



**RANCHO NIGUEL LITTLE LEAGUE  
ADMINISTRATIVE LEAGUE RULES FOR 2012**

Updated January 2012

These rules are an addendum to the Little League Official Regulations and Playing Rules, Little League Operating Manual, and Rancho Niguel Little League Constitution. Any modifications to those official rules are covered in this document.

**I. LEAGUE FORMAT**

Division	League Age <sup>1</sup>	Exceptions
Senior	15, 16	14 if requested by parents
Junior	13, 14	
Major	11, 12	
AAA	9, 10, 11	12 for safety reasons only
AA	8, 9, 10	11 for safety reasons only
Single A	7, 8	9 if requested by parents
Rookie Ball	6 <sup>2</sup> , 7	8 if requested by parents
T-Ball	5, 6	7 if requested by parents
Challenger	6-18	Older if still in school

1. League age is defined as the age of the player as of April 30, 2011.
2. Six-year-olds can play in the Rookie Ball Division only if they played Tee Ball during the 2010 season.
3. The league President on a case-by-case basis may grant other exceptions.

**II. PLAYERS AND MANAGERS**

1. All players wanting to play in the AA division or above must tryout prior to the draft date, except returning Junior or Senior division players. If a player does not tryout, he may be placed on the waiting list.
2. All managers enter the draft without coaches, except returning Junior or Senior division coaches.
3. The rosters of Majors division teams must be kept at twelve (12) players during the season. AAA and AA teams may carry fewer than twelve (12) players, but the league will make an effort to maintain teams at twelve (12) players. Replacement players, if needed, are taken from the waiting list, in order of the player's registration date. If there is no waiting list, a player is acquired from a lower division. If the player chosen by the manager declines to move up to the higher division, he must remain in the lower division for the remainder of the year. A team may have only one player moved to a higher division until all teams at the same level have had one player moved to a higher division. Acquisitions from a lower division will be made only when a player leaves the team more than thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the RNLL playoffs. The Player Agent will manage all player movement, and make final judgments as required.



4. If a player misses more than a week of baseball, the manager must report it to their commissioner. If the manager does not report it, the manager will be suspended for the next scheduled game and may be subject to other penalties. The commissioner will then report it to the Board of Directors to determine the next steps.
5. 2011 RNLL Player Selection System

### **Modified Plan A**

#### **To be used for AA, AAA and Majors**

The managers draw numbers to determine who will select the first player. In an eight-team league, the manager who draws number one makes the following player selections: 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 32<sup>nd</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup>, etc.: The manager who draws number two makes the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, 15<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, 34<sup>th</sup>, etc. This format of selection will continue for managers drawing the 3 through 8 draft positions. The number of new players eligible to be drafted into each division shall be limited. This limit will be set to insure that all returning players from that division, who have registered and gone through tryouts, are reselected.

### **Options on Sons, Daughters and Siblings**

#### **A. Brothers/Sisters in the Draft:**

When there are two or more siblings in the draft, and they are of the same division age and ability (determined by the Player Agent), the parents/guardian can request that the siblings be drafted on the same team. If such an option is submitted by the parent/guardian, and the first brother or sister is drafted by a manager, that manager automatically drafts the other brother or sister on the next turn. If there is no parent/guardian request, the manager who drafts the first brother or sister automatically has an option to draft the other brother or sister on the next turn. If the manager does not exercise that option, the second sibling is then available to be drafted by any team.

#### **B. Sons/Daughters of Managers:**

If a manager has sons and/or daughters eligible for the draft, and wishes to draft them, he/she must submit the option in writing. If so stated, the parent/manager is required to exercise the option at or before the close of the specific draft round, depending on the League Age of sons and/or daughters. Parent/manager option takes priority over any other option.

### **Draft Rounds**

#### **A. For Majors and AAA Divisions**

To establish an equitable distribution of player talent in each of our divisions, Rancho Niguel Little League adopted a substitute Little League Player Selection System. This Player Selection System will be implemented in Majors and the AAA division of Minors. The draft order of a manager's child will be based on the projected draft round of that child. To determine the projected draft round, each manager will submit a proposed ranking list by round, plus 2 players per round, for 3 rounds. Example: If there are 10 teams in the league, each manager will submit a ranking of the top 36 players (i.e. 10 per round + 2) x 3 = 36. The player agent will then take all



the ballots to determine a fair and equitable ranking for the top 30 players. If a manager's child is projected in the top 10 in this example, he will need to take his child in round 1. If the child is ranked 11-20, he will go in the 2nd round. If the child is ranked 21-30, he will go in round 3rd. Any manager's child who is not ranked in the top 3 rounds must be drafted in round 4. The exceptions to this rule will follow the Operations Manual per the following:

- A 12 year old in Majors cannot go later than round 3.
- A 11 year old cannot go later than round 4
- A 10 year old cannot go later than round 5
- A 9 year old cannot go later than round 5

#### B. For AA Division

If an option is submitted in writing for the son and/or daughter of a manager, such candidate must be drafted in or before **round 5**.

### III. GENERAL PLAYING RULES

- a. The home team is responsible for preparing the field before the game and is also responsible for providing an umpire if needed.
- b. There will be no batting within 30 minutes of game time. This applies to batting cage work, wiffle ball practice, hitting into a net, etc. Failure to comply may result in sanctions imposed on the manager.
- c. The Home team provides the official scorekeeper. The official score book must be signed by the scorekeeper and both managers.
- d. The Little League Pledge will be recited prior to each game. Each team will send at least one player to the pitcher's mound to lead the pledge. The Parent Pledge will follow the Little League Pledge and be recited after the Little League Pledge and prior to each game. The Parent's Pledge will be lead by the Home Team Manager and/or Coach. The pledge will be recited in the same manner as the Little League Pledge where the parents/fans repeat after the Manager and/or Coach.
- e. There is no time limit on games in the Majors division. All games will be played through 6 full innings unless the mercy rule is in effect or a tie game is suspended because of light curfew. When there is a game immediately following, no new inning shall be started after 2 hours from the time the game started for AA and AAA, no new inning shall be started after 1½ hours from the time the game started for Single A and Rookie Ball division games and no new inning shall be started after one (1) hour from the time the game started for a Tee Ball division game. A new inning is deemed to start at the moment the last out of the prior inning was made. In the AA and AAA division, no new inning shall be started after 8:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. When there is no game immediately following on a Saturday in the AA and AAA Divisions no new inning shall be started after 2 ¼ hours from the time the game started. It is the Chief Umpires decision to determine when the designated "last" inning is being played.
- f. Little League Rule 3.03 is replaced with the following: Free substitution of players is permitted for all divisions of play. Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as pitchers in the Majors division and Minor League. All players must play a minimum of nine (9) defensive outs and must bat at least once. The bottom of the last inning is assumed even if it is not played. If this rule is violated, the player will play the entire game the following game and the manager will be subject



to penalties as described in the National Little League rules. A player arriving after the first pitch will be placed at the bottom of the batting order and the minimum playing time will be reduced to three (3) defensive outs.

- g. All players will be included in the batting order whether or not they are playing a defensive position.
- h. Inter-league local rules for the Juniors or Seniors divisions will control in the event there are any conflicts between those rules and the RNLL local league rules.
- i. In the event of rain, the Laguna Niguel Parks hotline (362-4351, then press 3) will indicate field availability.
- j. The Tee Ball, Rookie Ball and Challenger divisions shall use a Level 1 Safety Ball, which has a soft cover, during all games and practices. The Single A division shall use a Level 5 Safety Ball.

#### **IV. PITCH COUNT DATA SHEETS**

- a. AA, AAA and Major's will follow Little League Green Book rules
- b. In AA, pitchers are limited to two (2) innings max per game. One pitch constitutes one inning.
- c. A Pitch Count Data Sheet in triplicate form will be provided by RNLL and be distributed to all managers in the AA through Seniors Divisions. Extra Pitch Count Data Sheets will also be available in a binder located in the equipment room at La Paz, Crown Valley and Chapparosa fields.
- d. The Pitch Count Data Sheet must be completed and signed by both managers for *every* game played. One copy of the completed Pitch Count Data Sheet will be retained by each team manager and a third copy is to be placed in the Crown Valley (AAA and AA Divisions), La Paz (Majors Division) or Chapparosa (Juniors and Seniors) equipment room binders at the conclusion of each game. The manager (or his/her designee) of the Home team for each game is required to email the game score and the data from the Pitch Count Data Sheet to the RNLL Webmaster with a copy to the division Commissioner and the opposing team manager.
- e. Violation of any section of this rule may also subject that offending manager or coach to disciplinary action(s), including, without limitation: (a) forfeiture of eligibility to coach or manage an all-star team; (b) suspension from one (1) week of play, which shall consist of no less than one (1) practice and two (2) games; and (c) publication of the disciplinary action and the grounds therefore to all managers of the division and every parent of the team affected.

#### **V. SPECIAL MAJORS & MINOR LEAGUE (AAA and AA) PLAYING RULES**

- a. Mercy Rule shall not apply as it does in Majors. Instead, there is a five (5) run or "once-through the order" limit per inning, except for the 6th inning, or last inning as designated by the umpire. A total of more than five (5) runs may be counted in the 6th inning, or last inning as designated by the umpire but the teams are still limited to "once-through the order". A total of more than five (5) runs for an inning may be counted in the event of an over-the-fence home run or ground rule double.
- b. In the Majors division during the first five (4) games of the season, or "spring training", the Mercy Rule will not apply. The Minor League run limits as listed in part a. will apply during "spring training". The Mercy Rule will be in affect during the regular season and playoffs.
- c. Stealing home shall not be permitted in AA. A player may not score from any base unless it follows a batted ball or the player is awarded home (e.g. walk, catcher's interference, obstruction, or batter hit by a pitch).
- d. There is no "infield fly" rule in AA.



## VI. UMPIRE REQUIREMENTS FOR AA, AAA, AND MAJORS

- a. Each team will be responsible for fulfilling 12 points during the season - 6 points before spring break and 6 points following spring break. The managers will be responsible for their 6 points being on the schedule by a specific date for each half:

1st half – specific date determined based on start of the season (e.g., for 2012, it is by Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>)

2nd half – specific date determined based on spring break (e.g., for 2012, it is by April 17<sup>th</sup>)

If a team is not represented on the umpire scheduling website for 6 points in each half of the season by the above dates, then the manager will not be allowed to manage his team's games until the 6 points are scheduled. In addition, if a team has not fulfilled their 12 point requirement for the season, then the manager will not be allowed to manage his team for any RNLL playoff games.

## VII. STANDINGS AND PLAYOFFS

- a. Local Rules for the “regular season” will be in effect for all RNLL playoff tournaments and games.
- b. In AA there are twenty (20) games scheduled for the Spring 2011 season. The first five (5) games of the season will be considered “spring training” and no standings will be kept. In AAA there are twenty (20) games scheduled for the Spring 2011 season. The first five (5) games of the season will be considered “spring training” and no standings will be kept. In the Majors division there are twenty (20) games scheduled for the Spring 2011 season. The first five (5) games of the season will be considered “spring training” and no standings will be kept. Standings will be kept in the AA, AAA and Majors divisions for the “regular season,” consisting of the games remaining after “spring training.”
- c. Games rained out in “spring training” will not necessarily be made up. Games rained out during the “regular season” shall be made up as agreed upon by the division Commissioner, Player Agent, Scheduling Director and both managers. The “spring training” games may be made up if agreed upon by both managers and coordinated with the division Commissioner and the Scheduling Director.
- d. Playoffs for the AA and AAA division will consist of a double elimination tournament. Playoffs for the Majors division will also consist of a double elimination tournament.
- e. Seeding and playoffs will occur in the AA division as follows:
  - a) Teams that finish in first and second place for the “regular season” will receive a First-Round bye into a double elimination playoff bracket.
  - b) Teams three (3) through six (6), based on “regular season” standings, will be placed into the remaining First-Round games as follows: Three(3) vs. Six(6) and Four(4) vs. Five(5).
  - c) The two teams reaching the Finals will continue to play based upon a double elimination format, with a minimum of 1 game and a maximum of 2 games played before first and second place for the division are determined.
- f. Seeding and playoffs will occur in the AAA division as follows:
  - a) Teams that finish in first and second place for the “regular season” will receive a First-Round bye into a double elimination playoff bracket.
  - b) Teams three (3) through six (6), based on “regular season” standings, will be placed into the remaining First-Round games as follows: Three(3) vs. Six(6) and Four(4) vs. Five(5).
  - c) The two teams reaching the Finals will continue to play based upon a double elimination format, with a minimum of 1 game and a maximum of 2 games played before first and second place for the division are determined.



- g. Seeding and playoffs will occur in the Majors division as follows:
  - a) Teams that finish in first and second place for the “regular season” will receive a First-Round bye into a double elimination playoff bracket.
  - b) Teams three (3) through six (6), based on “regular season” standings, will be placed into the remaining First-Round games as follows: Three(3) vs. Six(6) and Four(4) vs. Five(5).
  - c) The two teams reaching the Finals will continue to play based upon a double elimination format, with a minimum of 1 game and a maximum of 2 games played before first and second place for the division are determined.
- h. For all playoff games, the “home” and “visitor” status shall be determined by allowing the team with the higher seed to choose either home or visitor. Once the higher seed makes its choice to be home or visitor, the manager must notify the opposing team, commissioner, and scheduler as soon as possible and no later than 8pm the night before the game. The home team shall have field prep responsibility as during the regular season.
- i. Tournament of Champions:
  - a) Majors and AAA Divisions: Two (2) teams from the Majors division and two (2) teams from the AAA division will represent RNLL in the District 55 Tournament of Champions. The 1<sup>st</sup> place teams during the “regular season” will be allowed to decide whether they want to represent RNLL as RN1 or RN2. The playoff champions for each division will represent RNLL as the second RNLL TOC participant. If the playoff champion(s) is/are also the 1<sup>st</sup> place team(s) during the “regular season”, then the 2<sup>nd</sup> place team(s) during the playoffs will be the second team for TOC.
  - b) Seniors and Juniors Divisions: For the Seniors and Juniors divisions, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams in playoffs will represent RNLL in the District 55 Tournament of Champions. The 1<sup>st</sup> place teams in playoffs will be allowed to decide whether they want to represent RNLL as RN1 or RN2.

**VIII. ALL STAR SELECTION**

- 1. Five (5) all-star teams will be selected:

Seniors Division	Ages 15-16	No less than 12 players. Managed by Seniors Manager or Coach
Juniors Division	Ages 13-14	No less than 12 players. Managed by Juniors Manager or Coach
Little League Tournament Team	Ages 11-12	No less than 12 players. Managed by Majors Manager or Coach
11-Year-Old	Age 11	No less than 12 players. Managed by Majors Manager or Coach
9 & 10-Year-Old	Ages 9-10	No less than 12 players. Managed by AAA Manager or Coach

- 2. The players for each team are selected as follows:
  - a. A Board approved ballot for the Tournament Team, the 11 yr-old team and the 9&10 yr old team will be compiled from the following: Each player and parent in the AAA and Major’s Divisions will vote on deserving All-Star representatives from their teams immediately following the last “regular” season game. The top three parent and player selections for each team will placed on the preliminary ballot. The managers will also submit their own selections to be placed on the preliminary ballot. For the Little League Tournament team. Each Majors manager selects three (3) (up to four (4) if deserving) 11 and 12-year-old players to be placed on the preliminary ballot



- immediately following the last “regular season” game. For the 11-Year-Old team, each manager in Majors selects three (3) (up to four (4) if deserving) 11-year-old players to be placed on the preliminary ballot immediately following the last “regular season” game. 11-year old players in the AAA division are not eligible for the 11-Year-Old team. For the 9 & 10-Year-Old team, each AAA manager selects three (3) (up to four (4) if deserving) 9 or 10-year-old players for the preliminary ballot immediately following the last “regular season” game. 9-year-old and 10-year-old players in the AA division are not eligible for the 9 & 10 Year-Old team. 14-year-old players in the Seniors division are not eligible for the Juniors team.
- b. Each player placed on the ballot should be nominated based upon their playing ability, eligibility and availability for All Star practices and games.
  - c. The Board will review the preliminary ballots and discuss any additions or deletions from the list. A Board approved ballot with the names of players in that division is given to the Player Agent and each manager. For Seniors and Juniors, all players are on the ballot due to the small number of teams.
  - d. The Player Agent conducts a meeting with all managers from the Seniors, Juniors, Majors and AAA divisions. Managers or coaches designated by the manager and approved by the Player Agent must attend. A manager that fails to provide a representative from their team to attend and vote may result in the removal of players from their team from the All Star ballot.
  - e. Each manager is given a few minutes to discuss players on his/her team.
  - f. Each manager votes for up to twelve (12) players. AAA managers may **not** vote for players on his/her own team.
  - g. The President and the Player Agent count ballots prior to the announcement date, as determined by Little League National Headquarters.
  - h. No less than twelve (12) players with the most votes and available to participate are selected for each team, subject to Board approval.
    - i. Current RNLL managers and coaches will be eligible to become a manager for RNLL All-Star teams. Managers and coaches in AAA are eligible to manage the 9/10 All-Star team. Managers and coaches in Majors are eligible to manage the 10/11 All-Star team and/or the Tournament team. The Board of Director’s selection committee will make the selection of the All-Star team manager. The selection committee will be made up of the president, player agent, division commissioner and chief umpire. Criteria used for selection will be behavior, attitude, leadership and performance throughout the entire season. In making this selection the committee will consider final team standings, but the selection will not be based solely on team performance. Interested managers & coaches must submit a letter to their division commissioner indicating their interest. All letters must be received by Friday, May 13. The selection committee will interview all candidates and forward their selection to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will make final approval of all managers. The approved manager will select his coaches with final approval by the Board of Directors
3. Statistics in Majors and AAA divisions will be kept for the “regular season” to aid in All Star selection. The only required offensive statistics are On Base Percentage and strike outs as a percentage of plate appearances. On Base Percentage is defined to include reaching base as a result of a hit, walk, error, fielder’s choice or being hit by a pitch. To determine strike outs as a percentage of total plate appearances, appearances are defined as any appearance at the plate that results in a hit, walk, error, fielder’s choice, strike out, out or being hit by a pitch. The only required defensive statistics relate to pitchers. The following pitching statistics will be kept: (i) total number of strike outs versus walks, (ii) the ratio of strike outs to walks, (iii) the total pitches thrown and (iv) the total innings pitched. Other statistics may be kept by a manager and discussed during All-Star selection, but are not required.
  4. All-Stars will not be selected solely based upon the statistics referenced above. In addition to analysis of these statistics, all-star selection will be based upon the following criteria: The ball players' demonstrated performance as it relates to fielding ground balls and fly balls, hitting, throwing



arm strength and speed; versatility (able to play several positions); and attitude - which includes mental make-up, maturity, discipline, commitment to the sport, work ethic during practices and games, game knowledge and willingness to cooperate.

## **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES**

### **2012**

1. Managers must report to their Commissioners if a player misses more than a week of baseball.
2. Adopted a substitute Little League Player Selection System in Majors and AAA to determine the draft order of a manager's child.
3. Umpire requirements for each team along with the penalties to the manager.
4. Modified determination of "home" or "visitors" status for all playoff games such that higher seed will be allowed to choose either home or visitor.
5. Modified TOC selection for AAA and Majors divisions such that 1<sup>st</sup> place teams during regular seasons will be allowed to decide whether they want to represent RNLL as RN1 or RN2.
6. Modified TOC selection for Juniors and Seniors divisions such that 1<sup>st</sup> place teams in playoffs will be allowed to decide whether they want to represent RNLL as RN1 or RN2.

### **2011**

1. Modified Little League rule 3.03.
2. Modified preseason mercy rules in Majors.

### **2010**

1. Modified Little League rule 3.03.
2. Modified preseason mercy rules in Majors.

### **2009**

1. Modified AAA Playoff format for six(6) teams
2. Modified Pitch Count Reporting responsibilities for Home team manager
3. Selected National Little League Pitching Rule Option (1)

### **2008**

1. Implemented a new Modified Plan A Player Selection System.
2. Modified Playoff Format for AA (new seeding format) and AAA/Majors (double elimination format).
3. Modified All-Star Selection Process using parent and player input.
4. Modified All-Star Selection Process to allow 11 yr-olds to play on Tournament Team
5. Modified Local T-Ball rules to incorporate 5-on-5 or 6-on-6 simultaneous games being played on one field

### **2007**

6. Six-year-olds can play in the Rookie Ball Division only if they played Tee ball during the 2006 season.
7. Adopted local pitch count rule for AA, AAA and Majors divisions, which is stricter than Little League Regulation VI.
8. Modified Tournament of Champions selection for AAA and Majors divisions such that 1<sup>st</sup> place teams during regular seasons will represent RNLL as first seeded teams.
9. Decreased number of players on each all-star team to no less than 12 players.

### **2006**

1. Modified playoff format for AA division to best 2 of 3 format for the final playoff round.
2. Modified playoff format for AA division to a double elimination format.
3. Six-year-olds can play in the Rookie Ball Division even if they did not play Tee ball during the 2005 season.
4. Adopted local pitch count rule for AA, AAA and Majors divisions.
5. Increased number of players on each all-star team to no less than 13 players.

### **2005**



1. Modified playoff format to accommodate six teams in Majors and incorporate best 2 out of 3 format.
2. Changed "spring training" season to first five (5) games in Majors to accommodate six-team division.
3. Added changes to minimum defensive outs for players arriving late.
4. Changed maximum number of pitcher innings for AA to 2 innings per game.
5. Modified minimum number of players on AA and AAA teams to less than 12.

#### **2004**

1. Changed the minimum number of innings in Majors before application of the Mercy Rule from 3 to 4 innings.
2. Instituted standings for the last fourteen games (2/3<sup>rds</sup>) of the season for AA, AAA, and Majors.
3. Changed name for "Lower Single A" (LSA) to "Rookie Ball" and "Upper Single A: (USA) to "Single A."
4. Added an all-star team for the "11 Year Old" All Star Tournament per decision of District 55.
5. Changed method in which player names are placed on All Star ballots.
6. Eliminated the 9/10 Year Old Tournament Team per decision of District 55.
7. Modified the method of seeding the playoff tournament.
8. Eliminated the applicability of tournament rules during playoffs.

#### **2003**

1. Removed the rule pertaining to a pitcher hitting two batters in one inning. Applies only to AA.
2. Eliminated the Infield Fly rule for AA.
3. Changed the playoff format.
4. Only one 9/10 all-star team, per District 55 decision.
5. All-star manager has no arbitrary picks. All team members voted by division managers in secret ballot.
6. Clarified rule IV.4 (3 inning pitching limitation in Minors).

#### **2002**

1. LSA (now, Rookie Ball) and Upper Single A (now Single A) divisions are changed from machine pitch to coach pitch. This means that 6-yr-olds who have one-year experience with T-ball can play LSA.
2. Juniors will send two teams to TOC.
3. Change the process by which all-star managers are selected.
4. In AA, allow 2 adult base coaches, but only if an adult is also in the dugout.
5. In AA, limit weeknight games such that no new inning can be started after 8:00 p.m.
6. In Majors, allow the all-star manager 3 selections, versus 5.

#### **2001**

1. The Tee Ball Division is extended to include league-age 5-yr-olds.
2. Due to previous oversight, the rules for Tee Ball and Lower Single A (LSA) were modified to specify the use of a Safety Ball (soft cover) during games and practices.
3. The annual draft procedure for the Majors Division was modified. Beginning in the year 2001 the entire Major division will be redrafted every year according to Plan B on page 60 of the 1999 Little League Operating Manual. This means that returning Major players must now participate in the annual tryout.
4. Clarified the process for determining home and visitor assignments in the tournament bracket.