Mission Statement

Through the Game of Baseball Healdsburg Little League will strive to teach All Participants the Value of Fundamental Skill Development, Positive Thinking, Good Sportsmanship, Teamwork, and Self-Respect.

Our Athletes: Play to have fun. Always try their best. Are not afraid to make mistakes. Develop a positive attitude for learning. Have self-respect and are respectful of others. Always win and lose with class and good sportsmanship.

Our Volunteers: Know communication is key, are open, honest, and civil. Provide a safe supportive environment for kids. Offer a fair learning/playing experience. Are properly trained and supported. Know improvement is winning. Are positive role models. Always care.

1. The City of Healdsburg has a No Dog (Section 21113) Policy on Healdsburg Unified School District grounds, which includes A, AA, AAA and 50/70 Fields at H.E.S. and the Junior and Senior field at H.H.S. The City also has a No Dog Sign posted at Rec Park. League officials are required to politely ask any offender to remove their dogs from the grounds to comply with this policy and to avoid any risk of injury to players or pet messes to their playing surface.

2. Smoking, all tobacco products and e-cigarettes are prohibited at any Little League function and facility when players are present.

3. No Bike Riding or Skateboarding is allowed on the cement area around the HLL Building on H.E.S. Property during HLL events.

4. A Managers and Coaching Staff Appointment Committee made up of a minimum of two of the following positions: Player Agent, Player and Coaching Coordinator, Umpire-In-Chief and the League President shall interview applicants including volunteers who managed or coached in previous seasons. The objective of the interview is to set expectations up-front, describe the duties, solicit ideas on how the league can better support team managers and coaches, list available training materials for coaches, training opportunities from PCA and hired baseball skill instructors including how to run a practice. During these interviews the Committee will assess character, leadership skills, baseball knowledge and experience. The decision to accept an applicant to fill a manager or coaching position shall be made on the Committee’s judgment as to the candidate’s ability to work within the framework of our culture. The League President is responsible to present formal Appointments to the BOD for their majority vote approval of each individual appointment.

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5. HLL has a zero tolerance policy with ALL participants regarding argumentative and/or negative comments toward Umpires. Offenses by a member of a coaching staff or a league official shall require a Grievance Hearing and be subject to game(s) suspensions or dismissal from the program for the remainder of the season or operating year as seen fit by the Grievance Board and majority vote of the Board of Directors. Spectators violating this bylaw shall be reminded such behavior is not how-we-do-things-here. If the individual does not immediately refrain, a Board Member shall escort the offender off the facility. If no Board Member is present the umpire crew has authority to put teams in their respective dugout until the offender stops the behavior or leaves the facility.

6. Team volunteers and players are expected to water, rake, and chalk between games on Saturdays to enhance performance and pride in our fields. Players are further expected to contribute to the post game care and maintenance of fields and for cleaning their respective dugouts of all garbage and team and individual gear and equipment.

7. The Single A (A) Division will be machine-pitch, but Practices will be used to teach pitching fundamentals for the purpose of development, with the option when both managers agree to allow player pitch for up to two innings during the final two games of the season. It is the responsibility of the two Managers to ensure play flows reasonably well as compared to machine pitch and the game time limit is adhered to. IMPORTANT INSURANCE NOTICE: Players MAY NOT be allowed to pitch from less than 46 feet without an approved waiver from WRLL. A tee will be incorporated during player pitch in lieu of a walk. After four balls as called by the “pitching” coach, Single A Guidelines attached as Supplement 2 to these Bylaws.

8. Preseason clinics, including scrimmage games will be used for player assessment (tryouts) and are also considered a part of our training program for volunteer managers and coaches. The league will use this forum to CONFIDENTIALLY rate the athletes for player selection at the division drafts with the objective of achieving team parity in each division of play for the enjoyment and benefit of the players, parents, coaches and spectators.

9. Players are encouraged to attend all assessment sessions. By Little League Regulation IV (f) any player attending less than 50% of the player assessments (tryouts) shall forfeit league eligibility unless an excuse is presented which is accepted by a majority of the BOD. The player is then required to be placed on an AA division team, which may include a waiting list subject to selection onto a team on an as available basis. Note: An acceptable alternative is to arrange a one-on-one assessment for the player(s) supervised by a Player Agent and at least one Board Member using standard Player Assessment rating no less than 48 hours prior to the beginning of the draft.

10. Player Little League Age Eligibility by Division:
   a. 06-08 A Division
   b. 09-11 AA Division
   c. 10-12 AAA Division
   d. 11-13 Intermediate (50/70) Division
   e. 12-14 Juniors Division (per Reg. IV No league may force a 12 year old to play Juniors)
   f. 14-16 Seniors Division

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In A & AA Divisions, play is considered Instructional. As in all other divisions a maximum of three (3) coaches shall be permitted in the dugout at this level of play. Additional parent/coaches with league background checks may be employed at practices. Games may continue with less than 9 eligible players. AA Scorebooks are kept for training purposes and general player statistics and to monitor position rotations on defense and overall playing time. Standings are not maintained for any division below Intermediate.

11. The Board shall use Little League Player Selection System Alternate Method Plan B on an annual basis for AA Division and up. Division A rosters shall be formed cooperatively between division managers led by the division Player Agent and subject to the oversight and approval of the BOD. The Manager’s son(s) or daughter(s) will be placed in the draft round according to that player’s assessment rating or ranking assigned by the Player Agent from the tryout process and displayed with all other eligible players in the draft prior to the first pick. At the conclusion of the original placements and after the Managers have been assigned a team, the Player Agent will consider any requested trades of players by mutual consent of the two Managers. These transactions will be supervised closely to retain team parity, fairness and adherence to the HLL Fair Play and positive youth sports culture.

12. A Manager may NOT assign any member to his/her coaching staff until teams are formed and approved by the presiding members of the Board the day/night of the Draft. No player shall be restricted in any way during the Draft based on a manager wanting or expecting to enlist the player’s parent, guardian, or other relation or association as a coach. ALL Coaches MUST have their background checks on file with the league and are subject to Board approval PRIOR to the team’s first practice or team meeting or any event that involves the players of an assigned team.

13. In accordance with Replacements section in the Little League Operating Manual, a AA League Player (B) may take the roster spot of a AAA League Player (A) after missing five consecutive games during the regular season. The AAA team manager shall inform the league Player Agent within one day of a player missing their fifth consecutive regular season game. Upon his/her return, Player (A) shall be processed through one of the following:

   a. The AA division unless said player is LL 12 or a returning AAA player (played previous season in AAA) in which case he/she is not eligible to play in the AA Division
   b. The Intermediate division
   c. Placed on an AAA Division waiting list.

While on the waiting list, Player (A) shall have priority to be placed on a roster before an AA division player. Refusal of an AA League Player to comply shall result in forfeiture of further eligibility in the AAA Division for the current season. No AA League Player shall be drafted to replace an AAA League Player during the last two weeks of the regular season schedule. (Ref; Little League Reg. IIIa, all teams must carry the same number of players on the roster within each division of play).

14. All managers and coaching staff required to attend and participate in Player Agent and board directed “Fair-Play” feedback session(s) where scorekeeping and game plan sheet data is shared and discussed.
along with player evaluations, in an open forum with the end-in-mind of fostering overall program compliance and enhancement to our Fair Play Initiatives and culture, and to share best coaching practices to benefit players on all division teams.

15. Managers and their coaching staffs are required to maintain, as part of our Fair Play Initiative, Fair and Equal playing time at a variety of desired positions for each active player on the roster. Playing time shall be based on a player’s attitude, effort, and attendance. The harder a player tries regardless of ability the more playing time above the LL mandatory play rules they can expect to receive. The Player Agents shall monitor playing time and address non-compliances to the HLL culture with the manager and involve the BOD as needed. Repeat offenders not making appropriate adjustments to the satisfaction of the league shall be brought in front of the Grievance Board for a hearing and be subject to disciplinary action.

16. The Manager may use their discretion to sit a player(s) for arriving too late (after the fourth inning) to games to meet mandatory play or for disciplinary reasons. The Player Agent must be informed in writing preferably before the game action is taken but no later than before the next game or practice for disciplinary actions, or repeated occurrences of players arriving late or missing practices and games.

17. When a player misses more than seven continuous days of participation for an illness or injury, a physician or other accredited medical provider must give written permission for a return to full baseball activity.

18. A player pool may be used in AA, AAA, Intermediate, Junior, and Senior (when more than one team exists) as an alternate method of operation to fill shortages of eligible players during regular season and Internal HLL TOC games. The Player Agent shall only assign the next pool player to a team which has LESS THAN Nine (9) players available for the game. The only exception for this rule is at the Junior/Senior level where a waiver is in place to allow 1 pool player when a team has 9 of its own players available.

19. Unless otherwise provided by the league, the home team shall provide the official Scorekeeper. This individual shall position themselves as near as physically possible behind the backstop and within view and hearing of the plate umpires calls and instructions. The scorekeeper shall NOT converse or in any way provide information to one team without also making this information available to the other team as directed and supervised by the UIC of that game. The scorekeeper shall NOT inform either team of a Batting Out of Order condition. (An appeal play). The Managers shall communicate all substitutions and position changes through the UIC who is responsible to ensure the official scorekeeper is informed and otherwise aware of all such changes. For Fair Play positional changes, Managers shall submit and league will retain, a separate list for the game so not to slow play between innings for the Scorekeepers to annotate any changes and include in the official book.

20. Regular Season Game Count and Schedules:

a. A, AA and AAA Division teams are scheduled to play 12-22 regular season games in 2015. A best effort will be made to make up any rainout or suspended games to complete the schedule on or before May 29.
b. Intermediate, Junior/Senior Division game counts for 2015 are subject to inter-league schedule approval, but shall not be less than twelve games PLAYED to qualify for post-season play.

21. School and community functions such as Band Concerts, Field Trips, Sixth Grade Camp, HFFCF, and some wine industry events and like activities involving multiple players and/or adult volunteers are considered just reason to request a game reschedule. The Player Agent must be contacted to consider and arrange for the reschedule or use of the player pool option as he/she feels is in the best interest of the participants involved.

22. AA and AAA Team placement into the Internal TOC brackets is a random computer selection process and not determined by regular season standings, win/lose records or the Board of Directors.

23. No inning may start after 10:20 pm at Recreation Park and 9:55 pm at Healdsburg High School due to the City of Healdsburg Lighting curfew of 10:45 pm and 10:30 pm respectively.

24. No inning may start after 1 hour and 45 minutes for A and AA League games. This bylaw is waived for Internal AA TOC games.

25. Coaching staffs in all divisions shall maintain Pitching Affidavits on all their players who take the mound in games. Managers are required to follow the LL pitch count limits and rest requirements at all times. Regardless of pitch count, in the AA Division no player shall pitch more than nine (9) consecutive outs per game. The BOD feels this stipulation will result in more players having an opportunity to pitch at this level and further into their LL careers. Official scorekeepers and/or specific pitch count scorekeepers shall record an on-going count of pitches by inning and inform the UIC when a pitcher is approaching the game limit. Managers are also expected to track pitches from the dugout.

26. Protecting Youth Baseball Pitching Arms; According to multiple studies sponsored by Little League International, pitching to fatigue on one or multiple teams is MORE detrimental to the short and long term health of the pitching arm than throwing “breaking balls”. In order to succeed in competition, while protecting the long term health of the pitcher’s arm, HLL believes our coaching resources should focus on teaching good mechanics and distribute pitching innings to as many players on the roster strong enough to reach the plate and who are capable to defending themselves from the mound. Coaches should emphasize an accurate fastball and then learn to vary speed and location of pitches. HLL discourages pitcher’s throwing breaking pitches other than with a natural motion and movement, until playing in the Intermediate Division and above. If in the judgment of the league, AA and AAA coaches who do not take an active role in mitigating non-conformance by individual players on their team shall be subject to a grievance hearing for disciplinary action up to and including game(s) suspension and or dismissal for the season.

Notice 1: For purposes of this bylaw HLL defines a breaking ball to include any of the following pitches; Curve Ball, Splitter, Slider, Screw Ball. Circle Change and Knuckleball are NOT considered Breaking Balls and ARE therefore allowed at AAA and below. These are not recommended considering they are likely not able to be consistently thrown for strikes by players of this age and strength.
Notice 2: HLL has selected the Intermediate Division verse a specific age to introduce and allow use of breaking balls based on a smaller and more controlled player and coaching base at this division of play. We feel proper mechanics of the breaking ball is safer coached at this level. Parents and players who decide not to learn and throw breaking balls should inform their team manager accordingly.

27. By LL Regulation (IVi) every player on the roster who is present at the start of the game will participate in each game for a minimum of six defense outs and bat at least one (1) time. HLL Encourages Managers to distribute playing time equally over the course of each game, week and the entire season. Player(s) arriving late may be inserted into the end of the batting order. Batting order spots of ill or injured players shall be skipped with no penalty (per Rule 4.04 Note 2). A player may return to his/her place in the batting order after missing a turn(s) at bat without penalty. The player who made the last out may run for an injured or ill player on the bases. Under Rule 4.04 players shall NOT sit two consecutive innings.

28. HLL adopts the five run rule per inning for Divisions A & AA per Rule 5.07. HLL elects NOT to adopt the open last inning option in 5.07. If an inning ends because of the 5 run rule defensive players will be credited with 3 defensive outs toward minimum play provided said player was on defense for the entire period (shortened inning).

29. At H.E.S. the only players permitted in the dugout extensions while the game is in play are the on-deck batter and batter in the hole who is allowed to retrieve the bat on the field from the previous batter once play has concluded, and one catcher putting on or taking off their gear. No player is allowed to handle a bat in the dugout or enclosed areas considered part of the dugout. The umpires therefore shall allow the next batter time to take 1 or 2 preparatory warm-ups swings near the batter’s box before taking their turn at bat. See Mark West Youth LL Memo of Understanding or 50/70 Interleague bylaws.

30. In concert with the Instructional nature of AA and to establish an effective balance between offensive and defensive opportunity and maintaining parity in play for the first half of the season while coaches work to establish a level of competency with this age group we stipulate the following play restrictions:

a. No advancement to home plate on passed balls and wild pitches.

b. No runner may advance on muffed throws from the catcher to the pitcher between pitches.

c. No Batter Runner in continuous play may advance past first base on a base on ball (walk).

d. Runners may only attempt a steal of second base on pitches that are caught or blocked (ball in front or side verse behind) by the catcher.

e. Restrictions a-d end on games played on and after the week of April 20th, 2015.

f. Any runner, at the risk of being put out, may attempt to advance on a play made by any player including the pitcher and catcher on the batter runner or any other runner up to the time the pitcher returns with the ball to the mound.

31. HLL shall adopt the mercy rule 4.10e, in the AAA Division, if after 4 innings, three, and one half innings, if the home team is ahead, a team has lead of ten (10) or more, see the Interleague bylaws for the current season.
32. For AA and AAA, Intermediate Divisions at H.E.S. the fence lines on the front of the dugouts constitutes the out of play lines extending down the right field and left field lines on both fields. Any ball entering into tree branches extending into play shall be ruled a dead ball.

33. The fence line extending past and behind the first base dugout at Recreation Park shall be the out of play boundary down the first base line. The face of the first base dugout is in play. The face of the third base dugout extended out to the outfield fence shall be the out of play boundary on the third base line. Passed balls and wild pitches and throws are susceptible to traveling out of play in front of the gate leading onto the field of play adjacent to the third base dugout including rebounds from the backstop. Out of play areas shall be marked in chalk at both ends of each dugout to allow gear to be stored and to protect players from moving into areas where drains and other utilities are located. Players shall not be allowed to sit or stand in the area behind the home dugout - players must be in the home dugout same as the visiting team in their dugout, which does not have a standing area behind that dugout. This is a Safety measure.

34. AA, AAA, Intermediate, Junior and Senior divisions may participate in interleague play and be governed by additional interleague bylaws approved by the participating leagues, and provided to the District ADA with the Interleague Application.

35. The Grievance Committee is chaired by the Player Agent Officer and may include Division Player Agents, and the League President on an as needed basis. A quorum of NO less than three is required to hear a case. Members of this Committee shall be excused to avoid any team, player, manager, or coach conflict of interests. The President or other designee Officer shall take the chair when the named Chairperson is unavailable or excused.

36. Board of Director Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month (except August) in the E & M Electric Conference Room at 126 Mill Street in Healdsburg, CA. Meetings normally begin at 6:30 pm (7:45 pm during the season).

37. Players and coaches at all levels of play are permitted to eat sunflower seeds and chew gum during the regular season at HLL home games. Teams participating in Interleague games at away locations are subject to local rules at those facilities. Note; District 35 considers seeds and gum “food” under the No food in the Dugout regulation and therefore prohibit these items during post season play within District 35.

38. During Games and Practices, at a MINIMUM ALL male players MUST wear a protective cup and female players a Jill Pad or protective cup regardless of the positions they play. During practices, players are REQUIRED to also wear Mask w/throat guard, Shin Guards and Chest Protectors when catching bullpens on the side or game mound. Note: HLL encourages players to wear full catchers gear whenever practical and certainly whenever catching full sessions of a bullpen and whenever a player feels unsafe catching without full gear.

39. For a team to withdraw from any regular season game(s) or tournament they MUST have prior approval from the Board of Directors. The team shall submit a written request to their Player Agent no less than 7 days prior to the (first) game, explaining their reasoning not to participate. Working with the Player Agent and coaching staff the BOD will make every attempt to mitigate the concerns and maximize the benefit for
the players on this team’s roster.

40. For AA Division regular season games, the UIC working with the Umpire Scheduler shall assign the Plate Umpire ONLY. The default for Base Umpires shall be a parent (preferably trained) from the home team. The responsibility for securing a Base Umpire for AA games lies with the home team Manager. It is strongly suggested the Manager delegate this task early on to the team parent to recruit volunteers and forward the Parent Umpire Training Dates for all parents to attend. AA games shall NOT begin until a parent volunteer has taken the field to serve as the Base Umpire working under the direction of the UIC - Plate Umpire. NOTE: There will be games when the UIC - Plate Umpire elects to work a AA game solo or with a Junior Umpire partner in training. For these games, the home team parent volunteer Base Umpire is excused from service.

Cindy Beth
2015 League Co-President

Maya Missakian
2015 League Co-President

cc: Manager’s Handbook
    BOD
    Player Agents
    D35