



## Parent's Frequently Asked Questions about Westchester Del Rey Little League

### How much will my child get to play?

We consider this to be the most important question of all. Each division is different to accommodate the needs of the children at that level of play:

Junior Division - Little League International requires that each player must play at least two defensive innings and bat once in each game. (Exceptions are made for games that end prematurely due to darkness or weather.)

Major and Minor Division – Little League International requires that each player must play at least two defensive innings and bat once in each game (Exceptions are made for games that end prematurely due to darkness or weather.) In addition, our League has elected to use a "round-robin" batting system which means all players present bat in order; in a six inning game each typically bats 2-3 times.

Mini-Minor and Tee Ball Division – Every player will play in the field each inning so no one sits on the bench while their team is out on the field. The same "round-robin" batting system is also used.

**THE MINIMUM PLAYING TIME RULE IS VERY IMPORTANT AND THE PENALTIES FOR NOT ADHERING TO IT ARE STRONG. CONTACT YOUR TEAM MANAGER FIRST, AND THEN THE PLAYER AGENTS, IF YOU BELIEVE YOUR CHILD HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN HER MINIMUM AMOUNT OF PLAYING TIME.**

### How is the "League Age" determined for Softball and Tee Ball?

Your child's "League Age" for the current season is based on their age as of the immediately preceding December 31. For example, if your child was born on January 5, 2009, your child is 6 years old as of December 31, 2015 and would be League Age 6 for the 2016 season. The League Age is a factor for determining in which Division your child will play.

### Do I have to buy any equipment?

WDRLL provides each player with a uniform jersey. The jersey must be returned at the end of the season. Your uniform deposit will be returned after the jersey is returned. [Tee-Ball only - the jersey may be kept].

Players must purchase their own pants, socks and belt. The team may decide the color for the pants and socks but all players must wear the same color. The chosen color should complement the jersey. They will also need their own glove. A protective cup is recommended as are shoes with rubber cleats (baseball cleats are best but soccer type cleats are acceptable). The league supplies batting helmets and catcher's gear. Most players prefer to have their own bat.

### Does the league carry insurance?

Little League Baseball International provides a secondary health insurance policy covering health care costs incurred due to injury while playing in a scheduled game or practice. However, the Little League policy only covers those costs not otherwise covered by the parent's primary health care insurance. **All benefits from the primary plan must be exhausted before a claim will be honored under the Little League policy.** Contact the League Safety Officer for a claim form.

The league also carries liability and property insurance as required by Little League International and the Westchester Playa del Rey Youth Foundation.

### **How many teams are there and how are they created?**

For the 2016 season, we expect there will be one Junior Division team, five Major Division teams, five Minor Division teams, four Mini-Minor teams and 10-12 Tee-Ball Division teams. The Tee-Ball teams may fluctuate in total or number of players per team depending on final registration data.

Little League procedures require that the Junior, Major and Minor Division teams be formed by means of a player selection by the team managers based on skill ratings. The creation of balanced teams is always desirable but cannot be guaranteed. The Mini-Minor and Tee-Ball teams are formed by a group chaired by the Division Player Agent. In these Divisions, in addition to the "balanced teams" concept, consideration is also given to assigning players to teams with their friends and classmates.

### **When do practices and the regular season start and end?**

Practices may begin in early February after the annual team Announcement Meeting. Opening Day for the regular season begins on the Saturday closest to March 1 and Closing Day is typically the first Sunday in June. Post season includes the District-wide annual Carl Magee Memorial Tournament during June for teams in the Junior, Major and Minor Divisions, and the Little League All Star Tournament which begins around the end of June.

### **How many games and practices are there each week?**

*All Divisions except Tee Ball* - Typically, two games per week are scheduled for each team – one game during the week and one game on the weekend. A regulation game is six innings (seven innings for Juniors) but it may be ended early due to time limits. The time limits vary by Division and range from 1½ hours to one hour and fifty minutes. Practices are limited to no more than two per week and usually last about 1½ to 2 hours.

*Tee Ball Division only* – Tee Ball teams play one game per week which is always scheduled on Saturdays. Tee Ball games last 60 minutes. Practices are limited to one per week and usually last from 45-60 minutes.

### **How much time do parents have to commit?**

Please see the Parents Responsibilities and Obligations handout.

### **What deposits are required?**

Please see the Deposits and Refunds Policy handout.

### **What kinds of awards are given?**

All players will receive a participation award. On Closing Day, one player from each team will be recognized with a Sportsmanship Award. That selection is made by the team's manager.

### **How do the WDRLL playoffs work?**

The purpose of the regular season is to develop players' skills and build the best possible team for the playoffs. The playoffs will start after May 15<sup>th</sup> and run through the first week of June. Every Junior, Major and Minor team will participate regardless of the results of the regular season. This provides every team with a fresh opportunity to become a champion. The playoffs are double elimination format so a team still participates even though they lose one game. The winner of the playoffs will then be one of our representatives in the annual District 37 Carl Magee Memorial Tournament. The Mini-Minors and Tee-Ball Divisions do not have playoffs.

### **How are All-Star teams selected?**

WDRLL participates in the annual Little League Softball International Tournament which ultimately leads to the Little League Softball World Series and the Junior League Softball World Series. There

is a similar tournament for 9 & 10 year olds, and for 11 year olds that leads to a Southern California state championship. There is no All Star tournament for Mini-Minor and Tee-Ball teams.

All Junior, Major and Minor players are eligible for selection to an All Star team provided: (1) they have played in at least 60% of the season in the division, and (2) they agree to attend all practices and attend all games **during the All Star period which runs from early June through late July or early August.**

The President appoints the manager and coaches subject to Executive Board approval. The players are selected to the various All Star teams based on input from all the managers during the regular season. The Junior Division players elect 4 players and the Major Division players elect 7 players. A committee of the Board will make the final placement of individual players to each All Star team. The League has historically entered a team in the Junior, Major, 10/11 and 9/10 Divisions. Each year, the League has the option to enter two 9/10 Year Old All Star teams. If there are sufficient players, we also enter teams into the Senior Division and Big League.

No matter what procedure is used, the selection of All-Star teams can be highly subjective, and sometimes the source of hard feelings. To accurately pick the best 14 or 28 players from among 6084 is impossible. One must only look to the major leagues and the controversy there each year to see how difficult the process is. If your child feels she should have been selected and was not, please explain to her the difficulty of the job of selecting a team and that perhaps next season her turn will come.