

P.A.L. LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

DIRECTIVES

ARTICLE I: PHILOSOPHY

The P.A.L. (Police Athletic League) baseball is conducted for the youth of Florence. It is designed to afford youngsters an opportunity to participate in an atmosphere of friendly competition against other youngsters of their own age and/or weight. Of highest priority and concern is that all players, coaches, parents, spectators, and other individuals relating to the league participate under the guidelines of Christian principles. It is the league's belief and philosophy that concern for the participants personal growth is far more important than the game of baseball. We believe that emphasis should be placed on achievement through dedication, industriousness, cooperation with our fellowman, and fair play rather than on winning of a contest. It is the hope of the league that each youngster will learn new skills, make new friends and have fun through a competitive sport.

ARTICLE II: BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Active membership is open to all persons in the Florence area who aspire to the philosophy of the league and who have been recommended by a present member and approved by the present membership. Membership is made up of the President, Vice-President, Senior Commissioners, Junior Commissioners for each division, Secretary-Treasurer, Junior Commissioners for Fundraising, Director of Officials, Equipment Manager, Canteen Directors, and Assistant Canteen Directors. Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting in December, effective for a 2 year term, and assume duties January 1.

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board shall consist of all officers of the league. The Executive Board shall conduct all league business, with coaches involved in all baseball rules. They will maintain, and establish, the rules and regulations for the league. Majority vote is needed to add or delete any portion of the Directives and League Rules. An annual report will be given to the committee in December stating physical and financial progress made during the year. Meetings may be called at any time by request of the President or Vice-President.

ARTICLE IV: VOTING BOARD MEMBERS

The voting members of the executive board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Senior Commissioners, Junior Commissioners for each division, Secretary-Treasurer, Junior Commissioner for Fundraising, and the Equipment Manager. Six voting members shall constitute a quorum with at least one of those being the President, Vice-President, or Senior Commissioner.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

It is the President's primary responsibility to direct the league's program in a manner that will result in a recreation outlet being provided for as many youth as possible. It is also the President's duty to encourage all officials, workers, and team members in the program to abide by the rule of good sportsmanship and to help build a program that will result in obedient, patriotic, and God loving youth.

- Preside over all meetings of the league.
- Sign all written agreements of the league.
- Assure that the rules and regulations for the local program are adhered to.
- The ultimate arbiter in any dispute or protest concerning the league.
- Assign duties to members, officers, and other workers in the league. Appoint a nominating committee in November for new officers.
- Conduct an annual meeting in January to explain the purpose of the league to the officers, and to review all rules and regulations.
- Public relations activities including appearances before any group in order to aid the league.
- Preparing season schedule.
- Responsible for recommending yearly and long range objectives to the league for their consideration and action.
- Organize year end banquet for board members, sponsors, and coaches.

VICE-PRESIDENT

In absence of the President, the Vice-President assumes President responsibilities, and serves out the President's term if needed.

- Assist the President in all duties.
- Responsible for all annual awards for the past seasons activities.
- Serve as director for all annual awards for the past season's activities.
- Serve as director of all local tournaments.
- Appoint Head Coaches for each year.

- Conduct meeting in March for coaches in the league. All coaches required to attend. Purpose of the meeting will be to update rules, check uniforms and equipment, and discuss conduct and sportsmanship for coaches. Also, to determine what efforts must be made to keep participants in the program.
- Investigate the reason for participants leaving the program (with help from the Junior Commissioners).
- Attend as many games as possible. Observe the conduct of coaches, players, and fans with an attempt to improve the sportsmanship of all concerned.
- Serve as player agent with the welfare of the players as the main priority.
- Organize any opening and closing ceremonies for the league.
- Responsible for helping the Director of Officials secure, train, and supervise umpires.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

- Keep accurate records of all meetings of the league.
- Issue notices of all meetings and provide all members with copies of the minutes.
- Handle all league correspondence.
- Keep records of all transactions of the league. These should be kept in the form of a cash journal, account journal, and/or the checkbook.
- Work with the Junior Commissioners for Fundraising to ensure sponsor checks and all fundraising monies are accounted for.

SENIOR COMMISSIONERS

- Responsible for purchasing all equipment.
- Coordinate and call any special meetings with Junior Commissioners.
- Supervise the issuing and return of all equipment.
- Supervise the draft selection and review system with all coaches.
- Help with evaluations.
- Provide Junior Commissioners with league information and rulings as needed so they may inform their area coaches.
- Help with the recruitment of coaches and sponsors.
- Consultant for league directives and rules.
- Assign late sign up players to their appropriate teams.

JUNIOR COMMISSIONER FOR FUNDRAISING

- Contact league sponsors by January 1 of each year.
- Maintain contact with sponsor throughout the year for public relation purposes.
- Follow up and gather all sponsor checks for the year.
- Make sure all sponsors receive their team pictures and plaques, if given.
- Organize fundraising projects for the league and coordinate responsibilities with the league officers and coaches.

- Issue out materials for fundraising projects and work with the Secretary-Treasurer to take up all monies turned back into the league from sponsors and the projects.

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS

- Assist with the draft selections.
- Help with evaluations.
- Provide all information to teams and coaches.
- Help recruit coaches and sponsors.
- Help with giving out equipment and replacement.
- Check on returning coaches each year.
- Coordinate and remind teams of their canteen work schedule.
- Coordinate and remind teams of their picture schedule.
- Coordinate and remind teams of fundraising projects.
- Help in administering rules of the league.

DIRECTOR OF OFFICIALS

- Organize rules clinic for all coaches.
- Recruit and train officials for the league.
- Schedule all officials for games.
- Work with the Secretary-Treasurer on the paying of officials.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

- Tag all equipment.
- Keep inventory lists on equipment.
- Keep records of issued and returned equipment.
- Issue out and take in all equipment with the supervision of the Senior Commissioners.

CONCESSION DIRECTORS

- Be in charge of the every day workings of the concessions stand.
- Set schedule for who is supposed to work the concession stand.
- Order and stock all materials.
- Supervise the concessions operation during all games.
- Turn in all monies to the Secretary-Treasurer.
- Coordinate the paying of bills with the Secretary-Treasurer.

ASSISTANT CONCESSION DIRECTORS

- Aid in the daily operations of the concessions stand.
- Aid in purchasing items.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

All financial arrangements will be handled by the officers of the league. All business must receive approval of these members, or be brought before the Executive Board for discussion and action. Any checks written must be signed by President and Vice-President and/or Secretary-Treasurer. No purchases may be made unless it is first approved by the board.

In the case of dissolution, all funds and equipment will be property of the City of Florence Recreation Department.

ARTICLE VII: ATTENDANCE RULE

Any board member that misses three consecutive meetings without justifiable reason (verified by the President or Vice-President) will be discharged from the league's board. Any board member that misses five or more meetings within a year will be discharged.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

These Directives can be amended by majority vote at the annual board meeting. A two-thirds vote by the Executive Board will be required to change any directive during the present season.

LEAGUE BYLAWS

National Little League Baseball Rules will be used unless changed in the following bylaws.

RULE 1: AGE DIVISIONS

Tee-Ball Division – Ages 4-6 years old

Coach Pitch Division – Ages 7 & 8 years old

Minor Division – Ages 9 & 10 years old

Major Division – Ages 11 & 12 years old

Junior League Division – Ages 13 & 14 years old

Cutoff date is May 1st. Birth certificates must be on file at the City of Florence Recreation Department.

RULE 2: COACHES

Each team can have a maximum of one head coach, and up to three assistant coaches. No one else can act in a coaching manner with the team, and all coaches must be certified through the National Alliance of Youth Sports.

A coach is defined as a person who attends 75% of all team functions, to include games and practices. If a coach does not meet this requirement during the season, they will be placed on probation for at least one year.

All coaches must be approved each year by the league board. Coaches do not have the right to forfeit a game.

RULE 3: PROTEST AND COMPLAINTS

Protests during a game must be made immediately, and put in writing within 48 hours. Complaints concerning coaches, umpires, and/or any individuals associate with the league must be put in writing and given to one of the Executive Board members for discussion.

RULE 4: RESTRICTIONS

All players, coaches, and board members of the league have an obligation to conduct themselves as descent and concerned individuals. No alcohol, drugs, or profanity will be used at any time.

RULE 5: BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Brothers and/or sisters are placed on the same team if they are in the same age division. If one brother/sister is already on a team in that division, then the other brother/sister will act as a returning player. If all brothers/sisters are trying out, when one is chosen, the other will also belong to the same team (will count as back to back picks).

RULE 6: UMPIRES

At no time will a coach approach an umpire after a game with a complaint or problem. If there is an issue, the coach must speak with the Junior Commissioner of that age division. If a coach does not adhere to the policy, they will receive a one week suspension from all team functions. They will then have to meet with the Executive Board before being reinstated.

RULE 7: PLAYING TIME

Each player must play at least two innings on defense, and bat at least one time in all games. Coaches wishing to hold players out for disciplinary reasons must first discuss the issue with their Junior Commissioner at least three hours before the scheduled game time.

RULE 8: TEAMS

A maximum of 15 players and a minimum of 12 players assigned per team. A draft will be held after the evaluation for all new players.

RULE 9: EVALUATIONS

All new players will be placed in an evaluation. If they do not attend, they will be chosen as a blind pick. Blind picks can be chosen during the draft at the coaches discretion.

RULE 10: LATE SIGN-UPS

Anyone signing up after the draft is held, but before the last cutoff date, will be assigned by the Senior Commissioner by age and which team has the next pick.

RULE 11: SPECIAL RULES

A. MINORS – 9 & 10 year olds

1. In the Minor Division only, a half inning of play will consist of three outs or nine batter, whichever may come first. The final out can be made by the last batter striking out, being force/put out at first base, or by tagging home plate. No runs can score after home plate has been tagged. If there are base runners when the ninth batter comes to bat, the base runners may advance a base every time the batter is pitched four balls. If enough balls are pitched, the base runners can score. If there are no base runners, the pitching of balls to the ninth batter cannot produce any runs.

B. TEE BALL – 4, 5, & 6 year olds

1. Each team will play and bat a maximum of 10 players per inning. Bases will be cleared of all runners when three outs are made, with the exception of the last batter. Batting will continue until all batters have batted.
2. Only the catcher and pitcher can tag home plate on the last batter, everyone else must play their position.
3. The last batter may be put out only before they reach first base, by striking out, by fly ball out, or by tagging home plate. No other outs are eligible to be made. No runner can score after the last batter is declared out.
4. A ten foot circle will be drawn for the coach and pitcher to stand in. The player in the pitching area must be in contact with the chalked circle when the ball is pitched. To stop play, both feet must be within the circle.
5. Bases will be 50 feet. A chalk line will be marked between first and second, and second and third, to show halfway points.
6. A play can be made on runners at any time until the ball is dead. The ball is dead when the player playing the circled area receives the ball and has control within the circle. Any runners who have not crossed the halfway lines will be asked to return to the last base they occupied. Any runners who have crossed the halfway lines will continue to the next base.

7. Base runners may advance at their own risk. Only one base if the ball is thrown out of the playing area. No infield fly rule will be used. No stealing, and base runners must be in contact with the base when the ball is pitched. If a player leaves the base too soon, the defensive coach has the option of taking any portion of the play.
8. Runners will be called out if aided or interfered with by their coach while the ball is live.
9. A runner missing a base can only be appealed by the opposing head coach.
10. No walks, bunts, hit batter, or catcher's interference will be allowed. Catchers interference will be considered a no pitch.
11. Four complete innings will be considered a game unless the home team is ahead by more than 10 runs after three innings. Each play must play at least 2 innings in a 4 inning game, or at least 1 inning in a 3 inning game.
12. Only players and coaches from each team will be allowed inside the dugout or playing area. Only the head coach will be allowed to confer with the umpire about rule situations. Coaches will keep all equipment inside the dugout.
13. Coaches will be allowed at each baseline. They must stay within the coaches box. No more than two coaches will be permitted on the field at one time to confer with the defense during a time out. Only two time outs per inning will be allowed except if there is an injury.
14. Coaches will only be allowed to position their batters once per inning. Coaches cannot switch players on defense once the inning has begun, unless a substitution is made.
15. Coaches will give the scorekeeper their lineup for all four innings before the game begins. No changes can be made unless injuries occur, or there are players late for the game.
16. No loud chanting or unsportsmanlike sayings will be made while the opposing team is batting.

RULE 12: ALL STARS

1. The head coach of the championship team, in that division, has the first right to be the all star coach (as long as they're approved by the league board). If he/she is unable to coach the team, the coach will be voted on by the other coaches in the division.
2. Two weeks before the end of the season, head coaches of each division will turn in a list of players from their team that they wish to nominate for the all star team.
3. Once the season has concluded, a written ballot will be prepared of the list of nominees. Coaches will anonymously vote for the players they fill are all star caliber. The 11 players

receiving the most votes will be on the all star team. The all star coach may select the final player from the nominees.

4. There will be a minimum of one player from each team in the division placed on the all star team.