

# AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE 24TH LITTLE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

APRIL 13-16, 2007

HILTON AMERICAS – HOUSTON, TEXAS

## ITEM 1 – AFFECTS RULE 4.04 – MINOR LEAGUE AND TEE BALL BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

← For 2008

The batting order shall be followed throughout the game. The batting order shall be all players on the team roster present for the game batting in order. Each player will be required to bat in his/her respective spot in the batting order. However, a player may be entered and /or re-entered defensively in the game anytime provided he/she meets the requirements of mandatory play. NOTE: If a child is injured, becomes ill or must leave the game site after the start of the game, the team will skip over him/her when his/her time at bat comes up without penalty. If the injured, ill or absent player returns, he/she is merely inserted into their original spot in the batting order and the game continues. Also, if a child arrives late to a game site, if the manager chooses to enter him/her in the lineup (See Rule 4.01 NOTE), he/she would be added to the end of the current lineup.

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would mandate a “continuous batting order” for Minor League and Tee Ball Baseball and Softball. This is currently optional in those divisions. The intent is to reinforce Little League’s longstanding position that the Minor League Division should be instructional in nature. Research has shown that batting is one of the most important aspects of the game for children, and this rule change would ensure that participants in the Minor League Division are afforded a more equal opportunity to participate in this key element of the game.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 398 Yes (89.04 percent)	49 No (10.96 percent)	0 Abstentions
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**Board Action: Approved for 2008 implementation**

## ITEM 2 – AFFECTS REGULATION V – SELECTION OF PLAYERS – LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

← For 2008

The selection of players for the various teams within a league shall be in compliance with the Little League Draft Selection System as detailed in the Operating Manual. NOTE: All candidates who are league age twelve (12) must be drafted to a Major Division team. Exceptions can only be made with written approval from the *District Administrator*, and only if approved at the local league level by the Board of Directors and the parent of the candidate.

*Intent of this proposed change: This regulation change would require that all 12-year-olds entering the draft process be drafted onto a Major Division team, unless an exception (before the draft) is approved by the Charter Committee for that individual. In the past, some managers have overlooked otherwise qualified 12-year-old players in favor of a younger draft choice, even though the 12-year-old might be the better player of the two for that season. Research has shown that participants who are capable of playing in the Major Division at age 12, but who are kept in the Minor Division, are unlikely to continue in the sport.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 316 Yes (68.55 percent)	142 No (30.8 percent)	3 Abstentions
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**Board Action: Approved for 2008 implementation**

**ITEM 3 – AFFECTS REGULATION V – SELECTION OF PLAYERS – DIVISIONS BELOW JUNIOR LEAGUE  
Operating Manual Plan B**

The draft is conducted in two separate parts. The first part includes those players who:

- A. are returning from a Major team in the same division, AND; B. have registered for the current season.

This first draft of returning players must be completed before the second part of the draft, and all returning players who qualify under both conditions above must be drafted. Managers are not permitted to waive a draft choice.

The second part of the draft includes all players who are eligible for selection and have attended the required number of tryout sessions.

The draft rotation must follow one of these two methods:

- A: A “blind” draw in which the rotation assignments are drawn randomly;

B: The reverse order of finish from the previous season, with the last place team’s manager receiving the first pick, then the second-to-last place team, and so on. For instance, in a four-team league, the manager of the last place team from the previous season makes the following player selections: 1st choice, 8th, 9th, 16th, 17th, 24th, 25th, etc.; The manager of the team that finished in third place makes the 2nd choice, 7th, 10th, 18th, 23rd, etc.; The manager of the team that finished second in the previous season makes the 3rd choice, 6th, 11th, 14th, 19th, 22nd; The manager of the team that finished in first place gets 4th choice, 5th, 12th, 13th, 20th, 21st, etc., until selections are completed.

NOTE 1: Because there are no players returning to a particular team, and because coaches cannot be named until the draft is completed, Options 2 and 4 (see “options On Sons, Daughters And Siblings” in this chapter) do NOT apply when using this draft selection plan.

NOTE 2: When the second part of this draft method begins, the draft order starts over, regardless of which team drafted last in the first round.

NOTE 3: This does not apply when local leagues submit and are approved for Interleague Play combinations.

NOTE 4: A league or leagues that have been approved in writing to use the Common Pool Draft Method may opt to place all players from both divisions back in one pool, or to place players returning to a particular division back into their respective pools for the subsequent season.

*Intent of this proposed change: This regulation change would require that divisions of play below Junior League re-draft each season, so that all teams would place all returning players back into the pool for re-draft each year. If enacted, this would result in more competitive play from one season to the next, and would prevent managers from “stacking” a team for the future by drafting young players at the expense of the older players currently on the team.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 248 Yes (53.8 percent)                      142 No (45.55 percent)                      3 Abstentions
<b><u>Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action</u></b>

**ITEM 4 – AFFECTS TOURNAMENT – PLAYER ELIGIBILITY – ALL LEVELS OF PLAY (EXCLUDING BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL) ← For 2008**

Any player who has participated as an eligible player in 60% of the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the school season.

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would increase the minimum games in which a player must participate in order to be eligible for selection to a tournament team. Some players have participated on a Little League team for only the minimum number of games needed to reach the 50 percent mark because of participation in non-Little League programs in some cases have been chosen by the local league to play in the International Tournament. While this practice may continue, increasing the minimum number of games will ensure that players at least play in 60 percent of the games on their Little League teams.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 323 Yes (70.07 percent)                      138 No (29.93 percent)                      0 Abstentions
<b>Tournament Committee Action: Approved for 2008 Implementation</b>

**ITEM 5 – AFFECTS REGULATION II NEW REGULATION - II (i)**

The Board of Directors of the local Little League may enroll a player whose residence is outside the league’s boundaries under the following conditions (1) the league where the player resides releases and waives all rights to the player for regular season and tournament, in writing, and (2) the district administrator approves the request.

NOTE 1: A player who qualifies for this waiver, and participates as an eligible player for all or part of a season under this waiver, then elects not to participate for a subsequent playing season, is not eligible to be retained in future seasons under this waiver.

NOTE 2: A player who qualifies for this waiver, and participates as an eligible player for all or part of a season under this waiver, then returns to participate in the league in which he/she resides, is not eligible to be retained in future seasons under this waiver.

Regulations II (i) - Processing Procedure: The league president will process a II (i) form. Once the president completes the form, he/she must receive written notification from the league where the player currently resides as outlined above. The league president will present this form and written notification to the District Administrator for review. Once the district administrator verifies the documentation meets the regulations, the district administrator will sign the II (i) form granting his or her approval. The league and the district will maintain the form and documentation in their files. This verification process is only required once during a participant’s career. The league must maintain this form and documentation for this player for the duration of his/her career until the player graduates from the program or breaks service with the league. Tournament teams with players qualifying under this regulation will be required to carry a copy of this form and documentation with them throughout the tournament. If contested during tournament play, the league will be required to produce the documentation. Additionally, if it is determined at a later date that the player does not meet the conditions of II (i), the player is ineligible for further participation. Situations in which documentation is not available must be referred to the Charter Committee through the regional office for a decision. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.

*Intent of this proposed change: This regulation addition would create a procedure for allowing a participant who does not qualify under a Regulation II (d) Waiver or a Regulation IV (h) Waiver to play in a league in which that participant does not have residence (as defined by Little League International). If the District Administrator refuses to grant his/her approval, the issue may be referred to the Charter Committee. If adopted a waiver form will be created for processing these requests.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 195 Yes (42.3 percent)                      262 No (56.83 percent)                      4 Abstentions
<b><u>Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action</u></b>

**ITEM 6 – AFFECTS REGULATION I SECTION 3 (TEE BALL; BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL) ← For 2007**

The Tee Ball division is an extension of the local league to accommodate participants league ages 5-8 and may utilize the batting tee or the pitched ball (by a coach). The league may opt to deliver a designated number of pitches to all batters and then utilize the tee if necessary.

*Intent of this proposed change: This regulation change would provide the league more flexibility for instruction. Many leagues have requested this as a Charter Committee waiver, and there have been no reported problems implementing it.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 380 Yes (85.01 percent)                      66 No (14.77 percent)                      1 Abstentions
<b>Board Action: Approved for 2007 implementation</b>

**ITEM 7 – AFFECTS PLAYING RULE 2.00 INNINGS DEFINITION (MINOR LEAGUE ONLY; BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL)**

← For 2008

An Inning is that portion of the game within which the teams alternate on offense and defense and in which there are three put outs for each team. It will be held that an inning starts the moment the third out is made completing the preceding inning. (Minor League Only – a five-run limit is to be imposed which would complete the half inning.)

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would enhance the Minor League program by limiting the length of innings, providing a better flow to the games. This is already in place in many Little Leagues.*

**Delegation Vote:** 310 Yes (69.35 percent) 137 No (30.65 percent) 0 Abstentions

**Board Action: Approved for 2008 implementation**

**ITEM 8 – AFFECT RULE 3.03 (MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL)**

A player in the starting line-up whose has been removed for a substitute may re-enter the game once, in any position in the batting order, provided:

- 1) his or her substitute has completed one time at bat and;
- 2) his or her substitute has played defensively for a minimum of nine (9) consecutive outs.
- 3) pitchers once removed ...

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would provide additional playing time defensively to players in the Minor League Division. This also would support Little League’s longstanding position that the Minor League Division is basically instructional in nature.*

**Delegation Vote:** 128 Yes (28.64 percent) 318 No (71.14 percent) 1 Abstentions

**Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action**

**ITEM 9 – AFFECTS REGULATION VIII (MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL)**

Each player on the roster must play three of their defensive outs in an infield position during the game.

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would require each player in the Minor League Division to occupy an infield position (pitcher, catcher, first baseman, second baseman, third baseman or shortstop) for a minimum of three defensive outs during each game. Research has shown that children would rather play the infield positions than the outfield positions, and that players who persistently occupy an outfield position for entire games lose interest in the sport. This applies also to players of lesser talent, who would rather be given a chance to play in the infield, even if it means they might commit an error. If enacted, this would encourage managers and coaches to teach all the positions to all players.*

**Delegation Vote:** 125 Yes (27.96 percent) 321 No (71.81 percent) 1 Abstentions

**Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action**

**ITEM 10 – AFFECTS REGULATION II (g) – ALL LEVELS OF PLAY** ← **For 2007**

(g) Upon approval of the International Board of Directors, each local Little League's boundaries will be "frozen" at its current status. "Frozen" means, each league will continue to operate under its current boundaries. The league shall limit its boundaries to and draw its players from an area approved by the District Administrator and Regional Director. Boundary maps for leagues must be signed and dated by the League President and District Administrator with a copy to be sent to the Regional Office. The Charter Committee reserves the right to grant waivers and adjust boundaries where needed. All requests for mergers and to expand league boundaries by adding additional territory must be provided to the Charter Committee through the District Administrator and Regional Director. The decision of the Charter Committee on these requests is final and binding

Note 1: Each league will be required to submit an updated boundary map, approved by the District Administrator, to the regional office. This will be required for tournament privileges for the current season.

Note 2: All leagues currently operating under a divisional format must continue to operate under this method. **Exceptions to the divisional format can only be granted by the charter committee in Williamsport.**

Note 3: Any request for newly chartered league will be reviewed by the Charter Committee under this regulation before a charter is granted. The decision of the Charter Committee is final and binding.

*Intent of this proposed change: This regulation change would eliminate the "20,000 population limit," but retains the principle involved in boundaries for a local league. It also reserves for the Charter Committee the ability to make adjustments when justified.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b>	362 Yes (78.52 percent)	98 No (21.26 percent)	1 Abstentions
<b>Board Action: Approved for 2007 implementation</b>			

**ITEM 11 – AFFECTS RULE 7.13 – LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL - MAJORS AND MINOR DIVISIONS**

When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter.

Penalty: The ball is dead. "No Pitch" is declared, and the runner is out.

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would require a runner to be called out for leaving the base too early in all situations, in the Little League and Minor Baseball divisions. The intent would be to simplify the "leaving too early" rule.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b>	162 Yes (35.14 percent)	299 No (64.86 percent)	0 Abstentions
<b>Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action</b>			

**ITEM 12 – AFFECTS RULE 7.13 – LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL - MAJORS AND MINOR DIVISIONS**

When a pitcher is in contact with the pitcher's plate and in possession of the ball and the catcher is in the catcher's box ready to receive delivery of the ball, base runners shall not leave their bases until the ball has been delivered and has reached the batter.

Penalty: The ball is dead. "No Pitch" is declared, and the runner is removed from the base.

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would require a runner to be removed from the base for leaving the base too early in all situations, in the Little League and Minor Baseball divisions. The intent would be to simplify the "leaving too early" rule.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b>	72 Yes (15.62 percent)	388 No (84.16 percent)	1 Abstentions
<b>Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action</b>			

**ITEM 13 – AFFECTS REGULATION I – THE LEAGUE**

(b) The league shall be governed by a Board of Directors elected.....

President, with approval of Board of Directors, shall appoint managers, coaches and umpires annually.

[The change removes this sentence: “Manager/coach representation on the Board shall not exceed a majority.”]

*Intent of this proposed change: This regulation change would remove the requirement for the local Little League’s board of directors to be composed of not more than 50 percent managers and coaches. In many leagues, it is apparent that a lack of adults interested in positions on the board of directors, and the prohibition in the existing regulation, prevents otherwise qualified people from taking these leadership positions.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 267 Yes (57.92 percent)      193 No (41.87 percent)      1 Abstentions
<b><u>Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action</u></b>

**ITEM 14 – AFFECTS REGULATION VI – PITCHERS** ← **For 2008**

Any player.....

Junior, Senior.....

The manager must.....

Exception: If a pitcher.....

Note 1. Intentional Walk: Before a pitch is delivered to the batter, the catcher must inform the umpire-in-chief that the defensive team wishes to give the batter an intentional base-on-balls. The umpire-in-chief waves the batter to first base. The ball is dead.

EXCEPTION: The Intentional Walk is NOT allowed in any Minor Baseball Division.

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would remove the “automatic intentional walk” from use in the Minor League Division. The intent would be to encourage a manager to pitch to all players, rather than issue intentional walks, in this instructional division.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 360 Yes (78.09 percent)      101 No (21.91 percent)      0 Abstentions
<b>Board Action: Approved for 2008 implementation</b>

**ITEM 15 – AFFECTS TOURNAMENT RULES – MANAGERS AND COACHES** ← **For 2007**

Remove - NOTE: An individual that manages or coaches in another youth baseball/softball program is not eligible to be appointed to manager or coach a tournament team in the Little League program at the same age division as defined in Regulation I(a), unless a waiver is granted by the appropriate regional director.

*Intent of this proposed change: This rule change would remove the need to request a waiver for managers and coaches who also are managers or coaches in parallel programs that are not affiliated with Little League. However, the local Little League board of directors retains the ability not to appoint Tournament managers and coaches as it sees fit.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 291 Yes (63.12 percent)      170 No (36.88 percent)      0 Abstentions
<b>Tournament Committee Action: Approved for 2007 implementation</b>

**ITEM 16 – AFFECTS REGULATION I – THE LEAGUE**

I (a) 3. The Tee Ball Division is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants league ages 5-8, and must utilize the batting tee rather than the pitched ball. NOTE: A local Little League also may elect to offer a separate and distinct Tee Ball Division solely for players who are: league age 4, or, league age 4 and 5. If this option is chosen, the batting tee must be used for all players, rather than the pitched ball.

*Intent of this proposed change: This regulation change would permit a local Little League to establish a Tee Ball Division for players league age 4, or league age 4 and 5. Several waivers that are similar to this regulation have been granted by the Charter Committee in pilot cases, with no problems reported.*

<b>Delegation Vote:</b> 294 Yes (63.77 percent)                      165 No (35.79 percent)                      2 Abstentions
<b><u>Board Action: Item failed - No Board Action</u></b>