



## **Overview of updated bylaws for 2023**

**Article 7. LOCAL RULES – GENERAL SECTION: SECTION 7A, 7B, 7H (2a)**

**Article 11 LOCAL RULES - MAJOR DIVISION: SECTION 11D**

**Article 12. LOCAL RULES – MINOR 8-11 DIVISION (AAA): SECTION 12C, 12J, 12L**

**Article 13. LOCAL RULES – MINOR 7-9 DIVISION (AA): SECTION 13C, 13E, 13I, 13J, 13L, 13O**

**Article 14. LOCAL RULES – MINI 5-6 DIVISION (A) SECTION: SECTION 14D, 14I**

# **Petaluma American Little League, Inc.**

## **A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

### **2023 BYLAWS (Local Rules) Article 1**

NAME - This organization shall be known as the Petaluma American Little League, hereinafter referred to as PALL.

### **Article 2 OBJECTIVE**

**SECTION 2A:** The objective of PALL shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

**SECTION 2B:** To achieve this objective, PALL will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. All Directors and Officers shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

**SECTION 2C:** The Board of Directors will be elected from the General Membership at the General Membership meeting in October. If a Board member misses three (3) consecutive meetings, the board may vote to dismiss the member.

**SECTION 2D:** Volunteer Eligibility: As a condition of service to the league, all managers, coaches, Members of the Board of Directors and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers, who provide regular service to the league, and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players or teams, must annually complete and submit an official "Little League Volunteer Application" to the local league President. Annual background screenings MUST be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/her duties for the current season. Refusal to annually submit a fully completed "Little League Volunteer Application" must result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the local league. (See Regulation 1 (b) and 1 (c) 8 and 9).

## Article 3 DIVISIONS SECTION

**SECTION 3A:** PALL operates with 8 divisions, with the Minor Division split into 3 divisions. These are:

1. T-Ball Division Ages: 4 - 5 years of age. 6-year-olds may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
2. Mini Division Ages: 5 - 6 years of age (A). 7-year-olds may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
3. Minor Division Ages: 7 - 9 years of age (AA)
4. Minor Division Ages: 8 - 11 years of age (AAA)
5. Major Division Ages: 10 - 12 years of age
6. Intermediate 50/70 Division Ages: 13 years of age. 12-year-olds may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
7. Junior Division Ages: 13 - 15 years of age
8. Senior Division Ages: 14 - 16 years of age

**SECTION 3B:** In the event of low registration, PALL will refer to Little League's combined Division of Play. The ages PALL sets forth for these divisions are:

1. T-Ball Division Ages: 4 - 5 years of age. 6-year-olds may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
2. Mini Division (A) Ages: 5 - 6 years of age. 7-year-olds and 8-year-olds may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
3. Minor Division (AA/AAA) Ages: 8 - 11 years of age. 7-year-olds with experience may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
4. Major Division Ages: 10 - 12 years of age. 9-year-olds may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
5. Intermediate 50/70 Division Ages: 13 years of age. 12-year-olds may play with BOARD APPROVAL.
6. Junior Division Ages: 13 - 15 years of age.
7. Senior Division Ages: 14 - 16 years of age.

## **Article 4 REGISTRATION, FEES, AND ASSESSMENTS SECTION**

**SECTION 4A Registration:** PALL on-line registration shall be held annually from November to Mid-January. In-person registration will be held in January. Proof of birth (birth certificate), 3 proofs of address, OR a school waiver, if necessary, provided in compliance with Little League guidelines must be shown or the player will be unable to play in a PALL league game. Returning Players must register at this time and present the same proof.

**SECTION 4B Fees and Refunds:** The player participation fee will be established by the Board of Directors. At no time will payment of any fee be a prerequisite for participation in PALL. All refunds are subject to Board approval.

**SECTION 4C Sponsorship Fees and Packages:** The sponsorship fees and packages will be established by the Board of Directors.

**SECTION 4D Assessments Ages 4 to 6:** Assessments are not conducted for player candidates that are 4 - 6 years of age. The Player Agent assigns players to teams.

**SECTION 4E Assessments Ages 7 to 12:** It is required that all player candidates (including Manager's hold or other option players), ages 7 through 12, attend annual assessments. In order to be selected for a Major team, ALL returning Major players MUST participate in the annual assessments. Any child failing to participate in the assessment session shall lose the status of a candidate unless the child presents an excuse, to the Player Agent, which is accepted by the Board of Directors. Players who are otherwise required to attend assessments and who do not attend assessments will not be eligible for an All-Star team, unless there are not enough players for that age group in the Major Division to fill the team. 12-year-olds who do not attend assessments will be placed on a waitlist for the Major division. Any 8-11-year-olds who do not attend assessments will be assigned to a team in the lowest division for their age, but not a division lower than they played the previous season.

NOTE: All 12-year-olds must be drafted to a Major Division team.

**SECTION 4F Assessments Ages 13 to 16:** It is required that all player candidates (including Manager's hold or other option players), ages 13 and 16, attend assessments. Any child failing to attend the assessment session shall lose the status of a candidate unless the child presents an excuse which is accepted by the Board of Directors. Players losing eligibility as a draft candidate will be assigned by the Player Agent to a Junior League team at the Conclusion of the player draft with approval by the Board of Directors: Petaluma Combined Intermediate Leagues – See Combined Rules. Petaluma Combined Junior Leagues – See Combined Rules.

**SECTION 4G Assessments Ages 15 to 16:** See Combined Rules.

## **Article 5. DRAFTING PROCEDURES SECTION**

**SECTION 5A Draft Plan:** The Major Division will use Draft Plan “B alternate” of the Little League Operating Manual. The Junior 13-14, Intermediate (50/70) 13, Minor (AAA) 8-11 and Minor (AA) 7-9 Divisions will use the serpentine method. The Minors (A) 5-6 Machine Pitch and T-Ball 4-5 teams will be assigned by the Player Agent after the Minor (AA) 7-9 draft. NOTE: All candidates who are league age twelve (12) must be drafted to a Little League Major Division team. For draft plan B, the order of the draft for ALL Division teams in the first round shall be determined by a draw. The order of the draft for each round, thereafter, shall be the reverse of that, followed in the immediately preceding round (i.e., the team with the first pick in round one, picks last in round two, and first again in round three, etc.).

**SECTION 5B Late Registration Ages 7 to 12:** Any player who registers to play after drafts have occurred is considered a late registrant and may be placed on a team based on their age as per section 4E. Late registrants must play two (2) PALL games before becoming eligible for a call-up to a Minor 8 - 11 Division or Major League team. All late registrants must be approved by the Board of Directors. 12-year-olds will be placed on a wait list until an opening occurs in the Majors.

Late Registration - Ages 13 to 14: There will be no late registrations allowed after the Draft without Board Approval.

### **SECTION 5C Age of Players Selected:**

1. Senior Division teams are made up of 14, 15, & 16 year olds.
2. Junior Division teams are made up of 13, 14 & 15 year olds (15 year olds are allowed to play in the Juniors Division, however, they are not eligible to pitch or play in all-stars).
3. Intermediate 50/70 Division is made up of 13 year olds only.
4. Major Division teams are made up of 10, 11 & 12 year olds.
5. Minor AAA is made up of 8, 9, 10 & 11 year olds.
6. Minor AA is made up of 7, 8, & 9 year olds.
7. Mini Single A is made up of 5 & 6 year olds with at least one year of T-Ball experience and 7 year olds with with Board Approval.
8. T-Ball is made up of 4 and 5 year olds with no baseball experience and 6 year olds with Board Approval.

**SECTION 5D:** Under no circumstances shall the draft be discussed with either the player or parents prior to or following the draft. Draft positions of each player MUST remain confidential at all times. Such actions shall result in disciplinary actions that could result in immediate dismissal from the league.

## Article 6. PLAYERS SECTION

**SECTION 6A Loss of Player:** If a team loses a player for injury, illness, moving, etc. for the remainder of the season, the Manager must notify the Player Agent within 24 hours of the event and the President will send a registered letter to the player releasing him/her. The manager must replace the player through the Player Agent by the fourth game after the player loss or the Player Agent will make the replacement. Note: Failure by the manager to advise the Player Agent of any player's continued absence, 5 consecutive unexcused absences from team events (practices, games, etc.), will result in at least a one game suspension for the manager. An injured player may miss up to six regularly scheduled games. Board Approval is needed to retain players who will miss more than six (6) games due to injury. If the released player is of qualified age, he/she will be returned to the draft pool and will be eligible to be drafted by any team at the following year's draft.

**SECTION 6B Refusal to be called up:** Any Minor Division player who refuses to go to the next level of play will lose their eligibility at the next level for the remainder of the current season. A player refusing to be called up to the Majors will be moved to the team from where the called-up player is chosen. No Call-ups from the Minors will be allowed in the last two weeks of the regular season.

## Article 7. LOCAL RULES - GENERAL SECTION

**SECTION 7A Game Schedules:** Game schedules and starting times shall be subject to the Board of Director approval. Rainouts, cancellations, and tied games will be played in the order of their cancellation as related to league schedule. The Board of Directors may allow exceptions. As soon as a manager or coach becomes aware that they cannot field a team for any reason, they shall contact the Division Rep, President or Scheduling Coordinator in person or by telephone no later than 24 hours before the upcoming game. A courtesy call should be made to the opposing Manager. A violation of this rule may lead to forfeiture (discretion of the Board of Directors). Game cancellations due to weather will be game time decisions made by the Field Maintenance Coordinator and the League President.

### **SECTION 7B League Champions:**

- **Minor 7-9 Division (AA):** League Champion shall be determined by a tournament at the end of the season with seeding to be determined by random draw. The tournament format shall be determined by the President and Player Agent of the league.

- **Minor 8-11 Division (AAA):** League Champion will be determined by a tournament at the end of the season with the seeding to be determined by overall regular season record. The tournament format shall be determined by the President and Player Agent of the league. In the case of a tie, the 1st tiebreaker will be head-to-head record, 2nd will be overall runs allowed. If an inter-league schedule is adopted, all inter-league games on the schedule count in the standings.
- **Major League:** League Champion will be determined by a tournament at the end of the season with the seeding to be determined by overall regular season record. The tournament format shall be determined by the President and Player Agent of PALL. In the case of a tie, the 1st tiebreaker will be head-to-head record, 2nd will be overall runs allowed. If an inter-league schedule is adopted, all inter-league games on the schedule count in the standings. The Major Division champions have the option to represent PALL in the CA District 35 TOC and play in the Petaluma City Championship with the other teams. A coin flip shall precede any playoff games to determine the home team.
- **Intermediate Division:** The PALL team with the best overall regular season record at the conclusion of the season is the Champion (see combined rules). If an inter-league schedule is adopted, all inter-league games on the schedule count in the standings. In the case of a tie, the first tiebreaker will be head-to-head record. If head-to-head record is tied, overall runs allowed will be used. Petaluma Combined League: See Combined League Rules.
- **Junior League:** The PALL team with the best overall regular season record at the conclusion of the season is the Champion (see combined rules). If an inter-league schedule is adopted, all inter-league games on the schedule count in the Standings. In the case of a tie, the first tie breaker will be head-to-head record. If head-to-head record is tied, overall runs allowed will be used. Petaluma Combined League: See Combined League Rules.

**SECTION 7C Special game forms:** At the beginning of the season, the President will fill out a special game request form and forward it to the California District 35 administrator to start the approval process.

**SECTION 7D Managers and Coaches:** The Coaches Committee approved by the Board of Directors will send out and accept Manager Applications. From the applications, the Coaches Committee will interview potential candidates, will make the selections and present the selections to the Board for approval.

**SECTION 7E Base Coaches:** At all levels, two adults may act as base coach if they wish, but one coach must remain in the dugout at all times. If only two coaches are present at the game, one must remain in the dugout at all times, and a player, wearing a helmet for protection, must act as one of the base coaches. If only one coach is present, he/she will remain in the dugout the entire game, and players

will act as each base coach. No more than 1 Manager and 2 coaches will be allowed in the dugout in all levels.

**SECTION 7F Use of Tobacco or Alcohol:** Use of tobacco or alcohol will not be tolerated at any PALL facility at any time. Any member of PALL, who observes anyone using tobacco or alcoholic beverages in the grandstands, or on the premises, surrounding area, this includes E-Cigarettes and Vapor pens etc., will require that person to cease, or to leave the premises or area immediately. Any manager or coach who violates this rule will be removed from service immediately.

### **SECTION 7G Grievance Process:**

1a. Any individual who has been removed from a game by an umpire for disciplinary reasons will be required to appear before the PALL Grievance Committee (appointed by the Board of Directors) before they will be allowed to return to the playing field. The Grievance Committee will meet as soon as possible. The individual shall appear before the Grievance Committee, with the Player Agent, within 7 days of ejection or be subject to additional suspension. All individuals removed from a game by an umpire for disciplinary reasons will serve a mandatory one-game suspension per Little League baseball rules; however, the Grievance Committee shall have the discretion, upon Board of Director's approval, to impose a more severe sanction based on the severity of the conduct.

2a. Any grievance, outside of game ejection, must go through the Player Agent. The Player Agent will meet with the Grievance Committee within 5 days of the formal (written) complaint to discuss what action should be taken. The Grievance Committee will recommend action, if any, to the Board of Directors for final approval. A response to the complaint and/or action taken will be conducted within 10 days.

### **SECTION 7H Pool of Players:**

#### Regulation V(c)

1a. The Player Agent will create and run the pool of players. The Player Agent will use the pool to assign players within their respective division to teams that are short of players. The Player Agent, upon BOARD APPROVAL, may allow "age appropriate" Minor Division players (who have been assessed capable) to be eligible for Major Division Player Pool, participate, and return to their respective Minor Division team.

2a. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool within their respective division. Managers and/or coaches must contact the Player Agent prior to each game that they are short players so a new Pool Player may be assigned for that game.

3a. A pool player will not be permitted to pitch in the game in which they are a pool player.

4a. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine (9) consecutive defensive outs and bat once.



## **Article 8 SENIOR DIVISION**

**SECTION 8A:** See Inter-league Rules. See Combined Rules.

## **Article 9 JUNIOR DIVISION**

**SECTION 9A:** See Inter-league Rules. See Combined Rules.

## **Article 10 INTERMEDIATE 50/70 DIVISION**

**SECTION 10A:** See Inter-league Rules. See Combined Rules.

**SECTION 10B:** There will be no less than 10 players and no more than 15 players rostered on a team.

## **Article 11 LOCAL RULES - MAJOR DIVISION SECTION**

**SECTION 11A:** All little league rules will be followed.

**SECTION 11B Batting Order:** A 9-player batting order shall be used for game play according to Little League Rules Section IV (i).

**SECTION 11C Dropped 3rd Strike:** A batter is out when (1) a 3rd strike is legally caught by the catcher; (2) a 3rd strike is not caught by the catcher when first base is occupied before two are out.

**SECTION 11D Scorekeeping and Pitch Counts:** In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the official scorebook for a game will be the Home team scorebook. The official scorekeeper shall be the official pitch counter for each game. Pitch Count Data sheets shall be kept with each team's scorebook and must be completed at the end of each game and sent to the League President Scores within 24 hours of game time. Failure to report game scores and pitch counts will result in a forfeit.

**SECTION 11E Clinics:** It is Mandatory that at least one representative from each team attends all Rules, Safety and Umpire Clinics each year. If a team fails to attend one or more of the clinics, that team's

manager shall be required to serve a (1) one game suspension during the regular season.

**SECTION 11F Field Setup/Cleanup:** Home Team is responsible for getting the field ready for the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, unlocking the gates to the field and dugouts, chalking of base lines and batter's box for each game, putting up protective pad for backstop and setting up the bases.

The Visiting Team is responsible for field clean up after the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, raking and dragging the field, taking out and putting the bases away, locking the dugouts, gates and equipment box when done.

**SECTION 11G "Courtesy" Runner:** During the Regular Season, when there are two (2) outs, a "courtesy" runner may come in for the catcher. The "courtesy" runner must be a player on the bench not in the game, if there are no bench players then it is the last player to make an out.

**SECTION 11H Number of Players per Team:** Teams will draft 11 players to their roster to start the season. Each team will have no less than 10 players and no more than 12 on their roster. The number of players on a roster shall not vary by more than one (1) between teams.

**SECTION 11I Length of Game:** Major division games will not have a time limit. They will play a minimum of 6 innings.

**SECTION 11J Less Than 9 Players:** Games can start and finish with 8 (eight) players. If the absent player is up to bat, that player will be skipped without further penalty.

## **Article 12. LOCAL RULES – MINOR 8-11 DIVISION (AAA)**

**SECTION 12A Instructional League:** Minor 8-11 Division (AAA) is intended to introduce competitive play while balancing instruction and fundamentals. Managers and Coaches should keep this in mind as they develop the skills of all players on their team. The roster of each team will be determined by a draft conducted at the beginning of the season. Once an official team roster is set at the beginning of the season, it cannot be modified except to fill an absence through the Player Agent from a lower division or waitlist.

**SECTION 12B Playing Time:** No player will remain out of the defensive lineup for more than two (2) Consecutive innings. Managers and coaches shall rotate defensive players.

**SECTION 12C Batting Order:** A continuous batting order shall be used across games (the batting

order starts off where it ended the previous game). Managers can make a single full lineup adjustment between the 5th and 6th game and also between the 10th and 11th games of the season. This will be their continuous lineup for the following 5 game stint. Managers can use a new batting lineup for each playoff game. Any tournament play can have a new batting lineup for each game. Failure to keep a continuous batting order based on the above guidelines will result in a forfeit.

**SECTION 12D Scoring:** During the first 4 innings of a game, a team is limited to scoring five (5) runs per inning. If an out-of-the-park home run is hit, all runners on base, plus the batter, will be allowed to score and the batting team is allowed to finish the play, but a maximum of 5 runs will be recorded. Beginning in the 5th inning, there shall be no run limit for either team Rule, 4.10(e): If at the end of three (3) innings (two and one-half innings if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of fifteen (15) Runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent. If at the end of a regulation game (4 completed innings), 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. The home team, if behind, must bat in its half of the inning. If after five (5) innings (four and one-half if the home team is ahead), one team has a lead of eight (8) runs or more, the manager of the team with the least runs shall concede the victory to the opponent.

**SECTION 12E Base Stealing:** Players may steal second and third on any pitch. Players may advance to home on a passed ball or wild pitch but may not steal/delay steal home. However, a player may steal home if the pitcher misses the throw back from the catcher. Once the pitcher has controlled possession of the ball and is on the dirt portion of the mound, no stealing can continue until the next pitch is thrown.

**SECTION 12F Walks:** There shall be no intentional walks allowed.

**SECTION 12G “Courtesy” Runner:** During the Regular Season, when there are two (2) outs, a “Courtesy” runner may come in for the catcher. The “courtesy” runner must be the last out.

**SECTION 12H Length of Game:** No new inning --defined as starting at the completion of the last out in the prior inning--shall begin after the game has been in progress for 2 hours. The game start time will commence on the first pitch and be monitored by the game’s umpire. No exceptions. Games can end in a tie. There is no time limit for playoffs and tournament play as these games cannot end in a tie. Games should start on time and as scheduled. Any team that cannot field a team, needs to notify the opposing team and league President 24 hours in advance. Failure to do so, will result in a forfeit. The eight-player rule is in effect for the 2023 season. The 9th player (missing from the game) will be placed in the 9th position of the batting order and be recorded as a “skip” in each batting rotation. Games in progress may be suspended or called by the adult umpire on the field or a board member due to weather or Darkness Rule. Makeup games will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

**SECTION 12I Playoffs:** A playoff format will be determined by the President and Player Agent. The format will be based on the number of teams in the Minor (AAA) Division and final season standings. Home field advantage will be determined by a coin flip conducted prior to the beginning of the first pitch at the plate meeting with the umpire who will flip the coin.

**SECTION 12J Playoff Seeding:** Playoff seeding will be determined by overall regular season record. In the case of a tie, the 1st tiebreaker will be head-to-head record, 2nd will be overall runs allowed. If an inter-league schedule is adopted, all inter-league games on the schedule count in the standings.

**SECTION 12K Umpires:** Adults or youth umpires may be used, the youth umpire(s) shall be older and/or in at least one division higher than the players they are umpiring. When a youth umpire is umpiring a game, an adult umpire or an adult will be appointed as a game coordinator. All disputes against a call made by the youth umpire will go directly to the adult umpire on the field or appointed game coordinator. Managers are only allowed to talk with the adult umpire or game coordinator regarding the youth umpires call and ask them to clarify or to dispute calls that are made by the youth umpire. Adult umpires or adult game coordinator should listen to the dispute and then privately meet with the youth umpire to discuss the dispute. The adult umpire or game coordinator will then make the final ruling and let the manager know what the ruling is. Any manager, coach, parent, player, that displays inappropriate behavior, bad language or aggression that is directed at the youth umpire may be ejected from the game by the adult umpire on the field or game coordinator and would be subject to discipline from the Board. It is strongly recommended that playoff and championship games be umpired by adults and not youth umpires.

**SECTION 12L Scorekeeping and Pitch Counts:** In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the official scorebook for a game will be the Home team scorebook. The official scorekeeper shall be the official pitch counter for each game. Pitch Count Data sheets shall be kept with each team's scorebook and must be completed at the end of each game and sent to the league President. The intentional walk is NOT allowed in any Minor Baseball Division. Scores must be reported by the Manager to the President of PALL within 24 hours of game time. Failure to report game scores and pitch counts will result in a forfeit.

**SECTION 12M Clinics:** It is Mandatory that at least one representative from each team attends all Rules, Safety and Umpire Clinics each year. If a team fails to attend one or more of the clinics, that Team's manager shall be required to serve a (1) one game suspension during the regular season.

**SECTION 12N Field Setup/Cleanup:** Home Team is responsible for getting the field ready for the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, unlocking the gates to the field and dugouts, chalking of base lines and batter's box, putting up protective pad for backstop and setting up the bases.

The Visiting Team is responsible for field clean up after the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, raking and dragging the field, taking out and putting the bases away, locking the dugouts, gates and equipment box when done.

## **Article 13. LOCAL RULES - MINOR 7-9 DIVISION (AA) SECTION**

**SECTION 13A Instructional League:** Minor 7-9 Division (AA) is intended to introduce competitive play while balancing Instruction and fundamentals. Managers and Coaches should keep this in mind as they develop the skills of all players on their team. The roster of each team will be determined by a draft conducted at the beginning of the season. Once an official team roster is set at the beginning of the season, it cannot be modified except to fill an absence through the Player Agent from a lower division or waitlist.

**SECTION 13B Playing Time:** No player will remain out of the defensive lineup for more than two (2) Consecutive innings. Managers and coaches shall rotate defensive players.

**SECTION 13C Batting:** A continuous batting order shall be used across games (the batting order starts off where it ended the previous game). Managers can make a single full lineup adjustment between the 5th and 6th game and also between the 10th and 11th games of the season. This will be their continuous lineup for the following 5 game stint. Managers can use a new batting lineup for each playoff game. Any tournament play can have a new batting lineup for each game. Failure to keep a continuous batting order based on the above guidelines will result in a review of the Manager by the Grievance Committee.

**SECTION 13D Scoring:** During all innings of a game a team is limited to scoring five runs per inning. If an out-of-the-park home run is hit, all runners on base, plus the batter will be allowed to score and the batting team is allowed to finish the play, but a maximum of 5 runs will be recorded. The Run Rule, 4.10(e) does not apply for the AA division's regular season. For playoffs the Run Rule 4.10(e) will apply for the AA division.

**SECTION 13E Base Stealing:** A player may only steal one (1) base on any pitch. A player may only steal one (1) base per attempt and may not advance to an additional base on a defensive error. No players under any circumstances may steal home. A player can only score on a walk or a batted in play ball.

**SECTION 13F Walks:** There shall be no intentional walks allowed.

**SECTION 13G "Courtesy" Runner:** During the Regular Season, when there are two (2) outs, a "Courtesy" runner may come in for the catcher. The "courtesy" runner must be the last out.

**SECTION 13H Length of Game:** No new inning --defined as starting at the completion of the last

out in the prior inning-- shall begin after the game has been in progress for 1:40 hour. A game officially ends after 2:00 hours. The game start time will commence on the first pitch and be monitored by the game's umpire(s). Games can end in a tie. There is no time limit for playoffs and tournament play as these games cannot end in a tie.

**SECTION 13I Playoffs:** A playoff format will be determined by the President and Player Agent. The format will be based on the number of teams in the Minor (AA) Division. Home field advantage will be determined by a coin flip conducted prior to the beginning of the first pitch at the plate meeting with the umpire who will flip the coin. No new inning shall start after 1 hour and 40 minutes with a hard stop at 2 hours. If at 2 hours and inning is not completed, then score reverts to the last completed inning. If the last completed inning is a tie, then continue to play until there is a declared winner.

**SECTION 13J Playoff Seeding:** League Champion shall be determined by a tournament at the end of the season with seeding to be determined by random draw. The tournament format shall be determined by the President and Player Agent of the league.

**SECTION 13K Umpires:** Adults or youth umpires may be used, the youth umpire(s) shall be older and/or in at least one division higher than the players they are umpiring. When a youth umpire is umpiring a game, an adult umpire or an adult will be appointed as a game coordinator. All disputes against a call made by the youth umpire will go directly to the adult umpire on the field or appointed game coordinator. Managers are only allowed to talk with the adult umpire or game coordinator regarding the youth umpires call and ask them to clarify or to dispute calls that are made by the youth umpire. Adult umpires or adult game coordinator should listen to the dispute and then privately meet with the youth umpire to discuss the dispute. The adult umpire or game coordinator will then make the final ruling and let the manager know what the ruling is. Any manager, coach, parent, player, that displays inappropriate behavior, bad language or aggression that is directed at the youth umpire may be ejected from the game by the adult umpire on the field or game coordinator and would be subject to discipline from the Board. It is strongly recommended that playoff and championship games be umpired by adults and not youth umpires.

**SECTION 13L Scorekeeping and Pitch Counts:** In the absence of an official scorekeeper, the official scorebook for a game will be the home team scorebook. The official scorekeeper shall be the official pitch counter for each game. Pitch Count Data sheets shall be kept with each team's scorebook and must be completed at the end of each game and sent to the league President. The intentional Walk is NOT allowed in any Minor Baseball Division. Scores must be reported by the Manager to the President of PALL within 24 hours of game time. Failure to report game scores and pitch counts will result in a review of the Manager by the Grievance Committee.

**SECTION 13M Clinics:** It is Mandatory that at least one representative from each team attends all Rules, Safety and Umpire Clinics each year. If a team fails to attend one or more of the clinics, that

Team's manager shall be required to serve a (1) one game suspension during the regular season.

**SECTION 13N Field Setup/Cleanup:** Home Team is responsible for getting the field ready for the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, unlocking the gates to the field and dugouts, chalking of base lines and batter's box, putting up protective pad for backstop and setting up the bases.

The Visiting Team is responsible for field clean up after the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, raking and dragging the field, taking out and putting the bases away, locking the dugouts, gates and equipment box when done.

**SECTION 13O Pitching Machine:** For the first (4) four weeks of the season (ending April 16<sup>th</sup>), a pitching machine will be used for the 1<sup>st</sup> (2) two innings of each game by both teams. Coaches (must be at least 18 years of age and a registered coach or manager with a completed background check) will only be allowed to feed balls to the pitching machine. There will be a hard stop after (2) innings in which the Home Team Manager must remove the pitching machine from the field of play. If the ball hits the machine during play, it will be scored as a single base hit. Once the (2) two innings are completed, teams will use their players to pitch the remainder of the game. Starting April 17<sup>th</sup>, the AA Division will be strictly kid pitch only with no machine for any portion of the game for the remainder of the season.

## **Article 14. LOCAL RULES – MINI 5-6 DIVISION (A) SECTION**

**SECTION 14A Objective:** Minor 5-6 Division (A) games are an extension of practice--low key and non-competitive. Focus is on fundamental skills and sportsmanship. Accordingly, game scores and league standings are not maintained.

**SECTION 14B Field Setup/Cleanup:** Home Team is responsible for getting the field ready for the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, unlocking the gates to the field and dugouts, chalking of base lines and batter's box, putting up protective pad for backstop and setting up the bases.

The Visiting Team is responsible for field clean up after the game. Those duties include, but are not limited to, raking and dragging the field, taking out and putting the bases away, locking the dugouts, gates and equipment box when done. Coaches will umpire their own games.

**SECTION 14C Length of Game:** Games will last six innings or 90 minutes, whichever occurs first.

**SECTION 14D Batting:** A Pitching machine will be used during the entire length of a game. The batter may only take four (4) pitches without swinging and will be limited to three (3) swinging strikes. This would then be a seven (7) pitch count max per batter. Foul balls will count as swings. If after 3 swinging strikes and the ball is not put in play, the tee will be set-up for the batter to hit from. Each team will bat their entire lineup or 3 defensive outs each inning, whichever comes first, and then switch.

**SECTION 14E Bunting:** Bunting is not allowed in Mini 5-6 Division (A).

**SECTION 14F Bat Safety:** Remind all players that after swinging the bat, it is NOT to be thrown. A player (at the discretion of the coach) will sit out the next inning or miss the next at bat if a bat is thrown.

**SECTION 14G Pitching:** A pitching machine shall be used for this division. Coaches (must be at least 18 years of age and a registered coach or manager with a completed background check) will only be allowed to feed balls to the pitching machine.

**SECTION 14H Batting Order:** A continuous batting order shall be used across games (the batting order starts off where it ended the previous game). Managers can make single full lineup adjustment between the 5th and 6th game and also between the 10th and 11th games of the season. This will be their continuous lineup for the following 5 game stint. Failure to keep a continuous batting order based on the above guidelines will result in a review of the Manager by the Grievance Committee.

**SECTION 14I Ball in Play:** Play stops when the ball is in possession of an infielder or catcher. Runners must return to their base if they have not reached the halfway point of their next base, when the infielder or catcher takes possession of the ball. However, play must continue if runners are forced to advance to the next base. For example, with a runner on first, and a ground ball to second, the defense must attempt to get the runner out and not hold on to the ball to retain runners at first. (Coach) Umpires will raise their hands and declare when play is over (i.e., "Dead Ball"). If a defensive player makes an out (i.e., 1st baseman fields the ball and tags 1st base before the runner reaches the base), the runner shall be called out and return to the dugout.

**SECTION 14J Positions:** 10 defensive players will be allowed on the field including a "pitcher" player position, Left field, Left-Centerfield, Right field, and Right Centerfield. (There cannot be 5 infielders, i.e., a fielder on 2nd base). Outfielders should be standing on the outfield grass.

**SECTION 14K Substitutions:** Defensive substitutions will be made every inning in order to keep the attention of the players. No player shall be out of the game for 2 consecutive defensive innings. Managers are encouraged to develop players at all positions by rotating each game or each inning.

**SECTION 14L:** Defensive Coaches may be on the field of play to assist their players. One coach must be in the dugout at all times when team is batting.

**SECTION 14M Clinics:** It is Mandatory that at least one representative from each team attends all Rules, Safety and Umpire Clinics each year. If a team fails to attend one or more of the clinics, that Team's manager shall be required to serve a (1) one game suspension during the regular season.



**SECTION 14N Offensive Ball Hits Machine or Bucket of Balls:** If the batter hits the ball and the ball hits the pitching machine or the bucket of balls – it is a dead ball and considered a single. The coach feeding the machine must raise their hands in the air and declare the ball is dead (i.e. “dead ball”) to prevent the defense from running towards the ball and advance the runners one base.

**SECTION 14O Less Than 9 Players:** Games can start and finish with less than 9 players. If the absent player is up to bat, that player will be skipped without further penalty.

## **Article 15. LOCAL RULES - T-BALL 4-5 DIVISION SECTION**

**SECTION 15A Objective:** T-Ball 4-5 Division games are an extension of practice--low key and non-competitive. Focus is on fundamental skills and sportsmanship. Accordingly, game scores and league standings are not maintained.

**SECTION 15B Offense/Lineups:** Each team will bat 4 players per inning. The last batter (4<sup>th</sup> batter) will run all the bases like a home run. After the 4<sup>th</sup> batter the teams will switch. In the next inning the 5<sup>th</sup> player in the lineup will lead the inning off batting. Teams will change their line up each game so a different player will be the 4<sup>th</sup> batter in the lineup each game. Failure to change the lineup each game based on the above guidelines will result in a review of the Manager by the Grievance Committee.

**SECTION 15C Field Setup/Cleanup:** Home Team is responsible for getting the field ready for the game. Those duties include, but not limited to, unlocking the gates to the field, and setting up bases and tee.

The Visiting Team is responsible for field clean up after the game. Those duties include, but not limited to, removing the bases and tee from the field, locking the gates, and returning the tee and bases.

**SECTION 15D Length of Game:** Games will have a 1-hour time limit.

**SECTION 15E Bat Safety:** Remind all players that after swinging the bat, it is NOT to be thrown. A player (at the discretion of the coach) will sit out of the next inning if a bat is thrown.

**SECTION 15F Positions:** 10 (or less) defensive players will be allowed on the field with no more than 6 players in the infield.

**SECTION 15G Field Size:** Base paths will be 50 feet.

**SECTION 15H Coaches:** Defensive coaches may be on the field of play to assist their players. One

coach must be in the dugout or with the batting lineup at all times when their team is batting.

**SECTION 15I Clinics:** It is Mandatory that at least one representative from each team attends all Rules and Safety Clinics each year. If a team fails to attend one or more of the clinics, that team's manager shall be required a one (1) game suspension during the regular season.

## **Article 16. ALL-STARS: SENIOR DIVISION (Ages 14-16)**

**SECTION 16A:** See Petaluma Combined Senior League Rules.

## **Article 17. ALL-STARS: JUNIORS, INTERMEDIATE, MAJORS, AAA, & AA Teams (AGES 7-15)**

**SECTION 17A Manager:** Managers and Coaches shall apply for the Junior, Intermediate 50/70, 12, 11, 10, AAA, & AA Teams. The Manager Selection committee designated by the board of directors will make recommendations from the pool of applicants to the President. The President will ask the Board of Directors to do a sealed ballot vote to approve the All-Star Manager assignments. The Managers will not be named until after the team is selected. The Board of Directors has the right to refuse the position to any Manager based on his performance/behavior during the regular season.

In the event there is a combined league for any division, manager and coach selection shall be according to Petaluma Combined League Rules.

**SECTION 17B Coaches:** The designated All-Star Manager recommends their choice of Coaches to the President. The President and the Board of Directors approve the coaches of the All-Star Team.

**SECTION 17C Selection Process:** Each coach will nominate 6-10 Players from their own team, for majors each coach can nominate 6 players for each age group. If a coach doesn't nominate a player that other coaches' feel needs to be nominated, that player will be nominated. If more than 10 players have been nominated, the managers will vote on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being the highest on the nominated players to form the team. The vote will go in rounds taking the top vote getter in each round until 10 players have been selected. The designated All-Star Manager and Coaches may select up to 5 additional team members to complete the roster. The Junior Team is selected during a meeting with all the Jr. Division Managers, Player Agent and President. The Intermediate Team is selected during a meeting with all the Intermediate Division Managers, Player Agent and President. The 12U, 11U and 10U teams are selected during a meeting with all the Major Division Managers, Player Agent and President. The AAA &

AA Teams are selected during a meeting with all the AAA & AA Division Managers, Player Agent and President.

If there are enough players available to fill a team in a division/age group, no player can move up without the Board of Directors approval.

In the event there is a combined league for any division, manager and coach selection shall be according to Petaluma Combined League Rules.

**SECTION 17D Eligibility:** All players who have played in a minimum of 8 of the regularly scheduled season games are eligible for the All-Star team. Special eligibility conditions apply to players who missed scheduled games due to participation in High School baseball. See operating manual for details.

## Article 18 FIELD LIGHTING

**SECTION 18A Use:** Field lights shall be used exclusively by PALL teams for game play and practices. All other requests for field lighting shall be submitted and approved by the board of directors prior to their use.

**SECTION 18B Curfew:** Field Lighting shall be activated at dusk and remain on until either the game or practice has concluded or 10:30pm whichever comes first. No new inning shall begin after 10pm. A mandatory "Lights Out" shall be no later than 10:30pm according to the requirements of the City of Petaluma.

**SECTION 18C Lighting Malfunction:** If during any game the Field Lighting System malfunctions or shuts down, game play shall be temporarily delayed for 15 minutes and the system reset. If after the 15 minutes the system cannot be fully restored, then game play shall be suspended, and the remaining innings rescheduled.

## Article 19 DISBURSEMENTS

No league officer, agent, or volunteer shall disburse any PALL funds or enter into any contract in excess of \$250.00 without approval of the Board of Directors. The President shall not disburse any PALL funds in excess of \$500.00 without Board of Directors approval. The Executive Committee may approve the dispersal of funds when a decision on an expenditure or contract is urgent and cannot wait until the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

## Article 20 Mandatory Reporting Procedure:

As a Manager/Coach and/or a league official, you are a mandatory reporter. If you see a child actively being abused or sexually abused, call 911 **immediately**.

If you suspect a child of being abused or sexually abused, you need to do the following

1. Call the authorities (Petaluma police non-emergency number (707) 778-4373)
2. Call the league President (Chase Parker 707-732-3853).

For more information on Child protection program please see the Safe Sport Act in the Petaluma American Safety Plan.

These bylaws were reviewed and adopted by the Petaluma American Little League Board of Directors on March 22, 2023.

**President's Name**

**President's Signature**

**Date**

Chase Parker

3/22/2022