

Mattawan Little League Bylaws

1.0 Player Members and Boundaries

Those interested in becoming Player Members of Mattawan Little League shall complete an application, provide evidence of age, pay said fees and agree to abide by the Mattawan Little League Constitution, Bylaws, and policies, as well as the Rules and Regulations of Little League of America, Incorporated. Player Members must be residents within the boundaries of the Mattawan Consolidated School district, or are provided exception as stated in the Rules and Regulations of Little League of America and approved by the President and the District Administrator. Players must abide by the Mattawan LL Concussion Policy as specified by the Centers for Disease Control.

2.0 Playing Policy

Mattawan Little League has a policy of equal offensive and defensive playing time. An audit of each and any players playing time (by innings) may be requested by the Division Director at any time. A request by the President or Vice-Presidents shall be made through the Directors.

- 2.1 Open Batting Order.** All Divisions shall adopt an “open batting order” policy when playing regular season league games (between two Mattawan teams). (Note: Follow inter-league rules when applicable.)
- 2.2 Defensive Positions.** All players will have the opportunity to play every defensive position. An exception can be made for safety reasons. Each Division Director will be responsible for a position rotation policy appropriate to age and skill level.

3.0 Organizational Structure and Age Alignment (Approved February 3, 2014)

Mattawan Little League is a chartered league with Little League Baseball, Incorporated, located in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, and is part of the Central Region, Michigan District 15. The league will abide by the Official Playing Regulations and Playing Rules published each year, unless otherwise noted in these Bylaws. The league is divided into Divisions, each having a Division Director, who is on the Board of Directors for the league, and reports to a Vice-President, who report to the President.

The Divisions and age alignments are as follows:

<u>Co-Ed Tee Ball</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Pitching</u>	<u>Notes & Special Rules</u>
Tee Ball	4	Tee	RIF Baseball or 10” Ball

****MLL reserves the right to combine 4 year olds with 5-6 year olds if numbers do not allow for co-ed team****

<u>Boys Baseball Divisions</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Pitching</u>	<u>Notes & Special Rules</u>
Tee-Ball	5-6	Tee & Coach Pitch	<u>RIF Baseball.</u>
A Baseball	6-8	Pitching Machine	Pitching machine set at 39 MPH.
AA Baseball	8-10	Pitching Machine	Pitching machine set at 42 MPH.
AAA Baseball	9-11	Live Pitching	All live pitching. (Refer to LM Division Pitching Guidelines)
Major Baseball	10-12	Live Pitching	All live pitching. (Refer to Majors Division Pitching Guidelines)
50/70 Baseball	11-13	Live Pitching	All live pitching. (Refer to 50/70 Division Pitching Guidelines)

Junior Baseball	13-14	Live Pitching	All live pitching/larger field, 300 ft. fence.
Senior Baseball	15-16	Live Pitching	All live pitching/larger field, 300 ft. fence.
Big League Baseball	16-18	Live Pitching	All live pitching/full size field, MHS with approval.
Challenger	5-26	Tee & Coach Pitch	RIF Baseball.

<u>Girls Softball Divisions</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Pitching</u>	<u>Notes & Special Rules</u>
Tee-Ball	5-6	Tee & Coach Pitch	<u>RIF 10" Ball.</u>
Minor Softball	7-8	Pitching Machine	<u>11" Ball.</u>
<u>Girls Softball Divisions</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Pitching</u>	<u>Notes & Special Rules</u>
Little Major Softball	9-10	Coach & Live Pitching	35 pitching plate to home plate. 11" Ball.
Major Softball	11-12	Live Pitching	40 pitching plate to home plate. <u>12" Ball.</u>
Junior Softball	13-14	Live Pitching	43 pitching plate to home plate. 12" Ball.
Senior Softball	13-16	Live Pitching	43 pitching plate to home plate. 12" Ball.
Big League Softball	14-18	Live Pitching	43 pitching plate to home plate. 12" Ball.

4.0 Managers and Coaches

The Board of Directors, (each Division Director) with the assistance from designates and appointed committees, shall recruit and evaluate the application of each manager or coach. Active participation, as described in the Mattawan Little League Constitution (Article III, Section 3), shall be required of all managers and coaches. Applicants for manager or coach should bring any potential conflict of interest to the attention of the Board, or there designates or appointed committees. Each applicant for manager or coach will be reviewed and will be subject to a criminal background check as described below in section

5.0 Criminal Background Check

All Directors, managers, coaches (and other volunteers) will undergo a criminal history background check conducted by the League President, designated parties or committee(s) as appointed by the Board in accordance with Little League International. No manager, coach or other volunteer will be approved or appointed without a background check being completed. No practices or games shall be conducted prior to the managers and coaches being approved and appointed at the Annual Meeting. Any managers or coaches joining a team during the season should first be submitted to the President or designate for a criminal background check and appointment.

The President will review each instance where a criminal background is detected, and with input from the Managers and Coaches Committee, will take appropriate action.

6.0 Supervision Policy

A manager (or coach, if designated by the manager) is responsible to remain at the practice or game site until the supervision of all their players have been turned over to a parent, custodian or other responsible party. Players should never be allowed to leave a supervised site to wait for a parent in an unsupervised site. Parents should be instructed to pick-up their children from the practice or game site (field location).

7.0 Field Director Policy

A Field Director will be named for each day during the regular season that games are played. Each Division Director will be responsible for scheduling one week during the season. The Field Director Schedule will be supplied at the Annual Meeting. Each Director will report their completed schedule for the week, including name and phone number, to the President at least one week prior to Opening Day.

Directors may schedule themselves, their managers and coaches, other Regular Members of the league, and parents. The Field Director must agree to abide by the duties listed in the Mattawan Little League Field Director Duties Manual.

8.0 Weather and Game Cancellation Policy

Mattawan Little League games may only be canceled prior to the scheduled start times by the Field Director. No manager, coach or other Member may cancel games prior to their scheduled start. In most circumstances, games shall *not* be canceled prior to *one-hour* before the scheduled start times. Saturday or Sunday games may be canceled for the entire day, at the discretion of the Field Director, but not prior to *one-hour* before the scheduled start of the first game. Contact should be made only at Mattawan Little League (269) 668-4854.

If a **Tornado Watch, Tornado Warning** or **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** is in effect *one-half hour* before the scheduled start time, the Field Director **must** cancel the games.

Games should be canceled immediately upon issuance of a **Tornado Watch, Tornado Warning**, or **Severe Thunderstorm Warning** by the Field Director. The Field Director shall inform the umpires in these circumstances over the Public Address System. (See 4.0, Supervision Policy)

Should lightning be detected, the Field Director shall instruct the umpires to delay their games for at least **15 minutes** beyond the final detection, clearing the fields, and appropriate shelter should be taken.

8.1 Field Director Authority

The Field Director has sole responsibility to delay or resume games because of weather or playing conditions. All umpires, managers and coaches will abide by the instructions given by the Field Director. Board members, officers, umpires, managers, coaches, parents and spectators shall contact the Field Director regarding weather concerns.

9.0 Field Prep Policy

Practice: Fields should be groomed and bases put away following each practice, unless another team is taking the field.

*Games: The home team is responsible for having the field prepared at least 20 minutes before the start of the game. All fields shall be lined: from home plate to the foul pole, batter's boxes and pitching circle, if applicable. The home team is also responsible for grooming the field after the game, although **both** teams (Mattawan) are encouraged to help.*

10.0 8 p.m. Policy on School Nights

No inning should start after 8 p.m. when the Mattawan Consolidated Schools have school scheduled for the next day, unless approved by the President. Note: This rule is not applicable on Friday or Saturday nights.

11.0 Spending Policy

Directors and Committees are required to stay within their approved budgets. The Board of Directors must approve additional spending.

11.1 Treasurer Procedures

In lieu of the Little League International requirement of two signatures on each check Mattawan Little League Board of Directors has adopted the following procedure. Checks under \$500.00 will require only the treasurer's signature. Checks over \$500.00 need to have the invoice reviewed and the check stub initialed by another E-Board member (preferably the President or a Vice President) any time before or on the date of the next monthly Board of Directors meeting. The monthly bank statement will be mailed to the league secretary and presented at the monthly meeting for review by the board of directors.

12.0 Equipment Policy

Mattawan Little League is committed to providing the players with equipment that meets all safety standards set forth in the Little League Manual. Any equipment that a manager feels does not meet these standards should be returned and exchanged through the Equipment Manager, the Playing Equipment Committee, President, Vice-President or Division Director.

All managers must sign out their equipment in the Equipment Log at the beginning of the season, verifying the contents in the equipment bag(s). Each manager shall return their equipment, including used balls, following their last game, to the designated area. An audit shall be taken at that time. After logging the contents of the returned bag(s) with the Equipment Manager or designate, the manager shall sign in the Equipment Log that their bag was returned. If a manager's check-in signature is not recorded in the Equipment Log, it will be assumed that the equipment was not returned. The manager may be responsible for any and all missing equipment and may be billed accordingly. The manager will not be in Good Standing until the bill is paid.

Any additional equipment that an All-Star Manager desires for their All-Star teams shall be logged and checked out in a separate bag and the same check in procedure will be followed.

13.0 Umpire Scheduling

The home team listed on the schedule is responsible for scheduling the home plate umpire. The visiting team is responsible for supplying at least one base umpire. The Director of Umpires shall supply the managers with a list of umpires who have shown an interest in umpiring at the Annual Meeting. Assistance in this regard may be supplied by the Chief Umpires for Baseball and Softball.

14.0 Zero Tolerance Policy

Mattawan Little League has adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy as it relates to the conduct of managers, coaches, parents and spectators during practices and games. All managers and coaches must sign the Managers/Coaches Code of Conduct Policy outlined in Attachment 5.

15.0 All-Star Player Selection Process and Year-End Player Assessment

Deleted June 6, 2003, See Mattawan Little League Bylaw #16.0, "All-Star Selection Process"

16.0 All-Star and Extended Season Selection Process (Approved January 16, 2014)

See Attachment #2, Mattawan Little League "All-Star and Extended Season Selection Process"

17.0 Scheduling and Influence of Outside Organizations

Each year the Board of Directors has the responsibility to take into consideration a number of factors when developing the Mattawan Little League schedule. Such factors may include the Mattawan Consolidated Schools schedule, (i.e., when Spring Break occurs, camp days, physical examination dates, etc.), holidays, District 2 and 15 schedules as they relate to inter-league play, and schedules of outside organizations.

Based upon these factors, the Board will develop and annual schedule, including determining *Opening Week*, that is in the best interest of Mattawan Little League. From time to time, this may include scheduling of Saturday regular season or tournament games for all Divisions. It is expected that all teams will be scheduled to play on Opening Day. All scheduled games are to be played. Any exceptions should be approved by the respective Vice-Presidents and reported to the President.

18.0 Use of Mattawan Little League Property by Outside Organizations

Outside organizations interested in conducting activities on Mattawan Little League property are required to complete a Mattawan Little League Facility Use Form. The Board of Directors will review the request and notify the interested party of their decision. No outside organizations shall be allowed to conduct activities unless approved by the Board of Directors. Mattawan Little League is private property and activities conducted upon the premise are limited to those approved in association with the league's charter and affiliation with Little League of America, or those activities explicitly approved by the Board of Directors.

See Attachment #1, Mattawan Little League "Facility Use Form"

19.0 Amendments to the Bylaws

Changes and amendments to the Bylaws can be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Timeframe Exceptions: Mattawan Little League (MLL) bylaws (e.g. Player Draft, All-Star Policy, and Field Use Policy) cannot be amended during the season (between March 1st and September 30th of any year) unless said change is necessary for MLL to comply with Little League International (LLI) regulations or Federal, State or Local laws. Changes and / or amendments approved between October 1st and February 28th will go into effect immediately. An amendment can be considered and approved by the Board of Directors at any time during the calendar year; however, unless it is required as stated above, it will not go into effect until October 1st of said year (for the next playing season).

20.0 Draft Process for Baseball & Softball (Approved January 16, 2014)

See Attachment 4, Mattawan Little League "Draft Process for Baseball & Softball"

21.0 No Smoking Policy (Approved May 5, 2003)

Mattawan Little League has designated the Little League property which includes but is not limited to: Bathrooms, Fields, Concession Areas, Outfield Fence and Surrounding Areas, Walkways, and Driveways

as non-smoking areas during MLL organized practices, pre-game warm-ups, and games. The only designated smoking areas during games and practices are the North and South Parking Lots.

22.0 Player Advancement Policy (Approved January 16, 2014)

See Attachment 3, Mattawan Little League “Policy for Advancement of Players”

These Bylaws were approved by the MLL Board of Directors on January 7, 2002. Unless otherwise noted.

_____ President’s Name	_____ President’s Signature	_____ Date
_____ VP Baseball’s Name	_____ VP Baseball’s Signature	_____ Date
_____ VP Softball’s Name	_____ VP Softball’s Signature	_____ Date

