

**LAKE WORTH YOUTH ASSOCIATION**  
**“BASEBALL/SOFTBALL STANDING RULES”**  
As adopted by the Membership present on  
February 11, 2009

**BASEBALL/SOFTBALL**

**Mission Statement**

It is the purpose of the Lake Worth Youth Association, Inc. (LWYA) to provide organized baseball and softball to all children in our area who want a chance to play and to give each of those children an opportunity to gain self-confidence, learn teamwork and sportsmanship and learn the fundamental of each of the sports listed above.

**Conduct Code**

Managers, coaches, players, parents and spectators are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner. They shall not use abusive language, alcohol, and tobacco or illegal drugs while representing the LWYA in a baseball/softball game. Anyone abusing the rules of conduct may be removed from the game and/or park grounds or dismissed from team play or forfeit that game. Also see Section 12 Conduct & Section 13 Discipline, LWYA's Bylaws.

**Age Appropriateness**

Players shall be of appropriate age for their team as listed in the “PONY LEAGUE GUIDELINES”. Cut off is April 30 for Baseball midnight and for Softball December 31 midnight.

Managers and Coaches shall be a minimum of 18 years of age (Business Manager must be at least 21 years of age). Managers and Coaches must be in good standing with the Association in order to be considered and pass a criminal background check.

**Pony Rules**

All teams shall play by “Pony Rules And Regulations” except where changes have been noted in the “LWYA League Rules”

**Selection of Managers for Regular Season Play**

Managers shall be assigned to a team in this order by the commissioner of that sport. That Commissioner will take into consideration a Manager with the most coaching experience during this process of assigning a Manager to the teams.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Managers returning to that division of play;
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Managers moving up from the division below; and
- 3<sup>rd</sup> New Managers

## **Team Structure**

Teams are to be selected according to "PONY LEAGUE GUIDELINES."

Protected players are those whose parent, stepparent, grandparent, aunt, uncle or other relatives of a manager or coach will be considered to be "Protected Player" in that league. If the Board approves a manager or coach who does not have a relative in the league, the Board may approve a protected player for that manager or coach. A Protected Player can only be drafted by the coach they are related to or assigned to.

The Manager constitutes a returning team and those players that played on that team shall be considered protected players with a maximum number of eight (8) allowed. These protected players shall not be drafted by any other Manager other than the assigned Manager of that team. Remainder of the team shall be drafted by the assigned Manager of that team.

If a Manager does not return to LWYA to coach and one of the returning coaches wishes to coach as the manager the board may assign them as the manager for those returning players.

## **The Draft**

All non-protected players are eligible for draft and must participate in the "Field Day", or that player shall go into a "Blind Draw" at the time of the draft. The Blind Draw names will be put on a folded piece of paper put in a hat.

The Commissioner will provide two typed list of all players signed up by the draft date to each manager and those not present at Field Day shall be noted and placed in the Blind Draws before draft begins.

Managers will draft lowest number of players up to even, with a coin toss (odd/even) to determine the order by which draft shall resume, until all Managers are evened up, then each Manager will draw numbers to determine the final draft order, this order shall remain the order in which any late sign-ups occur. The Commissioner will maintain this order. In addition each Manager may have their 1<sup>st</sup> assistance coach present during the voting to consult with on player selection but they must remain silent during all voting; only the manager is to vote the picks.

All players **not** signed up by the draft date will be assigned to a team by the Commissioner in accordance with the team which in the draft would have had the next draft pick.

## **Coaches Responsibilities**

Each coach, as a representative of LWYA is expected to be responsible for their actions toward players, parents, umpires and league officials. Each coach's objective should be to teach each player, teamwork, sportsmanship and the fundamentals of baseball or softball. Mutual respect is expected between players and coaches.

The Manager is responsible for making sure the field is setting up correctly for that league age of play to include: Placing the base and pitching rubber at correct distances, (Note – even a late game may be the first game played.) picking up the trash inside and outside the field area at the end of your game. The Manager that has the last game of the day is responsible for picking up and putting up any and all equipment (chalkier) still remaining on fields, picking up the trash inside and outside the field area at the end of your game.

The Manager is to select that team's coaching staff and submit to the Board your selection, approval and criminal background check.

The Manager is to select a team parent to represent their team in fund raisers and other LWYA activities, and submit to the Board your selection for approval and a criminal background check. Remember the Manager is fully responsible for that team parent's activities.

Player's playtime shall be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the scheduled game time. If a player does not get  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the scheduled game, that player shall start the following game and play at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the time limit. Failure to comply with this rule could become cause to forfeit the game or suspend the coach for repeats.

Coaches using the equipment belonging to LWYA must leave a deposit of \$50.00 at the start of the season. Equipment must be turned in to the Commissioner within (7) days after the last game of the season. At this time, the \$50.00 deposit check will be returned to the coach.

The Home Team will be responsible for furnishing the official scorekeeper. The Visiting Team will be responsible for furnishing the scoreboard operator.

### **Player's Responsibilities**

Maximum effort should be made by players to attend practice. If practices are repeatedly missed without notification via a phone call or email to the Coach, then the Coach may take playing time away. The rules regarding attendance must be the same for all players on the team regardless of the player's talent level.

**All players are required** to participate in the Association's fundraisers and make their best efforts to raise money to offset the operational cost.

### **Spectator Responsibilities**

You must remain off the field of the play at all times, unless the Umpire or Manager requests your presence for a player injury and only after the Umpire calls a time out. In addition, spectators shall remain away from dugouts unless requested by coaching staff. No conflicts between spectators and coaching staff will be tolerated during games. Failure to comply may result in a spectator being ejected from the game and/or the park.

### **Selection of a Manager for All Star Play**

All Managers considered as an All Star Manager must be in good standings with LWYA to be considered for management of an All Star Team.

All Star Manager for that league age is to be selected by:

1<sup>st</sup> Managers with the best win/loss record of just LWYA games.

2<sup>nd</sup> If 1<sup>st</sup> Manager doesn't wish to participate, then next best win/loss record of just LWYA games.

3<sup>rd</sup> If 2<sup>nd</sup> Manager doesn't wish to participate, then next best win/loss record of just LWYA games.

This selection is to take place at the end of the regular season.

The Manager shall select their First Assistant Coach and the Business Manager for Mustang up and one additional Second Assistant Coach for T-Ball and Pinto. The Business Manager must be 21 years of age; all others must be 18 years of age.

### **Selection of All Star Players**

Each Manager will be provided a current list of players with jersey numbers and broke out by teams by the commissioner. Each Manager shall watch 3 games to evaluate players from the other teams not to include the games schedule against that same team and in turn select a total of twelve (12) players for their nomination list. These 12 players can be from any combination of players from any team and this nomination list of players will be provided to the Commissioner as the "list" after the last game of the season. This list **will not** be available for viewing by players and/or coaches before the voting is to be conducted. Each Manager will be provided with a count of votes each player received and voting shall resume.

Blind voting shall be conducted from this list only and conducted and counted by the Commissioner (or a Board member if the commissioner is a manager in that league age). Unanimous players will automatically make the All Star selection unless it exceeds 12. In which cases of ties, each of the managers will continue voting additional rounds until all ties have been broken. If player list is under 12 at this point, a majority vote will be used until 12 players have been selected. In which, cases of ties, each of the managers will continue voting additional rounds until all ties have been broken for the majority votes. Twelve (12) players will be selected using this voting procedure. Only the Manager is allowed to Vote and be present during the voting or with pre-approval from the Commissioner another Coach from that team may attend if the Manager cannot attend or will be absent from the voting.

The Manager may select additional players if needed and/or desired only from the "list" submitted by the Coaches. (Note: Up to the signing of the affidavit by Pony at district play and not to exceed the maximum number of players allowed by Pony on a team) See Pony Tournament Rules for both.