

GREATER WEST MELBOURNE LITTLE LEAGUE 2008 OPERATING RULES



Introduction

In order to best serve the participants of the Greater West Melbourne Little League (GWMLL), our organization will follow the philosophy and procedures described in the *2008 Little League® Operating Manual* (referred to as the Operating Manual) as closely as possible. It is obvious that time, energy and experience have shaped the solutions to running a little league organization as offered in the manual and we believe that we must take full advantage of this base of knowledge.

In some instances, choices are offered to the individual league as how a particular situation should be addressed. The GWMLL Board of Directors (BOD) has chosen the following options to be effective for the 2008 GWMLL year of operation.

GWMLL Divisions

The Divisions of GWMLL will be as described on pages 53-57 of the Operating Manual. Little League Baseball (Major Division) will include 9 to 12 year olds. The Minor Division will be divided into Minor "A" (ages 9-11 and qualifying 8 year olds) Player Pitch, and Minor "B" (7-8 year olds, qualifying 6 year olds, and 9 year olds if required) with ½ season of coach pitch and ½ season of modified player/coach pitch (NOTE: 12 year olds may participate in the Minor "A" Division only with GWMLL BOD AND District Administrator approval.) The Junior Division will include 13 and 14 year olds. The Senior Division will include 15 and 16 year olds. The Big League Division, if required, will include 17 and 18 year olds.

Registration

Pages 58-59 of the Operating Manual describe the registration method to be employed by GWMLL.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held separately for Baseball and Softball, with the following requirements applying to both.

9 To 12 Year Olds, Not Previously On A Major Division Team

All player candidates not previously on a Major Division team roster must try out. Little League requires attendance of at least 50% of the try out dates by an individual candidate. During the tryouts, each candidate will be given the opportunity to (1) bat/bunt, (2) field fly balls, (3) field ground balls, (4) throw, and (5) run, in competition with children having the same league age. We believe that this will best be accomplished over a two-day tryout, in a clinic format, enabling candidates to work out and show their skill levels in a succession of drills. The format for each day will be identical as each candidate need attend only one day of tryouts.

Each of the skills will be graded on a 1 to 5 scale by a panel of five evaluators. Prior to the tryouts the panel of evaluators will meet with the Major Player Agent to review the skills, scoring, and purpose of tryouts. A total score of 25 points is the highest rating. Candidates scoring 15 through 25 points will be considered eligible to participate in the Major League draft. All adult members interested in managing/coaching a Major League team must attend the tryouts and observe all candidates for their own reference during the draft process. NOTE: 12 year olds who score less than 15 points on the evaluation will be considered for possible placement in the Minor "A" Division (pending GWMLL BOD and District Administrator approval).

In the interest of fairness, individual player scores are kept confidential. Team managers are told only that a player scored at least 15 points and is eligible to be drafted for a Major Division team.

9 To 12 Year Olds, Previously On A Major Division Team

All players, 9 to 12 years old, who have previously played on a Major Division team are not graded during a tryout, though they are required to participate in the clinic tryout format in order to give any potential manager an opportunity to evaluate their skills before the draft.

13 & 14, and 15 & 16 Year Olds

A tryout for these age groups, for the benefit and assistance of the managers in the draft process will be held. No evaluators are necessary. This will be a one-day tryout/clinic format with drills designed to assist in the evaluation of skills.

8 Year Olds

A tryout for this age group will be held in order to determine the level of Minor Baseball to which the player candidate should be assigned. Evaluators will determine if the 8 year olds show skill levels that indicate that they should play Minor "B" or Minor "A".

7 Year Olds

7 year olds will be assigned to play in the Minor "B" Division.

Player Selection System

Major Division Baseball

GWMLL chooses to adopt the player selection system, Plan B, as detailed on pages 62-63 of the Operating Manual. Options 2 & 4, described on page 65, are not applicable when adopting this system.

The number of teams in the Major Division will depend on the number of player candidates that may be placed in order to make up equal teams of between 12 and 15 players. Any players not drafted onto a Major team will play in the Minor Division. The Major Player Agent will maintain a list of players so that, should a team lose players before or during the season for any reason, or if new players request to be considered by the BOD, players on the list may be moved from the Minor to the Major Division.

Major Division Softball

Major Division Softball will follow the same draft options as the Major Division Baseball.

Junior Division Softball

Junior Division Softball will follow the same draft options as the Junior Division Baseball.

Senior Division Softball

Senior Division Softball will follow the same draft options as the Senior Division Baseball given enough players register to meet this requirement. Otherwise, Junior and Senior level players will combine to form an appropriate team number.

Tee Ball

Tee Ball players will be placed on teams by the Tee Ball Player Agent, taking into consideration sons/daughters/siblings of Managers or Coaches and other placement request as may be reasonably accommodated. The Tee Ball Player Agent will also attempt to distribute ages evenly over all teams.

Minor "B", Minor "A" Baseball and Softball

Upon completion of the Minor and Major Division tryouts, 7-11 year olds

(and 12 year olds with GWMLL BOD and District Administrator approval) will be placed on teams according to age and ability by the Minor Player Agent. The Player agent may accommodate placement requests as may be reasonably satisfied in keeping with team groupings that place ages and skills uniformly over all teams.

Junior, Senior, and Big League Baseball

Upon completion of tryouts, the Junior/Senior Player Agent will call a meeting of the Managers of each Division to select teams and will use some method of chance to determine first and subsequent player picks. Managers will then continue in the same order until all players in that Division have been selected. As described in Plan B for the Major Division, players who played a previous year in the Junior/Senior Division will be placed into a pool and this pool will be drafted first. Then players new to the Division will be drafted until all have been selected.

Alternate Method of Operation

We choose to adopt this method of operation, described on page 66 of the Operating Manual, for the Junior, Senior, and Big League Divisions.

Local League Maintenance of Rosters, Duration of Title

Under Player Selection System B, there is no duration of title to a particular team of Major, Junior, Senior, and Big League Division players, as described on pages 66-67 of the Operating Manual.

Selection of All-Star Tournament Teams

Tournament team candidates will be selected upon their playing ability, eligibility, and availability. The roster will include sufficient pitching strength to meet tournament schedules. It is not required that players be selected for the position that they occupy during the regular season. For example, a player who is a good outfielder and also a good infielder may be placed on the roster and used in whatever position that the Manager may deem of best advantage.

The GWMLL tournament team selection plan is based upon the plan presented to the International Little League Congress, Washington, D.C. in 1965, and taken from the experience of the International Advisory Council. The principle is to have all components of the League determine and participate in a fair and democratic selection of the tournament teams. This eliminates many of the complaints, abuses, pressures, and charges of favoritism that are directed toward the League President, Board of Directors, or team Managers. GWMLL has determined that the following groups will participate in the selection of its Tournament Team(s):

- Group 1 – Players
- Group 2 – League Officers
- Group 3 – Team Managers
- Group 4 – Team Coaches
- Group 5 – Volunteer Umpires

League Age (11 & 12 Year Old), Junior, and Senior Teams

Every player on the teams within the division is eligible to vote, with five player votes equaling one adult vote from other groups. The cognizant Player Agent will submit a ballot containing a list of all players eligible for All-Star consideration which will be voted upon members of the groups listed above over a period of time as determined by the Board of Directors. The cognizant Player Agent will also prepare a list of all eligible voters within each voting group. If an individual is a member of more than one voting group, they may only vote once. Upon completion of balloting, and at a time and place as selected by the Board of Directors, the BOD will read and count the votes from each Division and the players in the order of total votes received will become eligible for the tournament team. When more than one player has an equal number of votes to qualify for the last position or positions, final selection will be made by a majority vote of the BOD present at the time of the meeting.

League Age (9-10) and (10-11) Year Old Teams

The 9-10 and 10-11 year old tournament teams will be selected in the same fashion if there are more than 12 players in the age group playing in the Major Division. If there are fewer than the required 12 players, then those already playing in the Major Divisions will be named to the appropriate All-Star Team and the Minor "A" Division Managers will be asked to nominate two players per team to participate in an All-Star Team tryout in order to choose the remaining required number of players. The tryout will be coordinated and designed by the Major Player Agent. Upon completion of the tryout, the required number of players will be selected by vote of the GWMLL Board of Directors and All-Star Team Manager and coaches. The names will be read and the players, in order of total votes received, will become eligible for the tournament teams. Where more than one player has an equal number of votes to qualify for the last position or positions, final selection will be made by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at the time of the meeting.

Selection Of All-Star Tournament Team Managers And Coaches

As the chief administrator of GWMLL, the President selects and appoints managers and coaches (as page 34 of the Operating Manual) including those for Tournament Teams. All appointments are subject to approval of the GWMLL Board of Directors. As during the regular season, the Tournament Team managers are responsible to the President for the proper conduct of League affairs, both on and off the field.

The GWMLL President, the District Administrator or District Staff will not serve as a manager or coach.

9-10 & 10-11 Year Old Teams

The manager and coaches will be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Major or Minor Division.

Little League (11 & 12 Year Olds) Team

The manager and coaches will be regular season managers and/or coaches from the Major Division.

Junior League Team

The manager and coaches will be regular season managers and/or coaches from the Junior or Senior Division.

Senior League Team

The manager and coaches will be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Junior, Senior, or Big League Division.

Big League Team

The manager or coaches will be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Senior or Big League Division.

Note: An individual that manages or coaches in another youth baseball program is not eligible to be appointed to manage or coach a tournament team the Little League program at the same age division as defined in Regulation I (a) of the *Official Regulations and Playing Rules* for Baseball or Softball.

The GWMLL 2008 Operating Rules were adopted by the GWMLL Board of Directors at it's meeting on February 4, 2008 and will be in force for the 2008 Spring Season and 2008 Fall Season.

President's Name: Rory A. Dittmer

President's Signature:

Date:

Little League ID Number: 3090211