

# Vernon-Rockville Little League Softball Bylaws 2021

The following guidance is provided by the Vernon-Rockville Little League (VRLL) Board of Directors to all Umpires, Managers and Coaches. This information is available on the League's website. VRLL follows the processes, procedures and rules set forth in the *Operating Manual* and the *Little League Baseball/Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules* as published by Little League Baseball, Incorporated, Williamsport, PA. In addition, the following Operating Procedures and Local Rules are adopted for play.

## Operating Procedures

The following Operating Procedures apply to both Baseball and Softball unless separate procedures are clearly identified. A copy of these procedures has been sent to Little League Eastern Regional Headquarters (ERH) and is in the local league file available for review if necessary.

## Softball Division Structure

### Softball School

Softball School is run by the Softball Division of VRLL as a single program for play by girls of VRLL. All registered players age 4 and 5 will be in the Softball School Division without exception. All players age 6 that have not played Tee Ball in any program will be in the Softball School Division.

Players age 6 will only be moved up if there are open roster spots in the AA Division *and* the player(s) have demonstrated the ability to throw, catch, and remain focused while taking direction from the Softball Player Agent.

Players age 7 and 8 may be recommended for the Softball School Division after evaluation if the Softball Player Agent believes that it is in the best interest of the child (requires approval of Parents/SB Player Agent/SB Committee and BOD).

### AA Division (6-10 years old)

The AA Division is a combination of coach pitch and machine pitch. Player Pitch may be introduced as the season progresses where appropriate but will be done in consultation with the Director of the Minor's Division, Player Agent, and VP of Softball. This division will include players who have reached league age 6 *and* participated in at least one year of SB School (or Tee Ball equivalent), and all 7-year-old players. Players age 8 and/or those who did not get placed in the AAA Division can also be in the AA Division.

### AAA Division (8-11 years old)

The AAA Division is a player pitch division. Players aged 10 and 11 not selected to a Major League roster (or deemed and injury risk by the SB Player Agent) are eligible to participate in this division. 12-year-olds are permitted in this league.

*Note: per Little League International rules, any 12-year-old allowed to play in the Minor Division will require a waiver.*

### **Major Division (9-12 years old)**

The Major Division is made up of players age 9-12 years old. **Redraft may be necessary** dependent upon the year's registration.

### **AA/AAA/Major Division Evaluation**

The players will be evaluated and scored (1-5, 5 being the highest) on the following 5 skills:

1. Running
2. Throwing
3. Ground balls
4. Fly Balls
5. Hitting

### **VRLLE has 2 exceptions to the Operating Manual Process:**

1. Any player that is deemed by the Player Agent to be an injury risk to other players in the AAA Division will be declared a Mandatory Major Division Player. Any player receiving this designation must be drafted into the Major Division in the upcoming draft.
2. Any players that score 15 or above, following the evaluations, are eligible for the Major Division Draft. If the parents of this player, after discussion with the Player Agent and the VP of Softball, will not allow their son or daughter to play in the Major Division, the player will be allowed to remain in the AAA Division, **as long as the player is not an injury risk to other players in that division**. Any player that is not drafted because of the parents' refusal to allow their child's name to be placed into the draft will not be eligible to be called up as a replacement player during the current season.

### **Major Division Draft**

All existing, previously drafted, Major Division players remain with the team that drafted them for the duration of their eligibility unless there is a redraft (**dependent on registration numbers**). VRLLE follows the Player Selection "Plan A" as described in the Operating Manual, with 4 exceptions (reviewed with Little League Eastern Regional Headquarters) related to Replacement Players, Mandatory Major Division Players, Parent declared AAA Division players, clarification of the process related to Manager and Coaches Options.

1. **Mandatory Major Division Players** - All 12-year-olds, and any player that the Player Agent has designated as an injury risk to AAA Division players must be taken during the Major Division Draft.
2. **Manager and Coaches Options** - Manager and Coaches Options are determined based on the status of the Manager or Coach at the end of the prior season. The round that the option must be exercised by is in the Operating Manual.

- An individual that qualified to receive a Coaches Option based on their service through the end of the prior season will receive that Coaches Option in the current year draft if he/she returns to the same team in the capacity of Coach or Manager. No Coaches option will be granted for either:
  - New coaches that did not qualify for the option based on their status at the end of the prior season.
  - Coaches that would have qualified for the option based on their status at the end of the prior season but moved to a new team.
  
- An individual that qualified to receive a Manager Option based on their service through the end of the prior season will receive that Manager Option in the current year draft if he/she returns to the same team in the **capacity** of Coach or Manager.

A newly appointed Manager will be granted the right to select their son/daughter in the draft via a VRLLE New Manager Option. This option is designed to allow a new Manager, who would not have qualified for an option per the above listed criteria, to select his or her son/daughter in the draft. The Manager's son/daughter will go through the VRLLE evaluation process.

The Little League Operating Manual provides, in detail, the round in which the player is to be selected. The league cannot deviate from the Operating Manual regarding what round the player must be drafted in. As with any other Option, the Manager must declare prior to the draft whether the Option will be exercised. The draft will be conducted in the presence of the Player Agent, the President (or designee), the VP of Softball (or designee), and one member of each major league team.

## **MAINTENANCE OF ROSTER**

**Note: Please refer to the Operating Manual.**

The only deviation from the Operating Manual is in the case of Injury Replacement Players. The spirit of the operating manual is maintained, but it is Vernon-Rockville Little League's intention to keep both players on the same team unless deemed impossible (**or in the case of a redraft**). If there are not enough available roster positions, the following considerations will be placed on the **replacement player**. A decision, amongst all parties involved (Player Agent, Manager, Parents, and V.P.), will be made to determine the correct resolution.

**Option 1** would be to increase the number of players on the roster to fit both players.

**Option 2** will be to return the replacement player to the draft at the end of the current season. The player must be drafted by another major league team (mandatory pick). The Parents of the replacement player must be consulted and approve their daughter being moved to a different team in the following season. *This agreement must be made prior to the replacement player being pulled up.*

*If per chance a roster spot opens, the replacement player is granted that spot prior to the upcoming draft without the use of a draft pick.*