



# North Pocono Dandy Lion Little League Standing Rules for 2026

*Rules are for Baseball and Softball unless specifically noted*

## **All Divisions**

For the 2026 Baseball season, the Major and Minor divisions will participate in the Heritage League and Coach Pitch will play in a combined NPDLL/Jefferson Twp League.

### **1) Field Duties**

- a) When playing a team outside the League, at a Dandy Lion Little League field, the home team will be responsible for all duties listed in paragraphs 2(A) through 2(C)(i) listed below.
- b) If both teams are from Dandy Lion Little League, the duties shall be divided as follows:

#### **HOME TEAM**

- At a minimum two parents will open and run the concession stand for the duration of the scheduled game.
- The Concession Stand Form must be completed in its entirety and signed by the home manager/coach.
- Coaches are responsible to secure the complex before leaving, including the field, building, and front gate.
- The “Hat” shall be passed in all divisions between 2nd and 3rd innings by two (2) uniformed players and an adult volunteer at all Dandy Lion Little League Games played at a Dandy Lion Little League field.

#### **VISITING TEAM**

- Before and after the scheduled game the manager and coaches shall ensure the field has been raked and cleaned of all trash and debris.
- Both bathrooms shall be cleaned and restocked as necessary.
- The manager shall appoint an individual (under 13 requires parental supervision) to run the scoreboard/PA System. (Major and Minor only)
- Each team will be responsible to clean up their side of the field after the scheduled game.
- No coach or player from either team is allowed to leave the field until trash is picked up and cans are emptied on their respective sides, including the dugout.



## **2) Rainouts:**

- a) Makeup games will be rescheduled by home team managers.
- b) The game must be played on the scheduled make-up date.

## **3) Managers & Coaches**

- a) During the baseball/softball season, all Managers and assistant coaches will be responsible to assist with field maintenance (i.e. general maintenance, cleanup days, grass cutting, etc.).
- b) All managers/coaches must be regular members in good standing and approved by the NPDLL Board (see Dandy Lion Little League Constitution).
- c) Managers and coaches who fail to comply with the mandatory league requirements shall be brought in front of the Board of Directors for disciplinary action which may include removal from the individual's position.
- d) All Managers and Coaches shall inspect each players' bat(s) prior to the first practice of the season to ensure every bat conforms to the 2024 Little League standard. No player is permitted to use a bat for practice or a game which does not conform to the Little League standard.
- e) No player, parent and or coach is allowed to change the issued uniform including the hat and jersey. No alterations shall be made to the issued uniform, including but not limited to, the name on hat/jersey, appointment of captains indicated by a "C" on the hat, emblems, patches or nicknames on the hat/jersey during regular season or All-Star season.
  - i) Violation of the rule will result in immediate discipline of the player and or coach that may include possible suspension or removal.
  - ii) Parents will also be responsible for the cost for a new uniform.

## **4) Player Evaluations**

- a) The Safety Officer or a board representative appointed by the Safety Officer shall attend all tryouts and evaluate players.
- b) There will be NO refunds once the teams are picked/drafted by the league and managers.
- c) Late registrations will not be accepted after tryouts have commenced and teams assigned.



## 5) Major League

- a) The Softball and Baseball Major Division will be redrafted each season.
- b) Any player that is league age 10 to 12 years old is eligible to participate in the Major division, provided that they have been evaluated and not deemed a safety risk.
- c) All playing rules shall be established by the Heritage League and followed during all games (baseball only). Every Manager and Coach shall read and become familiar with the Heritage League Standing Rules prior to the start of the season.
- d) Face mask required for all pitchers (Softball only)
- e) All Game Changer and/or scorebooks must be completely filled out before the start of each game to include players' full names, number and position being played. Also, the manager or team scorekeeper must have an accurate pitch count for every pitcher recorded in their scorebook (Baseball).
- f) In the event a Major League team loses a player before the end of the first half, the replacement shall be permanent.
- g) Any replacement player brought up to Major League after the first half shall enter the Major draft the following season.
- h) All managers must report to the league commissioner and player agent immediately after a player permanently vacates their roster.
- i) Failure by the manager to advise the proper parties of a player's continued absence will result in disciplinary action against the manager.
- j) If a player is absent for 3 games/practices, the manager shall notify the commissioner and player agent to rectify the situation or find a permanent replacement.
- k) Player pitch counts and days of rest will be determined by the Pitching/Catching Rules in the 2026 Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League Baseball. (Baseball)
- l) Umpires shall be Board approved and must be age 16 or older.
- m) A regular season game is considered final if 3 ½ innings are complete and if the home team is winning.
- n) No inning shall start after 10pm.
- o) League Champion:
  - i) Baseball: The league champion will be decided by an end of the season tournament. Seeding for the tournament will be chosen by proper seeding (for example: 1v4, 2v3).
  - ii) Softball: Set schedule within North Pocono Little League, plus additional games scheduled with Districts. The League will follow district rules during district play and the League rules when playing within our own league. Each League team will play the other League teams at least once



before All Star voting (TBD). North Pocono Little League Softball Majors will institute a double elimination playoff, seeding will be determined by random selection.

- iii) There will be a league official at all playoff games.
- iv) Game Timing: Playoff games not finished at 10pm shall be resumed from the point of stoppage at the next available time, to be determined by the Player Agent.

## 6) Minor League

- a) The Softball and Baseball Minor Division will be redrafted each season.
- b) Any player that is league age 8 to 11 years old is eligible to participate in the Kid Pitch Minor division, provided that they have been evaluated and not deemed a safety risk. 12 year old players would need a waiver, as per Little League rules, and may not pitch under any circumstances.
- c) The league champion will be decided by an end of the season tournament. Seeding for the tournament will be chosen by proper seeding (for example: 1v4, 2v3).
- d) Four (4) runs are the maximum to be scored in each half inning.
- e) Player pitch counts and days of rest will be determined by the Pitching/Catching Rules in the 2026 Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League Baseball. (Baseball)
- f) Players can advance one (1) base with a passed ball. Once the second-half of the season has commenced, all stealing is allowed (including home) See district rules. If district rules state otherwise, their rules will supersede. (softball)
- g) For base running specifics see Heritage League rules (baseball)
- h) Pitching
  - i) Softball - 12-year-old cannot pitch or catch.
  - ii) Softball: 35 feet pitching distance.
  - iii) Baseball: 46 feet pitching distance.
- i) One umpire will be scheduled for all other regular season and playoff games.
- j) Umpires shall be Board approved and must be age 16 or older.
- k) No Infield fly rule (Softball only).
- l) Face mask required for all pitchers (Softball only).
- m) Standing rules apply to Regular season and tournament play.
- n) During play, only a Manager and three assistant coaches may be allowed in the dugout.
- o) All playing rules shall be established by the Heritage League and followed during all games (baseball only).



p) Every Manager and Coach shall read and become familiar with the Heritage League Standing Rules prior to the start of the season.

## 7) Coach Pitch

- a) Any player that is league age 6 to 8 years old is eligible to participate in the Coach Pitch Division.
- b) Each game will last six (6) innings or 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- c) Any doubleheader that is played on a Wednesday will last no longer than 1 hour and 15 minutes.
- d) Adult coaches will pitch to their own team and act as the umpire when their team is hitting.
- e) During each game a continuous batting order and free substitutions will be used.
- f) Coaches shall not stand more than fifteen (15) feet in front of the pitching rubber to pitch. It is recommended (but not required) to have coaches pitch from one knee. 4
- g) A manager or coach shall not throw more than ten (10) quality pitches to each batter
- h) Three (3) strikes on a batter will result in a strike out.
- i) When a ball breaks the plane of the infield (when being thrown in from the outfield), runners halfway or more to a base will be allowed to advance at their own risk. Runners less than halfway will be sent back to the base where they came from without being able to be called out. The rule is determined by the lead runner if there are multiple runners on the basepaths.
- j) Runners may advance as many bases as they can while adhering to rule i.
- k) Players can not advance because of an overthrow to any base.
- l) Base stealing is NOT allowed.
- m) Bunting is NOT allowed.
- n) On-deck batters are NOT allowed. Only the batter is allowed to have a bat in his hand. This is a Little League Rule that must be adhered to because of insurance liability if a player is injured. It is also strictly enforced at higher levels and it is better to get the kids used to the rule now.
- o) No more than ten (10) defensive players may be on the field during play. This is a Little League Rule that must be adhered to because of insurance liability if a player is injured.
- p) A player shall not sit more than one (1) consecutive inning.
- q) The player who is assigned to the defensive pitcher position must keep one (1) foot in the dirt on the pitching mound and stand no closer than even with the actual 46' pitching rubber (this is for player safety).
- r) Infielders can not play closer than one (1) step on the infield grass.



- s) There may only be four (4) players in the outfield during play. This is a Little League Rule that must be adhered to because of insurance liability if a player is injured.
- t) Outfielders must play, at a minimum, ten (10) feet back from the infield.
- u) There is a four (4) run maximum per half inning. Unlimited runs are allowed to be scored in the last inning.
- v) All players must wear helmets with facemasks (NP Dandy Lion League rule only).
- w) Teams will utilize hardballs (not compression) during play.
- x) During play, a maximum of three (3) coaches shall be allowed on the field of play.
- y) One (1) coach must be in the dugout at all times.

#### **8) Tee Ball**

- a) Any player that is league age 6 to 8 years old is eligible to participate in the Coach Pitch Division.
- b) All players shall be positioned on the field when a team is in the field.
- c) A half inning ends after all batters have batted the ball in play.
- d) Each game shall include a four-inning game or 1 ½ hour time limit if there is a scheduled game to follow.
- e) During the first half of the season, all batters must hit off of the tee.
- f) During the second half of the season, at the Manager's discretion, a coach may throw five soft toss pitches to the batter. If the batter does not bat the ball into play after five soft toss pitches, the batter must use a tee.
- g) All players must wear helmets with full facemasks.

#### **9) Jr/Sr (Teener)**

- a) This Division shall follow the District rules.

#### **10) All-Star Teams**

- a) Each All-Star Team shall include, at a minimum, twelve players, unless Little League guidelines change or a waiver is procured. The Manager has the discretion to add additional players to the team.
- b) The 10-12 team will be selected first, followed by the 8-10 team, and then possibly a 9-11 team.
- c) An all-star evaluation may be used to determine allstar teams, if deemed necessary by the all-star manager.



- d) A player must accept his or her first team appointment or he or she will be considered ineligible to play on any other All-Star team. (As per Little League by-laws).
- e) Any Major Division Manager or Coach is eligible to manage tournament teams (8-10, 9-11, 10-12) as long as there has not been any disciplinary action against that Manager/Coach.
- f) Any Minor Division Manager or Coach is eligible to manage the 8-10 tournament team.
- g) Any Manager or Coach interested in managing an All-Star team MUST submit their name in writing to the League Secretary by sending an email to the League email address by **May 14, 2024**
- h) The President will nominate a candidate for approval by the Board of Directors. Approval is gained by a majority vote in favor of. If the President's first nomination is not approved, another applicant will be nominated by the President for approval by the Board of Directors. If there are no names submitted in writing for an All-Star team, that Division will not have an all-star team.
- i) Assistant Coaches will be chosen by the All-Star team manager and approved by the Board of Directors only after the All-Star roster has been filled.

#### **11) All-Star Player Selection:**

- a) Player Eligibility\
  - i) Only players in the Major and Minor Divisions are eligible for All-Stars.
  - ii) In the event the 8-10 All-Star team cannot complete a full roster from the Major Division, players from the Minor Division will be selected to complete the roster.
  - iii) In the event the 9-11 All-Star team cannot complete a full roster from the Major Division, players from the Minor Division may be selected to complete the roster, if quality of players is deemed acceptable
- b) The All-Star manager and all Major Division team managers will select the entire team roster by vote with board members present.
- c) If Minor Division players are needed to complete the 8-10 ( or 9-11 team) All-Star team, Minor Division managers and the All-Star manager will select the roster utilizing the same format used to select the other All-Star players.
- d) All eligible players must sign a commitment letter prior to the All Star selection process.
- e) At the time of selection, all selected players shall provide a "Planned Itinerary" if the selected player will not be available for any part of the All-Star season.



- f) If attendance requirements cannot be met due to the Planned Itinerary, the selected player will be ineligible for All-Stars and the spot will be filled by the next eligible player as determined by the All-Star Manager.
- g) Players must have participated in 8 of the 12 games played by their regular season team at the time of All-Star selection unless the player has a valid extended medical condition/excuse.
- h) Excessive absenteeism from All-Star practices and games will not be allowed. A player can miss 1 practice with a valid excuse. If a player misses two (2) practices, the manager must notify the Board of Directors for further review. A player can miss one (1) game with a valid excuse. If a player misses two (2) games, the manager must notify the President. Players can be removed from an All-Star team and permanently replaced if needed by the All-Star manager/Board.
- i) All-Star selection of players can occur no sooner than Little League Guidelines allows, shortly thereafter practices need to begin, and all practices are mandatory. Failure of All-Star managers and coaches to comply with the attendance rules regarding the All-Star players shall result in disciplinary action by the Board of Directors, including removal from all Managing/Coaching duties.
- j) No player outside of NPDLL eligibility is allowed to participate on an NPDLL All-Star team. Eligibility can be attained either by having a home address within the NPDLL boundary, or by the school rule.

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