

# TPLL BYLAWS

## I. OBJECTIVE AND MISSION STATEMENT

The objective of TPLL shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, patience and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens. In this regard, TPLL does not limit participation in its activities on the basis of disability, race, color, national origin, gender, sexual preference or religious orientation.

To achieve this objective, TPLL will provide a supervised program under the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. All TPLL officers, directors, managers, coaches, agents and other volunteers shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

In accordance with Section 501-(c)-(3) of the Federal Internal Revenue Code, TPLL shall operate exclusively as a non-profit educational organization providing a supervised program of baseball instruction and games. No part of the net earnings shall inure to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual. No substantial part of the activities of TPLL involve carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation; TPLL does not participate in or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

The Official Regulations and Playing Rules, as published and distributed by Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

## II. LOCAL RULES

The rules described herein are intended to supplement, not replace, the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated and the TPLL Constitution.

## III. TPLL PROGRAMS

**Tee Ball League.** Tee Ball League is an instructional tee ball program for players ages five (5) and six (6) who are in preschool or kindergarten. A child must be five (5) years old on or by August 31st to qualify for spring TPLL Tee Ball. Tee Ball is fun for all, and the child's first introduction to organized baseball. The emphasis is on teaching the fundamentals of the game — how to swing a bat, field a grounder, run the bases, and throw a ball. This league is intended to be fun and to help the kids learn about teamwork and basic sportsmanship. There are no scores kept, no outs recorded and every player bats every inning. Tee Ball is played with cushioned "safety" baseballs in all practices and games. Buddy requests are welcomed!

**Farm Ball League.** Farm Ball League is a coach-pitch instructional program for: (1) players in kindergarten who previously played TPLL Tee Ball or an equivalent tee ball program; and/or (2) players who are in first grade, generally 6 and 7 year olds. Players bat with their own coaches soft tossing from 12-15 feet away. Farm is elevated instruction, skill development and fun. Similar to Tee Ball, scores are not kept, the entire team bats every inning, regardless of "outs" made. There are no balls and strikes called, nor any striking out. Buddy requests are welcomed!

**Rookie Minors League.** Rookie Minors is a machine-pitch, instructional baseball program for: (1) players in second grade, including players who are league-age eight (8); and/or (2) players in first grade who previously played TPLL Farm League or a comparable coach-pitch program. Scores are kept, games won or lost, and standings are maintained. There are post-season playoffs, for a Rookie Minors Championship. Rookie Minors conducts Player Assessments in December or January. Players are drafted by coaches or assigned to teams with a focus on balancing skill levels for optimal parity among the RM teams. Thus, there are no Buddy requests, though the league will try to accommodate reasonable requests.

**Double A League.** Double A is an introductory player-pitch league for: (1) players in 3rd grade, regardless of League Age (who are generally league age 8 or 9); and/or (2) players in second grade who have previously played TPLL Rookie Minors or a comparable machine-pitch program and who are at least 7 years old. Double A is the first level 'player pitch' league. Players are instructed on more advanced skill development, sportsmanship and teamwork. Baseball strategy such as stealing is introduced. The idea is to allow as many players as possible, the opportunity to get experience at various positions such as pitching, catching, infield and outfield prior to advancing to Minors. Scores, won/loss and standings are kept. These games have plate umpires with balls and strikes being called. For player engagement and skills development purposes, the player is allowed to bat from a tee when Ball 4 is called rather than issuing a Walk – hits from the tee are limited to two bases. There are post season playoffs for a championship. Player Assessments are conducted in December or January for Double A, and then teams are 'drafted' by coaches to foster balance of skill level on each roster.

**Minors League.** Minors League is a player-pitch, instructional baseball program for players in 4th and 5th grades, who have previously played Double A and who are league ages 9 through 11. Most players play Minors for two years. Minors is yet again advanced instruction, commitment and competitiveness. Most importantly, participation is paramount in this league. As a result, there are minimum play rules in the infield and outfield for each player and every player bats in the batting order. Pitch counts set by national Little League are strictly followed to protect the players' arms. There is one practice and two games each week. Scores, won/loss and standings are kept throughout the season, which culminates into a post-season seeded playoff for a championship. The team that finishes in first place in the post-season (playoff champion) goes on to represent TPLL in the District 3 "Tournament of Champions" against other local leagues. Everyone whose grade and age qualify them for Minors may play. Minors players must attend Player Evaluations in December or January, after which assessment scores are published to coaches attending the draft. Teams are formed in January via a coaches' draft.

**Majors League.** Majors is for 5th and 6th, who have previously played Minors, generally league age 11 and 12. The skill level of the Majors players is materially higher than previous leagues and it requires a significant commitment to participate. Majors teams play both inner league games as well as inter-league games against other Little Leagues including Twin Cities and Ross Valley. Standings and scores are kept throughout the season. The team that finishes in first place in the post-season (playoff champion) goes on to represent the TPLL in District 3 "Tournament of Champions" against other local leagues. Majors is a highly competitive league, and is the age group that competes in the Little League World Series. There are generally two practices and two games each week. All 12 year olds are assured a place on a Majors team, unless the player's parents and TPLL agree their child would be better served with another season in the Minors. Majors players must attend Player Evaluations in December or January, after which assessment scores are published to coaches attending the draft. Teams are formed in January or February via a coaches' draft.

**Intermediate Division (aka “50/70 League”) and Juniors League.** 50/70 and Juniors are comprised of players who are league ages 11-13 and 12--14, respectively, some of whom will be high school freshman (who turn 15 after August 31st) who will not be able to participate in 50/70 or Juniors until the conclusion of their high school season, typically in early May. Those players are encouraged to participate in 50/70 or Juniors, and their registration fees will be adjusted to reflect their shorter participation in the 50/70 or Juniors season. At the discretion of the 50/70 Commissioner or Juniors Commissioner and League President, all players who have registered to play in the 50/70 or Juniors program may be required to attend a player evaluation prior to the formation of teams. All registered players will be assigned to a team. Roster assignments should be completed during February whenever possible, and players will be notified promptly thereafter of their team assignments.

#### **IV. POLICY PLAYER FEES AND REFUND**

All player fees are due at the time of registration unless the TPLL President approves an alternative arrangement. A refund will be granted up to three days after tryouts for Minors, Majors and Juniors Leagues, and until February 7th for Rookie Minors, Farm and Tee Ball. Any refunds after this point will need the Board of Directors’ approval and may be at a reduced rate.

#### **V. PLAYER ASSIGNMENT**

**Tee Ball League.** The Tee Ball League Commissioner assigns players to teams. At this level, the Commissioner will make an effort to accommodate parents’ requests for team and teammate assignments, although the Commissioner must weigh such requests against the need to maintain a balance of ages on each team. Team assignments are finalized by the end of February and parents are notified of their child's assignment. Teams are dissolved at the end of each baseball season.

**Farm League.** The Farm League Commissioner assigns players to teams. At this level, the Commissioner will make an effort to accommodate parents’ requests for team and teammate assignments, although the Commissioner must weigh such requests against the need to maintain a balance of ages on each team. Team assignments are finalized by the end of February and parents are notified of their child's assignment. Teams are dissolved at the end of each baseball season.

**Rookie Minors League.** Rookie Minors players participate in Player Assessments/Evaluations to allow the coaching staffs and RM Commissioner to assess players for purposes of balancing the teams in terms of skill level. Following Evaluations, the children of the Rookie Minors managers are pre-slotted into the appropriate draft round, and then the Rookie Minors managers draft players to determine rosters. (See Draft, Section VII). Every Rookie Minors age-eligible child will be selected to a team via this draft. Before and during the draft, the Commissioner will consult with the Player Agent and may consult with team managers in an effort to balance teams in terms of skill levels. Team assignments are finalized by the end of February and parents are notified of their child's assignment by the team manager. Teams are dissolved at the end of each baseball season.

**Double A League.** Double A registrants participate in Player Evaluations, but their participation is purely to allow the coaching staffs to assess players for purposes of balancing the teams in terms of skill level. Following Evaluations, the Double A managers draft players to determine rosters. (See Draft, Section VII). Every Double A age-eligible child will be selected to a team via this draft. Roster assignments are completed in February, at which time parents will receive notification of their child's team assignment. Teams are dissolved at the end of each baseball season.

**Minors League.** Minors registrants participate in Player Evaluations but their participation is purely to allow the coaching staffs to assess players for purposes of balancing the teams in terms of skill level. Following Evaluations, the Minors managers draft players to determine rosters. (See Draft, Section VII). Every Minors age-eligible child will be assigned to a team. Roster assignments are completed in February, at which time parents will receive notification of their child's team assignment. Teams are dissolved at the end of each baseball season.

**Majors League.** All players wanting to participate in Majors are required to attend Player Evaluations. Following Evaluations, the Majors managers draft players to determine rosters. (See Draft, Section VII.) Players ages ten (10) and eleven (11) who try out for Majors but are not drafted to a Majors team are released to the Minors where they are drafted as part of the Minors team assignment process. All players who are age twelve (12) are assured a place on a Majors team, unless the player's parents agree their child would be better served with a season in the Minors. League Age 12 year old players who chose to play in Minors must complete a waiver and submit to the TPLL President. Players will be notified in the weeks after Evaluations as to their league assignment (Majors vs. Minors). Roster assignments for Majors and Minors are completed by late February, at which time parents will receive notification of their child's team assignment.

**50/70 and Juniors Leagues.** Because of the age of 50/70 and Juniors players, team assignments are subject to unique complexities that are not experienced at the younger levels. For example, 50/70 and Juniors is comprised of players who are league ages 11-13 and 12-14, respectively, some of whom will be high school freshman who will not be able to participate in TPLL until the conclusion of their high school season, typically in early May. Those players are encouraged to participate in 50/70 or Juniors, and their registration fees will be adjusted to reflect their shorter participation in the Juniors season. In addition, many of the players also participate in travel ball programs, some as their primary commitment. The TPLL would like to continue to attract these travel ball players to the 50/70 and Juniors programs in a manner that is conducive to facilitating participation in both programs when feasible. As a consequence, in forming 50/70 and Juniors teams, the 50/70 and Juniors Commissioners or League President may consider a variety of factors, with the following goals in mind: (a) creating relative competitive balance among the teams, so that each has a reasonable chance of doing well in the season, (b) permitting travel ball players to be assigned to the same team where doing so is reasonable and would ensure their participation in the Juniors program (perhaps with the assignment of non-travel players in a manner that helps preserve competitive balance), and (c) assigns high school players at a later date, taking into account the relative performance of the teams as well as the foregoing principles. In making team assignments, the 50/70 Commissioner or Juniors Commissioner and League President may solicit the views of coaches, and may conduct a player draft, provided the foregoing principles are taken into account.

## VI. PLAYER EVALUATIONS

**Rookie Minors League.** Players wanting to participate in Rookie Minors should attend tryouts (Player Evaluations/Assessments), which are run by the Player Agent. The purpose of Rookie Minors tryouts is to evaluate players' skill levels in order that teams may be balanced. Every Rookie Minors age-eligible child will be assigned to a team; no child will be turned away for lack of ability. Consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Little League Operating Manual, during tryouts the relevant League Commissioner, Board-approved Rookie Minors managers and any other neutral parties selected by the Player Agent evaluate each player's skill level in the following areas: batting (scale of 1 to 10), throwing (scale of 1 to 5), catching (scale of 1 to 5), and fielding grounders (scale

of 1 to 5). A total score of twenty five (25) is the highest rating. Scoring criteria may be changed by agreement between the Rookie Minors Commissioner, TPLL President and Player Agent for reasons such as evaluation rainouts, time constraints or other special circumstances. All registrants will tryout as a single group. The Player Agent and Rookie Minors Commissioner collect all evaluations related to each player and aggregate the scores into an average score per player, which are distributed to Rookie Minors managers before the draft.

**Double A and Minors League.** All players wanting to participate in either Double A or Minors League must attend tryouts (Player Evaluations/Assessments), which are run by the Player Agent. The purpose of Double A and Minors tryouts is to evaluate players' skill levels in order that teams may be balanced. Every Double A and Minors age-eligible child will be assigned to a team; no child will be turned away for lack of ability. Consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Little League Operating Manual, during tryouts the relevant League Commissioner, Board-approved Double A or Minors managers and any other neutral parties selected by the Player Agent evaluate each player's skill level in the following areas: batting/bunting, pitching, throwing, fielding grounders and fielding fly balls. A running time may also be recorded. Pitching and Batting/Bunting are graded on a one (1) to ten (10) scale, the other skills are graded on a one (1) to five (5) scale. A total score of thirty-five (35) is the highest rating. Scoring criteria may be changed by agreement between the Rookie Minors Commissioner, TPLL President and Player Agent for reasons such as evaluation rainouts, time constraints or other special circumstances. For both Minors and for Double A, each will tryout as a single group. The Player Agent (together with the Commissioners of Double A and Minors) collects all evaluations related to each player and aggregates the scores into an average score per player. Prior to the draft, the Player Agent distributes each player's aggregate score as well as all player evaluations to each TPLL Minors or Double A manager, along with all available player data from GameChanger (or other score-keeping/statistics tool) from prior seasons.

**For Minors only,** prior to the Minors draft, the Player Agent also provides the Minors managers the evaluations for players, ages ten (10) and eleven (11) who tried out for Majors (Player Evaluation/Assessment) but were not drafted to a Majors team; these players will participate in the Minors Draft (see Draft, section VII). All player evaluation information is strictly non-public.

**Majors League.** All players wanting to participate in Majors League must attend tryouts (Player Evaluations/Assessments), which are run by the Player Agent. Consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Little League Operating Manual, the Majors Commissioner, Board-approved Majors managers and other neutral parties selected by the Player Agent evaluate each player's skill level in the following areas: batting/bunting, pitching, throwing, fielding grounders and fielding fly balls. A running time also is recorded. Pitching and Batting/Bunting are graded on a one (1) to ten (10) scale, the other skills are graded on a one (1) to five (5) scale. A total score of thirty-five (35) is the highest rating. Scoring criteria may be changed by agreement between the Rookie Minors Commissioner, TPLL President and Player Agent for reasons such as evaluation rainouts, time constraints or other special circumstances.

The Player Agent collects all evaluations related to each player and aggregates the scores into an average score per player. Prior to the draft, the Player Agent distributes each player's aggregate score as well as all player evaluations, if available from the previous season, to each TPLL Majors manager (see Draft, section VII), along with all available player data from GameChanger (or other score-keeping/statistics tool) from prior seasons. Following the Majors draft, the Player Agent also provides the Minors managers the scores and evaluations, if available from the previous season for players ages ten (10) and eleven (11) who tried out for Majors but were not drafted to a Majors

team; these players will participate in the Minors draft (see Draft, section VII). All players who are twelve (12) are assured a place on a Majors team, unless the player's parents and TPLL agree their child would be better served with a season in the Minors. All player evaluation information is strictly non-public. Any coach or manager sharing information on player evaluations or scores will be removed from their volunteer position.

**50/70 and Juniors League.** At the discretion of the 50/70 Commissioner or Juniors Commissioner and League President, all players who have registered to play in the 50/70 or Juniors program may be required to attend a player evaluation prior to the formation of teams. All registered players will be assigned to a team. Roster assignments should be completed during February whenever possible, and players will be notified promptly thereafter of their team assignments.

Should the 50/70 Commissioner or Juniors Commissioner or League President decide that a player evaluation is appropriate, all registered players will be invited to attend. The Player Agent will determine the nature of the evaluation, which should include hitting, throwing, fielding ground balls and fly balls, and such other matters that the Player Agent decides would be helpful to the evaluation of a player (including, for example, pitching, catching, short scrimmage, etc.). 50/70 coaches or Juniors coaches should be present during the player evaluation and, in the event the Player Agent decides that evaluation scores should be provided for players, such scores will be provided to the coaches on a confidential basis. Wherever possible, the player evaluation scores should be provided by independent evaluators. If necessary, the Player Agent can provide the 50/70 Commissioner or Juniors Commissioner available player data from GameChanger (or other score-keeping/statistics tool) from prior seasons.

## VII. PLAYER DRAFT

**Authority.** The Player Agent runs the drafts and he or she, along with the TPLL President, has final say on all draft matters. Should the Player Agent have a child in the league being drafted, the TPLL President will have final authority with regard to that league.

**Timing.** The draft for Majors generally occurs in January or February. The Minors draft occurs shortly after the Majors draft. Double A, Majors and Minors drafts must be held prior to the mid-February school vacation, barring extreme circumstances. The 50/70 or Juniors draft(s), if necessary, should occur before the end of February.

### **Process**

#### **Order of Selection.**

Prior to the draft, the Player Agent assigns the managers' order of priority based on evaluation scores and historical data of any players 'preslotted' to each team (children of the managers). The manager with the highest ranked player shall choose last, the manager with next highest player second to last, and so on. Note that the Player Agent has the authorization to modify the draft order in later rounds in the interest of achieving league balance. If the Player Agent is also a manager in the league being drafted, the order of selection shall be validated and/or modified by the TPLL President and League Commissioner. (The draft order may be determined by a process other than player ranking for Rookie Minors or Double A if needed, to better balance the teams after preslotting coaches' players and determining relative strength.) The Player Agent will communicate the draft order to each manager prior to the draft in order to aid the managers' preparation.

**Players Not Drafted into the Majors League.** Players who tried out for Majors but were not selected for a Majors team are released back into the Minors draft and will become part of the Minors player draft. Prior to the Minors draft, the Player Agent will notify the parents of these children and the Minors managers that these children will be drafted to a Minors team.

**Managers' Children.** The Player Agent will place each manager's child or children in the round in which the child or children must be drafted. This placement will be based upon both the evaluations/scores from tryouts (see Section VI) as well as the Player Agent's empirical knowledge of the child's abilities. Should the Player Agent also be a manager in the league being drafted, then the TPLL President and the League Commissioner work together to randomly assign the order of selection

**Assistant Coaches.** Consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Little League Operating Manual, Majors, Minors and Double A managers must select their assistant coaches after the completion of the draft. There may be no "self" pre-assignment of assistant coaches in Majors, Minors and Double A since such pre-assignment can create the appearance of collusion and may give a team an unfair advantage over others. Note, however, that the TPLL Board reserves the right to 'pair' Managers in certain situations - such as more head coach applicants than available teams; or for league competitive balance. Therefore, each Majors, Minors and Double A team will only have 1 team representative at the Draft, unless given special approval by the TPLL Board. For Rookie Minors, an assistant coach can be selected before the draft with the approval of the Commissioner of the respective league and the Player Agent, and may attend the draft with the head coach. If having the children of a proposed manager and assistant coach together on one team would create an unfair advantage for that team, the coach-pairing request will be denied.

### **Mandatory Drafts**

a) Any child who is league-age twelve (12) must make a Majors team, unless the Player Agent receives approval from the player's parents to allow that child to play in Minors.

b) All players ages thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) and high school freshmen who turn fifteen (15) before August 31st who try out for Juniors must be drafted to a Juniors team.

### **Other Draft Limitations**

a) No Majors team may have more than eight (8) players who are twelve (12) years old. All Majors teams should have 12 players if possible, unless the Majors Commissioner, the Player Agent and/or President agree that a different roster size is appropriate based on available Majors-eligible players.

b) There are no "cuts" allowed in Little League. If a child is eligible to play safely, then he or she must be assigned/drafted. If there is a safety issue with an individual player, the Player Agent is empowered to make adjustments or remove a player in accordance with the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

**Trading.** Following the draft, managers may, if they desire, trade players until such deadline as declared by the Player Agent prior to the Draft. The preferable deadline is within 20 minutes of the close of the final draft pick, but in no case shall that deadline extend beyond midnight of the day on which the Draft takes place. All trades shall be made through and approved by the Player Agent, unless the Player Agent is a manager in the relevant league. If the Player Agent has such a conflict, then all trades must be made through and approved by the League

Commissioner and/or the League President. The following restrictions also apply:

- a) Trades may only take place within the same league.
- b) All trades must be player for player only. (Example: two (2) players from Team A could not be traded for one (1) player from Team B.)
- c) The Player Agent (or the League Commissioner and/or League President should he/she/they be required to make the decision) shall approve only those trades made for justifiable reasons

**VIII. Replacement of a Majors Player during the Season.** Consistent with the guidelines set forth in the Little League Operating Manual, if a Majors player cannot or will not complete the season, the player's manager must notify the Player Agent regarding the player's situation within 48 hours of his or her learning of the situation. The Player Agent will contact the player and his family to determine whether the player should be removed from the roster. Once the Player Agent has confirmed the player's status, he/she shall promptly notify the TPLL President.

The TPLL President will present the loss of the player to the TPLL Board. If the Board approves the loss/removal of the player, the President shall send a letter of release to the player and the parents stating the player has been released from the Major League team for a justifiable reason. This action creates an opening for a replacement on the team's roster. If the TPLL Board decides to replace the player, the player's former manager shall review the list of remaining draft-eligible players with the Player Agent and select a replacement. The replacement shall be notified by the Player Agent and will become a permanent member of the Majors team.

No replacement players will be selected within the final two weeks of the regular season. If a Minors player is chosen to move up to Majors, and the player declines the move, the manager will take his or her second choice. The player who declined to move up will remain in Minors for the remainder of the season with no further option to move to a Majors team until the following year

## **IX. GAME TIME LIMITS AND SCORING LIMITS**

### **TEE BALL**

**Time Limits.** Games last three innings. Each game has a one-hour time limit. Each team must have the same number of at bats. If the home team has completed their half inning within 5-10 minutes of the end time, then this may be a good time to stop. If the home team is at bat at the one-hour time limit, then it is OK for them to finish their at bat as long as there is enough time for the next teams to warm up and begin on time. An inning is defined as one time through the batting order of eligible players.

**Scoring Limits.** There is no scoring in Tee Ball.

### **FARM**

**Time Limits.** Games last three innings. Each game has a one-hour time limit. Each team must have the same number of at bats. If the home team has completed their half inning within 5-10 minutes of the end time, then this may be a good time to stop. If the home team is at bat at the one-hour time limit, then it is OK for them to finish their at bat as long as there is enough time for the next teams to warm up and begin on time. An inning is defined as one time through the batting order of eligible players.

**Scoring Limits.** There is no scoring in Farm Ball.

## **ROOKIE MINORS**

**Time Limits.** A normal game is six (6) innings or ninety (90) minutes from the official start time, whichever comes first. A new inning begins as soon as the 3<sup>rd</sup> out is recorded at the end of the prior inning. A new inning **MUST** be started if 90 minutes have not expired, even if 89 minutes have passed and the inning cannot be completed within the 90-minute limit. Once an inning is started, it will be played to completion, regardless of time, unless the home team is ahead after the visitor has completed their at bat and time has expired.

**Scoring Limits.** No team may score more than five runs in an inning except as provided below. When a team scores its fifth run in an inning, the inning is immediately over (even if more runs would have scored on a play, only the first five runs will count each inning). The five run rule does not apply in the 6th inning. Note that this is a 6th inning rule, not a “last” inning rule. If, by virtue of the 90 minute time limit, the last inning is the 5th (or earlier) inning, the five run limit continues to apply. For example, if the home team is winning 9-2 at the end of four innings and the fourth inning ended 88 minutes into the game, if the visiting team is still batting when the 90<sup>th</sup> minute elapses, it will be limited to five runs in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

## **DOUBLE A AND MINORS**

### **Time Limits**

a) A normal game is six (6) innings. However, all regular season games shall have a two (2) hour time limit from the official starting time; no new inning shall begin later than one hour fifty minutes (1:50) from the official starting time.

b) Playoff games may continue past the two (2) hour limit and may go into extra innings if the teams are tied at the end of six (6) innings.

c) If a game is called by an umpire for safety/weather conditions, continuation of play at a later date will be necessary only if fewer than four (4) innings (three and one-half (3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed.

d) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game but after one (1) or more innings have been played, the game shall be resumed at the exact point where it left off.

### **Scoring Limits**

a) No team may score more than five runs in an inning except as provided below. When a team scores its fifth run in an inning, the inning is immediately over (even if more runs would have scored on a play, only the first five runs will count each inning). The five run rule does not apply in the 6th inning. Note that this is a 6th inning rule, not a “last” inning rule. If, by virtue of the one hour fifty minute (1:50) time limit, the last inning is the 5th (or earlier) inning, the five run limit continues to apply. For example, if the home team is winning 9-2 at the end of four innings and the fourth inning ended one hour forty eight minutes (1:48 into the game, if the visiting team is still batting when one hour fifty minutes elapse, it will be limited to five runs in the top of the 5th inning..

b) Playoff games may continue past the two (2) hour limit and may go into extra innings if the teams are tied at the end of six (6) innings.

c) If a game is called by an umpire for safety/weather conditions, continuation of play at a later

date will be necessary only if fewer than four (4) innings (three and one-half (3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed.

d) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game but after one (1) or more innings have been played, the game shall be resumed at the exact point where it left off.

## **MAJORS**

### **Time Limits.**

a) A normal game is six (6) innings with no time limit on games.

b) If a game is called by an umpire for safety/weather conditions, continuation of play at a later date will be necessary only if fewer than four (4) innings (three and one-half (3 ½) innings if the home team is ahead) have been completed.

c) If a game is called before it has become a regulation game but after one (1) or more innings have been played, the game shall be resumed at the exact point where it left off.

### **Scoring Limits**

a) There are no scoring limits when playing against other TPLL teams. The Mercy Rule or ten (10) run rule is in effect when playing against other leagues that require this limit (usually Twin Cities or Ross Valley). The 10 Run Rules stipulates that games in which one team has a ten (10) run or more lead after four (4) innings (three and one-half (3 ½) innings if the home team is leading in score), will be called at that point.

## **50/70 and JUNIORS**

All national Little League rules apply, as well as any "local" rules adopted by agreement of the 50/70 Commissioners or Juniors Commissioners for the leagues participating in interleague play (currently the TPLL, Mill Valley Little League, Ross Valley Little League, and Twin Cities Little League). The 10-run mercy rule will apply to all Juniors games.

## **X. PROTESTS**

Valid Protest. In accordance with Little League Rule 4.19 (a), protests shall be considered only based on the violation or interpretation of a playing rule, the use of an ineligible pitcher or the use of an ineligible player. No protest shall be considered on a decision involving an umpire's judgment.

Right to Protest. In accordance with Little League Rule 4.19(b), only the managers (or in the managers' absence, the coaches) of contesting teams have the right to protest or speak with an umpire during a game.

### Protest Process.

a) In accordance with Little League Rule 4.19(e), protests must be submitted first to the umpire on the field of play and then in writing to the League President within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident in question. The Umpire-in-Chief also should be notified and should submit a report to the League President regarding the matter.

b) In accordance with Little League Rule 4.19(f), a committee composed of the League President, the Player Agent, the Umpire-in-Chief, the League Commissioner and one or more Board Directors who are not managers shall hear and resolve any and all protests not resolved

by the umpires on the field.

Exceptions. Formal protests are not allowed in Tee Ball, Farm Ball, Rookies or Double A. For each of those leagues, any protests must be resolved on the field at the time of play. The Managers are encouraged to resolve the disagreements immediately. Managers should submit letters describing any ongoing problem to the League Commissioner.

**XI. FIELD PREPARATION AND DECORUM.** The home team is responsible for field preparation before each game. In intra-league play, the away team is responsible for clean up after the game. During inter-league play, the home team is responsible for both field preparation and clean up. Each team is responsible for leaving its dugout clean and free of trash or equipment.

## **XII. SCORE KEEPING.**

In divisions that permit scoring, Gamechanger is the preferred tool for scorekeeping, though traditional scorekeeping tools are acceptable (paper). Both teams should score the game, and as quickly as possible (within 24 hours) provide the scoring data to the TPLL Player Agent. This data shall be used during and after the game to track pitch counts, keep track of runs scored, and wins/losses. Note that this data may also be used for future drafts, selection of All Stars, and other official TPLL purposes. Also note that it is critical to maintain the privacy of this data, and detailed player information should only be available and shared with TPLL administrators, the player's coaches, parents and other authorized officials.

## **XIII. UNIFORMS**

No uniforms, other than those approved by TPLL, are acceptable. TPLL will provide hats and jerseys to all divisions of play. Socks, belts and baseball pants will be provided by each player's family. At certain levels (Majors, Juniors, All Stars), the jerseys are the property of TPLL and must be returned at the end of the season. Players may keep their hats. Any jersey that is not returned or is damaged beyond normal wear and tear will have to be paid for by the player's family.

Teams are not permitted to upgrade or otherwise decorate their uniforms without approval of the TPLL Board. Coaches and managers are not permitted to request donations from families to purchase additional gear or accessories.

## **XIV. ADDITIONAL LEAGUE-SPECIFIC PLAYING RULES**

Playing rules specific to TPLL must be reviewed by the Commissioners at the end of every season with recommendations for changes put forth to the Board for approval. Any local rules approved and implemented by the TPLL Board are intended to supplement, not replace, the rules and regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

## **XV. VOLUNTEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Definition and Authority** TPLL volunteers serve in many capacities by contributing time, energies or talents that help to fulfill TPLL's mission. The TPLL President selects and appoints the managers, coaches, umpires and Volunteer Advisory Committee members to support the league's organization. The President will look for responsible and enthusiastic individuals to support and coordinate Little League events and activities who have a keen interest in the safety, well-being, and overall development of children.

The Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC) will be appointed to coordinate standing committees as the Board determines appropriate and will delegate powers to them such as the TPLL Board shall deem advisable and which it may properly delegate. Members of the TPLL VAC and standing committees shall have no vote on actions taken by the TPLL Board unless such individuals have been elected to the Board. The TPLL Secretary maintains the roster of approved TPLL VAC members.

**Appointments** The TPLL Board votes to approve or disapprove each member's appointment to the VAC; no person can manage, coach, or serve on the VAC without the TPLL President appointing and the TPLL Board approving that appointment.

No one in TPLL has tenure, regardless of the years of service. In order to serve, a VAC member, commissioner, manager, coach or umpire must be appointed by the TPLL President and approved by the TPLL Board annually. Prior service does not guarantee re-appointment. As such, the TPLL President and/or Board do not need to give a reason to a person if that person is not re-appointed or re-approved as a VAC member.

A volunteer (manager, coach, committee member, or volunteer), may be relieved of his/her duties by the TPLL President during the current season, subject to a majority vote by the TPLL Board, for misconduct, discipline, or willingly violating the established rules of Little League International and/or TPLL.

### **Meetings**

The TPLL VAC will meet a minimum of two times each year. During the playing season (February through June) attendance by Commissioners from each league is strongly requested as their status reports and feedback are key to the successful functionality of the league. Notice of the meeting will be delivered personally, electronically or by mail to each VAC member at the last recorded address at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting, setting forth the place, time and purpose of the meeting.

### **Other Affiliations and Conflicts of Interest**

All members of the TPLL VAC, including coaches and managers, whose activities in another youth baseball program or other program are deemed detrimental to the operation of TPLL, can be removed by a majority vote of the TPLL Board of Directors. Additionally, the TPLL Board has the right to NOT appoint that individual as a tournament team manager/coach.

All TPLL VAC members are required to complete and sign both the 1) Little League Volunteer Form and 2) the TPLL Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest statement.

## **XVI. MANAGER AND COACH APPOINTMENTS**

**Definition and Authority.** The TPLL President selects and appoints the managers and coaches. As such, no person becomes a manager or coach without the approval of the President. All appointments are subject to final approval by the TPLL Board.

TPLL coaches and managers must abide by rules established by Little League and TPLL. The TPLL Secretary maintains the roster of approved TPLL coaches and managers.

Coaches and managers must complete the TPLL coach application to be considered and must agree to sign the following: Little League Volunteer Application Form, and must successfully pass a background check; TPLL Coaches Code of Conduct , and TPLL Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality forms.

**Appointments.** The TPLL Board votes to approve or disapprove each appointment; no person can manage or coach without the TPLL President appointing and the TPLL Board approving that appointment.

Coaches and managers in the TPLL program do not have tenure, regardless of the years of service. In order to serve, managers and coaches must be appointed by the TPLL President and approved by the TPLL Board annually. Prior service does not guarantee re-appointment. No one in TPLL has tenure. As such, the TPLL president and/or Board does not need to give a reason to a person if that person is not re-appointed or re-approved as a Coach or Manager.

A coach or manager may be relieved of his/her duties by the TPLL President during the current season, subject to a majority vote by the TPLL Board, for misconduct, discipline, or willingly violating the established rules of Little League International and/or TPLL. Only the local Little League board of directors has the authority to remove or suspend a manager or coach. If a parent or anyone else is dissatisfied with a manager or coach, they must present the issue to the local league president and board of directors.

### **Meetings**

TPLL Coaches and Managers are required to attend the Annual Coaches Meeting and any other meetings on safety and/or rules as deemed necessary by the TPLL Board. Notice of these meetings will be delivered personally, electronically or by mail to each Member at the last recorded address at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting, setting forth the place, time and purpose of the meeting.

### **Other Affiliations and Conflicts of Interest**

All members of the TPLL Volunteer Board, including coaches and managers, whose activities in another youth baseball program are deemed detrimental to the operation of TPLL, can be removed by a majority vote of the TPLL Board of Directors. Additionally, the TPLL Board has the right to NOT appoint that individual as a tournament team manager/coach.

All TPLL Volunteer Board Members are required to complete and sign both the 1) Little League Volunteer Form and 2) the TPLL Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest statement.

## **XVII. DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES**

### **A. Disciplinary Power**

The Board shall have the power to discipline, suspend or remove any manager or coach. The TPLL Board retains the sole authority to determine what, if any, disciplinary action is appropriate for any conduct infraction by a TPLL Volunteer.

### **B. Disciplinary Action**

Disciplinary action may be commenced against any person involved in the TPLL program, including but not limited to TPLL officers, directors, umpires, managers, coaches, parents, players and those

desiring to attend games and/or functions. Activities that may be subject to disciplinary action shall include any violation of the guidelines contained in the Little League Operating Manual, official Little League Rules and Regulations, TPLL Bylaws or TPLL Constitution. Any individual who is involved in any way with TPLL may also be subject to disciplinary action for any activity or conduct which the TPLL Disciplinary Committee (see Section XIV (B) below) or the TPLL Board determines to be detrimental to the best interest of TPLL and/or Little League Baseball.

#### C. Disciplinary Committee

A Disciplinary Committee consisting of the League President, Vice President, Umpire-in-Chief, Player Agent and relevant League Commissioner shall investigate and determine the merit of allegations that may require disciplinary action.

#### D. Filing of Charges

To initiate an investigation by the Disciplinary Committee, the complainant shall submit a written complaint setting forth the grounds upon which the complaint is based. The complaint shall contain necessary information so that a proper investigation of the charges can be made. The complainant must sign the complaint (an email from the complainant's email account will suffice) and deliver it to the attention of at least two of the following officers: the TPLL President, the relevant League Commissioner and the Player Agent. The complaint should be submitted in a timely manner following the occurrence of the alleged violation. Note: Upon the request of the complainant, his or her name will be held in confidence. The TPLL Disciplinary Committee may of its own accord initiate an investigation absent a formal written complaint if the Disciplinary Committee becomes aware of conduct or activity which it regards as potentially detrimental to the best interest of TPLL and/or Little League Baseball.

#### E. Investigation of Charges

If the Disciplinary Committee finds merit in the allegation or otherwise finds evidence of conduct or activity that is detrimental to the interests of TPLL or Little League Baseball, the President or other designated Board member shall initiate an investigation within five (5) days of receipt of the complaint alleging the need for disciplinary action. The President or other designated Board member shall be notified and shall assist if the Disciplinary Committee initiates its own investigation. The President or Disciplinary Committee at their sole discretion may (but are not required to) contact the alleged violator to request information about the alleged violation. In no event shall any member of the Disciplinary Committee or the Board have any role in this disciplinary process if that member is alleged to have any direct involvement in or with the alleged violation.

#### F. Decision of the Board

Upon conclusion of the investigation, a decision on the alleged charges shall be made by a valid quorum of the TPLL Board (as defined in the TPLL Constitution) or no less than three-quarters of the Disciplinary Committee. After deliberations, if a minimum of two-thirds of the Board members present or a minimum of two-thirds of the members of the Disciplinary Committee present find that adequate grounds exist for disciplinary action, then the President or designated Board member shall make a determination of the sanction as a result of the violation of the rule, regulation or policy involved.. The President, Board and Disciplinary Committee have wide discretion to impose a sanction deemed appropriate under the circumstances. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand or censure, or dismissal or suspension from any further TPLL activities. TPLL will provide notice to the alleged violator of the decision of the Board or Disciplinary Committee with respect to the complaint and any discipline imposed, but need not provide any written decision to the alleged violator.

### G. Emergency Disciplinary Power

Action under emergency circumstances, when immediate action must be taken to protect the welfare of any individual involved in any TPLL program, the President or any person specifically designated by the President may suspend an individual from further participation in TPLL activities. Following emergency suspension, a complaint shall be made as set forth in Section XIV (D) above and an investigation and determination shall take place as set forth in Section XIV (E) and (F).

**XVI. PLAYOFFS.** For the TPLL divisions that hold playoffs:

Format The playoff format (whether double elimination, brackets, pool play, etc.) varies each year and by league depending on the number of teams in each league. The League President shall make a determination concerning the format(s) to be used each playoff season.

Rules Regular season rules apply during playoffs except as specifically stated otherwise in the regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated and/or elsewhere in these Bylaws.

Champions The winner of the tournament at each division will represent TPLL in the Tournament of Champions. If the winner is unable to field a complete team, then the second place team will become the representative in the Tournament of Champions.

### **XVIII. ALL STARS**

TPLL selects All Star teams in each of four divisions, League Age 9/10, League Age 10/11, League Age 11/12, and Juniors. TPLL's All Star teams represent TPLL in the divisional and district All Star tournaments.

The number of roster spots (the "Roster Size") for each All Star team shall be thirteen (13) players on each team, but the All Stars Committee has the discretion to vary the Roster Size prior to the distribution of All Star ballots. The All Stars Committee is comprised of the following five Board members: TPLL President, Vice President, Player Agent, Umpire in Chief and All Star Commissioner.

The All Stars Committee will solicit manager/coach volunteers for All Stars. The All Stars Committee will select the manager of each All Star team prior to the selection of the players on that manager's respective team. After selecting the manager of each team, the All Stars Committee will solicit input from coaches in the Majors and Minors divisions and will make an initial designation of players for the roster of each team. The All Stars Committee will meet with the manager of each team, present its roster selections, and then work with the manager to select the remaining players for the team roster.

The Board's preference is for each All Star player to participate on the All Star team aligned with his or her league age. In extraordinary circumstances, the All Stars Committee may decide to offer an elected All Star player the opportunity to play on the next highest age-level team.

### **9/10 All Star Team**

1. Eligibility. All Star eligibility is limited to qualified athletes who: (1) reside within TPLL league district boundaries or have received an approved waiver from Little League, (2) have played in the Little League required number of games, and (3) are either league age nine (9) or

league age (10). Each All Star player must be available to be present for a majority of All Star team practices and games. If the player cannot be present for a majority of the All Star practices and games, the player may be replaced, if so desired, by the All Star manager with approval from the TPLL All Stars Committee, with an eligible league player who was not chosen during the original voting and roster selection.

2. Selection Process. As described above, Minors managers will receive an All Star Ballot from the All Star Commissioner along with a complete list of eligible League Age nine (9) and League Age ten (10) players. Each Minors team shall submit one ballot to the All Star Commissioner by the deadline established on the ballot. A manager may choose to discuss selections with his assistant coaches, but this is not required by TPLL. The ballot instructs coaches to vote for the top 20 players, players may be voted to the 9/10 or 10/11 team as the ballot indicates. The Manager shall include with each nomination a brief description of player's qualifications. Managers shall return completed ballots to the All Star Commissioner and TPLL President, who will then tally the votes and generate the results to the All Stars Committee. The All Stars Committee will provide the Manager of each All Star team with the voting results.
3. Rosters and Availability: In the event a player selected for an All Star team is not available (or becomes unavailable due to injury or other reason), then the Manager shall select another qualified player until a roster of 13 is set.
4. Notification: Upon completion of the 9/10 All Star Manager selection and the 9/10 All Star Team Roster, the team will send an email to each family notifying them of the selection and confirming their player's commitment to the All Star schedule. The All Star Commissioner may also directly contact the families of players who were selected to TPLL All Star teams in prior years, but have not been rostered for the current season. Players will not be confirmed until the family has returned the completed TPLL All Star Code of Conduct and Commitment Agreement. Once the All Stars Committee has been notified that the All Star agreements have been received for each player and coach, a league wide email will be sent announcing the All Star Teams and Coaches.
5. Double A Player Eligibility and Selection. Double A players who are League Age 9 or 10 are eligible for selection to the 9/10 All Star team roster. Double A players may be added to the 9/10 All Star team roster only upon the recommendation of the Double A Commissioner and the subsequent approval of the All Stars Committee. The addition of a Double A player(s) to the All Star team shall serve to deduct from the number of All Star roster positions available to Minors eligible players. Hence, the decision to add a Double A player(s) to the 9/10 All Star roster shall be made prior to distributing ballots to the Minors managers. For illustration, if the All Star Committee decrees a 9/10 All Star team roster of 13 spaces, and there are four "mandatory" Majors 10 year olds and two Double A player additions, then the available roster places for Minors players shall be reduced to 7 (i.e. 13 minus 4 minus 2 equals 7).

## **10/11 All Star Team**

1. Eligibility. All Star eligibility is limited to qualified athletes who: (1) reside within TPLL league district boundaries or have received an approved waiver from Little League, (2) have played in the Little League required number of games, and (3) are either League Age ten (10) or League Age eleven (11). The only exception to the league age requirement is if the All Star

Committee decides to offer an extraordinary younger player the opportunity to play up one age level (on the 11/12 team). Each All Star player must be available to be present for a majority of All Star team practices and games. If the player cannot be present for a majority of the All Star practices and games, the player may be replaced, if so desired by the All Star manager with approval from the TPLL All Stars Committee, with an eligible league player who was not chosen during the original voting and roster selection.

2. **Selection Process.** As described above, the composition of the 10/11 All Star team is determined by a vote of the Minors managers and the Majors managers (the “Electors”), who will receive an All Star Ballot from the All Star Commissioner along with a complete list of eligible League Age ten (10) and League Age eleven (11) players. Each team shall submit one ballot to the All Star Commissioner by the deadline established on the ballot. A manager may choose to discuss selections with his assistant coaches, but this is not required by TPLL. The ballot instructs coaches to vote for the top 20 players. The Manager shall include with each nomination a brief description of player’s qualifications. Managers shall return completed ballots to the All Star Commissioner and TPLL President, who will then tally the votes and generate the results to the All Stars Committee. The All Stars Committee will provide the Manager of each All Star team with the voting results.
3. **Rosters and Availability:** In the event a player selected for an All Star team is not available (or becomes unavailable due to injury or other reason), then the Manager shall select another qualified player until a roster of 13 is set.
4. **Notification:** Upon completion of the 10/11 All Star Manager selection and the 10/11 All Star Team Roster, the team will send an email to each family notifying them of the selection and confirming their player’s commitment to the All Star schedule. The All Star Commissioner may also directly contact the families of players who were selected to TPLL All Star teams in prior years, but have not been rostered for the current season. Players will not be confirmed until the family has returned the completed TPLL All Star Code of Conduct and Commitment Agreement. Once the All Stars Committee has been notified that the All Star agreements have been received for each player and coach, a league wide email will be sent announcing the All Star Teams and Coaches.

## **11/12 All Star Team**

1. **Eligibility.** All Star eligibility is limited to qualified athletes who: (1) reside within TPLL league district boundaries or have received an approved waiver from Little League, (2) have played in the Little League required number of games, and (3) are either League Age eleven (11) or League Age twelve (12). The only exception to the league age requirement is if the All Star Committee decides to offer an extraordinary younger player the opportunity to play up one age level (example, a LL10 on the 11/12 team). Each All Star player must be available to be present for a majority of All Star team practices and games. If the player cannot be present for a majority of the All Star practices and games, the player may be replaced, if so desired by the All Star manager with approval from the TPLL All Star Committee, with an eligible league player who was not chosen during the original voting and roster selection.
2. **Selection Process.** As described above, the composition of 11/12 All Star team is determined by a vote of the Majors managers (the “Electors”) who will receive an All Star Ballot from the

All Star Commissioner along with a complete list of eligible League Age eleven (11) and League Age twelve (12) players. Each team shall submit one ballot to the All Star Commissioner by the deadline established on the ballot. A manager may choose to discuss selections with his assistant coaches, but this is not required by TPLL. The ballot instructs coaches to vote for the top 20 players. The Manager shall include with each nomination a brief description of player's qualifications. Managers shall return completed ballots to the All Star Commissioner and TPLL President, who will then tally the votes and generate the results to the All Star Committee. The All Stars Committee will provide the Manager of each All Star team with the voting results.

3. Rosters and Availability: In the event a player selected for an All Star team is not available (or becomes unavailable due to injury or other reason), then the Manager shall select another qualified player until a roster of 13 is set.
4. Notification: Upon completion of the 11/12 All Star Manager selection and the 11/12 All Star Team Roster, the team will send an email to each family notifying them of the selection and confirming their player's commitment to the All Star schedule. The All Star Commissioner may also directly contact the families of players who were selected to TPLL All Star teams in prior years, but have not been rostered for the current season. Players will not be confirmed until the family has returned the completed TPLL All Star Code of Conduct and Commitment Agreement. Once the All Stars Committee has been notified that the All Star agreements have been received for each player and coach, a league wide email will be sent announcing the All Star Teams and Coaches.

## **Juniors**

1. Selection Process. The roster will be selected as follows: The Player Agent and/or Juniors Commissioner will provide each Juniors manager and the Commissioner with a list of all players eligible to become All Stars. Each Juniors manager and the Juniors Commissioner will cast his votes for the number of players equal to the Roster Size for the Juniors All Star Team. The ballot will be returned to the Player Agent, who will tally the votes in coordination with the Juniors Commissioner. The players receiving the most votes will become Juniors All Stars. Any ties shall be broken by the Juniors Commissioner, after consultation with the Juniors All Star manager, Player Agent and League President.
2. Eligibility. All Star eligibility is limited to Juniors players who: (1) reside within TPLL league district boundaries or have received an approved waiver from Little League, and (2) have played in the Little League required number of games. The player must be available to be present for a majority of All Star team practices and games. If any All Star player cannot be present for a majority of the All Star practices and games, the player may be replaced, if so desired by the All Star manager, with an eligible league player who was not chosen during the original voting and roster selection.

These TPLL Bylaws were approved by a vote of the Board of Directors on February, 2019 and remain valid unless changed by a vote of the Board of Directors.

Matt Coleman  
President, TPLL