

**New Hartford Little League  
New Hartford, NY  
Introduction, Local Rules and Bylaws**

Except to the extent modified herein, New Hartford Little League will operate in accordance with the Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules. These rules are effective on and after January 1, 2011 unless amended by the Board of Directors ("Board") or modified by action of Little League Baseball, Inc. New Hartford Little League is governed by regulations listed by priority as follows:

- **Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules**
- **Little League Operating Manual**
- **District 10 Administrator's Interpretations and Rules**
- **NHLL Local League Rules and Regulations**

No rule or policy may be passed by NHLL, which is in direct conflict with rules and regulations contained in publications of a higher priority.

All rules, policies, and procedures are subject to interpretation of the intent of the rule by the Board.

Proposed changes to these rules and regulations for the following season must be submitted in writing to NHLL by November 30. Board approved rule/regulation changes shall be effective no later than March 1 (playing rules may not be revised after March 1 for the upcoming season).

## **Article I**

### **A. Organizational Name**

This organization is and shall remain officially known as, New Hartford Little League Baseball (NHLL). NHLL is a non-profit corporation. NHLL is an organization, which provides membership to all individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin or any other characteristic protected by law. The organization shall be governed by these constitutional bylaws, and remain volunteer and non-profit in nature.

### **B. Mission Statement**

The objective of the Local League shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

New Hartford Little League encourages its managers & coaches to:

- Reflect an understanding of good sportsmanship;
- Show and lead by example;
- Respect opposing players, coaches, and the judgment/authority of umpires. The players should always strive to do their best at all times. The players & coaches should be disciplined, while working together as a team. (Remember, there is no "I" in T E A M).

### **C. Financial Policy**

#### **1. Sponsorship Policy:**

In order to secure suitable and adequate financial backing to carry out the purpose of NHLL, it shall be the policy of

NHLL to permit only such sponsorship as is consistent with the purpose for which NHLL is organized and to select sponsors who are interested in NHLL solely or principally as a means of contributing to the welfare of young people. It shall be the policy of NHLL to prohibit any direct advertising of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products in connection with NHLL or any of its programs.

## **2. Solicitation and Payment Policy:**

NHLL shall not permit the solicitation of funds in the name of NHLL unless all of the funds so raised are placed in the NHLL treasury. All moneys received shall be deposited to the credit of NHLL in a depository (bank) selected by the Board and all disbursements shall be made by check. The NHLL Treasurer and the President must sign all checks as the Board determines. The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of October and shall end on the last day of September.

## **3. Financial Expenditures:**

All purchases, orders, bids and financial transactions shall be for the sole and exclusive benefit of NHLL.

## **D. Membership:**

Any responsible adult of at least 18 years of age, of good moral character, and interested in developing, providing, and maintaining a youth baseball program in NHLL's district, shall be eligible for membership. Regular Members: Any person actively interested in furthering the objectives of the New Hartford Little League may become a regular member upon election or upon appointment by the President. The Players Agent and Secretary shall maintain the role of membership to qualifying voting members. All Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, Managers, Coaches, Volunteer Umpires and other elected or appointed Officials must be Active Regular Members in good standing. Board Member: One eligible to vote at the annual meeting and other general membership meetings. Membership is optional, however in order to vote you must be a member in good standing and possess a 50% attendance ratio. All members shall adhere to the constitutional bylaws of the organization. The Secretary shall maintain the roll of membership to qualify voting members. Only members with a 50% attendance rate and in good standing are eligible to vote at the annual and regularly scheduled board meetings. Only voting members - those members in good standing that have attended at least 50% of the regular meetings - are eligible to vote at special meetings and for motions to amend the bylaws of NHLL. Managers, coaches, parents, officers and legal guardians of youth participants shall be considered League Members and are hereby solicited to actively participate in organizational functions and adhere to the constitutional bylaws of the organization.

## **E. Participants:**

### **1. Volunteer Screening Program**

As a condition of service to the league, all managers, coaches, Board members and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams, must complete and submit an official "Little League Volunteer Application" to the local league president. Background screenings must be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. Refusal to submit a fully completed "Little League Volunteer Application" must result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the local league. The League shall conduct background checks on all personnel that are required to complete a "Little League Volunteer Application" prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. The league shall not permit any person to participate in any manner, whose background check reveals a conviction for any crime involving, or against, a minor. The league may prohibit any individual from participating as a volunteer or hired worker if the league deems the individual unfit to work with minors. The league will conduct a search of the applicable government operated statewide sex offender registry. Additionally, any volunteer who has not been a resident of New York for the past five years may be subject to a Federal review, and, any individual who does not consent to a criminal offender record review will be denied volunteer status.

### **2. Managers / Coaches:**

Any responsible adult member may voluntarily participate as a team manager, provided that the member is at least 21 years of age, 18 years of age for an assistant coach, and passes a mandatory background check and that the member is in good standing with NHLL.

The power to appoint all managers and coaches (regular season and All-stars) annually is the sole responsibility of the President and cannot be taken away by any Board action. The Board has the power to approve or disapprove

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any appointment made by the President. The Board cannot appoint managers or coaches - they can only approve or disapprove the appointee. There is no appeal process for reconsideration.

### **3. Manager Responsibilities**

Managers and Coaches shall attend a mandatory League Orientation. The Board shall insure that Managers are familiar with Little League Rules, NHLL policies and "Local Rules" and those applicable policies are communicated to the parents at a team meeting to be held prior to the start of practices. This parents' meeting shall be held at such time and place and under such circumstances that the parents can give the Manager their undivided attention. Experience has shown that informed parents are more inclined to help out.

**4. Manager/Coach Commitment and Limited Records Checks:** The Board shall insure that Managers and Coaches have thoroughly reviewed and understand the Commitment forms. **MANAGER/COACH COMMITMENT FORMS AND LIMITED RECORDS CHECKS SHALL BE SIGNED AND TURNED IN PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT.** Managers are responsible for insuring all Coaches are listed on their rosters and that only those Coaches are on the field at games and practices.

**5. Communication:** Managers are responsible for keeping parents informed of meetings, picture dates, opening day ceremonies, fund-raisers, etc.

**6. Team Notification:** Managers shall be informed that all draft information is confidential in nature, especially confidential is the Players' Tryout Rankings and the draft round in which a Player was selected. **NO MANAGER SHALL RELEASE TEAM ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION UNTIL AFTER A TIME DETERMINED AND ANNOUNCED BY THE PLAYER AGENT. SHOULD TEAM ASSIGNMENTS BE LEAKED:** If a manager or coach allows this information to be leaked before the appropriate time he shall be suspended (may not be at the park) for the first regular season game.

**7. Discipline Policy:** Managers shall create a discipline policy (may wait until team is formed so Players can help create a plan). Plans that include more than "time out" must be submitted to the Board for approval. **ALL PLANS MUST BE COMMUNICATED TO PARENTS IN WRITING.** Belittling or embarrassing a Player is not allowed. Moreover, reducing game playing time below the required number of innings is not allowed without **WRITTEN** approval of the Player Agent and notification to the Player, COMMISSIONER and the Player's Parents.

**8. Safety:** Managers shall be familiar with and follow the safety checklist on the inside of the back cover of the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules book. The League appoints each year a Safety Officer who shall be introduced at the Managers/Coaches League Orientation.

- Managers are expected to either have first aid training or attend the first aid clinic.
- Any Player requiring doctors' care for any reason shall produce a signed release before participating in practice or games.
- Managers will attempt to insure that two adults are at each practice and that each adult is aware of the location of the nearest phone. The adult in charge at practice shall not leave until all Players are picked up.
- Practices and games shall be canceled if there is any question of safety due to weather (lightning storms), lack of adult supervision or other factors.

### **9. Parent Communication:**

Managers shall insure each parent receives the Team Meeting Handout for Parents.

**10. Practices:** During the preseason, except in extenuating circumstances, teams shall practice no less than once per week. During the regular season, except in extenuating circumstances, teams shall meet no more than six (6) times per week (including practice and games). **TEAM BATTING PRACTICES SCHEDULED AT PUBLIC OR PRIVATE FACILITIES SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS AN OFFICIAL PRACTICE.**

**11. Equipment:** Equipment and uniforms must be properly cared for during the season and cleaned before being turned in. Managers are responsible for the safekeeping and return of all League-issued equipment and uniforms; and may be required to pay a fee for unreturned equipment or uniforms. Managers will be asked to inventory equipment at the end of the season and make recommendations for replacements. It is the manager's responsibility to contact the Equipment Manager and return all equipment/uniforms within 30 days after the completion of that team's season. This also includes All Stars.

**12. Players who miss three preseason practices without notifying the Manager:** The Manager must report to the Player Agent any Player who misses three preseason practices without informing the Manager. The Player Agent shall investigate and may replace the Player if the situation warrants.

**13. Players who will or who may miss three consecutive games due to injuries, moving, quitting, discipline or any other reason regardless of whether the manager is notified:** The Player Agent must be notified immediately of any Players who have moved out of League boundaries, have quit, or who have suffered injuries that may cause a Player to miss three or more consecutive regularly scheduled games. Whether such Players must be replaced on the roster shall be determined by the Player Agent and Board based on consideration of Little League Rules and Regulations, replacement Player availability, the point in the season when the vacancy occurred, and other relevant factors.

**14. Move-Ups:** Should a Player need to be "moved up," Managers and Coaches shall do everything possible to encourage the Player to "move up." Managers/Coaches who interact with a Player or Parent with the intent of discouraging a Player from "moving up" shall immediately be suspended from his/her position pending Board review of the situation.

Players must be advised of the League's "move-up" policy, including notification that if they are not initially placed on a Majors roster and an opening subsequently occurs, then the Majors Manager may choose as a replacement any Player from those who tried out. That Player will be reassigned to the Majors team in question. THE PLAYER SHALL NOT BE INFORMED OF WHICH TEAM HAS REQUESTED THEIR MOVE-UP; SHOULD THE PLAYER DECLINE, THEN THE PLAYER will have no further opportunity to play Majors that season (including playoffs).

**15. Resignation:** If a Manager finds that he/she is unable to fulfill his Manager commitment, the Coaches Coordinator must be notified immediately. The Coaches Coordinator shall recommend a replacement to the President for appointment and subject to Board approval.

**16. Line Ups:** Managers must insure Line-Up sheets are properly filled out and must keep team statistics on number of innings each Player is in attendance including: the number of defensive innings he/she has played, the number of innings played in the outfield versus the infield and the number of "at bats" for each Player.

**17. Players and Team Rules:**

Tee-Ball through Big League Baseball will adhere to the current season's Official Regulations and Playing Rules manual provided by National Little League with the following exceptions, additions and clarifications that have been approved by the Board:

- To be considered for a Majors team, a player must be at least league age 9, (exceptional 9-year olds as determined by the Board may try out, but must have at least 1 year of Minor A experience) but no older than league age 12. NHLL reserves the right to change its rules regarding team make-up to accommodate Little League, Inc and the changing demographics of our community.
- An 8-year old must have at least 1 year of Minor B experience to be eligible for Minor A consideration.
- Should a Major's team lose a player for any reason, the major team involved must contact the Player Agent in order to replace that player according to the exiting player's league age. Example: a 12-yr old leaves, then the pool of available 12-yr olds must be examined first. If no 12-yr old can be graduated (through parental considerations or for any reason the Player Agent feels appropriate) then the Player Agent will canvas the pool of available 11 year olds. This process will continue, if necessary into the 10-yr old pool until a suitable replacement is found. If an 11-yr old leaves, then the Player Agent should seek an 11-yr old replacement first. If no suitable 11-yr old is found then the Player Agent should go to available

12-yr olds then to available 10-yr olds. If a 10-yr old leaves, then the following order should be followed:  
10-yr old, 11-yr old, 12-yr old

- Should a Minor level team lose a player for any reason, the Player Agent shall find a suitable replacement from the next lower Minor level.

**18. Participant Registration fees:** Fees shall be determined by the Board annually. Registration fees for each player must be paid in full before the first regular league game. Participant registrants who are financially distressed may apply for a waiver of registration fees with the Board. Registration fees for all participants shall be equal in amounts. Families registering more than one youth participant may be given a discounted fee that shall be determined by the Board annually.

The President must meet with the Player Agent, Vice President, Secretary and any other Executive Board Member at the official ending (March 31st) of registration to determine the total number of 9, 10, 11 and 12 year olds available for the Major's Draft. This will determine the distribution of teams within each division.

**19. Uniforms:**

The organization shall provide all fully registered participants with required uniform shirts and hats. Any participant leaving the organizational programs, for any cause, forfeits their rights to the issued a uniform and shall return said properties to the organization intact and immediately upon departure.

Upon completion of each season, Major participants must return issued NHLL uniform shirts to their respective coach who will in turn return along with any NHLL issued equipment to the Equipment Manager. Coaches/Participants failing to return NHLL issued equipment/uniforms will be responsible to pay NHLL for the replacement costs of said equipment.

**20. Disciplinary Actions:**

The Board shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any member or participant. Upon evidence of any misconduct by a member or participant, the Board shall notify that member, participant, or that participant's manager and parent/guardian of the allegations in writing within twenty-four hours of the transgression. That member, participant, or the participant's manager and parent/guardian shall appear before the Board at a special meeting to hear the matter. If that member or the participant is found in violation of organizational bylaws or of ethical misconduct, the officers, by a majority vote, shall have full power to suspend or revoke the members or the participant's right to future participation in any organizational functions or programs.

## **Article II**

**A. Organizational Structures and Functions:**

The organizational components of NHLL have informally been and shall officially remain as the Board, various Standing Committees, and the General Membership.

**B. Board of Directors:**

The Board establishes organizational goals, provides general guidance and direction, implements policy and procedure, maintains routine and special organizational operations, and takes responsibility for activities undertaken in NHLL's name. The Board membership consists of an elected President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Player Agent, Commissioners (4), Equipment Manager, Safety Manager, Concession Manager and Facilities Manager. On an annual basis the Board will fill vacant positions from within. The Board will then vote on all new appointments. If a suitable replacement is not found, the NHLL Board will solicit from the community via local Newspaper(s) qualified individuals to fill vacant Board positions. If (2) or more qualified individuals apply, the current Board will interview and then vote on the most qualified individual for the vacant Board position. The Board's decision will be final and not subject to any appeals to the Executive Board of NHLL.

Being a regular member in good standing on the Board is defined but not limited to the following:

- Attendance on a regular basis at Board meetings.
- Demonstrating a high degree of responsibility in performing tasks that are volunteered for or assigned by the President or his/her duly named representative.
- Representing the Board and NHLL in a manner consistent with the spirit of Little League through both words and actions.
- NHLL has adopted a ZERO Tolerance Policy towards the use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco or weapons during any NHLL function.

**1. Board Duties:**

- Per NHLL Bylaws, a Rules Committee shall be appointed to review the rules and consider proposed changes. The Rules Committee shall present recommended changes to the Board no later than November 30. No "playing" rule change shall be allowed after March 1.
- A Board Member/Chairperson who is allotted a budget shall not exceed his/her budget without permission from the Board. Excess expenditures, which do not have Board approval, may be considered donations to NHLL.
- The Board shall set participation and membership fees prior to November 30. Full refunds shall be made available to Players who resign from the League prior to two weeks after the League's first scheduled practice. 50% refunds shall be made available to Players who resign prior to two weeks after the League's first scheduled game.
- The Board shall work with the schools, Parks Department, and other community agencies to coordinate dates and locations for registration, tryouts, drafts, General Meetings, training sessions (coach, umpire, score keeping, field prep), practices, games, and things of this nature. Care should be taken when selecting dates that the date chosen is not in conflict with major community events such as Voting, Major Holiday's and other events of this nature.
- A calendar of events shall be developed allowing for adequate time between notice of registration dates, registration, setting of number of teams and number of Players per team, tryouts and assessments, drafts, the first day of practice, and the first game.
- The Board shall establish a date by which the number of teams to be formed shall be set. This date should not be any earlier than two weeks after the last official date of registration nor any later than one week after prior to the first Majors tryout date. The number of teams and the maximum number of Players to be carried on a team shall be determined by the Board.
- The Board shall appoint a safety officer who shall become familiar with and assist the League with following National Little League safety guidelines with respect to fields, equipment, practice techniques, etc., as outlined in the "PLAY IT SAFE" pamphlet and other League publications.
- The Board shall insure that aggressive steps are taken to obtain volunteer scorekeepers, coaches and other volunteers. A list of volunteers shall be made available to the Managers prior to formation of teams.
- The Board shall review the Volunteer Registration Form with all Managers and obtain signed forms and record checks.
- The Board shall take steps to insure that equipment and uniforms will be ready for distribution on a timely basis. In addition, it shall determine that adequate training opportunities are available for Managers/Coaches, Umpires and Scorekeepers. Practice fields shall be divided in such manner as to be fair to all teams within a level, a playing schedule shall be prepared, and a date shall be set for team pictures.
- The Board shall set the number of games for each level of play and shall define the method for determining end of season standings. Particular attention shall be paid to the steps for breaking ties and the issue regarding whether or not end of season rainout games shall be played if standings are not affected. League format shall be submitted in writing to each manager who shall be responsible for insuring that each team member be aware of the format.
- The Board shall schedule a mandatory Orientation for all Majors and Minors Managers and Coaches. The Orientation shall include, Manager selection results, introduction of Board Members, review of Rules and Regulations, projected number of teams, number of games and additional training clinics.
- The Board shall have the sole and exclusive right to interpret and apply the NHLL rules and bylaws.

## **2. President:**

The President shall call for, preside over, and maintain order within regularly scheduled and special meetings, and ensure that all motions are properly made and put to vote or tabled as necessary. The President may nominate or appoint members and designate chairpersons to committee, and temporarily appoint a member to fill a vacant office until nominations and a subsequent election can be held to permanently fill that vacancy if necessary. In the event of a vote resulting in a tie, the President will be required to cast the tie-breaking vote.

## **3. Vice President:**

The Vice President shall preside over matters directly related to baseball. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall preside and perform the duties of the President.

## **4. Secretary:**

The Secretary shall give notice of all scheduled meetings, nominations and elections, officially record and report meeting minutes, and maintain all official organizational documents, membership lists, and meeting attendance records. The Secretary is responsible for all organizational correspondence. In the absence of both the President and Vice President, the Secretary shall preside and perform the duties of the President.

## **5. Treasurer:**

The Treasurer shall keep timely and accurate records of all organizational finances, receipts and expenditures. The Treasurer shall maintain all institutional accounts and membership registration lists, prepare financial statements and reports, and oversee the planning and implementation of all fund raising activities. All organizational disbursements require the signature approval of the Treasurer and President.

The Treasurer will be responsible for notifying the Board if tax returns are required to be filed for the year. If so, the Treasurer shall prepare and forward league taxes while adhering to a fiscal year that starts on October 1st and ends September 30th.

The Treasurer is required to attend all scheduled league meetings and subsequently submit a report, either written or oral, to the Board. If unable to attend league meetings, the Treasurer must notify another board officer who will report on his/her behalf.

## **6. Player Agent:**

The Player Agent shall assist the President in checking birth records and eligibility of players; serves as a member of the Board of NHLL and generally supervises and coordinates the transfer of players to or from the Minor Leagues according to provisions of the regulations of Little League Baseball. The Player Agent along with the designated commissioner shall divide the talent of the children to teams in all divisions from T-Ball to Majors. The main responsibility of the Player Agent is to look out for the children's well being on all teams in NHLL. The Player Agent shall be under the supervision of the President/Vice President. The primary responsibility of the Player Agent is to conduct the entire registration process, from the initial public announcements to the actual league sign-ups. The objective is to encourage as many children to register for Little League as possible. The primary role of the Player Agent is as the "Players Advocate". The Player Agent oversees the formation of teams at all levels and assures that the children play baseball in a nurturing and positive environment.

The Board shall insure that the Player Agent has given adequate notice regarding registration. A minimum of two registration dates should be set, about a week apart and not on the same day of the week. Inadequate advertisement results in late registrants, which delays setting the number of teams.

Registration, mailings and tryout dates should include boundaries, fee or donation information, and specific information regarding acceptable proof of birth documentation. New Players, those trying out for Majors, and those who do not have acceptable proof of birth on file must bring it to registration or tryouts.

- Current members should be notified.
- Local schools (public and private) should be contacted regarding possibility of placing registration information in newsletters.

- Two flyers should be sent home at each public school (about two weeks apart). Different schools have different days they send flyers home. The New Hartford School District must approve all flyers before schools will issue them to the student's.
- Call current members who do not re-register.

The following information must be given to potential applicants either by mail (for returning Players) or at registration.

- All Players ages 8-12 shall attend the Tryouts/Player Assessments and shall be evaluated for selection to the highest appropriate level as indicated in the general guidelines below. League level shall be determined after consideration of the Player's evaluation at the League's Tryouts/Player Assessments, review of the Player's evaluation by the Manager of the team he/she played for the previous year and, ultimately, by his/her actual selection in the League's Draft process.
- Parents who want their sons/daughters to play at a specific level must contact the Player Agent personally prior to the scheduled Tryouts/Player Assessments to receive further instructions regarding procedures to follow to be allowed an exception. Because Little League rules expressly do not allow coaches or parents to "hold-down" Players (e.g., arbitrarily placing an 11-year old in Minor A or a 10-year old in Minor B) such exceptions will be allowed only in extraordinary circumstances.

11-year olds are automatically considered candidates for Majors. Those who are not drafted to Majors teams are placed in the Minor level pool and are then drafted to Minor level teams. 11 year old players that miss tryouts will be placed on a Minor level team by lottery or at the discretion of the player agent.

12 year olds are governed by Regulation V. 1., which notes that all candidates who are league age twelve (12) must be drafted to a Little League Major Division team. Exceptions can only be made with written approval from the District Administrator, and only if approved at the local league level by the Board and the parent of the candidate. Regulation V.1. and the District Administrator should be consulted for any circumstances involving 12 years olds and their appropriate level of play.

Parents shall be notified that the League shall make no attempt to consider family relations with respect to Team assignments unless specifically requested in writing. The League shall consider special circumstances, but makes no guarantees regarding placement.

The Player Manager shall notify all parents/guardians that by registering their Player they are automatically expected to adhere to the rules of the League, clean up the area around the bleachers at the conclusion of their games and actively volunteer in at least one other capacity.

The Player Agent and the President or designee(s) shall oversee selection of the Tournament Teams.

#### **7. Equipment Manager:**

The Equipment Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all the NHLL equipment from inspecting its condition to distributing to Managers and collecting from the Manager for all chartered teams in NHLL. He/she must maintain a current inventory of all equipment and inform the Board what needs to either be repaired or replaced. He/she shall submit a budget and obtain bids for the purchase of all equipment, including uniforms, for the entire league as well as All-Star uniforms. The budget shall be submitted to the Board by February 1<sup>st</sup> or the next Board meeting following that date for approval. No equipment may be purchased over \$100.00 without Board approval.

#### **8. Safety Manager:**

The Safety Manager, in cooperation with the Facilities Manager, shall frequently inspect all playing areas for holes, damage, glass and/or other foreign objects while making sure all fences, screens and dugouts are in safe condition. He/she shall periodically inspect the stands or bleachers. He/she shall handle all accident claims promptly and shall maintain all records pertaining to injuries and to include any CLAIM for liability.

#### **9. Concession Manager:**

The Concession Manager shall maintain an inventory of food items as well as ensuring the proper functioning of the snack bar. This shall include but not be limited to the training of volunteers for the snack bar. He/she shall



ensure that proper scheduling is maintained as to provide coverage to the patrons. He/she may be issued a debit card for the purchase of all food items to be sold at the snack bar. He/she shall keep a detailed accounting and receipts of all food items purchased with the debit card which shall be audited monthly by the Treasurer. Any equipment purchase over \$100.00 shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

**10. Facilities Manager:**

The Facilities Manager shall, in coordination with the New Hartford Parks & Recreation Department, ensure safe play conditions of all fields approved for NHLL. He/she shall ensure the field is properly groomed at all times and make necessary repairs to any area that might promote unsafe conditions. He/she shall submit a budget by February 1<sup>st</sup> to be approved by the Board. Any extraordinary expenditures outside the budget over \$100.00 shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

**11. League Commissioners:**

The League Commissioner shall be responsible for setting a schedule with Board approval for all leagues in NHLL. He/She shall prepare an umpire's schedule for all games as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of the assigned respective league, including canceling any game due to weather or any other reason. He/she shall assist the Player Agent with duties necessary to facilitate harmonious conditions in all respective league levels. He/she shall re-schedule any games needed as soon as possible.

**12. Umpire-in-Chief:**

The Umpire-in-Chief shall be responsible for all matters relating to umpires including scheduling and training. The Umpire-in-Chief shall maintain a list of eligible umpires.

**C. Roberts Rules**

The rules contained in the most current edition of "Roberts Rules of Order" shall govern NHLL meetings and meetings of the Board and Special Committees in all cases in which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these Bylaws and any special rules of order NHLL shall adopt.

**D. Amendments**

These bylaws shall be amended only by a majority vote of the membership present at any said regular or special meeting provided no such amendment shall be voted upon unless it has been properly presented, announced and read to the voting membership. Properly proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the secretary 10 days prior to its first presentational meeting in order to be included on the meeting agenda and shall contain the signatures of the proposing member(s). The proposed amendment shall then be announced and read at the next meeting for voting membership consideration, and a voting membership vote shall be taken. The approved amendment shall be incorporated into these bylaws and become effective immediately.

**Exclusions**

Any encountered item or issue not included or addressed in these bylaws shall be referred to and ultimately decided upon by a majority vote of the Board.

**Article III**

**A. ZERO Tolerance Policy**

NHLL has adopted a ZERO Tolerance Policy towards the use or possession of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or weapons during any NHLL function.

Use of alcohol, tobacco or possession of a weapon will not be permitted on or near any of the playing fields, snack bar or common areas by anyone associated with NHLL. This includes Board Members, managers, coaches, umpires, players, parents, volunteers or any other person present in the designated ZERO Tolerance Zone for the purpose of watching or participating in any NHLL game. Initial violation of this policy will require the offending party to immediately cease all actions not in accordance with this policy. Any additional violations may result in actions by the Board up to and including termination of the right of the offending party to participate in any and all NHLL activities in accordance with / Ninth Article III, Section 4 of the Little League Constitution.

The Board has defined permissible smoking areas to be, no less than 150 ft. from any playing field. No exceptions will be made to this policy without Board consideration and consent.

## **Article IV**

### **Local Rules**

#### **A. Structure**

##### **Division Alignment:**

- Tee Ball A is made up of 6-7 year olds and is a non-competitive division.
- Tee Ball B is made up of 4-5 year olds.
- Minor B Division (Coach/player pitch) is made up of 7-11 year olds and is a non-competitive division.
- Minor A Division is made up of 8-12 year olds and is a competitive division. (Draft Division)
- Major Division Baseball is made up of 9-12 year olds and is a competitive division. (Draft Division)
- Age determined by Official Little League Regulations and Playing Rules.

#### **B. Tryouts**

All Major and Minor A division candidates will participate in the same scheduled Tryouts/Player Assessments. All tryouts are for NHLL and Players will be assigned to divisions based on age and ability and per the draft process.

All Majors candidates must present proof of birth acceptable (original birth certificates) to Little League. The Board shall insure that adequate tryout opportunities exist for Majors candidates. The tryout date must be indoors unless everyone is committed to holding an outdoor tryout regardless of weather conditions. The optimal situation would be to reserve a gym and an outdoor location on the same days so that tryouts could be moved indoors if necessary.

All Major and Minor A candidates must attend a tryout unless an exception is granted by the President to be eligible to be drafted to a Major or Minor A team. Each candidate must participate and be evaluated in each of the tryout events/stations (e.g., hitting, fielding grounders, fielding fly balls, running, throwing and pitching).

Players who do not attend tryouts or who register after tryouts shall be placed in an appropriate Minor level or the level of NHLL that they participated in the previous year, whichever is higher. The Board must approve any exception. The Board shall determine if such a player should be considered a possible Majors candidate should an opening occur during the season. If this is the case, then the League Commissioner shall notify the Managers of the addition to the pool of Majors "move up" candidates.

#### **C. Draft**

NHLL Major and Minor A Divisions utilize the "Methods for existing leagues", Plan "A" in the Little League Operating Manual as its "Player Selection System".

##### **1. Major Division:**

The draft order will be determined by the previous year's overall record (regular season and playoffs). All returning Major division players shall remain on their previous year's team. Coach's child and/or sibling options commence in the 3rd round and proceed in subsequent rounds through completion.

Each team may have a maximum of 8 - 12 year olds. However, if the total number of 12 year olds in the program is 60 or less, all 12 year olds that try out for Little League must be drafted on a Major team. Each team may have a maximum of four 9-10 year olds.

##### **2. Minor A Divisions:**

Minor A teams shall be drafted using the "serpentine" method (#1 to # X, # X to #1, #1 to # X, # X to # 1, etc.). Age parity shall not be mandated (i.e., it is not required that, say, each Minor A team have the same number of 11-year olds).

olds on their rosters). Managers shall draw numbers to establish the order of selecting first year of operation for illustration, the Manager drawing number one makes the following player selections: 1st choice in round one, the last choice in round two, the 1st choice in round three, and so on. The Manager drawing the last number (determined by the number of teams) makes the last choice in round one, the first choice in round two, and so on until all rounds are completed. The child of the manager and two coaches are protected from assignment to other teams, must be selected in rounds 4, 5 & 6. Sibling options are placed in rounds subsequent to child options.

**3. Minor B Division: (There are no tryouts for Minor B).**

Player's are assigned to teams by that leagues Commissioner with the goal of creating the most equitable teams. Coach's Child Provision: The child of the manager and two coaches are protected from assignment to other teams

**4. Tee Ball Division: (There are no tryouts for Tee Ball).**

The Tee Ball League's Commissioner shall assign players to teams with the goal of creating the most equitable teams.

**5. Siblings:**

Any manager may exercise an option on siblings who are subject to the draft. When the first child is drafted and the manager declares a sibling option, the manager must take the sibling in the 3rd next round. This rule applies to both mandatory and non-mandatory options. Parents may request that siblings NOT play together. A manager may option a brother/sister of a current member of the manager's Major League division team. The league will make every effort to accommodate keeping siblings on the same team if they are drafted into the same division.

**6. Trading Players:**

Players MAY NOT be traded in Major or Minor A divisions.

**7. Player Notification:**

Major and Minor A League managers will notify their respective players as soon as possible after the draft. Managers WILL NOT reveal the round in which any player was drafted. Any manager who reveals such information may be suspended for the season and not allowed to manage again subject to a vote by the Board.

**D. Practices**

Practice is where the player acquires and develops the fundamental skills. Games are nothing more than demonstrations of the learned skills. Managers should continue practices throughout the season. Running effective practices is a real art and the managers need to try to improve their skills at every opportunity.

**E. Fielding a Team**

A game may not be started with less than 9 players on each team. School or Religious related activities are the ONLY acceptable reasons for a player absence. If a manager cannot field a team they may request a postponement to the earliest available make-up date. The request must be submitted to the respective commissioner at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled game. Failure to comply with the aforementioned will result in forfeiture. If a manager is unable to field 9 players for ANY other reason, the Board (as per Rule 4.16) shall review the circumstances and render its decision. Managers are cautioned that postponements sought for competitive reasons due to the absence of a key player or players are NOT considered valid and will likely result in the issuance of a forfeit.

**F. Forfeiture**

When a team has less than 9 players present for the game, the game may be forfeited. A 15-minute grace period beyond the scheduled game time is allowed to enable a team to field enough players.

**G. Rescheduling Of Games**

The League Commissioner, will reschedule games that have been postponed no later than the first available make-up date following the postponement. An exception to this policy requires approval by the Board. Managers will not reschedule games amongst themselves. If a manager knows he/she cannot field a team, he/she shall notify the League Commissioner for rescheduling as stipulated in this Section. If rescheduled postponed games are further

postponed due inclement weather or field conditions, they will be rescheduled on the first available make-up date. However, if a manager requests that a rescheduled postponed game be further postponed due to lack of players, coaches or the manager, the League Commissioner may deny this request and recommend forfeiture of the game to the other team. Final forfeiture decision lies with the Board. The potential absence of a manager, coach, or specific player(s) is not grounds for postponement. Make-up games will not be scheduled on Easter Sunday or Mother's Day unless absolutely necessary and only upon approval of the Board. This should only be considered when the number of make-up games required would cause NHLL to play games beyond the end of the regular season.

Rained out games and all other make-up games will be played on the first available Sunday or open day with the following exceptions:

- No team will be required to play more than four (4) games in a calendar week
- No team will be required to play games on more than three (3) consecutive calendar days.

Games will be made-up in the order missed unless a team has a conflict as noted in the exceptions above. In such case, the next missed game will move up into the first available make-up date. Playing a make-up game out of order will not be considered a justifiable reason for missing an available make-up date. The Commissioner or designee will schedule all make-up games in accordance with the above. The managers of the teams involved shall not make any other agreements or arrangements regarding the scheduling of make-up games.

#### **H. Calling Game for Darkness:**

The plate umpire, or any Board Member present at the game, will call the game and stop play for darkness as soon as there is any doubt regarding the conditions of visibility. The umpire's decision is FINAL.

#### **I. Player Protection**

Rule 1.17 of the LL Rulebook shall apply to all catchers at all league levels. Furthermore, in accordance with Little League Safety Policy, dangling-style throat guards are required for ALL catchers' helmets/masks, including the new-styled hockey masks. Equipment during Warm-ups: Any player warming up a pitcher, whether a regular catcher or not, must wear a helmet/mask during the warm-up. Male catchers must also wear a cup while warming up a pitcher. During pre-game infield/outfield practice, the catcher (the player catching throws next to the coach) must wear a helmet/mask. An adult will not act as the catcher during pre-game infield/outfield unless there are no players available. When a pitcher warm-ups in the bullpen during the game, a player with batting helmet and glove will act as "protector" of the pitcher and catcher from batted balls and errant throws. This player must face the plate and have clear vision of the batter. In the event there are no additional players available, an adult coach may act as protector. Managers and coaches will ensure that helmets are worn as prescribed in the LL Rulebook.

Managers are responsible for ensuring that all equipment, especially helmets, is in acceptable condition. All batters and base runner will wear helmets. Player base coaches, if used, shall also wear helmets. Players will keep their helmets on until they enter the dugout area. Player's in casts: A player wearing any type of cast is not allowed on the playing field. This includes helping during pre-game and between-inning warm-ups, and acting as base coach. A player wearing a cast may sit in the dugout to support the team.

Managers and coaches will not sit on any type of chair or equipment (coolers, ball buckets, etc.) outside of the dugouts. Any player who has been injured and has required medical attention may not return to practice or play in a game until the player's physician says the player may return in writing. The written release shall be presented to the Board and retained by the Safety Manager.

#### **J. On Deck Circle – Prohibited:**

The use of an on deck batting circle is strictly prohibited and is not to be utilized in any level of play in the NHLL program. The next batter must remain in the dugout until his/her time to bat. The on-deck batter should have his/her helmet on and bat in hand, but may not swing the bat in the dugout or elsewhere prior to approaching the batter's box for his/her at bat. The practice of allowing batters to come out onto the field between half innings or to step outside the dugouts to swing the bat prior to official at-bats is contrary to the rule and is prohibited.

## **K. Rosters:**

If a roster spot opens, the manager is required to notify the Player Agent within (3) days. Guidelines for the replacement of players are described above.

## **L. Sliding:**

A runner must slide or avoid a fielder who has possession of the ball and is waiting to make a tag, or a fielder who must occupy the base path to immediately receive a thrown ball in flight. Penalty: Runner is out. Sliding is not allowed in Tee Ball.

## **M. Thrown Equipment:**

A batter will be given one warning for throwing equipment (bat, helmet, and glove) during the game. Additional occurrences will result in the batter being called out. Whether an object is thrown or not is a judgment call by the umpire.

## **N. Coaching Conferences:**

The offensive team shall be entitled to not more than one conference per inning to permit the manager or coach to confer with base runners or the batter. Rule 8.06 governs the defensive team's visits to the mound. A manager or coach may come out twice in *one inning* to visit with the pitcher, but on the third time out in one inning, the player must be removed as a pitcher. A manager or coach may come out three times in *one game* to visit with the pitcher, but the fourth time out, the player must be removed as a pitcher.

## **O. Tee Ball Rules:**

1. No game score or division standings are to be kept.
2. Games will last at least 3 innings with no new inning beginning after 1 hour and 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the game.
3. All batters shall hit the safety ball off of a tee in the Tee Ball B Division. It shall be discretionary in the Tee Ball A Division. Each batter shall have enough swings to put the ball in play. If during the course of the season the commissioner may allow coaches to pitch to their respective teams.
4. Although outs will not be counted, a base runner that is put out by the defensive team shall return to the dugout and not occupy a base.
5. The batting order will consist of all players at the game. Once play begins, the lineup cannot be changed except to remove a player due to an injury. A late arrival shall be added to the end of the lineup.
6. Every player bats each inning. An inning ends after the entire offensive team has batted. The last batter will continue advancing bases until either put out or the defensive team gets the ball to home plate.
7. The defense is comprised of all players present. The infield positions shall consist of a traditional baseball infield with the remaining players in the outfield. It shall be a priority that each player spends equal time in the infield.
8. A play ends when the ball is thrown back to the infield and an infield player has control of the ball. Any runner who is at least halfway to the next base is awarded that base.
9. The defensive team may have up to three coaches in the field (suggested to be one in the infield and two in the outfield.) The offensive team may have up to two adult base coaches plus one coach at home plate assisting the batter. While the ball is in play, no volunteer shall interfere with the play or touch the ball.
10. Sliding is not allowed in Tee Ball.

## **P. Minor B Rules:**

Except as noted below, the Minor B division will use traditional baseball rules

1. No official score or division standings will be kept.
2. A maximum of 5 innings will be played with a typical game lasting about 4 to 5 with no new inning beginning after 1.5 hours beyond the scheduled start of the game.
3. An inning will end after three outs are recorded or the lineup has batted through once, whichever comes first. The batting order will consist of all players at the game, not just the nine players playing in the field.

4. Once play begins, the lineup cannot be changed except to remove a player due to an injury. A late arrival shall be added to the end of the lineup.
5. The defensive team will position ten players in the field. It shall be a priority that each player spends equal time in the infield, outfield, and sitting out. It may take several games to make the distribution roughly equal.
6. Each batter will have approximately 5 pitches to hit the safety ball. It is encouraged that players do not swing at the bad pitches and develop the ability to recognize balls and strikes. A bad pitch thrown and not swung at shall not be counted against the batter (that determination will be made by the coach on the pitching mound).
7. The defensive team may have up to two coaches in the field. The offensive team may have up to two adult base coaches.
8. Players are not to coach bases.
9. Game time limit shall not exceed 2 hours or 8:00 p.m.
10. The parent of any player promoted during the season shall have the right to refuse the call-up. No player will be called up from the Minor Division to a Major Division team in the last two weeks of the regular season.
11. The home team manager, coaches, players and parents will prep the field before and after each game in the Minor and Major divisions. The visiting team manager, coaches, players and parents are responsible for the removal of all trash from the dugouts, press box, concessions area and surrounding areas after games.
12. A maximum of five runs can be scored by a team each inning.
13. Each team will bat until 3 defensive outs are made or the team has batted through the lineup.
14. There will be no stealing of home in this division.

**Q. Additional Rule for Major and Minor A (Playing Time):**

All players shall play a minimum of 1 at bat and six consecutive outs per game. If a game ends without the player completing 6 consecutive outs that player shall start the next game. If a coach intends to discipline "time out" a player in a game, this written authorization must be presented to the opposing manager and scorekeepers prior to the game.

**R. Game Preliminaries:**

Approximately 15 minutes before the start of the game, the managers of both teams shall give the official scorekeeper a copy of their "Line-up" with batting order (uniform numbers and names) and starting defensive positions, along with the uniform numbers of any eligible substitutes. As a courtesy, a copy shall be given to the opposing manager. Immediately after the recitation of "The National Anthem", both managers shall meet with the umpire at Home Plate. Any last minute changes to the line-up must be reported to the umpire and the scorekeeper at this time. Both line-ups will be official upon the conclusion of this pre-game meeting.

**S. Scorekeepers:**

Scorekeepers are an integral part of all games at NHLL. It is imperative that each game's official scorekeeper knows what he/she is doing. The scorebook used by the official scorekeeper is an official record of the game, and will be referred to during discussions, disputes and protest situations. Incomplete and/or erroneous scoring of a game will not allow for an accurate log of what transpired on the field. The home-team manager provides the official scorekeeper for each game. The official scorekeeper must sit in the scorer's stand. Managers must not use parents who are not properly trained as official scorekeepers. The official scorekeeper is responsible for operating the electronic scoreboard (if available and operational). At the official scorekeeper's discretion, he/she may invite a parent into the scorer's stand to operate the scoreboard. The official scorer should assume his/her duties at least fifteen minutes prior to game time so that he/she can prepare the scorebook. During the conduct of games, official scorekeepers are to remain "neutral". Cheering for his/her team is not appropriate. As stipulated in LL Rulebook, official scorekeepers are not allowed to point out batting-out-of-turn violations, but are required to prevent protest situations. This includes pointing out when an ineligible pitcher is taking the mound, or an illegal substitute is entering the game. Between batters, the official scorer can consult with the umpire for clarifications or explanations necessary to accurately record the game in the official scorebook.

## **T. Announcers:**

On occasion, NHLL will use announcers during games. The announcer shall sit in the scorers stand to perform his/her duties. The announcer should not perform the duties of official scorekeeper, but may assist in the operation of the scoreboard. The announcer normally announces batters by name as they approach the plate. The announcer shall use the batting order as written in the official scorebook to make the announcements. However, the announcer should see who is coming to bat and actually announce that batter's name/number, even if such batter is batting out-of-turn. The announcer should not give away the fact that a batter is batting out-of-turn.

## **U. Team Responsibilities:**

### **1. Home Team Responsibilities:**

- Maintaining the official scorebook. The score sheet shall include:
  - First and last names of all players on both teams.
  - All pitchers used and the number of innings pitched by each.
  - The final score.
  - Plus any remarks on disciplinary action taken or protests filed.
  - Signatures of managers, the official scorekeeper, and if possible the head umpire.
  - It must then be returned to the press box in the appropriate location.
- **Field set up which includes:**
  - Grooming the pitching mound.
  - Setting the bases, cones and chalking lines.
  - Placing out all garbage cans.
  - Watering the infield. (if necessary).

### **2. Visiting Team Responsibilities:**

- Field take down which includes dragging the field & grooming the pitching mound.
- Tarping the bases, mound and batting area.
- Putting away cones and bases.
- Emptying garbage cans in the shed behind the snack bar.
- Returning all tools and NEATLY storing them in the equipment shed.

This must be done after every game, even on Saturday when another team follows. On the last game of the day Managers must not leave the field until the field is groomed, Dugouts are cleaned, Field & equipment shed is secured, all trash and barrels are placed in designated area's and Concession Stand is closed

### **3. Courtesy**

The teams of any preceding game shall clear their dugouts immediately upon the conclusion of their game. Any post-game meetings should take place away from the field of play as to avoid interference with teams entering and preparing for the next game. The teams for the next game should not put their gear into the dugouts until the preceding teams have had an opportunity to gather their gear and exit the dugouts. Traditionally, the teams for the next game are allowed to carry their gear onto the playing field so they can begin warming-up while the preceding team is packing their gear.

### **4. Scorebook Review:**

Immediately following the conclusion of the game, the manager of each team shall review the official scorebook paying particular attention to the pitching records and substitutions and shall sign the scorebook and pitch count record. If a manager fails to immediately review and sign the scorebook, it shall be considered correct as recorded.

## **V. Run Limits (Rule 4.10(e)):**

If after 4 innings (3 and 1/2 if the Home team is ahead) a team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede victory to the opponent.

## **W. Game Protest and Other Appeals:**

All protest and other appeals shall be processed in accordance with the Official Little League Regulations as determined by the Board. However, any written protest shall be submitted to the President within twenty-four (24) hours after the conclusion of the game. Any decision of the Board shall be final.

## **X. Base Coaches (Rule 4.05):**

Base coaches must remain within the coaches boxes at all times. Exception: Rule 7.11. The players, coaches or any member of an offensive team shall vacate any space needed by a fielder who is attempting to field a batted or thrown ball. Two adult coaches may be used in Major's and Minor's providing a registered coach is in the dugout.

If only one registered Base Coach is available in a Minor Division game, the base will be left vacant. Players are not allowed to base coach in a Minor Division.

## **Y. Field Decorum (Rule 3.09, Regulation XIV):**

Players, managers and coaches may not leave the dugout without umpire's permission, and may not talk to or mingle with the spectators during the game.

**Interpretation: This means there should be no players in the parking lot or visiting the concession stand while their team is playing a game!**

## **Z. Equipment:**

Equipment will be issued to the Managers, who will be responsible for its return at the end of the season. Managers will be asked to sign for all equipment issued by the Equipment Manager. Equipment that is broken or damaged during the season must be repaired or exchanged with the Equipment Manager. Damaged safety equipment such as batting helmets and catching gear shall not be used. Boys and girls playing any position in games and practice must wear a protective cup. This is considered personal equipment and is not provided by the League.

NHLL seeks to have high quality, safe equipment for all scheduled games and tournaments. Under no circumstances will a player use non-Little League approved equipment. A player may use Little League approved equipment not issued by NHLL only when approved by the umpire.

## **AA. Uniforms**

The uniform of each player on a team shall be the same. Each player's uniform shall consist of the following:

1. A cap provided by NHLL. The cap shall be embroidered with the NHLL logo; however, no other logo, embroidery, stitching, or other adornment may be worn on or affixed to the cap.
2. A uniform shirt provided by NHLL. The shirt may have the team sponsor's name and a numeral affixed. The Little League patch shall be sewn to the left sleeve. The shirt may have a team name. Nothing additional may be sewn, stenciled, embroidered, or affixed to the uniform shirt.
3. A uniform pant provided by the player. Each team may select a pant colored solid white, gray, or black, however, all team members must wear the same color. The pant may be belt less or have belt loops. Nothing may be sewn, stenciled, embroidered or affixed to the uniform pant.

## **Article V**

### **Rules of Conduct: Staff, Coaches, Players and Spectator**

#### **A. Philosophy on Conduct:**

It is the philosophy of Little League that your child's playing experience shall be positive. NHLL cannot allow the enjoyment of the majority of players and families to be jeopardized by the misconduct of others. Unfortunately, there may be times when disciplinary action against players, managers, coaches, parents and/or spectators may become necessary.



## **B. Local Rules:**

Local rules are encouraged by National Little League to adjust for local conditions. Local rule modifications to the National rules are approved by the Board. Please review the local rules.

## **C. The Game:**

1. A regulation game consists of 6 innings, unless extended due to a tied score or shortened due to one of the following conditions:
2. The home team needs none or only a fraction of its half of the sixth inning.
3. The umpire calls the game for any reason.

## **D. Pitching Restrictions:**

1. 7-8 years old -> 50 pitches per day.
2. 9-10 years old -> 75 pitches per day.
3. 11-12 years old-> 85 pitches per day.
4. Exception: If a pitcher reached the imposed limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1) That batter reaches base; 2) That batter is put out; 3) The third out is made to complete the half-inning.
5. Any pitcher who delivers 41 pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.
6. If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.
7. If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
8. If a player pitches 35-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
9. If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
10. If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.

## **E. Team Rules and Conduct:**

In addition to the National and Local playing rules, each team may have additional team rules approved by the Board. Team rules are established to provide team, parent and player specific participation and other requirements. Any player (or parent) who interferes with team management, including failing to adhere to the established team rules, can be subjected to possible sanctions to insure team harmony.

## **F. Game Conduct:**

Players are expected to arrive on time for pre-game workouts and conduct themselves during the game in an acceptable manner. It is a team's responsibility to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Following are simple rules for players to follow throughout the season:

1. Play for the fun of playing, not just to please your parents.
2. Play by the rules.
3. Never argue with or complain about umpire's calls or decisions.
4. Control your temper and resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
5. Concentrate on playing baseball and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort.
6. Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it is your teams or your opponents.
7. Treat others as you would like to be treated.
8. Cooperate with your manager, coaches, teammates, opponents and umpires.
9. Food and gum are not allowed in the dugouts, although sunflower seeds are permitted.

## **G. Sportsmanship:**

No manager, coach, player, substitute, or other bench personnel shall commit any unsportsmanlike act to include, but not limited to:

1. Use words or act to incite spectators or players to demonstrations.
2. Use profanity, intimidation tactic, or remarks reflecting unfavorably upon any other person.
3. Engage in taunting or baiting.
4. All noise will cease when a pitcher takes his/her place on the pitching mound prior to the windup.
5. NHLL disapproves of any form of taunting or conduct which is intended or designed to embarrass, ridicule or demean others under any circumstance, including race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin.

## **H. Ejection Protocol:**

Any player, manager, coach, parent or spectator whose conduct is not consistent with these guidelines may be cautioned by the umpire or other League Official. Foul or abusive language is strictly prohibited. If an individual is unable to refrain from using foul language or making derogatory remarks to any player, manager, coach, umpire or other League Official may suspend the game until that individual leaves the Little League Park or other playing area. If the individual refuses to leave the Little League Park or other playing area, the umpire may discontinue the game and the police will be called for assistance. If the disruptive individual is a manager, coach or player, additional sanctions will likely occur depending on the circumstances. Each umpire has the power and authority to eject players, managers, coaches and spectators from the game and or Little League Park or other playing area.

## **I. Rules for Managers and Players:**

All managers and coaches must be properly attired and conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. THE USE OF TOBACCO, ILLEGAL DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN ANY FORM IS PROHIBITED ON THE PLAYING FIELD AND IN DUGOUTS. This is an official Little League Rule and will be enforced. Further, the New Hartford Town Parks Authority prohibits the use of alcoholic beverages within any park facility without a permit. Only the manager and two (2) adult coaches listed on the official roster submitted to Little League Baseball, Inc. are allowed on the playing field. These individuals shall not leave the bench or dugout except as permitted by the LL Rulebook and these rules. Except for the Manager and/or two (2) adult coaches of the team, adults shall not warm up the pitcher during the pre-game warm-up and during the game as stipulated in the LL Rulebook. Other personnel (parents not designated as coaches, older siblings of players, other children, etc.) are not authorized on the field or in the dugouts during warm-ups and game time for safety and insurance reasons.

Only the manager is permitted to discuss a rule interpretation with an umpire. The manager is the person who attends the umpire's plate conference prior to the game. Failure of a manager to comply with any of these rules shall result in the manager receiving a warning from the President/ Vice President. A second failure to comply will result in the manager appearing before the Board or a designated committee of the Board to show cause why he/she should not be removed as a manager. If a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, and that game is continued on a later date, the disciplinary action still applies, and the President/ Vice President/Board member shall advise the umpires of the continued game of that fact.

The actions of the players, managers, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach at all times. Any player, manager, coach, umpire or league official who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of unsportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity, is subject to disciplinary action by the Board.

## **J. Disciplinary Actions:**

The Board will take the following minimum disciplinary actions but may increase the penalty depending upon the circumstances and a vote by the majority of the Board:

1. A player, coach, or manager who is ejected from a game shall be suspended from playing or participating in the next game and may not attend practice until one-game suspension has been served.
2. A player who is involved in a physical altercation with another player, coach, or umpire shall be suspended and the matter brought to the Board for review. The player, his or her parent's, and the player's coach shall appear at a meeting to ask for reinstatement. The Board may vote to reinstate the player or may vote to continue the suspension until the next meeting for more information or may vote to suspend the player for the rest of the season. The player may not attend games or practices until the suspension is lifted. There will be no refunds for a player suspended in such a way.
3. Any coach, manager, or umpire involved in a physical altercation with another adult shall be suspended until review by the Board. The Board will determine whether the coach, manager, or umpire will be reinstated. The coach, manager, or umpire may not attend any games or practices until the suspension is lifted.
4. Any coach/manager involved in a physical altercation with a player or youth umpire shall be suspended for the rest of the season unless the Board determines that the coach, manager, or umpire acted in self-defense or was otherwise justified in his or her actions.

5. Any coach or manager who violates the rules regarding the number of innings a pitcher may pitch shall be warned the first time. The next incident will result in a one game suspension. A third incident will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.
6. Any disciplinary action which has not been enforced due to game cancellations, player/coach illness, player/coach vacation, or if the season ends before the action has been taken, will be carried out at the beginning of the next season if the player/coach is still in NHLL. Any such action that has been carried over from one season to the next regarding a player shall be made known at the draft to all managers in that player/coach's Division.

#### **K. Other Disciplinary Action:**

The Board feels strongly that proper field decorum is an important element of the Little League experience. For example, ejected individuals who do not "go quietly" once ejected can expect additional sanctions. Note: Any player, manager or coach who is ejected or otherwise suspended three times in a season, will have their association with NHLL terminated. The Board is responsible to impose any other disciplinary sanctions necessary to effectively operate the League

#### **L. Parents/Spectators:**

Other ejected individuals shall immediately leave the Little League Park or other playing area. Refusal to do so may result in the umpires suspending the game and other sanctions being assessed on the team associated with that individual.

### **Article VI**

#### **Playoff Rules:**

**A.** All New Hartford Little League Local Rules are still in effect, with the exception of the following:

1. Unless determined otherwise by the NHLL Board prior to the start of the regular season, all Major level teams are eligible for the playoffs. After the end of regular season play the final standings are computed based on W/L records. In the case of ties, the tiebreaker formulas are applied in the following order to determine the final standings and therefore, playoff seedings;
  - Head to Head W/L.
  - Total # of runs scored over the regular season schedule.
  - Total # of runs allowed over the regular season.
2. Should a tie remain after the application of all of these formulas, a coin flip shall be employed.
3. The playoff schedule would follow with the top seeds playing the lowest seeds (e.g. # 1 plays # 6, # 2 plays # 5 and # 3 plays # 5). In the case of having an odd # of teams, the top seeded team would receive a first round bye and then play the winner of the # 2 vs. # X game. It is highly recommended that the regular season, including make-up games, end in sufficient time to allow the teams involved in the playoff equal opportunity to utilize their respective pitching staffs and players; however, all regular season Little League Pitching rules continue in force during the last week of the regular season and throughout the playoffs. Playoff games will begin (3) day's after last the regular season game is played or Saturday, whichever comes first.
4. **Game Rules:**
  - Ten-Run Rule - The 10-run-rule is in effect for all tournament games, including both weeknight, and weekend games.
  - The higher seed is the home team in game one. The lower seed is the home team in game two. In the event a game three is forced, the higher seed is the home team.

## Article VII

### All Star Team(s) Selections:

#### A. "A" All Star Team Selection

This selection process consists of two steps, a player vote and a manager meeting.

##### 1. Player Vote:

All Major level players will vote on a date set by the Board at or near the end of the regular season, using ballots listing all 11 and 12 year olds in Majors except those known to be ineligible.

- Each player may vote for up to 10 players, no more than 3 of which can be from his or her own team. Ballots not conforming to these rules are void.
- The Player Agent and at least one other Board member will meet to count the ballots.
- The 6 players with the most votes from the player vote will be on the 11-12 "A" All Star team. In the event of a tie vote, the managers will have the option of unanimously voting to accept the tied players as "A" All Stars or the number of players making the team via the Player Vote will revert to the level before the tie (i.e., if there is a tie for 6th, only five players will be assigned to the team roster).

##### 2. Managers Meeting:

- The minimum # of players selected for the "A" All Stars shall be 11 and the maximum # shall be 13. The decision to carry 11, 12 or 13 players rests solely with the selected "A" All Star Manager. Should the "A" All-Star Manager choose to carry 13 players, he/she has the option of either selecting his 13<sup>th</sup> player or letting the managers chose for him in all levels of All-Star selection.
- The Majors Managers will meet to pick the remaining players. The Player Agent and President will lead this meeting. If the President or Player Agent is not available, they shall appoint other Board members as delegates to lead the meeting. Before this meeting, the Player Agent must resolve any questions about eligibility and determine the pool of eligible players. It is critical to the success of this process that all voting during the managers meeting be done by secret ballot.
- Before the first vote, each manager will have 3 minutes to promote any players from his/her team who merit consideration for the "A" All Star team.
- Each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 2 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 2 players in this vote are on the "A" All Star team. Only the top 2 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 1 candidate. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 1 player in this vote is on the "A" All Star team. Only the top vote getter is disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 1 candidate. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 1 player in this vote is on the "A" All Star team. Only the top vote getter is disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- Note on ties: if in any round there is a tie for the last position, no player shall be selected, and one more slot shall be added to the following round of voting. For example, if in the first round there is a tie for 2nd, then only one player shall be selected in that round, and the second round shall select two players instead of one. If there is a tie in the last round, the President or his/her nominee shall cast tie-breaking vote.
- The Player Agent will decide all other details of the method of selection.

##### 3. Replacement Players:

At the end of the "A" All Star selection process, the Major Managers will select a pool of three potential replacement players in the same fashion as the selection of the "A" All Stars. Two rounds of voting shall be used, with 2 players selected in the first round, and the 3rd player selected in the second round. In the event that a player selected for the "A" All Star team cannot participate due to injury, ineligibility or other reason, the "A" All Star manager will select a replacement player from this pool of players. The "A" All Star manager may select any player from this pool as a replacement without regard to order of selection. The manager may also choose not to

fill a vacancy. These players will NOT be announced or deemed to be alternates for the “A” All Star team. The Majors managers, the Player Agent and President will keep this information confidential. In the event that none of the players in the Replacement Pool are available when a replacement is necessary, the “A” All Star Manager will confer with the Player Agent to select another player. The “A” All Star manager is not allowed to contact a player regarding selection as a replacement without first conferring with the Player Agent.

## **B. “B” All Star Selection:**

1. At the conclusion of the “A” All Star team selection process, the Major Managers select all members of the “B” All Star team. Any player who has been selected to the “A” All Star team is not eligible for the “B” All Star team.
  - Before the first vote, each manager will have 3 minutes to promote any players from his/her team who merit consideration for “B” All Star team.
  - Each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 4 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
  - The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 4 players in this vote are on the “B” All Star team. Only the top 4 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
  - After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 3 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
  - The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 3 players in this vote are on the “B” All Star team. Only the top 3 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
  - After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 2 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
  - The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 2 players in this vote are on the “B” All Star team. Only the top 2 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
  - After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 2 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
  - The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 2 players in this vote are on the “B” All Star team. Only the top 2 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
  - After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 1 candidate. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
  - The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 1 player in this vote is on the “B” All Star team. Only the top vote getter is disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
  - Note on ties: If in any round there is a tie for the last position, neither player shall be selected, and one more slot shall be added to the following round of voting. For example, if in the first round there is a tie for 4th, then only three players shall be selected in that round, and the second round shall select four players instead of three. If there is a tie in the last round, the President or his/her nominee shall cast a tie-breaking vote.

## **2. Replacement Players:**

Replacement players will be selected in the same manner and under the same guidelines as described for the Major’s “A” All Star team.

## **C. “C” All Star Selection: 9/10 year olds only.**

1. At the conclusion of the “B” All Star team selection process, the Major Managers select all members of the “C” All Star team. Any player who has been selected to the “B” All Star team is not eligible for the “C” All Star team.
  - Before the first vote, each manager will have 3 minutes to promote any players from his/her team who merit consideration for “C” All Star team.
  - Each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 4 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
  - The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 4 players in this vote are on the “C” All Star team. Only the top 4 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
  - After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 3 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
  - The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 3 players in this vote are on the “C” All Star team. Only the top 3 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.

- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 2 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 2 players in this vote are on the “C” All Star team. Only the top 2 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 2 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 2 players in this vote are on the “C” All Star team. Only the top 2 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 1 candidate. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 1 player in this vote is on the “C” All Star team. Only the top vote getter is disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- Note on ties: If in any round there is a tie for the last position, neither player shall be selected, and one more slot shall be added to the following round of voting. For example, if in the first round there is a tie for 4th, then only three players shall be selected in that round, and the second round shall select four players instead of three. If there is a tie in the last round, the President or his/her nominee shall cast a tie-breaking vote.

## **2. Replacement Players:**

Replacement players will be selected in the same manner and under the same guidelines as described for the Major’s All Star team.

## **D. Minor A All Star Selections:**

### **1. Minor A Managers select all members of the All Star team.**

- Before the first vote, each manager will have 3 minutes to promote any players from his/her team who merit consideration for All Star team.
- Each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 4 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 4 players in this vote are on the All Star team. Only the top 4 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 3 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 3 players in this vote are on the All Star team. Only the top 3 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 2 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 2 players in this vote are on the All Star team. Only the top 2 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 2 candidates. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of remaining eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 2 players in this vote are on the All Star team. Only the top 2 vote getters are disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- After additional discussion, each manager will then vote by secret ballot for 1 candidate. Each manager may vote for anyone from the pool of eligible players.
- The Player Agent or the President shall tally the votes. The top 1 player in this vote is on the All Star team. Only the top vote getter is disclosed. No other players receiving votes should be disclosed.
- Note on ties: If in any round there is a tie for the last position, neither player shall be selected, and one more slot shall be added to the following round of voting. For example, if in the first round there is a tie for 4th, then only three players shall be selected in that round, and the second round shall select four players instead of three. If there is a tie in the last round, the President or his/her nominee shall cast a tie-breaking vote.
- Unless otherwise approved by the Board, there will only be one Minor A All Star team fielded each year.

## **2. Replacement Players:**

At the end of the All Star selection process, the managers will select a pool of three potential replacement players in the same fashion as the selection of the All Stars. Two rounds of voting shall be used, with 2 players selected in the first round, and the 3rd player selected in the second round. In the event that a player selected for the All Star team cannot participate due to injury, ineligibility or other reason, the All Star manager will select a replacement player from this pool of players. The All Star manager may select any player from this pool as a replacement without regard to order of selection. The manager may also choose not to fill a vacancy. These players will NOT be announced or deemed to be alternates for the All Star team. The managers, the Player Agent and President will keep this information confidential. In the event that none of the players in the Replacement Pool are available when a replacement is necessary, the All Star Manager will confer with the Player Agent to select another player. The All Star manager is not allowed to contact a player regarding selection as a replacement without first conferring with the Player Agent.

## **E. All Star Manager and Coaches Selection:**

The President has the right to appoint all All-Star Managers across all levels of play.

# **Article VIII**

## **A. Parents/Guardians-Parent Participation**

Many responsibilities exist beyond the normal team level commitments that make New Hartford Little League function smoothly. Parents are what make the program a quality experience for all our children. The New Hartford Little League can only be as good as we, the parents make it. Following are some important volunteer areas that are required during the season:

- Park Duty Assistance
- Volunteer Umpiring
- Field Preparation and Maintenance
- Special Events Coordination
- Fundraising
- Game Scorekeeping

## **B. Parent Support:**

Parent support during both games and practices is critically important to the success of the league. Be supportive of the team by ensuring your child attends each practice on time. Be a positive role model during games whether you are a manager, an assistant coach, or simply a spectator. Finally, please keep the following in mind:

- Always be positive and enthusiastic
- Show your child positive reinforcement
- Observe practices and games to learn proper techniques to practice with your child.
- Encourage your child toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game
- Teach your child to always play by the rules
- Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team
- Let the managers and coaches do the coaching
- Let an umpire be the umpire; yelling at the umpires does not provide anything positive
- Do not scold your child or other players during the game; you will only embarrass and demoralize them
- Learn the rules & recognize that the umpire is the closest to the play and that each umpire will "call them as they see them"
- The umpire is often a volunteer parent who has assumed a difficult, but necessary, role
- Be supportive of the coaches and volunteers; they have to deal with a lot of details that allow your child to play
- Pitch in without being asked; you will usually feel good about it
- Help out with field preparation and scorekeeping

### **C. The Role of the Parent**

Parents play a very important role in helping to shape a positive experience for players, coaches, umpires, and other parents! To help you understand the key role parents play in the New Hartford Little League, the following excerpt was taken from the Official Regulations and Playing:

“The parents of millions of Little Leaguers, combined with their youngsters, league officials, umpires, managers, coaches, auxiliary members and countless volunteer agencies including sponsors, represent an imposing cross section of this nation.

Parents should accept the fact that they must shoulder responsibility and take initiative to make the local program successful. Little League is not a club in which membership implies baby-sitting benefits and entertainment privileges for your children. Practically speaking, Little League is an adult, volunteer work project constructed, supervised and assisted by parents who desire to make its benefits extend to their children.

Each parent should join in the total effort. There is a place and a job to do for all. The burden of operating the League should not fall on a few. The parent who shirks this responsibility cannot, in turn, expect others to assume the burden.”

### **D. Parent Concerns**

If you have concerns about anything regarding your team or the league, first talk to your manager. If your concern is not resolved, then contact your League Commissioner, the Player Agent, and finally the Board, in that order. The Board’s decision shall be final and binding.