

# **2025 LAND O' LAKES BASEBALL LEAGUE**

## **GOVERNING BYLAWS**

1. The Land O' Lakes Baseball League will start its 103rd season in 2024. Official league play will commence on **Sunday, May 11, 2025** and will complete its regular season on **Saturday, July 20, 2025**.
2. The Land O' Lakes Baseball League playoffs will begin on **Saturday, July 26, 2025**.
3. The Land O' Lakes Baseball League will operate in 2025 with TWENTY TWO (22) active teams split into 4 divisions of 4 or 5 teams, THREE (3) teams on a Leave of Absence (Burlington, North Lake, Pewaukee).
4. The Rawlings ROML ball has been adopted by the league. Any team knowingly using an unapproved baseball will be subject to forfeits and suspensions.
5. The Land O' Lakes Baseball League uses wood bats. Composite bats are allowed HOWEVER they must meet 2025 BBCOR standards.
6. Entry fee for the 2025 season will be \$400.00 plus \$50 Forfeit Fee plus \$48 Website Fee and due on **Saturday, April 19, 2025** or at the preseason manager's meeting.
7. FOURTEEN (14) games will be the regular season length of the 2025 season. All teams will get a league sanctioned 15th game.
8. The Land O' Lakes will abide by the Major League Baseball Rules of Baseball during the regular season, using the official rule book in place on January 1st of the current year unless otherwise stated.
9. The visiting team will get the field 50 minutes prior to the game time for a 45 minute warmup, consisting of batting on the field and defensive drills/practice, weather permitting. For night games, the visiting team shall get use of the batting cage, if available, 50 minutes prior to the start of the game.
10. Games are not to be canceled until the field conditions are deemed unplayable. Please delay the start of the game rather than postpone if possible. If the game is delayed, notify the visiting manager, umpires, Chief Umpire, commissioner, and executive director 90 minutes before scheduled game time.
11. Crowd control at games is the responsibility of both teams involved, with the primary responsibility belonging to the home team or the host team. If available, law enforcement supervision is recommended, particularly at Playoff Games.
12. All teams must have a full concessions stand operational unless approved by the league.
13. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances at game sites by players and managers/coaches prior to, during, or in between Land O' Lakes Baseball games is strictly prohibited. Any player or manager/coach caught consuming alcoholic beverages and illegal substances is subject to ejection from the game, game suspensions, and/or being expelled from the league.
14. It is asked that each team ask for a \$3 dollar donation for all fans attending the game.
  - A. Exclusions to admission costs are league officials. League officials will have an ID card to show they are excluded.
15. Forfeit fee is \$350.00. (\$250.00 umpire fee, \$75.00 to the home team, \$25.00 to the league fund) to be paid to the respective individuals affected. The forfeit fee must be replenished before the forfeiting team's next regularly scheduled Land O' Lakes game. Payment can be made directly to their commissioner or league treasurer.
16. Player registrations must be completed before a player plays in any game. An unregistered player that plays in a game will result in that team forfeiting said game, and player and manager

suspensions. It is the responsibility of the team signing the new player to obtain all the proper verbal releases. All releases must be approved by the divisional commissioner, the executive director, or vice director. Final rosters must be turned into their commissioner and executive director no later than **Thursday, July 3, 2025 at 6:00pm.**

17. For recruiting purposes, the individual team's "base of operations" will be the team's home field. This information is available from their individual commissioner or league official. It will also be posted at the official league website.
18. The Land O' Lakes hold a 15 mile radius rule. A player within 15 miles must get a release from the team closest to the player's home address.
19. Registered players wishing to join a new team must do so by February 1st unless agreed upon by the old team and the new team.
20. A player in good standing must be released from their old team prior to February 1st.
21. The commissioner, vice director, and executive director has the power to overturn a decision of any team that decides not to give a player or player/manager his release. (That person must be in good standing with his current team before the release is to be granted.)
22. Protesting a game can be done at a charge of \$25.00. Protests must be made before the next pitch is thrown, reported to the umpire, and opposing team. At the conclusion of the game the protest will be made to the Umpire in Chief and Commissioner. The Umpire in Chief will conduct interviews and will receive game reports from umpires. The Umpire in Chief will make a recommendation to the commissioner, and the commissioner will make the final ruling. Either team can appeal using the appeal procedures set forth in the bylaws.
23. All suspension and fines can be appealed for \$25 to be paid in person to the league treasurer prior to the first pitch of the start of the suspension. A decision made by the umpire in chief or commissioner can be appealed to the league's Executive Appeals Board, that decision can be appealed to the executive director. If the decision is reversed or reduced the \$25 will be returned to the appealing party.
24. A player or manager who is serving a suspension will not be allowed in the ballpark while his team's games are being played. A suspended player or manager can participate in pregame and postgame team events but must not be in ear/or eye sight 5 minutes before to 5 minutes after the game is completed.
25. Umpire pay for the 2025 season is \$125 per umpire (\$250 total) for a single 9 inning game and \$95 per umpire (\$190 total) for a single 7 inning game. Umpire pay for a doubleheader in 2025 is \$190 per umpire per game (\$380 total). Umpires working alone will get paid \$190 or 1 and a half of the normal game pay for a single 9 inning game or 1 and a half of the normal game game pay (\$145) for a single 7 inning game. Umpires must be paid in full prior during ground rules.
26. There is an umpire \$75 show-up fee. This will occur if the umpire is in transit or at the game site when the game is canceled. If the game begins and is not completed, the umpires will be paid the show-up fee (\$75) and \$10 per started inning until the game has reached official game status.
27. Exchange of the starting lineup cards in the presence of an umpire 5 minutes prior to the first pitch. Lineup cards should have all players first and last names and numbers listed. A copy of the lineup cards should be turned over to the scorekeeper, public address announcer, and media members 30 minutes prior to the scheduled first pitch.
28. A meeting between the managers of record and the umpires must take place 5 minutes prior to the scheduled first pitch.
29. For a complete game, Land O' Lakes have adopted a ten run rule after 7 innings, or after 6 ½ innings with the home team ahead and a eight run rule after 8 innings, or 7 ½ with the home team ahead. For scheduled 7 inning regular season games a ten run rule after 5 innings, or 5 ½ innings with the

home team ahead and a eight run rule after 6 innings, or 5 ½ with the home team ahead.

A. If a game enters extra innings, regardless of whether it is a 7 inning or 9 inning game, Major League Baseball extra inning rules will apply.

B. Each half inning will start with the team's last batter starting at 2nd base and nobody out.

30. Designated hitter for any position has been adopted. One position/DH is allowed.

31. In 2025, Land O' Lakes will NOT adopt the following MLB Rules.

A. Base size

32. Batting helmets with pitcher facing flap or double flaps shall be worn by batters and base runners at all times. A batter or runner without a helmet will receive a warning, if ignored will be declared out. Base coaches are required to wear a helmet. This helmet is not required to have a flap/flaps. A base coach not wearing a helmet will receive a warning. If warning is ignored, or multiple warnings are given the manager and the base coach will be ejected from the game.

33. A team that uses all its rostered players and then has somebody injured can reenter a player previously used that was replaced. The player must re-enter the injured player's spot in the batting order.

34. Starters may only re-enter the game once, but he must occupy the same spot in the batting order, including pitchers. Pitchers removed from the game for injury purposes, thus allowing the new pitcher more than 8 warmup pitches will not be allowed to re-enter the game as a pitcher. A pitcher who assumes a different position in the field prohibits the new pitcher from receiving more than 8 warmup pitches.

35. A team must have complete and matching uniforms. A manager should carry at least one extra jersey set to act as a replacement jersey for a player that gets blood on their jersey.

A. Exception to this rule is if there is a league approved theme day, for example, like "turn back the clock day"

B. If there is a jersey shortage, the team must get league approval.

36. It is the responsibility of the home team in cooperation with the visiting team's manager to reschedule postponed games. This should be done in a timely manner. If the game is not rescheduled within 3 days, the commissioner, executive director, or vice director will reschedule the game and make appropriate umpire assignments. Once the game is rescheduled you must alert the umpire in chief, executive director, and commissioner.

37. Final scores must be sent to the commissioner and executive director by 4:00pm or as soon as the game is completed.

38. Gamechanger is the official scoring system of Land O' Lakes. All Gamechanger scoresheets must be exported to the website and emailed to the commissioner and executive director no later than 7:00pm the day of your game or 11:00pm the night of your game. If your gamechanger is not exported correctly and/or not received by the assigned times a \$15 fine will be charged to the organization and the manager will get a 1 game suspension. That fine must be paid before the next scheduled game or that team is subject to forfeiting the following game.

A. ALL TEAMS MUST ADD wisbaseball@gmail.com as one of their team administrators.

39. Any manager resigning in season must notify the executive director and commissioner in writing. Any manager resigning that wishes to join another team must be released by the majority of votes of organizations.

40. A team withdrawing from the Land O' Lakes must notify the Executive Director in writing prior to October 15th. If a team fails to notify and withdraws, their franchise/forfeit fee will revert to league funds. Any new team being admitted to the Land O' Lakes must be approved no later than November 9th. A new team must be recommended by an existing manager or director of a current

team in Land O' Lakes and vetted by either the Executive Director or Vice Director. A majority vote by the franchises is needed for a team to be added to the league.

41. A player missing a regularly scheduled game to play in a game in another like league must alert their commissioner within 24 hours.
  - A. That player is required then to play in 6 of its team's regular season games but is still eligible to play in regular season games.
  - B. Players playing in an approved collegiate league will be exempt from the 6 game rule however must play in the minimum 3 game to be eligible for the postseason. Players are not allowed to play in any Land O' Lakes contest while with that collegiate team UNLESS they are classified High School Class of 2025 or younger.
  - C. Players playing in just Land O' Lakes are required to play 3 games to be eligible for the postseason.
  - D. If a player has played 10 seasons they are only required to play 1 game to be eligible for the postseason.
  - E. If a player has played 10 seasons consecutively for that team they are eligible at all times.
42. Individual players from other teams playing on a district, state, or national tournament teams will not have missed games counted towards total games count when missing their respective Land O' Lakes team is scheduled and playing.
43. Only when a Land O' Lakes team participates in tournament play will that team be granted the privilege of rescheduling a regularly scheduled league game. If a team participates in a tournament but is eliminated before their regularly scheduled league game, that team will be required to play their scheduled game.
44. Selection to the All League will be made by ONE designated team representative.
  - A. Nominated players will have to meet the following requirements.
    - a. Offensive Players must have a minimum of 35 plate appearances.
    - b. Pitchers must have a minimum of 28 innings.
  - B. No limit to the amount of players elected from each team.
  - C. The player receiving the most votes from each position will be named to the first team.
  - D. Each team must be represented by at least one player. If not represented, the executive director will pick a player from the unrepresented team.
45. To qualify for the batting championship, a player must have a minimum of 40 plate appearances per total regular season games.
46. Rookie of the Year Qualifications:
  - A. Must not have played an equivalent type of baseball prior to joining the league.
  - B. If qualified for the batting title, pitching title, or first full year is the determining factor as to when said persona can be nominated.
47. The tiebreaker system used for determining the seeds amongst the teams with identical records is as follows.
  - A. Divisional Record
  - B. Head to Head (head to head to head ect. If more than two teams are tied).
  - C. Overall Record
  - D. Run Differential
  - E. Number of runs allowed in regular season league games
  - F. Number of runs scored in regular season league games
  - G. Coin Toss
48. All Land O' Lakes playoff games will be 9 innings in length in 2025. In the event a game is suspended because of weather conditions or other uncontrollable circumstances, the team that is trailing has

the option to either complete or concede the game. The game shall restart at the point it was suspended. The Executive Director has the authority to change game length and add a time limit if conditions warrant.

49. Playoffs will take place over 3 weekends.
50. A playoff roster must be submitted to the commissioner the Monday before the first team's first playoff game. If a player on the roster is deemed ineligible or a player not on the approved roster participates in the playoff game, that team will be eliminated from the playoffs plus other organization penalties.
51. The League will be responsible for paying the umpires from the league funds.. Host sites will be responsible for supplying baseballs and paying field rental. Grand Championship hosts will pay for 1 umpire per game. All monies made through gate or concessions shall go to the hosting organization.
52. Each organization is required to hold a minimum 5 active director members. A director must be over the age of 30. Someone under the age of 30 can be a director if they have played in the league for a total of 5 consecutive seasons. If a manager or a director are under the age of 30, a 6th active director member is required.
53. Each team is required to participate in Land O' Lakes Fundraisers/Banquet.
54. Managers and Directors must be fully acquainted with the rules and regulations of the Land O' Lakes baseball League. Ignorance of proper player registration, player eligibility, rules, violations, ect., will be no excuse if any violation occurs that might result in game(s) forfeited or player suspension. Complete list of Land O' Lakes rules, bylaws, and rules supplement available from the executive director.
55. All voting matters ending in a tie will be decided by the executive director.
56. Election of Officers and League Officials will take place at the August meeting and elected positions will be for 3 year terms.

Executive Director (term 2025-2027)

Vice Executive Director (term 2023-2025)

Secretary (term 2025-2027)

Treasurer (term 2025-2027)

Umpire in Chief (term 2023-2025)

Commissioner (term 2024-2026)

# **LAND O' LAKES BASEBALL COACHES AND PLAYERS CODE OF ETHICS**

Only the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct are expected of players, coaches, and others associated with the game.

1. It is the managers/coaches duty to be in control of their players at all times in order to prevent any unsportsmanlike act toward opponents, officials or spectators.
2. Managers/Coaches are expected to comply wholeheartedly with the intent and spirit of the rules. The deliberate teaching of players to violate the rules is indefensible.
3. Managers/Coaches should teach their players to respect the dignity of the game, officials, opponents and the team they represent.
4. Managers/Coaches should confine their discussion with game officials to the interpretations of the rules and not challenge umpire decisions involving judgment.
5. "Bench jockeying" will not be allowed. Managers/Coaches are to prohibit bench jockeying, which would include persona; and malicious remarks, cursing and obscene language toward opponents, umpires, fans, or spectators.
6. Managers/Coaches should refrain from any personal action that might induce players or spectators to unsportsmanlike behavior.
7. Managers/Coaches should expect from umpires a courteous and dignified attitude toward players and themselves.
8. Managers/Coaches should seek help from players in controlling unruly fans, and spectators.