



Lower Dauphin Baseball League By-Laws

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ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. The organization will be known as the LOWER DAUPHIN BASEBALL LEAGUE or the L.D.B.L.

ARTICLE II - OUR PURPOSE

Section 1. The Lower Dauphin Baseball League is an organization composed of affiliated independent Associations that provide the youth of their communities the opportunity to participate in the team sport of baseball. Through their participation, it is our intent that the youths learn fair play, sportsmanship and teamwork. The League Board of Directors is charged with maintaining the focus on our youth and all business will be conducted to support this purpose.

ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. The government of the League, the establishment of policies for conducting the business of the League, and the control of the League's property shall be vested in a Board of Directors consisting of one official representative from each affiliated Association.

Part a. Each affiliated Association will be required to have a representative volunteer to serve in some capacity for the Lower Dauphin Baseball League. Election as an Officer or Association representative, as well as duly appointed Commissioner or committee member will serve to meet this commitment.

Section 2. Official League business may be transacted at a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors only if 4 of the 5 representatives from the affiliated Associations are present.

Part a. League meetings will be held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 7:00 PM. Other meetings will be held at the discretion of the President. Any meeting may be canceled by a majority decision of the Board of Directors.

Part b. Failure by an LDBL Association to be represented at each League meeting will be a fine of \$10.00 for the 1st meeting, \$25.00 for the 2nd meeting, and \$50.00 for the 3rd meeting. Missing a 4th meeting may result in expulsion of that Association from the League. Fines will be assessed per calendar year and will be added to the annual registration fee for the following year.

Section 3. Coaches, guests, and other persons interested in League affairs shall be accorded voice without vote at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Each participating Association will be granted one vote in Lower Dauphin Baseball League matters with the Association representative or his/her designee casting the vote.

Section 5. The president will have voting privileges, but shall only use it to break a tie vote.

Section 6. Voting shall be by either roll call, ballot, or the raising of hands.

Section 7. Motions shall only need a majority vote to pass or be defeated, unless it is to change the

By-Laws of the Lower Dauphin Baseball League, then a unanimous vote shall be needed to pass the motion. Abstention will count as a non-vote.

Section 8. The Board of Directors shall have the right to terminate the relationship with the League of any officer, representative, coach, player, umpire, or other similarly affiliated individual whose actions are deemed improper and unacceptable. Such actions will occur upon a majority vote from the full Board membership.

ARTICLE IV - LEAGUE OFFICERS

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall appoint, elect, or otherwise obtain League Officers. All Officers shall have voting privileges. For President, see Article III, Section 5.

Section 2. The League Officers are:

Subpart a. The President will be responsible for assuring the League is run in a fair manner. The President will reside over all meetings of the Board of Directors, at a time and location to be equitable to all Associations comprising the League. He shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and shall appoint the Committee Chairperson.

Subpart b. The Vice President shall act in the absence of the President. He will assist the President in running the League fairly and will serve as a key League liaison between the League and other organizations or Associations.

Subpart c. The Secretary shall conduct all official League correspondence and maintain all books and documents of the League, Board of Directors, and all committees. He shall distribute minutes of the Board meetings to all representatives within 2 weeks following each meeting. He shall be responsible to perform such other duties as may be incident to the office, subject to the direction of the Board.

Subpart d. The Treasurer shall take care of all League moneys and deposit same in the name of the League in the proper banking institution, keep accurate financial records, and make proper reports to the Board of Directors. He will also be responsible for signing all checks paying out League funds. At the expiration of the term of office, he shall deliver to the Board all books, papers, and property of the League.

Subpart e. The Commissioner will act as the coordinator for all Tournament activities. He shall perform other duties as may be incident to the office.

Section 3. All Officers shall be elected or appointed for a term of one year and shall serve without compensation. Nominations will be accepted during November and the election will be held at the December meeting. Term will run from January through December of the proceeding year.

ARTICLE V - THE LEAGUE

Section 1. The League shall be composed of those Associations who are representative of the townships and municipalities that compose the Lower Dauphin School District. Each Association shall enter teams

in the T-Ball, Colt, Pony, and Midget levels and must provide playing fields for League play. Any deviations must be approved by a consensus vote of the founding Associations.

Section 2. The League shall be composed of the following communities and boundaries:

Conewago Township, Dauphin County
East Hanover Township, Dauphin County
Hummelstown Borough, Dauphin County
Londonderry Township, Dauphin County
South Hanover Township, Dauphin County

Section 3. The League boundaries of the Associations shall be determined by the geographic boundaries of the respective township or borough.

Section 4. Any player(s) desiring to play for a team in an Association other than that assigned in Section 2, Subpart a, must have the approval of the LDBL Board of Directors. Such requests must be submitted in writing by the President of the assigned Association to the league Board of Directors prior to the opening of the regular playing season. All Waiver requests presented to the Board must be accompanied by an agreement from the President of the Association to which the player will be moving, accepting that player into the new Association. Waiver requests may or may not be granted based on a vote by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Any player who changes residency from one League area to another during the playing year shall have the option of playing in either area. However, in the following years of eligibility, the player shall be eligible to play only in his resident area, except as defined, unless cleared to play elsewhere via Waiver. If a move occurs after the delivery of rosters to the Board of Directors and during the regular season, a Waiver will be required for a player to change home Associations.

Section 6. Any player participating in the Lower Dauphin Baseball League shall not play in other baseball leagues. This is not a protest item. Players may be rostered to play on a team in another League providing it is not in the same age bracket. The rule is in affect for the length of the established League regular season play and/or post season play if said player makes a commitment to participate in post season activities.

Section 7. Any player participating in the LDBL, by submission of a signed registration form, agrees to compliance with Sections 1-6 of the By-Laws. This registration form must be signed by a parent or guardian before a child can participate in any Lower Dauphin Baseball League activities. Each Association will be responsible for the registration forms of their players.

Section 8. Any ineligible player on a roster will cost the offending team a forfeit of each game that the ineligible player participated in.

Section 9. There is no clause to prevent a child from a non-Lower Dauphin School District community from playing on a LDBL team. To be eligible, that player must submit a signed registration form and be included on a roster for the Association for which he will be playing.

Section 10. Any player currently playing for an affiliated Association may stay in that Association without going through the Waiver process.

Section 11. No Waiver is required by LDBL for Lower Dauphin School District residents who wish to play for a team outside of the League.

ARTICLE VI - THE TEAMS

Section 1. **Midget** team rosters will be composed of players between the ages of **10 through 12** years old with a maximum of 18 players per team. All players of league age 12 may be used as pitchers but the total number of innings pitched by 12 years olds is 12 innings in one calendar week based on two games per week. *The LDBL Board of Directors can, under special circumstances, modify the pitching rule for all teams involved based on a majority vote.*

Subpart a. An additional 3 innings of 12 year old pitching is allowed for each game over 2 scheduled in a calendar week.

Subpart b. No more than seven 12 year olds can be carried on a team roster, except where approved by the Board of Directors. In the event a team has more than seven 12 year olds rostered, only seven may be in the line-up at any given time.

Section 2. **Pony** team rosters will be composed of players between the ages of **8 through 10** years old with a maximum of 18 players per team. All players of league age 10 may be used as pitchers but the total number of innings pitched by 10 years olds is 12 innings in one calendar week based on two games per week. *The LDBL Board of Directors can, under special circumstances, modify the pitching rule for all teams involved based on a majority vote.*

Subpart a. An additional 3 innings of 10 year old pitching is allowed for each game over 2 scheduled in a calendar week.

Subpart b. No more than seven 10 year olds can be carried on a team roster, except where approved by the Board of Directors. In the event a team has more than seven 10 year olds rostered, only seven may be in the line-up at any given time.

Section 3. **Colt** team rosters will be composed of players between the ages of **7 through 8** years old with a maximum of 18 players per team.

Section 4. **T-Ball** team rosters will be composed of players between the ages of **5 through 7** years old with a maximum of 10 players per team, 8 being optimal. For a 5 year old to be eligible, he/she must be registered to attend Kindergarten or a similar program. T-Ball rosters can be added to at any time.

Section 5. The Little League Minimum Play Rule is in effect for all Midget and Pony games. All Midget and Pony team members present for a regularly scheduled game shall play a minimum of 6 defensive outs and bat at least one time. All substitute players must be inserted into the line-up no later than the beginning of the 4th inning. If a Minimum Play Violation occurs, the player(s) involved must start the next scheduled game and play the minimum required time. In addition, the game in which the violation

occurs is considered a forfeit by the offending team. (The Minimum Play Rule applies only for completed 6 inning games.)

Section 6. Starting players may return to the lineup as described in Little League Rule 3.03. Midget or Pony team players that are not allowed to play for disciplinary reasons, sickness, or injury must be announced to the umpire and opposing head coach before the start of the game. If a player is injured during the game and all other legal substitutions have been exhausted, the team may use any available team member to fill that position. Disciplinary action during the course of the game must be reported immediately to the umpire and opposing coach.

Section 7. If a player arrives after the beginning of a game, the player's name shall be placed on the line-up card and he/she should be announced as eligible to the opposing coach and umpire. If the player arrives before the end of the 2nd inning, the Minimum Play Rule applies. If the player arrives after the completion of the 2nd inning, the Minimum Play Rule does not apply.

Section 8. Lower Dauphin Baseball League Associations shall employ a Drafting Procedure approved by the Board of Directors. Our basic policy will be to encourage providing an opportunity for all registrants to participate fairly in League competition. It is also our general philosophy that each Association uses their Draft Procedure to produce a balance of competitiveness in each age bracket.

ARTICLE VII - THE PLAYERS

Section 1. League Age shall be defined as the age of the player as of July 31st of the current season.

Subpart a. League Age for Midget Play shall be 10 - 12 years of age.

Subpart b. League Age for Pony Play shall be 8 -10 years of age.

Subpart c. League Age for Colt Play shall be 7 - 8 years of age.

Subpart d. League Age for T-Ball Play shall be 5 –7 years of age. 5 year olds must be registered for an organized school program to be eligible.

Section 2. Any changes to the established age brackets must approved by League Board of Directors.

Section 3. To avoid possible game forfeitures due to the lack of players caused by absence, injury, or disciplinary action, each team in the Colt, Pony, and Midget levels will be permitted to use a maximum of 4 players from a lower level. These players shall be designated as "Swing Players" and will be considered eligible players in both age brackets. Swing Player play will be governed by the following:

Subpart a. A Swing Player may NOT start a game if there are 9 or more regular roster players present for the game. If less than 9 regular roster players are present, the Swing Player is eligible to play the entire game if necessary. If 9 regular roster players are present, a Swing Player is limited to a maximum of 2 innings of play. (Colts: substitute 10 for 9.) Minimum Play Rule does not apply. A Swing Player may NOT be called up to play if they have a regularly scheduled game in their designated age bracket on that same day and at that same time. A Swing Player must complete their regularly scheduled game

prior to serving as a Swing Player.

Subpart b. All Pony players will be eligible to play up as Midget Swing Players.

Subpart c. All Colt players and 7-year-old T-Ball players will be eligible to play up as Pony Swing Players.

Subpart d. All 7-year-old T-Ball players will be eligible to play up as Colt Swing Players.

Subpart e. The handling of Swing Players is exempt from Little League Rule 3.03 regarding substitution.

Subpart f. The opposing head coach and umpire should be notified prior to the start of the game of the intent to utilize Swing Players.

Subpart g. A Swing Player is only eligible to play for a team within the Association in which he is rostered.

Subpart h. A Swing Player may not pitch.

Section 4. Team rosters listing players names, addresses, birth dates, league age, and the name of one parent or guardian shall be in the possession of the League President no later than one week prior to the first regularly scheduled game.

Section 5. Member Associations are responsible for certifying the birth dates on rosters by requiring players to show proof of age.

Section 6. Any additions or changes to a team roster must be made with approval of the member Associations and as voted on by the Board of Directors no later than 24 hours prior to the first regularly scheduled game.

Section 7. Failure to provide the League President with a team roster form shall cause such team to forfeit each game played while the required roster is outstanding. This is NOT a protest item.

Section 8. Each team member and coach must be covered by Insurance, including travel to and from games as well as during play.

ARTICLE VIII - EQUIPMENT and PLAYING FIELDS

Section 1. The League will establish the official ball each year.

Section 2. Protective equipment that must be worn includes:

Subpart a. Batters and base runners must wear a batting helmet with earflaps. (Reference Little League Rule 1.16)

Subpart b. Catchers must wear appropriate shin guards, chest protector, head and face protection, and a

cup. (Reference Little League Rule 1.17)

Subpart c. Batting vests are acceptable.

Subpart d. Face shields/helmets for pitchers are acceptable.

Section 3. The League will establish bat limits each year.

Subpart a. Midget, Pony, Colt, and T-Ball have no restrictions other than those specified in the Little League Rule Book.

Subpart b. No penalty will be imposed on a player for using an illegal bat. If a bat is determined to be illegal, it should be removed from play by the umpire. Multiple offenses by the same player or team should be reported to the league Board of Directors, who will determine appropriate action.

Section 4. Each field shall be equipped with regulation 60-foot bases and a backstop. A minimum 6-foot canvas on the backstop immediately behind home plate is recommended.

Section 5. Each field used for Midget play shall be equipped with an outfield fence (minimum height of 48 inches) located at least 180 feet from home plate. Fields used for Pony, Colt, or T-Ball play do not require a fence, although one is highly recommended.

Section 6. Fields must be marked for foul lines and out-of-play areas.

Section 7. The home team shall provide 2 new League-approved baseballs for each home game. An approved non-new 2nd ball for Pony games may be used with umpire approval.

Section 8. Each home team must provide a first aid kit, including ice packs.

Section 9. Uniforms are not required, but it is suggested that players wear identical T-shirts and caps. There shall be no restriction on the color of batting gloves. Pitchers may not use sweatbands or long-sleeved, light colored shirts. White shirts are not permitted for any team uniform.

ARTICLE IX -GENERAL PLAYING RULES - PONY and MIDGET

Section 1. Midget and Pony play will be governed by the official Little League playing rules except as specifically covered herein.

Section 2. Starting time for games is as follows:

Subpart a. Starting time on weekdays is 6:00 PM; weekends as agreed upon by both coaches. For Associations with fields equipped with lights, late games can be played if agreed upon by both coaches.

Subpart b. The home team has the field for practice until 20 minutes prior to game time. The visiting team has the field for practice until 5 minutes before game time.

Section 3. Length of games shall be 6 innings; game is official after 4 innings (3 ½ innings if the home team is ahead). The Chief Umpire shall decide if a game is to be halted due to weather or darkness.

Subpart a. In the event that lightning is sighted, play will be stopped immediately and all players and spectators will take shelter. Play may not resume until 15 minutes have passed since the most recent sighting. If a game is interrupted due to lightning, all other games being played at that location must be delayed as well.

Section 4. Every effort should be made to play the game. Forfeit, due to lack of players, will occur 15 minutes after the scheduled starting time.

Section 5. A legal game can begin as long as a team can field 8 players. If a 9th player comes after the game begins, this player must play and must be inserted at the beginning of the next half inning. If a team cannot field at least 8 players, the team will automatically forfeit the game. If a team is playing with 8 players, there is no automatic out for the ninth position in the batting order. Any team refusing to start a game with 8 players will automatically forfeit the game, after the 15-minute grace period.

Section 6. The home team has the authority to cancel a game due to bad weather or unplayable field conditions before the official game starting time. Should the home team cancel the game, the home team manager MUST notify the opposing coach in a timely fashion.

Section 7. A coach will be permitted to reschedule a game when a school function directly affects his players or field availability. Notification must be given 24 hours before the start of the game to the opposing coach. No other rescheduling for non-weather related reasons will be allowed. The penalty for not notifying the opposing coach will be a forfeit.

Section 8. All non-regulation games including ties, rainouts, etc., must be rescheduled within 14 days of the originally scheduled date. All games MUST be completed within the week following the completion of the season. The home team is responsible for rescheduling. If the game has not been played within the required time, the Board of Directors may award a forfeit to either team after a formal review of circumstances. No forfeit can be awarded without the approval of a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 9. Tie games: In the event an official game is tied when play is halted due to weather or darkness, the game shall be considered complete.

Section 10. Suspended games: If a game is suspended before it has become a regulation game, but after one or more innings have been played, it shall be resumed exactly where it left off. The batting order must remain the same or as close as possible depending on player availability, but the same pitcher does not have to pitch when the game is resumed, even if the pitcher has eligible innings left.

Section 11. Pitchers: No pitcher may pitch more than 6 innings per week in any calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). Pitchers shall have a minimum of 1 calendar day of rest after pitching 3 innings or less in one game. One thrown ball constitutes an inning pitched. A player once removed as a pitcher cannot return to the game as a pitcher. Each team shall be required to keep a Pitchers Log as part of their game records. The Pitchers Log shall indicate the innings pitched, and pitches thrown, by each pitcher and must be signed at the end of each game by the opposing coach or scorekeeper. The Pitchers Log

shall be made available to the opposing coach prior to the start of the game, if requested.

If a player pitches in 4 or more innings, 3 calendar days of rest must be observed.

EXAMPLE

If a player pitched in four or more innings on: and is still eligible, that player can pitch again on:

Sunday.....	Thursday
Monday.....	Friday
Tuesday.....	Saturday
Wednesday.....	Sunday
Thursday.....	Monday
Friday.....	Tuesday
Saturday.....	Wednesday

If a player pitched in 3 or less innings on: and is still eligible, that player can pitch again on:

Sunday.....	Tuesday
Monday.....	Wednesday
Tuesday.....	Thursday
Wednesday.....	Friday
Thursday.....	Saturday
Friday.....	Sunday
Saturday.....	Monday

Section 12. Any team that violates the stated Pitching Rules will be charged with an automatic forfeit of the game.

Section 13. No balks will be called in the Lower Dauphin Baseball League per the amendment to the Official Little League Rule 8.05 which states balks will no longer be called in Little League Baseball.

Section 14. Coaches: Either adult coaches or player coaches may be used as base coaches. Only one adult coach is permitted to officially call time and discuss matters with the Chief Umpire. No coach may enter the playing field before calling a time out and the umpire acknowledging the coach and granting the time out. Any violation of this rule results in a warning for the first offense and an ejection for the second offense. *The only exception to this rule is for an injury to a player, coach, or umpire.*

Section 15. Stealing: Where permitted, base runners can steal but shall not leave the base until after the ball reaches the plate. Paragraph 7.13 of Official Little League Rules shall be used to determine the penalty to the runner when leaving the base early.

Subpart a. Midget may steal 2nd, 3rd, or home.

Subpart b. Pony may begin stealing 2nd and 3rd base halfway through the regular season. The LDBL

Board will denote the date at which time stealing may begin.

The following rules will govern stealing at the Pony level:

- b1) Only 1 base may be advanced per incident.
- b2) No stealing of home plate will be permitted.
- b3) Any team with a lead of 5 runs or more cannot continue advancing runners on base through stealing. Runners are permitted to advance on a passed ball ONLY. No runner can advance from 3rd base to home plate in this situation.

Section 16. Sliding: Any runner is out when the runner does not slide or avoid contact with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag. A runner may not jump over a defensive player in an attempt to avoid a tag. It is a judgment call by the umpire and it is recommended that before each game the two teams discuss this with the umpire. No head first sliding is allowed unless returning to a base on a throw to that base.

Section 17. A Courtesy Runner will be allowed for the Pitcher and Catcher at any time during the game, as long as time is called and the umpire and opposing coach are notified. The Courtesy Runner must be a player who is not in the game at that time, and the Pitcher and Catcher are determined based upon what position they were playing during the last batter of their last defensive inning. Using a player as a Courtesy Runner does not work toward satisfying any of the Minimum Play Rules. The same player cannot be used as a Courtesy Runner more than one time in an inning.

Section 18. A game will be complete at the end of the 4th, 5th, or 6th inning if either team (home or visitor) leads by at least 15 runs, or if during the 4th inning, the home team achieves a 15 run lead.

Section 19. The first five innings of the Pony game will be limited to 5 runs or 3 outs per inning. The sixth inning allows unlimited runs until 3 outs are achieved or until the home team goes ahead during their half of the sixth inning. Unlimited scoring is allowed for Midget play until 3 outs are achieved. The game ends in the 2nd half of the 6th if the home team goes ahead.

Section 20. The home team will be the official score keeper and must have someone keeping score. *Score books must be kept correctly.* Game results should be reported within 48 after each game to your Association's score liaison, who will post them on the website (<http://eteamz.active.com/ldbl/>).

Section 21. Only team members (those on the roster), bat boy, scorekeeper and coaches will be permitted in or around the bench or dugout area.

Section 22. The Infield Fly Rule will NOT be enforced for Pony ball. The runners may advance at their own risk and the batter is not automatically out if the ball is dropped.

ARTICLE X - GENERAL PLAYING RULES - COLT

Section 1. Colt is intended to provide instruction and an opportunity to develop baseball skills, including pitching, in a less competitive environment than Pony. Colt play will be governed by the rules for Pony, except as specifically covered herein. The major differences between Colt and Pony play are:

Coaches serve as umpire.

Teams are allowed 4 outfielders.

All players are in the batting order the entire game.

There is no base on balls allowed. The coach takes over as pitcher after 4 balls or a hit batter.

Section 2. Games: The Home Team will be official score keeper. No league standings will be maintained. Postponed or suspended games do not need to be finished or replayed.

Section 3. Players: There will be 10 players on the field with 4 defensive outfielders. A team must field at least 8 players. No player will be allowed to play the same position for more than 3 innings in a game. Each player must play at least six outs in the field.

Section 4. Batters: All players who report to a game must be in the batting order throughout the entire game. Each player will take their turn at bat whether or not they are in the field during the inning of the at-bat. Players arriving after the start of the game will be placed at the bottom of the batting order. As in Pony, there is a 5-run limit per inning for the first 5 innings. Throwing the bat is an automatic out, the ball is dead, and no runners may advance. No bunting is allowed. There is no base on balls. There is no Infield Fly Rule. The runners may advance at their own risk and the batter is not automatically out if the ball is dropped.

Section 5. Base Running: No stealing or leading is permitted. Runners may only advance on a batted ball. Base runners must slide on a close play to avoid collision.

Section 6. On balls hit to the outfield, play stops when the ball is returned to the infield. The ball is considered to be in the infield when it crosses the base path. On balls hit to the infield, play stops when, after the initial play, the ball is thrown toward the pitcher.

Section 7. Overthrows: On overthrows out of the playing area, the base runner is permitted only one base, at the risk of being thrown out. Overthrows that remain in the field of play are live except for overthrows to the pitcher made in an attempt to stop the play. In this instance, runners will be awarded the base to which they were running, provided that they were more than half way to the base when the throw was made. Play stops when the ball is thrown to/toward the pitcher.

Section 8. Player Pitching: It is recommended that kids pitch all 6 innings. However, coaches may determine to limit player pitching to 4 innings prior to starting the game or for the sake of moving the game along. No player may pitch more than 6 innings in any week. Any one player may pitch a maximum of 3 innings per game. These must be consecutive. One pitch constitutes an inning pitched. If a batter is hit, the coach will finish the at-bat. If a pitcher hits 2 players in the same inning, the coach will finish that inning and the pitcher will not be allowed to pitch any more in that game. Pitching will be done from 42 feet.

Section 9. Coach Pitching. There will be no walks. When the pitcher reaches 4 balls in the count, the coach of the team at bat will finish pitching to the player at bat. The coach will be given 5 pitches per at-bat. Balls/Strikes will be called on coach's pitches. Batter will carry over strikes when coaches pitch.

Section 10. Interference: Base runners interfering with the fielding of a ball will be called out. A play

can still be made on the batter or other runners. Being hit by a batted ball or running into a fielder trying to field a ball is considered interference on the part of the runner.

A fielder interfering with a base runner results in awarding the base runner the base to which he is running. Fielders making a play on a batted ball are entitled to the position and runners must avoid them. Catcher's Interference - batter is awarded first base, forced runners advance.

Section 11. Umpires: A coach from the batting team will call balls and strikes from behind the pitcher. The strike zone will include the vertical distance between the batter's knees and shoulders standing upright, and the horizontal distance of the black borders of the plate. If any part of the ball contacts the above zone, the pitch is a strike. Coaches at 1st and 3rd base call plays at their respective bases. Runners get the benefit of the doubt. The coach umpiring from the mound will call plays at Home and 2nd base.

Section 12. Batted balls touching a coach are dead balls. The pitch doesn't count, no plays may be made and no runners may advance (i.e. the pitch never happened). Coaches should try to get out of the way of a batted ball and refrain from playing it except for self-preservation or the protection of the player fielding the pitcher's position.

ARTICLE XI - GENERAL PLAYING RULES - T-BALL

Section 1. T-Ball is established to provide instruction and an opportunity to learn to play baseball for those youths who have never played organized baseball or are unable to compete on a more competitive team. Coaches should concentrate on teaching sportsmanship, basic skills, and fair play.

Section 2. Game starting time is the same as for Pony and Midget. Postponements are permitted without penalty. Postponed or suspended games do not need to be finished or replayed.

Section 3. Length of games will be one hour. Game duration may be extended at the agreement of both coaches.

Section 4. No scores or standings will be maintained.

Section 5. Each player should be moved to different positions as appropriate to the child's skill level to afford them the opportunity to play each position. No player shall play the same position for more than 2 innings. No player may sit the bench for consecutive innings.

Section 6. Time may be called at the end of the play for instructional purposes. The defensive team is allowed 2 field coaches. The offensive team is allowed 2 base coaches and 1 coach for batting instruction.

Section 7. There will be 6 players on the field; the four infielders and a pitcher and catcher. No outfielders will be used. The pitcher will remain within the pitching circle. The catcher shall stand opposite the batter at home plate until the ball is hit.

Section 8. Batting: The player's ability to hit a pitched ball must be assessed by the coach. Those players not capable of putting a ball in play when thrown by a coach should have the ball placed on the Tee

immediately. The following rules should be followed:

Subpart a. If a coach plans to pitch to his batter, the ball should be thrown softly overhand, not underhand. The coach must stand within the pitching circle to deliver the ball. The batter has 3 swings at the ball. If after 3 swings they do not hit the ball, the Tee must be used. The batter then has 3 swings to put the ball in play. If the ball is not hit, the batter is called out.

Subpart b. If hitting from a Tee, the adult coach who was pitching must leave the pitcher's circle. The player has 6 swings from the Tee to put the ball in play. The batter is considered out if they do not put the ball in play within 6 swings.

Subpart c. There is no base on balls allowed.

Section 9. Balls must clear the 15-foot arc from the center of home plate in order to be considered in play. Balls that do not clear the arc are dead and considered foul balls. Arc must be clearly defined.

Section 10. On balls hit to the outfield, play stops when the ball is returned to the infield. The ball is considered to be in the infield when it crosses the base path. On balls hit to the infield, play stops when, after the initial play, the ball is thrown toward the pitcher.

Section 11. Throwing the bat is a serious offense. The hitter should be warned the first time and then called out after any subsequent offense. This is a judgment call by the coaches.

Section 12. Advancement on overthrows outside the playing limits are limited to one base. On overthrows that remain in play, there is no base limit.

Section 13. Batting Order: All players on the team are placed in the batting order. The first batter in the order will not bat again until the last person in the order has had the opportunity to bat. The batting sequence shall not change once the game starts. Batting in any one half inning is limited to either 3 outs or one time at bat for each player.

Section 14. No stealing is permitted. Sliding is permitted per General Rules. No Infield Fly Rule is used.

ARTICLE IX – POST SEASON

Section 1. All Midget and Pony teams will participate in a play-off tournament. Single elimination "play-in" games will be used to get to a normal double elimination bracket of 8 or 16 teams. If, in the rare instance there are less than 8 teams in a division (Pony or Midget), then a double elimination tournament will be played including all teams.

Play-off Tournament example using 14 teams:

- Teams seeded 1st and 2nd get a bye from the "play-in" round.
- In the "play-in" round, 3 would play 14, 4 would play 13, 5 would play 12, 6 would play 11, 7 would play 10, and 8 would play 9.
- 8 Teams would then remain for the double elimination tournament.

- Double elimination bracket pairings are determined by the seeding of the remaining teams (highest seed vs lowest seed, etc)

Section 2. Play-off seeding is determined based on regular season order of finish. The following progression will be used to determine seeding of teams which are tied at the end of the regular season. If more than two teams are involved in a tie, this still applies. It should be noted that moving down the progression may eliminate a team (from a three or more team tie), and that you continue down the list until all teams are seeded.

1. Most Wins.
2. Head-to-head record during regular season.

Note -- In ties involving three or more teams, this becomes head-to-head-to-head, etc. In other words, the winning percentage of each team versus all teams involved in the tie is what is used. Example using a three team tie:

- During the season Team A had 1 win and 1 loss against Team B and 1 loss to Team C
- Team B had 1 win and 1 loss against Team A and 1 win against Team C
- Team A has a winning percentage of 0.333
- Team B has a winning percentage of 0.667
- Team C has a winning percentage of 0.500
- Team B is the highest seed
- Team C is the middle seed
- Team A is the lowest seed

3. Winning Percentage versus the 1st place team (from the final regular season standings).
4. Winning Percentage versus the 2nd place team (from the final regular season standings).
5. Winning Percentage versus the 3rd place team (from the final regular season standings).
6. Winning Percentage versus the 4th place team (from the final regular season standings).
7. Winning Percentage versus the 5th place team (from the final regular season standings).

Note: For 3 through 7, if the tie is between teams in 1st/2nd, 2nd/3rd, 3rd/4th, or 4th/5th, that tie-breaker is skipped. Example: If two teams tie for 1st/2nd place, jump over tie-breakers 3 and 4.

8. Best 2 of 3 coin toss.

Section 3. With only one exception, the higher seeded team is always the home team for each game, regardless of where the game is played. The only exception is that the Winner's Bracket Champion is always the home team for Game #1 versus the Loser's Bracket Champion. For Game #2 (if necessary) of the Winner's Bracket Champion versus Loser's Bracket Champion, the higher seed is then the home team.

Section 4. For play-offs, the home team has the choice of bench side prior to warm ups, gets the field for warm up from 5:15 to 5:35, and bats last during the game. For play-offs, the away team gets the bench side not chosen by the home team, gets the field for warm up from 5:35 to 5:55, and bats first during the game. Neither team should be on the playing field prior to 5:15. If they choose, the teams can practice earlier on adjoining fields or open space near the field to be used for the play-off game.

Note: For 10:00 AM Saturday play-off games, the home team warm up times are 9:15 to 9:35, and the away team warm up times are 9:35 to 9:55.

ARTICLE XII - PLAYER, COACH, SPECTATOR CONDUCT

Section 1. Players and coaches using profanity will be removed from the game by the umpire. Exceptional sportsmanship is expected from those individuals associated with the LDBL.

Section 2. Players and coaches using a harsh approach to an umpire will be immediately warned by the umpire. For a 2nd offense, the offending person will be removed from the game.

Section 3. If spectators cause a disturbance or continuously harass any individual at the field, it will be the responsibility of both head coaches to control such conduct. It will be the home team head coach's responsibility to call the police if conduct cannot be controlled or the offending party will not cooperate with the coaches.

Section 4. Any intentional harm to any player, coach, or umpire will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law with full support of the LDBL.

Section 5. A coach being ejected from a game MAY be subjected to a one game suspension. This will be decided after the incident has been investigated. A second ejection in the same year MAY carry a one-year suspension as a coach within the LDBL from the time of the second ejection. This decision will be made post investigation.

Section 6. Any player removed from a game by an umpire will be given a written warning for the offense from the League. Any further infractions by the same player will cause that player to be suspended for the balance of the season (regular and post season play). The home Association is responsible for administering the penalty.

Section 7. Tobacco products may not be used on the playing field, bench, or dugout areas.

Section 8. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the field areas.

Section 9. Any coach that knowingly breaks the Official Little League or Lower Dauphin Baseball League Rules to gain an advantage may be permanently suspended from coaching in the LDBL. Decision will be made based on appropriate investigation. This is a very serious offense. Behavior of this sort will not be tolerated. The LDBL wants only those coaches with the highest levels of sportsmanship and game ethics.

ARTICLE XIII - UMPIRES

Section 1. Umpire will be paid prior to the start of the game. Fee is \$20.00 to \$25.00 for the plate umpire. A field umpire is not required, but a fee of \$15.00 is suggested if used.

Section 2. The home team, or a commissioner as established by the League, will be responsible for scheduling an umpire for all home games. If for any reason the umpire fails to show up for a game, the home team may furnish an umpire from the stands as approved by the opposing coach. If no one can decide, or no one is available, then the home team's head coach will call for the visiting team and the visiting team's head coach will call for the home team. If coaches are used as the umpire, they shall

refrain from talking to the pitcher, other than for relaying the count or calling illegal pitches.

Section 3. An umpire has the authority to disqualify any player or coach for objecting to decisions concerning unsportsmanlike conduct or language and to eject them from the playing field.

Section 4. If there is only one umpire, they will have total jurisdiction of the game. If there is more than one umpire, then one shall be designated the Umpire in Chief and the other as the field umpire.

Section 5. No scheduled umpire should be replaced during a game unless they become injured or cannot continue.

Section 6. The umpire may make rulings on calls not covered within our By-Laws based on the current rules of baseball. Little League Rules may be used as a basis to these rulings, but not necessarily the rule. Common sense should prevail in any judgment that is not covered within the LDBL By-Laws or Little League Rules.

ARTICLE XIV - PROTEST PROCEDURE

Section 1. The aim of the Lower Dauphin Baseball League is to provide a baseball game that is both enjoyable and instructional for all the youngsters involved. The coaches and umpires should do their utmost to see that each game is properly played according to all existing rules and regulations. Any disagreements regarding these rules and regulations should be resolved at the game site and preferably at the time of the questioned infraction. However, if an infraction cannot be resolved, the following procedure shall be followed:

Section 2. The protesting coach must notify the home plate umpire immediately upon discovering the infraction. The umpire will then notify the opposing coach that the game is being played under protest.

Section 3. The coach registering the complaint must verbally notify a League Officer within 24 hours of game completion. Failure to make this action will nullify any protest action. A written protest shall be filed on the supplied protest form with the League President by the protesting coach within three (3) days of the protested action. Failure to make this written notification will nullify any protest action. The protesting coach should also supply the plate umpire with the same form for submission to the President. Refusal of the umpire to do this does NOT nullify the protest action.

Section 4. Once the President receives the form, the opposing team's coach will be notified by the President IF it is necessary to submit a protest form within three (3) days. Failure to submit this statement within the allowed three (3) days shall be considered NOT CONTESTING THE PROTEST. The protest shall be ruled in favor of the protesting coach. If a decision is clear cut, the President may base his decision on the initial form and not require a secondary submission.

Section 5. The elected Officers of the Lower Dauphin Baseball League shall rule upon the protest as follows: (1) No protest allowed because protest is based on umpire's judgment call; (2) Protest allowed with the protest facts submitted to the League Officers. All Officers except the President will vote. The President shall only vote to break a tie. Both coaches will be notified of the Board's decision. The decision will be considered final.