

Mountaintop Area Little League Policies

Mission Statement

The mission of Mountaintop Area Little League is to instill values of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, and respect for authority in children, promoting their overall development into good, decent, and trustworthy citizens.

Roles and Responsibilities

Commissioners

Commissioners ensure the league adheres to its mission and philosophy. They oversee league conduct, act as a liaison between managers/coaches and the board, and coordinate various league activities. Key responsibilities include:

- Providing input during the appointment of managers and coaches.
- Scheduling and coordinating try-outs and drafts.
- Coordinating practice schedules and equipment distribution.
- Acting as a liaison between equipment officers and team managers.
- Maintaining records of team standings and coordinating post-season tournaments.

Managers/Coaches

Managers and coaches lead teams, inspire respect, and ensure the physical, mental, and emotional development of players. They are responsible for understanding and implementing league policies and fostering a positive environment. Key responsibilities include:

- Demonstrating an appreciation of Little League philosophy.
- Respecting the authority of umpires and adult leaders.
- Encouraging players and providing opportunities for participation.
- Exhibiting and promoting acceptable behavior patterns.
- Taking responsibility for the behavior of coaches, scorekeepers, players, and parents.
- Conducting team practices and supporting league fundraisers.

Umpires

Umpires maintain authority on the field, make impartial decisions, and ensure the game runs smoothly. They are crucial for upholding the integrity of the game. Key responsibilities include:

- Knowing and understanding the rules.
- Maintaining an objective and impartial attitude.

- Making decisions on field conditions and game calls.
- Ensuring the game starts and progresses efficiently.

Parents and Spectators

Parents and spectators play a vital role in supporting the league. They are encouraged to understand the rules, support the players positively, and demonstrate good sportsmanship. Key guidelines include:

- Being aware of league rules, regulations, policies, and philosophy.
- Volunteering services to improve the program.
- Understanding the tryout system and player selection methods.
- Recognizing the effort of volunteer personnel and refraining from unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Encouraging players and applauding good plays.

Chain of Command

Issues should be addressed through the following hierarchy:

1. Player
2. Parent
3. Coach
4. Manager
5. Division Commissioner
6. Board Vice President
7. Board President
8. District Administrator
9. Eastern Regional Headquarters
10. International Headquarters

Electronic Voting

The board president may solicit votes via email or text for urgent matters, excluding changes to rules or policies. All board members must be included in the original request. Guidelines include:

- Detailed motion in the email or text.
- Inclusion of all board members in the original request.
- Authorization for another board member to send out the request if needed.
- Revocation or change of email/text voting rules by a two-thirds majority vote.

Player Selection

T-Ball

Teams are selected by a committee or division commissioner and are coed. The focus is on providing a pressure-free environment for skill development and fun.

Minor League

Teams are divided into AAA and AA divisions. Players are selected based on age and previous experience. Eligible 6-year-olds and all 7-year-olds play in the coach pitch division, with opportunities to move up based on experience.

Major League

Players aged 10-12 must attend tryouts. Teams are selected using a parity formula to ensure balanced competition. Once assigned to a team, players remain permanent members for the duration of their eligibility.

Teener League

All players must attend tryouts and will be drafted to a team. Players remain on the same team for the duration of their eligibility, except in cases of team expansion or league reorganization.

Fall Ball

Players aged 8-11 are selected to teams to ensure equitable distribution. The focus is on fun and learning, with opportunities for players to try different positions.

All-Star Team Selection

Players aged 9-12 can submit a commitment form to be considered for All-Star teams. Teams are selected by ballot, and managers and coaches are chosen by the All-Star Selection Committee. Key points include:

- Commitment forms ensure players' names are placed on the ballot.
- Managers and players vote for up to 13 players per roster.
- Ties are broken by revote or players' choice.
- Managers and coaches are selected and appointed by the All-Star Selection Committee using a grading system.

League Philosophies

T-Ball

Focuses on skill development, teamwork, and fun in a pressure-free environment. Emphasis is placed on individual development rather than competition.

Minor League

Emphasizes fundamental skills, knowledge of the game, and sportsmanship. Success is measured by individual and team improvement, not wins and losses.

Major League

Aims for skill advancement, good citizenship, and competitive play. Success is measured by sportsmanship, individual and team goals, and maturity.

Teener League

Focuses on fine-tuning skills and developing character. Emphasizes self-confidence, commitment, leadership, teamwork, and respect.

Fall Ball

Loosely structured to offer fun and improve fundamentals. No standings are kept, allowing players to try different positions.

Safety and Discipline

Accident & Safety

Procedures for handling injuries are categorized into minor, intermediate, and major, with specific steps for each. Key points include:

- Evaluating the player's condition and notifying parents.
- Administering appropriate first aid and contacting medical professionals if needed.
- Reporting major injuries to the league Safety Officer and Commissioner.

Discipline

Guidelines for managing unsportsmanlike conduct, attendance issues, and ejections. Includes procedures for handling missed practices and games. Key points include:

- Verbal warnings for first unexcused absences.
- Written reports and benching for subsequent unexcused absences.
- Ejections handled by umpires with immediate notification to the Division Commissioner and Chief Umpire.

House Rules

Manager Selection

Managers and coaches are appointed by the league president with board approval. They may be asked to sign a commitment letter.

Tryout Requirements

Players aged 10-12 must attend at least 50% of tryouts to be eligible for the season. Failure to attend results in a refund and ineligibility for the season.

Equipment Collection

Managers must return all equipment at the end of the season to be eligible to manage the following season.

Game Postponement

Games cannot be postponed due to weather before 2:00 PM on the day of the game, except in cases of all-day rain. Visual inspection of the field is required.

Lightning Policy

Fields are cleared when lightning is seen or thunder is heard. Play resumes 30 minutes after the last visible lightning.

All-Star Team Awards

All-Star teams winning district or higher championships receive recognition, including T-shirts and plaques. Tournament teams may have their own parties or award ceremonies.

Uniforms & Equipment Policy

Ensures parity in uniforms and equipment across teams. The league provides shirts and hats, while parents provide light gray pants. All personal gear must meet Little League safety standards. Key points include:

- Issuing uniforms and equipment by the league Equipment Officer & Purchasing Agent.
- Ensuring all items fit properly and meet safety standards.
- Avoiding special gear purchases for teams.

Board Nomination Process

Details the criteria and process for nominating and electing board members. Nominees must attend board meetings and submit letters of recommendation. Key points include:

- Attending at least two complete board meetings in the previous year.
- Submitting a letter of interest and two letters of recommendation.
- Introducing themselves to the board before the election.

Debit Card Use

Guidelines for the use of league debit cards for authorized purchases. Cards are used sparingly and only for purchases over \$100. Key points include:

- Preapproval by the board for purchases.
- Returning the card with receipts to the treasurer.
- Using the card to prevent board members from being out of pocket large amounts of money.