

NICEVILLE-VALPARAISO
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL
LOCAL RULES
2009 SEASON

Local Rules were approved by the Board of Directors on Feb 14, 2009

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SECTION I. INTRODUCTION

Niceville-Valparaiso Little League Baseball, Inc. (NVLLB) is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to provide all children between the ages of five and sixteen years old an opportunity to participate in Little League Baseball. NVLLB is a program of service to youth. It is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in the atmosphere of wholesome community participation.

NVLLB is chartered by Little League Baseball (LLB) Incorporated under whose auspices NVLLB has derived its operating procedures and regulations. The structure of NVLLB is detailed in the *Niceville-Valparaiso Little League Baseball Constitution*. The purpose of these "Local Rules" is to augment those procedures and regulations contained in the *Little League Baseball Operating Manual*, *Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules* and *Little League Softball Official Regulations and Playing Rules*. Copies of these publications are available directly from LLB, Inc.

SECTION II. LEAGUES

LLB Rule II (g) limits a league's boundaries from which to draw its players to an area which includes not more than 20,000 population. Because NVLLB exceeds this standard, LLB, Inc. has directed NVLLB to split its teams into two separately chartered leagues. NVLLB has chosen, with LLB, Inc.'s approval, to make this division based upon a COMMON-POOL DRAFT with an American and National league division. This split is effective across all levels of play. NVLLB has chartered the American League to consist of players who were chosen by the draft to be on an American League managers' team and a separate charter for the National League for those players drafted by National League managers. The rules apply equally to the American League and the National League and to each of their divisions as described herein.

SECTION III. GENERAL RULES

A. Conduct

1. Managers and coaches are responsible for the safety and behavior of their players on and around the field (including practice).
2. Prohibited behavior by managers, coaches, parents or spectators on or around practice or game fields:
 - a. Use of profane, foul, and/or abusive language
 - b. Consumption of alcoholic beverages, and
 - c. Being under the influence of alcohol.

Violators will be asked to leave the area immediately by the park ranger, player agent, or umpire in charge. Repeat offenders may be barred from further participation, including as a spectator, in youth baseball activities.

3. Smoking or chewing tobacco will not be allowed on playing or practice fields, dugouts, and spectator or concession areas.
4. Equipment abuse, such as throwing helmets, hitting or throwing bats against fences, etc., will not be allowed at any time.
5. Any manager, coach, Parent, spectator or player ejected from a game:
 - a. Must leave the FACILITY immediately (LLB Rule 4.07) and not return until notified by his/her player agent;
 - b. Is automatically suspended for his/her team's next physically played game.
 - c. Must meet with league's player agent who shall investigate the incident and present the facts along with his/her recommendations to the Board of Directors or a duly appointed committee of the Board of Directors; and
 - d. Must then meet with the Board of Directors or a duly appointed committee of the Board of Directors who shall review the facts of the incident and, if necessary, recommend any additional punishment.

NOTE: Repeated incidents shall not be tolerated and are adequate justification for permanent suspension from the league.

B. *Complaints*

Managers, coaches and parents should first consult the league’s player agent before taking complaints to the Board of Directors or individual board members.

C. *Managers / Coaches*

In accordance with Regulation 1(b) of the *LLB Official Regulations and Playing Rules*, no person can manage, coach, or umpire without the President appointing and the Board approving that appointment. The selection process for managers and coaches is outlined in the NVLLB Constitution.

The President and the Board need not give reason to a person if he or she is not appointed or approved as a manager, coach, or umpire for the coming season. Managers will be assigned to either the American or National league on a draw basis prior to the draft. Managers returning to their Major League teams are not subject to the random draw.

D. *Attire*

Dress will be in accordance with LLB Rule 1.11 and only players’ last names, as listed on registration cards, and sponsors will be allowed on uniforms. Batting/catcher’s helmets shall not be painted, nor contain any stickers unless approved by the manufacturer.

E. *Senior League Composition*

Players will be drafted from the eligible group of fifteen to sixteen-year olds.

F. *Junior League Composition*

Players will be drafted from the eligible group of thirteen to fourteen-year olds.

Based on rating by managers during tryout, fifteen-year old players may be assigned Junior League by the league’s player agent after player agent consults with the managers, notified players’ parent, presents player’s case to the Board of Directors, and receives Board of Directors’ approval

G. *Major League Composition*

Players will be drafted from the eligible group of **ten to twelve**-year olds.

Based on rating by managers during tryout, **eleven and twelve**-year old players lacking sufficient maturity and/or skill where his/her participation in the “Majors” constitutes a heightened physical danger to himself/herself shall be assigned to “Minor A” by the league’s player agent after player agent consults with the managers, notifies players’ parent, presents player’s case to the Board of Directors, and receives Board of Directors’ approval.

Based on rating by managers during tryout, **ten**-year old players possessing extraordinary maturity and skill shall be eligible for participation in the “Majors” after the league’s player agent consults with the managers, notifies players’ parent, presents player’s case to the Board of Directors, and receives Board of Directors’ approval.

H. *Minor League Composition*

1. *Minor League player-pitch (Minor A)*

Players will be drafted from the eligible group of **eight to twelve**-year olds.

Based on rating by managers during tryout, **nine and ten**-year old players lacking sufficient maturity and/or skill where his/her participation in the “Minor A” constitutes a heightened physical danger to himself/herself shall be assigned to “Minor B” by the league’s player agent after player agent consults with the managers, notifies players’ parent, presents player’s case to the Board of Directors, and receives Board of Directors’ approval.

Based on rating by managers during tryout, **eight**-year old players (**seven-** or **eight**-year old players for Softball) possessing extraordinary maturity and skill shall be eligible for participation in the “Minor A” after

the league's player agent consults with the managers, notifies players' parent, presents player's case to the Board of Directors, and receives Board of Directors' approval.

2. Minor League machine-pitch (Minor B)

Players will be drafted from the eligible group of **six to ten**-year olds.

Based on rating by managers during tryout, **seven and eight**-year old players lacking sufficient maturity and/or skill where his/her participation in the "Minor B" constitutes a heightened physical danger to himself/herself shall be assigned to "Pee-Wee" by the league's player agent after player agent consults with the managers, notifies players' parent, presents player's case to the Board of Directors, and receives Board of Directors' approval.

Based on rating by managers during tryout, **six**-year old players possessing extraordinary maturity and skill shall be eligible for participation in the "Minor B" after the league's player agent consults with the managers, notifies players' parent, presents player's case to the Board of Directors, and receives Board of Directors' approval.

I. Tee-Ball (Pee-Wee) Composition

Players shall be selected from the eligible group of **five to eight**-year olds.

Tee-Ball (Pee-Wee) shall be divided into two divisions. The Coach Pitch division will consist of players that are eight years old, seven years old, or six years old with at least one year of experience. The Coach Pitch with Tee Option division will consist of players that are five years old or six years old with no prior experience. Accommodations shall be made to allow players to be moved from one division to another for player safety or parental request. No movement between levels may occur after two weeks prior to the first day of the regular season.

J. Playing Time (Majors and Minors)

Playing time shall be in compliance with LLB regulation IV(I). Players removed by the manager for disciplinary reasons or ejected from a game by an umpire for unsportsmanlike conduct do constitute an exception to this rule.

K. Run Rule

As allowed by LLB Rule 4.10 (e), NVLLB will exercise the option to implement the 10 run rule after four innings or three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead (three innings or two and one-half innings if the home team is ahead for Coach Pitch division).

L. Time Limit

1. **Majors and Minor A/B:** Games shall be no more than 6 innings. No new inning shall begin after 10:00pm.
 - a. **If there is a subsequent game:** No new inning shall begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the scheduled start time. If the game is tied and the time has expired, no additional inning will be played. [CHARTER WAIVER]
 - b. **If the last game of the day:** No new inning shall begin after 1 hour and 45 minutes from the official game start. Ties will proceed 1 extra inning if before 10:00pm. [CHARTER WAIVER]
2. **Pee-Wee:** Games shall be no more than 4 innings (3 innings for Coach Pitch with Tee Option division). No new inning shall begin after 9:00pm and no new inning shall begin after 1 hour and 30 minutes (1 hour and 20 minutes for Coach Pitch with Tee Option division) from the official game start. Tie games are allowed. [CHARTER WAIVER]

M. Junior / Senior League Rules

The Junior and Senior Divisions will utilize the *District 1 Inter League Baseball & Softball Rules for Junior/Senior Divisions*.

N. Continuous Batting Order

A continuous batting order (LLB Rule 4.04) will be used that includes all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order for all divisions except Junior and Senior Leagues. Each player is required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order. A player may be entered and/or re-entered defensively into the game anytime provided he/she meets the mandatory play requirements set forth in LLB Regulation IV (i).

O. Pitching Rule Option

NVLLB shall use Pitching Rule Option 2 as specified in Section VI of *Little League Baseball Official Regulations and Playing Rules*.

SECTION IV. MINOR LEAGUE RULES

A. Minor League (all)

1. Teams will play with ten players on the field. If a team is unable to field ten players, they may play with nine players.
2. The defensive team will have four outfielders all playing at outfield depth. No "short fielder" or extra infielder will be allowed.
3. The batting team will be retired when they have accumulated three outs or five runs, whichever comes first. Minor A only - No new inning shall begin if a team cannot score enough runs to make up the score differential in their remaining at bats. If the home team is mathematically eliminated in this manner, the home team shall bat in its half of the inning.

B. Minor League machine-pitch (Minor B)

Minor B will utilize the *Florida District One Machine Pitch Rules*, which are used for the Florida District 1 Special Games Tournament for 8-yr olds. NVLL will utilize the following options in these rules:

1. Rule 7.b: The pitching machine will be fed by an umpire.
2. Rule 11: During the end of season tournament, the five run rule will be suspended for the sixth inning (and extra innings, if necessary).
3. Rule 13: Runners are not allowed to advance unless the ball is hit.

C. Tee-Ball (Pee-Wee)

1. An adult manager or coach from the batting team will pitch overhand from the designated pitcher's area. . For Coach Pitch with Tee Option division, a Tee may be used after a minimum of 4 pitches have been thrown. Runners may not advance unless the ball is hit.
2. Bunting will not be allowed during the entire season. An intentional bunt will be considered a strikeout.
3. When a team is batting, two adult coaches and the adult pitcher are permitted on the field. The coaches must remain in the coaching boxes at all times during play. The adult pitcher must remain at the pitcher's position and may not directly or indirectly coach runners. He is allowed to coach batters from his pitcher's position. If, in the umpire's judgment, any action by the adult pitcher interferes with a play in progress, the umpire will declare "dead ball," and declare the batter and/or appropriate runner(s) out, as he deems appropriate to the situation. Only exception to the rule is for matters of safety.
4. For Coach Pitch with Tee Option division, when a team is in the field, two adult coaches are permitted on the field, positioned in the outfield territory and must remain at least ten feet from the offensive coaching box at all times. If, in the umpire's judgment, any action by the adult coach interferes with a play in progress, the umpire will declare "dead ball," and award the batter and/or appropriate runner(s) to advance as he deems appropriate to the situation. Only exception to the rule is for matters of safety.

5. For Coach Pitch division, each batter will receive up to six pitches to get a hit. . For Coach Pitch with Tee Option division, each batter will receive up to four pitches to get a hit, at which point a tee may be used for up to two swings.
 - a. There will be no called balls or walks. The batter is not awarded first base for being struck by a pitch.
 - b. There will be no called strikes or strikeouts. Foul balls on the last pitch do not count against the batter, just as in regular baseball.
 - c. The last pitch must be hittable. The umpire can rule a “No Pitch”, and award the batter an additional pitch if he judges this pitch to be out of the strike zone.
6. If the batted ball hits the adult pitcher, the ball becomes dead, and the batter is awarded first base. Runners advance if forced. If, in the umpire’s judgment, the adult pitcher intentionally interfered with the play, the batter is out and no runners advance. Incidental contact between the player pitcher and adult pitcher shall not be deemed interference.
7. The “pitcher” on the team in the field does not pitch. He is a fielder only. He must begin each pitch at a distance from the plate even with the adult pitcher. For safety reasons, he cannot leave this position until the ball is pitched.
8. For safety reasons, no infielder may play closer than 30 feet away from the batter.
9. The infield fly rule will not apply.
10. A runner/batter is allowed to advance only one base on an overthrow.
11. For Coach Pitch Division
 - a. Teams will play with ten players on the field. If a team is unable to field ten players, they may play with nine players.
 - b. A team will have a maximum of four infielders (not counting the catcher and pitcher.) All other defensive players must be positioned on the outfield grass.
 - c. The batting team will be retired when they have accumulated three outs or five runs, whichever comes first.
12. For Coach Pitch with Tee Option Division:
 - a. Every player on a team’s roster will play defensively and have at least one time at bat each inning (except for disciplinary reasons).
 - b. A team will have a maximum of five infielders (not counting the catcher and pitcher.) All other defensive players must be positioned on the outfield grass.
 - c. A player at the catcher position is optional.

SECTION V. TRYOUTS, THE DRAFT, TEAM ASSIGNMENTS AND FILLING VACANCIES.

A. Tryouts.

Tryouts will be conducted in accordance with the *LLB Operating Manual*.

B. The Draft.

Per the recommendation of LLB to ensure the equitable distribution of players among league teams, NVLLB will use a common-pool draft method with American and National League divisions. NVLLB’s draft shall be in

compliance with the Little League Draft Selection System as detailed in the *LLB Operating Manual* and LLB's common-pool draft method procedure.

C. *Team Assignments.*

After the Major and Minor League drafts are completed, players will be assigned to Pee-Wee teams based on age of five and six-year olds and tryout ratings of seven and eight-year olds. Every effort will be made to divide age, talent, and experience equally across each division. Siblings will be placed on the same team if selected to same league.

D. *Filling Vacancies*

NVLLB will exercise its option to prohibit the filling of team vacancies from lower leagues during the last two weeks of the regular season and playoffs. Player replacements shall be in accordance with *LLB Operating Manual*.

SECTION VI. THE SEASON AND PLAYOFFS (Major and Minor).

A. *Length of Season.*

The season will be played over approximately eight weeks with each team playing approximately twice a week. Game facility saturation may occasionally result in only a single game being played in a week. Every attempt will be made to schedule an equal number of games for each team within its division as well as outside its division. NVLLB will attempt to not schedule games during spring break due to high player absenteeism. Rained-out games will be rescheduled subject to field availability.

B. *Division Championship.*

The Division Championships consist of two double elimination tournaments held concurrently. The American League teams play to determine the American League Championship and the National League teams play to determine the National League Championship. The Division Championships will be played following the regular season, leading up to the League Championship. The length of the playoff will be a function of the number of teams in that particular division.

C. *League Championships.*

The Division Champions will then play for the League Championship in a single elimination game to be played the day of closing ceremonies. [SPECIAL GAMES REQUEST]

D. *Division and League Championship Rules.*

Regular season rules shall be followed, including pitching. However, no game shall end in a tie and there shall be no time limit on the games, other than the established curfews. Home team will be determined by a coin toss prior to the game. The home team shall occupy the third base dugout.

SECTION VII. ALL-STAR TEAMS

A. *All-Star Player Selection.*

1. Approximately two weeks before the end of the season, league's player agent shall call separate meetings of all managers in the Senior, Junior, Major, Minor A, and Minor B leagues to select the first 10 positions on each of the all-star teams. Any ten-year olds selected to play in the Major League will automatically be nominated for their respective all-star team and shall be represented by their player agent and/or manager at the respective all-star selection vote. Similarly, any eight-year old selected to play in the Minor A League will automatically be nominated for their respective all-star team.
2. Each manager will provide a list (verbal or written) of nominees to the league player agent at or before the meeting. This list may include players from other teams. These nominations will include any comments the manager feels are relevant. From the compiled list of all managers' nominations, each manager will be asked to rank order the first 15 players where the first pick is listed as (1) and the fifteenth pick is listed as (15).

3. Each manager's list of all-star nominations will be evaluated in the following manner:
 - a. Each nominated player's name will be placed on a chart with his or her ranking listed to the right under the name of the evaluating manager.
 - b. Any player not ranked in the top fifteen by an evaluating manager shall receive a ranking of 25 from that manager.
 - c. Each player's rating will be computed by discarding the highest and lowest managers' ratings, adding the remaining ratings. This rating will be used to rank-order the players.
4. When all players are rank-ordered, the first 10 players will be named to the all-star team.
5. The manager of the all-star team must fill the remaining 2-4 positions on the team from the list of eligible players in that age group.
6. Nominations can be made from managers of either division (American or National League), but voting must be done separately. .NOTE: Due to the fewer number of teams in Junior and Senior Leagues, a single American/National team will be selected for these Divisions. [INTERLEAGUE PLAY REQUEST]

B. All-Star Manager and Coaches Selection.

After the all-star player selections, the league's player agent shall provide voting ballots to the managers to nominate and select all-star managers. Nominations can be made from managers of either division (American or National League), but voting must be done separately. Selection will be for the manager of each of American and National League twelve- and eleven-year old all-star teams and the manager of each of American and National League ten- and nine-year old all-star teams. The selected manager of a team will recommend selections for his/her two coaches.

The Board of Directors must approve all managers and coaches selected for all-star teams. The Board of Directors will review selections, make any alterations deemed necessary, and approve the final selections for all-star managers and coaches based on a simple majority vote of the Board of Directors.

C. Other "Special Tournament" Teams.

The players, managers and coaches of any other Little League Baseball approved "Special Tournament" teams shall be nominated and selected in the same manner as described in **A** and **B** above. [D.A. SPECIAL GAMES REQUEST]