

CONTINENTAL/ WALNUT CREEK LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL LOCAL RULES

NOTE: These local rules are made in accordance with the Little League rules. If no specific local rule is listed, the official regulations and standard playing rules of Little League Softball will apply.

A. Administrative Rules

1. Combining Continental & Walnut Creek Little League's Softball Programs

- a. Registration: Players will register with the league in which they live – CLL players register with CLL; WCLL players register with WCLL. If a player lives outside of either boundary, and their home Little League does not offer softball, the player can choose their league to register.
- b. When both league's softball divisions are large enough (4 teams), we would then divide the leagues for that division. Example: If CLL had enough players for 4 teams in Minors, but WCLL did not, we would still combine the players. When both CLL & WCLL had enough players to form 4 teams in Minors, we would divide that division. All other divisions would remain combined.

2. Registration Fee Refund Policy

- a. One hundred percent of the registration fee will be refunded when requested prior to tryouts
- b. Fifty percent of the registration fee will be refunded when requested prior to team formation following tryouts.
- c. No refunds will be granted following team formation.

3. Volunteer Responsibilities

Refer to your local Little League rules. Parents are responsible for field set-up/clean-up, scorekeeping, Snack Shack duties, and umpiring.

Home team is responsible for field set-up and clean-up, and umpiring games at CLL fields. WCLL will supply umpires at WCLL fields (Northgate, Castle Rock, Heather Farms.) It is required that each team send at least two parents to the umpire rules and mechanics clinic.

B. Manager and Player Selection Rules

1. Manager Selection

According to Little League rules, no one is guaranteed a team even though he/she managed the previous year. All candidates for manager positions are nominated by the president and approved by the Board. Experience and the ability to communicate and teach players the game of softball, and to show and teach good sportsmanship, are all important factors in selecting managers in all divisions.

2. League Equipment and Facilities

a. Equipment: The Equipment Manager of Continental Little League will maintain an inventory of Softball League equipment. Equipment will be stored in a secure place during the off season.

b. Team Equipment: Playing equipment and keys needed by each team will be distributed to the manager prior to the start of the practice season. The manager will write a check for \$ 150 as a deposit for the equipment and keys. The manager is responsible for the security of this equipment and will return all to Continental Little League at the end of the season. If the manager fails to return equipment or keys, the deposit check will be cashed by CLL.

c. Security of Playing Fields: Since the League uses fields under permits from school districts and the City of Walnut Creek, equipment owned by the leagues but stored at the fields will be secured in locked storage areas. In addition, access to batting cages and fields will be restricted by securing them with locks as appropriate.

At CLL fields, equipment boxes will be secured with locks with keys provided. Porta potties are secured with a combination lock. Combination numbers are stored in the equipment box.

At WCLL fields, equipment boxes and porta potties are secured with combo locks. Combinations will be provided at the beginning of the season.

A manager will not make copies of any keys issued to them and all keys must be returned at the end of the season.

3. Divisions of Play and Ages Structure

a. Seniors division – players may be no younger than Player Age 13, and no older than 16. Teams are determined by draft process. Senior managers select players based on previous experience and tryout performance. Score is kept, and the championship team moves on to the Tournament of Champions.

b. Majors division – players may be no older than Player Age 12, and no younger than Player Age 9. Teams are determined by a draft process. Major managers select players based on previous experience and tryout performance. The Major division teams will not maintain property players, until the division is at a sufficient size. Score is kept in Majors, and the championship team moves on the Tournament of Champions.

- c. **Minors division** – players may be no older than 11 (12-year-old players may play in Minors at the request of player’s parents.) Every effort will be made to draft 9-year-old players to Minors. Teams are determined by a draft process. Minor managers select players from the remaining players from the Major draft, based on previous experience and tryout performance. Score is kept, and the championship team moves on to Tournament of Champions.
- d. **Mini Minor division** – players may be no older than 9, and no younger than 6, if 6-year-old has played organized baseball or softball previously. Teams are selected by player ability, as well as grouped by school, buddy lists, etc. No score is kept.

4. Roster Determination and Maintenance

- a. **Missing tryouts** - If a player fails to make his or her scheduled try-out date every attempt will be made to re-schedule that try-out. In the event a player fails to try-out the Board of Directors has the authority to place that player in the draft pool they feel is appropriate based on previous performance in our league or another league.
- b. **Waiting List** – A player who registers after the tryout period will be placed on a waiting list, and will be added to a team when a team loses a player due to injury, relocation or other circumstances. This player must:
 1. Live within Continental or Walnut Creek Little League boundaries.
 2. Be the appropriate age for her division (proven with a valid birth certificate.)
 3. Complete a tryout evaluation with 2 of the following: the Player Agent, a Softball VP, 2 managers from divisions NOT in need of a player.
 The player will then be placed on a waiting list, with Board approval, for the appropriate division based on her ability.
- c. **Player Placement** - Little League International states that it is the League’s responsibility to place players in the correct division based on past performance of the player in the league, and the player’s tryout evaluation. The teams are then chosen by draft process for Majors and Minors.
- d. **Player Injuries and Replacement** – if a player sustains an injury or illness on or off the field, and will miss ½ the games, the player must be removed from the team roster. A doctor’s letter stating the period of time that the player must rest will determine if the player is to be replaced.
- e. **Moving up policy** – Any player within the age category specified by Little League rules is eligible to be moved up to a higher division (up to and including majors) during the year because of injury or other circumstances that cause a team in a higher division to need a new team member.

Managers – when you lose a player due to injury, illness, relocation, lack of interest or other, you must notify the Player Agent immediately. You then have 2 weeks from the player’s last game or practice attended to choose a new player.

The Player Agent will provide you with names from the waiting list for your division or lower, and names from the lower division's best qualified players. You may choose a player other than those recommended by the Player Agent, with Board approval.

NOTE: If a second manager in your division loses a player, the first manager will be notified that another manager is scouting, and you will then have 48 hours to choose a player from the lower division before the 2nd manager can choose from the waiting list or from the lower division.

Do not directly contact parents of any player you are interested in moving up in the league. This is how rumors are spread, and there are circumstances that happen that may not allow a move-up.

If a team has already lost a player due to a move-up, that team cannot lose another player due to move-up until all teams in that division have lost players due to move-up.

Major Division only: no player movement shall happen two weeks before the end of the season. (Little League National rule.)

Minor Division only: If a player is lost prior to the end of the first half, a manager must choose a new player to maintain equal numbers. If a player is lost after the first half, but prior to two weeks before the end of the season, it is the manager's choice to choose a player. In the last two weeks of the season, there is no player movement.

4. Manager Responsibilities
 - a. Safety – if a player gets injured at a game or practice, the manager will fill out an Incident Injury Report and send it to the Safety Officer of the League in which the player is a member.

5. T.O.C. Team Selection

The championship team will be the team that goes to the Tournament of Champions (T.O.C.). If the championship team will be unable to participate in the tournament, the team with the next best overall season record may participate.

The championship team is determined by the team's overall winning record, which will include games played against other leagues. If two or more teams have the same amount of wins, the team with the best head-to-head record will be the championship team. If teams are still tied, a playoff game shall be played to determine the championship team.

6. All-Star Manager Selection Rules

a. All-Star Manager Selection - 11/12 Year Old Team (if player numbers allow)

The President of the League will designate the winner of the Major Division as the 11/12 All-Star team manager. The All-Star manager may choose any two coaches

from existing League approved managers or coaches. If the manager of the winning team does not want to manage the All-Star team, the major league manager whose team has the next best record will be asked by the President to manage the All-Star team. If that manager is unavailable, then the selection proceeds to the manager with the next best record, and so forth, until a manager is confirmed. If a manager can't be found in the major division, the President will select a manger from the minor division.

b. All-Star Manager Selection - 11 Year Old Team (if player numbers allow)

A list of candidates will be selected by the League President and the manager will be selected by the Board of Directors or a special committee selected by the Board. The All-Star manager may choose any two coaches from existing League approved managers or coaches.

c. All-Star Manager Selection - 9/10 Year Old Team (if player numbers allow)

A list of candidates will be selected by the League President and the manager will be selected by the Board of Directors or a special committee selected by the Board. The All-Star manager may choose any two coaches from existing League approved managers or coaches.

7. All-Star Player Selection Rules

a. All-Star Player Selection - 11/12 Year Old Team (if player numbers allow)

Players in Majors will rank the players on their team 1 to 12 in order of softball skills.

From these rankings, a pool of 20 players will be chosen. The manager and coaches will select the team from this pool of players.

b. All-Star Player Selection - 11 year old team (if player numbers allow)

Players in majors and Minors will rank the players on their team 1 to 12 in order of softball skills. From these rankings, a pool of 20 players will be chosen. The manager and coaches will select the team from this pool of players.

c. All-Star Player Selection - 9/10 Year Old Team (if player numbers allow)

Players in Minors will rank the players on their team 1 to 12 in order of softball skills.

From these rankings, a pool of 20 players will be chosen. The manager and coaches will select the team from this pool of players.

C. Local Rules of the Game

For any rule not listed below, see District 4 Softball Rules or other rules decided upon by managers who are inter-leaguings.

1. Rainout Policy

If playing at a school field, it is up to the home team manager to decide if the field is too wet to play. Generally, if standing puddles are present on the field, a rainout may be called.

If playing on a City Park field, managers and parents can call the Rain Hotlines (Walnut Creek

Rain Hotline – 256-3574; Concord/Clayton Rain Hotline – 671-3479.) If the city has determined that it is too wet, and have closed their fields, teams can not play on the fields.

In Majors and Minors, managers must contact the manager from an opposing team if a rainout has occurred to make-up the game. Little League rules state that no team age 12 and under may play a double-header. When rescheduling rainouts, please schedule on a day when both teams are not playing. Finishing a game that was shortened due to darkness may be done on the same day of another game.

During rescheduled games all parental volunteer duties are also rescheduled, i.e., if during original game your team was to umpire, snack-shack duty, clean-up etc., then during the rescheduled game the same people originally assigned for umpire, snack-shack duty, clean-up will perform the same duties in the rescheduled game.

2. Minimum Play Rules

All players in all divisions will play a minimum of 3-innings per game (3 defensive innings in the field and at least one at bat). If the game is shortened for darkness and/or rain, any player who did not meet these requirements will be in the starting line-up of the next game and will play any previous requirement not completed *and* play the three innings/one at bat for the current game. Removal from the game for injury and/or because the player has to leave the game early to attend another function will *not* be considered an infraction of this rule.

Penalty: First infraction is the suspension of the manager for the next scheduled game. A second infraction of this rule will result in a forfeit of that game and the suspension of the manager for next scheduled game. The 3rd offense will result in the suspension of the manager for the remainder of season.

3. Inability to Field a Team

20 minute wait past game time. Inability to field a team is a forfeit. If you know in advance that you can't field a team for a specific game, please notify the manager of the opposing team as soon as possible. If at any time *during a game* you cannot place nine players on the field, it is a forfeit. If you choose to play without the required 9 players, it is a *practice game only*.