

Mechanicsville Little League Operating Policies and Procedures 2024 Season



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DISCIPLINARY POLICY

Mechanicsville Little League (MLL) expects all participants (players, managers, coaches, spectators and all volunteers associated with Little League) to exhibit acceptable behavior on and off the field, while on the property of the MLL complex. Aggressive behavior (fighting, pinching, hitting or other acts of aggression) or other unacceptable behavior (foul language, tobacco, alcohol, or any other offensive behavior on the playing field) will not be tolerated by Little League. Participants involved in unacceptable behavior of this type will be subject to disciplinary action as dictated by Little League and MLL Policy. The MLL Board of Directors (BOD) reserves the right to set punishment according to the seriousness of the offense up to and including suspension from participation in any MLL related activity. The ruling of the MLL Board of Directors will be final.

It is the sincere hope of the MLL staff and its members that no participant will display any form of unacceptable behavior, however, should the situation arise, this disciplinary policy will be enforced. **ALL** participants involved in unacceptable behavior will be disciplined on an individual basis as determined by the guidelines established by Little League International and as applied by the MLL Disciplinary Committee.

Little League International – Rule 4.07 – All Levels of Baseball / Softball

When a manager, coach or player is ejected from a game, they shall leave the field immediately and take no further part in that game. They **MAY NOT** sit in the stands and **MAY NOT** be recalled. **Any manager, coach or player ejected from a game is suspended for his/her team's next physically played game.** (This is a Little League policy which may not be waived, altered, or modified. This is not a local league policy. Any local league found in violation of this policy may be subject to league sanctions and loss of charter.)

*****NOTE:** Ejections from any game may result in loss of eligibility of any and/or all All-Star privileges.

I acknowledge receipt of the MLL Disciplinary policy and have discussed its content with participants involved with my team to include players, coaches, parents and spectators. I agree to abide by this policy and understand that unacceptable behavior will not be tolerated.

Division and Team Name: _____

MANAGER: _____ **DATE:** _____
Sign and PRINT Name

COACH: _____ **DATE:** _____
Sign and PRINT Name

COACH: _____ **DATE:** _____
Sign and PRINT Name

COACH: _____ **DATE:** _____
Sign and PRINT Name

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

If an infraction of the MLL Disciplinary Policy occurs, the complaint shall be submitted in writing to the League Coordinator, League Player Agent or President within 48 hours of the infraction.

Upon receipt of a written complaint, the League President, Vice President, or League Coordinator will assign one or more member(s) of the executive board as the investigating officer(s) to conduct an impartial investigation. Upon completing the investigation, the investigating officer(s) will present those findings to the MLL Disciplinary Committee. The Disciplinary Committee will present those findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors (BOD) who will determine whether disciplinary action is warranted and, when required, the disciplinary action to be taken.

The Disciplinary Committee will convene to discuss any reported league infractions, the severity, and proposed disciplinary action weekly during the season, and as required during the off-season. Discussion of a particular infraction will take place as soon after the occurrence as possible, typically within the week of receipt of the complaint. The severity of some complaints may require more immediate action.

It is the intent of the BOD to ensure that all investigations are completed prior to any disciplinary action being taken. However, for the most serious of alleged offenses, the BOD may take administrative action to restrict or suspend participation of the party/parties involved in any games and/or MLL activities until the investigation is complete and the issue has been completely resolved. In those instances where the investigation determines that the alleged offense did not occur, this "interim" action will not be considered to have been disciplinary in nature.

Those involved in the alleged infraction will be notified by the appropriate League Coordinator of the date and time of the meeting to discuss the incident. Each party will be offered an opportunity to speak during a specified time frame assigned and managed by the President and League Coordinator.

The offending party/parties involved will be notified of the decision of the BOD verbally and/or in writing. Neither the BOD nor the Disciplinary Committee is under any obligation to disclose the decision and/or punishment to the complaining party/parties.

If an appeal is requested by the offending party/parties, it must be stated in writing to the BOD within 48 hours of receipt of the BOD decision. A majority quorum of the BOD must meet within one week of receipt of the request. The requesting party/parties will be notified of the meeting and allotted time to speak. The meeting will be closed and the BOD will discuss the appeal and render a FINAL decision. The offending party/parties involved will be notified in writing regarding the final BOD decision. The decision of the Board of Directors is FINAL.

Disciplinary Committee consists of:

- League Coordinator (Chairperson)
- Vice President (Co-Chairperson)
- President
- Executive Board Investigating Officer
- Chief Umpire
- Player Agent

- Secretary
- Other regular members as required

Ejection Procedures:

- When an ejection occurs, the ejecting umpire shall complete an ejection report to be turned into the Chief Umpire. This report shall contain:
 - o Date, Time, Field Number, and level of game in question.
 - o Names of both teams involved in the game, and those teams' acting managers.
 - o Name of individual(s) ejected.
 - o Any pertinent information leading up to the ejection, any pertinent information about the ejection, and any pertinent information about actions after the ejection.
 - o Any relevant statement(s) of other umpire(s) on the game.
 - o Whether the ejecting umpire believes the incident warrants further disciplinary action.
- Chief Umpire shall furnish a copy of the ejection report to the League Coordinator and Player Agent of the level of play involved, and to the League President.
- If 2 or more of the board members receiving the ejection report determines that the ejection requires further examination, League President shall schedule a meeting to include the Chief Umpire and at least 3 members of the BOD who do not manage or coach at the level of play in question. If League President or Chief Umpire deem necessary, the ejected player, team manager and/or parents may appear as advisor(s).
- An ejection is a judgment call and therefore cannot be protested. In the event the team manager of the ejected person wants to appeal the additional game suspension, see investigation section below. It is noted that such appeal must be made in writing to either the League President or Chief Umpire, within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game during which the ejection in question took place.
- Board members present shall discuss the situation after all parties have left. If present members are moved to impose further disciplinary action, such action shall come to a vote with the simple majority ruling. Board members who manage or coach at the level of play in question may participate in discussion, but shall not vote.

Investigation:

- If the team manager appeals the additional game suspension due to the ejection's merit, he/she must make a statement to that effect, to include references to any relevant playing rules, and including any extenuating circumstances that support his/her belief. Such statement shall be recorded in writing as the grounds for defense against the ejection's mandatory second game suspension.
- The Chief Umpire shall prepare a statement of particulars regarding the ejection. Such statement shall contain references to any relevant playing rules, any extenuating circumstances surrounding the ejection, and whether the Chief Umpire believes the ejection and subsequent suspension to be warranted.

- A meeting shall be held, of at least seven (7) members of the BOD, to include the League President, Chief Umpire, League Coordinator and Player Agent of the level of play in question.
- Any relevant discussion shall be held regarding the ejection. The understanding shall be that the burden of proof is on the ejected person's grounds for defense to demonstrate reasons the additional game suspension should be overruled. After discussion is concluded, a vote regarding the additional game suspension shall be held.
- If either the Chief Umpire or the league President is in support of the additional game suspension, the suspension shall be considered upheld unless a vote is unanimous by every other director present to overrule. In the case of the latter, the mandatory second game suspension shall be overruled. If the Chief Umpire's statement of particulars is in support of the additional game suspension, and if League President supports the additional game suspension, the suspension shall be upheld.

MANAGER / COACH ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Our goal at Mechanicsville Little League is to provide all of our players with a fun, positive atmosphere that provides the opportunity to learn the fundamental skills and rules of Little League Baseball/Softball. Player safety is always our top concern. The selection of managers is extremely important and is done with great care.

The selection of managers is done on a season by season basis. Manager/coaching positions do not automatically carry over from one season or year to the next. The Manager Selection Committee (Division Directors) will prepare and present a list of acceptable manager applicants to the League President, who will then present recommendations to the Board of Directors for final approval. Managers will be allowed to select up to one coach that he/she wishes to be paired with. Any additional coaches will be selected via the player draft. Coaches must also be approved by the Board of Directors. The League President and the Board of Directors have the right to appoint or not appoint any manager or coach applicant.

Little League International prohibits local leagues to disclose the reason(s) the League President and/or Board of Directors appointed or did not appoint a manager/coach to the manager/coach applicant. Mechanicsville Little League strictly adheres to this rule, thus no additional information regarding the Board decision will be shared with the applicant, without exception.

Initial manager selection notifications will begin during the first week of February and may continue through player skills assessments as needed. Additional managers may be required after the evaluations and draft depending on late player registrations.

All prospective managers and coaches must:

1. Complete the Little League Volunteer application process and training as communicated. Both Sports Connect and Little League International Background Check applications need to be completed.
2. Be cleared through the Little League International mandated background check. The check will be submitted and results reviewed by the League President.
3. Attend preseason **MANDATORY** Managers/ Coaches clinics and meetings.
4. Managers may select two adult coaches (Minors and older divisions)

NOTE:

- MANAGERS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRAFT A TEAM IF ABOVE ITEM 1 HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE MLL INFORMATION DIRECTOR.
- MANAGERS AND COACHES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY MLL EVENT WHERE PLAYERS ARE PRESENT UNTIL ABOVE ITEM 2 HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE RESPECTIVE MLL DIVISION DIRECTOR OR MLL COACHING COORDINATOR.

Factors considered in selecting managers:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of softball/baseball fundamentals and coaching experience.
2. Demonstrate willingness to attend all coaches' meetings before, during and after the season.
3. Demonstrate willingness to attend all required Manager/Coach Certification Sessions sponsored by Mechanicsville Little League.
4. Actively assist in pregame field preparation (bases, drag, rake, line, score boxes, etc.) if needed.
5. Agree to follow and support the rules, procedures and guidelines provided by both Little League International and Mechanicsville Little League.
6. Agree to assist with non-sport activities, such as promoting and/or organizing fundraisers; managing team coverage of the concession stand; help with organizing such things as Opening Day, facilities clean up, picture day, etc.
7. Demonstrate positive attitude, with traits of courtesy, patience and discipline.
8. Demonstrate good time management and organizational skills.
9. Dependability to be on time for games and practices and to be prepared to run the activities.
10. Agree to help with League umpiring needs, if MLL umpires are unable to officiate.
11. Agree to support and promote the MLL Manager/Coach Certification Initiative.

EVALUATION / DRAFT RULES AND PROCEDURES

The Draft is structured to encourage the equitable distribution of talent among teams in a division. This section applies to Machine Pitch, Minors, Majors, Intermediate Baseball(50x70), Juniors and Seniors. It does not apply to Tee Ball or Coach pitch

General Guidelines:

- Managers and First Coaches are allowed to participate in the player evaluations.
- Managers should make their selections based on player evaluations made at Player Evaluation Day.
- Draft proceedings are confidential. All Paperwork brought into the draft as well as notes made during the draft will be discarded prior to leaving the draft facility. A copy of their drafted team will be given to the Managers.
- Players should never be told in which round they or other players were drafted.
- MANAGERS ONLY will be allowed in the draft proceedings.

Rules:

Prior to Player Selection:

1. All eligible players at all divisions will return to the draft each year. All teams will be disbanded annually.
2. MLL utilizes the Common Pool draft procedure for all players, whereas all players are made available in their respective divisions for each season.
3. Prior to the selection of players, each Manager will pull a name out of a hat.
4. Draft selection order will be determined by numbers drawn from a hat.
5. Manager and First Coach players will be slotted in a round based on skill/experience level. Each player will be discussed and a round voted on. These players will automatically go in the round they are voted in. In the event of a tie the league director will be the deciding vote.

Player Options:

1. There will be no carpool requests accepted.
2. Siblings will be selected to the same team unless a special request is submitted by the parents for them to play on separate teams. When one sibling is selected, the remaining sibling will be that team's next pick.
3. League age 6 wanting to play Machine Pitch Sr, League age 8 wanting to play Minors, League age 10 wanting to play Majors and League age 11 & 12 wanting to play 50/70 may not be selected into those leagues based on skill/experience level and availability on individual teams. **If a player is not drafted on a team, the player will be selected in the next available division.**
4. All draft eligible players shall attend the skills evaluations. The names and ages of all players that do not attend skills evaluations will be read by the player agent and then placed into a blind draft, unless at least half of the manager's present can attest to the skill level of the player and only then can the player be added to the regular draft.

5. In combined age groups, each team shall draft accordingly to ensure that all older participants in the division are evenly selected between all teams. The Player Agent will notify all managers prior to the draft the number of the older participants eligible and notify each team the maximum number of those older players per team.
6. Players registering after the draft will be put on the waiting list. After each 4 days those players on the waiting list will be hat picked by the teams with the next pick(s). That selection order will be the next team in the draft. (i.e the next team in the draft order Placement to a team not next in draft order may occur to replace dropped players on another team due to injury or other withdrawal from participation. In an age appropriate division will be at the discretion of the division director and VP of Baseball.
7. Managers may not contact players prior to 30 minutes after the completion of the Division draft. This allows for a 30 minute window for player trades immediately following the division's draft before players are notified. Before leaving the draft room all trades must be completed through the Player Agent, who will ensure that there is a justifiable reason and that trades do not create an imbalance of talent. Both managers must agree to the trade. Player trades can only be made within 3 draft rounds, one up, one down or the same round. Hat pick players are eligible for trade with a majority vote by all managers with the director being the tie breaker.

Draft Procedures

Round 1

The draft shall begin with the manager that drew the Number 1 prior to the draft. The manager shall be allowed to pick any eligible player, in accordance with the rules above. Player selection shall continue in ascending sequential numerical order through the remaining managers to complete Round 1.

Round 2

The manager that selected last in Round 1 will have the first pick in Round 2. Selection will continue in a descending sequential numeric order until all managers have made a selection.

Remaining Rounds (until all eligible players are selected)

The remaining rounds will follow the same formats as Round 1 and Round 2

Round 3 – ascending sequential numeric order

Round 4 – descending sequential numeric order

Round 5 – ascending sequential numeric order

Round 6 – descending sequential numeric order

Round 7 – ascending sequential numeric order

Round 8 – descending sequential numeric order

Round 9 – ascending sequential numeric order

Round 10 – descending sequential numeric order

Round 11 – ascending sequential numeric order

Round 12 – descending sequential numeric order

Round 13 – ascending sequential numeric order

Round 14 – descending sequential numeric order.

POSTSEASON POLICY

Definitions:

“All-Star” Team: A team that competes in the District sponsored and run tournament with the opportunity to continue on to State, Regional, and National (World Series) play.

“Post Season” Team: A team that competes in Little League Sanctioned Invitational Tournaments. These tournaments are generally run by a local Little League Organization without advancement beyond that particular Tournament. Invitational Tournaments generally take place after the District Tournament for all divisions has been completed.

Post Season Overview:

1. Post season for District 5 teams starts approximately on June 1st and can run through August, depending on how far the team advances. Per new Little League rules that were implemented in 2022, the post season teams can be announced as early as May 15th, provided that all participants in the divisions have met their post season eligibility as defined in the Little League Rule book.
2. MLL generally participates in the District 5 Tournament for 10 year olds & up for both baseball and softball. In addition, MLL participates in Invitational Tournaments for 8 and 9 year olds for baseball and softball. Additional Invitational Tournaments for older divisions are addressed at a later date. Participating in these tournaments is solely at the discretion of the MLL board.
NEW for 2024 - D5 is creating a tournament for BB and SB 8 year olds. There will be a district tournament and the winner will go to a sectional, that will conclude the games for 2024.
3. District 5 postseason teams which have been selected will be announced on our website All other postseason teams will be posted once they have been chosen.
4. All players, regardless of the division they played during the regular season will be eligible for any postseason team based on league age.
5. District 5 players are eligible for invitational post season teams. This is based on individual tournament rules and available spots needed to field a competitive team.
6. Any request for money outside of parents must be approved by league president
(i.e. if you want to call ABC company and ask for money, you need to get the OK from president first)
7. Each team is responsible to cover their expenses, either by fundraising or parents paying for their children
8. Any fundraiser event a team wants to do needs to be OK'd by the president. For example, a car wash, the details must be presented to the president for approval.

9. No MLL money will be paid for parents (except 1 mgr and 2 coaches) expenses. No parent will receive SWAG that MLL pays for.

Uniforms, banners, party (districts and invitationals). Each team gets to select a package for their team, they are listed below. Modifications to this will require approval from the MLL Board in advance.

- Package 1 - shirt, pants, belt, socks, hat, 2 practice jerseys, team banner, team party at end
- Package 2 - shirt, hat, team banner, team party at end - no pants, no belt, no socks

Uniforms will be consistent for all MLL teams. There could be variations between softball and baseball, but those will be minimal.

States/Regionals

Uniforms requested by the team will be presented to the Executive board for review and approval. MLL will cover 50% of the uniform costs (pants, shirt, hat, socks, belt).

If the state tournament is less than 60 miles one way, hotel nor per diem will be paid, rather a \$50 fuel card will be provided per family to assist with gas costs.

Any team that makes it to states or regionals will be provided a daily per diem for each child, if the tournament location is greater than 60 miles one way from MLL. The per diem will cover 1/3 of the room expenses and food money for the day. \$20 per player total per day. 1 manager and 2 coaches will also receive the daily per diem.

MLL Exec board will approve the hotel selected by the team. If the hotel desired is not approved by the Exec board, MLL will set an amount they think is reasonable for the hotel expense and the parents can select whichever hotel they desire but only receive the amount MLL is willing to pay. This is intended to help cover the costs of an adequate hotel and not a luxury hotel.

MLL Post Season Team Breakdown:

District V Tournament Teams

8-10 Baseball
9-11 Baseball
10-12 Major Baseball
Intermediate Baseball
Junior Baseball
Senior Baseball
8-10 Softball
9-11 Softball
10-12 Major Little League Softball
Junior Softball
Senior Softball

****New for 2024 - 8s BB and 8s SB**

Invitational Teams (If Available)

7/8 Machine Pitch Baseball
8/9 Baseball
9/10 Baseball
10/11 Baseball
11/12 Baseball
7/8 Machine Pitch Softball
8/9 Softball

POST SEASON PLAYER / MANAGER ELIGIBILITY

1. All players that are currently on a team registered with LL Williamsport and are in good standing with MLL are eligible for selection onto a post season team provided they have met the requirements for participation as outlined in the LL rulebook.
 - a. **Players must have participated in 8 games in order to be post season eligible.**
2. All Managers and Coaches currently on a team registered with LL Williamsport are eligible for selection as either a manager or coach of a post season team.
3. MLL promotes 100% participation for all players and Managers selected to a post season team. Players and Managers must attend 70% of mandatory practices Once tournament games have started, all the way through Districts, States, Regionals, and World Series, no games may be missed by either players or managers, unless extenuating circumstances occur (ex.. family death, illness with a doctor's note, work commitments).
 - a. **If a Player or Manager does not attend the mandatory % of practices as stated above, or misses a tournament game for any reason, the player or manager will be required to attend an emergency meeting with the Executive Board, Division Director, and Player Agent to discuss the absence and the circumstances surrounding it. After the facts have been presented, it will be the decision of the Executive Board whether to allow the player / manager to remain with the team or be removed and replaced. This holds true for District, State, Regional, and World Series play.**

Player Selection Process:

1. During the first week of May post season information will be made available.. This packet will contain:
 - a. **Player Commitment Form (electronic form) that states the player's commitment as well as whether they wish to be eligible for a district team, invitational team, or both. This form must be submitted online.. The due date for this form to be turned in will be announced. The date will also be posted on the MLL website and communicated to managers**
2. To be eligible, all teams must play a minimum of 12 games. Players must play in a minimum of 8 games.
3. In May, all managers will meet to nominate players from their team that they feel have the ability and sportsmanship to represent MLL in postseason play. This applies for both Baseball and Softball divisions.
4. Once all teams have nominated their players, the managers can nominate players from other teams that may not have already been nominated.
5. Once all nominations have been made, an official ballot (one per team) is then filled out listing who each team believes will form the best possible team to represent MLL. Once all ballots have been submitted, they are handed over to the player agent in order to total up the vote counts.
6. . A score sheet will then be presented to the board approved manager listing the participants in order starting with the highest point total to the lowest. The top ten (10) scoring participants will make up the

post season team and the manager will have 2-3 discretionary picks to complete his team. In the event of a tie-breaker the manager will have the option of picking from the top 15 players based on vote total to complete his team.

Manager / First Coach Selection Process:

1. All rostered managers, first and second coaches, registered with their respective team with LL international, will be given an electronic form to fill out that explains what is expected of them should they be chosen for the team. In addition, this form also is where they indicate what their coaching intentions are (Manager, Manager or Coach, Do not wish to coach) for postseason play.
2. Once all the forms are received, the Director and VP of the division will meet and discuss who they feel are the two that will prepare a team for competitive play as well as represent MLL. At the May board meeting (closed portion), each director that has a potential team(s) in the District 5 post season tournament will stand up and read the intentions of all the coaches in their division. Once all have been read, the director will nominate the Manager and First Coach who they feel is the proper representative for MLL.
3. The Board of Directors then has the opportunity to discuss the nominations as set forth. Once all discussions have been completed, a board vote is put on the floor to either approve or disapprove the nominations. If disapproved, the director and VP will then have to nominate another coach for approval.
4. Once a Manager / Coach team has been approved for a division, the director of that division can notify them of such.
5. After the nominations have been completed, the board elected Manager and First Coach will be called into a meeting to finalize the roster.. A score sheet will then be presented to the board approved manager listing the participants in order starting with the highest point total to the lowest. The top ten (10) scoring participants will make up the post season team. In the event of a tie-breaker the manager will have the option of picking from the top 15 vote totals to complete his team.

Mechanicsville Little League All-Star Commitment Form

My child, _____, would like to be considered for participation in the 2024 Little League, Post Season on the following team: **District / Invitational / Both** **(Please circle one)**. District 5 All-Star Tournament. District Champions will be invited to the State Tournament. State Tournament champions will proceed to the World Series Southeast Regional Championship.

The 2024 District 5 tournament schedule: on or about TBD.

- 9/10's start date TBD.
- 10/11's start date TBD.
- 11/12's (Majors) start date TBD.
- Junior's start date TBD.
- Senior's start date TBD.

Note:

- District, State, Regional, and National tournament play can run through the end of August, depending on the success of the team at each level.
- Invitational tournament play anticipated start is the end of July and usually runs about 1 ½ weeks.

By signing this commitment I agree to all of the participation requirements outline above:

This form must be turned into your Division Director by (Date to be determined) to be considered for All-Stars.

Shirt Size: _____ Pant Size: _____ Uniform #: 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(parent or legal guardian)

Print Name: _____ Home #: _____ Cell #: _____

Email(s): _____

REFUND POLICY AND REQUEST FORM

Our goal at Mechanicsville Little League is to provide all of our players with a fun, positive atmosphere that provides the opportunity to learn the fundamental skills and rules of Little League Baseball/Softball. If after registration your child decides that they do not wish to participate, a refund request can be submitted to the MLL Board. Note that all refunds are required to have the approval of the current MLL Board. Below is a breakdown of the refund policy. All refunds will be reduced by \$10.00 per player to cover processing fee and refunds will only cover registration costs

Spring Season:

- 1) If a refund request form is submitted to the MLL Board by evaluation day as set forth in the calendar of events posted, a 100% refund (minus \$10.00 processing fee) will be offered.
- 2) If a refund request form is submitted to the MLL Board after evaluation day and before practices start as set forth in the calendar of events posted, a 50% refund (minus \$10.00 processing fee) will be offered.
- 3) Once practices start for the league, not individual teams, as set forth in the calendar of events posted, no refund will be offered.

Fall Season:

- 1) If a refund request form is submitted to the MLL Board by evaluation day as set forth in the calendar of events posted, a 100% refund (minus \$10.00 processing fee) will be offered.
- 2) If a refund request form is submitted to the MLL Board after evaluation day and before practices start as set forth in the calendar of events posted, a 50% refund (minus \$10.00 processing fee) will be offered.
- 3) Once practices start for the league, not individual teams, as set forth in the calendar of events posted, no refund will be offered.

PAYMENT POLICY

It is the intention of Mechanicsville Little League (“MLL” or the “League”) to ensure we provide every possible opportunity for children to participate in the League regardless of ability to pay registration fees. We will provide discounts, payment plans or full fee forgiveness depending upon circumstances. It is our intent that no child shall be prevented from playing MLL baseball or softball due to financial challenges.

Any concerns about any of the below processes can be brought to any monthly general membership meeting or to any MLL Board member. The hardship process will consider each situation based upon its own merit and work with families to ensure consistent, equitable application of the payment policy & procedures.

PAYMENT PROCEDURES

Registration Deadlines: MLL will set registration deadlines and they will be posted on the calendar of events at www.MLLBall.org Spring payment in full must be received prior to evaluations, unless prior payment plan schedule has been agreed upon.

2024 Registration Fees:

Program Name	Divisions Division Name	Division price 2024
Spring 2024 Baseball	Challenger - Little League Challenger Division	0
Spring 2024 Baseball	Senior Challenger - Challenger Division	0
Spring 2024 Baseball	Coach Pitch - Little League Baseball	110
Spring 2024 Baseball	Intermediate (50/70) - Little League Baseball	150
Spring 2024 Baseball	Junior - Little League Baseball	150
Spring 2024 Baseball	Machine Pitch - Little League Baseball	110
Spring 2024 Baseball	Major - Little League Baseball	150
Spring 2024 Baseball	Minor - Player Pitch - Little League Baseball	135
Spring 2024 Baseball	Senior - Little League Baseball	150
Spring 2024 Baseball	Tee Ball - Little League Baseball	85
Spring 2024 Softball	Junior - Little League Softball - Girls	150
Spring 2024 Softball	Machine Pitch - Little League Softball - Girls	110
Spring 2024 Softball	Major - Little League Softball - Girls	150
Spring 2024 Softball	Minor - Player Pitch - Little League Softball	135
Spring 2024 Softball	Senior - Little League Softball - Girls	150

Early bird - \$15 discount

Late fee - Add \$35

All divisions (except Challenger) - add \$50 fundraiser fee

Late Fee: The MLL Board has determined that the late fee will be \$35.00 / player per late registration or late payment (unless payment schedule has been set up). Late fees will be assessed based on the registration timeline

Maximum Out-of-Pocket per Family: The MLL Board has determined that the maximum any family should pay for multiple children playing in MLL baseball should be \$400.00 per spring season.

Payment Plan Options: For any remaining balance due to MLL, the Finance Committee (President, Vice President or Treasurer) can, at their individual discretion, provide terms of repayment. However, the repayment period must terminate by the next season's established registration deadline. These terms must be communicated to the Treasurer to track.

Free Lunch Program: MLL Board has determined that Free Lunch program families (families apply for free breakfast/lunch through the Hanover County Public Schools) will receive significant discounts to the normal registration fee. In 2024, we will ask 'free lunch' families to pay only \$50 to cover the cost of uniforms only. If this remains a hardship, they should follow the hardship process. Each year they must provide a copy of their HCPS letter stating they have been qualified for this program. The Treasurer will reconcile these accounts with the corresponding free lunch letters. Any families not providing this letter will be encouraged to follow the hardship process.

Note that this will be offered for REGULAR SEASON PLAY ONLY.

Hardship Process: It is the strong desire of Mechanicsville Little League to provide an opportunity for every 4 to 16 year old child within our boundaries to play baseball/softball. Economic circumstances impact many of our families and we will strive to help them during difficult times while also respecting and protecting their privacy. An adult guardian can contact either the President, Vice President or Treasurer to inquire about the hardship program. Any MLL Board member can collect basic information about the children wishing to register and their family situation (job loss, illness, caring for critically ill loved ones, etc.). The case will be presented to any of the 3 above mentioned officers for consideration. They can determine if one of the following options are best suited for the family: payment plan installment agreement thru registration of following season (for any fees owed), cover uniform fee (\$50), 50% forgiveness or full forgiveness.

Note that this will be offered for REGULAR SEASON PLAY ONLY.

Postseason Participation Fees: For any player selected to participate in post season play, they will be required to pay an additional fee to cover the cost of the tournament fee and uniform. This fee will be established at the May Board meeting each year. The total estimated costs will be divided evenly by the number of members of the PostSeason roster. Participants that are on payment plans that have not met payment in full status by May 1st will not be eligible for postseason play. Players that are participating in the regular season, either through the Free Lunch Program, Hardship Program, or under Scholarship will be eligible for postseason play, however these programs do not extend to cover postseason costs.

Donations to the League: Donations are often received as over-payments of registration fees or monetary gifts to the league. These donations, unless stipulated or earmarked for other purposes, will be tracked as segregated ledger items and be added to the approved operating budgeted amounts for both hardship and free lunch allowances. These totals will be tracked for budgeting purposes.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Mechanicsville Little League (“MLL”) recognizes the importance of the Internet in shaping the public’s perception of our organization. MLL also recognizes the importance of our Board members, executive directors, sport coordinators, sport committee members, coaches, and volunteers in leading and setting the tone of social media interactions in a manner that advances MLL’s mission and goals.

Mission Statement:

Mechanicsville Little League is dedicated to the development of well-rounded youth through positive sports competition. We strive to develop fundamental skills through active participation of our players and to promote good sportsmanship from our players, coaches, and parents. Mechanicsville Little League is dedicated to the support of the organized sports in the Mechanicsville Community. MLL believes that our mission is to provide these organized sports with as many athletes as possible, that are as well prepared as possible, for that next level.

Applicability:

This Social Media Policy applies to all Board members, executive directors, sport coordinators, sport committee members, coaches, players, and volunteers (“MLL Members”). This Social Media Policy applies to all social media content posted by MLL Members in their professional and personal capacity to the extent such content is related to MLL.

Aspirations:

MLL strives to create a positive and inclusive organization that is dedicated to helping young athletes reach their potential. In furtherance of this goal, MLL aspires to engage members of the Mechanicsville community in positive, honest, transparent, and knowledgeable dialogue about MLL through social media. MLL views social media as an important tool for communicating its successes and opportunities for athletic and individual development. MLL also views social media as a platform for receiving constructive feedback from the community and for discussing MLL’s challenges and opportunities for improvement in a positive and constructive way.

Guidelines:

All MLL Members shall abide by the following guidelines when using social media:

1. Be positive and respectful, and always take the high road. When disagreeing with others’ opinions, remain appropriate and polite. If you find yourself in a situation online that is becoming antagonistic, ask the MLL Board of Directors for advice on how to disengage from the dialogue in a polite and respectful manner that reflects well on MLL.
2. Do not post content that would harm MLL or damage MLL’s reputation. Remember that even while you are on your own personal time, you are a representative of MLL, and people may interpret your online postings or social interactions as though they were official MLL statements.
3. Use good judgment when posting comments on any official MLL sites. Bear in mind that your comments can create liability for MLL. If you are unsure whether a comment is appropriate to post, either do not post it or obtain prior approval from the Board of Directors.

4. Be smart about what you publish. Once something is posted, it exists online forever. Ask yourself, “would I want to see this published in the newspaper or posted on a billboard tomorrow or ten years from now?” If the answer is “no,” do not post.
5. Encourage others to engage in positive interactions on social media. If you are concerned about any MLL Member’s use of social media, please bring your concerns to the attention of the MLL Board of Directors.
6. Personal identifiable information (information, such as name and date of birth and/or a street address which, when taken together, can identify a particular individual) should not be disclosed in any manner on official MLL social networking sites.

Violations of the Social Media Policy:

The MLL Board of Directors shall have the authority to monitor and enforce this Social Media Policy. The MLL Board of Directors, and any individual appointed by the Board of Directors, shall have the authority to remove any inappropriate or offensive comments from official MLL sites and to block any individual or organization from posting on any official MLL social media platform if they determine, in their sole discretion, that such removal or block is in the best interest of MLL.

The failure of any MLL Member to adhere to this Social Media Policy shall be considered a violation of the MLL Code of Conduct, and any MLL Member who fails to adhere to this Social Media Policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of such individual’s involvement in MLL, in accordance with the MLL Disciplinary Procedures.

PARENT / PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

We, Mechanicsville Little League, have implemented the following Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their children participating in our league. Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

• Trustworthiness • Respect • Responsibility • Fairness • Caring • Good Citizenship

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.” I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one’s best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

Parent/Guardian

Date

PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Players will not use profanity during any Mechanicsville Little League youth sports event.
2. Players will not engage in inappropriate dialogue, actions or behavior with umpires, teammates, coaches, opponents or spectators.
3. Players will not, under any circumstances, participate in physical violence or threats of physical violence before, during, or after any game or practice.
4. Players will obey the rules of the game.

Player

Date