



Divisions and Player Placement for 2018 Spring Season

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this document is to generally describe the Bedford Little League (BLL) divisions and player placement processes. Each season, many variables are taken into consideration by the BLL Board of Directors when deciding on which divisions to create, how many teams to field in each division, how many players to roster per team and which player selection processes to implement for each division. These variables include, but are not limited to, the final number of player registrations, the number of players available for the draft pools, field availability, player development, player safety and most importantly, the Rules, Regulations and Policies of Little League International (LLI). BLL has limited discretion in certain matters and must conduct its activities in accordance LLI Rules, Regulations, and Policies. Unless otherwise permitted by LLI, any content contained in this document that conflicts with LLI Rules, Regulations and Policies shall be deemed null and void.

2. **Divisions Generally.** All BLL players are placed in a division based upon age and/or abilities as shown in the table below. The table below also indicates the divisions of play, the possible applicable ages of players within those divisions, and the general process of player selection for teams within each division. The bolded age numbers in a division represent the typical age playing within that division. See Section 4 below for more information with respect to tryouts and Sections 5-10 for more information with respect to the player selection and assignment processes. Parental requests to play down a division will not be honored, except in the case of safety risk. If a parent/guardian believes that a safety risk may exist by a player participating in his/hertypical playing division, then the parent/guardian may contact the BLL Player Agent to discuss so that a request can be reviewed by the BLL Board of Directors (or a committee thereof).

Division	League Ages	Player Selection Process
Majors	10, 11 and 12	Tryouts and Draft
Minors Triple-A	9 , 10 and 11	Tryouts and Draft
Minors Double-A	8 , 9 and 10	Assigned by BLL
Minors Single-A (coach pitch)	7 and 8	Assigned by BLL
Beginner Baseball (includes coach pitch, but tees will be used)*	6	Assigned by BLL
Tee Ball (tees will be used and will not include coach pitch)*	4 and 5	Assigned by BLL at Tee Ball Jamboree

***Hitting off a tee, when taught and performed properly, is critical to the hitting development of a young player, should not be dismissed and should be encouraged as being fun. “Lollipop” coach pitches at a young age may create poor swing mechanics and the “wrong” muscle memory, which must be corrected at an older age. Major League Baseball players routinely perform tee work. If a professional baseball player can use a tee, then so can your player regardless of his/her age or ability level!**

The League Age of a player for the upcoming season is determined by using the table below.

2018 Little League Age Chart
FOR BASEBALL DIVISION ONLY

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	4
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	5
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	6
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	7
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	8
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	9
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	10
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	11
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	12
				2005	2005	2005	2005					12
2005	2005	2005	2005					2004	2004	2004	2004	13
2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2004	2003	2003	2003	2003	14
2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2002	2002	2002	2002	15
2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2001	2001	2001	2001	16

Note: This age chart is for **BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY**, and only for 2018.

3. **Number of Teams and Players Per Team.** The number of teams in each division and the number of players per team within each division will be decided, and approved, by the BLL Board of Directors after relevant information is available to the BLL Board of Directors, including the following: (a) the total number of registered players for all divisions for the season, (b) the size of the draft pools, and (c) the number of registered players available for the divisions below Minors Triple-A.
4. **Player Tryouts.** Player tryouts and evaluations are an essential function in distributing player talent evenly among teams within the applicable divisions. Generally speaking, except with respect to a player league age 12 who is entitled to play in the Majors division in accordance with LLI Rules, Regulations and Policies, there is no guaranty that a player league age 9-11 will be placed in a division based upon age alone. **Please note that a player league age 11 is not guaranteed to play in the Majors division unless he/she played in the Majors division during the prior spring season and that a player league age 9 or 10 is not guaranteed to play in the Minors Triple-A division unless he/she played in the Minors Triple-A division during the prior spring season.** Furthermore, beginning at a certain level of baseball, the BLL Board of Directors believes it is very important to attempt to identify an individual player’s abilities regardless of age in the interest of both the safety and player development of all players involved within the league.

BLL will offer tryouts for players league age 9, 10, 11 and 12 and who have not previously played in the Majors division. At tryouts, players will be evaluated on different baseball skills, including catching and throwing, fielding ground balls, fielding fly balls, hitting and running. **Please note that unless otherwise required by the Rules, Regulations or Policies of LLI inclusion in the Majors draft pool does not guaranty that a player will be drafted by a Majors team.** Players league age 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and players who have previously played in the Majors division do not need to attend tryouts.

In order to establish competitive balance between teams within each division and to ensure that a

player is placed in the appropriate division, it is critical for each player league age 9-12 who has not previously played in the Majors division to attend tryouts and to try his or her best while being evaluated. **It is the responsibility of a player's parent(s)/guardian(s) to make sure that such player attends tryouts on the date(s), and at the time(s), offered by BLL. Per LLI Rules, Regulations and Policies, any player league age 11 who does not attend tryouts and who did not play in the Majors division the prior spring season will not be included in the Majors division draft pool and will be assigned to the Minors Triple-A division draft pool.**

5. **Majors Division.** (a) Any player league age 10 (if indicating an interest in playing in the Majors division at registration) or 11 who attended tryouts and who received an aggregate minimum evaluation score as determined by the BLL Board of Directors and (b) any player league age 12 who attended tryouts will be included in the Majors draft pool along with any returning Majors division player. BLL will not inform a player (or such player's parent/guardian) of such player's evaluation scores from tryouts or the order in which such player is drafted. **Again, except as previously mentioned, please note that inclusion in the Majors draft pool does not guaranty that a player will be drafted by a Majors team.** The BLL Board of Directors does not draft players as this is performed by the Managers of the teams utilizing the Majors draft pool list as provided to them by the Player Agent. With that being said and with all other factors being equal, BLL strongly encourages Managers to draft an older player over a younger player with substantially similar abilities.

In order to establish equitable distribution of player talent, LLI mandates that the BLL Board of Directors choose a player selection method as prescribed by LLI. BLL will be using what LLI describes as "Plan B" with the permitted alternate method of having a one part draft. A general description of player selection methods may be reviewed here:

<http://www.littleleagueu.org/article/2015/11/24/Player+Selection%3A+Approved+Draft+Methods> (registration may be required).

The Majors draft will be conducted in accordance with all applicable LLI Rules, Regulations and Policies, including those with respect to player options. A general description of player options may be reviewed here:

<http://www.littleleagueu.org/article/2015/11/24/The+Draft%3A++Manager+and+Coach+Options> (registration may be required). While BLL is not permitted to mandate that Managers draft certain players on certain teams, BLL strongly encourages Managers to exercise the sibling player option where appropriate so that siblings who may play within the same division can be on the same team.

Please note that in accordance with "Plan B" for the Majors draft, (a) Coaches are not permitted to be appointed to a Majors team until after the Majors draft is complete, and (b) any returning player from the Majors division and any non-returning Majors player league age 12 and who attended tryouts must be drafted in the Majors division. A more detailed description of player selection methods and player options can be obtained by purchasing a rulebook directly from LLI.

In order to successfully administer the league, BLL will work with all Managers during the draft with the intent of having volunteer Coaches and sponsors distributed among the Majors teams and with the intent of having siblings playing within the Majors division be on the same team. Any and all player trades will be negotiated, conducted and finalized, subject to the approval of the Player Agent, immediately after the conclusion of the Majors draft and before the draft is officially adjourned.

Any player league age 10 or 11 included in the Majors draft pool, but not drafted by a Majors team, will automatically be included in the Minors Triple-A division draft pool and must be drafted by a Minors Triple-A team.

6. **Minors Triple-A Division.** Any player not achieving an aggregate minimum evaluation score at

tryouts as set by the BLL Board of Directors to be included in the Majors draft pool and any eligible player not drafted by a Majors team will be included in the Minors Triple-A division draft pool. BLL will not inform a player (or a player's parent/guardian) of such player's evaluation scores or the order in which such player is drafted. **Please note that inclusion in the Minors Triple-A division draft pool does not guaranty that a player will be drafted by a Minors Triple-A team except for (a) players league age 11 who (i) did not attend tryouts or (ii) attended tryouts and either were not included in the Majors draft pool or were not drafted by a Majors team and (b) any player not drafted to a Majors team who played in the Minors Triple-A division the prior spring season.** Again, the BLL Board of Directors does not draft players as this is performed by the Managers of the teams utilizing the Minors Triple-A draft pool list as provided to them by the Player Agent. With that being said and with all other factors being equal, BLL strongly encourages Managers to draft an older player over a younger player with substantially similar abilities.

In order to successfully administer the league, BLL will work with all Managers during the draft with the intent of having volunteer Coaches and sponsors distributed among the Triple-A teams and with the intent of having siblings playing within the Minors Triple-A division be on the same team. Any and all player trades will be negotiated, conducted and finalized, subject to the approval of the Player Agent, immediately after the conclusion of the Minors Triple-A draft and before the draft is officially adjourned.

Any player included in the Minors Triple-A draft pool, but not drafted by a Minors Triple-A team, will automatically be included in the Minors Double-A division "snake" draft as described below.

7. **Minors Double-A Division.** Players league age 8, 9 or 10 and who were not drafted by a Minors Triple-A team during the Minors Triple-A draft, will be ordered by the Player Agent based upon age, evaluation scores if such player attended tryouts and any other information the Player Agent deems relevant and at the Player Agent's disposal. The Player Agent will then place players on a team using a "snake" draft. When placing players on a team and making final roster decisions, the Player Agent may take into consideration placement of siblings on the same team, and adequate distribution of Manager and Coach volunteers (and their players) among the teams and/or available sponsors.
8. **Minors Single-A Division.** Players league age 7 or 8 not placed on a Minors Double-A team as a result of the Minors Double-A "snake" draft described above will be placed on a Minors Single-A team. Players in this division will be randomly assigned to teams by the Player Agent. When placing players on a team and making final roster decisions, the Player Agent may take into consideration placement of siblings on the same team, the adequate distribution of Manager and Coach volunteers (and their players) among the teams and/or available sponsors.
9. **Beginners Baseball Division.** Players league age 6 will play in the Beginners Baseball Division, which may include coach pitch but will also use tees. Players in this division will be randomly assigned to teams by the Player Agent. When placing players on a team and making final roster decisions, the Player Agent may take into consideration placement of siblings on the same team, the adequate distribution of Manager and Coach volunteers (and their players) among the teams and/or available sponsors.
10. **Tee Ball Division.** Players league age 4 or 5 will play in the Tee Ball Division, which will not include coach pitch. Players in this division will be assigned to teams during an opening day Tee Ball jamboree coordinated by the Tee Ball Managers, the Tee Ball Coordinator and the Player Agent.