

# **Bowling Green East Little League**

## **Rules and Regulations**

Revised Spring, 2021

## **DRAFT**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of the draft is to distribute enough players to fill each major league team and then assign the remaining players to a minor league team. Prior to the draft, a tryout session will be held for each age group. At that time, all managers and coaches can evaluate the talent and determine the players they wish to draft.

### **ORDER OF DRAFT**

The order of draft is determined by a random draw of the teams in the draft. A separate random draw is conducted for the major league draft and the minor league draft.

For the major league draft, the teams will draft in the 1<sup>st</sup> round in the order of the draw. Thereafter, the teams will draft in the order of the draw in the even numbered rounds and in the reverse order in the odd numbered rounds.

For the minor league draft, the teams will draft in order in the odd numbered rounds and in the reverse order in the even numbered rounds, throughout all phases of the draft. If a team has filled a slot in the preliminaries, as outlined later, the team will “pass” that round and resume its draft at the next available round.

### **DRAFT FORMAT**

There are two phases to the draft:

- 1) Major League – Consists of as many rounds as is necessary to draft enough players to fill the rosters of the major league teams. All returning major league players must be drafted to a major league team.
- 2) Minor League – Consists of enough rounds to distribute all remaining players in the minor leagues.

### **PRELIMINARIES TO THE DRAFT**

The following items should be done before the draft begins:

- 1) Current league policy is for each major league roster to carry 10 players and each minor league team roster to attempt to carry no more than 12 players. After tryouts, the league will determine the number of players per team. All 11 and 12 year-olds who want to play in the majors, and are deemed capable, must be drafted by a major league team. If a 10 year-old wants to play in the majors, any team may draft that player. If the final number creates an unequal number of players per team, some teams will end up with more players than others.

- 2) Identify all eligible players whose parent is a manager of a major league team or a manager or coach of a minor league team. Slot the eligible player in the draft according to the following:
  - a. Major league manager—If the child is 11 or 12 years old, the player is slotted in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the major league draft. If the child is 10 years old, the player is slotted in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the major league draft.
  - b. Minor league manager's child – 1<sup>st</sup> round of the minor league draft.

A major league manager may only protect one player in the draft. If the manager does not have a child to slot, he may slot any eligible player in the 1<sup>st</sup> round provided the parent of the child gives permission. If a team does not slot a player in the 1<sup>st</sup> round, the team(s) will draft in the established order and may select any eligible player in the draft.

A minor league manager may protect one player in the draft. If the manager does not have a child to slot, he may slot any eligible player in the 1<sup>st</sup> round provided the parent of the child gives permission. If a team does not slot a player in the 1<sup>st</sup> round, the team(s) will draft in the established order and may select any eligible player in the draft.

**Exception:** If a minor league manager or coach has a child that they wish to make eligible for promotion to the major leagues, the child is not slotted at this time. This child is open for the draft during the major league draft. If the child has not been drafted at the end of the major league draft, they will be slotted as above. Identify all major league managers who have more than one child eligible to play in the major leagues. One child is slotted according to the above guidelines and the other child is slotted in the next available round of the major league draft.

**Exception:** A major league manager may declare a child ineligible for the major leagues. In that case, the child is open for the draft beginning in the minor league draft. Under no circumstances will the child be eligible to play in the major leagues during that season, except as a temporary roster replacement.

**Exception:** An exception can be made if a majority of the managers agree that a sibling does not have the talent that warrants being slotted in the next available round of the draft. In that case, they can vote to slot the sibling a certain number of rounds below the other sibling. As an example, you could have 12 year-old and 10 year-old brothers and instead of one round below each other, the managers could agree that one brother should be slotted three rounds below the other brother. If no consensus can be reached, the President will decide.

- 3) Identify any brother or sister combinations that are participating in the tryouts. When there is such a combination and one of the pair is drafted, the remaining

brother or sister must be selected in the next available round in that particular draft.

**Exception:** If, prior to the start of the draft, a majority of the major league managers feel that any of the brother/sister combinations should not play in the major leagues, or if one of the combination is age 8 or 9, that brother or sister will be declared ineligible for the major leagues and open for the draft beginning in the minor league draft. Under no circumstances will the child be eligible to play in the major leagues during that season, except as a temporary roster replacement

**Exception:** An exception can be made if a majority of the major or minor league managers agree that a sibling does not have the talent that warrants being slotted in the next available round of the draft. In that case, they can vote to slot the sibling a certain number of rounds below the other sibling. As an example, you could have 12 year-old and 10 year-old brothers and instead of one round below each other, the managers could agree that one brother should be slotted three rounds below the other brother. If no consensus can be reached, the President will decide.

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY**

- (1) 9 year-old players are ineligible to play in the major league.
- (2) The player registration form will have a place where a parent can declare a 10 year-old ineligible for the major league draft. If a player is declared ineligible, the child will not be eligible to play in the major leagues during that season, except as a temporary roster replacement.
- (3) It is mandatory that all 11 and 12 year-olds who want to play in the majors are drafted to a major league team unless deemed ineligible by a board committee. The board committee shall be appointed by the President and consist of at least 3 board members. They will be responsible for evaluating, during tryouts, the talent of all 11 and 12 year-olds who did not play on a major league team the previous year. If in the committee's opinion, it would pose a safety issue for the 11 or 12 year-old to play in the major league, the committee may declare the child ineligible for the major league draft. The committee shall consult with the child's parents before declaring the child ineligible.
- (4) If a parent declares an 11 or 12 year-old ineligible for the majors, their request will be referred to the board committee to determine the best league for that player based on their baseball ability. The league will not put a capable 11 or 12 year old in the minors if that will create a safety issue in the minor leagues.

## **NO-SHOWS AND LATE SIGNUPS**

- 1) If a player does not show at the league tryouts, he cannot be drafted. At the end of the minor league draft, all no-shows will be placed in a lottery with the first name drawn assigned to the team scheduled to draft next.

**Exception:** If there is a player who does not show at the tryouts but is known to have the capabilities to play in the major leagues, an exception can be made. A manager, coach or board member must speak, at draft night, about the player's abilities in baseball and other sports. With all managers being aware of the player's abilities, that player can be placed in the open draft and taken during any round.

- 2) If an 11 or 12 year old player signs up after the draft, they will be assigned to the major league team scheduled to draft next. If the player is 8, 9 or 10, they will be assigned to the minor league team scheduled to draft next.
- 3) A middle school baseball player may sign up until May 15 of the current Little League season and will be assigned to the major league team scheduled to draft next.

## **OTHER RULES**

- 1) Parent's requests for a particular league, manager, coach or teammate will not be honored.
- 2) All players that are to be protected must be announced before the date of the first scheduled tryout.

## **OTHER LEAGUE RULES**

### **MANDATORY PLAY RULE**

Bowling Green East Little League has the following mandatory play rule for the Major League:

- 1) The mandatory play rule is in effect—each player must play 6 consecutive defensive outs and have at least one appearance at the plate with a count of 0-0. The mandatory play rule is not in effect if a game is shortened because of the 10-run rule, rain, etc. The game is not considered shortened if the home team doesn't bat in the bottom of the 6<sup>th</sup> because they won the game in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) Once a starter is removed for a substitute, the starter can't re-enter until the substitute has met the mandatory play rule. The starter can re-enter in any position in the batting order.
- 3) Once all players have met the mandatory play rule, you can freely substitute anywhere in the lineup. The only stipulation is that any player on the bench can't re-enter until their sub has batted **and/or** played 3 defensive outs.
- 4) Example:

- a. Johnny is a starter, bats in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning and plays 6 consecutive defensive outs in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> innings.
  - b. Billy is the only substitute for his team and he subs for Johnny at the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. Billy has to play 6 consecutive defensive outs **and** bat once before Johnny can return to the lineup.
  - c. After Billy plays defense in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> and bats in the 4<sup>th</sup>, Johnny can re-enter the game in any batting position and goes in for Fred in the top of the 5<sup>th</sup>. Fred can't return to the lineup until Johnny bats **or** plays 3 defensive outs.
  - d. Johnny plays defense for 3 outs in the 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. Fred can re-enter the game in any batting position and bats for Tommy in the bottom of the 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - f. Since Tommy's sub batted for him in the 5<sup>th</sup>, Tommy can re-enter the game in any batting position and goes in for Joey in the top of the 6<sup>th</sup>, etc. etc.
  - g. In this example, instead of only Johnny and Billy being subs, this rule allows for 5 players to share the playing time.
- 5) In the above example, if the team had more than 1 substitute, all subs would have to meet the mandatory play rule before free substitution takes place.
  - 6) This rule is not intended for coaches to manipulate it so that their better players could come out of a game and re-enter in a more critical spot in the lineup late in a game. This rule should primarily only involve those players in the bottom of the lineup (6-9).

Bowling Green East Little League has the following mandatory play rule for the Minor League:

- 1) In the Minor League there will be a standing batting order meaning all players must bat. For example, if you have 11 players on your roster, you will have 11 players in your batting order.
- 2) Defensively, no player should sit out for 2 consecutive innings. If Player A sits out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> inning he/she should be reinserted into the field in the 3<sup>rd</sup> inning. Player A may then sit in the 4<sup>th</sup> inning if indicated, but must be reinserted in the 5<sup>th</sup> inning.

## **PITCH COUNT**

The Bowling Green East Little League will comply with the pitch count rule as established by Little League. The official score keeper is responsible for keeping the pitch count and their total shall be final.

Exception: If an 11 year-old pitches in the minor league, their maximum pitch count will be 75 pitches per day. However, if they reach the limit while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch to that batter until any of the following conditions occurs: (a) That batter reaches base (b) That batter is put out or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning.

## **PITCHER REST**

The Bowling Green East Little League adopts the following requirements for the amount of rest required between pitching appearances, based on the number of pitches thrown:

1. If a pitcher throws 66 or more pitches, the pitcher must have at least 4 calendar days of rest before the pitcher is eligible to throw;
2. If a pitcher throws 51-65 pitches, the pitcher must have at least 3 calendar days of rest before the pitcher is eligible to throw.
3. If a pitcher throws 36-50 pitches, the pitcher must have at least 2 calendar days of rest before the pitcher is eligible to throw.
4. If the pitcher throws 21-35 pitches, the pitcher must have at least 1 calendar day of rest.
5. If the pitcher throws less than 21 pitches, no calendar day of rest is required. Though eligible, a pitcher may not pitch on three consecutive days.

If a pitcher reaches a pitch count threshold after at least one pitch to a batter, the pitcher may continue until the at-bat is completed and the pitcher's rest will be determined by the pitch count before that batter came to the plate.

## **BATTING HELMETS**

Players in the Major League will be required to use a Little League approved jaw guard at a minimum. In the Minor League, players will be required to use a full cage/mask.

## **PITCHING PROTECTION**

Minor league pitchers are required to wear protective head gear while pitching. Major league pitchers are not required to wear protective head gear, but it is recommended.

## **ON-DECK BATTERS**

On-deck batters are not allowed in either the Major or Minor Leagues.

## **SLASH BUNTS**

Slash bunts are not allowed in either the Major or Minor Leagues. A slash bunt is when a hitter assumes the position for a bunt, then changes grip and takes a swing at the ball.

## **PROTESTS**

BG East LL will follow the guidelines laid out in the Little League Rulebook.

## **MINOR LEAGUE**

The purpose of the Minor League program is to provide training and instruction for those players who do not qualify for selection in the Major League.

The Minor League program is the responsibility and is an integral part of the chartered Little League. It is not and may not be operated as a separate entity. It is to be viewed as a farm system for the Major Leagues and all players, except as previously noted, are subject to being promoted to the Major Leagues during the draft or regular season.

No player can play in a Minor League game unless they are a registered player in BG East Little League.

## **TIME LIMITS**

Major league games do not have a time limit and are to be played until completion or suspended by the umpire-in-chief. Minor league games have a time limit of one hour and forty-five minutes. No inning may be started after that time but any that have started shall be completed according to Little League rules. No inning in either league may start after 10:00 pm as outlined in Little League rules.

These guidelines are subject to change per any mandates provided by the Bowling Green City Parks Department.

## **5-RUN RULE**

In the minor leagues, no team may score more than 5 runs in an inning. Once the 5-run limit has been reached, the teams will switch offense and defense. If a team is behind by more runs than can be legally made up based on the number of innings remaining, the game is over.

## **10-RUN RULE**

If after four (4) innings, three and one-half innings if the home team is ahead, one team has a lead of ten (10) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

## **PERMANENT ROSTER REPLACEMENT**

If a major league team's roster is reduced to 9 players and no player on the roster is expected to return for the remainder of the season, that manager shall have the right to select one player from the minor league as a permanent roster replacement. The manager shall notify the player agent of his selection within three days of reaching the 9-player minimum. The player agent will notify the minor league manager and verify the child's parental acceptance of the selection. The following are not eligible to be added as a permanent roster replacement:

1. Minor league manager's child that was slotted in the minor league draft;
2. Minor league coach's child that was slotted in the minor league draft;



3. A child that was a no-show at tryouts and was not made eligible for the major league draft;
4. A child that was a late signup after the tryouts;
5. Any child if there are fourteen or fewer days left in the regular season.

### **TEMPORARY ROSTER REPLACEMENT**

If a major league team cannot field 9 players for a game, the manager may select a minor league player to play that game. The Player Agent must be notified before a player is selected. Any minor league player is eligible to be selected, provided they are League age 9 or 10 or older and does not have a minor league game on the same day. The Major League replacement player cannot play the position of pitcher or catcher. They can bat in any position in the order.

If a minor league team cannot field 9 players for a game, the manager may select another minor league player to play that game. The Player Agent must be notified before a player is selected. Any minor league player is eligible to be selected, provided they have not been previously selected as a temporary roster replacement for a minor league game and does not have a minor league game on the same day. A Minor League replacement player must bat last and play in the outfield on defense.

### **PITCHER REPLACEMENT**

In the minor leagues, if a pitcher hits three batters in an inning or hits five batters in a game, the pitcher must be replaced.

### **RESCHEDULING POSTPONED GAMES**

#### **Major Leagues:**

1. Postponed games shall be played on the next available Wednesday in the order they appeared on the original schedule. Postponed games are those that were not started or those that did start but didn't play more than 4 innings before being postponed.
2. If there becomes a backlog of Postponed games, Saturdays may also be used but will not be required until the League President feels it is necessary to get all regular season games played.
3. Bowling Green Parks & Recreation will determine whether games are canceled prior to the start of the game. Once a game begins, the umpires will determine if a game is canceled. Any detection of lightning will result in an automatic 20 minute suspension of play. If lightning is detected a second time, the game will be called.
4. Suspended games are those games that were postponed after playing at least 4 innings but did not reach the status of a regulation game according to Little League rules. Suspended games will be made up in the following manner:

- a. If the two teams are scheduled to play again, the game will be resumed prior to the start of the next scheduled game between the two teams.
  - b. If the two teams are not scheduled to play again, the game will be rescheduled prior to the start of the next rescheduled Postponed game. If it is late in the season and the game has no impact on the standings, both managers may agree not to play the game. If it is late in the season and the game has an impact on the standings, and there are no other Postponed games to reschedule, the Suspended game will be scheduled on the next available Wednesday or Saturday. The goal is that the league doesn't incur the expense of umpires, scorekeepers and field preparation for a one or two inning game unless circumstances dictate.
5. Wednesday games will be played at 5:15 pm and 7:15 pm. Saturday game times will be determined by the President of the league.
  6. In the absence of the President, the Player Agent shall have the authority to reschedule games according to this policy.
  7. If a team is unable to field nine players after a game has started, it will be considered a suspended game and the game will be completed per paragraph 4.
  8. There will no make-up games scheduled on Saturday or Sunday of Derby weekend or Memorial Day weekend.

**Minor Leagues:**

Minor League postponed games will be played on the next available date.

**SEASON-ENDING TIE BREAKER**

**If two teams have identical records at the end of the regular season, the tiebreaker shall be as follows:**

1. Compare head-to-head records.
2. If there is still a tie, but one of the teams wins the post-season tournament, that team will be declared champion of the league.
3. If there is a tie after comparing head-to-head records, and neither team wins the post-season tournament, both teams will be declared co-champions.
4. A coin flip between the co-champion managers will determine which manager has first choice of All-Star teams.

**If three or more teams have identical records at the end of the regular season, the tiebreaker shall be as follows:**

1. Compare the head-to-head combined won-loss record of each team tied for the championship. The team with the best record shall be declared league champions.
2. If there is still a tie, but one of the teams wins the post-season tournament, that team will be declared champion of the league.
3. If there is a tie after comparing head-to-head records, and neither team wins the post-season tournament, the teams with the best head-to-head combined won-loss record will be declared co-champions.
4. A coin flip between the co-champion managers will determine which manager has first choice of All-Star teams.

## **ALL-STAR TEAMS**

### **TEAMS**

Bowling Green East Little League will field four All-Star teams at the conclusion of its regular season. The number of players on each team will be a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 14 and be decided by the manager of the team.

- 1) 10-12 Year-Old All-Star Team – This team will be selected from all eligible 10, 11 and 12 year-olds on a major league roster. It will participate in the World Series tournament organized by Little League.
- 2) 9-11 Year-Old All-Star Team – This team will be selected from all eligible 9, 10 and 11 year-olds. It will participate in the Little League sanctioned tournament and area tournaments.
- 3) 8-10 Year-Old Sanctioned All Star Team – This team will be selected from all eligible 8, 9 and 10 year-olds. It will participate in the Little League sanctioned tournament and area tournaments.
- 4) 8-10 Year-Old Regional All Star Team - This team will be selected from all eligible 8, 9 and 10 year-olds. It will participate in area tournaments.

### **VOTING**

1. Because the league places an importance on attendance in All-Star practice and game participation, the league will exclude any player from the ballot who does not wish to make such a commitment. The league will communicate this policy at the time of player registration. The league will also exclude any player from the ballot who has not met the eligibility requirements to be a member of an All-Star team.
2. Three major league ballots and one minor league ballot will be printed:
  - 1) All eligible 11 and 12 year-old players on a major league roster. 10 year-olds will not be on the ballot but may be selected to the team by the manager. 11 year-old minor league players will not be on the ballot but may be selected to the team by the manager.
  - 2) All eligible 10 and 11 year-old players on a major league roster. 9 year-olds will not be on the ballot but may be selected to the team by the manager.
  - 3) All eligible 10 year-old players on a major league roster. However, if there are less than five 10 year-old players in the major leagues, no ballot will be prepared.
  - 4) All eligible 8, 9 and 10-year old players on a minor league roster.
3. Major league managers, two coaches per team and all players will cast ballots for the three major league ballots.
4. Minor league managers, two coaches per team and all players will cast a ballot for the 9 and 10-year old minor league player.

5. A person completing any ballot will select twelve (12) players. A person may select less than 12 players but if they select more than 12, the ballot will be voided.
6. The President shall appoint three other Board Members who will be responsible for distributing, supervising and collecting all official all-star ballots. The three appointed Board Members are also responsible for the tabulation of the ballots. The ballots will go to each team and their respective Manager and two (2) Coaches before or after a game or practice and distribute the ballots and collect at that time and place them in a sealed envelope until this process is completed by all teams. The three Board Members will open the sealed envelopes and tabulate them together and must all agree the ballots were tabulated correctly.

## **PLAYER SELECTION**

1. After the three board members appointed by the President have tabulated the ballots the results shall be delivered to the President and the Player Agent who will compile a list of all players on each ballot and their respective votes.
2. The Player Agent will give the list to the respective manager of each All-Star team. Only the Top 18 vote-getters and their vote tally will be released to the manager. The manager will not share the information with anyone other than the manager's two coaches. If a manager has a question regarding a player's availability for the All-Star season, the manager may contact the player's parent(s) to ask about availability.
3. Each manager will review the list and make their final All-Star selections with the following restrictions:
  - a) The manager of the 10-12 year-old All-Star team must select at least 8 of the top 12 players with the most votes from the 11-12 year old ballot.
  - b) The manager of the 9-11 year-old All-Star team must select at least 8 of the top 12 players with the most votes from the 9-11 year-old ballot, excluding any 11 year olds who have been selected to the 10-12 year-old team. The remainder of the team may come from any eligible 9-11 year-olds in the majors or minors.
  - c) The manager of the 8-10 year-old Sanctioned All-Star team must select at least 6 of the top 12 players with the most votes from the 8-10 year old minor league ballot. The remaining players may come from any eligible 8-10 year-old in the majors or minors.
  - d) The manager of the 8-10 year-old Regional All-Star team must select at least 8 of the remaining 12 players with the most votes from the 8-10 year-old minor league ballot. The remaining players may come from any remaining eligible 8-10 year-old in the minors.

**Note:** If any player declines an invitation to be on an All-Star team, the manager will have the opportunity to replace that player with any eligible player and will be deemed to have complied with the selection process.

**Note:** If an 11 year-old declines an invitation to be on the 10-12 year-old sanctioned All-Star team, that person shall be ineligible for consideration on the 9-11 year-old sanctioned All-Star team. If a 10 year-old declines an invitation to be on the 8-10 year old sanctioned All Star team, that person shall be ineligible for consideration on the 9-11 year-old sanctioned All-Star team. A 10 year-old can decline an invitation to be on the 10-12 year-old team and still be eligible for a different All-Star team.

**Note:** The order for managers to select the players for their All-Star team will be:

1. 10-12 Year-Old All-Star Team
2. 8-10 Year-Old Sanctioned All-Star Team
3. 9-11 Year-Old All-Star Team
4. 8-10 Year-Old Regional All-Star Team

## **HONORABLE MENTION**

No honorable mention positions will be announced for any All Star team.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALL-STAR TEAMS**

The names of the players selected to the 4 All-Star teams will be announced on Bowling Green East's website on the morning of the league's season-ending picnic. No All-Star team manager, coach or league official shall convey the names of the All-Star players to anyone else, including the selected players and/or parents, prior to that time. The All-Star teams will also be announced at the picnic that evening.

## **MANAGER SELECTION**

The order of finish during the regular season will determine the order in which the corresponding manager may select the All-Star team of his choice.

### **10-12 Year-Old Team, 9-11 Year-Old Team and 8-10 Year-Old Sanctioned Team:**

The Board of Directors may appoint the manager of any All-Star team, provided it is done no later than 6 weeks after the first game of the season is played. If the Board does not appoint a manager for any All-Star team, the following order will apply and the manager shall have their choice of All-Star team:

1. League Champion of the Major League as determined by the regular season record or according to the tie breaking regulations;
2. Manager of the second best record during the regular season in the Major League;
3. The process shall continue for the remainder of the major league team managers.

If any manager declines responsibility as the All-Star manager, the selection process will continue to the next Major League manager in order of finish. If no major league manager desires to manage the 10-12 or 9-11 year old team, the board will determine the manager of that team. If no major league manager desires to manage the 8-10 year old sanctioned All-Star team, the minor league regular season order of finish will determine the manager. Every All-Star manager and coach must have been a manager or coach during the regular season. A coach can not be the manager of an All-Star team without board approval.

### **9-10 Year-Old Regional Team**

1. League Champion of the Minor League.

If the League Champion of the Minor League declines responsibility as the All-Star manager, the selection process will continue to the next Minor League manager in order of finish.