

# **CRANSTON NATIONAL BUDLONG LITTLE LEAGUE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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1. The Cranston National Budlong Little League (CNBLL) will be governed by the applicable LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INCORPORATED'S OFFICIAL REGULATIONS AND PLAYING RULES in effect each year. The CNBLL's minor league divisions shall adopt such other or additional rules as permitted under applicable LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL INCORPORATED minor league rules and regulations, as deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors of CNBLL.
2. CNBLL's geographic boundaries will be those set forth by LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INCORPORATED'S District One administration as of January 1, 1997, and as amended thereafter by District One from time to time. Exceptions to these geographic boundaries will be governed by the exceptions recognized and set forth in LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INCORPORATED'S OFFICIAL REGULATIONS.
3. Age eligibility to play in CNBLL is governed by LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INCORPORATED'S OFFICIAL REGULATIONS. No child who reaches the age of seventeen years before May 1 of the given playing year shall be eligible to play. Players who have reached their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday before May 1 of the given playing year shall be eligible to play in the Tee Ball Division. Players who have reached their sixth birthday but who have not reached their twelfth birthday before May 1 of the given playing year shall be eligible to play in the Minors divisions (A, AA, AAA). Players who have reached their ninth birthday but who have not reached their thirteenth birthday before May 1 of the given playing year shall be eligible to play in the Major Division. Geographic and age-eligible children of both genders are eligible to play in all Divisions. For girls Fast-pitch Softball, girls who have reached their thirteenth birthday but who have not reached their seventeenth birthday before January 1 of the given playing year shall be eligible to play in the Senior Division. Girls who have reached their ninth birthday but who have not reached their thirteenth birthday before January 1 of the given playing year shall be eligible to play in the Major Division. Girls who have reached their seventh birthday but who have not reached their thirteenth birthday before January 1 of the given playing year shall be eligible to play in the Minor Division.
4. CNBLL has a non-discrimination policy of affording equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of CNBLL's activities and functions, including, but not limited to players, coaches, managers, umpires and league officials. This policy is and shall be that all participants in CNBLL will be afforded an equal opportunity to participate without regard to race, color, gender, and religion and/or ethnic origin.
5. The Team Manager and the Coaches
  - (a). Each team in each of CNBLL's Divisions shall have a Manager, who shall be in charge of that team, and a coaching staff. Only three adults per team will be

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allowed on the field, other than the umpire(s). The CNBLL President and the applicable Division Coordinator, subject to the approval of the CNBLL Executive Board shall select managers in each Division each year. A Manager can be removed by majority vote of the CNBLL Executive Board at any time for just cause. There shall be an annual review and renewal process performed on each Manager and each coach by the President and applicable Division Coordinator. This review process shall be completed no later than by the September meeting immediately following the completed season. Managers who notify the CNBLL President that they do not wish to return as a manager or coach the following year need not be reviewed.

(b). The Manager's first and foremost responsibility is for the safety of the children on his or her team, as well as the safety of other children participating on the field of play in the presence of his or her team.

(c). The Manager shall supervise all activities of the children and coaches assigned to his or her team at all times.

(d). There shall be no inappropriate physical contact allowed or tolerated between players, between the Manager and any player, and between any coaches and players. It shall be the duty of the Manager to enforce this rule.

(e). There shall be no verbal abuse allowed or tolerated between players, between the Manager and any player, and between any coaches and players. It shall be the duty of the Manager to enforce this rule. Verbal abuse includes, but is not limited to, vulgarity, name-calling, belittling, or any other demeaning verbal comment addressed to any team member, opposing player, umpire, opposing coach or opposing manager. Managers are encouraged to take appropriate disciplinary actions consistent with these prohibitions. In fact, appropriate discipline is not only permitted, but is encouraged (i.e. benching and/or 1 game suspension).

(f). There shall be no alcohol, tobacco, or drugs used within or immediately adjacent to the confines of the playing field by any coaches, managers, umpires or league officials.

(g). The following shall be the complaint process by which a formal complaint will be addressed by the CNBLL when filed, in writing, by any parent, manager, coach, umpire or league official against any manager or coach. Before the beginning of each season, a pool of arbitrators will be appointed by the CNBLL Executive Board. Two (2) arbitrators from each of the CNBLL's Divisions (Majors, AAA, A, Tee Ball and Softball) will be chosen from the pool. When a formal, written complaint is filed with the Division Coordinator or CNBLL President, three (3) arbitrators will be selected from the pool who are not participants in the Division where the manager or coach who is the subject of the complaint is assigned. This three-member panel will be selected by the CNBLL President or the President's designee to hear the particular

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complaint. The manager or coach who has had the complaint filed against him or her shall have a right to a hearing before the three arbitrators selected. The decision on the complaint will be made by majority vote of the three arbitrators, and their decision shall be final.

(h). Managers shall be at least twenty-one years of age, and shall be of good moral character. Each manager should have some formal first aid training from a recognized and competent first aid instructor and have completed a coaching clinic.

(i). Coaches will be selected each year by the team Manager, subject to review by the Division Coordinator, and shall be appointed by the CNBLL President, subject to the approval of the Board. Each coach serves at the discretion of the Manager. A coach has a right to a hearing following the filing of a formal, written complaint by a parent, umpire, league official or opposing coach or manager, but shall not have a right to a hearing following a termination decision by the Manager or by CNBLL's Executive Board.

## **6. The Game**

In all Divisions, Little League approved equipment will be used. All bats must be little league approved in the Major and Minor Divisions. Facemasks (cages) will be used on all batting helmets as approved by the safety officer in all Divisions. No metal spikes shall be allowed.

(a). Major League Division. **LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INCORPORATED'S OFFICIAL REGULATIONS AND PLAYING RULES** apply and govern.

- Exception "fake" bunting followed by a swing on the pitch is to be called out by the umpire.

(b). Rules Applicable to the AAA Division: - **LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL INCORPORATED'S** Minor League game Rules and Regulations shall apply. In addition, the following also apply:

The game shall consist of six (6) innings and four (4) innings shall constitute a complete game.

- A tie game will stand as a regulation game. If the two and one-half hour curfew allows it, one or more extra innings may be played to break a tie. At the end of the season, all teams will be given 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and no points for a loss. These points will determine the final division standings of the teams. If teams are tied after determining point totals, the ties shall be broken by results of (1) head to head competition during the season, and (2) fewest runs allowed in head to head competition.

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- Weeknight games will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will end following completion of the last inning to begin before 8:00 p.m. No new inning will begin after 8:00 p.m. On weekend games, no new inning will begin after two and one half-hours following the start of the game. A rain delay shall be 15 minutes. Before the game, if, in the judgment of the safety officer, or division coordinator, or of the two managers, poor field conditions render a game unplayable, the game shall be called and rescheduled at a future date. If a game is suspended after it begins, but before it is completed, the score will revert back to the last complete inning played. In that case, that will be the final score of the game, and the game will be considered complete. If, however, if the game is suspended, at a point before a completed game could be accomplished by this method, then the game will be resumed at a later date, at the exact point where the game was suspended and will continue until the six full innings are played or until the curfew or further suspension rule becomes operational.
- There will be a continuous batting order. (All players will bat.) If a batter misses a turn because of illness or injury, the next batter will bat. If the player returns, he or she will bat in their assigned spot.
- There will be no intentional walks.
- There are no balks.
- A base runner may not leave the base once the pitcher has possession of the ball and is in contact with the pitcher's rubber. The runner may not leave the base until the pitched ball has reached the batter. Infractions of this rule should be handled by a warning to the offending team. Following a warning, any repeated occurrence by that same runner in that same game shall call for the base runner being called out.
- Defensively, each player shall play in at least half of the defensive innings played in each game, subject only to appropriate disciplinary action imposed by the Manager and communicated to the opposing Manager in the presence of the umpire. No player should sit out two consecutive defensive innings in a game.
- There are free and unlimited substitutions throughout the game, subject only to any pitching or catching limitations applicable to the particular division.
- If a player arrives late they should be placed at the end of the batting order.
- Two adult coaches, or one coach and the Manager, shall be positioned in the first base and third base coaches boxes during their team's offensive half innings, only if there is an adult in the dugout. No players should be allowed in the coach's boxes during games absent unusual circumstances, and then, only with a batter helmet with facemask (cage).
- Bunting is allowed, but "fake" bunting followed by a swing on the pitch is to be called out by the umpire.
- There will be a 5 run limit in each inning, except for the last inning, which will have no limit.
- Stealing of all bases is allowed, as is advancing on passed balls or wild pitches.  
**Runners may advance only one base on passed balls, wild pitches and stolen bases regardless of the outcome of the play (i.e. overthrow, etc.)**

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- A third trip to the mound during an inning by a coach or Manager while the same player is pitching requires the removal of that pitcher.
- A twelve-year-old player shall not be allowed to pitch.
  
- **Little League pitch count rules shall apply by age (pgs. 33-34 of LL rule book). Each team is responsible for own pitch count.**

(c.) AA Division rules

1. Certain rules have been amended to promote the game on an INSTRUCTIONAL LEVEL. All modifications or changes have been noted under these rules.
  
2. A manager shall be assigned to each team by the Executive Board. The manager shall nominate two coaches to work with him/her during the season to the Executive Board for its' approval.
  
3. THE GAME:
  - The game will consist of six(6) innings and three(3) shall constitute a complete game.
  - Any inning after the third full inning must be completed in full or the score shall revert back to the prior completed inning regardless of lead changes.
  - A tie game will stand as a regulation game.
  - Weeknight games will begin at 5:30pm and end no later than **7:30pm or exactly two hours from the actual start time of the game (i.e. 5:45-7:45)**
  - No Sunday game will begin prior to 12:00pm.
  - Any game starting at other times will be subject to the same **two-hour** curfew rule.
  - Any game cancellation must be first decided by both managers and then reported to the AA Division Coordinator for rescheduling.
  - A rain delay shall be 15 minutes. If the game is called, it is a regulation game if:
    - three innings are completed.
    - if the home team has scored more runs in two or two and a fraction half innings than the visiting team has scored in three completed half innings.
    - if the home team scores one or more runs in its half of the third inning to tie the score.
    - If the game is called before it has become a regulation game, the managers shall declare "no game" and the game will be played over entirely.
  
  - A team may score no more than three(3) runs in a half inning. If three(3) runs have been scored and a batter drives in additional runs, they will be in the box score. This rule shall not be in force in the sixth inning.
  - There is **NO** base advancement on a passed ball in this division.
  - There is only a one(1) base on an overthrow out of play.

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- There will be no automatic forfeiture of games. All games must be played on the field.

## 4. THE PITCHER:

- A pitcher is **limited to Little League pitch count rules. Additionally, players 8 years old and younger will have a 60-pitch maximum with required rest in accordance with other age group maximum pitch counts.**
- There is no limit to the number of pitchers that may be used in a game.
- **A manager may talk to his pitcher at any time without being forced to remove the pitcher.**
- There are no balks. However, verbal instruction shall be given to the pitcher to continue his/her motion to the plate once it begins.
- **Coaches should use discretion on whether or not a pitcher needs to be a foot or two in front of the rubber. Pitchers who don't need the assistance of moving up should pitch from the rubber.**
- **If a pitcher walks three batters in the same hitting or hits two batters in the same inning, the coach or the umpire (which is a coach) will pitch the remainder of the inning. This a speed-up rule to encourage balls being in hit in play and to limit pitching changes during the inning while also limiting the pitch count. The pitcher will stay at the mound to field the position and is still eligible to pitch the following inning if pitch count rules allow.**

## 5. THE BATTER:

- The batting order shall consist of every player on the team that is playing in the game. Continuous batting cannot change during the game.
  - Pinch-hitting or pinch-running is allowed in case of injury or illness. If a pinch-hitter is needed, the next person in the batting order shall bat and assume the count, if any, of the injured batter.
  - Bunting is not allowed. Showing a bunt and then attempting to swing away is strictly prohibited. The umpire will issue a warning to both teams and the next time it happens, it will be an automatic out for the offending team.
  - Intentional walks are not allowed.
  - If a batter is stepping out of the box as the pitch is thrown, the umpire will call a strike if the ball is catchable and the umpire will tell the player why it is a strike.
6. Stealing is **illegal. Runners may not advance on pass balls/wild pitches. This will leave force outs in tact and allow defensive players to work on recording such outs.**

## 7. THE PLAYERS:

- There are free substitutions of players in the field.
- A player removed from the game shall be allowed to return at any time.

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- Players will not sit for two(2) consecutive innings while the team is on the field.
- A catcher shall not be allowed to catch more than three(3) innings per game. A catcher may not catch in extra innings after having caught his/her allowable three innings.

8. Wins and loses will be recorded, but no standings kept and not trophies will be awarded based on team records. EVERY PLAYER RECEIVES A TROPHY.

(d.) A Ball /Instructional and Tee Ball Division Rules.

1. Continuous batting order.
2. Free substitution.
3. Batter, runners and 1<sup>st</sup> base are to wear helmets with facemask (cage).
4. No scoring and no team standings.
5. Inning limits, curfews and other rules as determined by respective division coordinator.

(e.) Minor league softball – 1,2 and 5 above apply

7. Minimum number of players per team shall be determined on a yearly basis depending upon registrations and other factors, as the CNBLL Executive Board deems appropriate.
8. The Draft.

Following the determination of the minimum number of players per team in each division, a draft shall be held under the direction of the player agent for the Major Division, and under the director of the player agent for the AAA.

(a) – Major League Division Draft.

In all rounds of the draft, the teams shall draft in the reverse order of their final standing of the previous year as determined by the playoffs. (Example: With a 4-team division, the fourth place finisher drafts first, the third place finisher drafts second, the second place finisher drafts third, and the first place finisher drafts last subject only to the number of open roster spots on each team.) The winner of the playoff drafts fourth, the runner-up in the playoff drafts third, the team that finished with the best record of the two remaining teams drafts second, and the team that finished with the worst record drafts first.

(b) AAA Division Selection

- Tryouts are mandatory for all age-eligible (8-12) players who are not returning to a major league team.
- All players will be returned to a player pool.
- The Managers draw numbers to determine who will select the first player. In a five-team league, the manager who draws number one makes the following player

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selections: 1<sup>st</sup> choice, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, etc.; The manager who draws number two makes the 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, etc.; The manager who draws number three, 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, etc.; The manager who draws number four, 4<sup>th</sup> choice, 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, etc.; The manager who draws number five, 5<sup>th</sup> choice, 6<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, etc., until selections are completed.

- The AAA Division selection process shall take place only after the Major League Division draft has been completed. The AA Division selection process shall take place after AAA is completed. All remaining 12, 11, 10 and 9 year old players will be selected and assigned to a Minor Division teams, absent special circumstances (on an individual player basis only) to be determined by the Executive Board. After the number of 12, 11 and 10 year old players eligible for selection in the AAA Division is determined, and the number of players each team will have on its roster is determined, the player agent will announce how many 9 year old players may be selected in the AAA Division selection process. All remaining 9-year-old players will be assigned to AA along with all 8-year-old players.

(c.) AA Division selection process is the same as AAA except that amount of 7-year-old players needed will be predetermined. Once that number is announced, 7-year-old players may be selected in any round until the predetermined number of 7-year-old players is met.

- The sons and daughters of the team Manager shall be assigned to his or her team automatically in the fifth round **or in a round assigned by division coordinator after consulting with division coaches. The coordinator's ruling is final.**
- The same process will be followed for siblings wishing to play on the same team. Siblings shall be assigned to the same team wherever possible, subject to age and ability to participate in the same division.

## 9. Major League Division – Determination of Season Champion.

The determination of the season champion shall be determined by playoffs at the conclusion of the regular season. Seedings shall be determined by regular season standings. Ties shall be broken by the following criteria: head to head record, least runs allowed overall, coin flip. The format of the playoffs are as follows:

One game series: 4<sup>th</sup> place team (visitor) vs. 1<sup>st</sup> place team (home)  
One game series: 3<sup>rd</sup> place team (visitor) vs. 2<sup>nd</sup> place team (home)  
Winners advance to Best of 3 series  
Three game series: Lower seed (visitor) vs. Higher seed (home)  
Higher seed (visitor) vs. Lower seed (home)  
Lower seed (visitor) vs. Higher seed (home)

## 10. All-star Manager Selection Criteria – Major League Only.

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- Beginning with the 2009 season, the manager of the team with the best record at the conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the regular season will have his choice of the 11/12 All Star team, the 11 year old Tournament Team, or the 9/10 Tournament Team. The second place manager will have his choice of the remaining two teams and the third place manager will have the option to take the remaining team. If the first, second, or third place manager is not willing or unable to manage a post-season team, the team shall be offered to the manager of the fourth place team. If a manager for any of the teams is still not found the decision shall go to the Executive Board. If there are ties in the standings at the conclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the regular season, they shall be broken by the following criteria: head to head record, least runs allowed overall, coin flip.

## **11. Movement of Players and Returning Players**

- LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INCORPORATED'S Official Regulations on this subject shall apply. A player drafted by a Major League team will not be allowed to play in a lower division absent extraordinary circumstances to be determined on an individual basis by the Executive Board.
- In the Major League Division and Minor League Division an age-eligible player who has not been drafted by an upper division team, shall return to the player pool. All returning players shall be allowed to re-enter the division draft. See LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL INCORPORATED'S Rules.
- When a team's roster is diminished to a point where the Division Coordinator and Player Agent agree that one or more players should be added to the team's roster following, for example one, or more players being ejected from a team for disciplinary reasons, by players quitting, by injury, illness, or other reason for unavailability, then the next best age-eligible player(s) from the next lower division shall be added to the depleted team's roster. The player or players selected to move up shall be selected by agreement of the two Player Agents.

## **12. Late Registrations**

- For Major League and AAA Divisions, players who do not register at CNBLL's regularly scheduled registrations or try-outs, shall be ineligible to participate absent a vote by the Executive Board to be made only under unusual circumstances. In that case, the player, if allowed to participate, will be assigned to a team by agreement of the two Division Player Agents.

## **13. All Star Team Selection – Major League Only**

- A meeting of the managers and the CNBLL President is set up at a time and place determined by the CNBLL Major League Player Agent. The Player Agent will conduct and preside over the meeting. Each manager will bring with him or her; a list of the 14 players he or she has determined is the best 14 players in the Division.

Starting with the 2009 season, all major division players shall be offered the opportunity to cast a ballot for their selections for the 11/12 All-Star Team. All

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ballots will be counted and the results forwarded to the major league managers prior to their selections being made. The player ballots shall be non-binding, but will allow the opportunity for the players to voice their opinion on who should be voted to the All-Star Team.

- Round 1 – Any player selected on all managers’ list makes the team.
- Round 2 – Any player who is selected on three of the four manager’s lists makes the team if there are enough unfilled slots available on the team to accommodate each player who has made three lists. If there are not enough slots available to accommodate each player who has made three lists, then the managers shall cast ballots in a second round of voting for only those players that received three votes. If there is still a tie following this tiebreaker, then the All-star Manager selects who will fill the unfilled slot(s) from the remaining players who have made three lists.
- Round 3 – Any player who is selected on two of the four manager’s lists makes the team if there are enough unfilled slots available on the team to accommodate each player who has made two lists following Rounds 1 and 2. If there are not enough slots available to accommodate each player who has made two lists, and then ties will be broken as follows. If there is still a tie following this tiebreaker, then the All-star Manager selects who will fill the unfilled slot(s) from the remaining players who have made two lists.
- Round 4 – Any player who is selected on one of the four manager’s lists makes the team if there are enough unfilled slots available on the team to accommodate each player who has made one list following Rounds 1, 2 and 3. If there are not enough slots available to accommodate each player who has made one list, then ties will be broken as follows. If there is still a tie following this tiebreaker, then the All-star Manager selects who will fill the unfilled slot(s) from the remaining players who have made one list.
- Round 5 – If after the above four Rounds there are still unfilled slots, then the All-star Manager selects the final players from the team.

## **14. Tournament Team Selection – 11 year old Major League Only**

The voting shall take place the same as the 11/12 year old All-Star team selection. Except where 12 year old is listed, it shall be replaced by 11 year old.

## **15. Tournament Team Selection – 9-10 yr. old Major League Only**

The voting shall take place the same as the All-star team selection. Except where 12 year old is listed, it shall be replaced by 10 year old and eleven-year-old is replaced 9 year old.

## **16. Rainouts**

Rained out games shall be made up the next available Saturday. Rescheduled game take precedent over practice.

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