



# East Point Little League 2018 Local Ground Rules

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All local rules of East Point Little League (EPLL) are sanctioned under the *EPLL Constitution, Article X -Section 3*, and by Little League Regulations 3.12. These rules have been developed to further the objectives of Little League Baseball® Incorporated and East Point Little League. The adherence to these rules is the responsibility of all Board Members, Managers, Coaches, Umpires, Players, and Spectators. All parents will be given a copy of these rules, and it is their responsibility to read them. Non-compliance of these rules by anyone involved in the activities of EPLL may result in disciplinary actions as outlined in these guidelines, and if necessary, be brought before the Board of Directors for consideration of the appropriate consequences.

### 1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 Players, parents, coaches and managers should immediately report any safety hazard to the EPLL Safety Officer, or any EPLL Board Member.
- 1.2 Registration fees will be refunded up until uniforms are ordered. After that time, all fees paid will be refunded with the exception of the uniform cost. If another player is able to use that uniform, the entire registration fee will be refunded. All refund requests must be made in writing or via email to the Treasurer. Refunds will be paid within 30 days after the start of the season.
- 1.3 Children under age 13 are not allowed at the scoring table or to use the scoring controller behind home plate.

## 2.0 PARK RULES

- 2.1 No bikes, skateboards, razors (scooter) or skates.
- 2.2 No climbing fences, trees or any other structure.
- 2.3 No throwing or batting balls into fences.
- 2.4 No glass containers.
- 2.5 Practice pitching is allowed only in designated areas.
- 2.6 No alcoholic beverages.
- 2.7 No vehicles are allowed inside the park except for deliveries, repairs, or emergencies.
- 2.8 No parking is allowed in front of emergency gates, field gates, or driveways.
- 2.9 **Helmets are required when batting at any time**, including batting cages.
- 2.10 Pitchers in batting cages must use an "L" screen and be under adult supervision.
- 2.11 No digging holes in the fields or destruction of any other EPLL property.
- 2.12 Smoking is only permitted in the parking areas; this includes E-cigarettes.
- 2.13 No profanity, disparaging remarks, threats, or actions deemed threatening to any individual allowed.
- 2.14 No motorcycles, gas/electric scooters, three-wheelers, or four-wheelers (ATVs) allowed outside of the parking areas.

## 3.0 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 3.1 Individuals who wish to speak at or attend a Board Meeting must contact the President at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to be placed on the agenda. Attendees may be asked to leave the meeting, at the discretion of the President, if discussion concerns other league members or disciplinary actions.
- 3.2 Any member of the Board who misses three (3) regular Board of Director meetings during the year, without just or sufficient reason, shall automatically be resigned as determined by the President and a vote by the Board.
- 3.3 The on-duty Board of Director should handle issues that cannot be resolved between Managers during games.
- 3.4 All Board members will be expected to follow the *EPLL Code of Conduct* at all times.

## 4.0 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 4.1 The following are the **Baseball** divisions and league ages:
- 4.2 **Tee Ball** – League Age 4, 5, 6, 7

4.3 **Minor B** – League Age 7, 8

4.3.1 League Ages 5 and 6 that have completed one year of Tee Ball may move up to the Minor B Division with Board approval.

4.4 **Minor A** – League Age 9, 10, 11, 12

4.4.1 Players LA 10, 11, and 12 that are not drafted to the **Major Division** or **Intermediate 50/70 Division** are placed in the Minor A division.

4.4.2 League age 8 players may be placed in the Minor A division only if no 12 year olds are rostered on the team.

4.4.3 For any LA 12 player that prefers to play in the Minor A Division, the parents must request and complete the *Waiver V(a)* form, which is forwarded to the District 13 Administrator. If the EPLL Board does not agree with moving the player to Minor A, the player will be evaluated by the District 13 Administrator with input from the EPLL Board of Directors. The decision of the District Administrator is final.

4.5 **Majors** – League Age 9, 10, 11, 12

4.5.1 All LA 12s must be placed on a Major team, unless the parents have requested and completed a *Waiver V(a)* form (see 4.4.2).

4.6 **Intermediate 50/70** - League Age 11, 12, & 13

4.7 **Juniors** – League Age 12, 13, 14

4.8 **Seniors** – League Age 13, 14, 15, 16

**5.0 MANAGERS/COACHES**

5.1 All Managers and Assistant Coaches must be approved by the EPLL Board of Directors.

5.2 Managers are responsible for all equipment issued. Any equipment deficiencies must be reported immediately to the Board of Directors.

5.3 Managers and coaches are responsible for locking field gates and returning all field equipment after use.

5.4 All Managers are required to designate at least one (1) parent to be team scorekeeper.

5.5 Protesting a game (LL Rule 4.19) is ONLY permitted in the Minor A Division and above. Managers should do everything possible to avoid a protest.

5.6 It is mandatory that Managers immediately report any player that quits the team or that misses three (3) games/practices in a row to the Player Agent.

- 5.7 If a Major player quits or is injured for the rest of the season, that player's Manager has seven days to select a replacement player from the Minor division and notify the Player Agent.
- 5.8 Coaches are not allowed to use cell phones in the dugout or on the field during games.
- 5.9 Team Managers and Assistant Coaches must wear a Hillsborough County required photo ID at all times when on the field, including both practices and games.
- 5.10 Managers are NOT allowed to warm-up pitchers at any time.
- 5.11 Managers are required to turn in all playing equipment on the last day of games.
- 5.12 All Managers and coaches will be expected to follow the *EPLL Code of Conduct* at all times.

## **6.0 PLAYERS**

- 6.1 Catchers must wear a protective cup, catcher helmet and mask at all times. This includes warming-up pitchers and during practice.
- 6.2 Players utilized as base coaches must wear a helmet and athletic supporter with cup.
- 6.3 All players will be expected to follow the *EPLL Code of Conduct* at all times.

## **7.0 PARENT/SPECTATOR ROLES**

- 7.1 Parents are encouraged to clean the bleachers of trash and ensure the common areas where the spectators sit are clean and trash is picked-up.
- 7.2 All parents and spectators will be expected to follow the *EPLL Code of Conduct* at all times.
- 7.3 Parents and spectators will conduct themselves properly at all times. Any parent or spectator who fails to conduct himself/herself in an exemplary manner will be referred to the EPLL Board of Director on Duty.
- 7.4 The EPLL Board of Director on Duty has the authority to remove an individual from the park and refer the matter to the EPLL Disciplinary Committee. See *Procedure of Complaints*.
- 7.5 Parents and spectators are not to converse with players, managers, coaches, or umpires during a game.

## **8.0 FIELD AND GAME RULES**

- 8.1 The Home Team will prepare the field for play. Clay should be raked IN towards the middle, never towards the grass. Mark the clay batter's box and baseline with chalk. DO NOT use chalk on grass—foul lines on the grass will be painted.

- 8.2 The Home Team will provide the official scorekeeper. The scorekeeper is responsible for the scorebook and the pitch count for both teams.
- 8.3 The Scorekeeper must notify the umpire or manager when a pitcher is reaching the pitch count limit.
- 8.4 If there is standing water on the field, notify the groundskeeper or a Board Member before action is taken. **DO NOT rake or brush clay or water into the grass!**
- 8.5 Managers must ensure there are no damages to the field and that players do not dig holes. Any damages that occur due to digging will be the Managers' responsibility to repair.
- 8.6 Both teams must clean their dugouts and bleacher areas after games and not leave any trash. If a team has not cleaned-up their dugout, the next game's Manager should notify a Board Member.
- 8.7 All teams must pick up trash along the fence lines, dugouts, and bleacher areas after every practice.
- 8.8 Failure to follow 8.5 – 8.7 could result in Manager one-game suspension.
- 8.9 Only the Manager, two (2) coaches, and rostered players are permitted in the dugout or on the field during a game. (LL Rule 3.17) **EXCEPTION:** Tee Ball and Minor B Baseball should identify additional adults to assist in the dugout for organization and control, but those adults must have an FDLE background check performed.
- 8.10 Managers may appoint a substitute coach not on the current roster (with proper background check completed and County volunteer card) prior to the start of the game. No coach may be replaced or designated during a game. Notify the Plate Umpire of any replacements.
- 8.11 **MINOR A, MAJOR, INTERMEDIATE 50/70, JUNIOR and SENIOR BASEBALL:** Managers, coaches and players must remain on the playing field or in the dugout for the duration of the game. Individuals may only be excused with permission from an umpire (LL Rules 3.17 and 4.19b). **PENALTY:** *Expulsion from the game.*
- 8.12 **TEE BALL and MINOR B BASEBALL:** Players may be excused from the dugout by the team Manager or Assistant Coach.
- 8.13 Players with a bat in-hand must wear a helmet at all times.
- 8.14 **MAJORS, MINORS and TEE BALL:** There will be no swinging of bats in or behind the dugout; and no on-deck batters are allowed.
- 8.15 NO throwing of bats or helmets. **PENALTY:** *Warning or expulsion from the game.*
- 8.16 NO FOOD is allowed in dugouts or on the playing field (this includes gum, sunflower seeds, snack bar foods, etc.). Water and sports drinks are permitted in plastic or paper containers only. **PENALTY:** *Expulsion from the game.*

- 8.17 The ten-run rule (LL Rule 4.10e) will be used for all divisions, unless that division ~~has~~ follows District 13 Interlock rules.
- 8.18 The replacement of players *in any division* within 14 days of said division's last regular scheduled game is prohibited.
- 8.19 EPLL will obtain official umpires for the following divisions: **MINOR A, MAJOR, INTERMEDIATE 50/70, JUNIOR and SENIOR BASEBALL**. If official umpires are not available, managers/coaches must umpire their own game.
- 8.20 Any games that need to be rescheduled must be done with the permission of the Player Agent; or in the case of District interlock games, with the permission of the League Scheduler.
- 8.21 All players must be listed on the line-up, even if absent or injured.
- 8.22 NO tobacco products are to be used by players or coaches during a game. Use of tobacco products will result in suspension for the first offense and expulsion of the player or coach from the team for the second offense.
- 8.23 Any time a pitch count is exceeded, the game will revert back to the point where the pitcher reached his/her limit.
- 8.24 An ineligible pitcher that is protested and upheld within the Little League guidelines will result in the forfeiture of game. Repeated infractions could result in removal of the Manager.
- 8.25 Violation of the Little League Rule on the availability of the pitcher to be allowed to catch, will result in the player being removed from the game, and the game resuming from that point. **PENALTY:** *The Manager will receive a written warning for first offense and a one-game suspension for each additional infraction. Repeated infractions could result in removal as Manager.*
- 8.26 Repeated infractions to the mandatory play rule can result in Manager removal.

## **9.0 TEE BALL DIVISION**

- 9.1 Time limit for all games is 1 hour. No new inning will start after the time limit.
- 9.2 There is no scorekeeping.
- 9.3 All players will be listed in the batting line-up. The team's line-up will bat each inning whether or not three (3) outs have been made.
- 9.4 No player shall sit on the bench for more than one inning in any game.
- 9.5 There are no strikeouts or walks.
- 9.6 NO throwing of bats or helmets. For Umpire judgment call or "batter out," Managers may choose to remove his/her player to their parent before umpire ruling.

- 9.7 At the halfway point of the season, coaches may pitch up to three (3) pitches to each batter before using the tee. The intent is to pitch to every child before the end of the season. The hitting tee can be positioned in any position on top of home plate.
- 9.8 During Coach Pitch, the pitcher must be positioned in the center of the pitcher's mound before the ball is put into play, from the tee or even with the mound.
- 9.11 When the ball is hit fair, runners may advance until the ball is returned to an infield player who will hold the ball in the air. Once the ball is held-up, the field coach will call time and no more runners may advance. If the runner has not passed the midway point marked in between the bases when time is called, the runner must return to the previous base.
- 9.12 On offense, adult coaches may occupy both coaching boxes; however, a minimum of one coach or adult who has passed the background check is required to be in the dugout at all times.
- 9.13 On defense, a maximum of two coaches may occupy the field in fair territory for instructional purposes.
- 9.14 All-players on the roster may play on defense at the same time. Defense may have up to seven (7) infielders to include one catcher, one pitcher, and five fielders inside the outfield grass. The remainder of the defensive players will be positioned around the outfield.
- 9.15 On overthrows, the base runner may advance at his/her own risk, but will be awarded a maximum of one extra base. There will be no additional bases awarded for further throws.

## **10.0 MINOR B BASEBALL DIVISION**

- 10.1 If the Minor B division interlocks with other District 13 teams, they will follow the District 13 Interlock Rules. If not, then the following rules will apply.
- 10.2 Minor B placement requests are not guaranteed as there is no draft in Minor B. The Player Agent, Vice President or President will distribute players evenly throughout all teams.
- 10.4 Game time limit is 1 hour and 30 minutes. No new inning will start after the time limit; but a minimum of four (4) innings must be played, without regard to the time limit.
- 10.5 All teams will adhere to the ten-run rule after the 4th inning (3½ innings if the home team is ahead).
- 10.6 All teams will adhere to the five (5) runs maximum per inning. (LL Rule 2.00, Note 3)
- 10.7 No on-deck batters are allowed. Players are not allowed outside the dugout between innings.

- 10.8 Adult coaches may occupy the coaches box at first and third base, provided there is an adult in the dugout who has passed the background check.
- 10.9 One base will be awarded on any overthrow, unless a player makes a throw in an attempt to get the runner out at the next base. No further advancement is allowed.
- 10.10 Coach pitch will be used for the 1st half of the season; and player pitch will be used during the 2nd half of the season.
- 10.11 For Coach pitch:
- 10.12 For Player pitch:
- The player will throw 3 pitches.
  - If the batter does not hit a fair ball, their coach will continue pitching for a maximum of four (4) pitches, with an additional pitch awarded for each foul ball after the 4th pitch.
  - Bunting will only be permitted while a player is pitching.
- 10.13 Continuous batting order will be used. An inning ends when three (3) outs have occurred or 5 runs have scored, whichever comes first.
- 10.14 Sliding at any base is not mandatory, but failing to do so and making contact with a player that has control of the ball will result in an automatic out.
- 10.15 Minor B Managers/Coaches will umpire their own games.

## **11.0 MINOR A BASEBALL DIVISION**

- 11.1 All players League Age 9, 10, 11, and 12 not selected for the Major Division will be placed in the Minor A division.
- 11.2 League Age 8 players with some baseball experience may be selected for the Minor A division, 1) if there is no Minor B division due to low numbers; or 2) if there are no League Age 12 players on the team.
- 11.3 The time limit is 1 hour 30 minutes. No new inning will start after the time limit; but a minimum of 4 innings must be played without regard to the time limit.
- 11.4 If the Minor A division interlocks with other District 13 teams, they will follow the District 13 Interlock Rules. If there is no interlocking, then ground rules 11.5 - 11.15 will be used.
- 11.5 All teams will adhere to the ten-run rule after the 4th inning (3½ innings if the home team is ahead).
- 11.6 All teams will adhere to the (five) 5 runs maximum per inning. (LL Rule 2.00, Note 3).



- 11.7 Manager failure to play a player the minimum will result in a one-game suspension for the Manager. Three (3) such infractions can result in removal of the Manager from the team.
- 11.8 All defensive subs must go through the Umpire and scorekeeper for tracking purposes.
- 11.9 No on-deck batter is allowed.
- 11.10 Players are NOT allowed outside the dugout between innings to swing a bat until they are up-to-bat.
- 11.11 Adult coaches may occupy the coach's box at first and third base, provided there is an adult in the dugout who has passed a background check and concussion training.
- 11.12 Each Manager is responsible for keeping track of the pitch count.
- 11.13 The Minor A Division Champion will be decided by an end of season tournament as determined by the Board of Directors, if there is more than one team in this division. The Champion team will represent EPLL in the District 13 Tournament of Champions (TOC), if said tournament has a Minor division.
- 11.14 In the event of a tie game, each team will be awarded ½ point in the standings (if there is more than one team in the division).
- 11.15 Minor A division will have one (1) paid umpire per game.

## 12.0 VOLUNTEERS

- 12.1 All Managers, Coaches, Team Moms, and Board Members and any other volunteer must complete the *Little League Volunteer Application – 2018* or *Returning Volunteer Application – 2018*.
- 12.2 East Point Little League is required to perform an FDLE background check on the following volunteers in accordance with the State FDLE regulations: **Managers, Coaches, Team Moms, volunteer umpires**, or anyone who has repetitive access to a child, once each calendar year in order to be a volunteer.
- 12.3 Each volunteer must pay for their FDLE background check at the cost of \$24, unless the Board of Directors decides the League can pay for the background checks.
- 12.4 Volunteers that do not have repetitive access to the players will be background checked using J. D. Palatine through Little League.

## 13.0 DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- 13.1 All complaints or charges of misconduct against coaches, managers, players, umpires, or any other person, group or team shall be received in writing to both the President and the Secretary.

- 13.1.1 All such complaints must be signed and dated to be considered an official complaint.
- 13.1.2 The name of the complainant may be withheld from the charged parties at the discretion of the Board of Directors, if the possibility exists of retribution towards the complainant's child.
- 13.1.3 The complaint must state the date and time of the occurrence(s), list all parties involved, and a brief description of what occurred.
- 13.2 The President, or Secretary (in the absence of the President), shall call a meeting of the **Disciplinary Committee**, to be held no later than five (5) days from the receipt of the complaint.
  - 13.2.1 The Disciplinary Committee may be comprised of the President, the Vice President, the Coaches Coordinator, the Secretary (to record the meeting), and the Player Agent(s).
- 13.3 For **Adult** disciplinary procedures:
  - 13.3.1 All parties named in the complaint must be notified within 48 hours of receipt of the complaint, and 24 hours prior to the Disciplinary Committee's meeting on the matter.
  - 13.3.2 At the disciplinary meeting, the charges are re-stated for the record.
  - 13.3.3 The accused has the opportunity to respond and bring witnesses.
  - 13.3.4 The Committee may decide to take no further action, to draft a warning or letter of reprimand, or revoke all or part of a person's Membership privileges for a specific period of time, but not longer than the remainder of the fiscal year.
  - 13.3.5 The Committee's decision is forwarded to the Board of Directors and must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Board.
- 13.4 For **Player** disciplinary procedures:
  - 13.4.1 The Manager of the team of which the Player is a member, must be notified within 48 hours of the act.
  - 13.4.2 Said Manager along with the division Player Agent, shall appear in the capacity of advisors with the Player before the Committee.
  - 13.4.3 At the disciplinary meeting, the charges are re-stated for the record.
  - 13.4.4 The accused has the opportunity to respond and bring witnesses.
  - 13.4.5 The Committee may decide to take no further action, to draft a warning or letter of reprimand, or can suspend or revoke such player's right to participate in the rest of the season or participate in any post-season tournaments.

- 13.4.6 The Committee's decision is forwarded to the Board of Directors and must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Board.
- 13.5 Violation of the first disciplinary offense will be at a minimum a warning. Serious violations could result in a one week expulsion from the park.
- 13.6 Second disciplinary offenses may result in the Board of Directors imposing a more severe penalty.
- 13.7 Extreme offenses may result in the Board of Directors imposing a more severe penalty for a first time offense.
- 13.8 Any parent who is serving an expulsion penalty may drop off their children for games and remain in the car in the main parking area.

#### **14.0 ALL STAR SELECTION**

- 14.1 Player selection to All Stars is based on **eligibility, playing ability, and availability** to attend practices and All Star games.
- 14.2 The Board of Directors will determine which baseball age groups the League will send to All Stars. The tournament division league age groups are as follows:
- **8/9/10 Division** [Players must have played in the Minor or Majors Division during the Regular Season.]
  - **9/10/11 Division** [Players must have played in the Minor or Majors Division during the Regular Season.]
  - **Little League Division** [Players must have played in the Majors division only during the Regular Season and be League Age 10, 11, 12.]
  - **Intermediate 50/70** [Players must have played in the Intermediate 50/70 Division during the Regular Season]
  - **Junior League Division** [Players must have played in either the Junior or Senior Division during the Regular Season.]
  - **Senior League Division** [Players must have played in either the Junior or Senior Division during the Regular Season.]
- 14.3 All Star players will be selected from a field of all eligible players in their respective **tournament age group** by a balloted vote from all Managers and coaches within those age groups, at a day and time determined by the Player Agent.
- 14.4 All Star Managers and Coaches for each age group will be selected by the Board of Directors.