



Bellevue National Little League

Bylaws

Little League Charter Number: #447 09 03

Updated: February 2024

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1 Local Rules Overview

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Bellevue National Little League (hereinafter referred to as BELLNAT) shall be officially governed by the rules and regulations described below for each season:

1. The Official Regulations and Playing Rules for all Divisions of Little League Baseball and Official Regulations and Playing Rules for all Divisions of Little League Softball.
2. The Operating Manual of Little League Baseball and Softball.
3. District 9 Administrator's Official Interpretations and Rules.
4. BELLNAT League Constitution.
5. BELLNAT Local League Rules for Baseball and Softball.

BELLNAT shall not institute any rules or policies at any time that conflict with the rules and regulations outlined in any of the approved publications listed above.

Inquiries, questions and/ or complaints by members, players, managers, and/ or coaches should be submitted, in writing, to the appropriate Player Agent for their respective Division of Play. The Player Agent shall then be responsible for reporting the matter to the appropriate BELLNAT Vice President and/ or President. The BELLNAT Board of Directors, as well as the District Administrator (or the responsible Assistant District Administrator) for District 9 shall be contacted, as necessary, after the appropriate Player Agent and League Officers have been notified and have been given a reasonable timeframe to resolve the inquiry to the satisfaction of all parties involved. A reasonable time frame shall be considered forty-eight (48) hours or less.

Disputes, by any party, taken directly to Little League headquarters in Williamsport, VA or to the Western Regional Center in San Bernardino, CA shall automatically be referred back to the District Administrator for District 9, and in turn back to the BELLNAT President.

2 Player Administration

2.1 Player Registration

All players must be properly registered with BELLNAT prior to the start of the season. Registrations for Tee Ball, and Undrafted Divisions of Baseball and Softball shall open, online only, approximately the first week of November and run through to approximately the second week of March. Registrations for Drafted-Divisions of Baseball and Softball shall open, online only, approximately the first week of November and shall run through to approximately the first week of February. Registration requests received after closing dates will be subject to available capacity for additional players.

Drafted-Division players, who register after evaluations have been completed for their designated Division of Play, but prior to the commencement of the spring season may be placed on a waiting list; where waiting list applicants may or may not be assigned to a team on an as-available basis. BELLNAT makes every effort to accommodate late applications; however, registration numbers at a particular division of play may prohibit some applicants from being accepted. In such cases where multiple late applications are placed on a waiting list for the same division of play, BELLNAT shall assign applicants according to the calendar order in which their registrations were received. Should a late applicant refuse the assigned opportunity, they will be removed from the waiting list and the next applicant shall be assigned accordingly.

All required paperwork, including but not limited to registration form, medical release form, proof of residency, proof of age, and/or other required documents must be completed and signed by the player's parent(s) and/or legal guardian and be submitted to BELLNAT prior to any registered player being able to take part in any BELLNAT practices and/or games.

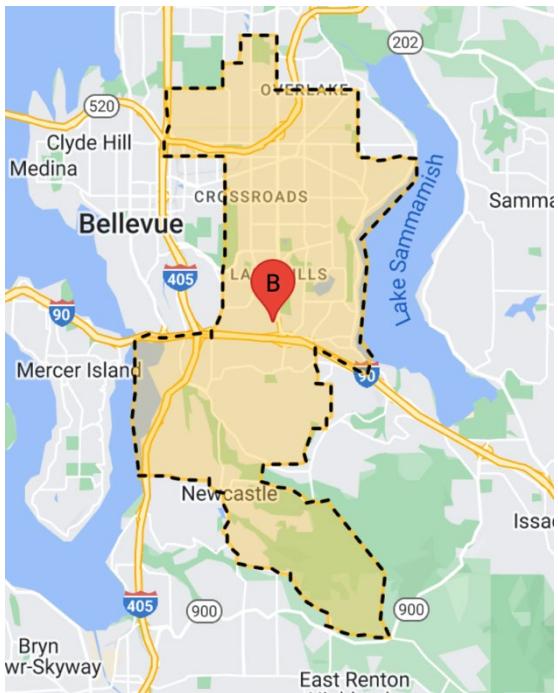
2.2 Player Scholarships

Each year, BELLNAT offers scholarships to players whose families may be experiencing financial hardship. To apply for a scholarship, members can download the scholarship application available on the BELLNAT website (www.bellevuenational.com), or apply for a scholarship by contacting the BELLNAT Registrar at registrar@bellevuenational.com.

Scholarship applications must meet minimum demonstrated requirements, such as participation in the Bellevue School Board Free and/or Reduced Lunch Program.

2.3 League Boundary

To register with BELLNAT for any tee ball, baseball and/or softball programs, players must live within, or attend a school within, the approved BELLNAT boundary, as marked on the included map.



Limited Exceptions may be granted for players residing outside the established BELLNAT boundary due to special circumstances, however such exceptions require the express written approval of District 9 and Little League International.

If a member is unsure whether their home address and/ or school falls within the established BELLNAT boundary, they may visit the official Little League or America website at <https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/league-finder/> to determine their approved local league.

Note: League boundary rules are specified in Official Regulations and Playing Rules – Rule Book for baseball and/ or Rule Book for softball.

The written description of BELLNAT's boundary as of the 2023 season is:

- i. **South Boundary** – SW Corner is Lake Washington & SE 68th St. From SE 68th St. go East to Newcastle Way. On Newcastle Way go SE to Coal Creek Parkway. Go South on Coal Creek Parkway to May Valley Road. Go East on May Valley Road to 181st Ave SE.
- ii. **West Boundary** – NW Corner is I405 and NE 40th St. Go South along 405 until NE 20th St. and then draw a straight line East until it intersects with Northup way and just East of 132nd Ave NE. Go South to NE 8th Street and continue through Glendale Country Club Golf Course, across Lake Hills Connector and West of Bannerwood Park until it hits Richards Road. Continue South on Richards Rd to I-90. Go West to Lake Washington. Go South along Lake Washington to SE 68th St. Go East along Newcastle Way. Go East on Newcastle Way to Coal Creek Parkway SE.
- iii. **East Boundary** – NE Corner is NE 40th St & 172nd Ave NE. Go South on 172nd Ave NE to Just above NE 19th Pl and Go East to Lake Washington. Go South along Lake Washington down to The West Side of SE 40th PL and go South to I-90. Go West on I-90 to the old Thunderbird Line at approximately 160th Ave SE and Go South to SE 44th Way and Go East. Go East on SE 44th Way to 164th Ave SE and Go South. Go South on 164th Ave SE to Lakemont Blvd. Go West to the middle of the gully and go SW along the greenbelt edge South to SE 63rd St. Go SW to the intersection of 155th Ave SE and SE 63rd St. Go West across Forest Dr. to the East boundary of the greenbelt and go South to 133rd Ave SE and go East. Go East and slightly South in between the golf course and the green belt to Lakemont Blvd SE. Go East to the East Side of Red Town Creek Trail. Go SE to approximately 144th Ave SE and 182nd Ave SE. Go South to 110th and then go SE to May Valley Rd and St Route 900.
- iv. **North Boundary** – NW Corner is I405 and NE 40th St. Go East on NE 40th to 132nd, North on 132nd to NE 50th St. Go East on NE 50th to 137th Ave NE. Go North along 137th Ave NE to NE 60th. Go East on NE 60th to 148th Ave NE. Go South on 148th Ave NE to NE 40th St. Go East on NE 40th St to 172nd Ave NE.

2.4 League Age and Proof of Player Eligibility

Player eligibility is established by the then current location of the player's primary residence, and/ or the school where the player is currently registered, and by his or her "league age." Regulations and guidelines for establishing and authenticating player eligibility and league age are documented in the Official Regulations and Playing Rules for Little League Baseball and Softball.

A player's League Age is calculated as follows:

- **Baseball:** A player's league age is the age that the player has attained on August 31 of the current year (that is, the August of the current season year). For example, for the 2024 season, a player's league age would be determined by their actual age on August 31, 2024.
- **Softball:** A player's league age is the age that the player has attained on December 31 of the previous year (that is, the December prior to the then current season). For example, for the 2024 season, a player's league age would be determined by their actual age on December 31, 2023.
- **Tee Ball:** BELLNAT will use the League Age rule for **Baseball** to determine a player's league age in the Tee Ball division.

Little League provides an online League Age Determination calculator at:

<https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/determine-league-age/>

2.5 Provisions for the Release of a Player

BELLNAT reserves the right to release a player at any time during a season for just cause. The following may be considered as acceptable conditions of just cause for a player's release:

1. Extreme health issues and/ or injury.
2. Excessive and/ or repeated disciplinary issues.
3. Safety to the player, and/ or players around him/ her.
4. Poor attendance at practices and/ or games (less than 50% attendance).
5. Failure of player and/ or parent(s) and/ or legal guardians to obey local and/ or State laws.

When a team Manager experiences one or more of these causes with a player, the Manager must provide the player, the player's parent(s) and/ or legal guardians, and the Player Agent with a formal warning, describing the issue(s) in detail. The Player Agent shall then direct the matter to the appropriate Board member or Board committee for an official determination of action to be taken.

A player who is released by BELLNAT, for just cause, may not return to play for a BELLNAT team for the remainder of the season of which they were released.

2.6 Permanent Replacement of Player - Baseball and Softball

In the event that a team permanently loses a player, or players, over the course of the season, BELLNAT shall adhere to the guidelines defined in the Little League Official Regulations and Player Rules (Rule Book for baseball, or Rule Book for softball) for the promotion of replacement players.

In such cases, the BELLNAT Player Agent for the division of the affected team shall manage all aspects of replacement player selection and assignment in accordance with these guidelines.

2.7 Loaner Player Pool

Following team selections, the BELLNAT Board of Directors may elect to establish a Loaner Pool of players, for one and/ or multiple Divisions of Play, for the purpose of providing temporary substitute players for teams that

are unable to field a full roster for a specific game.

Note: The loaner player pool is effective for single games only, where temporary replacement players are used. The guidelines for the permanent replacement of players is defined in section 3.6.

1. The Loaner Pool shall be administered by the Player Agent for the applicable Division(s) of Play.
 - (i) The Player Agent shall maintain a Loaner Pool of registered players who have volunteered (managers/ coaches gather names during initial week(s) of season) to play as a replacement player if/ as needed.
 - (ii) The roster of Loaner Pool players shall be organized in a way that the Player Agent can move from player to player in a pre-established order; so as to randomize the selection process and prevent the selection of replacement players based on player quality. Whether the Loaner Pool is structured alphabetically, by order in which the players volunteered, or by some other arbitrary order is up to the Player Agent.
 - (iii) Loaner Pool players for the Minors division can play up a level (e.g., AA can play AAA) only within the Minors Division.
 - (iv) Loaner Pool players for Major division teams must be active Majors division players. No Minors division Loaner Pool players may play up to a Majors division team.
 - (v) When need arises for a Loaner player, the team manager shall advise the appropriate Player Agent and the manager of the opposing team. In turn, once a Loaner Pool player is selected, the Player Agent shall notify the managers of both teams with the player's name and age.
2. The Loaner Pool is in effect for regular season games only.
3. Loaner Pool players must play nine consecutive outs and have at least one at-bat per game. This is stipulated by both the Rule Book for baseball, and Rule Book for softball.
4. Loaner Pool players may not pitch.
5. Loaner Pool players in the Minors Division cannot be assigned to a game on a day when the team they are permanently on roster for is scheduled to play. Specifically, Loaner Pool players cannot play two games in a single day, nor can they skip a scheduled game with their permanent team in order to play as a Loaner Pool player. This rule is not in effect for Majors division Loaner Pool players.

2.8 Medical Reinstatement

Any player, who misses more than seven (7) calendar days of the regular season, due to illness or injury, must provide a written medical release from their physician or accredited medical provider stating the reason why the player experienced the absence, and confirmation that the player may return to the active roster of a team for practices and/ or games.

2.9 Refund Policy

If a player withdraws from the BELLNAT program, refunds will be administered as follows:

- Withdrawal prior to player evaluations – 100% refund of registration, less \$25 administrative fee.
- Withdrawal after player evaluations – 50% refund of registration, less a \$25 administrative fee.
- Withdrawal after draft and team assignment – No refund of registration.

Any requests for registration refunds must be submitted by members to the BELLNAT Registrar using the official BELLNAT Refund Request Form (available online on the BELLNAT website), or by contacting the Registrar directly in writing. The BELLNAT Registrar shall make a determination on the level of refund and whether to apply any administrative fees, and work with the BELLNAT Treasurer if/ as necessary to complete the refund process.

Refund(s) for player withdrawal due to unforeseen circumstance (for example, due to injury or relocation) will

be considered by the BELLNAT Board on a case-by-case basis. All refunds will be issued by June 1st in the form of a refund to the credit or debit card used to register the player.

Any requests for registration refunds must be submitted by the Registrar to the Treasurer on the Refund Form or through an e-mail request to registrar@bellevuenational.com.

2.10 Player Evaluations

Each year BELLNAT conducts in-depth player evaluations for the drafted levels of baseball and softball, typically players that are league age 8 and older, to ensure proper placement of each player within the most appropriate Division of Play, while attempting to achieve competitive parity across teams within the same Division. Players are evaluated for batting, throwing, catching, fielding, and running skills. Pitcher and catcher-specific evaluations may be held in addition to the general skills evaluations.

All registered players of the league ages required to be evaluated will be notified via email of the date(s), time(s) and location(s) of their evaluations with at least ten (10) days advance notice.

All registered players for the drafted levels of baseball and softball (including younger players desiring to play drafted levels) must attend an evaluation before they can be assigned to a Division of Play and/ or a team.

Players unable to attend the primary league evaluations event may not be placed within a Division, or on a team unless 1) they attend the pre-scheduled makeup evaluation(s), 2) they contact BELLNAT to arrange a private evaluation, or 3) they make arrangements with the appropriate Player Agent for their projected Division of Play to bypass evaluations due to illness and/ or injury.

Players not attending the evaluation may not be placed on a team unless an excuse is presented which is accepted by the Player Agent. Such players may be placed on the waiting list.

At the conclusion of the playing season, coaches should provide player ratings and feedback on each player on their team. These ratings may inform the selection process during team formation the following season. The coach may provide a recommendation to advance or not advance a given player to the next level. Coach evaluations shall begin with players from the AA Division who will advance to AAA the subsequent season.

The BELLNAT Player Evaluations Guidelines are defined within Addendum A of this document.

2.11 Team Selection Process

The selection of teams, for each season, shall be based on the league age of a player, and the ability of a player as determined through the BELLNAT evaluations process. BELLNAT makes every attempt to ensure that all players who register on or prior to the date of team selection(s) are placed on a team. However, changes may be required following team selection(s), at the discretion of the Player Agent.

Parents may submit a formal request to the appropriate Player Agent to petition for siblings to play on the same team. BELLNAT shall make every effort to accommodate such requests, subject to terms and conditions defined in the Level of Play policy.

The BELLNAT Team Selection/ draft process is defined within Addendum B of this document.

2.12 Player Trades

Trading of players previously assigned to a team will not be allowed except under exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Player Agent and Division VP, as well as written approval of the League President.

2.13 All-Star Tournament Team Selection Process

The BELLNAT All-Star Tournament Team Selection process is defined within Addendum C of this document.

2.14 Confidentiality of Player Information

BELLNAT maintains strict policy specific to the confidentiality of player information with respect to evaluation scores, player rankings, division and team placements, and selection committee voting for any All-Star Tournament team(s). Players, their parents and/ or legal guardians shall, under no circumstance, be made privy to any of the above confidential information. The unauthorized dissemination of any such information by a BELLNAT Board Member, evaluator, manager or coach may result in the immediate suspension and/ or dismissal of the offending party from the league.

2.15 Baseball Divisions

BELLNAT offers Little League Baseball programs across eight (8) age Divisions, as outlined in the following table. In addition to Senior, Junior, Intermediate, and Majors Divisions of Play, BELLNAT provides five (5) Minor and/ or instructional Divisions of Play; Coast, AAA, Double A, Single A, and Tee Ball.

Note: All drafted-level players, age eight (8) and up, who register for baseball will be evaluated and assigned to a division of play based on age and ability. BELLNAT makes every effort to achieve competitive parity across all teams within the same division.

Table: BELLNAT Baseball Divisions

Division of Play	League Age	Notes & Description
Seniors Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 - 16 years of age. A 14-year-old can petition to play Seniors Division, but must attend 15-year-old player evaluations. All players who register for the Seniors Division will be evaluated and assigned based on age and ability; then assigned to a team based on competitive balance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players use a conventional 90-foot diamond with a pitching distance of 60 feet, 6 inches. Teams interlock with other District 9 Seniors teams for regular season play. Post-season District and State All-Star Tournaments.
Juniors Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 years of age. A 13-year-old can petition to play Juniors Division, but must attend 14-year-old player evaluations. All players who register for Juniors Division will be evaluated and assigned based on age and ability; then assigned to a team based on competitive parity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players use a conventional 80 or 90-foot diamond. Teams interlock with other District 9 Juniors teams for regular season play. Includes Junior Championship Tournament and post-season District and State All-Star Tournaments. Players must play at least 8 regular season league games to qualify for All-Stars tournament.
Intermediate Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Players use a 70 foot diamond.

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Division of Play	League Age	Notes & Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 12-year-old can petition to play Juniors Division, but must attend 13-year-old player evaluations. • All players who register for Intermediate Division will be evaluated and assigned based on age and ability; then assigned to a team based on competitive parity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams interlock with other District 9 Intermediate teams for regular season play. • Includes intermediate Championship Tournament and post-season District and State All-Star Tournaments. • Players must play at least 8 regular season league games to qualify for All-Stars tournament.
Majors Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 - 12 years of age. • A 10-year-old can petition to play Majors division, but must attend Majors player evaluations. • 12-year-olds must play Majors Division. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player pitch; 2 to 3 games per week. • End of season league tournament. • End of season Bellevue City tournament. • Post season District and State All-Star tournaments for 8/9/10, 9/10/11, and Majors (depending on League Age and team selection); Regional tournament and LL World Series. • Players must play at least 8 regular season league games to qualify for All-Stars tournament.
Minors Division - Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 - 11 years of age. • A 9-year-old can petition to play Coast Division, but must attend evaluations. • All 10-year-olds will play Coast unless a parent petitions the Player Agent to “play down” to AAA. Assignment to AAA requires BELLNAT Board approval and is granted based on safety considerations, school grade and space availability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player pitch; 2 to 3 games per week. • End of season league tournament (double elimination). • End of season Bellevue City Tournament (double elimination) • Post season District and State All-Star tournaments for 8/9/10, 9/10/11, and Majors (depending on League Age and team selection). • Players must play at least 8 regular season league games to qualify for All-Stars tournament.
Minors Division – AAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 years of age. • A 7 or 8-year-old may petition to play up to AAA Division, but must attend evaluations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player pitch; 2 games per week. • End of season league tournament. • End of season Bellevue City Tournament.
Minors Division – AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7-8 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach/ mechanical machine pitch; 2 games per week.

Division of Play	League Age	Notes & Description
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of season league tournament.
Minors Division – A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-7 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach/ mechanical machine pitch; 2 games per week. • End of season league tournament.
Tee ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 - 6 years of age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Combined practice/ game one day per week (Saturdays). Practice/ game format subject to change. • Team assignment based on friend/ schoolmate requests and/ or buddy system.

2.16 Softball Divisions

BELLNAT offers Little League Softball programs across seven (7) age Divisions, as outlined in the chart below. In addition to Senior, Junior, and Majors Divisions of Play, BELLNAT provides five (5) Minor and/ or instructional Divisions of play; Coast, AAA, Double A, Single A, and Tee Ball.

Note: All drafted-level players, age eight (8) and up, who register for softball will be evaluated and assigned to a Division of Play based on age and ability. BELLNAT makes every effort to achieve competitive parity across all teams within the same Division. Note: A player's "league age" for softball is determined by the player's age on December 31st prior to the current season.

Table: BELLNAT Softball Divisions

Division	League Age	Notes & Description
Seniors Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 - 16 years of age. • A 14-year-old can petition to play up to Seniors Division. • Players must attend evaluations if scheduled. • Team assignments are based on skill evaluations and creative competitive parity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player pitch; 2 games per week. • Interlock with other D9 leagues for regular and post season play. • Stealing, bunting and sliding allowed. • Pitch from 43 feet and use a 12-inch softball. • Game scores are kept, but no league standings. • End of season Bellevue City Tournament.
Juniors Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 – 14 years of age. • A 12-year-old can petition to play up to Juniors Division. • Players must attend evaluations if scheduled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Player pitch; 2 games per week. • Interlock with other D9 leagues for regular and post season play. • Stealing, bunting and sliding allowed.

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Division	League Age	Notes & Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team assignments are based on skill evaluations and creative competitive parity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pitch from 43 feet and use a 12-inch softball. Game scores are kept, but no league standings. Post-season District and State All-Star tournaments. Regional Tournament and the Junior League Softball World Series. Players must play in 8 regular season league games to be eligible for All-Stars.
Majors Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 - 12 years of age. A 10-year-old can petition to play up to Majors Division. Players must attend evaluations. Team assignments are based on skill evaluations and creative competitive parity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Player pitch; 2-3 games per week. Interlock with other D9 leagues for regular and post season play. Stealing, bunting and sliding allowed. Pitch from 40 feet and use a 12-inch softball. Game scores are kept. Post-season District and State All-Star tournaments for 8/9/10, 9/10/11, and Majors (depending on League Age and team selection) Players must play in 8 regular season league games to be eligible for All-Stars.
Minors Division - Coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 - 11-year-olds. A 9-year-old can petition to play up to the Coast division. Players must attend evaluations. Team assignments are based on skill evaluations and creative competitive parity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Player pitch; 2-3 games per week. Standard “walk” and “strike out” rules apply. Bunting and sliding are permitted. Game scores are kept. Pitch from 35 feet and use an 11-inch softball. Interlock with other D9 leagues for regular and post season play. Post-season District and State All-Star tournaments for 8/9/10, 9/10/11, and Majors (depending on League Age and team selection) Players must play in 8 regular season league games to be eligible for All-Stars.

Division	League Age	Notes & Description
Minors Division -AAA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9-year-olds. A 7 & 8-year-olds can petition to play up to the AAA Division. Players must attend evaluations. Team assignments are based on skill evaluations and creative competitive parity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 games per week. Coach/ Player Pitch. Players pitch until count reaches either 3 strikes or 4 balls. At ball four, that batter's coach takes over but keeps the player's count. Unlimited balls, but the umpire continues calling strikes. Girls will pitch from 30 feet and use a safety softball. Interlock with other D9 leagues for regular season play. 4 run limit/inning, but unlimited runs in the 6th inning. 3 strikes/out, or 10 pitches. 3 outs retires the side. Team assignment by the buddy system (as space permits). Parents register for a division based on age and preference, and players may request a specified friend.
Minors Division - Single-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7–8-year-olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 games per week. Coach pitch.
Minors Division - Double-A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6–7-year-olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 games per week. Coach pitch.
Coed Tee Ball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4–6-year-olds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Combined practice/ game one day per week (Saturdays). Practice/ game format subject to change. Team assignment based on friend/ schoolmate requests and/ or buddy system.

2.17 Policy for the Use of Waivered Composite Bats

Updated February 15, 2018

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/bat-rules/>

Beginning with the 2018 season, non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior League divisions, and Challenger division shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat – USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard. All BPF – 1.15 bats will be prohibited beginning with the 2018 season. Additionally, starting in 2018, the bat diameter shall not

exceed 2½ inches for these divisions of play. **Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard may also be used in the Intermediate (50-70) Division, Junior, and Senior League divisions.** Additional information is available at LittleLeague.org/batinfo.

This policy does not apply to Little League Softball.

Accordingly, BELLNAT has instituted the following policies and procedures to audit bat usage as follows:

- Baseball Divisions Double-A, AAA, Coast, Majors, Juniors and Seniors:
 - Managers, coaches and players shall have all bats and helmets lined up outside the team dugout 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of a game. The umpire shall remove all prohibited helmets and/ or bats, including all composite bats, from the dugout, where removed helmets and/ or bats shall be prohibited for use during the game.
 - A composite bat that has been removed from play may be reinstated at such time that the manager, coach or player provides written documentation that the bat has received a waiver from Little League International. A printed list of waivered bats, provided by Little League International, is an acceptable form of documentation.
 - The umpire's determination of the suitability of helmets and/ or bats for use in a game is final.
- Baseball Division Single-A:
 - Manager and coaches are responsible for ensuring that all helmets and bats in use by any player are legal for use in all respects.

3 Managers and Coaches

3.1 Managers / Coaches Eligibility & Commitment

As a condition of service, all managers and coaches must annually complete and submit an official “Little League Volunteer Application” to BELLNAT. Annual background screenings shall be completed prior to the applicant assuming his/ her duties as manager and/ or coach for the then current season. Refusal and/ or failure to submit a fully completed volunteer application will result in the immediate dismissal of the individual from the BELLNAT program.

All BELLNAT managers and/ or coaches and/ or assistant coaches are, at a minimum, required to attend at least one (1) District 9 and/ or BELLNAT sanctioned coaching clinic, and one (1) BELLNAT safety/ first aid clinic.

New as of 2014/ 2015, all manager and coaching candidates are required to attend and participate in at least thirty percent (30%) of BELLNAT winter clinics and training sessions. Exceptions may be granted by the BELLNAT Board of Directors as needed to fulfill vacant manager and/ or coaching positions, and/ or to accommodate new candidates (e.g., new coach recently relocated to the BELLNAT boundary).

3.2 Required Forms

Managers must collect and retain (for the entire season) fully completed forms from all players, as required by Little League and/ or the BELLNAT Board of Directors.

The following forms are required:

- The official “Little League Baseball and Softball Medical Release,” signed by a parent and/or legal guardian, for each player on his/her roster before the player is allowed to participate in any practices or games. Managers, or their designees, must retain such forms for the full duration of the season, including any post-season tournaments, and have them available at each practice and/ or game.
- Each manager and/ or coach must review and accept, via signature, the BELLNAT Coaches Code of Conduct, and must carry this agreement with them throughout the season.
- A Copy of the BELLNAT League Managers and Coaches Curriculum Handbook, signed by manager and/ or coaches, to signify that is has been read and fully understood and agreed to.

3.3 Volunteer Management

All managers and/ or coaches must ensure that any adult volunteer assisting their team has been approved by the BELLNAT Board of Directors. A complete list of approved volunteers shall be made available on the BELLNAT website. Only approved volunteers may assist with any BELLNAT sponsored event or activity including camps, practices and/ or games. Managers, coaches and/ or assistant coaches who fail to verify the approval status of any volunteer, and who subsequently permit unapproved volunteers to assist in any way, will be suspended for a minimum of 2 games and/ or practices. Repeated offenses may result in longer term suspension and/ or termination from the league.

- Managers must ensure that any adult volunteer has completed and submitted to BELLNAT a “Little League Volunteer Application.” A completed Volunteer Application must be obtained from every person who will be in the dugout, who will assist in coaching, or who will otherwise have repetitive access to or contact with players, before permitting such person to have contact with players. As of the 2023 season, Volunteer Applications are submitted through an online process initiated on the BELLNAT website registration page.
- All volunteers must complete any training currently required by Little League International for their

applicable role, for example Diamond Leaders training for managers and coaches, or Little League Abuse Awareness Training.

Managers, within the first week of each season, are required to conduct a parent meeting to go over information related to the upcoming season, review rules, set team expectations, and to recruit volunteers. A volunteer signup sheet will be included with each coaching packet provided by BELLNAT. Each team is required to maintain, at a minimum, two (2) to three (3) active and approved volunteers through the season to assist the team with events, activities and functions such as umpiring and scorekeeping.

3.4 Commitment

Managers and coaches must attend coaching development and umpire training sessions and league meetings when requested, participate in BELLNAT functions (e.g., Player Evaluations, Opening Day/ League Day Ceremonies, fundraising, work parties, picture day, etc.) and be willing and able to spend the time necessary with the team at practices and games.

3.5 Rules and Regulations

Managers and coaches must familiarize themselves with and abide by the Official Regulations and Playing Rules set forth in the Rule Book for Baseball, and/ or the Rule Book for Softball, with BELLNAT's local league rules and policies, and with any applicable District 9 Interlock rules determined for the then current season of play.

3.6 Use of Unauthorized Players

Any BELLNAT manager, coach, assistant coach or BELLNAT Board Member who allows an unauthorized player from another regular season team to play in a tournament, play-off, league championship, or other special game, will be immediately terminated from BELLNAT. "Stacking" of teams will not be permitted under any circumstance.

A Team that is short of players may draw a player from the Loafer Player pool, as long as the approved 2015 rules and conditions for utilizing a Loafer Pool player are adhered to.

In such case where a team is unable to field the minimum number of players for a game, the Manager shall a) forfeit the game, b) postpone the game time, or c) reschedule the game accordingly.

3.7 Dugout Attendance

Little League rules state that a maximum of three (3) BELLNAT approved adults are permitted in a dugout at any one time, during any game, with the players. Typically, the manager and two (2) coaches will administer the dugout; however, in the absence of either the manager or a coach, a BELLNAT approved volunteer parent may substitute.

Managers and coaches are required to follow all dugout and on-field rules set forth in the official Little League Rule Book for baseball, and/ or Rule Book for softball.

3.8 Manager / Coach Term and Termination

All BELLNAT managers and coaches serve under year-to-year terms, without tenure. Any person interested in managing or coaching should notify the BELLNAT Board of Directors to attain information on the requirements and expectations for coaching a BELLNAT team. The BELLNAT President, along with the Vice President of baseball and/ or the Vice President of softball will review and vet candidates', presenting their recommendations to the Board for final approval.

BELLNAT managers and coaches must meet the minimum training requirements set forth by the BELLNAT Board of Directors.

Any manager or coach who intentionally or unintentionally 1) violates the rules and regulations of Little League, and/ or 2) violates the rules, regulations and character set forth by BELL, and/ or violates reasonable expectations of sportsmanship, leadership and/ or behavior may be subject to disciplinary action, suspension, and/ or termination.

4 Umpires

4.1 BELLNAT Umpire Program

BELLNAT actively administers a program to recruit, train and allocate volunteer umpires to support A, AA, AAA, Coast, Majors, Juniors and Seniors divisions of play for both baseball and softball.

The BELLNAT Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) directs and administers the BELLNAT umpire program as a member of the Board of Directors.

BELLNAT is working to improve their umpire program through enhanced recruiting, training and appreciation of volunteer umpires; both at a youth and adult level.

BELLNAT is working with local high schools, colleges and other organizations comprised of youths and young adults between the ages of 16 to 21, to determine potential participation in the league umpire program.

Additionally, BELLNAT is working to increase participation in the umpire program at the member level, holding beginner and advanced training and clinics throughout the winter and spring months; particularly while players are in attendance of BELLNAT sanctioned events.

4.2 Umpire Administration

4.2.1 Umpire-in-Chief (UIC)

The Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) shall direct and administer the BELLNAT umpire program, reporting program status regularly to the Board of Directors. The duties and responsibilities of the BELLNAT UIC shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- Annual recruiting of new and returning umpires for the forthcoming season.
- Organize and provide umpire training and clinics for new and returning umpires during the winter and spring periods.
- Manage League umpire equipment and order/ replace equipment and uniforms as needed.
- Coordinate the distribution, accounting, and recovery of League equipment.
- Ensure the selection, coordination and supervision of divisional umpire coordinators for AAA, Coast, Majors, Juniors, and Seniors baseball and softball divisions.
- Ensure the appointment of team umpire coordinators and provide guidelines for their duties and responsibilities.
- Administer the League umpire scheduling via the online Arbiter system.
- Maintain and manage communications and activities with the District 9 umpire organization.
- Attend new and innovative umpire trainings as available and implement such trainings into the BELLNAT program.
- Participate on the BELLNAT Rules & Ethics Committee to iteratively review and revise League rules and policies as necessary.

4.2.2 Divisional Umpire Coordinators (DUC)

At the option of the League each season, Divisional Umpire Coordinators (DUC) for AAA, Coast, Majors, Juniors and Seniors Baseball and Softball may be recruited, trained and managed by the UIC. Each DUC shall report directly to the BELLNAT UIC. The duties and responsibilities for each BELLNAT DUC shall include the following:

- Serve as a resource for the Team Umpires Coordinators in each division.
- Use the Arbiter system daily to check umpire assignments and schedules so as to identify and resolve

potential issues in advance.

- Create and submit to the UIC weekly reports specific to umpire-related issues.
- Create and submit to the UIC weekly reports specific to instances of inappropriate and/ or unruly behavior by managers, coaches, parents and/ or umpires.
- Provide both positive and negative feedback to umpires.
- Assist the UIC in recruiting and managing umpires as needed.

4.2.3 Team Umpire Coordinators (TUC)

Team Umpire Coordinators (TUC) are approved volunteers, recruited by individual team managers and/ or coaches to assist with ensuring teams have umpires at every game. The duties and responsibilities for each team TUC shall include the following:

- Assist manager and/ or coaches to ensure that a minimum of two (2) umpires (one plate umpire and one base umpire) are scheduled for each home game.
- Sign, as needed, any volunteer forms, school or community service forms, or other forms for umpires.
- Ensure that there is proper protective equipment available for home plate umpires, and that umpires wear proper protection as required. Umpire gear is available either via the team manager, or within the BELLNAT green box located at each home field. Each team may determine if the manager or TUC will transport and manage umpire equipment through the season.
- Communicate with DUCs, as needed, regarding any umpire-related issues that may arise.
- Create and submit to the UIC weekly reports specific to instances of inappropriate and/ or unruly behavior by managers, coaches, parents and/ or umpires.
- Provide both positive and negative feedback to umpires.

5 Members and Parents

The active involvement of BELLNAT parents and/ or legal guardians (members) is essential to the success BELLNAT as a league. Accordingly, it is critical that all members remain well informed on matters regarding their players' team(s), the league, District 9, and Little League in general.

5.1 Volunteer Opportunities

As a volunteer-administered league, BELLNAT relies significantly on the active participation of parents and/ or legal guardians each year to assist with a range of tasks, at both the team and league level. Accordingly, BELLNAT has allocated a designated role on its Board of Directors to deal specifically with the recruiting, vetting, guidance and administration of volunteers. In addition to working directly with approved volunteers, the BELLNAT Volunteers Liaison will work with managers and coaches to ensure adequate communications and organization specific to volunteers' involvement.

5.2 Mandatory Parent/ Legal Guardian Meetings

Within the first week of each season, managers for each BELLNAT team, at every Division of Play, are required to conduct a parent meeting to communicate team and league policies, expectations, activities, schedules, and other key points of information. Additionally, these meetings are to be used to gather volunteers (and volunteer forms), and recruit parents and/ or legal guardians to assist in various functions throughout the season such as umpiring and scorekeeping.

Managers and/ or coaches will receive information packets from the league to hand out to parents and/ or legal guardians, and are encouraged to take the time to readily prepare additional information pieces such as printed practice and game schedules, team rosters and contacts, field names and locations, team rules, etc.

5.3 Expectations of Parents and/or Legal Guardians

Parents, in partnership with managers, coaches, assistant coaches and board members are expected to demonstrate a level of interest, engagement and behavior to ensure the league, and each team function perform at the highest level. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Abide by schedules for practices, games and/ or events as provided by team managers and/ or coaches.
- Notify managers and/ or coaches of players' absence prior to the start of any practices and/ or games.
- Ensure the players arrive prepared and on time for all practices and/ or games. This includes wearing proper attire for practices, and uniforms for games.
- Be responsible for transporting your children to and from practices and games. This means getting the kids to the field, fully outfitted and ready to play, at the time requested by the team manager. And most importantly, you must be at the field to pick up your child at the conclusion of the game or practice. You must never cause a coach or manager to wait with your child by arriving late.
- Be accessible by phone, text message and/ or email for important notifications.
- Ensure that players have adequate liquids and/ or nutrition for each practice and/ or game.
- Assist managers and/ or coaches with any preparation of fields as needed (e.g., raking of infield, chalking of base/ foul lines, marking of pitcher's circles, etc.).
- Practice good citizenship while attending practices and/ or games. Reinforce positive performance while refraining from negative, offensive and/ or abusive language and/ or behavior.
Be a good sport. Support all umpires, managers, coaches and players. Know that verbal and/ or physical assaults on managers, coaches, umpires and/ or players will not be tolerated at any time and may result in ejection from the event.

6 SAFETY CODE

Following are the general safety rules and practices for BELLNAT for the season. To review the approved BELLNAT ASAP Safety Program in its entirety, please view the “Bellevue National Little League Safety Manual & Code of Conduct for Managers and Coaches and Players” located on the BELLNAT website.

6.1 General League Conduct & Behavioral Policies

- Profanity and/or offensive language shall not be tolerated by any manager, coach, assistant coach, umpire or player. Parents and/or guardians using profanity and/or offensive language shall be immediately asked to refrain from using such language and may be ejected from the property on repeated use.
- Alcohol shall not be permitted at any BELLNAT event, field or facility. Any individual(s) possessing alcohol shall be immediately asked to remove the alcohol from the premises and may be ejected from the property. Any manager, coach, assistant coach and/or umpire found to possess alcohol at any BELLNAT practice and/or game shall be immediately terminated.
- No uncontrolled/un-leashed pets are permitted at BELLNAT games or practices. No pets are permitted on any playing field, or within a dugout at any time. Pet owners are responsible for immediately cleaning up after pets.
- Common sense regarding safety prevails in any situation not covered in this BELLNAT Safety Code.

6.2 General Safety Rules & Practices

- At no time shall any parent, legal guardian or other member assist with any BELLNAT team or activity, unless and until the individual has completed a Little League Volunteer Application and has been approved by the BELLNAT Board of Directors for volunteer status, including the completion of a background check.
- Managers, coaches, assistant coaches, umpires and league volunteers must be familiar with, and shall help administer and enforce all Little League rules and policies (Rule Book for Baseball, Rule Book for Softball, etc.), as well as all rules and policies included within this Safety and Policies Manual for their respective teams and with all players and members, including responsibility to ensure parent volunteers have gone through the volunteer application and background check process.
- All managers, coaches, assistant coaches and umpires shall have basic training in first aid, as offered by BELLNAT during mandatory safety and training meetings.
- All managers, coaches, assistant coaches and umpires should be aware of the location of the nearest emergency and medical services facilities, in advance of any and all games and practices. A quick reference list of local clinics, hospitals and emergency centers is included in section 15.0 of this manual.
- All managers, coaches, assistant coaches and players shall observe all posted signs, placards and rules at any field and/ or facility.
- All managers, coaches and/ or assistant coaches must ensure that players' Medical Release Forms are present and available at all games and/ or practices.
- All managers, coaches and/ or assistant coaches must ensure that a first aid kit is readily available at all practices and/ or games.
- Managers, coaches and/ or assistant coaches should never provide food or drink, other than water, to any player without parent approval due to potential allergic reaction.
- All managers, coaches and/ or assistant coaches must ensure a cellular phone, with acceptable signal, is readily available at all practices and/ or games.

6.3 Spectator Safety

- Spectators shall not be permitted to enter the field of play at any time during a game.
- Spectators should be reminded, prior to the start of any practices and/ or games, to remain attentive at all times and be aware of errant balls that may leave the playing field.
- Manager, coaches and/ or assistant coaches should have a procedure established for retrieving foul balls and/ or balls batted outside of the playing field. Enlisting a team parent volunteer to safely assist with this task is recommended.

6.4 Player Safety

- At no time shall a manager, coach and/ or assistant coach leave a player unattended at any field and/ or facility.
 - If after a practice and/ or game a player's parent or legal guardian is delayed, the manager or coach should immediately contact the person(s) to enquire about whereabouts and an estimated time of arrival.
 - Managers and/ or coaches are to wait with player(s) until parent(s) and/ or legal guardian(s) has arrived for pickup.
 - For liability reasons, BELLNAT managers, coaches, assistant coaches, umpires and/ or other league representatives shall not be permitted to transport a player, other than their own child, from a practice and/ or game facility without 1) another adult party present, and/ or 2) receiving prior permission from the players' parent and/ or legal guardian.
- Players shall not play on and/ or near streets, driveways, sidewalks, vehicles, spectators, windows, industrial equipment or other hazardous situations.
- At no time should excessive or rough play be permitted by players on or off the playing field.
 - Managers, coaches and assistant coaches shall educate players, and require players to remain focused during games and practices, and to observe "smart play" during warm-up drills, practices and games.
 - Players shall warm up properly prior to practices and/ or games. Proper equipment and protection must be worn during warmups. Players must ensure adequate spacing, with enough distance between each player, during warmups and practice activities consisting of throwing, hitting, running, sliding, etc.
 - All pre-game warm-up activities for games and/ or practices shall be performed on the playing field and not within any areas occupied by spectators, passer-byers, or other non-participants.
 - No player shall swing a bat at any time outside the playing field or within the dugout. Any player holding a bat must be wearing a protective batting helmet.

6.4.1 Accessories and Jewelry

- Players who wear glasses should be encouraged to purchase "safety glasses" and use an elastic or similar safety strap.
- Players may only wear sports certified sunglasses.
- Player are not permitted to wear watches, rings, pins, earrings or other jewelry or metallic items during any games and/ or practices.

6.5 Field & Dugout Safety

6.5.1 Field Usage and Inspection

- Games, practices and/ or league-associated events shall not be held during severe weather conditions, and/ or at any field or facility that may impose a risk to safety due to current and/ or prior weather

conditions. Under no circumstances shall outside games, practices or league-associated events be held when thunder and/ or lightening are present or have been present within the thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the event.

- Managers, coaches and/ or assistant coaches are responsible for the inspection of any fields and/ or areas of play, prior to any games and/ or practices, to ensure they are acceptable for safe play. This includes examining infields and outfields for excessive water, holes, depressions, stones/ rocks, glass, bottles, tools, and/ or other objects.
- Only managers, coaches, assistant coaches, umpires and players are permitted on the playing field or within the dugout during games.
- Only managers, coaches, assistant coaches, umpires, players and authorized and approved volunteers are permitted on the playing field or within the dugout during practices.
- Only Little League approved disengage-able bases are permitted for practices and/ or games.
- All gates permitting access to and/ or from a playing field must remain closed at all times. Managers, coaches, assistant coaches, umpires and players, after entering or leaving a playing field, shall ensure gates are closed and secured to avoid injury to players and/ or attendees.
- Managers, coaches, assistant coaches and players shall ensure that all dugouts and spectator areas are clean, and free of trash at the end of each game and/ or practice. Managers and/ or coaches shall check dugouts and spectator areas after each game and/ or practice for equipment and/ or belongings that may have been left behind.
- During warm-up drills players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by wild throws or missed catches.
- All pre-game warm-ups should be performed within the confines of the playing field and not within areas that are frequented by, and thus endanger spectators (i.e., playing catch, pepper, swinging bats, etc.)

6.5.2 Player Equipment

- Manager, coaches and assistant coaches shall, at the beginning, and regularly throughout the season, inspect player equipment to ensure all equipment is Little League approved, in workable condition, is not defective, and is of proper fit. Players shall not be permitted to use equipment that is not Little League approved, or that is in need of repair and/ or replacement.
- Defective equipment that is the property of the player should be repaired and/ or replaced immediately. Managers and/ or coaches are to notify the players' parents and/ or legal guardians accordingly that equipment is defective and non-usable.
- Defective equipment that is the property of BELLNAT should be repaired and/ or replaced immediately by contacting the equipment manager of the respective division of play.
- All team and player equipment and property shall be kept within the team's dugout, or outside the playing field boundaries. At no time, unless specifically instructed by an umpire, shall team or player equipment or property be kept on the field of play.
- Players at Tee Ball and Single-A Divisions of play may wear tennis or gym shoes. Players at the Double-A Division and above for baseball and softball are required to wear rubber-molded cleats. No metal-cleat shoes shall be permitted.
- Managers, coaches, assistant coaches and players shall work to keep the floor and walkway of the dugout free and clear of any obstacles.
- All players are encouraged to wear mouth guards.
- All players are encouraged to use authorized protective cages on batting helmets.
- All male players are required to wear protective cups/supporters at all times.

6.5.3 Batting and Base Running

- All players, while at bat, must wear Little League approved protective helmets whenever active at bat and/ or within an approved on-deck area during games and/ or practices.
- Only players active on the playing field, either at bat or within the on-deck circle are permitted to swing a bat. At no time shall any player swing a bat outside the field of play, such as within walkways and/ or common areas, or within the dugout.
- Runners who are on-base must slide, and/ or attempt to avoid direct impact with a fielder who has the ball and is waiting to make a tag for the out.
- Except when a base runner is returning to a base, headfirst slides are not allowed. Runner is out, per 7.08(a)(4).

6.5.4 Pitchers and Catchers

- Pitchers shall not warm up by throwing balls against dugout and/ or against backstop fences. Catchers must be used at all times for pitching practice.
- Catchers must wear Little League approved/ certified protective catcher's helmet, mask, throat guard, long model chest protector, shin guards and protective cup with athletic supporter (male players) at all times during practices and/ or games. This applies to warm-ups and bullpen activity.
- Managers, coaches and/ or assistant coaches may not warm up pitchers at any time during a game. Only roster players, equipped with catcher's helmet, mask, and throat guard, may warm up pitchers.
- Pitch counts must be kept by managers, coaches or assistant coaches for all teams, and must be preserved for each game until the conclusion of a season.
- Pitching counts and/ or limits must be adhered to, as per Little League and/ or league rules, for the applicable level of play.

7 DISCIPLINARY POLICIES

7.1 BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee

The Executive Team of the BELLNAT Board of Directors including the President, Vice President(s) of Baseball, Vice President of Softball, UIC (also representing player agents), Vice President of Safety & Policies (safety officer), Secretary and Treasurer shall officially act as the Disciplinary Committee.

The BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee retains the right to impose any or all of the following as disciplinary actions to any manager, coach and/ or player:

- Provide written notices to individuals regarding behavior, conduct or other damaging actions, where adjustments and/ or amendments may be mandated for continued participation.
- Suspension from BELLNAT activities for a specified period of time and/ or a specified number of games and/or specific events (e.g., all-stars) and/ or from specific league positions (e.g., manager, coach, umpire, board member).
- Termination from BELLNAT, where a 2/3 majority vote has been cast by the Disciplinary Committee.

Any decision determined by the BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee may contain mandatory conditions for continued involvement with BELLNAT, and/ or mandatory remedies to ensure continued involvement and/ or reinstatement with BELLNAT.

7.2 Disciplining of player, manager, coach, umpire or member

Issues that may require disciplinary action against a player, manager, coach, umpire, board member or other BELLNAT member may be brought to the attention of BELLNAT by any person. All suggested issues shall be addressed by the BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee as follows:

- The BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee shall review suggested issues and determine adequate actions on behalf of the league if, and as necessary.
- In some cases, a formal interview/ hearing may take place with the complainant, and/ or the respondent to determine additional details. A minimum of five (5) days' notice shall be provided to the complainant and/ or the respondent, via email and/ or registered mail, and/ or telephone call, as to the date and time of the interview so to ensure adequate time to accommodate the meeting and prepare accordingly.
- Should a suggested issue directly involve a member of the BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee, that member shall be removed from any conversations, deliberations and/ or decisions regarding the matter.
- Both the League and the respondent shall retain the right to have legal counsel present and shall have the right to present evidence as needed.
- All cases shall, after presentation of all available facts, shall be debated by the BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee and, if deemed necessary, go to vote where a 2/3 majority shall rule.
- Cases where no misconduct and/ or other improper actions or behavior were determined shall be dismissed, and all parties excused from any further proceedings.
- Cases where misconduct, and / or other improper actions were determined shall be further addressed by the BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee, where one of more of the disciplinary actions defined in section 8.1 of this document may be imposed.
- The disciplinary decision of the BELLNAT Disciplinary Committee shall be final; without right to appeal. A disciplined individual may, however, submit in writing a formal request for early termination of the disciplinary sanction, include request for reinstatement in BELLNAT league activities.

- Any interim discipline and/ or suspension may be discharged by the BELLNAT League President upon written notice from the respondent of his/ her voluntary resignation.

All disciplinary decisions and actions must receive written authorization of the BELLNAT League President.

7.2.1 Immediate (Emergency) Disciplinary Action

In such cases where immediate disciplinary action is required (e.g., where the safety of a player or other individual may be at risk, violation of city, state or Federal law, blatant violation of BELLNAT, District 9 or Little League rules), the BELLNAT President shall retain authority to temporarily suspend any player, manager, coach and/ or assistant coach, umpire or volunteer on an interim basis until a formal investigation takes place by the Disciplinary Committee.

Respondents shall be notified of any temporary suspension via email, and/ or phone call, and/ or registered mail. Respondents shall retain the right to protest their suspension accordingly with the President, and/ or through the Disciplinary Committee.

Temporary suspensions made by the President may only be reversed by the Disciplinary Committee.

7.3 Disciplinary Offences

Actions that may result in the disciplining of any BELLNAT member and/ or player include, but are not limited to the following:

- Physical and/ or verbal abuse towards another party.
- Activities that could cause physical harm to individual(s).
- Consuming, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol and/ or drugs at any practice or game.
- Vandalizing, defacing, and/ or destruction of any BELLNAT property or BELLNAT leased or rented facility.
- Unauthorized entry, and/ or attempted entry to any BELLNAT facility, BELLNAT green box, or BELLNAT leased or rented facility.
- Theft of any BELLNAT and/ or BELLNAT members' property.
- Unauthorized representation of BELLNAT, its Board of Directors, and/ or its managers and/ or coaches to any third-party.
- Disrespectful behavior towards any District 9 and/ or Little League representative.
- Undisclosed criminal history/ record that may prohibit an individual from attending and/ or participating in events near children and/ or schools.

Bellevue National Little League prides itself in providing a safe environment for all players, members, parents and family members. BELLNAT board of directors, managers, coaches, assistant coaches and/ or umpires are required to report any incident considered inappropriate. As a community, we invite all members to report any incidents and/ or suspicious behavior to the BELLNAT Board of Directors.

8 Local Rules

Local Rules for BELLNAT can be found on the BELLNAT official website:

www.bellevuenational.com

9 Addendum A – BELLNAT Evaluations Guidelines

For each new season of play, BELLNAT shall hold official player evaluations for all drafted divisions of baseball and softball. A general date for primary evaluations shall be determined each year, with a minimum of one (1) alternately scheduled evaluation date to accommodate players unable to attend, and/ or delayed registrations.

Players will check in at the determined registration table at least fifteen (15) minutes prior to their scheduled evaluations start time. Players will be verified against current registration data, including payment status. Only players that have completed their BELLNAT registration process, including having made full payment, shall be permitted to participate in evaluations. (**Note:** that the league shall provide for a method for players to submit payment at the time of evaluations.)

- Each player, registered and verified for evaluations, shall be assigned an identification number, and shall be provided with a tag that indicates their assignment number to be visibly placed on their upper body. All evaluation grading shall take place by referencing the player's number only. League officials shall then, after evaluations, match player number to player name for team selection/ draft purposes.
- BELLNAT evaluations shall be conducted through independent evaluators, and shall not be conducted by BELLNAT league officials, prospective managers or prospective coaches. BELLNAT shall provide evaluators with a curriculum designed to achieve accurate evaluations of players across all primary skillsets including, but not limited to hitting, infield skills, outfield skills, throwing and running. Pitching, catching, and general aptitude may also be measured.
- Managers shall be permitted to attend and observe evaluations for their respective divisions of play and shall be permitted to take notes as preferred.
- Scoring of players, specific to each skillset, shall be conducted using a standardized rating scale (e.g., 1-5). Such rating scale shall be determined accordingly for each evaluation cycle, and shall be standardized across all evaluations for all divisions of play. Using these ratings scales for each skill, an overall "Player Ranking" shall be calculated for each player.
- Following evaluations, all data gathered through the evaluations process shall be centralized and audited by league officials, whom do not have a child playing at the Division of Play corresponding to the player data they are auditing and prepared for team selection/ draft process.

9.1 Point System

- **5** Perfect mechanics and form
- **4** Above average
- **3** Average
- **2** Needs Work
- **1** Overwhelmed

When grading players, remember it has been 6 months since some of them have played baseball. Look for form and proper mechanics. If you see one player with great mechanics and form but he misses 5 out of 10 pitches at the cage – give him a higher grade than someone who misses 5 out of 10 with bad mechanics.

9.2 Hitting station – 7 swings (not hits)

- Preparation-balance, proper stance, weight on back foot and holding bat correctly.
- Weight shift-70% of weight on back foot, hands trigger and stride begins, weight transfer to front foot.
- Transition stage – hip rotation, bottom hand driving the bat towards the ball.
- Acceleration & eyes – tracking the ball, head down, weight transfer complete and eyes on the ball.
- Contact – hitting the ball.

9.3 Infield station – 5 ground balls

- Ready position – knees bent (not waist), hands out front (not on knees)
- Charge the ball – look for shuffle and crossover steps, aggressively going after the ball.
- Square shoulders – proper fielding stance, butt down, legs bent, head up.
- Accurate throw – Elbow above shoulder, follow through, accuracy.

9.4 Outfield station – 5 pop flies

- Proper stance – knees bent, arms out front (not on knees), feet shoulder width apart.
- Footwork – drop step (no crossover step)
- Anticipation – reaching to flight of the ball, turning back towards ball and running to a spot.
- Catching the ball – using two hands to catch ball, weight moving forward.
- Throwing ball – release and accuracy of hitting cut-off man

9.5 Throwing station – 5 throws (not pitching)

- Stance – weight equally distributed, hands relaxed, body relaxed.
- Balance – head over back foot, free leg at highest point before forward movement
- Motion – smooth weight transfer
- Release – elbow above shoulder, feet ending up parallel.
- Accuracy – hitting the person catching the ball in the chest.

9.6 Running station – running 60'

- Good start and acceleration
- Run through base

10 Addendum B - BELLNAT Team Selection/ Draft Process

BELLNAT follows a standardized team selection/draft process for all drafted divisions of baseball and softball. All players are first evaluated, scored and ranked through extensive skills evaluations. Teams are then selected, on a per-Division basis (Majors > Coast > AAA), using standardized scoring and ratings determined via the evaluations process, plus any additional data Managers may have compiled on each player, such as personal evaluations notes or previous season statistics.

10.1 Manager & Coach Selection

10.1.1 Managers Selection

Volunteers interested in managing a BELLNAT team are required to submit their name for consideration and must complete and submit an official Little League Volunteer Application form for approval. A list of potential managers is submitted, by the Vice President of Baseball and/ or the Vice President of Softball, to the League President for consideration, review and approval. The President may, at his/ her discretion, canvas the Board of Directors for additional information. Managers shall be selected, vetted and assigned to a division and team prior to the scheduled date of player evaluations. Vice Presidents shall notify each Manager of their selection, assignment, and schedule.

10.1.2 Coaches Selection

Managers shall be permitted to make their coach selections only once the team selection/ draft has been completed for their designate division of play. No Manager shall pre-select a coach prior to the team selection/ draft. Volunteers who are interested in coaching will contact the appropriate Vice President; where their interest to coach shall be notated next to their child's players draft data. This will allow Managers to consider potential coaching candidates during and throughout the team selection/ draft process.

10.2 Team Selection/ Draft Criteria

10.2.1 Draft Attendance

Only Managers, the Player Agent, the League President and Vice President of Baseball and/ or Softball may attend the team selection/ draft for each division of play. Additionally, the League President shall allocate two (2) Draft Administrators (which may include themselves and/ or a Vice President) to administer, audit and validate the team selection/ draft process, in partnership with the Player Agent. Draft Administrators shall not be permitted to administer a draft for any division of play where they may have a child involved in the same team selection/ draft.

10.2.2 Evaluations & Draft Data

All data from the skill evaluations will be entered by skill and will end with a single composite numeric score (based on a special algorithm that converts running to be comparable to the other skills) for each player. Player scores will be placed in rank order from highest to lowest and separated by league age. This information is confidential and not shared with players or parents of players. Violation of confidentiality regarding evaluations and/ or team selection/ draft data may be cause for suspension, and/ or dismissal of a Manager or Board Member.

10.2.3 Ranking

- Players will be placed on lines in a serpentine order according to their league age and the rank order of their composite scores by the Player Agent and the Division VP. Player names and pitcher/catcher information, if

any, will be listed on the team formation matrix.

- 12-year-olds will be placed first in the Majors division matrix. The player with the highest composite score will be placed on Team 1; the player with the second highest composite score will be placed on Team 2; and so on until all 12-year-old players have been placed on a team.
- 11-year-olds will be placed next in the Majors division team matrix in **reverse** serpentine draft order with the highest ranked 11-year-old following the lowest ranked 12-year-old. The purpose of this process is to balance out the first round of 12-year-old players with the first round of 11-year-old players.
- Any 10-year-olds with approved petitions to play at the Majors division will be included with the 11-year-olds and placed in the matrix according to their evaluation composite score. All other 11-year-olds will be placed in the Coast division team matrix. The Coast division matrix will be laid out in a similar fashion, with the 11-year-olds placed in the matrix first, and then the 10-year-olds in reverse order. All 9-year-old players approved to play at Coast will be placed in the matrix according to their composite score and ranked with the 10-year-old players.
- Adjustments to lines and the matrix will be made based upon feedback and agreement from coaches. The output of this process will provide ranking information that can be used by managers in the draft.

10.3 Team Selection/ Draft Pool & Limitations

Draft Pools are established by the Player Agents, the Vice President of Baseball and/ or Vice President of Softball based on following guidelines: (**NOTE** that BELLNAT strongly advocates for age-appropriate play).

10.3.1 Majors Division

- 12-year-olds, unless a District waiver and evaluation has been completed.
- 11-year-olds registered for Majors Division.
- 10-year-olds with an approved “Petition to Play Up” to Majors Division
- The number of Majors teams will be determined by the league prior to the draft based on the number of 12-year olds and 11-year olds registered to play the upcoming season. As a general rule, Majors teams will be limited to 8 12-year olds; however, the league may increase this to 9 under certain player registration circumstances.
- No one team may select/ draft more than the maximum number of 12-year-olds that the league will allow on a Majors team for that season. Remaining slots on each roster may include any combination of eligible players as determined above.
- Each team shall select/ draft a maximum of twelve (12) players for baseball, and thirteen (13) players for softball. Exceptions may be exercised by the league, to exceed the above team size restrictions due to registration numbers, inter-league combinations, or other applicable circumstances.

10.3.2 Coast Division

- 12-year-olds with District waiver.
- 11-year-olds not drafted to Majors Division.
- 10-year-olds registered for Coast and/or were not drafted to Majors Division.
- 9-year-olds, with an approved “Petition to Play Up” to Coast Division.
- Team shall be required to select a pre-determined minimum and maximum number of 11-year-olds. Remaining slots on each roster may include any combination of eligible players as determined above.
- Each team shall select/ draft a maximum of twelve (12) players for baseball, and thirteen (13) players for softball. Exceptions may be granted, by the Player Agent, to exceed the above team size restrictions due to registration numbers, inter-league combinations, or other applicable circumstances

10.3.3 AAA Division

- 9-year-olds registered for AAA and/ or were not drafted to Coast Division
- 8-year-olds with an approved “Petition to Play Up” to AAA Division
- Team shall be required to select a pre-determined minimum and maximum number of 10-year-olds. Remaining slots on each roster may include any combination of eligible players as determined above.
- Each team shall select/ draft a maximum of twelve (12) players for baseball, and thirteen (13) players for softball. Exceptions may be granted, by the Player Agent, to exceed the above team size restrictions due to registration numbers, inter-league combinations, or other applicable circumstances
- Players who previously played at a Division of Play (during the prior season) may not be selected to a lower Division of Play.

10.3.4 Player Options

The BELLNAT team selection/ draft process shall include permitted Little League options to deal with specific situations including:

- **Manager’s Own Child:** Managers shall be permitted to select their own child during a selection round predetermined by the Draft Administrations and Player Agent (e.g., using Managers child evaluations scores and ranking).
- **Siblings:** Once one sibling is drafted, an option can be placed on another sibling and the Draft Administrators and Player Agent shall determine which round the manager must draft the sibling; based on their overall evaluations scores and ranking.

10.4 Draft Process

1. The Draft Administrators and/ or Player Agent shall call the team selection/ draft to order and shall authenticate attendance.
2. All available player candidates, and their corresponding draft data (evaluations scores and ranking, etc.) shall be distributed to each Manager.
3. Any player selected to an All-Star team the previous year shall be identified. Notes will be made my managers before drafting teams the identified pitchers and catchers. Further, all All-Stars from previous years will be identified and stats will be shared with managers on All Star performance.
4. The Manager, whose child received the lowest spot after ranking shall make the first player selection, followed by the Manager whose child received the second lowest evaluations scores/ ranking, and so on until a selection order has been determined to include all Managers. In such case where two (2) or more Managers children are tied with the lowest evaluations scores/ rating, the Manager to select first shall be determined by the drawing of a number from a receptacle; where the number closest or equal to the number one (1) shall make the first player selection.
5. Via a serpentine draft process, each Manager shall, in the selection order determined via the above method, make their selection.
 - Managers shall announce their selection by announcing the player name, and corresponding draft number to the Draft Administrators. Draft Administrators shall repeat the player name and draft number to the Manager for verification.
 - Managers shall have one (1) minute to make their selection each round; which will start when a Draft Administrator states that the Manager is “now on the clock.”
 - A Draft Administrator shall announce when there are thirty (30) and fifteen (15) seconds remaining respectively for each Manager selection.
 - If a Manager forsakes their selection due to exceeding the permitted time constraint, the Player Agent shall assign the player with the next higher evaluations scores/ ranking to that team.

6. The serpentine draft process shall continue until each Manager has selected twelve (12) players for baseball, or thirteen (13) players for softball, to their team. Exceptions may be granted, by the League President, to exceed the above team size restrictions due to registration numbers, inter-league combinations, or other applicable circumstances.
7. At the conclusion of the team selection process, Managers will be permitted thirty (30) minutes to consider and discuss any potential trades. Draft Administrators and Player Agent shall review all trade requests; where the Player Agent may or may not approve each trade request based on information such as player skill levels and/ or rankings, competitive equality across all teams, etc.
8. Managers, Draft Administrators and the League President shall notarize acceptance of the team selection/ draft results, via signature, on the BELLNAT team selection/ draft record prior to the team selection/ draft being announced as complete.

11 Addendum C - All Star Selections

Each year, Bellevue National Little League (BELLNAT) provides baseball players of select ages the opportunity to participate in Little League sanctioned All-Star Tournaments.

All-Star Tournaments are initially comprised of teams from leagues within the District 9 Little League boundaries, followed by State-level tournaments for the winners of District Tournaments across Washington State. State-level Tournament champions for Major, Intermediate, Junior and Senior Divisions will have the opportunity to play in the Little League World Series held in Williamsport, PA.

BELLNAT aims to field the most qualified, competitive team for each and every Division of Play for All-Star Tournaments. Accordingly, not all players interested in playing All-Stars, or who submit a Candidate Letter of Intent may be selected to a team.

BELLNAT will adhere to current Little League rules as to dates that All Star team announcements may be made and practices started.

As a general timeline reference:

- All-Star teams shall be permitted to initiate evaluations/ tryouts no earlier than May 15.
- All-Star teams shall be selected and announced no earlier than May 15.
- All-Star practices shall run from the designated start date up to the beginning of the tournament for a particular All Star division.
- All-Star tournaments shall start approximately between June 15 and July 1 for most Divisions of Play.

11.1 Player Nominee Selection

There are three sets of votes which may be considered in the selection of the All-Star player nominees for any given season. All-Star player nominees will be selected by players, managers, and coaches voting by ballot, or any combination of those 3 groups as decided on by the board for that season. The Player Agent will be responsible for providing each Manager with a ballot of players by team/division in early to mid-May. In the event that a team has more than one Assistant Coach, only one of these assistants will be designated to provide a vote. Managers and Coaches may vote for their own child and players may vote for themselves. All voting will be done by secret ballot. Managers should not be concerned about player availability at this time. The ballots will be returned to the player agent before the league-scheduled date for announcement of All Star player pools. The results of the voting process will be kept confidential.

The Player Agent will be responsible for tallying the votes. The Player Agent and Division VP will hold a meeting with the team Managers and the vote information is reviewed. Based upon the input of players, managers & coaches a roster of up to 22 player nominees is selected. This allows the manager to field a team that has a competitive balance of skills and allows the manager to select players that can fulfill the practice and game commitments. The results of the voting process will be kept confidential.

The nominated players will be notified with of their selection as an All Star, and invited to a tryout/evaluation for the appropriate age group, if one is deemed necessary for that group. Any player nominated who wishes to be considered for All-Stars must turn in a commitment letter signed by the player and parents in order to participate in the tryouts and to be considered for the All-Star Tournament team.

11.2 Player Eligibility, Qualifications and Letter of Intent

Nearing the end of each spring season, BELLNAT shall openly canvas both baseball and softball players regarding their interest and/ or intent on being considered for an All-Star team, and have each interested player sign a

BELLNAT All-Star Letter of Intent (LOI) acknowledging their interest. Only players who submitted a signed All-Star LOI, and whom meet the minimum requirements set forth by Little League International, shall be deemed eligible for All-Star team selection and registered in the BELLNAT All-Star Available Player Pool for their designate Division of Play.

In order for a player to be eligible for a BELLNAT All-Star team, they must have played in a minimum of eight (8) of their teams' regular season games. Players must have also shown exemplary skills, aptitude and attitude during the regular season, and be recognized by their peers, Managers and Coaches for their playing excellence.

Players are eligible for All-Star Tournament Play provided they meet the following BELLNAT and Little League participation requirements:

- **8-9-10-year-old Division:** Any player League Age 10, and/ or any player League Age 8 or 9 who has submitted a request for eligibility and has been approved as eligible by the League President, with amateur status, who has signed a BELLNAT All-Star LOI and who has participated as an eligible player 8 of the regular season games, for the then current season, with the exception of the school baseball season, on a:
 - Little League Baseball (Majors Division) team, or;
 - Minor League Baseball team.
- **9-10-11-year-old Division:** Any player League Age 11, and/ or any player League Age 9 or 10 who has submitted a request for eligibility and has been approved as eligible by the League President, with amateur status, who has signed a BELLNAT All-Star LOI and who has participated as an eligible player 8 of the regular season games, for the then current season, with the exception of the school baseball season, on a:
 - Little League Baseball (Majors Division) team, or;
 - Minor League Baseball team.
- **Majors Division:** Any player League Age 12, and/ or any player League Age 10 or 11 who has submitted a request for eligibility and has been approved as eligible by the League President, with amateur status, who has signed a BELLNAT All-Star LOI and who has participated as an eligible player 8 of the regular season games, for the then current season, with the exception of the school baseball season.
- **Intermediate (50-70) Division (Baseball Only):** Any player League Age 11, 12 or 13 with amateur status, who has signed a BELLNAT All-Star LOI and who has participated as an eligible player 8 of the regular season games, for the then current season, with the exception of the school baseball season.
- **Juniors Division:** Any player League Age 12, 13 or 14 with amateur status, who has signed a BELLNAT All-Star LOI and who has participated as an eligible player 8 of the regular season games, for the then current season, with the exception of the school baseball season.
- **Seniors Division:** Any player League Age 13, 14, 15 or 16 with amateur status, who has signed a BELLNAT All-Star LOI.

11.3 All Star Tryout and Selection Process

The tryout process and the format of each practice is at the discretion of the All-Star Manager, yet will generally focus on allowing the manager and coaches to judge the individual nominee's skill sets. It is important that the player nominees understand their performance during the tryout is only one factor that will be considered in the selection of the team and that the manager and coaches may consider current season long performance in a variety of areas. Such areas may include whether the player can pitch or hit at the All-Star level, whether the player is a positive role model on and off the field as a teammate, whether the player's skills contribute a needed role to the team (such as speed), and other factors.

The Manager of each All-Star Tournament Team will select a minimum of 12 players who will be placed on the Little League Affidavit for that team. There are no alternates allowed, and players that are not on the affidavit will not be told they are an alternate. Further, players who are not on the official roster will not be allowed to

join the team in practices or scrimmages under any circumstance. In certain circumstances an All Star Manager may determine that a 12-player roster is not achievable, and in such cases BELLNAT will seek a waiver from District 9 for a reduced All Star roster size.

11.4 Selection of All-Star Managers:

Any regular season Manager or Coach may be considered to be selected as All-Star Manager. The division Vice President is responsible for nominating the All-Star Team Manager after requesting input from division team Managers. The All-Star Team Manager will be able to nominate two coaches. These individuals must be named on a regular season roster as team Manager or Assistant Coach. Managers and Coaches nominated to become Managers and Coaches of All-Star teams must be approved by the board before officially taking that role.

11.5 Player Availability & Evaluation

- Only players who submitted a signed BELLNAT LOI shall be eligible for All-Star team selection.
- All-Star Manager may hold no more than two (2) All-Star evaluation tryouts to compile and determine additional player information; specifically in such case where a player played within a different Division of Play than the Manager, or where BELLNAT is combining for players with another league (particularly common with softball All-Stars).

11.6 Player All-Star Team Commitment

Each player selected to a BELLNAT All-Star Team, and their parent(s) and/ or guardian(s) must be willing to commit to the schedule as set forth by the Manager and Tournament Official(s). ***Players should expect practices to be scheduled every day between the date of team selection and the tournament starting date.***

Players are expected to attend every practice and game and shall not be excused without valid reason. Unexcused or long-term absence, as determined solely by the team Manager, may be grounds for corrective action including removal of the player from the All-Star team.

All-Star practices and tournament games may continue into July or August should a team experience continued success.

12 Addendum D: Manager and Coach Responsibilities

12.1 The Manager responsibilities include the following:

- Conduct a parent's meeting before the first regular season game. Your coaching philosophy, player expectations, schedules, practices, attendance expectations, and volunteer needs should be discussed. Parent volunteers include: Parent Coach (3rd adult in dugout), Umpire Scheduler, Opening Day Coordinator, Team Parent, Mariner's Night Coordinator, Scorekeeper, Field Preparations and Team Photographer.
- Ensure that the BELLNAT Safety Code is followed and make corrections whenever necessary. Report injuries sustained by player, manager, coach, or spectator during BELLNAT activities to the Safety Officer immediately. Manager or designated person (e.g., a team safety officer) should periodically inspect the team first aid kit to ensure that it is in good condition and that all required supplies are on hand. The first aid kit must be available at all games and practices. Attend appropriate training at the direction of the League Safety officer.
- Managers are responsible for assuring that all players meet minimum mandatory play requirements, as outlined in Regulation IV(i). Managers are responsible for assuring that pitchers are in compliance with pitching regulations, as outlined in Regulation VI. Play and pitch records are to be kept in the team's scorebook, and must be available for viewing by League officials as deemed necessary.
- In event of an injury to a player at a practice or game, ensure that the injury is reported to the League safety officer within 48 hours of the injury. If necessary, be available to inform parents about League insurance.
- Familiarize parents with Little League rules and make yourself available to address parent or player concerns about the interpretation or application of said rules.
- Provide parents with BELLNAT contact information including President, VPs, Player Agent, Safety Officer, and Umpire in Chief.
- Coordinate parent help in preparing the game field. Manager and Coaches should be preparing the players for the game and not preparing the field.
- Get authorization from BELLNAT Board of Directors for purchasing equipment.
- Managers and Coaches may not do any of the following:
 - Enter the playing field unless granted time out and signaled by an umpire.
 - Leave the playing field or dugout unless absolutely necessary.
 - Use abusive language.
 - Consume alcoholic beverages.
 - Allow un-sportsman-like conduct from players or spectators.
 - Warm up the pitcher, nor allow any adult to warm up a pitcher.
 - Allow catchers to play or warm-up without a protective cup and required protective equipment.

13 Addendum E: BELLNAT Executive Committee

Pursuant to the League's Constitution, the Board of Directors may appoint a limited number of members of the board to form an Executive Committee on an annual basis. The Executive Committee shall have the powers specified in the Constitution and Local Rules. In addition, the Executive Committee shall have the power to act for the Board of Directors on an interim basis regarding any issue that might properly be decided by the Board, subject to the right of the Board as a whole to approve or disapprove the actions of the Executive Committee at the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting. The purpose of this provision is to allow the Executive Committee to act for the Board in a timely fashion when a particular issue needs quick resolution.

The members of the Executive Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) Directors. Generally, the Executive Committee members include the League President and may include, Umpire in Chief, respective Player Agent, respective Vice President, and Coaching Coordinator.