

LE MARS LITTLE LEAGUE RULES
SUPERSEDING OFFICIAL LITTLE LEAGUE RULES (**Revised 03/2024**)

REGISTRATION

- A. The player must reside in the Le Mars School District - **if not, District approval is required.**
- B. Registration forms must be complete - including birth certificate and appropriate fee. Exception: Hardship cases should be given to League president for determination.
- C. Registration forms will be sorted "by league" by the registration committee and delivered to the League President for verification and dispersal.
- D. Players should be registered by the date set each year. However, it is the intention of this Little League to offer the program to anyone who meets the requirements of A and B listed above.

PEE WEE LEAGUE – **AGES 5-7**

- A. Players age **5-7** can play in the Pee Wee League. Girls and Boys League Age will be determined as of Little League Rulebook.
- B. Players are to be assigned to teams randomly by Le Mars Little League Board Members.
- C. All players on the team roster will play in the field (maximum 6 infielders with no catcher 1B, 2B, 3B, SS, P-left, P-right).
- D. All players on the team roster will be placed in the batting order.
- E. Progressive batting order – move up one (1) position in the batting order per game.
- F. Each team will bat until it has three (3) outs or has scored five (5) runs.
- G. No strikeouts or walks.
- H. Pitching and catching will be done by the coaches and/or parent volunteers.
- I. **One over throw per play, and one base per over throw.**
- J. **When the coach is pitching they must use the throwing motion according to their respective leagues (Pee Wee Boys Overhand and Pee Wee Girls Underhand) with a maximum four (4) Hittable pitches per batter, Mandatory Use of batting tee after the four (4) Hittable pitches.**
- K. Regular six (6) inning game – **scores will be kept in the Teams Scorebook** – the game can end in a tie.
- L. Length of game will be on (1) hour – complete current batter in the batter's box.

MINOR LEAGUE - **AGES 7-10**

- A. Players age **7-10** will play in the Minor League. Girls and Boys League Age will be determined as of Little League Rulebook.
- B. Players are to be assigned to teams randomly by Le Mars Little League Board Members.
- C. Managers and Coaches may coach their own children.
- D. Eleven (11) year olds will be considered for the Minor League only after the Board President receives a written request from the parent(s) stating reasons the player should remain in the Minor League. The President will present all requests to the Appeal and Discipline Committee for review.
- E. **No infield prior to games.**
- F. **All practices need to be scheduled.**
- G. Up to ten (10) players will play in the field of which four (4) must be in the outfield (**in the grass**).
- H. Each team will bat until it has three (3) outs or has scored five (5) runs.
- I. All players on the team roster will be placed in the batting order.
- J. **Progressive batting order – move up one (1) position in the batting order per game. Each player must play a minimum of one (1) inning per game of an infield position.**
- K. **FOR THE FIRST EIGHT (8) GAMES**, pitching machines will be used, operated by the offensive coaches, who will also call balls and strikes. The batter cannot walk (unless hit by pitch) but can strike out with three (3) strikes.
- L. **FOR THE BALANCE OF THE SEASON, live pitching will be used.** The offensive coach will call balls and strikes. The batter cannot walk but can strike out with three (3) strikes. **In the case of four (4) balls, the offensive coach will pitch. The count on the batter resets and if by the third (3) hittable pitch the ball has not been put into play, the batter is out. EXCEPTION: If the batter fouls the ball, the batter will be given another hittable pitch. NOTE: When the offensive coach is pitching they must use the throwing motion according to their respective leagues (Minor Boys Overhand and Minor Girls Underhand)**

- M. The speed on the pitching machine **MUST** be agreed upon by **BOTH** managers before the start of the game. It **SHOULDN'T** change in-between teams at bat. If an agreement can't be reached the League President or League Board Member will decide on the speed.
- N. The Pitch Count Regulation will apply.
- O. The **defensive coach** is the umpire for all the bases – volunteers may be used.
- P. **One over throw per play, and one base per over throw.**
- Q. **Length of game will be one (1 ¼) hour. Regular six (6) inning game – scores will be kept in the Team Scorebook – the game can end in a tie.**
- R. No new inning after **70 minutes** (unless a player has not had the opportunity to bat).
- S. If after **70 minutes** and the visiting team has batted, and the visiting team is ahead by six (6) runs or more, the game is over. If the visiting team is ahead by five (5) runs or less, complete the inning and the home team will bat until they have three (3) outs, score enough runs to win the game, or the maximum five (5) run per inning limit.
- T. If after **70 minutes** and the home team has batted, the game is over.
- U. If the game is less than **70 minutes** old, a new inning may be started.
- V. Once the game is over according to the above rules, any player that has not had the opportunity to bat, will get that opportunity to do so. Every player must bat at least one (1) time each game.

MAJOR LEAGUE - AGES 10-12

- A. Players age 10-12 will play in the Major League. Girls and Boys League Age will be determined as of Little League Rulebook.
- B. Players do not have to tryout to be in the League. **It is recommended that all players attend Skills Day for the purpose of player evaluation.**
- C. Ten (10) players will play in the field of which four (4) must be in the outfield (**in the grass**).

JUNIOR LEAGUE - AGES 12-15

- A. Players age 12-15 will play in the Junior League. Girls and Boys League Age will be determined as of Little League Rulebook.
- B. Players do not have to try out to be in the League. **It is recommended that all players attend Skills Day for the purpose of player evaluation.**
- C. **Nine (9) players will play in the field of which Three (3) must be in the outfield (in the grass). If numbers dictate Four (4) outfielders (in the grass) will be used.**

SHORT OF PLAYERS

You may pick up the necessary number of players to get to the number that you take the field with in your league (**The Majors, Minors may pick up to 10 players**), from other teams in your league. (EXCEPTION –Junior Girls are allowed to pick-up Major Girls - League Age 12 - to get to 9 players). Players of equal ability must meet with the approval of the other coach, and if cannot agree, the League President will make final determination. All pickup players will play outfield and bat last. **In the Junior and Major Divisions you must have 9 Players to start the game.**

DRAFT

- A. All teams will re-draft their entire team - including returning players - each year.
- B. Prior to the draft, each league will rate all the players – to determine which tier each player will be drafted. Determine tier 1 players, followed by tier 2, tier 3 and so forth, until all the players are rated. (Tier being defined as first tier - all #1 picks in the draft, tier two - all number #2 picks and so forth.)
- C. No adding or dropping of players from one tier to the next to make an even number of players In each tier.
- D. Following the rating of all the players, the team draft order will be determined by a random drawing and will be reversed each round. (The draft order cannot be drawn until all players are rated.)
- E. Only one (1) manager and one (1) coach may “freeze” their son or daughter. They must be taken first in the appropriate tier (according to ability) as recommended by their parent/manager, and approved by the balance of managers. Any disagreement will be handled by the League President and Player Agent.

- F. Brothers/sisters will play on the same team – unless a request is made to the contrary by the parents., The players will be placed in the appropriate tier of the draft, according to ability, as described in B above.
- G. **When drafting players in each tier you are allowed to draft 1 tier below the tier you are in. For example, Tier 1 and Tier 2 can be drafted together but you CAN NOT draft in Tier 3 until all Tier 1 players are drafted and so forth.**
- H. All player trades must be made at the completion of the draft and before leaving the draft room.
- I. Any player that signs up after the completion of the draft, will be placed on a team according to the drafting order – subject to a team being short a player.
- J. **Any returning All-Star to the same League as the previous year shall be automatically ranked - a #1 or a #2 in the Draft Room Order. In the Major Boys any returning 11 year old All Stars will be ranked a #1 or a #2, any returning 10 year old All Stars will be ranked a #1, #2 or a #3.**

TRAVEL TEAM PARTICIPATION POLICY

Le Mars Little League

- A. Will cooperate with all Travel Teams/Coaches/Players that also cooperate with the Le Mars Little League.
- B. Will provide a regular season schedule that will be played on Monday thru Thursday.
- C. All make up games will be played on Monday thru Thursday if at all possible, and on Fridays if not.
- D. No Saturday games after the first 3 weeks of the regular season, unless absolutely necessary.
- E. Every effort will be made to work with the traveling teams so that they can participate in tournaments outside the Le Mars Little League program.

Travel Teams/Coaches/Players That Participate in Le Mars Little League

- A. Will cooperate with the Le Mars Little League.
- B. Will participate in the Le Mars Little League program including practices and games, and will consider this a priority over Travel Team participation.
- C. Will cooperate with the regular season coaches to make sure that no player will be subjected to excess pitching.
- D. Will participate with the Le Mars Little League All-Stars and continue with the All-Star team until eliminated. This also includes following the Little League rule that no player may play with a team outside the Le Mars Little League All-Star team until eliminated.
- E. Prior to the Draft the Players Parent - will report to the League President that they are planning on Participating on an Travel Team. So as not to upset the balance of teams in each league, these participants will be drafted at the end of the regular draft.

NOTE: If the participant is planning on participating with a Travel Team, but plans on making the Le Mars Little League his/her primary program (will participate in all Le Mars Little League games including the League Tournament and the All-Stars if selected), then this participant would be drafted in the regular draft instead of at the end of the draft, and his/her parents may be allowed to manage or coach.

- F. **See Manager Procurement # I**

MANAGER PROCUREMENT

- A. According to the rule book, managers and coaches must be “qualified adult volunteers” – adult defined as age 18 and older. However, as long as there are two adult managers or coaches assigned to each team, and those adult coaches are willing to monitor and supervise the non-adult coach, exceptions can be made by the League President – depending on the maturity level of the non-adult coach. **REMINDER:** During games there must be at least one adult manager or coach in the dugout at all times.
- B. Seniority within that specific league is acceptable, but subject to approval of League President.
- C. All appointments expire annually on September 15.
- D. The power to appoint all managers and coaches has been granted to the League President from the inception of the program.
- E. This is an administrative matter and is not subject to intervention by the membership.
- F. All managers and coaches are directly responsible to the League President.
- G. The League President is responsible to the Board of Directors for the actions of all managers and coaches.

- H. There is no appeal process for reconsideration.
- I. **If a manager/coach of a Le Mars Little League Team plans on managing/coaching any Travel Team they must notify League President.**
- J. Selection of managers, coaches, and umpires is in local league jurisdiction and not subject to intervention from District or Region.
- K. With all things being equal, coaching vacancies will be filled by drawing names from a hat.

UMPIRING

- A. Pee Wee League - Coaches and/or parents will do all umpiring.
- B. Minor League – **Offensive coaches and/or parent** will do the umpiring for balls and strikes and the **Defensive coaches and/or parent** will umpire the bases.
- C. Major and Junior Leagues –
 1. Home plate will be assigned by umpire-in-chief in cooperation with the player agent.
 2. **The HOME team for each game will be responsible to provide the base umpire.** If the manager/coach is unable to provide an umpire, it is the responsibility of the manager or coach to do the umpiring.
 3. Umpire pay.
 - a. Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Major Boys and Major Girls - \$40.00 per game and will be paid monthly. **02/2021**
 - b. Payment will be for home plate only and will be based on signed game sheets.

MANDATORY PLAYING RULES (ALL LEAGUES)

- A. All players will be placed in the batting order.
- B. Substitutes on defense will be made every inning. **(No player is to sit on the bench for two consecutive innings)**
- C. No player is to sit the bench twice in a game before all members of the team have sat the bench once. **Sitting on the bench requires 3 consecutive defensive outs.** (It does not carry forward to the next game – each game stands on its own.) Exception: Pitcher does not have to sit until removed from the mound and any player with a discipline problem may sit as well. (Approval is necessary from the League President)

BUNTING OR STEALING

- A. Minor League - No bunting or stealing.
- B. Major Girls - May only steal home on a pitched passed ball from the pitcher to the catcher or if the catcher makes an attempt to throw out any runner.
- C. Major Girls – cannot leave the base until the ball crosses home plate. **Penalty for the Major Girls – See Boys Rule Book 7.13**

INTENTIONAL WALKS (ALL LEAGUES)

- A. Intentional walks are not allowed.
- B. Catcher must remain in proper position and batter must be pitched to.

UNIFORM CODE

- A. All players must wear hats, visors or faceguards when in the field of play. (All Leagues)
- B. All players must tuck in uniform tops. (Majors and Juniors)
First offense – warning, Second offense - sit out (1) inning, Third offense - sit out (1) game. All Board members are responsible to enforce.

OFFICIAL SCOREBOOK/SCOREBOARD

- A. All league's – the home team of each game will be required to keep the scorebook in the scorebooks provided by the Le Mars Little League which will be considered the "official scorebook" if unable to come to an agreement on a discrepancy.
- B. The **Visiting** team will provide a **PARENT** to operate the scoreboard at the John Britton Little League Complex.

ALL STAR EXPENSES

The Le Mars Little League will follow the schedule for all All Star expenses. The schedule can be obtained from the League President.

TIME LIMITS PER GAME

- A. Pee Wee League - 1 hour
- B. Minor League -- 1 ¼ hour
- C. Major Boys and Girls Leagues
 - 1. **No new Inning after 90 minutes of play or terminated by the mercy run rule.**
(15 after 3, 10 after 4, 6 after 5)
 - 2. **(5) run limit per inning.**
- D. Junior Girls League
 - 1. **No new Inning after 90 minutes of play or terminated by the mercy run rule.**
(15 after 4, 10 after 5, 8 after 6)
 - 2. **(7) run limit per inning.**
- E. Junior Boys League
 - 1. **No new Inning after 90 minutes of play or terminated by the mercy run rule.**
(15 after 4 and 10 after 5, 8 after 6)
 - 2. **(7) run limit per inning.**
- F. Game time will be determined by the last out of the inning in all leagues.

TIE GAMES (MAJORS AND JUNIORS)

- A. In a tie game, the person preceding the leadoff batter of the next inning will go to second base; after two outs, the home team will do the same. If the tie is not broken, the procedure is repeated.

PITCHING RULES

- A. Pee Wee League - See Pee Wee League on page 1.
- B. Minor League - See Minor League on page 1 and Follow the Pitch Count Regulation.
- C.
 - 1. Major League Boys - Follow the Pitch Count Regulation.
 - 2. Major League Girls - Follow the Little League Rule Book.
EXCEPTION: A player may only pitch **7 innings** in a calendar week, Sunday thru Saturday.
- D.
 - 1. Junior League Girls - Follow the Junior League Rule Book.
EXCEPTION: A player may only pitch 9 innings in a calendar week, Sunday thru Saturday
 - 2. Junior League Boys - Follow the Pitch Count Regulation.
 - 3. Girls - In the case of a team having more than three (3) games in a calendar week due to rescheduling all pitchers will be allowed twelve (12) innings in a calendar week, Sunday thru Saturday.

DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES (ALL LEAGUES)

- A. Unsportsmanlike conduct by Managers, Coaches, or Players shall be reprimanded by a warning or a one game suspension, depending on the severity of the act. A second suspension will result in removal from the League. **A majority of the** Committee of Appeals & Discipline will be the enforcing agency.
- B. The unexcused missing of practice and/or games can result in disciplinary action:
 - 1. First Offense -- Warning
 - 2. Second Offense -- Sitting out first two innings of next game

PRACTICES

No practices on Wednesday after 6:30pm during religious education.

FIELD MAINTENANCE

All coaches are responsible to see that their team cleans and picks up in and around their dugout area at the completion of their game.

BATS

- A. For safety reasons, wood bats will not be allowed in the Le Mars Little League.

HELMETS

All batting helmets used in the Le Mars Little League must have a chin strap, a full protection face mask and be NOCSAE approved.

METAL CLEATS

Use of metal cleats is prohibited in all leagues.

DEFENSE

- A. Pee Wee - All players on team roster will play in the field (maximum 6 infielders with no catcher- 1B,2B,3B,SS,P-left,P-right)
- B. Minor - Ten (10) players will play in the field of which four (4) must be in the outfield grass.
- C. Major - Ten (10) players will play in the field of which four (4) must be in the outfield grass.
- D. **Junior - Nine (9) players will play in the field. If numbers dictate Four (4) outfielders (in the grass) will be used.**

ALL STAR TEAM

- A. The Le Mars Little League will field All Star teams in the following Leagues – Major Girls, 10 years old team and 11 & 12 years old team who play in the Major League, Major Boys 10,11 and 12 year olds teams who play in the Major League, Junior Girls and Junior Boys. The Juniors and Major Leagues will play in the sanctioned Little League tournament.
- B. All Players, and one manager and one coach from each team, will vote for 12 players in their league.
- C. Player's vote counts as one point, and they can vote for as many players from their own team as they wish.
- D. The managers and coaches will have a meeting prior to voting, and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each of the players on their respective teams. This procedure will assist the managers and coaches with information on the players they may not know or be familiar with. This meeting will be set up by the League President thru the Player Agent. It is highly recommended and expected that all managers and coaches attend this meeting.
- E. Managers and coaches votes count as five points.
- F. Managers and coaches must sign their ballots.
- G. All ballots will be distributed, collected, and tabulated by a committee of Board Members. No ballots should leave the field in the hands of a voter.
- H. Each team will cast votes at the appropriate time – as determined by the Board President.
- I. Coaches can vote for coaches and their vote counts as three (3) points.
- J. Major and Junior Girls and Junior Boys – The Le Mars Little League Board of Directors will decide whether to enter the Little League sanctioned All Star tournament, or search for a local tournament for each of these teams. Regardless of the tournament entered, the Little League Tournament rule book must be followed concerning mandatory playing time.
- K. **In order to be eligible for the Le Mars Little League All Stars a player must NOT miss more than TWO games of the ENTIRE SEASON, certain exemption may be individually granted upon further review by the Appeals and Discipline Committee. The Players, Coaches and Managers must be in good standing with the Le Mars Little League Program as determined by the Appeals and Discipline Committee.**

REGULATION XIV - BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

The actions of players, managers, coaches, umpires and league officials must be above reproach. Any player, manager, coach, umpire or league representative who is involved in a verbal or physical altercation, or an incident of un-sportsmanlike conduct, at the game site or any other Little League activity, is subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

REGULATION VII SCHEDULES - MAJOR BOYS & GIRLS

A team may play one (1) doubleheader in a calendar week.

NO SMOKING OR TOBACCO PRODUCTS POLICY

Smoking and All Tobacco Products are prohibited at all Le Mars Little League facilities and events.

SOFT TOSS / WARM UP

Due to excessive wear and tear on the fencing, there will be no soft toss allowed. You may use the two practice backstops west of the dike for soft toss. (Soft toss is when a player or coach throws a ball to a batter who then hits the ball into the fence or backstop.) **NO playing catch / warming up around the concession stand, batting cage or equipment shed. All warming up that is not on the fields should be done on the west side of the dike.**

SLIDING RULE

- A. **All divisions of play will follow the Little League Rule Book for Sliding. See Rule 7.08 (A) #3**
- B. Head first slides are **NOT** permitted. **Except** when the runner is returning to a base.

BATTING CAGE RULES

- A. Anyone connected with the Le Mars Little League, either as a Board Member, Manager, Coach, or parent may use the batting cages.
- B. You must sign in to use the batting cages.
- C. Little League usage – Pitching machines may be operated by adults (age 18 and older), managers, and coaches. No one under the age of 18 is allowed to operate the pitching machines unless they are a manager or coach.
- D. Recreational usage – Pitching machines may be operated by adults (age 18 and older) only, UNLESS there is parental supervision and that parent is willing to assume the responsibility of the risk.
- E. No one under the age of 18 is allowed in the pitching machine area while the machines are being operated. Exception: See C and D above.
- F. Keys will be given to Board Members and Managers. (Maximum one key per team)
- G. The **Major and Junior League** have priority usage of the batting cages during the season.
- H. No use of the batting cages will be permitted past 10:00 p.m.
- I. No food, beverages or tobacco allowed.
- J. No horseplay or profanity.
- K. No pepper or golf.
- L. No swinging the bat outside the cages.
- M. No climbing inside or outside of the nets and building.
- N. Helmets are required for all batters.
- O. Only one (1) batter per cage at a time.
- P. Enter the cage only thru the gates provided.
- Q. Batters must stay at the plate when being pitched to.
- R. The Le Mars Little League, and persons in charge, have the right to refuse service and limit the number of spectators.
- S. There will be no tolerance with any violations of the rules and will result in removal from the complex and /or League.
- T. **Only one (1) cage and one (1) time slot per Team.**
- U. **On practices and game day/nights the batting cages are for the Teams that practice or play that day/night.**

RULE INTERPRETATION

All rules are subject to interpretation by the League President, League Board Members and Umpires.

INFIELD

The Major and Junior Leagues will be allowed to take infield as follows: Prior to the early game, the visitor may take infield for ten (10) minutes at 5:40pm, and the home team may take infield for ten (10) minutes beginning at 5:50 pm. Prior to the late game, each team is allowed five (5) minutes of infield. Each team must adhere to the starting times and time limits etc., so that games start on time. In addition, it is requested that you avoid the white lines on the field, used as foul lines, batters box and pitching circle (girls). Also, throwing the ball around between innings is allowed as well.

REGISTRATION FEES

Beginning with the 2023 season, Registration Fees will be \$65.00. This fee includes a registration fee of \$50.00, and an additional \$15.00 for the concession stand – to provide treats at each regular season game for all players and coaches. This will eliminate the coaches having to collect these funds for this purpose. Late fees will be \$25.00 and will be assessed after registration deadline.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms provided by the Le Mars Little League are for scheduled Little League games only. They should not be worn for practices or scrimmages.

USE OF LITTLE LEAGUE PROPERTY

Interested people wishing to use the John Britton Little League Complex for tournaments, practices or recreational games must contact the League President. Prior approval by League President and Board of Directors will be needed to use the complex facilities. The Le Mars Little League Board has a fee schedule for use of any and all property owned by the LeMars Little League. All participants will not be covered by Little League Insurance.