MINOR DIVISIONS AND ABOVE. (The manager will still be the responsible party to ensure the pitch count is accurate). The "Home Team" Manager and/or Coaches are responsible for keeping the "Official Scorebook" and "Pitch Count" when not kept in the press box.
4. The plate umpire shall be responsible for collecting pitch counts before, during, and at the end of each game and record those counts daily in the official book that will be kept in the concession stand.
5. In the event of an in-game protest, the plate umpire shall follow the appropriate protocols outlined in his duties. At a minimum, the umpire shall stop the game, and inform the league's chief umpire.
  - a. A formal (verbal) protest must be made to the Umpire-in-Chief at once by the manager or coach.
  - b. The umpire-in-Chief must immediately call a conference of all umpires working the game.
  - c. If the problem cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the managers, the Umpire-in-Chief shall be required to consult with the Competition Committee Chairperson (CCC).
  - d. If the managers do not accept the decision of the CCC, either manager may elect, without penalty to discontinue play until the matter is referred to the full Competition Committee for review. The Competition Committee's decision on the matter shall be final and binding.
  - e. NOTE: Neither the game umpires, the umpire-in-chief, the CCC, or the league president have the authority to declare a forfeiture under any circumstances. Forfeiture decisions are a last resort and shall only be made by the league's full Competition Committee.

## **SECTION VI DIVISION ALIGNMENT**

## **ARTICLE I – DIVISION ALIGNMENT**

**NOTE: Divisions are based on the Age Chart, Operating Manual, and Official Playing Rules and Regulations for the current year for Baseball and Softball.**

### **A. DIVISION ALIGNMENT (May be adjusted depending on the registration numbers)**

- 1. TEE BALL BASEBALL DIVISION**  
Tee Ball Boys & Girls 4, 5 & 6-Year-Olds (7-Year-Olds by Special Exception)
- 2. SOFTBALL DIVISION**  
Minor Softball Girls  
Coach Pitch 7 & 8-Year-Olds (6-Year-Olds by Special Exception)  
Player Pitch 9, 10, & 11-Year-Olds (8 & 12-Year-Olds by Special Exception)  
Major Softball Girls 10, 11 & 12-Year-Olds  
Junior Softball Girls 12, 13 & 14-Year-Olds (15-Year-Olds by Special Exception)  
Senior Softball Girls 13, 14, 15 & 16 Year Olds
- 3. BASEBALL DIVISION**  
Minor Baseball Boys  
Coach Pitch 7 & 8-Year-Olds (6-Year-Olds by Special Exception)  
Player Pitch 9, 10, & 11-Year-Olds (8 & 12-Year-Olds by Special Exception)  
Major Baseball Boys 10, 11 & 12-Year-Olds  
Junior Baseball Boys 13 & 14-Year-Olds (15-Year-Olds by Special Exception)  
Senior Baseball Boys 13, 14, 15 & 16 Year Olds

## **ARTICLE II – WAIVERS**

In the event of a special circumstance requiring a waiver from Little League International, the request must first be submitted in writing with all accompanying documents to the league President who brings the request before the league Board of Directors. Once approved by the local Board of Directors the request is forwarded to the District Administrator, who will forward it with his / her recommendations to the Regional Director in Waco, Texas. The Regional Director will present the request to the Charter Committee in Williamsport, Pennsylvania for a decision. No other person or group has the authority to approve waivers of ANY of Little League rules or regulations.

## **ARTICLE III – TRYOUTS**

Tryouts and Player Selection (Draft) will be conducted according to the 2024 Operating Manual and Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Baseball and Softball as approved yearly by the WBLL Board of Directors. Times and dates will be set by the Player Agent(s) with Board approval. The Player Agent and Vice President(s) for Baseball and Softball will be responsible for conducting tryouts for their respective divisions. West Brownsville Little League Board of Directors and Managers reserve the right to place all players in the appropriate division based on age and skill level. Although our system may assign players to a specific division based on age, WBLL retains the right to make adjustments as necessary after tryout sessions and evaluations have been completed.

### **TRYOUTS**

1. All players aged 9-16 years old (8-year-olds by special exception) will be eligible for the Upper Division drafts as outlined in ARTICLE I. See PLAYER SELECTION for returning Minor and Major Division Players.
2. The tryouts for the Minor and Major Levels will occur on the same days. All managers for these two divisions should be present for tryouts.
3. There will be no tryouts for the T-Ball and Coach Pitch Divisions. However, players aged 6 years old wishing to play at the Coach Pitch level must have played one (1) year of T-ball.
4. Requests to hold any player down in a lower division or move them up to a higher division are discouraged. However, requests will be considered, on a case-by-case basis, upon request from a parent or guardian to the Player Agent before tryouts. Any player making

this request must attend tryouts. The President of the league shall appoint an assessment committee to evaluate the skill level of the player under review. The committee will have the responsibility of making a recommendation regarding the parent/guardian's request to the Board of Directors.

#### **ARTICLE IV – PLAYER SELECTION (DRAFT)**

1. Spring Ball: All players who played in the Majors Division the previous year, who remain age-eligible for that division, will be placed back into the Majors Division on the same team they were assigned to the previous Spring Season without being drafted. Fall team rosters will be not relevant.
2. The draft for the Major and Minor Baseball and Softball Levels will occur as follows according to the Little League Operations Manual, Player Selection Systems, Methods for Existing Leagues, Plan A, p. 58.
  - (a) **Major Division** - The Majors Division will draft first. The Major teams will fill a minimum of 12 places on each team roster. The order of selection will be in reverse of last season's finish. More than 8 players of one age group shall be allowed on any team. All 12-year-old players must be drafted into the Majors Divisions except for 12-year-old players that have been approved by the Board of Directors to play in the Minor Division as per Section A. Tryout 6, above.
  - (b) **Minor Division** – The Minors Division will draft after the Majors Division. Teams will fill a minimum of 12 places on each team roster. All teams will draft according to position selected by random draw. More than 8 players of one age group shall be allowed on any team.
3. The Draft for the Junior, Major, and Minor Softball Division will follow the same format as the Major and Minor Baseball Division with the Junior Division drafting first followed by the Majors Division, and then the Minors Division.
4. Players not making at least one tryout will not be eligible for tournament play.
5. It will be the WBLL Board's discretion to allow any player 9-12 years old who does not attend at least one tryout to be eligible to play in the Major League at any time during the season. The player may be put on a roster for player replacement.
6. Any Major League Player can request a release or trade by submitting a letter of request to the Player Agent at registration before tryouts. If a release is requested and granted, a tryout must be made by that player requesting a release and the player may then be drafted by any team except the one he was released from. If a trade is requested, then a tryout will not be required if the managers involved can work a trade (Player for Player ONLY).
7. It will be at the discretion of the President and/or the Player Agent if any trade or release will be granted.

#### **ARTICLE V – REPLACEMENT OF PLAYERS (REGULAR SEASON)**

1. All Upper Division (ages 9+) teams shall consist of a minimum of 12 players. Managers of each team shall be responsible for reporting temporary player shortages to the appropriate player agent after every game. The player agent shall make contact with the parent/guardian of the missing player(s) to determine their status. If the manager fails to inform the player's agent, they can face a temporary suspension going forward for the number of games they failed to report. The final decision on any temporary suspensions shall be made by the league's competition committee.
2. When it becomes obvious that a player is being permanently lost from the team for any of the following reasons, the team manager shall immediately inform the player agent:
  - a. He/she moves to another city or state too distant to commute for practice and play.
  - b. He/she is injured and will not be able to return to play within 50% or more remaining games.
  - c. He/she has for personal reasons decided to terminate his / her association with the team.

- d. Any other justifiable reason was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors.
3. The effective date for losing the player will be the date of original notification by the parents and/or player. The vacancy shall be filled according to Regulation III (d) per Board approval.
4. Upon Board notification and approval of a vacancy, the manager shall have 48 hours to select a replacement player.
5. When a team roster falls below 12 players and the manager has been approved to find a replacement player, they will choose the first age-eligible player off the standby list. If there are no players on the standby list, then a Minor League player may be called up to a Major League team to fill that vacant position. The Minor League player, if called up, must be at least league age 11 or older on the roster. If that player refuses to join that team, the player will forfeit further eligibility in the Major League for the rest of the regular season.
6. Minor League teams shall fill empty spots with players from the waiting list. If there are no players on the waiting list, the player agent may re-open registration to fill any available spots.
7. Major League teams with less than 12 players during the last 2 weeks of the regular minor league season play are prohibited from calling up a replacement from the Minor League.
8. Managers who fail to notify the Player Agent as required and/or fail to call up a player when required may be disciplined by the Board and will forfeit that position for the remainder of the season.
9. All WBLL players must be in the uniform provided by the League. (Shirt and cap)

## **SECTION VII LOCAL GROUND RULES**

West Brownsville Little League will operate its 2024 season under the Official Regulations and Playing Rules for all divisions. The Board of Directors has voted to approve the following exceptions.

### **ARTICLE I – RULES APPLYING TO ALL DIVISIONS**

The 2024 Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League Baseball & Softball shall apply, and be followed, in all Divisions except as amended or stated in these Local League Rules. The Local League Rules DO NOT APPLY TO POSTSEASON TOURNAMENT PLAY.

#### **A. GAMEPLAY**

1. In all Leagues, activity or practice is defined as when 4 or more players from the same team meet for an organized event in which baseball or softball is practiced, played, or discussed between a manager and/or coach and the players.
2. In all T-Ball, Coach Pitch, and Minor League Divisions, the time limit will constitute a complete game regardless of the number of innings played. (If an inning is started within the time limit, it must be completed). Minor league division may end as a win, loss, or tied game.
3. In all Coach Pitch/Minor League Divisions where the 5-run rule per inning is applied, the “home team” shall have its last at-bat even if there is no possibility of a win.
4. The umpire will designate the official start of the game in the Minor League and Major League Divisions. This should be the same as the scheduled start time.
5. Complaints or protests of any nature must be in writing and signed to be considered. The complaint or protest should be submitted within the required 24 hours to the League President, who shall investigate as the circumstances warrant.
6. All Minors, Majors, and Junior Division games may start with eight players. However, if the ninth player is absent when their at-bat is up, the absence will count as an out.
7. The five-run rule will apply to all levels of Minor’s and Major’s softball and baseball. In the event of a tie, an extra inning will be played with no limit on scoring.

#### **A. SCOREBOOK / FIELD MAINTENANCE**

1. The “Home Team” Manager and/or Coaches are responsible for keeping the “Official Scorebook” and “Pitch Count” when not kept in the press box.
2. The “Home Team” Managers and/or Coaches are responsible for adding or removing the pitcher’s mound and pitching plate.
3. The Manager of each team is responsible for ensuring that ALL trash is removed from their dugout after each game.

## **ARTICLE II – RULES APPLYING TO SPECIFIC DIVISIONS**

### **A. T-BALL**

The head umpire or a committee designated by the Board shall propose Rules for the T-Ball Division. The proposed rules must be approved by the Board before the start of the regular season.

1. Special T-Ball rules shall be posted on the league website.
2. T-Ball is intended to be instructional, recreational, and fun. Keeping scores is never allowed (except for league tournaments, if any).
3. T-Ball teams shall practice one to two times per week at the manager's option.

### **B. COACH PITCH**

The head umpire or a committee designated by the Board shall propose Rules for the T-Ball Division. The proposed rules must be approved by the Board before the start of the regular season.

1. Special Coach-Pitch Division rules shall be posted on the league website.
2. Each team can have 1 Manager and 4 Coaches maximum in the dugout provided each is 16 years old or older and has turned in a fully completed Volunteer Application, a photocopy of a valid government-issued photo ID, and submitted to the required background check.
3. Each team is allowed a maximum of 4 activities per week.
4. Two coaches may be on the field of play when their team goes on defense.
5. All players on the roster will bat in a continuous batting order as listed by the manager.
6. A maximum of 5 runs can be scored per inning.
7. Teams may play with less than 9 players since this is an instructional division.
8. Each batter can receive 5 pitches, but 3 misses is a strikeout, and the batter is out. However, if the fifth or subsequent pitch is batted foul, the at-bat will continue until the following pitch is taken, missed, or batted fair.
9. The batter will not receive a walk if hit by a pitch from the coach-pitcher. Pitches thrown from the coach in the dirt or over the batter’s head will be counted toward the five pitches.
10. Base runners advance at their own risk. Base runners may not advance past the base they were running to when the ball became dead. A live ball shall be declared dead when it has been returned to the pitcher. “Returned to the pitcher” shall be defined as when an infielder has released the ball in his or her throwing motion toward the player pitcher or coach pitcher.
11. Base stealing is not allowed.
12. Bunting is not allowed.
13. Outfielders must play on the outfield grass, and infielders must play their regular positions.
14. The player pitcher must remain to the right or left of the coach-pitcher with one foot in the dirt circle until the batter swings at the ball. The player pitcher will be even with the pitching rubber for the respective division.
15. Coaches may pitch from anywhere in front of the pitcher’s plate but must remain on the dirt circle. When using a pitching machine, the coach/pitcher shall feed the ball into the machine the same way for all hitters.
16. The Board shall decide to determine if a pitching machine may be used instead of having a coach pitch for the first half of the season or the complete season.
17. A batted ball that hits a pitching screen, a pitching machine, if used, or a coach in fair territory shall be considered live and played accordingly.
18. Coaches shall make every effort to get out of the way of a hit or thrown ball and not interfere with play.
19. Each game will have a time limit of 1 hour beginning from the scheduled game time or 6 innings, whichever comes first.



20. For interleague play, ground rules and exceptions of the home team shall be observed, and these should be discussed by both managers before the game.
21. No official league scores or standings will be recorded.

**C. MINOR LEAGUES – By Official Little League Regulations & Playing Rules with exceptions.**

1. Each team can have 1 Manager and 2 Coaches maximum in the dugout provided each is 18 years old or older and has submitted a fully completed Volunteer Application, a photocopy of a valid government-issued photo ID, and submitted to the required background check.
2. Each team is allowed a maximum of 5 activities per week.
3. All players on the roster will bat in a continuous batting order as listed by the manager.
4. A maximum of 5 runs can be scored per inning.
5. All games will have a time limit of 1 hour 30 minutes starting from the scheduled game time.
6. For interleague play, ground rules and exceptions of the home team shall be observed, and these should be discussed by both managers before the game.

**D. MAJOR LEAGUES – By Official Little League Regulations & Playing Rules with exceptions.**

1. Each team can have 1 Manager and 2 Coaches maximum in the dugout provided each is 18 years old or older and has submitted a fully completed Volunteer Application, a photocopy of a valid government-issued photo ID, and submitted to the required background check.
2. Each team may have a maximum of 5 activities per week.
3. All games will have a 2-hour time limit. All games called by time limit will be official if 4 innings have been completed. Major division games cannot end in a tie. If the game ends in a tie due to time constraints, it will resume under Rule 4.11(e) at the earliest possible date and time.
4. For interleague play, ground rules and exceptions of the home team shall be observed, and these should be discussed by both managers before the game.

**E. INTERMEDIATE, JUNIOR, AND SENIOR LEAGUES – By Official Little League Regulations & Playing Rules with exceptions.**

1. Each team can have 1 Manager and 2 Coaches maximum in the dugout provided each is 18 years old or older and has submitted a fully completed Volunteer Application, a photocopy of a valid government-issued photo ID, and submitted to the required background check.
2. All games will have a 2-hour time limit. All games called by the time limit will be official if 5 innings have been completed. Games cannot end in a tie. If the game ends in a tie due to time constraints, it will resume under Rule 4.11(e) at the earliest possible date and time.
3. Each team may have a maximum of 5 activities per week.

## **SECTION VIII TOURNAMENT TEAMS**

### **ARTICLE I – TOURNAMENT TEAM**

#### **A. MANAGER SELECTION**

1. The tournament team manager may be chosen based on a combination of qualifications including place of finish for the regular season, level of knowledge of Little League rules, recruitment of sponsorships, and overall helpfulness with league endeavors, including but not limited to league fundraisers. Winning first place during the regular season, however, does not guarantee selection since there are other important factors to be considered.
2. The President of the league shall make the selection for each team and recommend approval of the board unless there is a conflict of interest. If so, the nomination shall become the responsibility of the executive committee. Once approved, the manager may select his / her coach or coaches, who must be approved by the Board of Directors.

3. Based on the number of qualified player candidates nominated by managers, the board shall declare and vote on the number of Tournament Teams that will be formed.
4. The President will nominate the Tournament Team Managers to the Board. The Board by a two-thirds majority vote of those present at a valid meeting shall elect the Tournament Manager.

**B. TEAM SELECTION**

1. The Board of Directors has the option of the number of teams to charter in each age division.
2. The tournament team manager for each minor and major division tournament team will be allowed to have a minimum of 12 players on their roster.

**ARTICLE II – TOURNAMENT TEAM PLAYER SELECTION – MINOR LEAGUE THROUGH BIG LEAGUE**

Players for the tournament teams will be chosen as follows:

1. The Player Agent shall provide each manager and competition committee member with a complete list of all qualified player candidate nominees no later than 72 hours in advance of the meeting where votes will be cast. Late addition exceptions will be considered.
2. The Board may allow tryouts for players nominated to the tournament team(s). If tryouts are authorized, tryouts are to be held before voting. Nominated players who cannot attend the tryout will not be removed from the tournament team ballot.
3. Before voting, the President shall announce the order that each team shall fill its roster. Generally, the team competing in the oldest division shall be voted upon first, with the next oldest group going next, and so forth. If more than one team will be competing in the same division, the President shall nominate the manager of which team approved by the board, will manage the first team being voted on.
4. Tournament players shall be selected in stages with the intent of fielding the best and most deserving players to represent WBLL. Regulations about player eligibility, selection, and practice dates as per Regulation XVII and current District 24 policies are to be strictly adhered to.
5. (Alternates / Replacements) If a player or players cannot participate in the tournament due to injury or personal reasons, the player agent shall select the next player in line from amongst those receiving the greatest number of votes during the last round of voting, but who were not selected.
6. The Competition Committee shall have the right by a two-thirds majority to add or remove player candidates to or from the ballot before the selection meeting.
7. Only the President, Vice President, Player Agent, Major League Managers, and Competition Committee Members shall attend. If any manager cannot attend, he or she may file an absentee ballot (for 14 Players) with the Player Agent or send one approved coach with a signed proxy statement.
8. The first round of voting shall have each manager and committee member cast eight (8) votes by secret ballot from which the three (3) players with the most votes will be elected to the tournament team. The Vice President of Baseball and Softball may vote at their option. Any tie will be decided by the members of the competition committee members present.
9. The second round of voting shall have each manager cast three (5) votes by secret ballot from which three (3) shall be elected to the tournament team. Any absentee ballots will be counted ONLY in the second round. The Vice President of Baseball and Softball may vote at their option. Any tie will be decided by the officers present.
10. Team Managers and committee members elect six (6) players for the team. Tournament managers shall pick the rest of the minimum team roster.
11. Lastly, the Tournament Manager shall announce at this time who his or her two (2) coaches will be and what if any assistance he or she would accept or hope to receive from other Local League Managers and/or Coaches.

**ARTICLE III – TOURNAMENT TEAM SPONSORSHIP, FUNDRAISING, AND UNIFORMS**

The Manager and Coaches of ANY tournament team shall make their tournament team uniform and equipment arrangements. Uniforms, equipment, and/or other perceived necessities will be provided for by

the procurement of sponsorships solicited by the respective team manager, coaches, and player parents. Any costs over and above the funding collected shall be covered by the parents of the players on the respective Tournament Team. West Brownsville Little League WILL NOT be responsible for providing Tournament Team uniforms, equipment, or other perceived necessities in any of the Divisions.

The Tournament Team Manager and Coaches shall be solely responsible for the management of any funds acquired by any means, (cash, check, electronic, or otherwise), for the purchase of Tournament Team uniforms, equipment, or other perceived necessities in any of the Divisions.

## **SECTION IX ALTERNATE METHOD OF REGULAR SEASON OPERATION**

### **ARTICLE I – ALTERNATE METHOD OF REGULAR SEASON OPERATION**

To aid divisions that are having a difficult time getting enough players for their regular season teams the player agent may employ the pool player option. A pool of players from existing regular season teams shall be created with players who are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a regular-season game.

Guidelines:

1. The league's Player Agent will create and run the pool. The league's Player Agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis.
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool.
3. Players used from the pool will not be allowed to pitch, except during the player's own regular scheduled game.
4. Pool players who are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine consecutive defensive outs and bat once.

For details on age alignments for Junior, Senior, and Big League, see Regulation IV of the Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules.

## **SECTION X EQUIPMENT**

### ***ARTICLE I – ISSUED EQUIPMENT***

*All equipment issued by WBLL is the property of WBLL and is for WBLL use only. Team managers will sign out and be responsible for the proper care, maintenance, safekeeping, and return of all equipment issued to his or her team. No WBLL equipment will be given to players. All managers will return their equipment on the day or night of their last regular-season game. This includes managers for Tournament teams.*

### ***ARTICLE II – MISUSED, LOST, AND STOLEN EQUIPMENT***

*In the event issued equipment is damaged due to misuse, is lost or stolen it is the responsibility of the team manager, coaches, and player parents to reimburse the league for the lost or stolen items.*

## **SECTION XI MAKE-UP GAMES AND ORDER OF FINISH**

### **ARTICLE I – MAKE-UP GAMES**

1. The deadline for make-up games for this season will be May 31, 2023, for baseball, and June 3, 2023, for softball. The Competition Committee may extend this deadline if necessary.
2. The player agent shall schedule all make-up games for the first day available on the calendar during the make-up week or as soon as possible, subject to any limitations to the number of games a team can play for the week.
3. Only games impacted by weather or as determined by the competition committee shall be scheduled as a make-up game. In all other games, the Player Agent shall employ the use of pool players whenever the situation necessitates to play or finish a pending game when a team's regular players are not available. Teams that do not show up for any reason or refuse to play with available players will be credited with a loss.
4. It is the manager's responsibility to inform the player agents by noon of gameday of the need for pool players. Failure to do so may result in a loss for the team that does not have enough players to play the game.

## **ARTICLE II – ORDER OF FINISH**

1. The President shall declare the order of finish for the regular season for all teams of each division, which will be used for the placing of the top two teams, except for T-ball and Coach-Pitch.
2. A set value for the games won, games lost, and games tied will be used as follows: Win = 1 point, Loss = 0, and Tied games = ½.
3. Final finish placement will be determined by the highest calculated point total.
4. **TIEBREAKERS:**
  - a. In the event of a tie to the method described above, the finish shall be determined by the order of highest to lowest winning percentage, calculated by dividing games won by games played amongst all games played.
  - b. If a winner still cannot be determined, the winner shall be determined by head-to-head competition from those teams tied. The team with the most net runs scored in head-to-head games shall be determined the winner, calculated by total runs scored minus total runs allowed.
  - c. If a tie still exists, a game shall be played between the two tied teams, but only if the competition committee deems there to be sufficient time for the game to be played. If there is no time for a game to be played, a coin flip will determine the winner.

## **SECTION XII REFUNDS**

Full refunds will be allowed for any reason, when requested in writing, at any point before the league draft. Once teams have been formed by auto-draft or coaches' draft, refunds will only be allowed if a spot is not found on a team for a player. However, all refunds must be requested within two weeks of the start of games. To request a refund, contact the league treasurer.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

WBLL GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT  
 WBLL PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT  
 WBLL SPORTS PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT  
 WBLL COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT  
 WBLL BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT



## WBLL GENERAL CODE OF CONDUCT

West Brownsville Little League is a recreational baseball and softball program. During some games/seasons, the level of competition is increased causing more tension. We all need to be reminded from time to time that our main goal is to ensure that the players have a safe and fun environment where they can learn and grow. There will be plenty of time for competitive sports in travel ball, high school, and beyond.

With that in mind, West Brownsville Little League has no tolerance for poor or negative game attitudes. We expect all fans, parents, managers and coaches to set a good example for the team/players. This will be enforced in two ways:

1. Our umpires have the final call on the field and no one is allowed to argue a call by the umpire. The umpire will deal with the actions/attitudes of anyone *within* the fences. If there are issues *outside* the fence, the umpires will ask the Team Manager to deal with the issue.
2. At all times, the Board will provide an Officer On Duty. This person has final say on all actions/attitudes of anyone *outside* of the fences. One warning may be given depending on the severity of the action/attitude. If after a warning, the actions/attitudes continue, the offender will be removed/ejected from the game and/or park.

No Board Member, Manager, Coach, Player, or Spectator shall:

- At any time, lay a hand upon, push, shove, strike, and feint to throw or threaten any individual
- At any time use violence, unfriendly language, racial slurs or insults towards any individual
- Be guilty of heaping personal verbal or physical abuse upon any official for any real or imaginary belief of wrong decisions or judgment
- Be guilty of objectionable demonstration of dissent at an official's decision by throwing of gloves, helmets, hats, bats, balls or any other forceful unsportsmanlike action
- Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of a game and/or against the body of an opposing player
- Be guilty of physical attack upon any board member, umpire, manager, coach, player or spectator
- Be guilty of the use of profane, obscene or vulgar language in any manner at any time
- Appear on the field of play, stands, or anywhere in the park complex while in an intoxicated state at any time; "Intoxicated" will be defined as an odor of alcohol on one's breath or clothing, or a behavior issue
- Be guilty of gambling upon any play or outcome of any game with anyone at any time.
- Be guilty of discussing publicly with spectators in a derogatory or abusive manner any play, decision or a personal opinion on any players during the game
- Speak disrespectfully to any manager, coach, official or representative of the League
- Be guilty of tampering or manipulation of any league rosters, schedules, draft positions or selections, official score books, rankings, financial records, or procedures
- Be guilty of challenging any umpire's authority, as umpires shall have the authority and discretion during a game to penalize the offender according to the infraction up to and including the removal from the game and/or park

## WBLL PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

The player's responsibilities are simple; be respectful of others, be responsible, play fair, always do your best, and always exhibit good sportsmanship.

- As a West Brownsville Little League participant, I hereby pledge that I will:
  - Encourage good sportsmanship from fellow players, coaches, officials, and parents
  - Be a team player and support my teammates
  - Be on time and attend every practice and game that I can, and will notify my coaches if I cannot
  - Work hard to improve my skills
  - Do my best to listen and learn from my coaches
  - Encourage my parents to be involved with my team and League in some capacity
  - Congratulate the other team after each game as a demonstration of sportsmanship
  - Refrain from using violence, unfriendly language, or insults to others
  - Be generous when I win and gracious when I lose
  - Obey the rules of the game and always work for the good of the team
  - Accept the decisions of the officials with grace and never challenge or question calls
  - Refrain from challenging or questioning on-field calls by officials and/or managers and coaches
  - Conduct myself with honor and dignity
  - Applaud the efforts of my teammates and opponents.

I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action levied by the WBLL Board of Directors that could include but is not limited to the following:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning
- Player suspension for games
- Player suspension for the season including the postseason (All Stars & TOC)
- The player being expelled from the league

The West Brownsville Little League Board of Directors retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction.

## WBLL SPORTS PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

West Brownsville Little League has implemented the following Sports Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their children in sports.

- ❖ Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the game or practice facility and be suspended from the following game.
- ❖ Repeat violations may cause a multiple-game suspension or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

### **Preamble:**

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- ❖ Trustworthiness,
- ❖ Respect,
- ❖ Responsibility,
- ❖ Fairness,
- ❖ Caring, and
- ❖ Good Citizenship.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

### **I therefore agree to the following:**

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice, or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one’s best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed-upon time and place.



16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.

17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

## WBLL COACHES CODE OF CONDUCT

Coaching a youth sports program such as Little League Baseball or Softball is a privilege that is not to be taken for granted. As a Manager or coach, appointed by the West Brownsville Little League (WBLL) Board of Directors, you have an important role in the development of the young children in our community. We strive to teach each child the positive values of trust, good sportsmanship, good citizenship, responsibility, respect, fair play, and teamwork – values they can use throughout their lives. Baseball and softball embody the discipline of teamwork. They challenge players towards the perfection of physical skills and bring into play the excitement of tactics and strategy. The very nature of baseball and softball also teaches that while every player eventually strikes out or is on a losing team, there is always another chance for success in the next at-bat or game. With this in mind, West Brownsville Little League expects each manager and coach to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

### **Sportsmanship**

1. I will promote good sportsmanship, teach good baseball or softball skills, and have fun in the process.
2. I realize, accept, and will practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability but also on its sportsmanship, courtesy, and manner.
3. I understand that physical or verbal abuse of an official, coach, player, or spectator, including obscene gestures, will not be tolerated and that the offender may be removed from the fields at the discretion of an umpire or WBLL board member.
4. I understand coaches will refrain from complaining about perceived bad calls to players and fans.
5. I understand all discussions will be held in conversational tones. Under no circumstances will a coach, fan, or player yell at an umpire, coach, fan, or player. The lone exception to this rule is when a coach or player shouts to another coach or teammate during the course of a play as part of that play.
6. I understand profanity is expressly forbidden at all times at any Little League complex.
7. I understand alcoholic beverages and the use of illicit drugs are prohibited at all games, including events outside any Little League complex.
8. I understand the use of tobacco and vapor products in the fields and the dugouts is prohibited.

### **Rules and Policies**

1. I will know and understand the rules and abide by them (whether local or national). I will instruct my team members on the rules and coach my team in such a way as to motivate each player to compete according to the rules at all times.
2. I will adhere to all Little League safety guidelines from the Little League handbook.
3. I will understand the local league participation rules for my division. All coaches must ensure that each

player gets minimum opportunities to bat and play the field in each game. I also understand that specific rules are in place to limit the number and frequency of innings pitched by a particular player.

4. I will fully comply with the Player/Parents Code of Conduct.

5. I will review the WBLL website regularly to make sure that I am informed of all updated LL and WBLL rules and policies.

### **The Umpires and Other Resources**

1. I recognize baseball is a game of interpretations, and as a result, disputes will occur from time to time. However, players must learn respect. All disputes that are taken up with the umpire will be handled civilly. I understand only managers may initiate such discussions with an umpire. The managers/coaches will conduct themselves with decorum and once the umpire has made his/her final ruling, the managers will make no further field protest. Off-field protests may be lodged with the Board of Directors.

2. I understand some of the umpires are “in training” as are the players. I recognize that all umpires will make mistakes occasionally, and as manager/coach, I will give the umpires the respect their position within the game deserves.

3. I will be responsible for caring for equipment, for keys delegated for my use, for the care of fields before games, and for cleaning up fields, dugouts, and stands after games. I will make sure that all league-provided equipment is clean and accounted for when returned after the season.

### **The Parents and the League**

1. I will maintain an open line of communication with players and their parents. I will be approachable. When approached by a parent to discuss any issue, I will interact and respond courteously.

2. I will understand and explain the philosophies, goals and objectives, and Codes of Conduct of the WBLL (i.e. WBLL is organized as a recreational league, meant for the enjoyment of all the players).

3. I will ensure that fans of the team conduct themselves with sportsmanship and maturity at all times while in attendance at game sites and will assist the officials in maintaining control of spectators during games. I will make sure that coaches and players are the only persons allowed in the dugout during a game.

4. I will support WBLL (through the participation and organization of parents) in fundraising efforts.

### **The Team**

1. I will conduct practices in an organized manner, with a planned agenda that focuses on specific skill development appropriate for the skill level of the players.

2. I will focus on providing instruction commensurate with players' abilities so all players have the

opportunity to advance their skills towards their full potential, gain confidence, and develop self-esteem, as well as establish a solid foundation for further baseball/softball competition.

3. I will teach each player, especially through personal example, to be humble and generous in victory and proud and courteous in defeat.

4. I understand that managers are appointed by the league to be responsible for the team's actions on the field and to represent the team in communications with the umpires, opposing teams, and the league. If a manager leaves the field, he shall designate a coach as a substitute who will then be responsible and held accountable for the manager's duties.

### **Non-Game Duties of Managers**

Each manager has considerable duties outside of coordinating practices and managing the games.

Accordingly, if I am a Manager, I will adhere to the following as well:

1. I will maintain open communication with players and parents to inform them of practices, games, and other responsibilities in a timely and efficient manner.

2. I will attend all required coaches meetings, and safety and umpiring clinics unless I am out of town or have a significant previously made commitment. If I cannot attend, I will ensure that one of my assistant coaches attends on my behalf.

3. I will complete, obtain, and submit to the League all required paperwork, which will include Volunteer Applications.

4. I will make sure that I maintain a notebook containing the WBLL rules and a copy of the national Little League rule book and make sure it is present at each team practice and game.

5. I understand that I am the point of contact between my team and other teams and WLL officials. I understand that I am the person that is responsible for my team. I will take my obligations seriously and communicate effectively and in a courteous manner.

WBLL has a "zero tolerance" policy for any aggressive or inappropriate physical contact with any player, coach, umpire, parent, fan, or other person, and any breach of this rule is grounds for immediate action, including removal from the position of Coach, Manager or Board Member.

## WBLL BOARD MEMBER CODE OF CONDUCT

WBLL Board Members have an important role in the delivery of a successful baseball and softball program to our community. A board member's overall job is to make the league a better organization and to support the ideals and objectives set by the board as a whole. Therefore, we ask that you attest and agree to the following:

1. I will enforce the rules and by-laws of West Brownsville Little League (WBLL).
2. I will put the safety of our players, spectators, coaches, and umpires first.
3. As a representative of WBLL, my conduct and behavior must remain professional and civil at all times.
4. I understand that like the children on our teams, the Board of Directors must operate as a team to be successful.
5. I will refrain from speaking negatively about Board members, coaches, parents, players, fans, or umpires on and off the league premises.
6. If I am also a coach, I will not attempt to use my Board Member position to improperly influence the drafting process, to improperly influence the All-Star selection process, or otherwise use my position to gain an unfair advantage for my child or my team.
7. It is understood that differences of opinion will always exist. When they occur, I will handle and resolve the differences in a civil manner that would be expected of an adult.
8. As a member of this Board, I understand that I am open to criticism from the public and I will handle any criticism appropriately and civilly that would be expected from an adult.
9. All Board members must complete the following minimum requirements or be subject to removal from the WBLL Board of Directors by a majority vote.
  - a. Complete or arrange coverage for all assigned board duties, including duties assumed by elected officer positions.
  - b. Attend at least 75% of the board meetings each year.
  - c. Attend at least 75% of all special events, i.e. Opening, Closing Ceremonies, Movie Nights, etc...
  - d. Participate in all fundraising activities, including obtaining sponsorships and selling fundraiser tickets