The primary purpose of the program is for the children to have fun playing baseball while learning the proper fundamentals. **There are no team records, league standings, playoffs, or championships.** There are no trophies awarded. If the individual team managers wish to give the players a small token at the end of the season that is solely at their discretion but should be given to all players. There should be no individual MVP or similar type awards. Treat every player equally and always offer encouragement.

**GENERAL SAFETY**

* Prior to practices or games, managers and coaches must check the field (including fencing and benches) for unsafe conditions and correct the situation. If the condition warrants, report it to the Director of Building & Fields Maintenance, the Tball Director or any other Board Member.
* All batters and base runners must wear Little League approved batting helmets.
* During a game, prior to each swing of the bat, it is the responsibility of the coach who is instructing the batter to ensure the fielding team is ready for the ball.
* In case of inclement weather (thunder and/or lighting) have all players and coaches leave the field and seek shelter. Teams must wait a minimum of thirty (30) minutes after either seeing lighting or hearing thunder before returning to the field of play.
* All players not currently in play must be behind the fencing, preferably sitting on the bench, unless working with a coach.
* **There is to be no “on-deck” batting practice or swings of any kind. Players may not swing a bat until they enter the batter’s box. The on-deck batter should have a helmet on and a bat in hand to help speed the pace of play**.
* During game play only one ball should be used or in play. All other balls should be in the coach’s bucket or off the field.
* Any accidents that occur must be reported to the League immediately and followed by an Incident/Injury Report to the League Safety Director as soon as possible.

## EQUIPMENT & UNIFORMS

* A manager/team may not assess players a fee, or request payment, for any uniforms including special hats, shirts, socks, etc., or equipment such as bats, helmets, etc., without expressed permission of the Board of Directors.
* All items purchased for team use are the property of East Side Little League and Little League Baseball and shall be returned at the end of the season.
* Player’s names are not permitted on the back of the uniform shirt.
* Only equipment and uniforms supplied by the League are permitted.
* All equipment must meet Little League, Inc., safety requirements.
* Managers and Coaches must be properly attired with Team Baseball Hat, League issued or matching team shirt, pants/shorts, and baseball shoes with rubbers spikes (metal cleats not permitted) or sneakers. Cutoffs and sleeveless shirts are not permitted.
* Managers and/or coaches not properly attired are not permitted to be in the dugout area or on the field as a base coach or

**PRE-GAME PREPARATION & SET-UP**

BOTH teams are both in charge of field set-up, which is to include:

1. Placing of bases.
2. In case of inclement weather during the day, both managers and their parents should be at the field early to prepare the field for the game.
3. After poor weather in advance of Saturday games a representative from EACH team playing that day must participate in prepping the field they will use that day.
4. In case of inclement weather during the day, both managers should be at the field early to get it ready for the game along with additional coaches or parents as needed.

**POST-GAME CLEAN-UP**

Both teams are responsible for the following:

* Raking of base paths, batter’s box, skin infield areas and pitcher’s mound after games AND practices as a common courtesy to other teams and to allow the field to properly handle any rain.
* NOTE: For any grass infields, rake base paths *along* the path, not *across*, as the lips are already significant, and we don’t want them getting any higher.
* Placing of bases and removal of them at the conclusion of the game.
* Each team shall use their bucket of balls to pitch to their own batters unless both coaches agree to share one bucket for the game.
* Ensuring all trash is removed from the dugout, field and surrounding areas and placed in the proper containers. If you are the last game of the day at Cooper 1 or 2 and the trash containers are full, coaches are to dump them at the March Field dumpster or notify the Director that they are to be emptied if they are unable to do so. No excess trash should be left around the field.
* Managers must lock the gates, garage, and all doors to all facilities to avoid children from accessing the facilities unsupervised.
* Managers must put away all the rakes, shovels, and gear in locked storage.

If teams do not adhere to these basic field maintenance rules, Managers for the offending team(s) will be notified by the ESLL executive board.

**SCHEDULING**

* Rainouts are to be decided by the league director in coordination with the Executive Board. The decision is to be made at the field at game time unless notified in advance by the League.
* Make-up games are to be played as determined by the League Director and Director of Scheduling.
* If a game is postponed due to bad weather, inform the League Director as soon as possible. **COACHES shall not make any changes to SC, that will be done directly by East Side LL’s player agent upon notification.**
* No additional practices or games are to be scheduled without the league’s permission.

**GENERAL**

* The defensive team should have 2 coaches on the field to instruct their players and to also act as the umpires.
* The offensive team should have a coach at home plate to help instruct the batter. Coaches at first and third base are recommended to help players run the bases.
* Players are to be rotated through infield and outfield positions. This is to avoid having the same player play the same position for the entire game, unless the player could not play an infield position with safety. **(No player can play any one position more than 3 innings per game)**.
* Games can be stopped by coaches by calling time-out to provide instruction to the players.
* Manager should have a preset game plan for player’s positions and batting order prior to arriving at field.
* Players shall line up and shake hands with the opposing team at home plate at the end of every game. Players and coaches shall offer only encouraging comments to opposing players.

# **GAME RULES.**

* During the season, teams will follow a progression in both rules and gameplay to aid in continuing player development and engagement.

**Weeks 1-5**

**Offense**

* **Tee will be used for all player at bats. This is to ensure that players have the proper foundation to build on.**
* Look to complete a minimum of 2 innings each game, three if time permits.
* Create a lineup each game, each player bats each inning. Change lineup each game.
* Last batter clears the bases, ends the inning (very exciting part)
* Have a different player clear the bases each inning. This is their moment to shine.
* Base runners advance one base at a time (baserunning at practice)
* One player with a bat, while all players are in their designated seat.
* Coach assists player at the plate (hands, feet, eye on the ball)
* 1B/3B Coach: direct players to run and stop, teach them which base they are currently on
* Bench Coach has a lineup and controls the bench.
* No Scores or outs

**Defense**

* **All players on the field without a catcher.**
* Players should be lined up as regular infield, (1B, 2B, SS, 3B and P) all remaining players in the outfield lined up slightly behind the basepaths (LF, LCF, CF, RCF, RF)
* **If there are additional players, look to work with them throwing/catching on the side and rotate in with players in the field.**
* Swap with outfielders for the next inning (everyone plays everywhere)
* All infield throws are to 1B, all outfielders throws are to 2B (this is a good foundation for defense for the future)
* Suggest rotating pitcher with outfielders once they field a ground ball during the inning (goal is to have every player field at least 1 ground ball)

**Weeks 6-End of Season**

**Offense**

* **Tee CAN be used by players, or they can opt to receive pitching from a coach. If a player chooses coach pitch, they can receive NO MORE THAN 5 PITCHES. Once the 5-pitch limit has been reached, a TEE MUST BE USED**
* **Coach must pitch FROM A KNEE and from no further than 30-35 feet from home plate. DO NOT STAND AND PITCH.**
* **Teams may also use the blue flame pitching machine available at the fields. Once properly set up and calibrated, the machine is a much better experience than having a coach pitch.**
* Create a different lineup each game, while batting half of the available lineup each half inning (i.e. 12 players at the game, 6 players bat each half inning)
* Base runners should begin to work on rounding the bases one base at a time (baserunning at practice)
* One player with a bat, while all players are in their designated seat.
* Coach assists player at the plate (hands, feet, eye on the ball)
* 1B/3B Coach: direct players to run and stop, teach them which base they are currently on
* Bench Coach has a lineup and controls the bench.
* No Scores or outs

**Defense**

* **All players on the field without a catcher.**
* Players should be lined up as regular infield, (1B, 2B, SS, 3B and P) all remaining players in the outfield lined up slightly behind the basepaths (LF, LCF, CF, RCF, RF)
* **If there are additional players, look to work with them throwing/catching on the side and rotate in with players in the field.**
* Swap with outfielders for the next inning (everyone plays everywhere)
* All infield throws are to 1B, all outfielders throws are to 2B (this is a good foundation for defense for the future)
* Suggest rotating pitcher with outfielders once they field a ground ball during the inning (goal is to have every player field at least 1 ground ball)
* **BEGIN to record legitimate outs (Force outs, Tag outs, etc.) If a legitimate out is recorded, the player must leave the base. If 3 outs are recorded within a half-inning, the batting team will continue until their lineup has batted,**

**Final 1-2 games of the season. (Optional based on player progression and team makeup,**

**Offense**

* **Players will receive pitching from a coach or the pitching machine to start their At-Bat. Players should receive NO MORE THAN 5 PITCHES. Once the 5-pitch limit has been reached, a TEE MUST BE USED**
* **Coach must pitch FROM A KNEE and from no further than 30-35 feet from home plate. DO NOT STAND AND PITCH.**
* **Teams may also use the blue flame pitching machine available at the fields. Once properly set up and calibrated, the machine is a much better experience than having a coach pitch.**
* Base runners can round the base and take one additional base (i.e. starting at second and finishing at home) NO MORE THAN ONE BASE CAN BE TAKEN.
* One player with a bat, while all players are in their designated seat.
* Coach assists player at the plate (hands, feet, eye on the ball)
* 1B/3B Coach: direct players to run and stop, teach them which base they are currently on
* Bench Coach has a lineup and controls the bench.
* **RUNS will be counted with a 4 RUN MAXIMUM EACH HALF INNNING**

**Defense**

* **All players on the field without a catcher.**
* **Players should be lined up as regular infield, (1B, 2B, SS, 3B and P) and regular outfield (LF/CF/RF) Any additional players will be off the field and can be working with the coaches on throwing/catching.**
* Swap with outfielders for the next inning (everyone plays everywhere)
* All infield throws are to 1B, all outfielders throws are to 2B (this is a good foundation for defense for the future)
* Suggest rotating pitcher with outfielders once they field a ground ball during the inning (goal is to have every player field at least 1 ground ball)
* **Record legitimate outs (Force outs, Tag outs, etc.) If a legitimate out is recorded, the player must leave the base. If 3 outs are recorded within a half-inning, the inning is over.**
* Catcher must use a catcher’s glove and protective equipment to catch pitches.
* Catchers must wear protective cups. Chest protector must have flap extension and flap down. Catcher’s helmet must have ear covers, and mask must have ‘dangling’ throat guard.
* Catcher must wear catcher’s helmet/mask during any infield warm-ups.
* Catchers warming-up pitchers must wear protective cup and catchers helmet/mask.
* The hitting team’s coach (or as agreed on by both teams) should retrieve passed balls to help the pace of play. It is recommended to have a second bucket at the backstop to collect balls.

I have read, understand and agree with the policies, procedures, rules and regulations of Little League Baseball and East Side Little League.

Manager: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Print Name:

Revised January 28th, 2025