

SUBSTITUTE PLAYER "POOL" PROCEDURE

Teams may suffer player shortages for games due to a variety of causes, including injuries, scheduling conflicts, or other temporary absence. To avoid rescheduling games, the Board has adopted a Reserve Player Pool, in accordance with Little League Baseball Guidelines.

LIB Guidelines for the Policy:

1. The League's Player Agent will create and run player pools for each of the Majors and Minors Divisions of play. The league's Player Agent will use each pool to assign players to teams in the appropriate Division that are short of players on a rotating basis.
2. Managers and/or coaches will not have the right to randomly pick and choose players from the pool.
3. Players used from the pool will not be allowed to pitch, except during the player's own regular season scheduled game.
4. Pool players that are called and show up at the game site must play at least nine defensive outs and bat once.

BLL Policy

Under the Pool, player volunteers for the Pool will be accepted from the entire current rosters of Division teams. Any player from the Division may submit their name for consideration. The managers will be responsible for collecting the names and submitting them to the Division representative. Each volunteer player will be included on the Division's "Pool list." Once the Division's list is initially compiled, player names will be randomly drawn from the Pool to establish the substitution order on the pool list. Additional players added after the initial random draw will be added to the end of the list in the order in which they submit their names for inclusion on the list. The pool list will remain confidential and will only be known by the Player Agent, the Division representative and the League President.

Upon request of a manager for a substitute player, when the manager's team will not be able to field the requisite 9 players, the Division representative will contact player substitutes, in order of the pool listing, until an available player is found. Up to three players may be requested and placed on the roster for each team requesting additional player(s) for the scheduled game. If a reserve player on the list is unavailable to play when requested (e.g., already playing that night, sick, injured, or has other schedule conflict), the next player on the list will be requested to play, and so on until a replacement is found. If the list is exhausted, the order will be re-established and resumed from the top. A player skipped due to unavailability will remain in the original order and will be called again the next time a reserve is needed. Once a player has served as a substitute, their name will be moved to the bottom of the list.

After a substitute player has been assigned and has completed the substitution, the Division representative will report the substitution in writing to the Player Agent and the League President as soon as reasonably possible after the game is played, indicating the team requiring the substitute, the player(s) substituted, and the game in which the substitute(s) played, for purposes of establishing a proper record of administration of this Pool procedure.

No Pool player will be eligible to play any position other than outfield and all pool players must be placed in the last position(s) in the batting order. Upon commencement of the game (i.e., the home team manager handing their batting order to the umpire-in-charge), the pool player will be considered a part of the game roster for all purposes of play of that game.

Here are answers to some questions on the Policy:

Q: Should we have a policy stating that if 9 original team members show for the game then the replacement player does not play? I don't think it would be fair to ask a kid to sit even 1 inning so a replacement player can play.

A: Under LLB Guidelines the substitute must play at least 9 defensive outs and bat once.

Q: When will the replacement player's ID be known to the manager? I can see this getting manipulated into finding out who your replacement is and if he is good then telling your on the fence kid to go ahead and go to the Rocket's playoff game or if the replacement is weak then telling the kid to have his little brother go to the Rockets game instead of him.

A: The reserve player's identity will be made known to the requesting manager on the day of the game. The fact is, if someone is going to manipulate the system, the reserve player program will not make them honest or dishonest. There are many ways to manipulate the system, with or without the reserve player pool. We hope that the integrity of our managers is above that.

Q: How are we going to handle the uniform issue? Have the replacement wear his original team's uniform or give him an extra jersey and hat (if you still have one)?

A: If an extra jersey is available, the reserve player will wear it. Otherwise, the reserve player will wear a shirt out of his own closet that most closely resembles the team he is playing for.