

Meriden Little League

By-Laws



Amended/ Ratified by the Membership

03/10/2021

Prepared by the Board Members for Meriden Little League

1.0 Purpose

This operations Manual contains the rules and regulations as set forth by Meriden Little League (referred to as MLL). These By-Laws contain rules and regulations that are allowed to be decided at the local level by Little League Headquarters. Document has been adopted to ensure smooth transitions between the incoming and outgoing Board of Directors and will be turned over to any incoming administration.

2.0 Availability of By-Laws

By Laws will be available on the website to all members of the league

3.0 Changes to the Manual

Changes to this manual may be brought up at the annual By-Laws meeting in November. If approved the change will take effect immediately unless otherwise stated in the motion. The Secretary shall record the motion in the minutes and is responsible for entering the changes to the By-Laws (President, Secretary, and Fieldhouses). Copies for the managers and other members will also be made available at the next meeting. No changes may override the Official Little League Rules and Regulations. It is the responsibility of the league President to submit any changes to District 5 within 48 hours of the approval of said changes. Special meeting can be called in season by the president to make any changes to the By-Laws.

4.0 Meriden Little League Commitment to Managers

1. Managers will receive a copy of the Official Little League Rules and Regulations.
2. Make available to managers training clinics and seminars.
3. Will supply to the manager all the necessary equipment for their team which must be returned at the end of the season.
4. Managers will also receive keys to the fieldhouse that must be returned at the end of the season.

5.0 Managers Commitment to Meriden Little League

1. Each manager and coach must fill out the Little League Volunteer Application prior to consideration for the position.
2. All Managers and Coaches must complete and pass a background check performed

IAW Little League International.

3. Attend seminars and clinics.
4. Follow all Meriden and Official Little League Rules and Regulations.
5. Instruct the players in the game and in fair play, and most of all to have fun.
6. Return all MLL property (keys and equipment) at the end of each season.
7. At all Farm levels return written evaluations of all your players at mid-season and again at the end of the season to the Player Agent.
8. Home team managers are responsible for setting up their field prior to the game and returning all field equipment to the fieldhouse at the end of the game.
9. Each manager in Minors, Farm “A” and Majors must record each pitcher used in the game by name, league age, date of game and number of pitches thrown. Failure to do so and do so accurately may result in the forfeiture of the game.
10. Home team managers are required to send a game summary including score, pitch counts and homerun players to the League website upon completion of every game. (Teams involved in inter-league play must report game summary even if not the home team.)
11. Home team managers are required to stay and help close the concession stand and are responsible for locking all doors and batting cage(s).
12. Each team is responsible for cleaning their team’s dugout and the surrounding area.
13. Be on time.
14. All teams are required to line up at the end of the game and shake hands.
15. A list taken from the Little League Operating Manual is contained on the following page concerning additional responsibilities.
16. A minimum of two approved volunteers are required at all Meriden LL functions including games and practices.

6.0 Official Little League Manager Responsibilities

1. Reflect an understanding of the age group they supervise.
2. Are aware that they are an example to those with whom they work.

3. Demonstrate that they have an appreciation of the philosophy of Little League Baseball and cooperate with others in making the program of mutual benefit to all youngsters.
4. Show by example, that they respect the judgment and the position of authority of the umpire. Instill in their players a respect for the authority of adult leaders in the league; Within the regulations of their own league and of Little League Baseball, provide an opportunity for each youngster to participate. Meriden Little League complies with the Official Little League Rule requiring every player on a team roster to participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. This is required by Little League Regulation IV (i) and the penalty required is also contained in this section.
5. Exercise their leadership role adequately but leave the ball game in the hands of the players.
6. Encourage their players at every opportunity. Familiarize themselves with the home background of the youngsters and their families.
7. Instill a desire to win and improve, striving to impart as much baseball knowledge as possible to each player.
8. Encourage good health habits, good grooming and care of the uniform.
9. Are instrumental in shaping acceptable behavior patterns whether the team wins or loses.
10. Know the playing Rules and Regulations of Little League and be able to interpret them correctly. Play by the rules and adhere to their intent, instilling in the players respect for the rules of the game.
11. Are well acquainted with the player selection system used in their league and select players for the team according to their abilities.
12. Are cautious and use sound, reasonable judgment in protest situations.
13. Have had an opportunity to participate in a preparatory training program concerning their responsibilities before being assigned their positions.
14. Have knowledge of first aid and safety.

7.0 Concession & Announcer Volunteer Requirements

All managers are asked to mention that volunteers are needed for the concession stand. The Home team manager on the field with the concession stand is responsible for staying until

the concession stand is closed and fully secured.

8.0 The following Official Little League Rules will be enforced throughout the season:

8.1 The Player

1. All players must remain on the bench, when not in the playing field.
2. No food is allowed on the bench. Drinks are allowed.
3. No player may have a bat in his possession unless that player is up to bat. No on deck batter is allowed in Little League.
4. No jewelry is allowed with exception of medical jewelry.
5. No foul language or disruptive behavior is allowed.
6. Coaches may not warm up a pitcher; pitchers must be warmed up by a player with proper equipment on.

8.2 Infractions of rules:

1. First infraction = Warning
2. Second infraction = Immediate removal from the game, but the player must remain on the bench for the rest of the game. If the player refuses to do so that player will be held out of the next game, he or she shows up at.
3. Third and all recurring offenses = the player will be immediately removed from that game and be benched for the following game.
4. Any infractions that prevent the player from meeting play rules must be reported to the player agent.

These rules will be upheld by the player's manager and coaches, any umpire, their respective division Director, or the League President.

9.0 Selection of Players

9.1 T-ball and Farm “B” players will be placed on teams by the player agent, Minors Director. In the case of any vacant position the league president shall appoint another board member.

Farm “A”, the Majors ‘and both Junior and senior (if necessary) divisions will be drafted according to the Official Little League Operating Manual “Plan A”. For team expansions the League will use option 4 of the Little League Operating Manual. Max roster size will be 12 players for all Major teams.

10.2 Moving of players can occur at any time throughout the season. When moving players from Farm B to Farm A and Farm A to the Majors, the player agent must identify the players to be moved to that divisions Director and the league President. Players at the level which undergo a draft process shall not be staggered. Pre-season player movement will go by draft position. During the season the team in last place at the time holds the right of first refusal.

11.0 Travesty Rule

If any team is ahead by 12 runs after 4 complete innings (or 3.5 innings if the home team is ahead by ten going into the bottom of the 4th inning) that game will end and be considered completed.

12.0 Official Little League Mandatory Play Rule Regulation IV Section (i)

Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of six (6) defensive outs and bat at least one (1) time. PENALTY: The player(s) involved shall start the next scheduled game, play any previous requirements not completed for Section (i) and the requirement for this game before being removed.

The manager shall for the:

1. First Offense = receive a written warning.
2. Second Offense = a suspension for the next scheduled game.
3. Third Offense = a suspension for the remainder of the year.

NOTE 1: If the violation is determined to have been intentional, a more severe penalty may be assessed by the Board of Directors. However, forfeiture of a game may not be invoked.

NOTE 2: If Violation occurs in a game shortened by curfew, darkness, or inclement weather the local league may elect not to impose a penalty.

13.0 Player Registration

13.1 Player registrations are held in January and February at various locations in town. The League will choose locations based on availability and space limitations. The League will make every effort to select two schools to hold sign-ups. A final signup will be held at the Meriden Little League clubhouse 2 weeks after the last school signup and prior to the player evaluations. Signups will also be taken at evaluations. Flyers are passed out at each school in our district one week prior to sign-ups.

13.2 Online Registration will be accepted and made available via the League Website.

14.0 Boundaries

League boundaries are restricted to the city limits of Meriden, Connecticut. Any Meriden resident can play.

15.0 Equipment

The League provides the players with baseball caps and shirts (removed SOCKS). The league also provides the use of bats, balls, and all catcher equipment including the catcher's mitt for each team. The parents provide the players with a glove, a pair of baseball pants, cleats and an athletic cup protector. Please note: Cleats are not required for our TBall and Farm C divisions.)

16.0 Player Evaluations

Player evaluations will be conducted at a location to be determined for players league age 7 and up in order for coaches to evaluate player safety and talent for selection for advancement.

17.0 Fee

Annual regular season fees to be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to disseminating registration information.

18.0 Batting Cage Rules

No player under age 7 will be allowed to use the batting cages.
Any player age 7 and above may use the batting cage at the discretion of their manager.
Manager must lock cages and bathrooms when finished.

19.0 Tournament Rules (All-Stars)

19.1 Selection of Players

Option 1: Player Vote

Option 2: Player Tryout / Evaluation. Managers and Coaches will evaluate and select players. This process will be overseen by the Player Agent and presented to the Board for approval.

Option 3: Each team's manager shall provide a minimum of three (3) players they deem worthy of selection to the All-star team per level. The manager of the All-star reserves the right for selection of player to fill the roster with input of the other managers. This process will be overseen by the player agent. Due to the duplication in ages, Managers will select players in the following order:

1. 10, 11, 12 year old district team manager will select players first.
2. 10-11 year old district team will select players second. *(if applicable)
3. 8, 9, 10 year old district team will select players third.

19.2 Selection of Managers

All League managers selected for the All-Stars must meet eligibility requirements stated by Little League Baseball Inc. prior to selection. The Managers for the All-Star teams will be selected in the following order by the duly appointed Coaching Committee. Order for selection of managers will be at the discretion of the Coaching Committee:

Junior League District Team:

Managers will be selected from the Junior League in the following order.

1. Regular season champs
2. Managers by order of their regular season standings
3. Coaches by order of their regular season standings

All LL District Teams: Managers will be selected from the Majors and Farm A Divisions in the following order.

1. Managers by order of their regular season standings – Majors
2. Coaching staff is selected by the manager and submitted to the League President for approval
3. Managers from Farm “A” in the above order.
4. Coaching staffs will be selected by the manager and submitted to the League President for approval.

20.0 Program Standards and Goals

20.1 Instructional (T-Ball/Farm C)

1. Proper catching and throwing of the ball.
2. Proper batting stance.
3. Proper swinging of the bat.
4. Proper base running.
5. Instruct players on the correct overrun of first base.
6. Ensure players know each position and where it is (infield and outfield).
7. Note: Instructional and Farm use 4 outfielders.
8. Instruct infielders to throw to first and outfielders to second
9. Review and reinforce the goals of T-Ball.
10. Start developing players into pitchers.
11. Rotate players through all positions, in order for them to have a working knowledge of all positions for placement in a later division.
12. Stress the importance of playing the outfield.
13. Ensure all players have the correct batting stance and are properly fielding and throwing the ball.
14. Stress the proper cut-off positions.
15. Instruct players on throwing out the lead off runner or where it should be

thrown with players on base.

16. Sliding and bunting will be taught and implemented at this level

17. Both Farm C/B will have cages on their helmets.

20.2 Farm "B"

1. Review and reinforce all goals from the previous divisions.
2. 10 innings / per season in the infield will be the requirement for each player, so long as there is not a legitimate safety concern. Safety concerns will be addressed by Player Agent, Division Director and someone from the Executive Board
3. Every player shall be afforded the option to either pitch and / or catch

20.3 Farm "A"

- 1 Review and reinforce all goals from the previous divisions.
- 2 Begin developing players in specific positions, so that they may become proficient at that position.
- 3 Stress the importance of the outfielders to the players and the need to develop outfielders as much if not more than infielders.
- 4 Teach players to steal bases
- 5 10 innings / per season in the infield will be the requirement for each player, so long as there is not a legitimate safety concern. Safety concerns will be addressed by Player Agent, Division Director and someone from the Executive Board.
- 6 Every player shall be afforded the option to either pitch and / or catch
- 7 1 steal home per inning (Going home on a passed ball counts as a steal

Home)

20.4 Majors

1. Review and reinforce all previous division goals and standards.
2. Continue to strengthen and improve players' standards.

20.5 Juniors and Seniors

1. Review and reinforce all previous division goals and standards,
2. Continue to strengthen and improve players' standards.

21.0 Program Directives by Division

21.1 Instructional Division (Tee-Ball) (Ages: 4, 5, & 6-year old)

Instructional Tee Ball will hold clinics at a minimum of 1 clinic per week for no more than 2 hours on Wednesdays with Clinic/Scrimmage occurring Saturday morning starting at 10:00am.

Or

1 practice per week minimum and two games per week

Schedules will be made and given to every player. An occasional need to reschedule due to inclement weather may occur.

When a scrimmage is held the following rules shall apply:

1. No live pitching, players must use the tee.
2. Players will run one base at a time only.
3. No catcher will be used at this level.
4. All players will bat in each inning.

5. Players will be left on base even if they are out; this is done to continue learning base running.
6. Last Batter Rule- coaches will inform the other team when the last batter is up, the last batter will run all the bases and the fielders will throw home, home will be covered by the player who is playing the pitcher position.
7. No score will be kept.
8. All players will line up at the end of the game and shake hands with the opposing team.
9. All players are placed in the field along with the coaches.
10. Practices or scrimmages will be cancelled if two approved volunteers are not available.

21.2 Instructional Division - "Farm B/C" (Age 5, 6 & 7)

Farm "B" will be playing regular games with the following exceptions to the rules.

1. This is a coach/player pitch league. The season will begin with coaches pitching four innings. The players will begin to pitch later in the season for the remainder two innings.
2. Players must pitch from 40 ft. away from home plate to the pitcher's mound.
3. No stealing bases.
4. Scores are kept.
5. No standings are kept
6. There are no play-offs.
7. Four players are used in the outfield (right field, right center field, left center field and left field).
8. Coaches are allowed in the field.
9. No on deck batters.
10. Three outs on a continuous batting order in which all players on the team must bat.

11. A batter is allowed 3 strikes swinging or 7 pitches from the coach before being called out.
12. Player pitching- a batter is allowed 3 strikes or 4 balls before a coach takes over
13. Only 10 players are allowed on the field, coaches must rotate the bench as equally as possible.
14. Coaches will umpire their own games at this level, coaches will umpire their own team while they are batting from behind the pitcher's mound.
15. No coaches may warm-up pitchers, it must be a player with equipment on.
16. All players will line up at the end of the game and shake hands.

21.4 Minors, Farm "A"
(Age 7, 8 & 9)

Minors, Farm "A" will be playing regular games with the following exceptions to the rules:

1. Stealing is allowed in this division from a date decided mid-season.
2. Stealing on pass balls restricted to 3 per inning.
3. No Stealing on Walks.
4. No Stealing on throw backs to the Pitcher.
5. No Stealing on pass ball from 3rd base to Home.
6. Four players are used in the outfield (right field, right center field, left center field and left field.)
7. Coaches are not allowed to warm-up pitchers, only players with equipment on may do so.
8. A continuous batting order will be used which will include all players at the game.
9. No on deck batters.
10. Must practice good sportsmanship
11. Begin to instruct players on proper sliding techniques. (Mid-season)

12. All players must play every position

13. All players will line up at the end of the game and shake hands.

21.5 Majors

(Age 9* through 12)

*Players league age 9 must have completed one full season at the Minors, Farm A level.

21.6 Juniors

(Age 12,13, 14 &15)

No exceptions to Little League Rules.

21.7 Seniors

(Ages 15 & 16)

No Exceptions to Little League Rules

22.0 Board Members Responsibilities

22.1 Board members whose role include maintaining a budget must attend all Pre-Season board meetings or must submit their budget in writing (email) to the league Secretary and/or President prior to scheduled board meetings.