

# Woonsocket Little League

## Local Rules and Deviations 2022-2023

### ARTICLE I (Name)

This organization shall be known as the Woonsocket Little League, here in after referred to as WLL (the local league). WLL is a member of **District 4** and has the Identification Number **239-04-09**.

### ARTICLE II (General Rules)

**Section 1: Hierarchy for Rules** – All WLL Board Members, Umpires, Managers, Coaches, and other league volunteers are to follow the rules and guidelines set forth in the 2023 Little League Baseball Rule Book) and the Woonsocket Little League Bylaws. Information specified in this WLL document, regarding league rules and guidelines, is intended to be in addition to these resources and does not supersede them.

**Section 2: Player Tryouts/Draft** – All registrants, League Age 6 and older, must attend tryouts unless excused by the Player Agent. The Player Agent must be notified no later than the registrant's assigned tryout date if he/she is unable to attend the tryout due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances. If a player does not tryout, he/she will be randomly placed on a team by the Player Agent and the Board of Directors. Excused players maintain their eligibility ("excuse" will be determined acceptable by the Player Agent). Players who are League Age 12 and who were not on a Major Division roster the previous year must tryout. League Age 12 players who are unable to tryout will be placed on a team by the Board of Directors at a later date. Tryouts for the Jr./Sr. division (players league age 13 thru 16) will be held on a separate date

- 1) All baseball and softball teams/divisions will be redrafted annually if a new team is added.

**Section 3: Practice Schedule** – Managers wishing to use League fields for practice must contact the respective Division Rep for allocation of times. Teams scheduled to practice on Saturday will relinquish their time if it conflicts with the play of a suspended or cancelled game. Any team playing in a rescheduled game will relinquish its practice time to the team displaced by the makeup game.

**Section 4: Uniforms** – WLL provides caps and uniform tops for each registered player. Gray baseball pants are also required but are not provided by WLL. Sizes for uniform tops are ordered by the parent/guardian of the player during the day of tryouts and/or by the team manager at the start of the season. It is the responsibility of this parent/guardian to order the correct size uniform top for their player. It is the responsibility of the Equipment manager to distribute the ordered uniform tops and caps to players on their team.

**Section 5: Equipment** – Equipment, equipment bags and first aid supplies will be provided to each team by WLL and once issued become the responsibility of the team manager. Any broken equipment or needed supplies must be reported to the Equipment Manager as soon as possible.

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**Section 6: Concession Stands** – Home teams are responsible for getting approved volunteers to staff the concession stand for their games. If they cannot find someone to staff the stand, the team manager will then contact the Concessions Manager and they will both ensure that the concession stand is staffed for the game. All managers should communicate with their team families to get adult volunteers to assist with the concession stand – volunteer forms must be completed ahead of time and background checks completed. If there are no approved volunteers, a coach must notify the Concession Manager.

Failure to operate the concession stand on game day will result in Board review for further action.

### **ARTICLE III (Games)**

**Section 1: Starting Times** – Games for Jr./Sr. will vary at the discretion of District 4 LL and the team managers. Major division games will begin at 6:30 pm at Lajoie Field. Start times for Major division double headers will begin at 5:30 and 7:30 as described below.

- 1) Double Headers: Major Division:
  - a. The first game of a double header will begin at 5:30 pm. The fifth inning or later cannot start later than 7:30 pm, except for a tie score, in which case the game must continue until one team is ahead at the end of an inning or 10:00 pm, whichever comes first.
  - b. The second game of a double header will begin at 7:30 pm, or immediately following the conclusion of the first game should the first game end after 7:30 pm. No inning of any game shall start later than 10:00 pm.
- 2) The visiting team will begin field warm-ups one hour before a game's scheduled start time. The home team will begin field warm-ups a half hour (30 minutes) before a game's scheduled start time.
- 3) Schedule changes for doubleheaders will be done by the player agent.

Minor and Instructional Division games will begin at 5:30 pm. Instructional games will have no less than four (4) innings of play. T-Ball games will be held on Sundays on a rotating schedule

**Major Division will have a time limit of 2 hours 15 minute and Minor Divisions will have 2 hours and 15 minute time limit.** No Inning can start after the time limit has been reached. All umpires and both managers will note the time for the start of the game, and all agree before the game begins. No new inning can start once the time limit is reached. If the time limit is reached in the middle of an inning, the inning being played must be concluded until the home team has batted and made 3 outs, or they have won the game as determined by the umpire in chief. If the score is tied and curfew is reached, the game will be concluded the next time the opponents are scheduled to play. The continuation game will be played first, then the scheduled game. Pitch counts and days' rest for continuation games are determined by the calendar date and not by the original game date.

Ultimately, the umpire will decide whether to call a game due to darkness or curfew. It is the umpire's responsibility to declare LAST INNING if he/she feels darkness or curfew will be reached in upcoming inning. It is an official game if 3 and ½ innings have been played and the home team is winning, whether darkness or curfew is reached, there is no continuation.

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**Section 2: Postponed Games** – Games that need to be postponed are to be rescheduled for play on the

first available day determined by the player agent. Make-up/rescheduled game times will be scheduled by the player agent. The Umpire-in-Chief must be notified regarding all postponed games by the Player Agent. Team managers must contact the Player Agent if they believe their team is unable to play for any reason; they will not cancel their own games. Managers and coaches will be notified by the Player Agent by 3:00 pm if games are cancelled due to weather, field conditions, etc.

**Section 3: Dugout Assignments** – The home team dugout is the one on the third base side of the field. The visiting team dugout is the one on the first base side of the field.

**Section 4: Fielding Players**– Minors and Majors games may start with a minimum of eight (8) players present for each team, per Little League Rulebook. Ample notice must be given (24 hours) and with a legitimate reason to not field the team (illness, vacation, school activity conflicts). There will be NO forfeits for non- Tournament games – all make-up games will follow the rules set forth in Article III (Games) Section 2: Postponed games. Team managers must notify the Player Agent if they cannot field a team.

**Player Pool:** To assist the league and regular season teams having difficulty fielding a complete roster, WLL will create a player pool at the major and minor league divisions as defined in Little League baseball operating policies (per Little League Rulebook). This pool of players will be from existing regular season teams and consist of players that are not on alternate baseball teams (e.g., AAU, Interscholastic, etc.) and that are willing to participate in extra games during the regular season only when teams face a shortage of rostered players for a regular season game. The player pool will be run as defined in the guidelines below:

- 1) The league's player agent will create and run the pool. The player agent will work with each manager at the major and minor division to identify their players selected for the pool after regular season teams have been drafted. The league's player agent will use the pool to assign players to teams that are short of players on a rotating basis
- 2) Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to pick and choose players from the pool.
- 3) Pool players are not allowed to pitch in the game
- 4) Pool players must play at least 9 consecutive outs

**Section 5: Batting Requirements** – A continuous batting order with unlimited substitutions will be used in **all** baseball and softball divisions during the regular season and playoffs.

**Section 6: Defensive Requirements** – Defensive requirements at Jr./Sr. division will follow the Little League Rulebook. Major baseball division players and 14U and 12U softball division players must play a minimum of six (6) defensive outs, for full regular season games and playoff games. Minor and Instructional baseball division and 6U, 8U and 10U softball division players must play a minimum of nine (9) defensive outs for full regular season games and playoff games. **They do not have to be consecutive outs unless the player is a pool player as outlined above in Section 4a).**

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**Section 7: Inning Run Rule** – Minors will have a maximum of four (4) runs per team per inning & (Majors 5 runs) and unlimited runs for the 5th and 6th innings, in which case the third out will be the end of the inning. The player at bat will cease batting when the fourth run crosses the plate. The player

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forced to cease batting will be the first batter, with a new count, the next time his/her team comes to bat in that game.

- 1) If a game is still underway as darkness approaches, the umpire will declare "Last Inning," meaning that both teams may score an unlimited number of runs. The umpire **MUST** make that judgment prior to the beginning of the fourth and fifth innings.

**Section 8: Courtesy Runner for Catcher (Major & Minor Division rule)** – In the Major and Minor division, when there are 2 outs in an inning, the offensive team may substitute a courtesy runner for their catcher. This is a speed up rule which is meant to get the catcher-runner suited up in full catcher's gear and ready to warm- up his/her pitcher defensively in their upcoming defensive half-inning. Courtesy runners that are used will be the player that made the last out in the current inning.

**Section 9: Uncaught Third Strike** – Per Little League Rulebook, a batter in the Junior and Major Division is out when either a third strike is legally caught by the catcher, or a third strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out. (See official ruling Little League Rulebook)

- 1) *In the Minor and Instructional Divisions, a batter is out on strike three whether the third strike is caught or not caught by the catcher.*

**Section 10: Infield Fly Rule** – The infield fly rule is in effect in Juniors, Majors and Minor division baseball (not including a line drive nor attempted bunt) which can be caught by an infielder with ordinary effort, when 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases are occupied before two are out, as defined in the Little League Rulebook. This rule will not apply to Instructional and Tee-ball levels of play.

**Section 11: Pitchers and Pitch Counts** – Per Regulation VI in the Little League Rulebook, if a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI(c) for his/her league age 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 or the game. NOTE: If a pitcher reaches 40 pitches while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch, and maintain their eligibility to play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day, until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half inning or the game. The pitcher would be allowed to play the catcher position provided that pitcher is moved, removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter. If a player delivers 41 or more pitches, and is not covered under the threshold exception, the player may not play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

*ex. If the pitcher begins the batter at 37 pitches and strikes the batter out at 43 pitches, he is still eligible to catch.*

**The following pitch limits and thresholds will be observed at the Junior, Major and Minor**

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division levels for all pitcher's league age 14 and under. All Pitch Limits, Thresholds and days' rest are based on player's league age. See 2023 League Age chart next page to determine league age

## PITCHER LIMITS:

League Age: 13-16 95 pitches per day  
11-12 85 pitches per day  
9-10 75 pitches per day  
6-8 50 pitches per day

## 2023 Little League® Age Chart



Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	4
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	5
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	6
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	7
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	8
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	9
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	10
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	11
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	12
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	13
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	14
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	15
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	16

**NOTE:** This age chart is for BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2023.

## PITCHER THRESHOLDS & DAYS REST

- 1) If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- 2) If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- 3) If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days rest must be observed.

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- 4) If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest is required.
- 5) If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required

**EXCEPTION:** If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold 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 retired; or (3) the third out (or 4th run if minor division game) is made to complete the half-inning or game.

**Section 12: Playoffs** – There will be playoffs in the Major and Minor Divisions. Jr/Sr Division and Softball Division playoffs are organized by District 4, if any. There will be no time limits for playoff games.

**Section 13: Special Games and Tournaments** – The Board of Directors will decide all matters concerning what tournaments or games WLL will participate in and how the teams and staff will be formed.

## ARTICLE IV (Managers and Coaches)

**Section 1: Managers and Coaches Appointments** – Managers will be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors prior to tryouts and All Stars. Coaching staff cannot be appointed until AFTER the draft of that division has taken place. Coaching staff shall not exceed four members as outlined in the Little League Rulebook: Manager, two Coaches and one Score Keeper. Coaching staff are subject to final approval by the Board of Directors.

**Section 2: Field Responsibilities** - Managers from both teams are responsible for ensuring that the fields, benches, and dugout areas are clean before and after their respective games and practices. All managers/coaches must rake and maintain fields at the conclusion of their practices and games to keep fields in proper playing conditions. Dugouts and lock boxes should be confirmed locked and in adequate condition to protect the equipment within. All damages are to be reported to the Field and Maintenance Coordinator immediately.

**Section 3: Junior Coach** - JR coach is defined as a person under the age of 18 years of age, serving in the capacity of an assistant coach and will be in a mentoring role for younger players on new skill development. JR coaches must be a registered player of WLL and must be approved by the President. *(Due to the age of the JR Coach, background check is not required)*

## ARTICLE V (Players)

**Section 1: Quitting Baseball** – Should a player quit during the regular season; he/she cannot return until the following season. The Player Agent is to confirm that the player has quit. The player will be required to try out again the following season. Refunds will not be given after teams have been assigned.

### **Section 2: Drafts**

- 1) All Jr./Sr. baseball teams and 14U and 12U softball teams will be redrafted annually.

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- 2) All players will be rated at tryouts and the teams will be selected by the managers.
- 3) All players league age 12 must be drafted to a major division team. Discretionary consideration of this rule will be considered for special circumstances; however, deviation of this rule must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- 4) All new players ages 7 thru 12 will be drafted and League will follow the draft rules in the 2023 Little League Rulebook under the Local League Draft Methods.
- 5) All players league age 9 and above are eligible to be drafted to the major division. All players league age 7 thru 11 are eligible to be drafted to the minor division
- 6) The Instructional Division players will be rated, and the teams will be selected by the Player Agent and Asst. Player Agent
- 7) T-Ball Division will be randomly selected by the Player Agent and Asst. Player Agent
- 8) Only division managers and Executive Board Members may attend the draft, NO EXCEPTIONS.
- 9) Draft information will be made available after the draft is completed and division managers have notified the players on their team.

**Section 3: Player Movement** – Communication for player movement is allowed only by the Player Agent. The Player Agent (or Assistant Player Agent) is the only league representative who can communicate with the player regarding movement between teams and/or divisions. If there is a request to move any player, it will only be allowed with a 75 percent approval from the seeded board members.

## **ARTICLE VI (Instructional Division Rules)**

These rules are local deviations from the 2022-2023 Woonsocket Little League Local Rules and Deviations. If a rule is not noted below, then the Minor Division rules of the Little League Rulebook take precedent.

- 1) All players are required to rotate positions. With the exception of the catcher, no player can play in the same position for more than two (2) innings per game.
- 2) There will be NO infield fly rule.
- 3) There will be no walks.
- 4) There will be no stealing.
- 5) There will be no bunting.
- 6) A line drive or pop fly, in the air, reaching the outfield shall be **two (2) bases only**.
- 7) Each batter will receive a maximum of six (6) pitches. If the batter has not hit the ball into fair territory after six (6) pitches, then the batter is out. If the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) pitch is fouled, then the batter will receive another pitch. The batter may swing and miss at all the pitches and



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will not be out until the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) pitch. Foul tip on the sixth pitch allows another pitch until the last pitch has no contact with the bat.

- 8) Offensive manager/coach will pitch to their players, and they will fairly umpire that half of the inning (if no umpire is present). Manager/coach will not make any defensive plays. If a batted ball hits the manager/coach, it will be a live ball. The batter will resume hitting with the same pitch count and no runner will advance.
- 9) No batter may advance to first base if hit by the pitcher.
- 10) Sliding – **NO** sliding allowed into first base as runner will be called out. Feet first sliding only allowed at second base, third base, and home plate. Sliding headfirst is not allowed at any base and will be called out.
- 11) Defense – Substitutions will be freely allowed. No player will sit the bench for two (2) consecutive innings. A maximum of two (2) defensive manager/coaches are allowed on the outfield grass to direct players. Defense will consist of ten (10) players:
  - a. Infield
    - i. (Pitcher's Mound, Catcher, First Base, Second Base, Shortstop, Third Base)
  - b. Outfield
    - i. (Left Field, Left Center, Right Center, Right Field)
- 12) Bat control – A batter must retain control of their bat. If a bat is released towards the catcher, upon a swing or a hit, the batter will be called out after the first warning.
- 13) Player Pitch: During the second half of the season, **if agreed upon by Instructional division rep and all division managers**, we will allow the option to "player pitch". Players will follow league age and pitch limits and thresholds as outlined in Section 10
- 14) A coach will be present at the pitcher's mound with the player pitching. There will be no walks. The player pitcher will pitch up until there are four (4) balls thrown. Once the four (4) ball count has been reached, the coach will take over until the batter gets a hit or has struck out. Any strikes thrown by the player pitcher will be counted as such.
- 15) There will be no stealing on passed balls to the catcher.
- 16) No walks.
- 17) Any batted ball touching the adult pitcher (if he/she is pitching or not) will constitute a live ball.
- 18) There is no infield fly rule.
- 19) Four run per inning limit

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20) Feet first sliding only allowed. Sliding headfirst is not allowed at any base and will be called out.

21) If a batter is hit by the player pitcher, he/she will take first base.

### **ARTICLE VII (T-Ball Division Rules)**

Players must be League Age 4 or League Age 5 only. T-Ball Division games shall last three (3) innings where one half of each team's roster bats in 2 innings. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning the full roster will bat. All players are in the field during their defensive portion of the inning.

1. Halfway through the season, each batter will have three (3) pitches to put the ball in play. The fourth pitch will be off the tee, if agreed upon by T-ball division rep and all division managers

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### **ARTICLE VIII (All Stars)**

Jr./Sr. and Major Divisions: An All Stars selection meeting will be held by the Player Agent for the division managers. At least Ten (10) players will be chosen for each of the All Stars teams. Division managers will vote for nine (9) players from their division. Those players receiving the highest number of votes will be selected on the All Stars team(s) for their respective division/age level. The All Stars team manager will then select the remaining players until the roster is full. All Stars rosters will have a minimum of 10 players. The All Stars team managers/players are subject to final approval by the Board of Directors.

Minor Division: There will be an All Stars team for Minor Division players who are League Age 7, 8, 9 or 10. Each division manager, coach and player will vote for nine (9) players from their division. Those players receiving the highest number of votes will be selected on the All Stars team(s) for each division. Any player who has Major Division experience during the regular season cannot play in the Jimmy Fund.

The All Stars team manager will select the remaining players until the roster is full. All Stars rosters will have a minimum of 10, with a maximum of 14 at the manager's discretion. The All Stars team managers/players are subject to final approval by the Board of Directors. The All Stars team managers are responsible for compiling, completing and submitting the necessary information for their team for any verification process at the district, state, regional and/or national levels of competition. It is the All Stars team manager's responsibility to maintain their verified roster for the duration of the tournament and return it to WLL at the completion of their All Stars tournament,

### **ARTICLE IX (Competitive Division Season Champions Merchandise)**

Upon request, the Executive Board will approve \$55 per player in the Junior/Senior and Major Divisions and \$45 per player in the Minor Division for the purchase of championship merchandise for the Division Spring Season Champions of the Junior, Major and Minor Divisions. The funds cannot be used for anything other than merchandise for the individual players on the roster at the time of the championship. If a sponsor sells the merchandise the team has selected, the team must use that sponsor unless a majority vote by the Executive Board grants permission to use another vendor other than a league sponsor. Spending is at the discretion of the Executive Board.

### **ARTICLE X (Game Write-Up Sheets)**

Game write-up sheets are the responsibility of the game's winning team. All game-winning managers are required to provide the League Secretary with a game write-up showcasing key points in the game and various players from both teams. Be sure to include the team sponsors in the write-up as well.

Communicate with the opposing team to ensure that both teams are equitably represented in the write-ups. These write-ups need to be submitted to the Secretary by Friday evening to ensure that they are able to be edited and submitted to the local media for publication. A write-up format will be provided by the Secretary as well as specific instructions on how to submit the write-up to the Secretary.

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## ARTICLE XI (Amendments)

These Local Rules and Deviations may be amended, repealed, or altered, in whole or in part, by a majority vote of the Board of Directors during a Board Meeting, whereas each member was provided advance notice of such meeting. Drafts of all proposed amendments shall be submitted to Little League Baseball, Inc. for approval.

Amended the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 by a 2/3 vote of the membership in attendance this day.

-----Copy, Original on file with Secretary-----

\_\_\_\_\_

Michael St. Germain, President  
Woonsocket Little League

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

By signing below, I certify that I have read and understand all rules and regulations of Woonsocket Little League and agree to abide by such rules and regulations. I realize that failure to follow these rules and regulations, as well as the established Code of Conduct, can result in suspension or removal from League membership by the League President, League Vice President or League Board of Directors.

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Name (Printed)

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