

Purpose

Communicate answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about player evaluations and tryouts to parents and players.

Scope

Evaluation preparation, attendance, process and general information

Responsible

Division Directors supported by the Player Agents overseen by the Vice President

Little League Evaluation FAQ's

Evaluations can be nerve-racking for both parents and their Little Leaguer. This FAQ is provided to prepare you and ease you through the process. It is important to understand that these are evaluations – players should strive to do their best and have fun while doing it. Having fun is the most important outcome from youth sports.

With a large volume of kids attending, evaluations can be an overly enthusiastic, energized hustle of activity for both the player and parent. Players will not be in mid-season form. While quietly watching your son or daughter, parents should have realistic expectations and remind their child of the same. Parents should reserve any judgments and refrain from criticizing their performance. It is a long season, so start it off right with a high-five, pat on the back, and “good job” regardless of how your child performs at evaluations.

What does my child need to bring to evaluations?

Grandville Little League will provide baseballs/softballs, bats, helmets, and catchers gear. Players must provide a fielding glove. If desired, players may bring their own bats, helmets, batting gloves, and catchers gear. If you do provide your own bat, or helmet make sure they are little league compliant for your child's division. Evaluations are in a gymnasium so wear appropriate clothing including athletic shoes.

Does my child need to attend both evaluations?

Your child must attend only one of the two scheduled sessions, but may attend both if they wish. No “extra credit” is given for attending both. If you cannot attend either session, contact your league director as soon as possible. Can I arrive at any time during the evaluation period

Your child should arrive prior to the time set for the evaluation. Each child must go through two stations (a 3rd is optional) and everyone takes their turn.

Can Parents attend the evaluations?

Anyone may stay and observe the evaluations. We ask that you stay in the bleachers and refrain from interacting with players. Also, please note that when the players are tossing the ball to warm up their arms, there are often stray throws and it can be dangerous. Similarly, when the players are hitting in the cage, do not get too close to the net (from the bleachers) as the net will extend out on a line drive.

What happens when I arrive?

When you enter the building, there will be a table where you must sign in. If you have not registered for the season, please let the attendant know. The child will be given identification for the evaluation. After signing in, the child can then put their equipment down and stretch out until the gymnasium is available to begin throwing to warm their arm up. The child's arm should be warmed up prior to throwing during the evaluations. If it is not, let one of the leaders know and they will give them more time to warm up. The leaders will gather all the players together to begin the evaluations once the players are warmed up.

What do the evaluations include?

There are 3 stations for the evaluations: (1) Hitting, (2) Fielding, (3) Pitching/Catching. The following is a description of each; however, adjustments may be made to the evaluations if necessary:

1. Hitting – Players will line up in the order instructed (usually numerically) and will stand in line on the stairway leading to the batting cage. Players will then individually enter the batting cage with helmet and bat. Either a pitching machine or a person will pitch to the players. Each player will get an opportunity to bunt twice and swing away 3 times (bad pitches don't count).
2. Fielding – Each child will line up in the gymnasium in order as instructed. When it is their turn, they will field 2 short pop ups and 2 ground balls that they will throw to 1st base. The child will then be instructed to move further back for a ground ball and longer throw to home plate. After fielding, each player will play first base and relay the ball to home plate.
3. Pitching and Catching – THIS IS OPTIONAL. If you do not wish to pitch or catch, you may leave the evaluations at this time. Those who want to pitch may throw 5 pitches. Those who wish to catch will put on the gear and catch for one or more pitchers.

What is the evaluation process?

It is important to understand that the league is operated by volunteers only. There are likely 450 to 600 players who will be evaluated during the week. The limited number of volunteers will do their best to provide an honest and fair evaluation of all players. In some cases the coaches do the evaluations for drafting purposes. In other cases, league volunteers will be providing a score and notes for use in trying to make all the team's talent equal. It is impossible to evaluate the players perfectly given the limited opportunity to see them perform. In addition, some have been playing all winter and others haven't touched a baseball until the evaluations. There are no posted results for the evaluations; however, when the teams have been determined, they will be available for viewing on the GLL web site.

[®] If you have suggestions for future evaluations, please provide them or consider joining the board. We always attempt to make the players experience the best it can be – but we aren't perfect either and can always use assistance

GvLL Player Evaluation FAQ

Revision	Author	Change Description	Approved Date
A	M. Kamppinen	First Release	2/27/15