2025 Rookie League Rules & Guidelines

**Regular Season**

1. All managers and coaches (including team mom) must complete background check. Info can be found at gabsa.org.
2. Each manager should designate a team mom to help with scheduling/contacts/etc. They will need to attend the “Team parents’ meeting” (date & location TBD)
3. **Each team will work at least two times at Clary Field Concession Stand (5-6 people needed per shift).**
4. League will supply hats & shirts. Baseball pants and spikes are recommended. Fielding gloves are required (if a player can’t afford it, please see a board member). Catchers are required to wear protective cups.
5. **Kauffman field: First manager or coach to arrive will line field and install bases. Other team is responsible for putting equipment and bases away and raking in holes**.
6. The shed at Kauffman (and locker at Zeis) has practice balls, game balls (2 per game), batting helmets, catcher’s gear, bats, line chalk, and bases. There will also be a lost & found box as well as a first aid kit. Please make sure all items are put back at the end of each game and the shed/locker are locked when you leave.
7. Please clean out dugouts and pick up any trash around the field/bleachers at the end of each game. When playing at Zeis, full trash cans should be emptied into the dumpster and a new bag put in. Ask someone in the concession stand for trash bags.
8. If there are any serious injuries during practices or games, please be sure to notify Rodney Rose (301) 992-3007 or Brad Cordell (717-658-5109)
9. Additional practices before or during the season can be scheduled at the manager’s discretion. Contact Rodney Rose or Brad Cordell for available fields/dates.
10. If questionable weather, managers must communicate to make a decision. Notify parents as soon as possible when a decision has been made. Postponed games should be made up if possible. To find out field availability options for makeup games, contact Cheyenne Kempen (717-331-9033).
11. Games are to be immediately stopped at the 1st sign of lightning and players should be sent to their parents to seek shelter in vehicles away from trees. Play may not resume until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. There is a lightning detector in the shed at Kauffman please turn on if there is a threat of lightning. Remember to turn off before leaving.
12. During the season all Saturday games will be at Zeis Field (behind Clary Field)
13. All schedule requests or changes should be sent to Rodney Rose or Brad Cordell
14. **The regular season is to be instructional- score is not officially kept. Stop game to help or instruct players if necessary.** Scorebooks will be given to each team to help manage games.
15. There is to be no smoking or tobacco products of any kind used at any of the fields.
16. Dogs are not permitted at any of the fields
17. Evaluations to be held in conjunction with Minor/Majors at date, time, and location to be determined
18. The GABSA Board of Directors will approve all regular season managers and coaches. Individuals interested in managing a League team (Rookie division) must contact a League director or member of the GABSA board NLT February 15 of each season.
	1. If there are more candidates than manager positions available, the managers will be decided by a majority vote of the Little League Committee and approved by the GABSA Board.
	2. The League will fill manager positions for the Rookie Division prior to the annual player selection process.
	3. Teams will be assigned to managers based on available sponsors. Team draft order will be randomly selected at a scheduled Managers meeting. Managers are not guaranteed the same team from year-to-year.
	4. A manager may not appoint a coach until after the player selection process to avoid “Red Shirting” players through selective coaching appointments. Coaches for both divisions will be appointed/selected after player selection is complete.
19. Player Selection Procedures:
	1. The League Chairperson and an unaffiliated Little League Committee member are responsible for the overall management and fairness of the League player selection procedures (the “Draft”). The League will redraft all Rookie 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 the Rookie division).

**Games**

1. Games will be 6 innings (Daylight Permitting)
2. 1st Inning – Kid Pitch 2nd Inning – Coach Pitch 3rd Inning – Kid Pitch 4th Inning – Coach Pitch 5th Inning – Kid Pitch 6th Inning - Coach Pitch
	1. If coaches agree before game that they only have 2 kids that can pitch that particular game, Then Kid Pitch will be the 1st and 5th Inning
	2. Pitcher can only pitch a total of 2 innings per game. Total of 3 innings per week if there is 2 games. If there is 3 games in that week then max of 4 innings.
3. A complete inning is (5) runs or (3) outs.
4. 11 players will play in the field (5 outfielders).
5. During kid pitch, the coach of the batting team calls balls and strikes from behind the pitcher (strike zone should be from **chin to shin and just a little wider than home plate** uses fair judgment). 3 strikes=out. 4 balls=walk
6. Players can strike out against Coach Pitch only after five (5) total pitches by coach pitcher, but cannot take a walk or a HBP. Foul ball on the 5th pitch grants another pitch.
7. Coaches may pitch from in front of mound either standing or on a knee to more accurately represent realistic “kid pitch”.
8. Choose 2 or 3 pitchers (preferably) per game who can throw accurately during practice session.
	1. The pitching rubber is at 40’- have parents work with pitchers at home if possible.
	2. At mid-season, the pitching rubber will be moved to 43’
9. When the pitcher walks a batter, it counts as a walk toward that half inning, the batting team coach shall pitch to the batter, not to exceed five (5) pitches. If the pitcher walks three or hits two batters in an inning, a coach from the hitting team will finish pitching the inning. Players cannot walk or take 1st on HBP during coach pitch.
10. No bunts or leadoffs allowed. – Changes made
11. Base runners can advance until the pitcher (Coach/Kid, Player/Player Pitch) has the ball and is in the pitcher’s area (use good judgment) or the ball is Out of Play (Overthrows outside of the baselines). If runner is not at least halfway when the pitcher receives the ball he should return to previous base. Chalk lines should be made at the midway point of each base to help make this determination. Players **MAY NOT** advance on an overthrow of 1st base or 3rd Base.
12. To keep the game moving, fielding team should supply a coach at backstop to return passed balls. The fielding team may also have a coach in the outfield to help with instruction.
13. Batting team will supply coaches at first and third bases (teach base running skills).
14. Change players fielding positions throughout the game (don’t put less skilled players in vulnerable positions – safety first).
15. Only the batter is to have bat in hands. Rest of batting team should be behind the fence.
	1. There are to be no bats held in the on-deck area of the dugout.
16. Bats must not be thrown- players should be given a warning for a 1st offense in a game and be called “out” for subsequent occurrences.
17. Try to finish all 6 innings, but Saturday games are not to go over the 2 hour time limit. No new inning to start after 1hr 45 mins. To allow other teams time to warmup for next game. If there is no game scheduled after current game, play may continue if discuss amongst the Manager. When playing at the GABSA main complex and there is a game after the Rookie game, no new inning may start after 1 hour 30 minutes - teams will complete the current inning if time allows. There will be a “drop dead” time at 1 hour 45 minutes.
18. Have batting and fielding line-up posted in your dugout. Make sure players are ready if their turn is next. Rotate lineup from game to game so the same kids are not always batting last.
19. Players may not sit the bench more than 1 inning per game unless due to special request, injury, or coach discipline.
20. Players will line-up at home plate after each game and shake hands.

**League Tournament**

1. Double elimination league tournament to be held at the end of the season.
2. Seedings to be determined by drawing numbers from a hat.
3. Each game will be umpired by 2 managers or coaches from a team not playing. Submit list of willing coaches before the 1st round and assignments will be given as games are played.
4. There is to be no arguing with the umpires.
5. All games will be played just like regular season games. (Kid/Coach Pitch)
6. Pitchers are limited to a maximum of 2 inning per game. All players will bat and must play a minimum of 2 innings in the field.
7. Gameplay rules are same as regular season including when the pitcher walks a batter it counts as a walk toward that half inning, the batting team coach shall pitch to the batter, not to exceed five (5) pitches. If the pitcher walks three or hits two batters in an inning, a coach from the hitting team will finish pitching the inning. Players cannot walk or take 1st on HBP during coach pitch. Try to avoid “lobbing” the ball.
8. Each team must have a scorekeeper. Scorebooks will be provided. Winning team should submit game scores to TBD.
9. If two teams end the tournament with 1 loss each, there will be a determining Championship game.

**Tournament Team (Travel Team)**

1. Any Interested Rookie/Minor Team Manager to Coach the Tournament team must notify the Rookie League director in charge that season by 5pm on 4th Saturday in May.
2. By Saturday May 24th, each Managers will submit 2/3 top candidates from their team to be considered for the GABSA 7/8 “A” Tournament team. Parents must be contacted to find out if they are willing to commit to the team if selected.
3. There will be a Minor/Rookie league managers ONLY meeting to vote on the submitted names at the end of May (date TBD) then team members will be announced by June 1st.
4. The top 8 vote getters will be added to the team. Additional roster spots will be filled by players selected by the Team Manager.
5. Practices are permitted to begin after the end of year league tournament.
6. **Two or three tournaments will be played in June/July**, one of which is the PA District 14 Clarence Boyd Tournament. Parents can expect to have practices/games at least 3 nights/week.