

# Belmont Heights Little League

## 2010 Spring Season Local Ground Rules

All local rules of Belmont Heights Little League (BHLL) are sanctioned under the BHLL Constitution and By-Laws, Article X - Section 3, and by Little League Regulations 3.12. These rules have been developed to further the objectives of Little League Baseball® Incorporated and Belmont Heights Little League. The adherence to these rules is the responsibility of all Board Members, Managers, Coaches, Umpires, Players, and Spectators. All parents will be given a copy of these rules, and it is their responsibility to read them. Non-compliance of these rules by anyone involved in the activities of BHLL may result in disciplinary actions as outlined in these guidelines, and if necessary, be brought before the Board of Directors for consideration of the appropriate consequences.

### 1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 BHLL will only accept cash or money order for registration purposes, payable to Belmont Heights little League, Inc.
- 1.2 Registration fees will be refunded up until the first day of practice. After that time, no refunds will be issued. Refunds will be paid within 10 days after the start of the season.
- 1.3 The BHLL issue uniform is not to be deviated from. Any Manager who allows his players to play out of proper uniform will be subject to disciplinary action by the Board.
- 1.4 Children are not allowed in the board room unless a Board Member is present.
- 1.5 Teams that win District 13 Tournament of Champion or All Star Tournaments may have a sign made and placed on their field in recognition of their accomplishment. The Board of Directors must approve.
- 1.6 All banners, plaques, and trophies that are awarded to Belmont Heights Little League teams as a Champion/Runner-up in the District 13 Tournament of Champions or any level of All Star tournament, must return them to Belmont Heights Little League. These items are the property of the league and should be displayed in the board room. Any Manager who does not turn in these awards will not be allowed to Manager/Coach at BHLL until the awards are returned.

### 2.0 Park Rules

- 2.1 The following actions are causes for ejection or/and maybe subject to trespassing from the park:
  - Use of alcoholic beverages or drugs
  - Fighting or harassment of others
- 2.2 The following actions may be the cause for ejection or suspension, pending review by the Board of Directors:
  - Defacing or destroying property or equipment. The individual must pay or repair the damage; if done by a player, then they will be suspended from their next game and the parent will be responsible for the damages.
  - Any action jeopardizing the safety and well-being of BHLL or any member.
  - Use of profanity or abusive language.
- 2.3 The following actions are prohibited:
  - Climbing fences
  - Hitting balls into fences on any field.
  - Climbing of trees
  - Use of skateboards, bikes or scooters
  - Playing wall ball
  - No parking in front of emergency gate (your vehicle will be towed)
  - No glass containers
  - Appropriate dress including shirts and shoes must be worn.
  - No tackle football on premises
- 2.4 **Dogs and smoking are NOT ALLOWED at the park, per the City of Tampa Park and Recreation.**
- 2.5 Vehicles must park in designated areas and not driven in the complex area, except for delivery/maintenance vehicles or dropping off of large items to the concession, board room, or sheds.
- 2.6 Any player, manager, or coach sliding in the clay on any field where the field is too wet to play, will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension.

- 2.7 Any player deliberately digging in the fields by kicking out the grass with their feet will receive a warning by the Manager. If the action persists, the player may be removed from the game.

### 3.0 Board of Directors

- 3.1 Individuals who wish to speak at or attend a Board Meeting must contact the President at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to be placed on the agenda. Attendees may be asked to leave the meeting, at the discretion of the President, if discussion concerns other league members or disciplinary actions.
- 3.2 Any member of the Board who misses two (2) regular Board of Director meetings during the year, without just or sufficient reason shall be subject to resignation as determined by the President and a vote by the Board.
- 3.3 The on-duty Board of Director is the only board member that may handle issues that cannot be resolved between Managers during games.

### 4.0 Procedure of Complaints

- 4.1 All complaints or charges of misconduct against coaches, managers, players, umpires, or any other person, group or team shall be received in writing to both the President *and* the Secretary. ***All such complaints must be signed and dated to be considered an official complaint.*** The name of the complainant may be withheld from the charged parties at the discretion of the Board of Directors, if the possibility exists of retribution towards the complainant's child. The complaint must state the date and time of the occurrence(s), list all parties involved, and a brief description of what occurred.
- 4.2 The President, or Secretary (in the absence of the President), shall call a meeting of the Disciplinary Committee, to be held no later than 5 days from the receipt of the complaint. The Disciplinary Committee may be comprised of the President, all Vice Presidents, the Secretary (to record the meeting), and the Division Player Agent.
- 4.3 For Member disciplinary procedures:
- All parties named in the complaint must be notified within 48 hours of receipt of the complaint and 24 hours prior to the Board of Director's meeting on the matter.
  - At the disciplinary meeting, the charges are re-stated for the record.
  - The accused has the opportunity to respond.
  - The Board of Director's may decide to take no further action, to draft a warning or letter of reprimand, or revoke all or part of a person's Membership privileges for a specific period of time.
  - The Board of Director's decision is forwarded to the Board of Directors and must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Board.
- 4.4 For Player disciplinary procedures:
- The Manager of the team of which the Player is a member, must be notified within 24 hours of the act.
  - Said Manager along with the division Player Agent, shall appear in the capacity of advisors with the Player before the Board of Director's.
  - At the disciplinary meeting, the charges are re-stated for the record.
  - The accused has the opportunity to respond.
  - The Board of Director's may decide to take no further action, to draft a warning or letter of reprimand, or can suspend or revoke such player's right to participate in the rest of the season or participate in any post-season tournaments.

### 5.0 LEAGUE STRUCTURE

- 5.1 The following are the divisions and age ranges:

BASEBALL	AGES	
Tee Ball	5, 6	(LA 6 with one year of Tee Ball may opt to tryout for Coach Pitch; notify your Player Agent of this decision – 7 year must have board approval)
Coach Pitch	6, 7, 8	(LA 7 can request to move down to Tee Ball with Board of Director's approval)
Minor	8, 9, 10, 11	(11 year old must have Board of Director's approval)

**Majors**                      **10, 11, 12**                      (Parents can request their child play in Minor and not be drafted to Majors with Player Agent approval and Board of Director's)

**Juniors**                      **13, 14**

**Seniors**                      **15, 16**

- 5.2 Team rosters will consist of no more than 12 players in the Major division, and no more than 15 players in the Junior/Senior divisions.

## 6.0 Managers and Coaches

- 6.1 Eligibility as a Manager and/or coach will be determined by:
- Coaching and playing experience
  - Passing the mandated Choice point background check
  - Availability of coaching positions
  - Nomination by the President to the Board
- 6.2 Managers and Coaches or their representative are required to attend Board-designated league work days, unless excused by their Division Vice President.
- 6.3 Managers are required to notify and request that parents be available for concession stand duty, team parent, and other needed auxiliary personnel.
- 6.4 Managers and Coaches are responsible for attending an umpire clinic, if one is offered at BHLL.
- 6.5 Managers and coaches are required to maintain a level of conduct that is above reproach at BHLL, whether on or off the field.
- 6.6 As requested by The Belmont Heights Little League Board of Director's, all Managers, Coaches, and Volunteers must be CPR certified. The Safety Director will provide information on times and places of CPR courses. Managers and coaches must pay for the CPR course themselves.
- 6.7 Each Manager is responsible for their entire ball team while on the playing field. Each team will comply with all rules and conduct as set forth in the Little League Baseball Official Rule book and by the Local Board for each division.
- 6.8 Managers are responsible for the conduct of their team coaches, players and parents.
- 6.9 After each game is played, Managers, Coaches and Players will be responsible for cleaning out the dugout and spectator bleachers before the next game time begins.
- 6.10 Official Little League Baseball Rule books will be supplied to each Manager and First Coach. Managers and Coaches are expected to read these rule books and have a working knowledge of the rules of baseball, the 2010 Spring Season Ground Rules, and Division Ground Rules.
- 6.11 Managers will have their team ready to take pre-game infield warm-up as soon as the preceding game is completed. General warm-up exercises should be done before the preceding game is over and outside the field playing area, but not in the area of spectators.
- 6.12 Managers must notify their division Player Agent if any player quits, or is any way removed from the team. Notification must be in writing, dated and received within 48 hours of the Manager knowing of the player's intentions. **Note: No Manager or Coach shall not put any player off the team without approval from the Board of Director's.** **PENALTY: Subject to Suspension for two (2) games.**
- 6.13 Managers must notify their division Player Agent of any player absence for three (3) practices and/or games. **PENALTY:** Minimum of one (1) game suspension.
- 6.14 Managers must notify the division Player Agent prior to the enforcement of any player discipline that includes not playing the mandatory six (6) defensive outs and one (1) at bat of any game. **PENALTY:**  
First Offense = One (1) game suspension  
Second and more Offenses = Two (2) games

## 7.0 PLAYERS

- 7.1 Any player under doctor's care must have a doctor's release before they will be allowed to participate.
- 7.2 Every player is expected to attend every scheduled practice and game. Any player missing three (3) practices and/or games will be considered ineligible for game play until the Player Agent makes a determination on the reason for the missed practices or games.

- 7.3 If a player is ejected from a game, he must leave that game and is suspended for his next game. The player may sit in the bleachers for the suspended game, but not in the dugout and not in uniform.
- 7.4 The Little League patch must be worn by players in the Major, Junior, and Senior divisions of baseball and softball. Players not wearing patches are not eligible to play. For set-in sleeves, the patch is sewn (not ironed) centered on the **left** sleeve 1" below the shoulder seam. For sleeveless softball shirts, the patch is sewn over the left breast area.

## 8.0 ROLES OF PARENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

- 8.1 All parents and spectators are expected to support the mission and goals of Little League Baseball as applied by the Board of Directors of BHLL. Any person who consistently displays behavior contrary to the mission and goals of BHLL may be removed and restrained from attending any BHLL functions or activities. This behavior includes foul language, berating any player, coach, or umpire, or baiting any opposing player or umpire. Proper example of good sportsmanship is expected of all parents at all times.
- 8.2 Parents and guardians are responsible for the behavior of their children at all times while attending functions at BHLL.
- 8.3 Parents and children (other than players) are not allowed on the fields during games. Only certified and approved coaches are allowed in the dugouts for Major, Junior and Senior divisions. Team Moms are allowed in the dugouts for Tee Ball and Minors, as long as a background check is performed.
- 8.4 **All concession workers must be 15 years of age or older.**
- 8.5 Parents and spectators are required to clean-up the spectator area around the bleachers after each game.
- 8.6 **Team Scorekeeper(s):**
- Are to attend scorekeeping classes (if held) at the beginning of the season.
  - **MAJORS, JUNIORS & SENIORS:** Must keep accurate scorebooks, including pitching records, pitch count, substitutions, runs, outs, and players that are absent from the game.
  - League Director's will keep the official division scorebook. This official scorebook is to be retrieved before the game and when the game ends official scorebook along with the score box will be kept in the office.
  - Games cannot start until the scorekeeper is in place at the official score box.
- 8.7 **Auxiliary Committees** – Parents may be asked by the Board of Directors to help with the planning of Opening Ceremonies, team pictures, fundraising, and uniform distribution. Please volunteer any amount of time you have.
- 8.9 Trophies **will not** be provided by the league, but parents' can collectively buy their children's' awards. If BHLL has a league sponsor in the trophies/awards business, it is highly recommended that parents use that sponsor for their team awards.

## 9.0 Field and Game Rules

- 9.1 The Home team is responsible for preparing the field before the game.
- 9.2 Both teams are responsible for trash cleanup in their respective dugouts and on the field.
- 9.3 All divisions will play a \_\_\_\_-game season. If there are rainouts, games will be made up on the first available day as assigned by the division Vice President or Player Agent.
- 9.4 There will be no use of tobacco products by any team participant, including Managers and Coaches, while on the playing fields or dugouts during games, practices, or warm-ups. **PENALTY:**
- First Offense = Ejection from game  
Second Offense = Suspension for the remainder of the season
- 9.5 Sport drinks and/or water in dugouts only. **NO FOOD IS ALLOWED. PENALTY:** Managers and/or players will receive an automatic one (1) game suspension.
- 9.6 Major, Junior, and Senior Managers and Coaches are allowed to move a distance of not more than one-arm's length from the dugout entrance.
- 9.7 One coach should be in the dugout at all times to watch over the players. If there is only a Manager and First Coach on a team, one parent may be assigned the 3<sup>rd</sup> coach duties, as long as that parent passes a background check.
- 9.8 If lightning appears in the distance, the Board Member on Duty must be advised, and they will immediately bring out the league lightning detector. If that detector shows a strike in the 0-3 mile zone, the Board Member on Duty will advise all umpires that games must stop and the players sent to the dugouts. When a 15-minute span of time has elapsed with no more lightning strikes in that 0-3 mile zone, games may resume again. If there lightning is still present

after 30 minutes, the game will be cancelled. ***Under no condition are players allowed to roam the park during lightning storms!***

- 9.9 In order to cancel any Baseball game the Board of Directors shall come together on the premises and make a decision base on the safety and security of the players, volunteers, parents and etc. The president may override any decision made if needed.

## 10.0 Division Ground Rules

- 10.1 Individual divisions within Belmont Heights Little League will be allowed to establish division Ground Rules. These division rules will not change or conflict with Little League Rules and Regulations and will be approved by the Board of Directors. These division rules will be passed out separately before the season starts.
- 10.2 **Minor, Major and Junior** divisions will play a \_\_\_\_-game season, with a first half winner decided after \_\_\_\_ games, and a second half winner decided by the last \_\_\_\_ games.
- 10.3 At the conclusion of the regular season, a division champion will be determined by the winner of the first half playing the winner of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half in a head-to-head game. Championship game day will be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 10.4 If a team wins both the first and second halves of the season, they are automatically declared the division winner.
- 10.5 In the Major, Junior and Senior Baseball and Softball divisions, the division winner will be the representative for the league in the Florida-District 13 Tournament of Champions.

## 11.0 EJECTIONS

- 11.1 Any Manager, Coach, Player, Member or Spectator who attempts to intimidate or threaten any individual will be suspended from any participation in BHLL games for the remainder of this season following a review by the Board of Directors.
- 11.2 Any individual ejected from a game must leave the BHLL sports complex immediately and will be suspended for their next game. Suspension includes not being at the BHLL sports complex for the game suspended.
- 11.3 Any individual ejected for a second time may result in suspension for the remainder of the season from the BHLL sports complex after Board of Director review.
- 11.4 Belmont Heights Little League reserves the right to Trespass anyone.

## 12.0 ALL STAR SELECTION

- 12.1 Selection to All Stars is based on **eligibility, availability, and playing ability**.
- 12.2 The division Player Agent will determine through a memo sent to all parents, which players will not be available for All Star selection.

All Star players will be selected from a field of *all* eligible players in their respective tournament age group by a balloted vote from the League Director, Managers, and players as described below. The players with the most total votes will comprise the All Star Team:

### 9/10 Baseball

### 10/11 Baseball

[12-14 players per Manager's Discretion]

### 11/12 Baseball

### Junior Baseball

### Senior Baseball

[Managers will select 12 Players that are not on their teams – Submit that list to the Player Agent. Player agent will than submits that list to the All-star Voting Committee. This Committee will chaired by the President and consist of All Managers and 3 Board Member (preferably someone with the knowledge of the kids playing abilities)]

- 12.3 **JUNIOR & SENIOR BASEBALL:** The Player Agent will notify each Manager when his team will vote for All Stars, to be done either before or after their game. Player voting will be by secret ballot. Ballots listing all eligible players for that division, by team, will be passed out to the players. The Player Agent will instruct the players on voting

qualifications and the total number of votes allowed on each ballot for their division. The Player Agent will collect the ballots (or in the absence of the Player Agent, the Division Vice President, President or Secretary) and check that the appropriate number of votes have been selected on each ballot.

- 12.4 The Player Agent will notify each Manager/Coach of the time and date of the Manager/Coach All Star vote meeting, by phone. Ballots listing all eligible players for that division, by team, will be passed out to the Managers/ Coaches; voting will be by secret ballot. It is the sole responsibility of the Manager to see that his/her team is appropriately represented at this meeting. Each Manager may verbally present the All Star candidates from his team, and why. The President, Division Vice President, and Player Agent for the respective divisions can also be present at this meeting.
- 12.5 If the approved Manager has vacated his position for any reason, he/she can then delegate a coach and the coach may attend in his place to vote for All Stars.
- 12.6 The Player Agent, with the assistance of the League Director's, will tally the ballots. The Player Agent, division Vice President and President should be the only League representatives to know the results of the voting until the official announcement of All Stars in June, as mandated by District 13.
- 12.7 All players elected to All Stars must confirm with the Board of Director's **within 48 hours** of the official announcement whether they intend to participate or not. Failure to notify the Board of Director's within 48 hours forfeits that player's place on the All Star team to the next player on the list with the most votes.
- 12.8 All Star Managers will be selected by the Board of Directors Per recommendation of the President:
- 12.9 The selected All Star Manager can offer associated coaching slots to any regular season Manager or coach. If a selection is made outside of their respective division, that selection requires Board approval. Only Managers and coaches of record during the spring season may coach in All Stars.
- 12.10 **9/10 BASEBALL:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> place Major division winner has the option to manage the 9/10 All Star team. If he/she does not take the team, then the Board of Directors will determine the 9/10 All Star Manager.
- 12.11 All regular season BHLL fees must be paid before a player can participate in All Stars.
- 12.12 All star Fees are to be paid upon selection and players acceptance via Cash or Money to BHLL. The Amount of All-star fees: to be determined.