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GABSA Softball Operating Manual

2024

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I: VISION

The mission of ***GABSA Fastpitch Softball*** is to mold our teams into not only great athletes, but also great young women. It also is our goal to help create memories that will last these young women throughout their lifetime. ***GABSA Fastpitch Softball*** provides a safe and competitive environment for young players to learn and enjoy the game of fast-pitch softball.  ***GABSA Fastpitch Softball*** was established for the dual purpose of developing a quality recreational program for players from Greencastle. Dedicated coaches and volunteers will facilitate our athletes’ growth through stepwise development of softball skills, instilling core life values of character, integrity, confidence, self-esteem and sportsmanship. Our teams will promote our values both on and off the field.  On the field, we will strive to do our best while, off the field, we will strive to be an outstanding community citizen.  In all situations, we will represent ***GABSA Fastpitch Softball*** and the community with the utmost respect.

II: ORGANIZATION AND OPERATING GUIDELINES

* Organization:
	+ Greencastle Softball Little League is organized under the Greencastle Antrim Baseball/Softball Association (GABSA).
	+ GABSA Fastpitch Softball will be governed by Chairpersons appointed and approved by the Greencastle Antrim Baseball/Softball Association each year.
	+ GABSA Softball League Chairperson are responsible for the following:
		- Managers
		- All Protests and Problems
		- Game Scheduling and Field Practices
		- Rescheduling Postponed Games
		- Organization Registration
		- League Meetings
		- All-Star Games
	+ The League is chartered by Little League® Softball in District 14.
* Operating Guidelines
	+ GABSA and Little League® Softball rules, regulations, and operations apply except as amended herein.
	+ This manual addresses all softball divisions Minor, Major, and Senior of the League.
	+ The League directors will review/revise this manual annually or as necessary.
	+ Based on expected returning players and new League registrations, the League currently plans to field 3 Minor Teams, 3 Major Teams, and 1 Senior Team.
	+ Team names will be based on sponsorships.

III: SEASONAL SCHEDULE

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Registration | December-Early February |
| Player Selection | Early March |
| Team Practices Begin | Early-Mid March |
| Regular Softball Little League Season Games Begin | April 8th |
| Opening Day | April 8th |
| Regular Softball Little League Season Games End | End of May |

\*Must play 8 Little League Softball Games to be tournament eligible in Minors and Majors.

IV: RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS/LEAGUE BOUNDARY

According to the Little League Website:

Each local Little League determines the actual geographic boundaries of the area from within which it shall select players. These boundaries must be described in detail and shown on a map and dated when making application for a Little League charter. Players will be eligible to play with that league only if they reside, or the physical location of the school where they attend classes, is within the boundaries provided to and approved by Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

* A player will be deemed to reside within the league boundaries if:
	+ His/her parents are living together and are residing within such league boundaries, OR;
	+ Either of the player’s parents (or his/her court-appointed legal guardian) reside within such boundaries. It is unacceptable if a parent moves into a league’s boundaries for the purpose of qualifying for tournament play. As detailed later in these rules, the penalty for violation of this rule may, in Little League Baseball, Incorporated’s discretion, result in the disqualification of a player, team or entire league from regular season and/or tournament play.
	+ Residence,” “reside” and “residing” refers to a place of bonafide continuous habitation. A place of residence once established shall not be considered changed unless the parents, parent or guardian makes a bonafide change of residence.

Residence shall be established and supported by documents containing the full residence which includes parent(s) or guardian(s) name, street address, city, state and zip code information, dated or in force between February 1 of the previous year and February 1 of the current year, from one or more documents from EACH of the three Groups outlined below:

Group I

* Driver’s License
* School Records
* Vehicle Records (i.e., Registration, Lease, etc.)
* Employment Records
* Insurance Documents

Group II

* Welfare/Child Care Records
* Federal Records (i.e., Federal Tax, Social Security, etc.)
* State Records
* Local (Municipal) Records
* Support Payment Records
* Homeowner or Tenant Records
* Military Records

Group III

* Voter’s Registration
* Utility Bills (i.e., Gas, Electric, Water/Sewer, Phone, Heating, Waste Disposal)
* Financial Records
* Medical Records
* Internet, Cable, or Satellite Records

IMPORTANT NOTE: Example – Three documents from the same Group (utility bill, cable bill, and bank statement) constitute only ONE document. Players who established “residence” or “school attendance” for regular season and/or tournament prior to the 2016-2017 season using the Player Verification Form and can produce the form with proper proofs and signatures, will be grandfathered and will NOT need to complete a new Player Verification Form.

Any documents submitted as proof of residence must show customary usage or consumption to demonstrate bonafide continuous habitation as determined by Little League Baseball, Incorporated in its discretion.

A player will be deemed to attend school in the boundaries if: The physical location of the school where they attend classes is within the boundaries established by the local league. Note: This excludes home schools, cyber schools, sports-related schools, sports academies, or preschool or after school where a student participates outside of the primary school the player is enrolled.

“School attendance” refers to the (place) physical location the player in question attends school during the traditional academic year. Once established, a location of school attendance shall not be considered changed unless the child is enrolled and attends another school or is no longer enrolled in the previous school.

School attendance shall be established and supported by a document indicating enrollment for the current academic year, dated prior to October 1 of the current year and with the physical location of the school, from ONE of the following categories to determine school attendance by such player:

* Official/Certified School enrollment record
* The Little League-issued school attendance form completed by the principal, assistant principal, or administrator.

It is recommended that the league require some proof of residence or school attendance within the league’s boundaries at the time the player registers. Players and their parents/guardians are advised that a false statement of residence or school attendance may lead to ineligibility to play Little League Baseball or Softball.

Greencastle Little League consists of all of Antrim, Montgomery, Warren, Peters, & Saint Thomas Townships, inclusive of Greencastle & Mercersburg Boroughs, as well as portions of Hamilton Township, Guilford Township, and Chambersburg Borough, located in Franklin County Pennsylvania.

Please reference… https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/league-finder/ to find our boundary map. Use the address 451 W. Washington St Greencastle PA 17225

V: REGISTRATION

* Parent or legal guardian can register their child at http://gabsa.org/ OR
* At Scheduled in Person Registration which dates can be found on http://gabsa.org/
* Payment is required at registration.
* League Participants may be required to participate in various fundraisers throughout the season.

VI: AGE CHART

* The Age Determination Date for a Little League Softball Player is the actual age of a child on December 31st of previous year.



*\*Players will be moved to a division either up or down at the discretion of the league chairs/directors according to safety, numbers, and what is deemed best for the league.*

**Tee Ball**

* Players who are league age 4-7 are eligible to be selected to a Tee Ball Team

**Minors**

* Players who are league age 7-9 are eligible to be selected to a Minor League Division (Coach and Player Pitch) team.

**Majors**

* Players who are league age 9-12 are eligible to be selected to a Little League (“Major”) Division team for the regular season. The local league board of directors may restrict this division to players who are league age 10-12 or 11-12

**Seniors**

* Players who are league age 12-16 are eligible to be selected to a Senior League Division team for the regular season. The local league board of directors may decide to have different age-cutoff for this division, provided it is within the grouping noted.

***\*Those who are not included among the league ages listed above are not eligible for any softball division in Little League for the current season.***

VII: LEVELS OF COMPETITION

GABSA Fastpitch Softball competes in the following leagues:

1. Softball Little League follows Softball Little League Rules

* Tee Ball Softball is for girls 4-5 years old (with a local option for 6- and/or 7-year-olds) who want to learn the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. In Tee Ball Softball, players hit a ball off a batting tee. Rules of the game may be varied to accommodate the need for teaching and should focus on fun, fitness, and fundamentals. The primary goals of Tee Ball Softball are to instruct children in the fundamentals of softball and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork. There is no minimum or maximum composition for Tee Ball rosters, but we would recommend smaller roster sizes to help keep all players engaged. No live pitching is permitted in this division. Generally, the diamond used is a 60-foot diamond, but the league has the option to use a 50-foot diamond. Parents are strongly encouraged to become involved as managers, coaches, and volunteer in a variety of other capacities. For additional Little League Tee Ball resources visit LittleLeague.org/TeeBall.
* Minor League Softball is for participants 5-11 years old and can be operated with multiple divisions that are based on age and/or ability. Divisions may include “machine pitch,” “coach pitch” and “player pitch.” By local option, a player who is league age 5 or 6 for the current season and has played a year in Tee Ball is eligible for the coach pitch or machine pitch minor divisions. A local league might organize its 7-8-year-olds in the Coach Pitch Division and its 9-10-year-olds in the Player Pitch division; however, by local option, some of the 9-year-olds could “play down” in the coach pitch division, and some of the 8-year-olds could “play up.” This is entirely the choice of the local league board of directors. (League age 12-year-olds may participate in the Minor Division under certain circumstances.) There is no minimum or maximum composition for rosters, but most leagues have rosters in the 8-12 range. Competitive divisions of Minor League Softball may only use nine players on defense. The diamond has 60-foot base paths and a 35 foot pitching distance. Parents are strongly encouraged to become involved as managers, coaches, and volunteer in a variety of other capacities.
	+ Local League Rules: Minors teams will be able to field 10 players (4 outfielders)
		- All Star Teams will field 9 (3 outfielders)
	+ Minor league will do a combined coach and player pitch. Kid pitch will be innings 2,4,6. Coaches will take over pitching in those innings if the pitcher has walked 3 players in the inning.
	+ Minor league will cap innings 1-5 to 5 runs. The 6th inning will have no cap.
	+ Minor league will honor the following run rules:
		- 15 after 3, 10 after 4, 8 after 5
	+ Minor league is allowed to steal all bases except home. They can leave the base once the pitch has reached the batter.
* Little League (Major Division). The Little League Softball® division (sometimes known as the Major Division) is for players ages 9-12. A local league may choose to limit its Major Division to 10-, 11- and 12-year-olds, or 11-12-year-olds. The field uses a 60-foot diamond and a 40 foot pitching distance. A local league may dual-roster 12-year-olds, assessed capable, to a Major and a Junior division softball team. The local league has an option to choose a Tournament Team (or “All Stars”) of 10-to-12-year-olds from within this division, and the team may enter the International Tournament. The culmination of the International Tournament is the Girls Little League Softball World Series, featuring teams from around the world. All expenses for the teams advancing to the World Series (travel, meals, and housing) are paid by Little League International. Parents are strongly encouraged to become involved as managers, coaches, and volunteer in a variety of other capacities.

IMPORTANT: A local league must only have ONE Major Division. For instance, if the local league has all 11–12-year-olds in the Majors, and all 9-10s in another division, then the 9-10s MUST be chartered an play a Minor Division.

* Senior Division: The Senior League Softball Division is for girls 13-16 years old, using a 60-foot diamond with a pitching distance of 43 feet. The local league has an option to choose a Tournament Team (or “All Stars”) of 13-16-year-olds from within this division (and/or from within the Junior League Softball divisions), and the team may enter the International Tournament. The culmination of the International Tournament is the Senior League Softball World Series, featuring teams from around the world. All expenses for the teams advancing to the World Series (travel, meals and housing) are paid by Little League International.

***\*Please refer to the following website for softball little league rules:*** [***https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/***](https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/) ***or you can download the Little League Rulebook APP***

VIII: REGULAR SEASON COACHES

* The GABSA Board of Directors will approve all regular season coaches.
* Individuals interested in coaching a League team must contact a League director or member of the GABSA board no later than February.
* If there are more candidates than coaching positions available, the coaches will be decided by a majority vote of the Little League Committee and approved by the GABSA Board.
* Coaches are not guaranteed the same team from year-to-year.
* All coaches shall conduct themselves in a sportsman like manner at all times. Failure to do so could lead to dismissal as manager.
* Coaches’ responsibilities are as followed:
	+ Be in control of their players, coaches, and their fans always.
	+ Appoint a team Mother/Father
	+ Support all fundraisers conducted by the association.
	+ Cover all team concession stand assignments.
	+ Assist on all scheduled field clean-up days.
	+ Cleanup the dugout area after all games and practices.
	+ Be responsible for all league equipment and uniforms.

IX: PLAYER SELECTION PROCEDURES

The League Chairperson and Player Agent are responsible for the overall management and fairness of the League player selection procedures (the “Draft”). The League will redraft all Minor and Major Division teams each year. (These Draft procedures should be reviewed after each season to determine effectiveness for balancing competition within the divisions.) The League will follow Little League® prescribed Draft procedures for an existing league planning to redraft all teams in the League (This applies to both the Major and Minor divisions).

**Major division draft**:

The Major League draft will consist of players ages 10-12. Players can be drafted in any round based on skill level regardless of age. 9–10-Year-olds will be placed in the Major League draft at the discretion of the Little League committee or request of the parent(s). One requirement is that all 12-year-olds must be drafted to a Major League team. GABSA will use the Plan A: Option 2 of the Little League Operating Manuel for draft rules.

Draft order will be determined by a random drawing as mentioned above, and a snake draft will be held with the team holding the 1st overall pick, picking last in the 2nd round.

**Minor Division Draft:**

 The Minor Division Draft will consist of players ages 7-9. Players can be drafted in any round based on skill level regardless of age. 6-year-olds will be placed in the Minor league draft at the discretion of the Little League committee or request of the parent(s). Draft order will be determined by a random drawing as mentioned above, and a snake draft will be held with the team holding the 1st overall pick, picking last in the 2nd round, 1st in the 3rd round and so on.

**Draft Options for sons, daughters and siblings are as follows:**

1. Sons/Daughters of Managers – Prior to draft order being determined, managers will assign a grade to the son/daughter of each manager based on what round they think that player would go in if they weren’t a manager’s son/daughter. The player agent will average the grades of each player and that will be the round that they will need to be selected. Managers with a child who got a 1st round grade will be slotted at the bottom of the 1st round. The LL committee has the power to make changes as they deem necessary.

2. Brothers/Sisters in the Draft - When there are two or more siblings in the Draft, and the first brother or sister is drafted by a manager in rounds 1-3, that manager automatically will draft the other brother/sister in round 4. For Brothers/Sisters drafted in rounds 4 or after, the other sibling is required to be drafted in the next round.

X: UMPIRES

Each Major and Minor Division game will have a one-person umpire crew. The home plate umpire will be a Little League® certified umpire. The base umpire can be a manager/coach who shall remain for the entirety of the game. The volunteer base umpires may consist only of managers, coaches, and volunteers approved by the League. Umpires must be at least 16 years of age and should be knowledgeable of the game.

The League Championship series games will have two-person Little League® certified umpiring crews, preferably from the Little League® certified umpire pool used during the regular season. Umpire “No Show”: Any manager, coach, or other individual offering to assist with umpiring the game must be agreed upon by both managers before the start of the game.

The home plate umpire will receive $50 per game plus a large drink.

XI: MAJOR/MINOR DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

The League Championship Series will be a single elimination tournament with all teams involved. In the event of an odd number of teams, the regular season champion will get a 1st round bye. Tie to be determined first by head-to-head record and then runs allowed. The League will provide 1st and 2nd place trophies after the championship series.

XII: Little League® Tournament Teams

The League will determine the potential for fielding Little League® sanctioned tournament teams and other League supported All-Star teams each season based on number of available players, player talent, and approval from the GABSA Board for financial support. Final decision to field teams representing the League resides with the League directors and GABSA Board.

**Participation**

* To participate on a tournament team representing the League in a Little League® Baseball sanctioned tournament, players must supply the team manager with the original birth certificate and residency or school attendance must be verified according to Little League regulations

**Manager Selection**

* Nominations for managers of the tournament teams will be taken during the regular season. Tournament teams managers and coaches must have served as a manager or coach during the regular season. The appointment of tournament team managers will be decided by vote of the League directors and managers. The votes will be tabulated by the League directors.
* All-tournament team managers MUST attend two of the District 14 umpire clinics prior to the season.
* Each manager will select two coaches and present their names to the board for approval. The manager will be responsible for distributing team uniforms and any playing fee that is necessary.

**Player Selection**

* Up to eleven players will be voted for each team. It is important that each player will be available to the team throughout the entire tournament season.
* **Major Team**
	+ This team will be selected by vote of Board members (5 points), Major division managers and coaches (5 points), and 11/12-year-old players (1 point). The top 11 vote getters will make the team. The manager may choose to add additional players IAW Little League® rules and regulations. This team will play in the Little League® sanctioned District 14 tournament striving to win the Little League® World Series.
* **Minors Team**
	+ This team will be selected by vote of Board Members / League directors (5 points), Major or Minor division managers (5 points). The top 11 vote getters will make the team. This team will play in the Little League® sanctioned 10/11-Year-Old Tournament striving to win the 10/11 Year-Old Pennsylvania Little League® State Championship.
	+ NOTE: If a voter qualifies under two of the above titles, his/her vote will only count for 5 points total.
	+ NOTE: If a player is voted on to more than one Little League Tournament team, the player and his parents will have the choice as to which team the player will be a part of.

XIII: Local Tournaments & Travel Teams

* **Local Tournaments**
	+ The League will only field/sponsor teams in local tournaments after the completion of the regular season and completion of or elimination from Little League® sanctioned.
* **Travel Teams**
	+ Any participation on other tournament, all-star, or travel teams by League managers, coaches, or players during or after the regular season is at the discretion of the individual(s) and is not sponsored by the League. These teams WILL NOT represent the League, be insured by the League, receive funds from the League, or be authorized use of GABSA facilities/fields unless approved by the GABSA Board. Participation in such activities will not interfere with League sponsored regular season games or tournament teams.

**GABSA is dedicated to providing a quality Little League softball program for the youth of Greencastle, ages 4-16. GABSA seeks to help its players develop their baseball skills, love for the game, teamwork, sportsmanship, and their character.**