FALMOUTH LITTLE LEAGUE BY-LAWS

The purpose of this document is to set forth Falmouth Little League (FLL)'s By-Laws and Rules. The rules outlined below are consistent with, and do not amend or alter, the Rules, Regulations and Policies of Little League International (LLI) and are not meant to be viewed as different local rules. Rather, FLL believes that it is important to call attention to certain Rules, Regulations and Policies of LLI for the benefit of Managers and Coaches. Unless as otherwise stated in this document, the Rules, Regulations and Policies as published by LLI will govern and the contents of this document are not meant to conflict with the Rules, Regulations, and Policies of LLI. Please refer to the official Little League rulebook as needed.

RULE 1: CONSTITUTION

FLL Operates pursuant to its Constitution, ratified on November 16, 2025.

RULE 2: CODE OF CONDUCT

SECTION 1. GENERAL RULES

Falmouth Little League is dedicated to fostering a safe, respectful, and family-friendly environment for all Players, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, and Spectators. To ensure a positive experience for everyone, the following guidelines must be observed:

1. **Sportsmanship and Behavior**: All participants must treat Players, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, and Spectators with respect and dignity. Behaviors such as out of control emotions, intimidation, bullying, harassment, or unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated.
2. **Language**: The use of foul, abusive, or inappropriate language is strictly prohibited.
3. **Substances**: Smoking, vaping, alcohol, and illegal substances are not allowed on or near FLL fields or facilities.
4. **Safety**: Behavior that endangers others such as violence, fighting, or reckless actions, or behavior that conveys the reasonable fear or threat of such, is strictly prohibited.
5. **Field Etiquette**: Help keep fields and facilities clean by disposing of trash properly, putting equipment away, and respecting League property. Graffiti of any kind is prohibited.
6. **Compliance**: All participants must adhere to FLL rules, local laws, and the instructions of league officials and umpires.

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from FLL events or activities. By attending or participating in FLL, you agree to uphold this Code of Conduct.

SECTION 2. ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Given the serious effects that bullying has on youth and organizations, FLL has adopted an anti-bullying policy. This policy overview is intended to guide all Managers, Coaches,Umpires, Players, Volunteers, Parents, Guardians, and Spectators.

Definition of bullying: Bullying involving behavior by one person or a group of people with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate another person. Verbal bullying can involve repetitive behavior and includes the use of words and gestures. Emotional bullying can involve rejection, terrorizing, extorting, humiliating, rating/ranking personal characteristics such as race, disability, ethnicity or perceived sexual orientation. Physical bullying can include a single incident of pushing, hitting, or kicking a person, or interfering with their property.

Report of bullying: If you are being bullied, or know of someone being bullied in connection with their participation in FLL, you must tell a team manager, coach, or member of the FLL Board of Directors as soon as possible.

Consequences of Bullying: If a person involved in the league (including Managers, Coaches, Umpires, Players, Volunteers, Guardians, or Spectators) has taken part in bullying behavior, a minimum of a warning and/or immediate suspension from all FLL activities until the FLL Board of Directors can review the incident to determine next actions for the incident. The further actions the board can take are pursuant to LLI Regulation XIV as well as Rule 13 below.

SECTION 3: ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Discrimination, harassment, or exclusion based on race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or any other protected characteristic is strictly prohibited.

FLL promotes respect, equity, and fairness in all league activities and interactions. Violations of this policy will be addressed promptly and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including removal from league participation.

By participating in FLL, all Players, Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, and Spectators agree to uphold this commitment to inclusion and respect for all.

SECTION 4: BEHAVIOR DURING GAMES; CHANT POLICY

Chanting (from the team) is permitted, but there may be no negative or mean-spirited chants, and no chants directed at the opposing team unless they are supportive. Any chant may finish while a pitcher is pitching, but a team may not start a new chant, increase volume, scream or screech during delivery of the pitch.

Coaches may bring issues to the umpire during a natural break in play.

Fans are permitted to cheer positively for their team, but may not boo, taunt, or use profane language. Fans must refrain from unsportsmanlike conduct towards players, coaches, umpires, and other volunteers. At no point should a fan directly address a player in the field in a negative manner."

SECTION 5: TOWN OF FALMOUTH RULES

All Managers, Coaches, Volunteers, Parents, Players and Spectators attending any FLL game or event must follow the Town of Falmouth's Rules and Ordinances.

RULE 3: ADDITIONAL FLL BOARD MEMBERS

In addition to the Officer positions listed in the FLL Constitution, the FLL Board of Directors has determined that the following additional Board positions are necessary and will be beneficial to the purpose and goals of FLL:

a. Director of Grounds and Maintenance

Oversees the maintenance and preparation of all playing fields and surrounding facilities. Responsibilities include scheduling and coordinating field upkeep, ensuring fields meet safety and playability standards, managing equipment and supplies specific to ground maintenance such as chalk liners, rakes, etc., organizing volunteer workdays, and addressing weather-related field issues. This role ensures a safe, clean, and well-maintained environment for all.

b. Director of Sponsorship

Oversees all Sponsorships by managing relationships with community sponsors and overseeing fundraising efforts. Responsibilities include identifying and securing sponsors, creating sponsorship packages, maintaining sponsor agreements, coordinating sponsor recognition (e.g., banners, jerseys, social media), and assisting in larger fundraising goals like for specific projects. This role helps sustain the league financially while fostering community partnerships.

c. Director of Concessions

Oversees the operation of the Snack Shack for Regular and Postseason play. Responsibilities include managing inventory, ordering supplies, scheduling volunteers, ensuring food safety compliance, maintaining cleanliness, and handling cash management. This role helps enhance the game-day experience while generating revenue to support the league.

d. Director of Umpires

Oversees the recruitment, training, and scheduling of umpires for Regular Season games. Responsibilities include developing a Volunteer Umpire Program, providing training sessions, assigning umpires to games, ensuring adherence to league rules, and supporting umpires during the season. This role ensures fair and well-officiated games while fostering a positive environment for volunteer umpires.

e. Director of Volunteering

Manages the league's volunteer program to ensure smooth operations. Responsibilities include enforcing volunteer requirements, organizing volunteer training, coordinating with the Director of Concessions for staffing needs, and collaborating with VPs to ensure Coach compliance. This role ensures all roles are filled, volunteers are prepared, and the league functions effectively.

f. Director of T Ball

Manages the league's T Ball program to ensure smooth operations, promote growth, and provide additional opportunities for Little League players. Responsibilities include promoting and encouraging excitement for the programs including 4yo T Ball, and 5-6 yo T Ball for both girls and boys; recruiting and training new coaches; ensuring coach compliance with background checks, Abuse Awareness, and other required training; distributing gear; helping to order uniforms; building teams; being the primary contact to all T Ball teams as there are schedule changes, opportunities, or cancellations; and attending District 6 T Ball meetings. Any other necessary tasks that are not covered by District 6 or the FLL Board will be the responsibility of the Director of T Ball.

g. Director of Marketing

Manages the league's promotion and communication efforts. Responsibilities include maintaining social media accounts, creating engaging content, collaborating with local news outlets, designing promotional materials, and increasing community awareness and engagement. This role ensures the league is well-represented and connected within the community.

h. Director at Large

Directors at Large are permitted so long as all necessary Officer and Directors positions have been filled, and so long as the maximum number of Board Members has not been exceeded. Directors at Large will be voting Board Members who will ideally be shadowing a Director or Officer role and/or helping out with multiple tasks during their time on the Board.

i. Additional Positions

The FLL Board shall have the authority to designate additional Board Director positions as necessary.

RULE 4: REGISTRATION

All players registered to participate in FLL must be confirmed through an established verification process as eligible to play in FLL. Eligibility is determined in accordance with LLI residency requirements including school enrollment form, along with proof of age (birth certificate, or other accepted government-issued form). If a player's birth date is changed at any time following the initial player registration, said player must provide FLL with a birth certificate to substantiate the change.

Registration is completed through the FLL website. There is a fee associated with registration, but cost should not be a barrier to registration. FLL offers partial and full scholarships to families in need of assistance. Scholarship applications can be made through FLL's website.

RULE 5: FAMILY VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT

FLL is a community oriented organization. FLL requires that a parent/guardian of each registered player volunteer a minimum of two hours of time on behalf of FLL (opening day volunteer, snack shack volunteer, food donation, grilling, field clean up, coaching, etc).

RULE 6: BASEBALL DIVISIONS

SECTION 1. DIVISION ALIGNMENT

The following chart is a quick reference tool for FLL Baseball Divisions.

DIVISION	LEAGUE AGE*
4 Year Old Tee-Ball	**4**
Tee-Ball	**5-6**
AA Baseball (Coach Pitch)	**7-8**
AAA Baseball (Player Pitch)	**9-10**
Majors Baseball	**11-12**
Juniors Baseball	**13-14**
Seniors Baseball	**15-16**

*League Ages and eligibility are determined first by LLI and sometimes modified to be more strict by FLL. For more information on this, please visit LLI's website.

SECTION 2. MAJORS

Majors Baseball is for little league ages 11 and 12. Players who are little league age 10 may play Majors, subject to openings on team rosters and the discretion of the Majors Coaches and baseball VP following

player evaluations. Teams will have 12 scheduled intra-league games. The season ends in a league double elimination playoff.

Majors Baseball plays straight from the LLI Majors baseball rules with the exception of one modification for Pitch Counts, discussed in detail under Rule 12, Section 7 below.

SECTION 3. MINORS - AAA

Minors Baseball (also called AAA) is the middle age Division, and the first Player pitch opportunity for children. This Division is for players who are little league age 9 and 10, with some age 8 players depending on need of the League, skill and experience as determined by the Baseball VP following Assessments and discussion with the player's parents. League Age 8 players who move up to AAA will require the approval of the Board.

Modified Player Pitch begins with players pitching and includes Coaches stepping in to pitch in lieu of walking the batter.

This Division plays a catcher.

Teams will have 12 scheduled intra-league games. The season ends in a league double elimination playoff.

SECTION 4. MINORS - AA (coach pitch)

AA baseball is the youngest, most introductory age of baseball currently offered at FLL. It is for players League Age 7 and 8. Players who are younger should sign up for Tee-Ball. The AA Division is a modified Coach pitch league that focuses on teaching players to hit and field. The division does not keep track of runs and every player bats each inning. There are generally two AA Baseball games per week.

SECTION 5. JUNIORS

Juniors Baseball is open to players League Age 13-14. This season starts in May after the Middle School Baseball season has concluded and ends in approximately July. The Juniors Season plays 12 Regular Season interleague games and typically ends with a District 6 tournament that might result in All Star Regional play.

SECTION 6. SENIORS

Seniors Baseball includes ages 13-16 and plays after the conclusion of High School baseball ending in approximately July. There are All-Star tournament possibilities in this level of play. FLL has not recently had a team in this age division.

RULE 7: SOFTBALL DIVISIONS

SECTION 1. DIVISION ALIGNMENT

The following chart is a quick reference tool for FLL Softball Divisions.

DIVISION	LEAGUE AGE*
4 Year Old Tee-Ball	**4**
Tee-Ball	**5-6**

AA Softball (Coach Pitch)	**7-8**
AAA Softball (Player Pitch)	**9-10**
Majors Softball	**11-12**
Juniors Softball	**12-14**
Seniors Softball	**14-16**

*League Ages and eligibility are determined first by LLI and sometimes modified to be more strict by FLL. For more information on this, please visit LLI's website.

SECTION 2. MAJORS

Majors Softball is for League Age 11 and 12. Players League age 10 might play on a Majors team if the needs of the League require them to do so, and if both the player's parents and the Softball VP have concluded that the player is able and ready to do so.

There are 12 games scheduled including travel to other District 6 towns, and a season-end tournament with D6 North.

Majors Softball rules are not modified or phased in any way.

SECTION 3. MINORS - AAA

Minors Softball is the middle age Division, and the first Player pitch opportunity. This Division is for League Age 9 and 10, with some age 8 players depending on need of the League, skill and experience as determined by the Softball VP following Assessments and discussion with the player's parents.

This season ends in either a town playoff or a D6 North end-of-season tournament.

Rules for Minors/AAA Softball are currently phased. This has been the subject of incredible thought as we're trying to raise the level of play in Falmouth. The rules are consistent across inter-league play throughout District 6 Softball. Phased rules allow a balance for players who have never played before, or have lower skill or knowledge. The beginning of the season will introduce the game, and will provide opportunities for everyone to learn and try new positions. As the season progresses, new rules are added with plenty of time for Coaches to teach the rules at practices. This allows for broader understanding and better access to the game among players of different skill. By the end of the season, the game is played at full LLI rules. This is a great opportunity for older and more advanced players, it allows everyone to shine where they play the best, raises competitiveness, and teaches players to consider the good of the team.

Minors Softball has pre-season practices and league-wide Skills and Drills sessions.
Throughout the season, there are team practices and weekly all-teams practices on a designated week day. These practices aren't mandatory, but are highly encouraged and might affect positional play towards the end of the season.

Teams will have 12 scheduled games, or roughly 2 per week. Games are about equally travel/home games, and include the potential to travel across District 6.

SECTION 4. MINORS - AA (Coach Pitch)

AA Softball is the youngest, most introductory age of softball currently offered at Falmouth Little League. It is for players League Age 7 and 8 with some League Age 6 players who fall in-between the baseball and softball league age cut-off dates.

Players will progress to new rules throughout the season. They will start with no base-outs, and no strikeouts, but learn about and integrate strikes, base outs, and more as the season progresses.

There are generally two AA Softball games per week, and most are played at Falmouth fields. Because Softball is a traveling sport, and it's super fun for players to play new teams, we will schedule at least one travel game per team towards the end of the season.

SECTION 5. JUNIORS.

Juniors Softball is open to players League Age 12-14. This season starts in May, after the Middle School season has concluded and ends in approximately July.

The Juniors Season plays 12 Regular Season games and typically ends with a District 6 tournament that might result in All Star Regional play.

SECTION 6. SENIORS.

Seniors softball includes ages 13-16 and plays after the conclusion of High School baseball ending in approximately July. There are All-Star tournament possibilities in this level of play. FLL has not recently had a team in this age division.

RULE 8: TEE-BALL

SECTION 1. 4 YEAR OLD TEE-BALL

4-year old Tee Ball is open to players who turn 4 before September 1st of the current calendar year. This is an introductory level league that focuses on the basic skills of baseball and softball. Players will get the opportunity to field, throw, run the bases and hit off a tee. The focus is on making it fun for the kids and introducing them to the sport.

SECTION 2. 5-6 YEAR OLD TEE-BALL

This level of Tee Ball is for league age 5 and 6 softball and baseball players. At this level, players will spend time practicing the basic skills and this will be followed with a short, structured game each session. The games are meant to familiarize kids with game situations, with no outs and no kept score.

RULE 9: COACHING (ALL DIVISIONS)

SECTION 1. CRITERIA AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Managers and Assistant Coaches, regardless of title or specialty/practice status, will be referred to as “Coaches” unless otherwise specified.

Coaches play a key role in fostering positive, supportive, and development-focused environment, and as such, must meet the following criteria:

1. **Background Check**: All Coaches must complete a thorough background check to ensure player safety.

2. **Coach Certifications**: Required certifications through NAYS, including coaching fundamentals, player development, and safety must be completed.

3. **Abuse Awareness Training**: Mandatory training to recognize, prevent, and report abuse.

4. **Volunteer Coaching Agreement**: All volunteer Coaches with FLL will be required to agree to and abide by the Volunteer Coaching Agreement.

5. **Player Development**: Focus on developing players' skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship, with winning as a secondary priority.

6. **League Support**: Collaborate respectfully with league officials, other Coaches, and parents to strengthen the league first

7. **Coach Qualities**:

    - Patient and supportive in guiding player growth.
    - Strong communicator with both players and parents.
    - Positive role model, demonstrating sportsmanship, respect, and integrity.
    - Motivated to help all players reach their full potential, regardless of skill level.
    - Enthusiastic and dedicated to creating a fun, safe, and inclusive environment for all

SECTION 2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPORTING.

While coaching is a volunteer position, it carries significant responsibility. It is a privilege, not a right. The Board of Directors has outlined the following expectations, which should be upheld throughout the season.

A Coach or Manager's primary role is to support the overall purpose of FLL while managing the team and players. The welfare of FLL must always take precedence over the interests of an individual team, coach, or player.

Managers (or Coaches, if delegated by the Manager) are responsible for communicating the practice and game schedules to players, and any other information the VP or League requires of them. Practices must be scheduled according to Rule 12, Section 1. Additionally, Managers must ensure that the team takes proper care of equipment and playing fields. At the end of the season, equipment must be in good condition for use next year, and returned to the League following the instructions provided by the League or the Safety Officer.

When questions or issues arise, Managers and Coaches must address them promptly by discussing them with the appropriate people, such as other Coaches, players, or a VP.

Coaches must report complaints, bullying, harassment, or any other issue to the VP above them. Coaches must report any suspected child abuse and/or neglect to social services, law enforcement, 1-800-452-1999, AND the FLL Board President or their division's VP within 24 hours.

SECTION 3. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

FLL, LLI and the Town of Falmouth mandate training and certifications for Coaches who work with minors. FLL has streamlined this process for efficiency, but all Coaches and other FLL volunteers must complete training. This training covers youth coaching, sport-specific information, safety and first aid, and child abuse prevention and reporting. It takes a few hours to complete, but it is invaluable and essential for the privilege of coaching our youth. FLL covers the cost of this online training.

Additionally, background checks are required for all Coaches and volunteers.

Beyond the online training and background checks, Managers and Coaches may also be required to participate in assessments, attend sport-specific Coach Workshops to discuss practice plans, team development, and skills, as well as participate in Skills and Drills sessions, all-sport practices, or other clinic-based training.

SECTION 4. HANDLING BEHAVIORAL AND SPORTSMANSHIP ISSUES.

When behavioral or sportsmanship issues arise with players, Coaches should assess the situations quickly, calmly, and carefully. Clearly communicate to players what is expected of them and how they are performing. Offer guidance to help them improve, learn, and grow.

If these issues arise with spectators, parents, opponents, or otherwise, the Coach is expected to calmly ask the offender to refrain from the behavior, calmly ask the offender to leave the game, or call in the assistance of another Coach, Board Member, or the Police where appropriate.

Focusing solely on winning can humiliate players with less talent, while focusing only on feelings can deprive those who want to grow, learn, and excel. Balance a desire to win with a genuine concern for the development and well-being of your players.

Coaches must maintain control over their emotions at all times on and off the field. Bursts of anger, aggression, and put-downs will not be tolerated. Any physical contact in these situations will result in immediate dismissal. Displays of poor sportsmanship, disrespect for rules, officials, or opponents may lead to suspension or other disciplinary actions by FLL. See Rule 2: Code of Conduct, and Volunteer Coaching Agreement.

Any issue should be reported to the VP of your sport (Baseball/Softball/T-Ball) promptly in the form of an email sent to info@falmouthlittleleague.net. In the email, please recap the situation to the best of your ability. These issues will be handled or escalated within the board on a case-by-case basis.

SECTION 2. SELECTION PROCESS

During the registration process, parents/guardians must indicate a desire to volunteer as a coach. Coaches can register to be considered as Manager (known as Head Coach), Coach (known as Assistant Coach), "either," or "no preference." Coaches will be presented with questions at this stage of the process which will serve as the Coaching Application.

1. Coaches will be assigned to teams after a determination has been made as to how many teams there will be for the relevant playing season, and how many coach volunteers are available.

2. Assignments will be made for the good of the League. Coach assignments will be collaborative and may include Co-Coach assignments rather than the positions of "Head" and "Assistant" coach.

3. There will be a minimum of three coaches for ages AA and below, and a minimum of two coaches per team for ages AAA/Minors and above. There will be a maximum of 4 coaches assigned per team, with additional volunteers able to be assigned as Practice or Specialty coaches at the discretion of the VP.

4. League VPs shall oversee the Coach selection process, subject to ultimate approval by the FLL Board. VP's shall consider the following when selecting coaches and assigning them to teams:
    a. The needs of Falmouth Little League.
    b. The volunteer's Coach application.
    c. The volunteer's prior coaching experience including any prior disciplinary actions as a coach.
    d. The volunteer's alignment with FLL's Coaching Criteria (RULE 10, Section 1.)
    e. Whether or not the volunteer is coaching another team.
    f. The volunteer's ties to the town and FLL, including whether that volunteer has a child playing for FLL.
    g. The volunteer's child/player's age (i.e. if it's a Coach's child's last year in the league, then weight might be given to that Coach over the parent of a younger player who has more seasons in front of them, provided that all other considerations are equal.)
    h. The volunteer's sponsorship, only in that a Coach would be assigned to the team that they are sponsoring unless the Coach waives such privilege. There is no weight otherwise given to the fact that someone sponsors FLL or provides a donation of any kind.
    i. The volunteer's request to be placed with other Coaches, provided that such assignments will not result in unfair advantages to that team, or in a lack of available or capable coaches for other teams.
    j. The volunteer's prior team assignment. This applies in Majors Baseball where the team names remain the same year over year (ex. A's, Royals, Rays, etc.), a Coach may request to be placed on the same team as the previous year.

5. If a Coach objects to their assignment (including lack of assignment), that Coach may make a written statement sharing their objections, and may send that statement to their VP at info@falmouthlittleleague.net. The statement will be considered by the VP and the Board.

RULE 10: PRE-SEASON EVALUATIONS

SECTION 1. BASEBALL.

Pre-season evaluations for Majors Baseball and AAA baseball shall take place on two separate nights. The goal is for each Majors and AAA baseball player to have a completed evaluation form heading into team formation/selection. All returning Majors players' ratings are compiled based upon prior season's ratings done by the Coaches at the end of the prior season. All data collected, such as end of season ratings, all-star ratings, etc. should be used to attempt to accurately rate each player. ONLY PLAYERS WHO DID NOT play Majors the previous year AND are eligible to be considered for Majors need to attend Majors evaluations (this includes all new players to the league, as well as league age 10 players who have registered for Majors with the intent of playing Majors).

All AAA players should attend Evaluations to ensure fair and balanced AAA teams. The VP may limit the scope of evaluations tailored to the needs of the division.

All potential Coaches should attend Evaluations.

During Evaluations, each evaluator shall use a prepared evaluation sheet with players' names, categories, age, etc. to provide an overall rating (1-5 with one (1) being the lowest and five (5) being the highest). All evaluation sheets are collected by the Baseball VP or League President and kept confidential.

Prior to Evaluations, the Baseball VP shall determine the number of 10 year old players the Majors league can accommodate, if any. Following Evaluations, the Baseball VP - in conjunction with the President and team Managers - will agree upon a list of all 10 year olds who are capable and ready to play Majors. Those 10 year olds will be included in the Majors draft. All other 10 year olds shall be placed on a AAA team. The League VP or designated volunteer will send an email to each player following this process to let the player know which league they will be playing in.

SECTION 2. SOFTBALL.

Evaluations for Majors and Minors Softball will take place in mid March. The goal is for teams to be balanced based on pitchers and catchers, and by overall strength and skill. Any returning Majors player may sit out of Evaluations, but understand that their rating will be compiled based upon prior season's ratings done by the Coaches at the end of the prior season. All data collected, such as end of season ratings, all-star ratings, etc. should be used to attempt to accurately rate each player. All potential Coaches should attempt to attend evaluations.

During evaluations, each evaluator shall use a prepared evaluation sheet with players' names, ages, etc. and provide an overall rating (1-5 with one (1) being the lowest and five (5) being the highest). All evaluation sheets are collected by the Softball VP or League President and kept confidential. The VP will discuss with parents regarding whether their player will or will not move between divisions.

RULE 11: TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

SECTION 1. GENERAL GOALS.

FLL's team selection process has four primary goals:

1. Attempt to place every player in the Division and on the Team where they will be safe, and have the most opportunity for enjoyment and development;;
2. Create teams that are evenly matched;

3. Be fair and unbiased without any favoritism or team stacking; and
4. Do all of the above while putting the players and Falmouth Little League first.

SECTION 2: TEE BALL TEAM FORMATION.

Tee-Ball teams shall be created by the Tee-Ball VP in collaboration with tee ball Coaches as necessary. The Tee-Ball VP has the discretion to take limited parent/player requests for teammates, Coaches, rides, etc. in forming teams. This division is instructional, fun and not results-driven. Therefore, there is no "draft" process or evaluations for these players.

SECTION 3: AA BASEBALL TEAM FORMATION.

AA teams shall be created by the Baseball VP or a designated Volunteer in collaboration with AA Coaches as necessary. The Baseball VP and their appointee has the discretion to take limited parent/player requests for teammates, Coaches, rides, etc. in forming teams. This division is instructional, fun and not results-driven. Therefore, there is no "draft" process or evaluations for these players.

SECTION 4: AAA BASEBALL TEAM FORMATION.

AAA teams consist of league age 9 and 10 players, and, based upon evaluations. AAA team formation may occur any time after the Majors teams are announced. Some 8 year olds may be eligible to play in AAA Baseball based on the discretion of the Baseball VP and the FLL Board.

The Baseball VP shall oversee the formation of AAA teams with the ultimate goal of forming fair and balanced teams. The AAA VP and AAA Coaching staff should try to make balanced teams but can give consideration to teammate requests, coach requests, etc. as this is an instructional level of baseball intended to be fun.

A. The AAA Pre-Draft:

All Managers and Coaches are encouraged to attend the draft. The President and VP of baseball shall also attend the draft. The VP of baseball shall run the draft, with the caveat that if the VP of baseball is coaching a AAA team, the President will run the draft. The draft should be held within a week of Evaluations and necessarily will occur after the Majors draft..

The first step is to understand how many teams there will be, and how many AAA players are needed. Aside from any 10 year olds who have been drafted onto a Majors team, all 9 and 10 year olds will play on a AAA team, and there should be enough teams to accommodate all of them. If there are additional roster spots available, those will be filled with League Age 8 year olds who attended Evaluations and are deemed capable and ready to play AAA Baseball. As indicated above, any League Age 8 year old players must be approved by the Board.

At no point may there be A and B teams, all Regular Season teams must be evenly distributed as to skill and experience. If there is an uneven distribution in talent, the VP of Baseball and the Board retain the ability to make team adjustments in order to have a balanced and fun season for all teams.

The second step is to review the ratings of all available players, which will be formulated based upon Evaluations and/or rankings from years past and past performance. The VP or the designated AAA Commissioner will provide a list or spreadsheet with players listed according to their ratings.

Finally, before the draft begins, the group will discuss how to balance the teams, especially regarding players automatically assigned to a team because they are linked to a specific coach. Solutions might include assigning certain players to teams or adjusting teams' draft positions. The goal is to ensure all

teams are fair and competitive. The approach will be decided before the draft starts to keep things clear and fair.

B. The AAA Draft:

All Coaches should try to maintain the perspective that this is Little League AND that the goal of the group is to form balanced teams. It does not benefit FLL to have any stacked teams. Every year may present unique situations (i.e. talented twins/brothers, a group of 5 stronger pitchers etc. In these situations, the VP of Baseball has the discretion to make changes either at the outset of the Draft, or during the Reconciliation Process in order to redistribute talent working towards the ultimate goal of balanced teams. The Draft shall be structured in a manner similar (but not necessarily exactly) like this:

1. Phase 1: Pre-Draft Distributions:
    a. Place the Coaches' kids and then make any adjustments deemed necessary during the pre-draft;
    b. Potentially distribute necessary talent such as pitchers and catchers (each team should have at least one of each);
    c. Place any other players who show exceptional positional or offensive talent;
    d. Every effort will be made to ensure the teams are even heading into the draft process;
2. Phase 2: Draft Process:
    a. The Draft will begin with the team that has the lowest combined rating following Pre-Draft Distributions, unless otherwise agreed;
    b. A snake draft format will be followed;
    c. The order of Draft picks will proceed from the lowest combined team rating to highest, and will keep the same team order regardless of how the ratings change as picks are made.
3. Phase 3: Reconciliation:
    a. After the Draft is finished, Coaches, the VP, and President shall review the teams to determine whether the teams are fair and balanced. The group may decide that trades or moves are necessary to accomplish balanced teams. If Coaches do not agree to such reconciliation, the VP and President have the final authority to make these changes that are in the best interest of the League;
    b. At the end of the Reconciliation process, all teams should be as balanced as possible. If there are any concerns, questions, ideas etc., THIS IS THE TIME FOR DISCUSSION. Coaches are allowed to converse and consider any changes that may help with having enough Coaches, having competitive teams, potential development opportunities, etc.
4. Phase 4: Approval:
    a. After the Draft is finished and the teams are Reconciled and deemed to be in final form, the VP shall send the roster of all teams to the FLL Board for final approval. Once approved by the Board, the FLL Board shall announce the team rosters to the League;
    b. **There should be no discussion of teams in any manner or to any adult or child until the FLL Board announces the team rosters.**

SECTION 5: MAJORS BASEBALL TEAM FORMATION.

A. Majors Pre-Draft:

All Managers and Coaches are encouraged to attend the draft. The President and VP of baseball shall also attend the draft. The VP of baseball shall run the draft, with the caveat that if the VP of baseball is coaching a Majors team, the President will run the draft. The draft should be held within a week of Evaluations.

The first step is to understand how many teams there will be, and how many Majors players are needed. All 11 and 12 year olds will play on a Majors team, and there should be enough teams to accommodate all of them. If there are additional roster spots available, those will be filled with League Age 10 year olds who attended Evaluations and are deemed capable and ready to play Majors.

As per LLI, any Majors team (when there are multiple teams) may have a maximum of eight (8) league age 12 year old players. Additionally, at no point may there be A and B teams, all Regular Season teams must be evenly distributed as to skill and experience.

The second step is to review the ratings of all available players, which will be formulated based upon Evaluations and/or rankings from years past and past performance. The VP will provide a list or spreadsheet with players listed according to their ratings.

Finally, before the draft begins, the group will discuss how to balance the teams, especially regarding players automatically assigned to a team because they are linked to a specific coach. Solutions might include assigning certain players to teams or adjusting teams' draft positions. The goal is to ensure all teams are fair and competitive. The approach will be decided before the draft starts to keep things clear and fair.

B. The Majors Draft:

All Coaches should try to maintain the perspective that this is Little League AND that the goal of the group is to form balanced teams. It does not benefit FLL to have any stacked teams. Every year may present unique situations (i.e. talented twins/brothers, a group of 5 stronger pitchers etc. In these situations, the VP of Baseball has the discretion to make changes either at the outset of the Draft, or during the Reconciliation Process in order to redistribute talent working towards the ultimate goal of balanced teams. The Draft shall be structured in a manner similar (but not necessarily exactly) like this::

5. Phase 1: Pre-Draft Distributions:
    a. Place the Coaches' kids and then make any adjustments deemed necessary during the pre-draft;
    b. Potentially distribute necessary talent such as pitchers and catchers (each team should have at least one of each);
    c. Place any other players who show exceptional positional or offensive talent;
    d. Every effort will be made to ensure the teams are even heading into the draft process;
6. Phase 2: Draft Process:
    a. The Draft will begin with the team that has the lowest combined rating following Pre-Draft Distributions, unless otherwise agreed;
    b. A snake draft format will be followed;
    c. The order of Draft picks will proceed from the lowest combined team rating to highest, and will keep the same team order regardless of how the ratings change as picks are made.
7. Phase 3: Reconciliation:
    a. After the Draft is finished, Coaches, the VP, and President shall review the teams to determine whether the teams are fair and balanced. The group may decide that trades or moves are necessary to accomplish balanced teams. If Coaches do not agree to such reconciliation, the VP and President have the final authority to make these changes that are in the best interest of the League;
    b. At the end of the Reconciliation process, all teams should be as balanced as possible. If there are any concerns, questions, ideas etc., THIS IS THE TIME FOR DISCUSSION. Coaches are allowed to converse and consider any changes that may help with having enough Coaches, having competitive teams, potential development opportunities, etc.
8. Phase 4: Approval:

a. After the Draft is finished and the teams are Reconciled and deemed to be in final form, the VP shall send the roster of all teams to the FLL Board for final approval. Once approved by the Board, the FLL Board shall announce the team rosters to the League;
b. **There should be no discussion of teams in any manner or to any adult or child until the FLL Board announces the team rosters.**

SECTION 6: JUNIORS TEAM FORMATION

Juniors team formation will follow the rules and structure of Majors Baseball team formation. See Rule 11, Section 5. If there are multiple teams, each team must be evenly distributed in talent and follow the General Goals listed in Rule 11, Section 1.

SECTION 7: SOFTBALL TEAM FORMATION

All Softball Registrants will answer a "conflict" question at registration. This asks participants to designate a day that they cannot play, allowing Softball Teams to organize in a way that promotes as much participation as possible. Because Softball teams travel for inter-league play, having players who are able to participate is of great importance.

AA Softball Teams are formed based primarily on conflict requests, and age. These are non-competitive teams, so the only consideration towards "even" teams is a roughly even distribution of age. Players may request to be with one (1) friend, but this is not guaranteed.

Minors and Majors Softball teams are all formed based on 1) conflict groupings, 2) skill assessments, 3) age, and 4) the needs of the League. This is a competitive league, so even distribution is a top priority. The teams are created by the Softball VP and/or a Coaches committee using conflict elections and the rating system from Assessments; team formation is largely formulaic.

RULE 12: GAME OPERATIONS

SECTION 1. PRACTICE TIME

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that each team has a fair opportunity to schedule adequate practice time at a desirable time and place.

Managers of Majors and AAA teams shall have the opportunity to schedule practice time during the pre-season (indoor gyms) and regular season (LL fields). Practice scheduling may happen only through FLL once FLL releases the official practice scheduling spreadsheet. Coaches shall at no point schedule any facility or field time directly through the Town of Falmouth.

a. Pre Season Practice Time

The Pre-Season Practice Schedule will cover indoor practices in April. This schedule will first be available to program VPs for the scheduling of any all-teams practices, division-wide skills sessions, or other program-centered purposes that benefit the League. Next, the schedule will be sent to all Majors Managers of Softball and Baseball who may schedule practices on a first-come first-served basis following fair practice and other rules included in the email. After a specified time period, the schedule will be sent to the AAA/Minors Managers of Softball and Baseball who may do the same. AA teams are not entitled to Pre-Season gym time, but may have the schedule opened up to them if there are remaining times available after all other Divisions have exhausted their time period, and before remaining times are turned over to the town.

b. Regular-Season Practice Time

The Regular Season Practice Schedule covers outdoor practices from late April through mid-June, as well as rain-out availability. This schedule will be made available in the same manner as above. In the interest of the League and program they oversee, VP's may designate field and time slots for regular, whole-Division or multi-team use, such as Friday All-Teams Practice for the AA division, or other similar uses provided the use is efficient and League-focused.

Juniors Managers may schedule practice time on the Juniors field subject to M/W and T/Th T-Ball game schedule. Juniors Managers may schedule practice time on other town fields and indoors by scheduling such facilities through the Town of Falmouth point of contact at FLL.

To the extent that any Manager or Coach wishes to practice indoors during the Regular Season, he/she must reach out to their League VP and not the Town of Falmouth.

Batting cages must be shared amongst Baseball and Softball leagues. Each team with a scheduled game shall have use of the batting cage for 30 mins prior to the start of their game. If there are more than 2 teams scheduled to start a game at a given time, the Managers of those teams must work collaboratively so that each team has ample time in the batting cage.

c. Post-Season Practice Time

Post-Season practice times will be scheduled in collaboration with the team Coaches and through their respective program VPs. Practices may only be scheduled via a spreadsheet that will be sent out to the Team Managers. All-Star teams shall have equal access to the full field in the proper size for their level of play. If there are too many conflicts, teams are encouraged to conduct skills work in places they do not need a full field as to best utilize the limited available space amongst all teams.

SECTION 2. GAME SCHEDULES

The VPs of Baseball, Softball, and Tee-Ball shall create the regular season schedule in a way that maximizes the fair, equitable, and efficient use of the available facilities.

SECTION 3. FIELD PREPARATION (All Divisions)

Any Falmouth team playing on a Falmouth field is responsible for preparing the field prior to the game by raking and/or dragging the infield and pitcher's mound, and lining the first and third base lines and batter's boxes.

Additionally, Falmouth teams are responsible for raking and/or dragging the dirt areas of the field following the game or practice.

Guidelines:

- All raking and dragging of the infield should be done parallel to the grass and not perpendicular to the grass. Raking and/or dragging into the grass creates lips and additional expense for FLL to have the fields repaired.
- All lining equipment must be returned to the shed from which it came.
- Rakes, drag nets, and batters box guides must be put back after being used.
- Coaches must supervise kids who participate in this field preparation to avoid poor outcomes, incorrect process, or unsafe situations.

SECTION 4. UMPIRES (Majors and AAA Baseball)

In the absence of an umpire assigned by FLL for a game, the home team provides the home plate umpire for each game, and the visiting team provides the base umpire for each game.

SECTION 5. DUGOUTS AND BENCHES (All Divisions)

Visiting team must occupy the 3rd base dugout and the home team must occupy the 1st base dugout. It is each team's responsibility to clean up its dugout or bench area after every game. No glass containers are permitted in the dugout. No parents are permitted in the dugouts.

SECTION 6. PLAYING TIME (Majors, Minors/AAA, and AA)

Players must not sit out more than TWO innings on defense in any given game (unless injured or unwilling to play). In addition, every player must play at least one inning in the infield every game unless the player chooses to specialize in outfielding at the Majors level only. The infield includes the position of Pitcher and Catcher.

Additionally, Managers should make every effort to rotate the batting order from game to game. At the discretion of the Manager, a player may not benefit from this mandatory play rule because of a disciplinary problem or safety concern. Managers are to review any disciplinary problems with the FLL Board of Directors before deciding to not adhere to this rule for such a reason.

SECTION 7. PITCH COUNTS

In Baseball, LLI pitching rules (including pitch count and the pitcher catcher rule) must be followed. Managers and Coaches must familiarize themselves with these rules, linked here: https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/pitch-count/

Additionally, *in the Majors Baseball division only*, during each team's first two weeks of the season, a pitcher may pitch a maximum of six (6) defensive outs per game.

Managers for *all divisions* are encouraged to keep a statistics book (or assign a team parent to keep a book) during games. At a minimum, Managers must adhere to pitch count and rest day rules (and must keep a written record of such) both for safety and competition reasons. Managers may elect to keep records on GameChanger, but that should be discussed amongst league Managers at the outset of league play.

If Managers do not keep a book, the two teams playing must designate someone (inside or outside of their dugout) to be their pitch counter. Those pitch counters compare tallies between innings and confer/reconstruct pitch counts if there is a discrepancy.

At the conclusion of each game, team Managers must sign an affidavit and add it to the affidavit clipboard in the shed, available for all teams to view. A copy of the affidavit is available on FLL's website.

SECTION 8. DELAYED, SUSPENDED, POSTPONED OR RESCHEDULED GAMES

The umpires and both Managers may decide if a game should be canceled prior to the start of the game. The decision to call, halt or resume the game after it begins will be the sole responsibility of the umpires. See LLI Rule 4.01(d) for reference.

Please refer to FLL's Lightning Policy (on FLL website) for decisions about games when lightning or thunder are present.

SECTION 9. STARTING A GAME (Majors and AAA Baseball)

A team may start and play games with eight (8) players on each team. If a team only has 8 players to bat they can skip over the ninth (9th) position without penalty. This refers to both starting a game with 8 players or if a player starts the game but can't finish the game.

SECTION 10. SAFETY POLICIES

Please refer to FLL's website for a comprehensive discussion of all safety policies.

SECTION 11. BAT POLICIES

Managers, Coaches, and Parents should make note of LLI's bat policies, as FLL adheres to those policies. LLI's bat policies are found here: https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/bat-rules/

SECTION 12. ABILITY TO TEMPORARILY MODIFY RULES

With the agreement of all Managers in a division as well as the Vice President of that division, and with the approval of the President any local rule contained herein may be modified for the 2025 season so long as the modified rule does not conflict with the LLI Rulebook. Any modification of a local rule must be conveyed to the home base umpire prior to the implementation of the modified rule. The Managers are responsible for confirming with the umpires the applicability of a modified rule prior to every game in which the rule will be used.

SECTION 13. POOL PLAYERS

Pool players are permitted during the regular season. If needed, the VP will send out a signup link to gather a pool of available players. Players may sign up if interested in playing extra games in the event that teams within their respective division face a shortage of rostered players for an upcoming game. The Manager of any team facing a shortage of rostered players has the discretion to select a player from the pool subject to the following rules:

a. Managers must inform the opposing manager and umpires before the game that a pool player is being used;
b. Pool players can only be used during the regular season;
c. Pool players must play at least 6 defensive outs on the field;
d. Pool players must bat at the end of the batting order;
e. Pool players may not pitch.

RULE 13: TOURNAMENT PLAY

Please refer to FLL's All-Star Policy.

RULE 14: DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

SECTION 1. DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Disciplinary action may be brought against any person involved in FLL, including but not limited to FLL Board Directors or Officers, umpires, Managers, Coaches, players, volunteers, and those desiring to attend FLL games and/or functions. Activities that may be subject to disciplinary action shall include any violation of the Town of Falmouth's rules or ordinances, guidelines contained in the FLL Constitution, LLI Operating Manual, Official Regulations and Playing Rules, FLL By-laws, or FLL Volunteer Coaching Agreement. Any activity or conduct which is determined to be detrimental to the best interest of FLL

and/or LLI as well as the objectives outlined in FLL's Constitution by any individual who is in any way involved in FLL may be subject to disciplinary action.

SECTION 2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The FLL Board of Directors shall establish an Executive Committee as set forth in Article VII for the purpose of assessing complaints, conducting a preliminary investigation into properly lodged complaints, and determining whether the complaint should be brought to the full FLL Board of Directors for continued investigation and potential disciplinary action. The Executive Committee shall, regardless of the results of its investigation, provide the full Board with a summary of the Complaint and its results.

SECTION 3. FILING OF COMPLAINT.

To prompt a preliminary investigation by the Executive Committee, a written/emailed complaint shall be filed, setting forth the grounds upon which the complaint is based. The complaint shall contain necessary information so that a proper investigation of the complaint can be made. It shall be signed by the complainant and shall be delivered to the attention of the FLL President within seven (7) calendar days following the occurrence of the alleged violation. Any FLL Board member may also initiate an investigation of wrongdoings at any time.

Emailed complaints may be sent to:

president@falmouthlittleleague.net

Written complaints may be mailed to:

Falmouth Little League, PO BOX 147 190 U.S Route 1 Falmouth, ME 04105

Note: No anonymous complaints will be investigated by FLL. If a complaint is made, a name(s) must be attached and the complaint must be signed.

SECTION 4. NOTIFICATION OF COMPLAINT.

To the extent possible, within three (3) days of receipt of a complaint alleging the need for disciplinary action, and if the Executive Committee has determined that the matter should be presented to the Board for continued investigation, the FLL President or presiding Director/Officer shall give written notice (via e-mail or U.S. Mail) to the alleged violator stating the substance of the complaint in concise terms and requesting that the alleged violator appear before the Board of Directors at a meeting to be held no sooner than three (3) days but no later than ten (10) days from the date of the notice. The notice shall contain a statement that failure to appear at the meeting shall constitute default and an admission of the violation alleged in the complaint. The notice shall also state that such a default shall allow the FLL Board to discipline the alleged violator as it deems appropriate, including suspension or removal from the FLL program. To the extent possible, prior to the scheduled appearance before the Board, the FLL Board shall attempt to confirm that the alleged violator received the written notification of charges.

SECTION 5. FACT-FINDING INQUIRY.

Following notification to the alleged violator, the FLL Board shall conduct a fact-finding inquiry at a meeting. As noted, the alleged violator shall have the opportunity to be heard at the meeting. The alleged violator may also present witnesses and documentation at the meeting. At the meeting, the FLL Board may ask questions of the alleged violator as well as any witnesses present.

SECTION 6. DECISION OF THE BOARD.

At the conclusion of the fact-finding inquiry, the FLL Board shall adjourn for deliberation and ultimate vote on whether disciplinary action should be taken against the alleged violator. The FLL Board must be represented by a valid quorum. If 2/3 of those present at any duly convened hearing find that adequate grounds exist for disciplinary action, then the FLL President (or, at the direction of the President any Director of Officer) shall issue a written decision setting forth the rule, regulation, or policy violated, and the sanction ordered as a result of the violation. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, suspension, or dismissal from any further FLL activities. In no event shall any Director or Officer directly involved in the alleged violation have authority to deliberate or vote on the alleged violation.

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY DISCIPLINARY ACTION.

Under emergency circumstances, when immediate action must be taken to protect the welfare of any individual involved in the FLL program, the President or any Director or Officer specifically designated by the President may suspend an individual from further participation in FLL activities. Following emergency suspension, a formal complaint shall be made as set forth in Section 2 above and a hearing shall take place as set forth in Sections 3 and 4.

RULE 15: STATEMENT ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY AND RECORDS

According to Article V, Section 2 of the FLL Constitution, all matters discussed at FLL Board of Directors meetings and/or in e-mail or other correspondence amongst Directors regarding FLL matters and related issues shall be held in strict confidence.

Relatedly, all records shall be kept confidential according to the Board's internal record retention policies, and information practices.