



# RYE COVE LITTLE LEAGUE BYLAWS – 2026

## Article I – General League Policy

- 1) Applicability
  - a) As a charter member of Little League Baseball Inc., Rye Cove Little League (RCLL) is in full agreement with the Little League Baseball, Inc. mission statement: "Little League believes in the power of youth baseball and softball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities". RCLL endeavors to provide a safe, affordable, well-organized program through which boys and girls can learn and enjoy the games of baseball and softball. In addition, we aspire towards an environment of community in which children participate and work towards our common goal of becoming responsible adults.
  - b) The RCLL shall operate under the Little League International Operating Policies and the Little League Baseball and Softball Rule Books. The RCLL Constitution and Bylaws are established to operate and manage the league. If the local rules or bylaws do not cover situations that arise, then the Official Little League International Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules shall apply.
  - c) All team managers, coaches, and umpires are responsible for knowing and understanding these bylaws, and the rules published in the most recent editions of the Little League Baseball and Softball Rule Books. It should be noted that rule changes occur yearly (both in the RCLL bylaws and the official Little League Baseball and Softball rules) and that the most recent rules apply regardless of differences from those used in past seasons.
- 2) Board of Directors (BOD)
  - a) Write, update, and enforce the local bylaws and rules. The local bylaws shall be reviewed and/or updated each year by all members. This must be completed by the end of January.
  - b) Approve ALL operational expenses over \$500.
  - c) No board member shall interfere with any game that is under the jurisdiction of an approved umpire. Board member influence at any game is restricted to outside playing field or as requested by an umpire.
  - d) Term – Each position is for a one-year term.
  - e) Election - At the Annual Meeting, all open position(s) and individuals wanting to run will be read. If there are more people than positions open, an election must be held with individuals attending the meeting by secret ballot. After the votes are counted, the top individuals will be awarded the open position(s). If a tie occurs, another round of voting will be conducted on the individuals tied.
  - f) Any individual who served as a volunteer (must have completed background check) in the previous season is eligible to vote in the following season's election.



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- g) The BOD will consist of up to fifteen total members. The elected board will then determine officers.
- h) Absence at Board Meetings: The league Secretary shall maintain a log of all Board Members present for each meeting. Any Board Member who is absent from three (3) regularly scheduled board meetings with unexcused absences (no advanced notice by phone or email), will be subject to removal from the Board of Directors following the rules set forth in the local league Constitution.
- i) In any voting matter, in the event of a tie vote, the President will be the deciding vote.

3) Conduct

- a) RCLL has adopted a “NO TOLERANCE” policy against any violence, unsportsmanlike conduct, destructive, or disruptive behavior including, but not limiting to foul language and bad attitudes shown by any player, coach, manager, or parent.
- b) An umpire at his/her discretion can discipline any of the above – up to and including ejection of said person. The BOD member on duty has the authority to control any spectator/situation at the game, or any player, coach, or manager after the game for their behavior, up to and including ejection from the facility. After an ejection, BOD member(s) on duty shall escort the ejected party off the premises. Anyone causing conflict with the league that is removed will be banned from the premises from the time of incident to the end of the season, pending BOD review.
- c) Any manager, coach, player, or spectator who is ejected, suspended, or removed from a game by an umpire or BOD member shall be disqualified from the remainder of the game and the next played game. If a manager or coach, they shall have no contact with the team during the suspension. A player who is suspended is to leave the dugout area for the remainder of the game. Suspension shall carry over into tournament play if at the end of the season pending BOD decision.
- d) An Umpire must make the BOD member on duty aware of any warnings handed out to a manager and/or coach who will then note that infraction in the official score book for that game and communicate any issues with players to the BOD member(s) on duty to pass on info to the proper officer.
- e) Any manager, coach, player, or spectator who is ejected for a second time shall be required to meet the BOD for further disciplinary action that may include removal from participation in RCLL activities for a period of time. In addition, the person shall remain suspended until the board meets to discuss the second ejection.

4) Manager/Coaches Conduct

- a) All team managers and coaches must adhere to the Manager/Coaches Code of Conduct. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.
- b) Team managers will be responsible for their conduct and that of their coaches, players, and of team members.



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- c) At least two adults with approved volunteer applications are required to remain at the field after a practice or a game until all players are picked up.
- d) No additional people may be on the field or in the dugout area. The penalty for this offense is the manager may serve a one (1) game suspension which will be the next scheduled game. Any volunteer that interacts with a player must have an approved background check. This includes practices as well as games.
- e) Managers and coaches (other than the first and third base coaches) must remain inside the dugout during play. **One** manager or coach may stay outside the dugout within an arm's length of the dugout entrance during the game. Dugout gates **must remain closed** during play.
- f) Ejection of Manager/Coach or Player- In accordance with Little League rule 4.07, when a manager, coach, or player is ejected from a game, he/she shall leave the complex immediately and take no further part in that game. He/she may not sit in the stands or be recalled. Any manager, coach, or player ejected from a game is suspended for his or her teams physically played game and may not enter the complex or watch the game as a fan or a spectator. The division's director shall be notified if ejection occurs and shall inform the person or persons ejected to advise them of Little League Rule 4.07.
- g) A "bench restriction" may be issued by umpires if a manager/coach is being verbally abusive. This restriction is not required prior to ejection. Under a bench restriction, the offending person is to remain inside the dugout on the bench and cannot speak to the players/umpires on the field of play.
- h) Notify the RCLL President or Vice President of any issues parents, managers, coaches, or umpires.
- i) Do not engage in player vs. parent games at any time. This is a direct violation of Little League insurance regulations.

5) Parent/Spectator Conduct

- a) All parents and spectators must become well acquainted with the objectives of the RCLL and Little League Baseball, Incorporated.
- b) All parents and spectators must recognize that these are children, not professional players, and each child needs ample encouragement, not destructive criticism.
- c) All parents and spectators shall applaud the good play of all participants and award great effort, initiative, and hustle. Congratulate the winning team, encourage the losing team, and enjoy the game.
- d) All parents and spectators shall constructively offer any criticism of the program to League Officials and, simultaneously, be willing to volunteer their services to improve the League.
- e) All parents and spectators shall uphold the RCLL rules or will face removal from the premises by the BOD Member on Duty.



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- 6) Meeting of the League
  - a) The Annual Members Meeting of the League shall be held after October 1 and no later than January 31.
  - b) The BOD needs at least one-fifth of its voting members present to have a quorum to conduct league business. For email voting the BOD needs at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  (one half) of its voting members to respond to the vote to be valid. In the event of a tie, the League President shall decide the outcome.
  - c) A Special General Meeting may be called at any time upon reasonable notice by the Secretary on the instructions of the President.

## Article II – Registration and Residency Requirements

- 1) Registration dates will be determined by the RCLL BOD. Announcements will be made on social media and the RCLL website.
- 2) Registration will be held both online and in person.
- 3) The registration fee will be assessed before the opening of registration. A family discount may be provided for the second and following player(s) in the same household.
- 4) Registration
  - a) Eligible players must reside inside the boundaries of the RCLL or the location of the school where the child attends is located inside the RCLL's boundaries that Little League Baseball, Incorporated approves. To verify residency eligibility, please visit <https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/league-finder/>.
  - b) A formal waiver signed by the District Administrator will also be accepted.
  - c) Each player shall be accepted for registration if he or she presents or has previously presented a valid certified copy of his or her birth certificate. A hospital certificate is not acceptable.
  - d) Pay must be received prior to the tryout date to ensure the child is eligible for play.
  - e) If a player decides not to play, he or she must do so prior to draft day or before teams are finalized for the registration fee to be refunded (minus \$15 processing fee). No refunds will be issued once a player has been assigned to a team.

## Article III – Player and Manager Eligibility/Team Responsibilities

- 1) PLAYER ELIGIBILITY
  - a) Players will participate in divisions that include their age group. The player's league age, determined by their date and year of birth, is defined in the Little League Age Chart for Baseball and the Little League Age Chart for Softball instituted by Little League International.



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b) RCLL, based on registrations, will have the following Divisions:

- (1) Tee-Ball – league ages 3-4
- (2) Tee-Ball – league ages 4-6
- (3) Minor (Coach Pitch) Softball – league ages 7-8
- (4) Minor (Coach Pitch) Baseball – league ages 7-8
- (5) Minor (Player Pitch) Softball – league ages 9-10
- (6) Minor (Player Pitch) Baseball – league ages 9-10
- (7) Major Softball – league ages 11-12
- (8) Major Baseball – league ages 11-12
- (10) Junior Softball – league ages 12-14
- (11) Junior Baseball – league ages 12-14
- (12) Senior Softball – league ages 13-16
- (13) Senior Baseball – league ages 13-16

c) Any player who is requesting to play in a division outside of their default age division will be required to fill out a Play up/Play Down Request form and may be required to attend an assessment for both divisions. The BOD will approve final placement.

### 2) MANAGER/COACH ELIGIBILITY

a) Appointment of Managers:

- (1) Those requesting to manage a team must attend the manager/coach's meeting, complete a volunteer form, consent to a background check, complete the Abuse Awareness Training, and sign the Coach's Contract.
- (2) The President and the Board of Directors will review applicants and vote on applicants.
- (3) Final approval for team managers is contingent upon completing mandatory training, having a clear background check, and/or a background check with cases that **do not** include an offense involving a child or any other serious offense(s).

b) Manager Duties:

- (1) All field usages will be scheduled through the RCLL to include the batting cage. Managers will be responsible for contacting the parents of each player on their roster within seven days following the team assignment.
- (2) Managers are responsible for selecting coaches for their teams. Once selected, managers must submit their coach's information (name, phone number, and email address) to the President.
- (3) All Managers and coaches must be in good standing with the RCLL and complete and pass a background check before the first team meeting or practice, whichever comes first. Failure to do so will result in suspension from the RCLL facilities until a background check has been submitted and approved by the President.



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- (4) The RCLL suggests that managers have a team meeting prior to, or at the first practice, to communicate to parents to review the Bylaws and the Code of Conduct. Managers will be responsible for the actions of their players, parents, and coaches *at all times*.
- (5) Managers must have Medical Release forms available for *all players* during practices and games.

5) Team Responsibilities:

- a) The HOME (RCLL) team is responsible for:
  - (1) preparing (raking, watering, and marking) the field for play.
  - (2) keeping the official score within GameChanger or a scorebook.
  - (3) setting up the scoreboard controller.
- b) The last RCLL team playing at RCLL Complex team is responsible for:
  - (1) dragging the infield
  - (2) putting the scoreboard controller back in the storage building. (Last game of the day)
- c) ALL teams are responsible for:
  - (1) ensuring that all trash in the dugouts and under the bleachers is picked up after every game and practice, and trash cans must be emptied into the dumpsters if full.
  - (2) the last RCLL team at the RCLL Complex will ensure bathrooms are free of trash, toilets flushed, lights off and door locked.

6) Base Coaches: Teams are allowed two adult base coaches on the field, one on first base and one on third base, if another adult coach is in the dugout. There must always be an adult coach in the dugout.

7) Equipment and Keys

- a) League issued equipment and keys will be signed out by the manager at the beginning of the season and must be returned within seven (7) days from the date of the team's last regular season game. The league will use combination locks where feasible.
- b) Managers who fail to turn in equipment or keys will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including exclusion from managing a team in the future. (If you do not return the league issued equipment you will be charged for the cost of the equipment and you will not be eligible to manage the next season until the equipment is returned) .



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## Article IV – Team Rosters and Games

### 1) Team Rosters

- a) The number of teams and the number of players per team will be determined at the close of registration.
- b) Tee Ball has no minimum or maximum number for a team, but it is recommended to have no more than six per team.
- c) Minors have no minimum or maximum, however, a minimum of ten is recommended and a maximum of fourteen.
- d) Majors, Juniors, and Seniors: Minimum of ten, maximum of fifteen (recommended roster size is twelve).
- e) Tournament teams shall be restricted to a minimum of twelve players, with a maximum of fourteen (Junior and below) and sixteen for Senior.

### 2) Game time limits:

- a) Monday – Thursday games
  - (1) Tee-ball games will have a forty-five minute time limit from the scheduled start time. They will play a maximum of two innings or the forty-five minute time limit, whichever happens first.
  - (2) Minor League will have a one hour thirty minute time limit from their scheduled start time due to field limitations. No new inning begins after one hour and fifteen minutes and that inning will be completed. Inter-league rules will prevail if in conflict with local rules.
  - (3) Major League will have one hour forty-five minute time limit from their scheduled start time. No new inning begins after one hour thirty minutes.
  - (4) The last game scheduled on the field or the day will have no time limit but must finish by 9 pm. If a tie breaker situation occurs, the game must be finished by 9:30 pm.
- b) Friday – Sunday games
  - (1) All games will have a two hour time limit from their scheduled start time.
  - (2) A tie breaker situation must be completed by 10pm.
  - (3) Sunday games will be scheduled after 2:00pm and all games will be completed by 6:00 pm.



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- c) In the major division, should a game be stopped due to the locally imposed time limit before the minimum number of innings are played for legal game (or if the score is tied at the stop of play), the balance of the game (to make it a legal game) shall be played at a later date in accordance with the Little League Rulebook. However, only game(s) that affect league standings will be finished under this rule. Other games that do not affect league standing may be finished if the Scheduler can accommodate the required space in the league schedule. Minor division games will be considered official when time expires (scores will revert to the last completed inning unless the home team is ahead when time expires.) If the home team is ahead in score, and at bat, and the time limit has been reached, the game will be called.
- d) Tie Breaker
  - (1) If a game ends in a tie, a tie breaker situation (extra inning) will occur.
  - (2) Both teams will have an at bat in which a runner will be on second base. The runner will be the last two batters from the previous inning of play.
- e) Players who arrive at the game site after a game begins may be inserted in the lineup. The late arriving player does not have to meet the mandatory play requirements. The manager is responsible for ensuring the mandatory playing rules are met for each player present at the start of the game.

3) All Divisions participating in inter-league play shall maintain a paper score book and/or utilize the GameChanger APP for all games. A forfeited game will count as a game for that team's overall record.

4) All-Stars Tournament Play

- a) Selection of All-Stars will be made by the following process:
  - (1) When there is more than one team in a division, the Head coach of each team nominates players.
  - (2) Each head coach can vote for up to twelve players less their nominations.
  - (3) Each division will have up to fourteen players from the selection process on the team.
- b) Selection of All-Star coaches will be made by the following five point system:
  - (1) Regular season champion earns one point.
  - (2) End of season tournament champion earns one point.
  - (3) Coaches from division will vote for choice – winner earns one point.
  - (4) The BOD will vote on choice – winner earns one point.
  - (5) Coaches will earn one point for working at least 75% of their scheduled concession times/games to umpire.



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### Article V – Conflict of Interest

- 1) **Conflict of Interest:** If any person who is a director or officer of the league is aware that RCLL is about to enter into a business transaction directly or indirectly with himself, any member of his family or any entity in which he has any legal, equitable or fiduciary interest or position, including without limitation as a director, officer, shareholder, partner, beneficiary or trustee, such person shall:
  - a) Immediately inform those charged with approving the transaction on behalf of the league of his/her interest or position;
  - b) Aid the people charged with making the decision by disclosing the material facts within his/her knowledge that are based on the advisability of such transaction from the standpoint of the League; and
  - c) Not be entitled to vote on the decision to enter at such transaction.