

# Conewago Baseball Association

## Youth Baseball Rules & Procedures

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## **Section 1 General**

### 1. Purpose

These rules are intended to clarify, supplement, or extend the contents of the current Regulations and Playing Rules published by Little League Baseball, Inc., Williamsport, Pa, Lower Dauphin Baseball League (LDBL) Rules and Procedures, and/or any other subsequent league in which a Conewago baseball team may participate.

### 2. Policy

The objective of the Conewago Baseball Association program is to afford every child properly registered the opportunity to participate to the fullest extent possible. Our primary objective is to develop the baseball skills, character, sportsmanship, and leadership of all players-the winning of a baseball game is secondary.

### 3. The Teams

Conewago Baseball Association boys' teams shall consist of T-Ball, Colts, Ponies, and Midgets, as approved by the Executive Committee.

### 4. Approval and Changes

These local rules and procedures must be approved by at least two-thirds majority of the voting CBA Executive Committee and all changes or additions must be approved in the same manner.

### 5. Registration of Players

#### 5.1 Notification

Notice of registration shall be made available to eligible players residing within Conewago Township.

#### 5.2 Player Eligibility

Each player desiring to participate in the Conewago Baseball Association shall be registered at a time and place designated. An acceptable Birth Certificate, showing a federal or states seal, must be furnished the first time the player registers with the Association. (Hospital birth or baptismal records are not acceptable.) A parent or legal guardian must register the child. Players not registered by the designated deadline are not guaranteed a position on a team.

#### 5.3 Players residing outside of Conewago Township

Players from areas outside of Conewago Township will be permitted to play in CBA, if space is available on a team.

## 6. Player Evaluations

### 6.1 Opportunity

Each player league age nine (9) and above shall be given the opportunity to participate in player evaluation competition with other players of the same League age. These player evaluations are conducted so that each player may demonstrate his/her ability prior to selection by draft to a team. Even if a player believes he will be automatically assigned to a team, such as coaches' sons or returning "title players", they are still expected to try out in case unexpected changes are made.

### 6.2 Waiving Midget Player Evaluation

Player evaluations, when deemed unnecessary to form teams, may be waived only at the Midget level (ages 11 to 12) by mutual agreement of all head coaches. Player evaluations are not required when there is only 1 team playing in an age group.

### 6.3 Player Evaluation Exception for Colt Player

Children under league age of nine (9) are not subject to player evaluations. An exception to this will be to allow an accomplished 7 or 8-yr-old player to be evaluated and enter the draft to play on a Pony team, as provided in Section 1.6.6.

### 6.4 Player Evaluation Rosters

Prior to player evaluations the player evaluation coordinator will provide each team coach with a copy (electronic or paper) of a player evaluation roster showing the player number, name, league age, address, and other pertinent information for each participant. Siblings and coaches' sons and "title players" will be identified on the roster.

### 6.5 Player Evaluation Attendance

Coaches or their designees shall attend all player evaluation sessions and evaluate candidates' performance for their own reference. Coaches may agree to share this information with each other if it is made available to all coaches prior to the draft.

### 6.6 Hat Picks

A player failing to attend player evaluations shall be designated as a "hat pick". These players shall be evenly distributed across all teams in the appropriate league (based upon league age) at the end of the draft by selecting their names from a hat. If a "hat pick" or late registration player wishes to "play up" in Ponies or Midgets, it must be approved by the majority of the Executive Committee, and the player must be assigned by the draft coordinator, or his designee, to the next team in line (as determined by the draft sequence) with the fewest players.

### 6.7 Players "Playing Up"

Players wishing to "play up" an age group will be evaluated and permitted if the player has the ability to play at the next level and the team numbers are such that it will benefit both the player and the associations' interests. The executive committee is the final authority in these matters.

## **Section 2 League Rules and Draft Procedures**

### 1. General

The appropriate Regulations and Playing Rules of Little League Baseball and Lower Dauphin Baseball League (LDBL) are supplemented by the following Conewago Baseball rules and procedures.

## 2. Leagues and Teams

### 2.1 Number of Teams

The number of teams in each age group will be determined prior to the draft by the Executive Committee, based upon the number of players registered and eligible for that league.

### 2.2 Number of Players on a Team

The number of players per team on each team shall be determined by the Executive Committee and announced prior to the draft (Ponies and Midgets) or prior to the distribution of players by committee (T-Ball and Colts). Every player registered prior to the deadline MUST be placed on a team. Late registrations are not guaranteed to be placed on a team, based upon the number and size of teams, but the Executive Committee will attempt to allow for some "late adds" based upon historical data. The Association President or his designee must keep accurate rosters and maintain the "draft sequence" when assigning "late adds" to teams.

## 3. Selection of Players-The Draft

### 3.1 Player Eligibility Determination

Prior to the draft or distribution of players in each age group, the Conewago Baseball President, or his designee, must review the available players with the coaches, clarifying all player information and eligibility. The President, or his designee, will then monitor the draft and ensure all eligible players are assigned to a team.

### 3.2 League Rules

In drafting teams, coaches must keep the LDBL League rules in mind. There are limits on the number of "older players" on a team and weekly pitching limitations. The LDBL rules promote a balanced roster, a balanced league and protect young pitchers arms. League draft policy must be observed if and when it is applicable.

### 3.3 No Colt or T-Ball Player Evaluation or Draft

T-BALL AND Colts: These players will not be evaluated. They will be assigned to teams in T-Ball (ages 5-6) or Ponies (ages 7-8) by Conewago Baseball. Players will be assigned to teams based upon location, coach preferences, and teammate/friend preferences for ride-sharing; however, no guarantees are made to any parent regarding team placement. There will be an attempt to balance the skills across all teams as much as possible in an effort to have balanced teams across the leagues.

### 3.4 Pony and Midget Draft

#### 3.4.1 Age Eligibility

The drafting procedure for ages 9-12 shall occur for the following teams:

Pony League Teams (ages 9-10)  
Midget League Teams (ages 11-12)

Players wishing to "play up" in an older age group should let Conewago Baseball know at registration, or before player evaluations take place.

#### 3.4.2 Draft Schedule

The draft should be held as soon as possible following player evaluations. Every attempt must be made to allow all coaches to attend. If no date within the general draft time frame established by

the Executive Committee allows all coaches to attend, then the Executive Committee will select a date and arrange for a representative to fairly select a team for the missing coach. If Midget coaches can reconcile player selections in accordance with Section 1.6.2, no player evaluation or draft is necessary.

#### 3.4.3 Draft Disputes

The Conewago Baseball President, if he has “no interest” in the matter, will be empowered to mediate disputes among participants in matters pertaining to the draft. If a mutual agreement cannot be reached or the President “has interest” in the matter, it will be referred to the Executive Committee. Executive Committee members “with interest” will be recused. If all Executive Committee members are recused or an agreement cannot be reached, an independent arbitrator, not involved with Conewago Baseball, will be appointed by a majority vote of Executive Committee members

#### 3.4.4 “Title Players”

Players following their first year of Ponies (age 9-10) will remain as “title players” on the same core team and whenever possible with the same coach, as in their previous year in Conewago Baseball. To the greatest extent possible, this rule also applies to teams in the transition from Ponies to Midgets and provides a beneficial continuity for both players and coaches. Player redrafts drafts at the midget level may be necessary when it is not possible or mutually agreeable by all coaches to assign a number of returning midget players to a legacy team.

Returning players, termed “**Title Players**” are automatically added to the rosters of their former teams (assuming those teams still exist in CBA). The President, or his designee, must also announce these players before the draft commences, and they will be listed at the top of the rosters. These “Title Players” should still participate in player evaluations in case their former team/coach is not an option. Coaches’ children should not be considered as “Title Players”, since they will be drafted according to the next paragraph.

#### 3.4.5 Player Team Change Requests

Players wishing to change teams for personal reasons must notify Conewago Baseball. These players will reenter the draft and be assigned a numerical draft position based on his playing ability and where he would be normally drafted, as agreed to beforehand by the respective coaches. If no draft placement agreement can be reached by the coaches, the Executive Committee members who have “no interest” will make the determination, by majority vote.

#### 3.4.6 Coach’s Son Draft Placement Rules

Each head coach may designate only one assistant coach for the team for draft purposes. Each of these coaches with a child playing in the league will be obligated to choose their child in the round shown below based upon the age of the child. If their children are the same age, then they must be selected in successive rounds. For instance, if a Pony coach and his assistant each have 10-year-old sons, they must be selected in rounds 3 and 4. A Midget coach’s 11 year old son will be placed in the 4<sup>th</sup> round and his assistant’s son in the 5<sup>th</sup> round if he is also 11. If the assistant coach has a 12 year old son, he is placed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round and the coach’s son is placed in the 4<sup>th</sup> round.

<u>Ponies</u>	
Player Age	Round
10	3
9	4
8	5
7	6

<u>Midgets</u>	
Player Age	Round

12	3
11	4
10	5
9	6

Placing the coach’s sons in these rounds effectively neutralizes draft benefits or penalties as related to the skill level of the player and encourages not only non-parent qualified coaches to participate, but also other qualified parents whose son may not be a star player.

#### 3.4.7 Irregular Team Number Resolution Procedures

In any year when more Midget teams are formed than existed in the previous year, the players will return to reform their original Pony team and the draft will ensue as though these players are now “Title Players” from their team of two years earlier, to the greatest extent possible. When a pre-existing team is abandoned, due to player numbers, the players of the abandoned team shall reenter the draft. This procedure may be waived under 2 conditions;

- 1) If a player draft is not needed as indicated in Section 1.6.2 and
- 2) If a verbal agreement between all affected coaches exists and approval by the Executive Committee is obtained regarding team reconstruction.

#### 3.4.8 Draft Order Determination

Draft order will be determined at random by selecting numbers from a hat, and the draft will occur in a serpentine manner (e.g. 1-2-3-3-2-1 would be rounds 1 and 2 if there are 3 teams), in absence of a verbal agreement as to order among all coaches in each age group.

#### 3.4.9 Bonus Picks

Coaches will be allowed a “bonus pick” at the completion of Round 4 if their roster has the least number of returning “Title Players”. The coaches will continue to have a bonus pick at the completion of each round thereafter until their sum of returning players and draft choices equals that of the team with the maximum number of returning players—at which time all teams should then have the same number of players. The draft round number must not be confused with the number of players already on a team roster.

#### 3.4.10 Related Players and Special Considerations

In some cases two players eligible for drafting in the same league may be related (e.g. siblings or cousins), or parents may petition the Executive Committee for their children to be on the same team due to very special circumstances (e.g. hearing impaired). These special “pairings” must be brought to the attention of the coaches by the draft coordinator just prior to the draft. The first of the players should be drafted in normal fashion. The other player is then automatically added to the same team in a draft position one to three rounds later, depending upon age and skill. This “round delta” must be agreed upon prior to the initiation of the draft when the Draft Coordinator lists the pairings. For instance, twin brothers with equal ability should be drafted in successive rounds, while an 8-year-old younger brother of a 10-year-old player should be assigned 3 rounds later, assuming 3 rounds remain.

#### 3.4.11 Approaching the End of Draft Considerations

During the draft, close attention must be made to keep track of the number of unselected 10-year-old players in the Pony draft and unselected 12-year-old players in the Midget draft, as the draft approaches the final few rounds. Players who did not attend try outs will be designated “hat pick” players, and names placed in the draft by a random draw (see Sec 1.6.6). When the number of 10-year-olds in the Pony draft or 12-year-olds in the Midget draft, and “hat picks” equals the number of slots remaining on teams, coaches will be restricted to drafting only those players. At that point the coach may either choose the older player in their respective draft, or randomly draw

a “hat pick” player. This allows a team to take a chance to possibly improve their selection.

When total player numbers create unequal team numbers, the team having the most returning title players may pass in the last round of the draft, awarding the last pick to the other team. Special attention must be made to not exceed league limits on older players.

Alternately, actual player number counts may be established by mutual agreement of all head coaches of each Conewago team play in the same age bracket.

#### 3.4.12 Trading Players

Trades are allowed, but they must be mutually agreed upon by the coaches, and no coach may coerce or force a trade. If a trade is made, it cannot represent more than a two-round difference in draft position. For instance, a fifth round draftee may only be traded for another player drafted in rounds three through seven. All trades must be completed within 30 minutes following the draft, at which time the Association shall declare the draft completed and certify the composition of each team. After this time, any changes can only be made with the approval of the Executive Committee and coaches of all Conewago teams playing within the same level.

#### 3.4.13 Post Draft Player Additions

Undrafted players who register late and did not participate in player evaluations, will be regarded as “hat picks” as addressed in Section 1.6.6. They will be assigned to a team following the “hat pick” rules.

Hat pick player assignments may be modified by mutual agreement of all CBA coaches in the respective age group and with approval of the executive committee.

#### 3.4.14 Initial Implementation of Draft

Upon initial approval and implementation of these rules and regulations regarding player draft, teams shall be structured as though there was a draft in the prior year. “Title players” shall remain with existing teams. Player trades will be permitted for similar skilled players, as permitted in Section 3.4.12. Players who wish to leave a team must comply with guidelines in Section 3.4.5.

#### 3.4.15 Unforeseen Situations

Situations that are not specified by these draft rules will be decided by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

## Section 3 Duties and Responsibilities

### 1. President

#### 1.1 Coaches Nomination

Nominate the list of managers and coaches for their age group, with recommendations for approval/disapproval to the Executive Committee. This means you may have to interview coaches who are new to the league and obtain references.

#### 1.2 Scheduling

Coordinate with the League Schedulers to finalize the list of games. Make any changes required for special circumstances, and then ensure the finalized schedule is posted on the league web site or distributed to the coaches.

#### 1.3 Equipment and Fields

Coordinate with the “fields” director to ensure proper equipment (bases, chalk, liner, plates, etc) is

pre-positioned at the fields to be used by the division. The President or his designee is also responsible for organizing “field day” work details to fix and groom the field(s), e.g. cutting weeds, dragging fields, maintaining field tractor, etc. He shall inform all coaches as to requirements for field maintenance before and after practices and games.

#### 1.4 Pre-season meetings

Hold a meeting with coaches prior to the beginning of the season to cover all local rules, organize field maintenance, and distribute equipment, uniforms, and schedules. This is also the time to have a serious discussion about our purpose in coaching, expectations of behavior during practices and games, and give a stern warning about any misbehavior or arguments with umpires, other coaches, or parents.

#### 1.5 Draft Oversight

Coordinate the player selection process as described in Section II. Ensure the number of players per team is evenly balanced, and maintain a list showing what team will receive the next player added to the league. If a player drops from a team, that team should move to the top of the list of teams with the same number of players remaining.

#### 1.6 Arbitration

Arbitrate player team-assignment problems in a fair and equitable manner to ensure balanced teams. Parental complaints should be handled by the coaches whenever possible and brought to the executive committee’s attention, if necessary, in an expeditious manner.

#### 1.7 Game Monitoring

Attend division games other than his own during the season to ensure club/league policies and procedures are followed, and to evaluate the “coaching climate” and parent satisfaction with the league.

#### 1.8 Delegation of Duties

Enlist volunteers to fill positions of registration coordinator, pictures organizer, concession stand manager, sponsorship manager, equipment manager, field director, player evaluation coordinator, softball league representative, baseball league representative and other positions as needed.

## 2. Coaches

### 2.1 Conduct

In all your dealings with players, parents, and umpires—at practices and games—conduct yourself in a manner worthy of respect, admiration, and emulation. Parents have entrusted their children to you to teach them not only the game of baseball, but also about team play, sportsmanship, and how to deal with successes and failures, good calls and bad calls, winning seasons and losing season. Swearing or abusive language, to anyone, is not tolerated. The use of any form of tobacco or alcohol at practices or games is forbidden.

### 2.2 Meeting Attendance and Compliance

Attend all meetings called by the Conewago Baseball President and respond to his requests for information or assistance as soon as possible.

### 2.3 Rules and Regulations

Read and study the rules and regulations, including local rules, for your particular division. Make sure any questions are answered before they become problems.

## 2.4 Player Evaluations

Attend all try-out sessions and selection processes for your team.

## 2.5 Player Selection

Contact players on your team as soon as possible following player selection.

## 2.6 Practices

Hold at least two practices per week starting in late March to April until the season begins. Usually schedule at least one practice per week during the season.

## 2.7 Sponsor Support

Contact your team's sponsor in person to give them a schedule and roster, thank them for their support, and invite them to participate in Opening Day.

## 2.8 Field Maintenance

Maintain game fields as provided in Section 4.3.1. Coaches who do not properly care for the game fields will not be permitted to practice on them.

## 2.9 After Event Player Pick-up

Ensure all players are picked up after practices and games. Do not leave any players alone at the field without an adult who will ensure the children get safely home.

# Section 4: Operating Procedures

## 1. Scorekeeper

The home team shall provide the official game scorekeeper. The visiting team scorekeeper should verify the score following each inning with the official scorekeeper and any discrepancies must be rectified before the game continues. The plate umpire and opposing team scorekeeper must be informed of any lineup changes during the course of the game prior to the participation of the substituting player.

## 2. Umpires

Conewago Baseball is responsible for scheduling umpires. If an umpire fails to show, teams should nominate and agree on a substitute umpire.

## 3. Field Preparation

### 3.1 Timing

The home team is responsible for getting the field ready to play at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled game time. As indicated in LDBL rules, each team will be given 20 minutes sole possession of the field for infield/outfield practice. During these 40 minutes, no batting practice shall be allowed from home plate, but may be done behind the plate, so as not to disturb the batters box.

### 3.2 After Game/Practice

Every CBA team is responsible for raking and/or dragging the field after practices and games. It is especially important that the depressions by the pitchers mound and home plate be filled with clean damp Dimatex from the pile and when dry, water applied to "set it". There is a water faucet at the rear gym entrance to the Conewago School and buckets in the shed. Periodically the bases will require additional dirt to soften and level the sliding areas. It is the coaches' responsibility to keep the field in a safe and playable condition. Ensure the equipment is stowed and the shed is locked.

### 3.3 Outfield Grass

Encourage all the players to respect the field and especially not to dig holes in the outfield grass. Try to keep them busy at practice so they have no time for this. Sod can be cut from along the south edge of the property to repair outfield holes. **We have spent considerable time and money attempting to establish an attractive bluegrass outfield that requires annual maintenance to maintain.**

**Fertilizing and chemical treatment of any field must be approved by the Conewago Elementary Principal, as our fields are school district property.**

### 3.4 Trash Cleanup

After each game, the home team will clean up both dugouts and pick up all trash around the stands on both sides of the field. Filled trash cans shall be dumped periodically in the Conewago Elementary School dumpster by the Conewago teams who use them.

## 4. Game Schedules and Standings

### 4.1 Schedule Changes

The schedule of games is determined by the League prior to the beginning of the season. Any changes to this schedule must be approved by both teams and comply with league rules.

### 4.2 Postponements

Games shall not be postponed except for inclement weather or due to field conditions. Decisions must be in compliance with league rules. If the weather is questionable, the home team must make the determination prior to game time whether to play the game and notify the opponent. Once the game has started it is up to the umpire to call the game due to weather or darkness.

### 4.3 Rescheduling Games

Games may be rescheduled for conflicts with school-sponsored events, as permitted by the league.

## 5. Field Decorum

### 5.1 Coach Conduct and Attire

All coaches must be properly attired and conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. This includes wearing of proper clothing and using proper language at all times.

### 5.2 CBA Prohibited Products

The use of tobacco or alcoholic beverages in any form is prohibited on the playing field, benches, and dugouts before, during, and after games and practices.

### 5.3 Umpire Appeals

Only the head coach or his assistant is allowed to discuss a rule interpretation with the plate umpire. Only active players and base coaches are permitted to enter the field unless play is suspended.

### 5.4 Sanctions

Failure of a coach to comply with the above rules may result in sanctions from Conewago Baseball Association and could result in the coach's dismissal, after an Executive Committee review.

## Section 5: Local League Rules

## 1. Rules Precedence

The Little League Rule Book and Local LDBL League Rules should govern in all cases. LDBL rules take precedence, when there are differences. The intent of these local rules is to facilitate play in a sportsmanlike manner considering our playing conditions.

## Section 6: Draft Matrices

### 2 Team Draft Matrix

Round	Team "A"	Player Name	Team "B"	Player Name	Bonus Player Name	Son or Bonus Player Added?
1	#1		#2			N/A
2	#4		#3			N/A
3	#5		#6			Coach's Son?
4	#8		#7			Coach's Son?
5	#9		#10			Bonus Player?
6	#12		#11			Bonus Player?
7	#13		#14			Bonus Player?
8	#16		#15			Bonus Player?
9	#17		#18			Bonus Player?
10	#20		#19			Bonus Player?
11	#21		#22			Bonus Player?
12	#24		#23			Bonus Player?
13	#25		#26			
14	#28		#27			

1. Place Coach's son(s) in appropriate position as indicated in Section 2 Part 3.4.6.
2. Add title players at appropriate place in bottom of list; i.e., if 24 players are in draft, place title players in round 12 and up until all title players are listed.
3. Team "A", winning toss gets pick #1
4. Team "B", gets picks #2 and #3
5. Team "A" gets picks #4, #5 and so on, following the numbered sequence in the matrix, until all eligible players are drafted.
6. 1 Bonus Player, if applicable, is added starting with pick in 4<sup>th</sup> round until teams have equal numbers, as indicated by Section 2, 3.4.9.
7. Hat picks are chosen at end of the draft, depending on numbers remaining ages of remaining players as detailed in Section 2, 3.4.11.

### 3 Team Draft Matrix

Round	Team "A"	Player	Team "B"	Player	Team "C"	Player	Insert Son or Bonus Player, as needed, to left
1	#1		#2		#3		N/A
2	#6		#5		#4		N/A
3	#7		#8		#9		Coach's Son this round?
4	#12		#11		#10		Coach's Son this round?
5	#13		#14		#15		Son or Bonus Player?
6	#18		#17		#16		Bonus Player this round?
7	#19		#20		#21		Bonus Player this round?
8	#24		#23		#22		Bonus Player this round?
9	#25		#26		#27		Bonus Player this round?
10	#30		#29		#28		Bonus Player this round?
11	#31		#32		#33		
12	#36		#35		#34		
13	#37		#38		#39		
14	#42		#41		#40		

1. Place Coaches son(s) in appropriate position as indicated in Section 2 Part 3.4.6
2. Add title players at appropriate place in bottom of list. If 30 players are in draft, place title players in round 10 and up until all title players are listed.
3. Team "A", winning toss gets pick #1
4. Team "B", gets pick #2
5. Team "C" gets pick #3, #4.
6. Team "B" gets pick #5.
7. Team "A" gets pick #6, #7, and continues in serpentine manner, following the numbered sequence in the matrix, until all eligible players are drafted.
8. Bonus Player is added to picks in 4<sup>th</sup> round until all teams have equal numbers, as in Section 2, 3.4.9.
9. Hat picks are chosen at end of the draft, depending on numbers remaining ages of remaining players as detailed in Section 2, 3.4.11
10. This Matrix shall be expanded and used in same serpentine manner when more than 3 teams participate in a draft.

