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# 2010 RANCHO MISSION VIEJO LITTLE LEAGUE LOCAL RULES

## **I. PURPOSE OF LOCAL RULES**

Local Rules establish the local league's policies in certain areas where leeway is allowed by the established Little League Baseball Incorporated (LLBI) Rules, Regulations, and Policies. No local rules can conflict with the published Rules, Regulations, Policies, or Principles of LLBI without the expressed written permission from the LLBI Charter Committee at Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

## **II. DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**League:** Rancho Mission Viejo Little League

**Board:** The Board of Directors of the League

**Umpire in Chief:** A member of the Board who oversees the officiating of the League

**Manager:** A regular member of the League approved by the Board to manage all activities for a particular team

**Coach:** A regular member of the League approved by the Board to assist the Manager as an official Coach

## **III. MANAGER AND COACH SELECTION**

A. Divisional Committees are established by the Board to determine selection of managers for all levels of play. Each Committee will be comprised of the Division Commissioner and two (2) at large members of the Board, excluding the President. The Board will make a good faith effort to include one new Board member on each committee. Each Committee will interview and present a slate of candidates to the President. The President will approve or reject each of the nominees and present the candidates to the Board. The Board will vote to approve as many managers as needed to fill the expected number of teams in each division. When approved by the Board, they will be the managers for that division. All managers are released at the end of each season. There are no appeals to District 68 or any other governing body from those not selected as a manager.

B. Managers shall submit candidate Coaches to the Division Commissioner. The candidates will then be presented and voted on by the Board. Each Manager may have two Board approved Coaches.

C. Among the criteria to be used for Manager selection:

1. Interview with Committee
2. Board information/input and volunteering
3. Parent reviews from previous years as Manager/Coach

- D. For new candidates, the criteria include:
1. Interview with Committee
  2. Board information/input and volunteering

E. The Board, at the discretion of the President, may include more than 50% of its membership as managers and coaches.

**IV. PLAYING TIME**

The Juniors, Majors, and all Minor level divisions will utilize a continuous batting order where all players whether playing a defensive position or not, will take their turn at bat. Batting order will not change throughout the game.

Mandatory defensive playing time requirements for the Majors and all Minors level divisions are described below under each Division’s individual rules section.

Penalties for violations of this rule will be in compliance with the Official LLBI Rule Book, Section IV.i.

**V. DRAFTING**

A. General Information

1. Parental requests to play for or not play for specific managers will not be facilitated by the Board.
2. All players requesting to play at the "A" level and above are required to attend tryouts. The draft location and time will be announced as early as possible. The draft will be held within three weeks of tryouts, as follows: first for the Little League Majors; second for Minor "AAA"; third for the Minor "AA"; fourth for the Minor "A". Note: Senior and Junior League drafts are excluded.
3. The Managers within each division will make their selections in an open, verbal draft.
4. Managers will have fifteen (15) minutes following the draft to trade players with the approval of the Commissioner and the Player Agent. After that time, the Commissioner and two thirds of the Board must approve trades.
5. In order to be protected, all Managers’ sons/daughters must be drafted in specific rounds, depending upon the age, as follows:

<b>League Age</b>	<b>Divisions</b>	<b>Draft Round</b>
7, 8, 9, 10, 14	Seniors/Juniors/Majors/Minor "AAA", "AA", "A"	5
11, 13, 15	Seniors/Juniors/Majors/Minor "AAA", "AA", "A"	4
12	Majors	3
12	Juniors	5
14, 16	Seniors/Juniors	3

B. Seniors, Juniors, Little League Major, Little League Minor, "AAA", "AA", "A"

1. The managers will draw numbers to determine the order of player selection. First round will be numbered from lowest to highest; the second round will be numbered highest to lowest, using the "wrap around" system. All ensuing rounds will continue until all of the players have been selected for that division.
2. In the Major division draft, the brother/sister of a selected player is held in abeyance from the draft until that team's next selection and may be selected at that time, if so

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stated by the manager at the first selection, or they will be placed in the open pool of players. In addition, RMVLL uses the Little League Plan B drafting system.

3. All returning players in a division must be drafted and cannot be bumped by new players or players moving up from a lower division.
4. All players League Age 11 and 12 will be eligible for the Majors draft. Players League Age 10 or younger will not be eligible for the Majors draft unless parent has requested said player be considered for Majors draft via the registration process.
5. Teams of 11 players are allowed if deemed necessary for division structure by the President and the Player Agent.
6. In the minor division draft, the brother/sister of a selected player must be selected as the next selection for that team if parents so designate.

C. After the draft no refunds of registration fees will be issued.

## **VI. PLAYER MOVEMENT**

A. Openings on Little League Major rosters will be filled first from Minor "AAA" or second from Minor "AA" rosters. A manager shall have forty eight (48) hours to make a selection known to the Player Agent with the time starting at the moment the Player Agent notifies the manager of eligible players. The Minor League program is the responsibility of and is an integral part of the chartered Rancho Mission Viejo Little League. It is not, and may not be, operated as a separate entity. It must be restricted to the boundaries of the Local League and its players are subject to draft by any team in RMVLL.

B. Refusal of a Minor League player to comply with the player replacement procedures for the Minor Leagues shall result in forfeiture of further eligibility to play in the higher division for the remainder of the season. Since all 12 year olds must play majors unless a waiver has been granted, if a 12 year old is on the waiting list, he/she should be taken to the major team with an opening before a call up of a "AAA" player

C. Openings on the Minor "AAA" rosters will be filled first from the waiting list as follows: The first available twelve year old on the waiting list will be selected automatically. If there are no eligible twelve year olds available, the manager may select the next available Minor "AAA" player from the top of the waiting list, or if there is no waiting list, the manager may select any eligible Minor "AA".

D. Refusal of a Minor "AA" player to comply shall result in the forfeiture of further eligibility to play on a higher division for the remainder of the season.

E. Openings on the Minor "AA" rosters will be filled from the waiting list.

F. Openings on the Senior and Junior teams will be filled from the waiting list.

G. There will be no replacement allowed from a Minor team during the final four (4) weeks of the RMVLL regular season. The RMVLL Tournaments are not considered part of the RMVLL regular season.

H. The Player Agent is the only person authorized to contact the player or his/her parents involved in any draft up to a higher division. Any violation may lead to disciplinary action towards the appropriate person by the Board.

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I. Player movement in Minor divisions ("AAA" "AA", "A") will not take place until a team's roster is at eleven (11) players.

J. Any manager/coach who influences a player's decision regarding player movement shall be reviewed by the Board for immediate disciplinary action.

## **VII. GENERAL RULES**

A. Two adult base coaches will be allowed. However, one adult must be in the dugout at all times.

B. Adults are not allowed to warm up pitchers either before or during a game.

C. Home team will take infield first, no sooner than thirty (30) minutes before game time. Each team's infield session will not exceed ten (10) minutes. No pitching from the mound will be allowed during this warm up time.

D. A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.

E. Majors level and above will adhere to the ten (10) run "mercy Rule" in accordance with LLBI Rule 4.10 (e).

F. Managers in the Minor Divisions, ("AAA", "AA", "A") will be responsible for keeping a position sheet for each game. This will record the defensive positions and innings played by each player.

G. Official scorebooks are to be kept in the snack bar. The only exception to this rule is when a game continues beyond the closing of the snack bar. In this case, the scorebook may be secured in the closest equipment bin and a note sent to the division commissioner.

H. Pitch Count - All divisions will adhere to LLBI Rule Book, Section VI.

o League Age	17-18	105 pitches per day
	13-16	95 pitches per day
	11-12	85 pitches per day
	9-10	75 pitches per day
	7-8	50 pitches per day

I. Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

1. If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
2. If a player pitches 51 - 65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
3. If a player pitches 36 - 50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
4. If a player pitches 21 - 35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
5. If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

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J. Pitchers league age 15-18 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

1. If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
2. If a player pitches 61 - 75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
3. If a player pitches 46 - 60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
4. If a player pitches 31 - 45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar day of rest must be observed.
5. If a player pitches 1 - 30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

K. In the AA division, pitchers will be restricted to 2 innings per game maximum, even if they don't obtain their maximum pitches. The official scorekeeper will keep the pitch count. If a manager violates this rule, the manager will be subject to the same penalty cited in LLBI Rule Book IV (i). Any suspected violations of this rule should be brought to the attention of the Board for immediate action. NOTE: Umpires will remove pitchers who are in violation of this rule.

L. In the Minor divisions ("AAA", "AA", "A"), a team shall take the field when they score five (5) runs or three (3) outs have been recorded, whichever is first.

1. If in innings 1-5 a ground-rule double or over the fence home-run forces in runs that exceed the five run maximum, the additional runs shall be allowed to count. For example, if a team has scored four runs in their half of an inning and a batter hits a two-run over-the-fence home run, said team shall tally six runs for that half-inning.
2. This rule does not apply for the sixth (6th) inning. The sixth (6th) inning will have unlimited runs.
3. If a game is running late, the umpire may decide to make an earlier inning the unlimited inning.

M. No new inning will be allowed to start after 2 hours 30 minutes from the game time start in the Seniors, Juniors, Majors and "AAA" divisions unless the game is tied or during tournament play. For the "AA" and "A" divisions, no new inning will start after 2 hours 15 minutes unless the game is tied or during tournament play. An inning officially ends at the moment the last out is made in the bottom of any inning.

N. Tie breakers in "AAA" and Majors will be decided by a one game playoff unless otherwise proposed by the Division Commissioner and in concert with division managers.

O. Division Commissioners will, prior to the start of the season, establish the format of the division regular season and RMVLL Tournament

### **VIII. MAKE-UP GAMES**

A. Rained out, postponed or suspended games in the Minor "A" and above divisions will be made up. Make up games must be rescheduled for no later than the next available day after the missed game or as determined by the Division Commissioner and the Umpire in Chief. Any manager requesting a game to be rescheduled must do so by completing a "Game Schedule Change Request" Form and submitting it to the Commissioner at least 2 days before the originally scheduled game date and time. The Commissioner will review the request form, verify the reasons for players' absence, and determine whether to approve or deny the request.

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B. Should the request be denied and the team that has made the request cannot field a team of at least nine (9) players on the date and time scheduled, they will forfeit the game. Should the request be approved, the Commissioner will notify the managers of both teams involved of the change and the new date and time. The Commissioner will also be responsible for notifying the Chief Umpire and the Information Officer of the change.

C. Failure to field a team within ten (10) minutes of the scheduled start time may result in a forfeit recommendation from the Division Commissioner. The Board must approve all forfeitures.

D. Sunday make up games will not start before noon unless approved by both managers.

## **IX. DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

A. The Rancho Mission Viejo Little League, by majority vote of those League Baseball Officers present at an official Board meeting, shall have the authority to suspend, discharge or otherwise discipline any player, manager, coach, umpire, League Officer or other person whose conduct is in violation of the Rules and Regulations of Little league and/or is considered detrimental to the best interests of the league.

1. Persons subject to such discipline shall have the right to a hearing before the Board before such discipline is imposed.
2. In the event of disciplinary procedures involving a player, or other person under the age of eighteen (18), that person's parent or legal guardian shall be invited to attend the hearing with the person concerned.

B. Persons, youth or adult, who refuse to comply with the rules of Little League Baseball or the Rancho Mission Viejo Little League rules, may be considered for disciplinary action.

C. Recognizing the difficulty of establishing specific penalties for a variety of violations of acceptable conduct, the following penalties are suggested and the Board may impose the one which, in their opinion, appears to match the severity of the offense:

**WARNING:** The offending person is to be advised, in writing, of the offense and further advised that repetition of the offense will result in a more severe penalty.

**SUSPENSION:** The offending person is to be advised, in writing, that he/she has been suspended from all league activity for a specific number of games or days.

**DISMISSAL:** The offending person is to be advised, in writing, that he/she has been dismissed from the league for the remainder of the current year.

## **X. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A Director shall be entitled, if they choose, to hold the same position for two (2) consecutive terms. A Director can hold the same position for more than two (2) consecutive terms if there are no other candidates for that position, or if they are reelected to that position by a majority vote of the Board of Directors.

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## **XI. CHALLENGER DIVISION**

- A. The League will have a Challenger representative for fielding phone calls, directing inquiries to proper channels, representing the division at Board meetings and helping assign umpires, fields and buddies.
- B. The League will supply fields for the Challenger division when played as a home game.
- C. The Challenger division will not play Sunday games. See Reg. XV Official Regulations and Playing Rules. One game minimum will be played on the Major field of each league, even if that league does not have a Challenger team. Leagues without a Challenger team will make fields available on Saturdays only, due to traveling out of the area for other teams.
- D. Boys and girls are eligible for play starting from League Age 6.
- E. Team size is a minimum of nine (9) and the maximum to be the discretion of the manager.
- F. The League will supply practice field(s) for the division in accordance with how practice field(s) are assigned for other divisions in each league. If you do not have a Challenger team, a field must be assigned if requested by the representative.
- G. Each league must supply equipment and uniforms for the Challenger division. If leagues have combined to form a team, the cost shall be reimbursed to the league incurring the cost of the equipment, uniforms and awards. Amount shall be decided upon the Challenger representatives from the combined leagues with the approval of the Board.
- H. Game scheduling shall be done prior to league scheduling to prevent the Challenger division from "bumping" any teams and disrupting league schedules.
- I. A "Buddy" system shall be placed in effect for each league. The system requires that if the "Buddy" system is needed, two existing "AAA" teams shall act as "Buddies" for the Challenger teams that are scheduled to play. The Challenger Commissioner will notify the "AAA" Commissioner as to game times and "Buddy" duties.

## **XII. T-BALL**

- A. The offensive team will bat the entire order each inning. Batting orders will be reversed for the next inning.
- B. No bunting.
- C. A batted ball must come to rest over the 10-foot line or it will be deemed a foul ball.
- D. Runners shall not steal, advance on an overthrow, or continue to advance once the ball is in control of an infielder.
- E. Defensive team will field all players; six (6) in the infield, and the remainder in the outfield.

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F. No player shall play any one position for more than two (2) consecutive innings. Every player shall play a minimum of one (1) complete inning in the infield excluding catcher.

G. No infield fly rule.

H. No score or scorebooks will be kept.

I. Only reduced injury, limited flight, or soft tee baseball will be used.

J. Games are limited to three (3) innings or one and one half (1.5) hours.

### **XIII. COACH PITCH**

A. The offensive team will bat the entire order each inning.

B. The offensive team will provide a coach to deliver the pitch to the batter. This person shall not field a batted ball. If the batted ball touches the pitching coach, the ball is dead, the batter is awarded first base, and any base runners advance only if forced.

C. The pitching coach shall deliver five (5) pitches to each batter. The batter may swing at any of the five pitches without penalty of a strikeout. The batter cannot be walked, bunt, nor awarded first base by being hit by a pitch. If the batter has not put the ball in play by the fifth pitch, the batting tee will be utilized.

D. The pitching coach may pitch over or under hand.

E. A coach may be placed at the plate to assist the catcher in getting the pitched balls back to the pitcher.

F. Runners shall not steal, advance on an overthrow, or continue to advance once the ball is in the control of an infielder.

G. Defensive team will field all players; six (6) in the infield and the remainder in the outfield.

H. No player shall play any one position for more than two (2) consecutive innings. Every player shall play a minimum of one (1) complete inning in the infield excluding catcher.

I. No infield fly rule.

J. No score or scorebooks will be kept

K. Only reduced injury, limited flight, or soft tee baseball will be used

L. Games will be limited to four (4) innings or one and one half (1.5) hours.

### **XIV. "A" DIVISION**

A. Continuous batting order will be utilized. All players whether playing a defensive position or not, will take their turn at bat. Batting order will not change throughout the game.

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B. A pitching machine shall be used in this division. The home team manager will be responsible for setting up and taking down the pitching machine. The machine shall be set-up in the middle of the pitcher's circle and set to a speed of 35 MPH.

C. The offensive team shall provide a volunteer to operate the pitching machine. The person operating the pitching machine shall present five (5) pitches to each batter. The batter may swing at all of the pitches regardless of the number of strikes. The batter may not walk nor be awarded first base by being hit by a pitch. The batter is not allowed to bunt.

D. The batter shall be out on the fifth (5th) pitch if the ball is not hit in fair territory, unless the pitch is a foul ball.

E. If a batted ball hits the pitching machine or the operator feeding the machine, the ball is dead and the batter will be awarded first base and any base runners will advance one base.

F. However, if a batted ball touches any part of any defensive player prior to hitting the pitching machine or operator feeding the machine, then the ball remains live and in play.

G. The operator of the pitching machine shall make adjustments to the machine only when both managers consent. Adjustments shall only be allowed after the completion of the bottom half of an inning unless the machine is hit out of adjustment by a batted ball.

H. The operator of the pitching machine is not allowed to give instructions to the batter.

I. There will be a maximum of two bases on any hit unless it is an over the fence home run. In order for a runner to advance two bases, the ball must have either been hit to the outfield or an overthrow must have occurred.

J. Stealing is not allowed.

K. A defensive team shall field a maximum of nine (9) players, with three (3) playing in the outfield. For an official game to occur, both teams are required to field a minimum of nine (9) players throughout the entire game. The catcher's position must be filled at all times.

L. No player shall play any one (1) position for more than two (2) consecutive innings.

1. All players must sit out one inning before another player sits for a second inning.
2. Every player must play a minimum of two (2) complete innings in the infield, not necessarily consecutive. For Single A, the catcher position does not count towards the two (2) innings in the infield minimum play requirement.

M. The defensive pitcher is required to have at least one foot within the dirt (pitcher's mound) area at the time of each pitch. At the umpire's discretion, a batter may return to bat if he was thrown out at first base by a pitcher who did not have at least one foot in the pitcher's mound area.

N. Defensive outfielders cannot make an out by tagging a base or tagging a runner. They can record an out by catching a fly ball or throwing a batted ball to an infielder.

O. No infield fly rule

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## **XV. "AA" DIVISION**

- A. Continuous batting order will be utilized. All players, whether playing a defensive position or not, will take their turn at bat. Batting order will not change throughout the game.
- B. No player shall play any one (1) position for more than two (2) consecutive innings.
  - 1. All players must sit out one inning before another player sits for a second inning.
  - 2. Every player must play a minimum of one (1) complete inning at an infield position.
- C. Catchers are encouraged to attempt throwing out stealing runners. Even on an overthrow by the catcher, runners may not advance further than the base they are attempting to steal.
- D. Stealing home will not be allowed.
- E. No infield fly rule.

## **XVI. "AAA" DIVISION**

- A. Continuous batting order will be utilized. All players, whether playing a defensive position or not, will take their turn at bat. Batting order will not change throughout the game.
- B. Minimum playing time is nine (9) defensive outs with one (1) complete inning at an infield position.
- C. If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of fifteen (15) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

## **XVII. MAJORS DIVISION**

- A. Continuous batting order will be utilized. All players, whether playing a defensive position or not, will take their turn at bat. Batting order will not change throughout the game.
- B. Minimum playing time is nine (9) defensive outs.

## **XVIII. TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS**

- A. Two (2) teams from the Majors, and "AAA" Divisions are selected to play in the District Tournament of Champions. The Division Commissioner shall establish the criteria for each division for berths in this tournament prior to season commencement. All Junior teams make the TOC.

## **XIX. ALL STAR MANAGER AND COACH SELECTION**

- A. The manager of the Majors Division Champion will be considered as the All Star manager. If a manager declines to be a candidate for the manager position, then the manager of the next highest placed team will be considered as the candidate. This means that the Manager

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of the "AAA" Division Champion is given the opportunity to be considered as Manager of 9/10-year-old All Star Team. If he declines, it may be offered to the manager of the next highest placed team in AAA until a manager is named.

B. Manager of the Majors Division Champion is given their choice of being a candidate to manage the Little League Majors All Star Team or the 11-year-old All Star Team. Once the 1st position is decided, the candidacy to manage the remaining team (either the Little League Majors All Star Team or the 11 Year Old All Star Team) is offered to the next highest placed team in the Majors Division successively until a manager is named for both teams.

C. The Manager of the Junior Division Champion is given the opportunity to be considered as Manager of the Junior All Star Team. If he declines, it will be offered to the manager of the next highest placed team in Juniors until a manager is named.

D. The Manager of the Seniors Division team with the best record is given the opportunity to be considered as Manager of the Seniors All Star Team. If he declines, it will be offered to the manager of the next highest placed team in Seniors until a manager is named.

E. Once the manager has been selected and has accepted his/her position, the Manager will choose two (2) coaches. These selections will be made from the remaining division managers or coaches.

F. Ultimately, the Board of Directors has the authority and responsibility to approve both the selection of managers and coaches.

## **XX. ALL-STAR TEAM SELECTION**

The team will consist of up to thirteen (13) players, one (1) manager and two (2) Coaches. Managers may choose to select only 12 players. The team will be selected by a committee known as the All-Star Selection Committee (ASSC). The ASSC will be comprised of the managers from their respective divisions (Seniors will have one ASSC, Juniors will have one ASSC, Majors will have one ASSC, and "AAA" will have one ASSC). If any manager is unable to attend his/her division ASSC meeting, he/she will select one of his/her coaches to attend in his/her place. The Chairperson for each ASSC will be the Division Commissioner for that specific division. The Board President and the Director of All-Stars will also attend each division ASSC meeting. At the direction of the Chairperson, each division ASSC will meet and at that meeting they will elect their respective divisions' All-Star Team. The Chairperson, the Board President, and the Director of All-Stars will not be eligible to vote on selection; however, if any issue, including selection, is unresolved by the ASSC at the called meeting, it will be resolved by the Chairperson, the President, and the All-Star Director prior to the meeting being adjourned.

The ASSC will consider these items in their selection:

1. Players must be physically capable of playing the entire All-Star season; i.e. not injured and not committed to vacation or other plans that may prevent the player from playing.
2. Should a player have to leave the All-Star team due to injury, conflicts in schedule, or any other reason, the replacement player will be selected by the Manager. Once tournament play begins, no replacement players will be added to the team (LLBI Rule Book).
3. No player will be eligible for selection to an All-Star Team, unless a signed waiver of participation is submitted to the Board.