
The Commissioner

Introduction

Little League rules refer to the positions of League President and Player Agent. Within Hills Juniors, we also have the position of Competition Secretary, because our organisation is structured very differently to the local LL Charters in America.

Therefore, we've chosen to create a new position specifically to administer Little League within Hills, called the "Hills Little League Commissioner", or simply "The Commissioner".

This document sets out the duties of that person in the context of rules published by both LL Inc and Hills Juniors.

They are as follows:-

In the context of the Hills Juniors Rules (Rule 1.7) ...

The Commissioner shall be appointed annually by the Hills Juniors Executive.

The Commissioner shall:-

1. Ensure the smooth conduct of the Competitions as far as possible and discharge their responsibilities in the Rules.
2. For the term of his/her appointment, liaise and/or negotiate with third parties (eg:- Councils, the media etc) as the representative of HJBA¹ regarding Little League competitions.
3. Be the final point of arbitration for any disputes among competition participants **SUBJECT TO** the jurisdiction of any Judiciary Committee constituted under the provisions of The HJBA Judiciary Procedure in the Hills Juniors Competition Rules.
4. Collate any injury reports, and submit them to the responsible authority for insurance purposes.
5. Develop and publish a Competition Draw to facilitate the Hills Little League competition schedule.
6. Alter the Competition Draws in accordance with these Rules, to cope with any unforeseen circumstances affecting play or the conduct of the Competition.
7. Generally have the power to make any decisions on issues not addressed within these Rules, the Little League Rules² or the Official Rules of Baseball as endorsed by the ABF.

Should the Commissioner be unable to discharge his/her responsibilities during the season by reason of illness or other unavailability, the Executive Committee of HJBA

¹ HJBA is the Hills Junior Baseball Association Inc, or simply "Hills Juniors".

² Contained within the Little League "Green Book" dated 2007.

shall appoint another person to act as Commissioner during the period of that illness or unavailability.

In the context of the Green Book

The Commissioner shall:-

Discharge the duties of the Player Agent as defined in those rules

Discharge the duties of the League President as defined in those rules, insofar as they concern administrative and operational matters. Other matters related to policy issues or compliance with the requirements of the LL Inc Charter which are not specifically referenced in this document remain the responsibility of the HJBA Executive.

Other Duties

The Commissioner shall also:-

1. Maintain a register of players which will include as a minimum:-
 - The details on their MyClub records, or a unique key which allows an authorised person to uniquely identify the player on MyClub.
 - Their League Age as described by the ABF's Little League Age Matrix.
 - The team in which they have been selected.
 - The number of Defensive Outs achieved by each player during the regular Little League season (January – March).
2. Collate and review Result Sheets from each Little League game, in order to ensure that:-
 - No overpitching offence has occurred,
 - No illegal player has played (ie: unregistered or suspended players),
 - No breach of any HJBA restriction has occurred.
 - No breach of any HJBA Code of Conduct has been reported.
 - Any such reports or offences are reported promptly to the HJBA Competition Secretary.
3. Ensure that the teams have adequate equipment, including a scorebook, prior to the commencement of the season. The intention is that the clubs involved will provide support for the programme by providing a playing kit, but any additional equipment can be requisitioned from HJBA (John Yard). Also, replace balls during the season should it become necessary (it shouldn't).
4. To liaise with parents on administrative issues to do with the programme.
5. To liaise with and support the Umpire Co-Ordinator in ensuring that at least one umpire is available for each game. Should there be problems in this area, to seek the support of the HJBA Competition Secretary in resolving them.
6. To liaise with the Webmaster to ensure that the website is current and functional.

Loan Players

One Little League rule which we can't escape is the centralised provision of substitute players in the event that a Team has less than nine available to them for a fixture. In a club-based system, teams simply borrow from their own ranks of younger or lower-grade players. That's not an option in Little League. Equally unsatisfactory is the idea that a Manager can hand-pick a substitute from another team if they're short:- any sensible Manager would be tempted to find another team without a scheduling conflict, and then borrow their best player 😊

To overcome this, players are placed into "Bands" when drafted (see the Draft Procedure). If a team is short for a game, that Manager will call the Commissioner and request one or more substitutes. The Commissioner will randomly pick two or three likely candidates from other teams who *might* be available (having regard to other games scheduled for that timeslot, player's training commitments etc), but from the same Band as the missing player(s). S/he will pass the names and contact details of the potential subs on to the Manager:- it is up to that Manager or his EO to contact the families and invite them to play.

Substitutes cannot be allocated from the opposing team from the affected fixture.

Compliance

It is the intention of Hills to comply with the requirements of the contract signed between the ABF and Little League Inc. However, our implementation of the programme may fail to comply in some areas, given that it is brand new: that we had little information about the detail until recently: and that we had no precedent upon which to rely.

Therefore, the Commissioner may at some stage need to liaise or negotiate with either the ABF or BNSW on compliance issues. Should the HJBA Executive need to be involved in such discussions or negotiations (at a policy level) then the Commissioner would remain involved and would chair those discussions.

Judiciary & Code of Conduct Matters

Both the Hills Rules as modified for Little League, and the LL Inc Green Book, make reference to disciplinary and judiciary matters that go beyond simple game-day protests or administrative offences, and concern the behaviour of participants in the game, both adults and children.

These matters should be investigated at first instance by the Commissioner, but should then be referred back to the HJBA Executive to be dealt with by way of a Judiciary Hearing, referral to the Behavioural Standards Commission, referral to the League's Child Protection Officer, referral to the BNSW or ABF Member Protection Officer, or as otherwise dictated by our policies.

Such matters specifically include, but are not limited to:-

- Any matter than involves an alleged breach of any Code of Conduct.
- Any ejection by an umpire.
- Any report by an umpire that involves inappropriate behaviour (including by spectators).
- Any incident related to the competition that resulted in a report to police.

- Any complaint by a participant that the Commissioner is unable or unwilling to resolve
- Any matter that would ordinarily be dealt with by the Commissioner, but which the Commission declines to address because of a possible or actual conflict of interest.