RIDGEFIELD LITTLE LEAGUE BY-LAWS

**By‑Law One: Major League Draft**

• All registered age eligible players who are not on a Majors team and request to be eligible for the Majors draft shall be placed in a common player pool. Players must tryout to be eligible for the Majors draft.

• Before tryouts each year, a Special Exceptions Meeting may be held, the purpose of which is to determine if special (or unusual) circumstances exist which would warrant an exception for the upcoming draft. If held, this meeting will be attended by the Major League Director, all major league managers and the Player Agent. If such circumstances are identified, a conclusion for appropriate action will be developed by the Major League Director, with the assistance of the Player Agent, and the Slotting Committee if necessary.

• It is a courtesy rendered by other major league managers that no manager's child may be drafted by another manager unless the parents have indicated that that is their preference.

• Co‑managers are not permitted at the major league level.

• Each year the President shall select a three member committee for the purpose of evaluating the playing abilities of any Manager's children eligible for the draft, any Coach's Option players, and eligible siblings of current majors players. Slotting Committee members will not be chosen from the ranks of current Major League managers or coaches. The Slotting Committee shall consider the abilities of the Option players relative to the players trying out for the Major League and slot those players into the draft. The slotting shall occur immediately following the Major League tryouts and be announced at the Major League draft.

• In the event that the first of a set of siblings eligible for the draft is selected, that player’s brother or sister will immediately be slotted into a succeeding draft round by the Player Agent and/or Majors Director, or whoever has been assigned to coordinate the draft, if the person(s) coordinating the draft feel(s) it is appropriate for the sibling to play in Majors . This rule does not assure that the sibling will be selected onto a Majors team.

• The order of draft will be determined by the order of finish of the teams in the previous season. Drafting will occur in reverse order of finish. The last place team of the preceding season gets the first choice in every round of the draft, the next to last team gets the second selection in every round, and the remaining teams also select in the reverse order of standing. The order of finish will be determined on a percentage basis of games won relative to total games played, except in the case of playoffs for the league championship in which case the order of finish in the playoffs shall determine the position for drafting. In the event of a tie finish, the drafting order shall be established by the following tie breaking rule:

1. Head to head competition.

2. Record within the same division.

3. Best record in last nine regularly scheduled games.

4. Coin toss.

• If the number of majors teams is reduced in a given year, then the player roster of the team or teams being eliminated will be placed into the regular draft of eligible majors players.

• If the number of majors teams is expanded in a given year, then the new team or teams will be afforded four “free” picks at the beginning of the draft, two of which must be used to pick 12 year-olds. The new team or teams will then pick first at the beginning of the regular draft, and established teams will draft in the order determined by the existing procedures for the Major League draft as spelled out in this by‑law. If there is more than one new team then the drafting order for the new teams will be determined by a flip of a coin and established teams will draft as spelled out in this by‑law.

• Bonus Picks. Each team requiring six or more players prior to the draft to complete the team’s 12 player roster will be allowed bonus picks at the completion of round three. These teams shall select players in the identical order being followed in the draft until all teams have only two picks remaining. The normal draft shall then resume with rounds four and five.

• Any 12-year-old who is eligible under these by laws for and wishes to be on a majors team will be selected onto a majors team.

• It is a requirement that all Major League teams shall have a minimum of five 12 year olds. If in a given year there are enough 12 year olds eligible for the draft so that, combined with the number of 12 year olds already on majors teams, in the opinion of the Major League Director and Player Agent each team should have more than a minimum of five 12 year olds, the Major League Director and Player Agent will decide and announce the number of 12 year olds required for each majors team for that draft. Unless determined otherwise in a given year by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the President, Player Agent and Major League Director, all 12 year olds will be part of the normal draft.

• A maximum of two 10-year-olds may be on each Majors team. 10 year olds may only be selected within the first four rounds of the draft.

**By‑Law Two: 11U and 9U Draft**

• There shall be a11U division for players at least 9 years old, and a 9U division for players at least 8 years old.

• The order of draft for any division other than majors will be determined by a drawing of numbers by that league’s managers. The order of drafting will proceed from number one through the highest number of draft. The following round will be in reverse order, i.e. from the highest number down to number one, with the round after that starting again with team number one. Subsequent rounds of drafting will follow the same (“snake”) pattern.

• The Player Agent shall monitor the draft and shall try to assure parity among all teams as much as possible. He/she shall have the authority to adjust rosters or the order of selection during the draft where necessary.

• All twelve year old players who elect not to play on a Majors team must play on an 11U team. All eleven year old players not selected onto a Majors team must play on an 11U team, unless that eleven year old chooses otherwise, and so notifies the Player Agent.

• Each year the President shall select a three member Slotting Committee for each draft for the purpose of evaluating the playing abilities of all Managers’ and Coaches’ children eligible for that draft. Slotting Committee members will not be chosen from the ranks of managers or coaches. The Slotting Committee shall consider the abilities of these players relative to the players trying out for 11U and slot those players into the draft. The slotting shall occur immediately following tryouts and be announced at the league’s draft.

• Each 11U manager may pick one coach prior to the league’s draft. Each 9U manager may pick tow coaches prior to the league’s draft.

• All players eligible for the Major League draft but not drafted to a Major League team shall be drafted onto an 11U team. All players eligible for the 11U draft but not drafted to an 11U team shall be drafted onto a 9U team.

• In the event that the first of a set of siblings eligible for the draft is selected, that player’s brother or sister will immediately be slotted into a succeeding draft round by the Player Agent and Division Director, or whoever has been assigned to coordinate the draft, if the person(s) coordinating the draft feel it is appropriate for the sibling to play in that league.

•All players who have played in 9U for two years shall be drafted onto a 11U team, if not drafted onto a Major League team.

**By‑Law Three: Filling Vacancies Which Occur During the Season**

•Upon notification and verification of a vacancy (player injury or withdrawal from team) on a Majors roster, the Player Agent is empowered to: 1) declare a vacancy and 2) declare the effective date of the vacancy. In the event of an injury, the date of the vacancy shall be the date of the injury, regardless of the date of the next scheduled game. The injured player’s team's manager is required to select a replacement player within two weeks of this effective date. If no player is selected by the manager within this time period, the Player Agent shall assign a replacement to the team. This by‑law applies to the Major League and 11U.

•Upon making a choice of a replacement player, the manager shall notify the appropriate league director and the Player Agent. The Player Agent shall then contact the selected player's parent(s) to obtain the parent(s)’s permission to move the player. The Player Agent will also advise the selected player's manager. If permission is given by the parent(s), the manager of the acquiring team may also contact the player and/or parent(s). Managers shall not contact prospective replacement players or their parent(s) prior to notification by the Player Agent.

•To be eligible to fill a vacancy on a Major League team, a player must be of Little League ages 10, 11, or 12, and on a 11U team roster. Replacement players must have been available in the Major League draft. (A permitted exception to this rule is a player who moved to town after tryouts, so that a player in 11U who was not available for the Majors draft because he moved into town after such draft is eligible to be selected as a replacement player.) As a further restriction, if the Majors team has 50% or fewer of its scheduled games remaining when the vacancy is declared, the replacement must be of the same Little League age or older than the player replaced.

**By‑Law Four: Acceptance of Major League Schedules**

Prior to the publication of the schedule of regular season play for the Major League, the schedule will be reviewed and approved by the Major League Director and a majority of the major league managers.

It is the responsibility of the Major League Director to conduct this review and obtain approval prior to publication of the schedule and the beginning of regular season play.

**By‑Law Five: Town Championships**

• At the end of the regular playing season a tournament will be arranged by the Steering Committee of the Board of Directors to decide town championships for each playing level, where appropriate. Other than at the Major League level, there is no requirement that a tournament be held.

• Ties shall be broken by the tie breaking rule. See By‑Law One.

**By‑Law Six: Three Inning Rule**

• Each player in attendance at any RLL majors game is required to play a minimum three innings in the field and take at least one turn at bat in each game. (Three innings means eighteen outs, including those outs which would have been played had the winning team completed its final turn at bat, e.g. including the unplayed three outs in the bottom of the sixth when the winning team does not bat.)

• In the event that a player does not play three innings and take at least one turn at bat as the result of inadequate length of game, that player will start the next game and play until he has completed his three innings from the prior game plus three innings for that game as well.

• Exceptions to this By-Law are allowed only if a player is ill and cannot play, or as a result of being disciplined by his/her manager. In the latter case, the manager will report the situation in writing to the league President within three days or 72 hours of such disciplinary action. In such case, the player must play a minimum of two innings; and, if such player’s turn at bat shall come up during such two innings, the player shall take his/her turn at bat.

• It is the intent of this By-Law that all children play a minimum of three innings in all games. Any manager's failure to carry out this policy will be grounds for disciplinary action or suspension of the manager by the Board of Directors. Failure to comply with this rule shall not be the basis for protesting a game.

**By‑Law Seven: Players Rule**

• All eligible players registering shall be drafted or assigned to a team.

• A player shall not be drafted to a 9U team if the player played in the 11U Division during the prior season unless placement at a lower level is specifically requested by his/her parent/guardian.

**By‑Law Eight: The International Tournament Team Selection Procedure**

• At the end of each season the Major League Director shall present a plan for choosing players for the International Tournament teams to the Steering Committee for update and approval in the following year. The plan shall then be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at a regular Board meeting.

• The same plan shall apply equally to both League teams, both National and American. The plan shall include procedures for votes by both players and Managers/Coaches, each which must form a statistically significant part of the selection process. No more than two adults, the Manager and one Coach, may vote from any one team.

• The Major League Director, with the assistance of the Post Season Director, will arrange for collection of the ballots, conduct the final ballot toll, and prepare the official list of Tournament nominees as determined by the ballot count.

•The Managers of the Tournament Teams will be selected by the Post Season Director and Steering Committee from the Major League managers. Coaches will be selected by the Managers of the respective Tournament teams from the remaining list of Major League Managers and Coaches, and must be approved by the Post Season Director and Steering Committee.

• For other post season teams, the Major League Director and/or 11U Director shall present a plan for choosing players to the Steering Committee. The plan must get approval by the Steering Committee. The same plan shall apply equally to both league’s teams, National and American.

**By‑Law Nine: Manager Clinics Attendance**

• Ridgefield Little League will hold pre‑season clinics for team manager/coaches. Attendance by a manager and/or coach of each team in all divisions is required.