



Nov. 1, 2007

Dear Little League Volunteer:

Recently, we provided you with a reminder about one of the agenda items at the 24th Little League International Congress in Houston earlier this year, regarding the stipulation that all league age 12-year-olds must be placed onto a Major Division team.

Once again, it is important to remember that this item was placed on the agenda after a significant number of District Administrators recommended it. The agenda items were provided to local league volunteers more than three months before the Congress, so that they could let their District Administrators know how they wanted them to vote.

At the Congress in April, 68 percent of the District Administrators voted for this change. (A District Administrator is a volunteer elected by the local leagues in each district.)

The new Regulation V. (a) reads:

“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 Little League Major Division team, or to a Junior League 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.”

It also is important to remember, for those 12-year-olds who may lack the skills to play at the Major Division level, there is a process for allowing them to play in the Minor Division, provided certain conditions are met.

Recently, questions have been asked about putting this new regulation into effect. We have listed the answers [here](#).

Another issue is this: For leagues that traditionally place a large number of 12-year-olds in the Minor Division, how will they accommodate the extra 12-year-olds who must now be moved up to the Major Division?

First, such leagues are doing a disservice to the children of the community, since they are pre-determining the number of 12-year-olds who are capable of playing in the Major Division, without even giving them a chance to prove themselves in a tryout!

Second, the answer is to expand the number of Major Division teams, which gives more children a chance to compete and excel at a higher level (and to be eligible for selection

to the Major Division All-Star Team). The TOTAL number of teams in the local league will not change, since those 12-year-olds who are “moving up” would have been on Minor teams anyway.

A league that expands its Major Division solely because of this new regulation, and goes beyond 10 teams in the Majors, is NOT automatically required to field two All-Star teams. If factors such as the total population in the league boundaries, competing programs, the size of other leagues in the district, etc., are such that a split is not required, the league (by action of the Charter Committee in Williamsport) would be able to continue fielding one All-Star team.

A new form has been developed for local leagues wishing to place a 12-year-old in the Minor Division. The form is simple to fill out, and should help expedite these requests. It can be found at this link: [http://www.littleleague.org/media/12yroid\\_waiver.pdf](http://www.littleleague.org/media/12yroid_waiver.pdf).

As always, thank you again for your service to the children and families of your community.

Sincerely,  
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