

PLAY
LAWTON
MIRACLE LEAGUE
RULE BOOK

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PURPOSE

This program is designed to give children and adults who are differently abled an opportunity to play sports under good adult supervision in a safe and fun environment.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

Every team in the program should designate a Manager who serves as an organizer and contact person for that team. Their primary responsibility is to obtain competent coaches.

All persons accepting responsibility in this program must strive to teach good sportsmanship, good health habits, and good citizenship. They should exercise the type of behavior that will set a good example for players and follow the rules and regulations. Embarrassment of any player or team must be avoided. Abuse of players will not be tolerated.

Play Lawton does not issue cash refunds. We do not consider refunds unless a program or event is canceled and is not rescheduled.

COACHES/VOLUNTEERS

We want to take the opportunity to thank all of you fine coaches and volunteers for the many hours you work with our differently abled youth and adults. Without you, the programs could not possibly function so successfully.

We appreciate that you are helping to build good character traits in the players and bring them lifelong memories. Thank you for being patient and considerate with the players, while at the same time maintaining control of your team.

We hope at the end of the season, you may evaluate your work by answering, "Yes" to the following question: "Did I contribute positively to the players on my team?"

This manual should be a tool to help you in the quest to build good character. We hope you will find the information helpful.

Thank you,
Play Lawton

COACHING GUIDELINES

I agree as coach or assistant coach to comply at all times with the provisions listed below:

1. **To read the “Miracle League Rulebook” and will comply with these rules.**
2. To never make abusive or insulting remarks to or about officials of the game, officials of the programs, or opposing coaches and players.
3. Not to use profanity around players or consume alcoholic beverages before or during any meeting with the players.
4. At all times I will set a good example of sportsmanship for my players, keeping in mind that the primary goal of this program is to build character and provide positive experiences. I will make the maximum effort to keep my spectators, parents and fans from harassing the game officials. I will congratulate the opponents and have my players do the same.
5. I will never take my team off the playing field until the game is finished.
6. Reasons for Ejection:
 - Using profanity, insulting or vulgar language or gestures;
 - Attempting to influence a decision by an official;
 - Disrespectfully addressing an official;
 - Indicating objections to an Official's decision;
 - Using a mechanical device to attract attention;
 - Holding an unauthorized conference;
 - Failure of a team to be ready to play;
 - Failure of the head coach, following verification, to have his/her player(s) wear legal and/or required equipment;

I understand that the penalty for violation of any of the above is automatic suspension from coaching until reinstated.

GAME DISMISSAL/EJECTION

When a coach or assistant coach is dismissed or ejected from a game, said coach must contact Play Lawton to schedule a reinstatement meeting with the League Director before being permitted to participate further in the youth sports programs. It is the coach's responsibility to contact the sports office and set the meeting. A coach dismissed from a game may be penalized, by sitting out the next game, suspended for the remainder of the season or may not be reinstated to coach in Play Lawton youth sports programs.

COACHES ON THE SIDELINE

Coaches are allowed in the dugout and on the playing surface to assist players as needed.

ROSTERS

All players must be registered, paid, have a waiver signed, and be on the DaySmart Roster prior to game start. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the League Director. Players who do not meet the requirements will not play.

MISCONDUCT

Play lawton reserves the right to suspend any player, coach, and/or fan for misconduct of any kind. Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to:

- Fighting
- Profanity
- Obscene gesture
- Disrespectfully addressing an official
- Objecting to an official's decision
- Improper contact with an official

Misconduct reports will be filed with the League Director. Game Officials, Field Marshals, the League Director and/or his/her representative may eject a player, coach or fan from the game or game site, as he or she deems necessary. All other player ejection penalties will be imposed at the discretion of the League Director. The League Director is responsible for deciding the level of penalty imposed in cases of misconduct.

REINSTATEMENT

Coaches must be reinstated by the League Director before being permitted to participate further in the youth sports program. It is the coach's responsibility to contact the sports office and set the meeting.

ASSAULT ON AN OFFICIAL

Oklahoma Statutes

Title 21. Crimes and Punishments

§21-650.1. Athletic contests - Assault and battery upon referee, umpire, etc.

Universal Citation: 21 OK Stat § 21-650.1 (2016)

Every person who, without justifiable or excusable cause and with intent to do bodily harm, commits any assault, battery, assault and battery upon the person of a referee, umpire, timekeeper, coach, official, or any person having authority in connection with any amateur or professional athletic contest is guilty of a misdemeanor and is punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year or by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), or by both such fine and imprisonment.

FREE AGENT REQUEST

Free agents will be placed on to rosters when team registration is finished. If a free agent has a specific team request they can submit it to the League Director via email or by registration note in DaySmart.

MAXIMUM TEAM SIZE

Miracle League Teams may have up to 14 players per team.

If you have one to two players over the max team size, email programs@playlawton.com to request additional players. Your request will be reviewed and, if approved, the player(s) will be added to your roster.

COACHES

- Coaches are expected to adhere to the coaching guidelines and code of conduct outlined above.
- Coaches and Team Managers are responsible for the conduct of their players and parents.

PARENTS/SPECTATORS

Parents/spectators will be held to the same code of conduct as coaches.

Parent/Spectator/Fan Misconduct

The following punishments will be handed down if a parent/spectator/fan is thrown out of the game for misconduct (defined under 'Misconduct'):

- **FIRST STRIKE:** If a parent/spectator/fan is removed from a game for misconduct, the TEAM will receive a warning which lasts the entire season, including playoffs.
- **SECOND STRIKE:** If a parent/spectator/fan is removed from a game for misconduct, after the team has already received their first strike, the TEAM will immediately forfeit the game they are playing, resulting in a score of 24-0 for the team not forfeiting.
- **THIRD STRIKE:** If a parent/spectator/fan is removed from a game for misconduct, after the team has already received their first and second strikes, the TEAM will forfeit their remaining games for the season, and will not be eligible for playoffs, regardless of record.

ALL Misconduct will be reviewed by the League Director

BOTTOM LINE:

As a parent/spectator/fan who is passionate about the sport, your child, and/or your team. It is your right to feel emotion, for example, happiness of your team scoring a touchdown, or frustration with a call that didn't go your way. However, it is also your RESPONSIBILITY, to conduct yourself in a way that is appropriate and aligns with the purpose as stated above. Misconduct of any kind will not be tolerated.

MIRACLE LEAGUE GUIDELINES

GENERAL

Each team will provide volunteers, “Buddies” who will assist players as needed.

Buddies are involved in the game for these three reasons:

1. Protect the players.
2. Assist the player, but only as needed allowing the player the opportunity to play as much as possible.
3. Encouragement and friendship.

The Miracle League will abide by these specific league rules:

- Divisions may be divided between adults and youth, pending registration, with adult teams having players 18 years of age and older. All divisions are non-competitive.
- Each player may have an assigned Buddy for all games.
- All players bat each inning.
- Batters may hit off of a tee or from a pitcher. There are no strikeouts or walks.
- All players get to circle the bases to score a run each inning.
- Players are never called “Out”.
- A field marshal or trained volunteer will cover each game to call players safe on 1st Base and Home.
- The score is tied after each inning no matter how many players are on each team.

TIMING

Games will last two innings or 50 minutes (if it takes 45-50 minutes to get through the first inning we will only play one inning).

Equipment

Tees, bats, and balls will be provided by Play Lawton.

Shoes

Closed toe shoes must be worn by all players participating in the game, absolutely no cleats with plastic or metal spikes.

Batting Helmet

Helmets are optional but not required, the ball we use in The Miracle League is soft to the touch and Buddies will be on the field to help protect players.

RAINOUTS

Visit www.facebook.com/playlawton to get information on rainouts. Information on rainouts will be posted by 3:00 PM if Play Lawton staff has determined that games should be canceled. The League Director, Field Marshal, or game officials may terminate any game due to inclement weather. Games canceled due to weather, electrical issues or any other reason are not guaranteed to be made up. Every effort will be made to reschedule a canceled game.

LIGHTNING SAFETY PROCEDURE

Lightning Safety Procedure:

1. Keep an eye on the sky. Look for darkening skies, flashes of lightning, or increasing wind, which may be signs of an approaching thunderstorm.
2. Listen for the sound of thunder. If you can hear thunder, go to a safe shelter immediately. If you **“See it, flee it” and if you “Hear it, Clear it”**
3. Postpone activities promptly. Don't wait for rain. Many people take shelter from the rain, but most people struck by lightning are not in the rain!
4. Go quickly to your vehicle. An open garage, baseball dugout or picnic shelter does not provide safety. An enclosed building is the best location to go to. However, if no enclosed building is convenient, get inside your hard-topped all-metal vehicle.
5. Stay away from tall or individual trees, lone objects (light or flag poles), metal objects (metal fences or bleachers), standing pools of water, and open fields. Avoid being the tallest object in a field. Do not take shelter under a single tall tree.
6. If you feel your hair stand on end or your skin tingle or hear crackling noises, immediately crouch to minimize your body surface area.
7. Avoid leaning against vehicles. Get off bicycles and motorcycles.

Decision to Postpone and Resume Game:

1. Allow 30 minutes to pass after the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning before resuming any athletic activity.
2. No consideration will be given to completing the game when making the decision to postpone or resume the game. The only factor that will be considered is the presence/absence of lightning/thunder/threatening skies.

What to do if someone is struck by lightning:

1. Call 9-1-1 or your local ambulance service for help.
2. Get medical attention as quickly as possible

Visit DaySmart Recreation to check your team's schedule.

For questions or concerns call Play Lawton at (580) 448-0123 or email programs@playlawton.com