



Medicine Hat Little League Policies

2024

The Official Little League (Regulations and Playing Rules - handbook is recognized as the official source pertaining to all rules with the exception of the rules and by-laws as laid down by the Medicine Hat Little League Association (MHLL) mentioned herein.

Last Revised January 11, 2024

1. GENERAL RULES

1.1. Every youth player from ages 4 - 16 that resides within our geographic boundary is allowed to play. Exception to age restriction - Challenger Division to age 22.

1.2. All divisions with the exception of Rookie JR and Rookie SR are required to have a player evaluation to be held after registration concludes and before coaches draft teams. This evaluation will be scheduled by League Officials and executed by the coach and player development director. Assessments must be attended to ensure there are well balanced teams.

1.3. The recommended number of players per team in all leagues shall be 12. Little Sluggers and Rookie JR are to be set at 9 players, pending registration numbers.

1.4. Players are strongly encouraged to play in the division their age dictates, however the following provision addresses players moving down or up an age division.

1.4.1 Parents may, without league permission, register their players ONE age division lower if they feel the player skill level is not adequate for them to participate in their appropriate age division.

1.4.2 Parents of siblings may formally request to the League President to have their player move up ONE age division. See Section 1.6 for guidelines on this request.

1.4.3 Parents may formally request their player move up One division. In order to fulfill a movement request for house league, the following must be met.

- 1) the child must finish in the top 10% of the division assessment that they are requesting to move into.
- 2) The parent must volunteer as a head coach in the division.

1.5. Parents that have siblings that are playing in same division, will be placed on the same team at the draft. Parents that wish to move a younger sibling(s) to an older age division to play with an older sibling. May do so as long as they:

1.5.1 Be head coach for a team in the higher age division.

1.5.2 Submitted a formal request and have the approval of the League President and division director.

1.6. Coach selection process

MHLL accepts applications up until one week before the scheduled player assessments each calendar year.

1.6.1 All applicants must have Background and Vulnerable sector checks completed and submitted to the Director of player safety to be eligible to coach.

1.6.2 Selection committee will handle all necessary interviews and then forward their committee's recommendation back to the board as a whole. If it is deemed necessary.

1.6.3. Only two coaches, per team, may be named prior to the respective league drafts. There is no exceptions to this rule. All other coaches must be drafted.

1.6.4 Once selected, it is the head coach's responsibility that all general guidelines, policies and rules of Medicine Hat Little League, Little League Canada, and Little League International are followed.

1.7. Draft dates, times and locations will be set by the respective league directors with the approval of the league president. Only TWO coaches per team, Division Director, coach and player development and League President/Vice President are to be present at the draft.

1.8. All league schedules must be approved by / and or / the league president and Division Directors.

1.9. All players will be included in the batting lineup and all players shall bat in their respective turn. All players will be given the chance to play in all defensive positions unless it's deemed unsafe. MHLL encourages Fair Play for all of its players and coaches.

1.10. Every player on a team in every division will participate in each game. NO player shall sit out more than two (2) innings in any one game. This is based on teams of 12 players. In the event of larger teams, three (3) innings will be followed. If a manager and or coach does not meet the required playing time, the penalty shall be as follows:

1.10.1. 1st Offence - Receive a written warning

1.10.2. 2nd Offence - Receive a one game suspension

1.10.3. 3rd Offence - Suspension for the remainder of the season

1.11. If it appears any team, at any time will not have sufficient players to field a team for a regularly scheduled game, the coach shall arrange for use of a player from the next lower division. Exception - a player from Majors is not permitted to play in the Junior Division. A coach shall NOT call up a player from the lower division unless his/her team is down to eight (8) or less players, and may only increase their roster to 9 players. No player being called up to a higher league may pitch, no exceptions. All players called up must be done through the coach or division director of the lower division team. A player may not be called up if it conflicts with his/her own regular season team game or practices. All call up players must meet the minimum playing standards. All call up players MUST be reported to the Division Director. Players can only be called up twice season to the higher division.

1.12. All coaches are expected to be neat in appearance and wearing appropriate attire for youth athletics.

1.13. League standings will be published or posted during regular league play. For the Minors, Majors, Intermediate, and Teen Divisions. Rookie SR will not post scores, the respective league directors will however, keep league standings for yearend tournament seeding purposes only.

Little Sluggers and Rookie JR do not keep score or standings.

2. REFUND POLICY

2.1 If you withdraw prior to the assessment Date, your registration fees will be refunded in full, less a \$35 Administrative Fee per player.

2.2 If you withdraw after the assessment Date, but prior to the First scheduled event (Game or Practice), your registration fees will be refunded in full, less a \$75 Administrative Fee per player.

2.3 After the First scheduled event (Game or Practice), no refunds will be granted unless due to injury or at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

2.4 Refunds will be provided by original form of payment.

3. CODE OF CONDUCT:

3.1. At no time shall a player, coach or spectator verbally or physically abuse an umpire. On any disputed call, subject to interpretation only, a coach shall call for time out prior to entering the field of play. After being granted time out by the umpire, the coach shall then discuss the umpire's interpretation of the call. Failure to call for an official time out and permission to enter the playing field may result in an ejection from the game. A coach may only question a play involving the interpretation of the rules. A judgment call may NOT be questioned. Any official protest of a game must be in writing and received by the league president or umpire in chief within 24 hours. Only a protest on the interpretation of the rules will be reviewed.

3.1.1. 1st Offence - Receive a written warning

3.1.2. 2nd Offence - Receive a one game suspension

3.1.3. 3rd Offence - Suspension for the remainder of the season

3.2. Players, coaches and spectators are not permitted to direct negative comments toward opposing players or coaches at any time. Medicine Hat Little League encourages all participants to keep their comments of a positive nature. Verbal abuse towards any player from spectators will result in an automatic ejection from the ballpark. Failure to leave the facility on the request of the umpire will result in a suspension of the game.

3.3. At no time shall any participant, on site, consume alcohol during a sanctioned Little League event.

3.4. Smoking, vaping, e-cigarettes and smokeless tobacco by a player, coach or umpire is NOT permitted at any time on the playing field or dugouts.

3.5. In accordance with Little League International rules, any player or coach getting a game ejection is subject to an automatic one game suspension. The Medicine Hat Little League Board of Directors will rule on any additional penalty that may be required. The Medicine Hat Little League Board of Directors may also rule penalties or suspensions on other reported code of conduct issues.

3.6. Any questions or concerns by a participant should be first directed to their respective coach. If necessary, the complaint can be issued to the respective league director for resolution.

In the event a resolution cannot be made the division director will contact the league president and or designate for a solution.

Any decision made by the league president and or his/her designates shall be considered final. The league president has the right to rule on any matter; "in the best interests of Medicine Hat Little League."

3.7 All MHLL on field volunteers and Board Members must have a police criminal record check done every two calendar years. MHLL uses an online police criminal record check. MHLL safety director will contact all coaches with a link to complete the check.

3.8 Any MHLL member participating in LLAB or other LL sanctioned events will be required to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful and representative of MHLL. MHLL will review and support disciplinary policies set forth by LLAB and/or District 4 Little League Foundation and/or Little League Canada and/or Little League International.

3.9 Any member that desires to appeal a disciplinary action may do so by formally requesting to the League president.

The appeal will be reviewed by the board of directors, after a decision has been reached the member will be notified.

4. Divisional Age Structure

4.1. Little Sluggers

4.1.1. Rules for the Little Sluggers Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

4.2. Rookie JR

4.2.1. Rules for the Rookie JR Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

4.3. Rookie SR

4.3.1. Rules for the Rookie SR Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

4.4. Minors

4.4.1. Rules for the Minors Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

4.5. Majors

4.5.1. Rules for the Majors Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

4.6. Intermediate

4.6.1. Rules for the Intermediate Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

4.7. Teen

4.7.1. Rules for the Teen Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

4.8. Challenger

4.8.1. Rules for the Challenger Division are updated regularly and are posted on our website.

8. ALL-STAR

8.1. The All-Star Selection committee which will consist of 7 members. There will be three current board members, the District Administrator, the President and up to two non-member executive members selected by the President.

8.1.1. The committee will interview all interested coaching candidates and then provide the executive as a whole, the committee's recommendation for the successful applicant.

8.1.3. Board members of conflicting interest (including immediate family members) will be excluded from the discussion and the vote for divisions that the conflict occurs in.

8.2. All players must attend all the All-Star assessments to be eligible to play in the program. Any scheduling conflicts must be approved by the league president and the All-Star directors.

8.3. Coaching Selection Process

8.3.1. The All-Star Director and Director of Player/Coach development will coordinate all coaching applications and must receive all interested applications prior to the posted deadline.

8.3.2. The selection committee will handle all necessary interviews and then forward their committee's recommendation back to the board as a whole.

8.3.3. In cases where there is only one applicant, an interview may be conducted and Medicine Hat Little League has the right to extend the deadline if the single applicant does not meet the criteria.

8.3.4. It is the responsibility of the selection committee to assure that all coaching applicants meet all criteria:

8.3.4.1. AAA All-Star Head coaching applicants must head coach a House League Team in their respective House League Division (AA or A teams coach selection is at the discretion of All-Star director and League President.)

8.3.4.2 All coaches must complete the Little League International Diamond Leader Training prior to being awarded the position.

8.3.4.3. Application was received within designated timeline.

8.3.4.4. Assistant coaches for AAA will be chosen by the selection committee. AA and A, will be selected by the Head Coach, pending the committee's approval.

8.3.4.5. In the event a coach cannot be selected. The team will be formed and the parent group will be responsible "for identifying a coach from the group or finding a non-player coach - to be approved by the MHLL Board.

8.3.4.6. Non-player coaches will receive no funding or subsidy from the league. The team will be responsible to fundraise or foot the cost to assist any non-parent coaches.

8.4. Timelines

8.4.1. Deadline for All-Star Coaches applications will be March 15th. Coaches will be selected as early as possible to ensure they can start planning their seasons.

8.4.2. Decision on successful candidate will be announced no later than March 31st. Having the All-Star coaches chosen early on in the season will give time for coaches to enter quality summer all-star tournaments. Give All-Star coaches time to assess players throughout the house league season. To apply and assure any necessary time off or vacation time required to coach during the summer.

8.5. Coaches

8.5.1. Once selected, it is the head coach's responsibility that all general guidelines, policies and rules of Medicine Hat Little League, Little League Canada, and Little League International are followed.

8.6. Teams

8.6.1. All teams will have the same funding and expectations.

8.6.2. Teams will be chosen in the following order AAA, AA and if required an A team. This is in order to develop each player at the level they are currently at. Allowing MHLL to build the strongest AAA teams as possible.

Minors: AAA-AA-A

Majors AAA-Intermediate AAA-Majors AA-A

JR AAA - SR AA

8.6.3. Medicine Hat Little League would like to encourage as many players to be involved in the All-Star program as possible.

8.6.4. All formed teams are overseen by MHLL and subject to follow all policies and guidelines set by the league.

8.6.5. All LLAB and Little League International rules apply during all games and tournaments.

8.7 Fees

8.7.1 MHLL will introduce a fee to play MHLL All-Star payable to the MHLL at the commencement of the All-Star season. MHLL will provide and distribute a registration form will be used to collect these fees. The registration money collected by MHLL that is

not given to the coaching staff for summer expenses will be used by MHLL for All-Star apparel, field maintenance, field rentals and equipment.

8.7.2 MHLL will enter and pay for up to 6 tournament fees, as well the Prairie\Provincial tournament entry fees will be covered.

8.7.3. Each team will be supplied with by MHLL:

- 8.8.1 A bucket with practice balls
(As much as we can give once house is over)
- 8.8.2 One box of new balls (1 Dozen)

8.7.4. Each player will be supplied with by MHLL:

- 8.7.4.1 MHLL All-Star branded jersey.
- 8.7.4.2 MHLL All-Star branded practice shirt.
- 8.7.4.3 MHLL All-Star branded practice shorts.
- 8.7.4.4 MHLL All-Star branded hat.
- 8.7.4.5 MHLL All-Star branded practice hat.

8.7.5. Each parent will be expected to purchase:

- 8.7.5.1 White pants with red piping.
- 8.7.5.2 Red socks.
- 8.7.5.3 Red belt.
- 8.7.5.4 Red batting helmet.

8.7.6. Parent groups are not to be asked for additional money during the All-Star season unless that request is in writing and approved by the league President. Teams will be allowed to run a 50/50 at any tournaments they host. Any additional fundraising must be approved by MHLL President or designate. Any monies that the teams have remaining at the end of the All-Star season are to be donated to a charity of their choice or to MHLL.

8.7.7 The credit system from bingo's and casino's may be used to offset the All-Star fee.

8.7.8 The amount of the bingo and casino credit will be determined by the MHLL Board of Directors. The bingo and casino credit amount will be reviewed and possibly updated on an annual basis.

8.8. Feedback Forms- MHLL will utilize the feedback from Little League Alberta when available to create a method of feedback parents can use about their summer ball experience and a coaches evaluation.

9. PITCHING RULES

- 9.1 All pitching rules and regulations will be strictly enforced according to the Little League International Rules and Regulations. NO Exceptions may be granted by any league director, executive or local official.
- 9.2 It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to communicate pitch counts and days of rest required with house league or tournament team coaches if the player is active on two or more rosters, in order to account for pitching that takes place outside of the realm of a MHLL, or D4 LL game.

10. HOUSE LEAGUE TOURNAMENT

- 10.1. All teams shall participate in the annual house league tournament at no cost. No team is permitted to host their own house league tournament.
- 10.2 Medicine Hat Little League will pay for one (1) entry fee (up to \$300 maximum) for each house league team participating in an out of town house league tournament provided the tournament is within the current house league season and is located within the Prairie region and is an officially sanctioned Little League tournament. The team must burden all other expenses.

11. FUNDRAISING

- 11.1. All sponsorship proposals must be sent to the sponsorship director for review and approval.
- 11.2. All team fundraising proposals must be sent to the league president and sponsorship director for review and approval.

12. UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

- 12.1. All loaned equipment and baseballs shall remain the property of the Medicine Hat Little League.
- 12.2. The equipment director will set a date after all teams are formed, for all equipment and uniform pickup.
- 12.3. Coaches are responsible for the equipment and baseballs that are loaned to them. All equipment must be returned at the end of the season. The equipment director will set a drop off date.

13. TRAVEL TEAM

- 13.1 Members of Medicine Hat Little League (MHLL) can form teams to play in various tournaments in Canada and the US that are not sanctioned by Little League. The parents and kids are responsible for all costs related to the team. MHLL will provide

jerseys and team access to TeamSnap. Diamond rentals and umpires will be booked by the league and paid for by the team.

- 13.2. MHLL will charge an Administration fee of \$150 to register the team. All jerseys are to be returned at the end of the season and all monies owed for diamond bookings and umpires paid in full. Failure to pay any owed monies, will have all rostered players and coaches ineligible to play in any MHLL offered programs.
- 13.3. MHLL will support any member of MHLL in good standing to form a team of MHLL players to travel to baseball tournaments and games that may or may not be sanctioned by Little League.
- 13.4. Any team traveling to a non-sanctioned Little League game will require a "Application for Special Games with Non-Little League Teams", or an "Application for Special Games" filled out at least 1 week prior to the tournament. This form will provide insurance through Little League for the coaches and children.
- 13.5. The Travel Teams will comply with the Little League pitch count rules, and may be required, at the request of the League President, to provide proof of pitch count.
- 13.6. The travel teams will not interfere with any scheduled MHLL regular season games, play-off games or All-Star games or practices. This includes communication between the travel team's coaches and regular season coaches in regards to pitch counts. A child or coach may request to miss a MHLL scheduled event to participate in a travel team event with prior written consent from the President of MHLL or their designate.

14. MEDIA POLICY

- 14.1. All tournament directors shall set up an area outside of the playing surface reserved strictly for Media.
- 14.2. Once the umpires take to the field, ALL media must immediately exit the playing surface (this includes all fair and foul territory within the fence confinements).
- 14.3. It's the responsibility of the umpiring crew to remove any media member from the playing surface

15. Policy on the collection, use and disclosure of personal information

- 15.1. During the course of registering players and establishing the membership for Medicine Hat Little League Baseball, parents, guardians or players have provided the League with, or the League has collected personal information regarding its registered players; which may also include information about his/her family and friends. The collection of such information is intended for the purpose of assisting the League in establishing and managing a (Charter÷ Little League Baseball Organization. Personal information collected about players may sometimes be used and disclosed to third parties, for a purpose intended to conduct Little League Baseball

operations. Such third parties to which Medicine Hat Little League would provide such information include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

15.1.1. Applying for and making claims and adjustments for League and Player Insurance to the Western Canadian Amateur Baseball Foundation.

15.1.2. Complying with Charter procedures to record and register Little League Players with Little League Alberta, Little League Canada and Little League International.

15.1.3. Complying with contractual obligations entered into with the City of Medicine Hat with regards to City User Fees and City diamond utilization.

15.1.4. Communications and player qualification procedures with other Chartered Little Leagues with respect to inter-league play, tournament play, play offs, awards, and other administrative functions necessary to running and operating Little League Baseball.

15.1.5. Complying with any government requirements that may be legislated to minor sports.

15.1.6. Providing information to emergency medical services personnel, hospitals, clinics, nurses or doctors of any Health Region or Authority, to which a player may have to be treated.

15.2. Personal information about players, parents, family, or friends collected by Medicine Hat Little League Baseball Association will be held in strict confidence, except to the extent of enabling the League to conduct the business of operating a minor baseball organization and disclosing such to third parties in the manner stated above. Medicine Hat Little League Baseball Association will not publicly disclose such information for commercial or monetary gain. Upon the player no longer having current or future affiliation with Little League Baseball, all such information and records collected and in possession of Medicine Hat Little League Baseball will be destroyed. Medicine Hat Little League is not responsible or liable for any third parties to which it had to disclose information.

16 BINGO AND CASINO

16.1 In the past Medicine Hat Little League (MHLL) has depended on the parent group from the All-Star group to provide the workers for MHLL bingo and casino commitments. At times this has proved to be a challenge for the Bingo Director to get enough volunteers to fulfill these commitments.

16.2 MHLL will look to fill its bingo / casino worker commitments through its general membership.

16.3 MHLL will offer the general membership the opportunity to volunteer to work a bingo spot in exchange for credit to MHLL.

16.4 The credit may be used to offset any registration, uniform costs, off-season training, or anything else as approved by MHLL Board of Directors.

16.5 The amount of the credit will be determined by the MHLL Board of Directors. The credit amount will be reviewed on an annual basis.

17. Child Protection and Safety

17.1 Medicine Hat Little League has zero tolerance for any type of abuse against a minor, including, but not limited to, sexual abuse, physical abuse, mental, and emotional abuse (as well as any type of bullying, hazing, or harassment). Any individual with an offense involving or against a minor (refer to Volunteer Application), will not be permitted to participate in any Little League programs or activities.

17.2 All board members and volunteers with MHLL will be required to complete the annual Child Protection and Safety training as set forth by Little League Alberta.

17.3 MHLL will enforce policy set forth by Little League International related to Child Protection and Safety, Little League International Child Protection Policy and / or Little League Canada Child Protection Policy and/or Little League Alberta Child Protection Policy and/or District 4 Little League Foundation Child Protection Policy.

18. Coaching and Training Requirements

18.1 Anyone wishing to be named as a coach for MHLL in either house league or tournament play must complete the following requirements:

- a) Criminal Record Check
- b) Vulnerable Sector Check
- c) Child Protection Policy Training
- d) Volunteer Application form
- e) Coaches Code of Conduct / Respect in Sport
- f) Concussion Code of Conduct Acknowledgement form - <https://www.cdc.gov/HeadsUp/>
- g) Submission of either NCCP training or USA Baseball Coach Development training.
- h) For AA and AAA coaches only - Verification of the Diamond Leader Training (Little League International)

18.2 All paperwork and requirements must be forwarded to the Safety Director and the Coach and Player Development Director prior to being confirmed as a coach for MHLL.