
Bolton Youth Baseball Bolton Little League



League Tryout, Draft and Team Selection Guide

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BYB Spring League Structure (April – June)

Spring baseball programs are open to both boys and girls. Age cutoffs follow the national Little League date of April 30. Bolton is part of a larger “regional” league called HLBB which incorporates teams from Harvard, Lancaster, Bolton and Berlin. Bolton’s program is open to all players registering within the deadlines. The Minors, Instructional (Coach-Pitch) and Farm (Tee-Ball) divisions are teaching divisions where we strive for balanced teams playing a season of 10 - 14 games. Majors division tends to be a more “competitive” level of play due to the nature of the Little League rules, and the number of games played is governed by the Little League schedule. The Spring BYB Program is structured into the following play levels:

- Farm (T-Ball) division is an entry-level league to introduce young players to baseball. Players will develop their skills while focusing on the basic fundamentals of throwing, fielding and hitting. Teams sizes are small at about 6-8 players per team. Players all hit from an adjustable batting tee. Teams play on fields with 45 foot base paths. Games are played once or twice per week with practice on weekends. RIF (reduced injury factor) baseballs are used. Farm teams play in-town games only with no travel.

Ages: 5 to 6 years (typically)

Tryout or Skill Assessment: None

- Instructional (Coach-Pitch) division is designed for players slightly older and more skilled than T-Ball and as the last league before organized, competitive play. Players will continue to work on the fundamentals of throwing, fielding and hitting while learning a team concept. Each player gets an at-bat each half inning and plays in the field the other half inning. Teams play on a field with 60 foot base paths. Adults pitch to the players using RIF baseballs. During the game, coaches are permitted on the field to pitch to their own players and to reinforce defensive positions in the field. Players are also eligible to pitch and catch per the IL Rules document. Teams may also travel to neighboring towns for an away game every few weeks. Games are four innings and played two times per week with practices on weekends.

Ages: 7 to 9 (typically)

Tryout or Skill Assessment: Yes, skill assessment (six year olds only)

Note: The Skills Assessment is for 6-year-old players only who wish to be considered for the Instructional league. Player safety must be considered. Also, any player who wishes to be considered for moving up to IL MUST play at least once full season of T-Ball.

- Minors’ division is an entry level to organized competitive baseball. Kids pitch in this league with continuous batting orders and required substitutions. Teams play on a field with 60 foot base paths. Games are played in the HLBB league with home games on a Bolton field and away games with the neighboring HLBB towns of Lancaster, Harvard, and Berlin, so travel is required. Games are typically four to six innings and played two times per week with Saturday practices. Additional practices and/or make-up games are occasionally required. Hardballs are used.

Note: A high level of commitment is expected at the Minor League level and above.

Ages: 9 to 12-years old (as of yearly League Age of 4/30). However, 8-year old players may be included in this league to fill a limited number of roster spots.
Tryout or Skill Assessment: Yes, try-out required.

- Majors' division is for high skill level players and is more competitive than the Minor League. Teams play on a field with 60 foot base paths. Following Little League Rules, there are limited substitution requirements. Each player must be in the field a minimum of six defensive outs per game and have at least one turn at bat. Games are played in the HLBB league with home games on a Bolton field and away games with the neighboring HLBB towns of Lancaster, Harvard, and Berlin, so travel is required. Games are six innings and played two times per week with Saturday practices. Additional practices and/or make-up games should be expected. Hardballs are used.

Note: A high level of commitment is required at the Major League level.

Ages: 11 to 12-years old (as of yearly League Age of 4/30). However, 10-year old players may be included in this league to fill a limited number of roster spots.
Tryout or Skill Assessment: Yes, try-out required.

- Juniors' division is for highly skilled 13 year old prep players and is more competitive than Little League. This prep level of baseball is geared towards players playing for the first time on the full sized field with 90 foot bases. Players with previous baseball experience are encouraged to enroll for the team, but due to a limited number of positions available and safety related concerns as a result of the elevated play, try-outs may be held to determine the roster for the up-coming season. There are substitution and batting requirements as dictated by the league entered. Bolton is part of the Minuteman League with home games on a Bolton field and away games with the neighboring Minuteman towns so travel is required. Games are seven innings and played once or twice per week with one week-night and one weekend practice. Additional practices and/or make-up games should be expected. Hardballs are used.

Note: A high level of commitment is required at the Junior League level.

Ages: 13 years old (as of yearly League Age of 4/30)
Tryout or Skill Assessment: Maybe, try-out and cuts depending on enrollment.

- Seniors' division is for high advanced skill level players and is more competitive than Little League. There are substitution and batting requirements as dictated by the league entered. Players with previous baseball experience are encouraged to enroll for the team, but due to a limited number of positions available and safety related concerns as a result of the elevated play, try-outs may be held to determine the roster for the up-coming season. There are substitution and batting requirements as

dictated by the league entered. Bolton is part of the Minuteman League with home games on a Bolton field and away games with the neighboring Minuteman towns so travel is required. Games are seven innings and played once or twice per week with one week-night and one weekend practice. Additional practices and/or make-up games should be expected. Hardballs are used.

Note: A high level of commitment is required at the Senior League level.

Ages: 13 to 15-years old (as of yearly League Age of 4/30)

Tryout or Skill Assessment: Maybe, try-out and cuts depending on enrollment.

- Softball Minors' division is an entry level to organized competitive baseball. Kids pitch in this league with continuous batting orders and required substitutions. Teams play on a field with 60 foot base paths. Games are played in the Courtland league with home games on a Bolton field and away games with the neighboring Courtland League towns so travel is required. Games are typically four-six innings and played once per week with Saturday practices. Additional practices and/or make-up games are occasionally required.

Note: A high level of commitment is expected at the Minor League level.

Ages: 9 to 10-years old (as of yearly League Age of 1/1). However, 8-year old players may be included in this league to fill a limited number of roster spots.

Tryout or Skill Assessment: Maybe, try-out depending on enrollment.

- Softball Majors' division is for higher skill level players and is more competitive than the Minor League. Kids pitch in this league with continuous batting orders and required substitutions. Teams play on a field with 60 foot base paths. Games are played in the Courtland league with home games on a Bolton field and away games with the neighboring Courtland League towns so travel is required. Games are typically six innings and played once or twice per week with mid-week and Saturday practices. Additional practices and/or make-up games are occasionally required. Hardballs are used.

Note: A high level of commitment is required at the ASA Softball Major League level.

Ages: 11 to 12-years old (as of yearly League Age of 1/1). However, 10-year old players may be included in this league to fill a limited number of roster spots.

Tryout or Skill Assessment: Maybe, try-out depending on enrollment.

Spring Leagues

League Name	Typical Age	Base-path Length	Pitching / Hitting Style
Tee Ball (Co-ed)	5-6 year olds	45 feet	Stationary Ball / Limited Coach-pitch
Instruction (Coach Pitch) Baseball	7-8 year olds	60 feet	Coach pitch / Limited Kid-pitch
Minor League Baseball	9-10 year olds	60 feet	Kid pitch
Major League Baseball	11-12 year olds	60 feet	Kid pitch
Girls Minor League Softball	9-10 year olds	60 feet	Kid Pitch
Girls Major League Softball	11-12 year olds	60 feet	Kid Pitch, "Fastpitch"
Junior League Baseball	13 year olds	90 feet	Kid Pitch
Senior League Baseball	13-15 year olds	90 feet	Kid Pitch

Spring League Draft and Team Selection Process

The Bolton Youth Baseball Board of Directors has approved the following set of rules for use in conducting the Bolton Little League Player Selection System or draft. The procedure is based on Bolton Youth Baseball Player Selection System but has been modified to meet local league concerns.

Eligibility and Try-out Invitations

Bolton Youth Baseball (BYB) offers baseball and softball for kids from 5 to 15 years of age in 8 divisions: 6 baseball divisions and 2 softball divisions. The divisions have age restrictions based on rules dedicated by the affiliated league (Little League, Softball, etc.). Participation in a particular division may require a try-out or skill assessment to ensure the safety and success of each player. The associated Player Agent conducts the try-out and/or skill assessment process.

Notes about eligibility and invitation criteria are outlined for each division and prior to try-out/skill assessment, and the Player Agent will identify the players who are to be invited based on eligibility criteria. Recommendations from a previous coach will factor in the Player Agent issuing an invitation. Recommendations will be supported by the player evaluations from a previous coach including but not limited to minor league team manager, U10 All-Star team manager, All-Star team manager, instructional team manager and if applicable fall baseball team manager. Players will be notified at least two weeks prior.

The following guidelines for eligibility are established for identifying players who will be placed in each division or who will be subject to a try-out and skill assessment prior to being placed in a division

Senior Division Eligibility

- i. Players must be between the league ages of 13 through 15.
- ii. All players entering the Senior Division may be subject to a try-out and cuts and will be selected or placed via a draft process depending on the number of available positions and number of candidates.

Junior Division Eligibility

- i. Players must be league age 13.
- ii. All players entering the Junior Division may be subject to a try-out and cuts and will be selected or placed via a draft process depending on the number of available positions and number of candidates.

Majors Division Eligibility and Invitation Criteria

- i. All players in the Majors Division must be between the league ages of 10 and 12.
- ii. All players entering the Majors Division are subject to a try-out and will be selected via a draft process.
- iii. Players who are not selected to a Major Division team who previously participated in BYB Minors Division will be designated to a Minor Division and may be assigned to their team from the previous year.
- iv. Players who are not selected to a Major Division team who did not previously participate in BYB Minors Division are subject to a try-out in the Minor Division draft.
- v. Invitation Criteria:
 - a. Players league age 11 and 12 years previously on a BYB Minors Division team must attend Majors Division try-out, unless that player requests to be excluded and the Player Agent approves the request or unless the Player Agent determines the player to be a safety risk.
 - b. Players league age 11 and 12 years of age who did not play in the Bolton Youth Baseball Major league the previous year must attend Majors Division try-out, unless that player requests to be excluded and the Player Agent approves the request or unless the Player Agent determines the player to be a safety risk.
 - c. If needed, players league age 10 years old who played in the Bolton Youth Baseball Minors Division the previous year and would be moving with their class (typically 5th grade) and who have been recommended by the Player Agents may attend Majors Division try-out.
 - d. If needed, players league age 10 years old who played in the Bolton Youth Baseball Minors division the previous year and participated on a “U10 All-Star Tournament Team” and who have been recommended by the Player Agents may attend Major Division try-out.
 - e. If needed, players league age 10 years old who successfully completed two seasons in the Bolton Youth Baseball Minors division and who have been recommended by the Player Agents may attend Major Division try-out.

Minors Division Eligibility and Invitation Criteria

- i. All players in the Minors Division must be the league ages of 8 and 12.
- ii. All players entering the Minors Division are subject to a try-out and will be selected via a draft process.
- iii. Players who are league age 12 must sign a waiver per Little League requirements and are subject to HLBB and Little League restrictions.
- iv. Players who are not selected to a Minors Division team will be designated to the Instructional Division and may be placed on their team from the previous year or if they did not participate in the Minors, they will be assigned to an Instructional

- Division team at random.
- v. Invitation Criteria:
- a. Players league age 9 and 10 years previously on a BYB Instructional Division team must attend Minors Division try-out, unless that player requests to be excluded and the Player Agent approves the request or unless the Player Agent determines the player to be a safety risk.
 - b. Players league age 9 and 10 years of age who did not play in the Bolton Youth Baseball Minor Division the previous year must attend Minors Division try-out, unless that player requests to be excluded and the Player Agent approves the request or unless the Player Agent determines the player to be a safety risk.
 - c. If needed, players league age 8 years old who played in the Bolton Youth Baseball Instructional Division the previous year and would be moving with their class (typically 3rd grade) and who have been recommended by the Player Agents may attend Minors Division try-out.
 - d. If needed, players league age 8 years old who played in the Bolton Youth Baseball Instructional Division the previous year and who have been recommended by the Player Agents may attend Minors Division try-out.

Instructional Division Eligibility

- i. Players must be between the league ages of 6 through 11.
- ii. Players 7 and 8 years of age, unless that player requests to be excluded and the Player Agent approves the request or unless the Player Agent determines the player to be a safety risk.
- ii. Any 6 year old who played in the T-Ball Division the previous year and would like to play in the Instructional Division subject to a Skills Assessment.
- iii. The Player Agent assigns all players to Instructional Division teams. There is no draft by Instructional Division Managers.

Farm (T-Ball) Division Eligibility

- i. All league age 5 year old players are assigned to the Farm (T-Ball) Division.
- ii. All league age 6 year old players who did not play in the league the previous year are assigned to the Farm (T-Ball) Division.
- ii. There is no draft for T-Ball players.
- iii. The Player Agent assigns all players to T-Ball Division teams.

Placement and “Play-Up”/“Play Down” Criteria

For Spring league programs, Bolton Youth Baseball (BYB) primarily determines league placement based on a player's age, not his/her playing ability. All chartered Little League programs in the United States are required to use age cutoff dates established by Little League in Williamsport. Current Little League rules set the cutoff date at April 30th of the current year, therefore players are typically placed in a league based upon their age as of April 30th date with like age/skill children but exceptions are made as described below.

Rare exceptions are allowed to this policy for reasons including player ability and safety concerns. Parents may express requests or concerns to the appropriate Player Agent or Vice President, but placement is ultimate decision of the Bolton Youth Baseball (BYB). Request may only be made during the registration period. Placement is affected by a number of factors such as: available player slots in the level, number of candidates, coach evaluations, try-outs, player age and/or player grade.

The circumstances in which a player is allowed to “play-up” a level and be placed with a group of older children (or “play-down” with a group of younger children) are exceptions to the April 30 cutoff. The BYB “Play-Up/Play-Down” criteria are summarized below:

A child can **“Play Up”** by one level if the following conditions are met:

The player meets the eligibility requirement of the level, **AND**
The player meets the skill requirement of the level either through try-out or skill assessment, **AND** sufficient roster space is available the level **AND**
The previous team manager, League Coordinators, Safety Officer and Player Agents have a consensus opinion that the child should participate in a higher age-appropriate level for safety consideration of other children in that level. In this circumstance, the League Coordinator will discuss this recommendation with the parent before the player is moved or invited to a try-out.

A child may **“Play Down”** by one level if the following conditions are met:

Based upon the child's limited level of baseball/softball experience the child's parent makes the “play down” request to the league or coordinator, and the coordinator agrees; **OR**
The player’s Coach, League Coordinator, Safety Officer and Player Agent have a consensus opinion that the child cannot safely participate in the age-appropriate level. In this circumstance, the League Coordinator will discuss this recommendation with the parent before the player is moved.

Note: a player may NOT “play up” or “play down” merely to be with friends.

Independent Coaches/Individuals (ICI) Selection Process

One function of the Player Agent prior to the try-out process is to identify, elect and submit to the Board of Directors for approval at least three but not more than five Independent Coaches/Individuals (ICIs) to evaluate players participating in the Majors and Minors try-out. The Player Agent or any board member may be selected as an ICI provided he or she is qualified.

A person is qualified as an Independent Coach/Individual if, in the opinion of the Player Agent, that person has exceptional understanding of the game of baseball and provided further, that the person does not have a “conflict or interest”. A “conflict or interest” would be evaluating a try-out **AND** having a child participate in the try-out **OR** being a coach or assistant coach with a child in that level. The outcome of the try-out should have no bearing on the Independent Coach/Individual or persons related to the ICI.

Majors and Minors Draft Process

Bolton Youth Baseball has a spring try-out and draft to distribute players to each team. It is the intention of the league to distribute players fairly allowing all coaches the same opportunities in the formation of the team. Provisions have been made for selection of a child of a team manager or existing coach. The Majors and Minors draft process fall into four categories: standard draft, expansion draft, contraction draft and redistribution redraft. In the event of a standard, expansion, or contraction draft eligible players within a division remain in a division remain on the team from the previous season and are not subject to a tryout and are not re-drafted. Players moving into the division will tryout and are drafted under the draft rules. In the redistribution redraft all players are subject to a tryout and are re-drafted based on the draft rules; no players remain with the team from the previous season but they may be reselected.

Draft attendance shall be limited to the following:

- Each team manager and one approved existing coach.
- President
- Player Agent.
- League Registrar
- Vice President
- Other approved Board assistants

Draft Process

- i. The Player Agent will select and submit to the Board of Directors for approval at least three but not more than five Independent Coaches/Individuals (ICIs) to evaluate players participating in the try-out. The Player Agent shall select Independent Coaches/Individuals (ICIs) per the Independent Coaches/Individuals Selection Process
- ii. The ICIs will rate each player participating in the try-out pursuant to a rating scorecard established by the Player Agent and approved by the President. The scorecards of all ICIs will be totaled and a ranking of players will be established. Based on the number of players required for the draft, the number of players required plus 2 additional places will be qualified for the draft. The Player Agent with the approval of the President has the option of adding or removing an additional player or players under exceptional circumstances provided that such player is not a child of the Player Agent or President. The final list approved by the President will be made up of the players eligible for the league draft. As an example, assuming no exceptional circumstances, if 18 players are necessary to complete the rosters of all teams, then the top 20 players will be the players who are eligible for the draft.
- iii. The manager for each team will select the player drafted for his/her team. Except as otherwise provided, the manager for each team will be allowed to select one player in each round. Draft order in every round shall be determined by the number of remaining players on a team. The team with the least number of players will draft first. In the event that two teams have an equal number of

players a series of tie-breakers will be calculated until the tie is broken. The first tie breaker will be the sum of the number of years played in the level (not total Little League experience) for the players on the roster. The team with less “experience” will pick first. The second tie breaker will be the number of sum of the age in years of the players on each roster. The “younger” team will pick first. The third tie break will be the record from the previous year. The team with the lower record will pick first. Finally, in the event that all results were even, the choice will be determined by the flip of a coin.

- iv. The Player Agent may, with the approval of the President, award bonus draft choices during the third and/or fourth rounds of the draft to any team that requires 7 or more draft picks to complete a roster.
- v. Order of rotation does not change as the result of bonus picks.
- vi. Number of pick and the rounds are determined by the table below.

Remaining players	Picks
0 (Expansion)	1 st (3), 1A (2), 2 nd , 3 rd (2), 3B, 4 th and 5 th
1	1 st , 1A (2), 2 nd (2), 3 rd (2), 3B (2), 4 th and 5 th
2	1 st , 1A (2), 2 nd , 3 rd (2), 3B (2), 4 th and 5 th
3	1 st , 1A (2), 2 nd , 3 rd , 3B (2), 4 th and 5 th
4	1 st , 1A, 2 nd , 3 rd , 3B, 4 th and 5 th plus one in either Round 1A or 3B
5	1 st , 1A, 2 nd , 3 rd , 3B, 4 th and 5 th
6	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th and 5 th plus one in either Round 1A or 3B
7	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th and 5 th
8	1 st , 2 nd , 4 th and 5 th
9	1 st , 3 rd and 5 th
10	1 st and 5 th
11	3 rd

Draft Restrictions

- i. The recommended size of a Major and Minor division teams is 12 players.
- ii. No team may have more than 13 players without Player Agent approval.
- iii. No team, as a result of the draft, may have more than 8 players of the same age.
- iv. In compliance with Little League International Regulation V.1 all Little League age 12 year-old players must attend the Majors try-out and be selected and placed on a Majors team. Any 12 year old player who wishes to participate in the Bolton Youth Baseball program but does not wish to be placed on a Majors team must file a signed waiver to be submitted to Little League.
- v. Any Little League age 10, 11 or 12 year-old players who attend the Minor try-out must be selected in the draft and placed on a Minor league team.

Majors and Minors Draft Special Rule Process

Team Expansion

- i. The Player Agent determines a team or teams shall be added and submits the suggestion to the Board of Directors for approval.
- ii. Expansion teams always pick prior to existing teams.
- iii. If there are two or more expansion teams, the order of the draft with respect to the expansion teams will be determined by coin toss or similar.
- iv. Each expansion team gets 3 draft choices in the first round prior to any pick of an existing team.
- v. Each expansion team gets 2 draft choices in the first sandwich round (1A) and third round prior to any pick of an existing team.
- vi. Each expansion team gets a single draft choice in all subsequent rounds prior to any pick of an existing team.
- vii. Notwithstanding the above, with the approval of President, the Player Agent may award bonus draft choices during the third and/or remaining rounds of the draft to any expansion team if the Player Agent deems it in the best interest of the league.

Team Contraction

- i. The Player Agent determines the team or teams shall be removed and will submit the suggestion suggest to the Board of Directors for approval.
- ii. Players from removed team(s) are selected in a pre-draft meeting which includes division managers and the Player Agent, League President and Vice-President. This is done prior to the “new player” draft.
- iii. Draft order is determined by the number of remaining players on a team as described above.
- iv. The Player Agent may move a player(s) to a team(s) if there is only a couple returning players on the team being contracted and it will even out the number of players on each of the remaining team.

Team Redistribution (Full Redraft)

- i. In the event of a team expansion or contraction, the Player Agent and Vice-President shall examine if a redistribution of players at an existing level is in the best interest of the league.
- ii. If total player redistribution is suggested it will be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
- iii. Players are selected in a pre-draft meeting which includes division managers and the Player Agent, League President and Vice-President. This is done prior to the “new player” draft.
- iv. Draft order is determined by reverse order of standings, league tenure as a coach or through a random draw.

Protected Players

- i. Protection of a son/daughter of manager/senior coach. A manager has the option to protect his child. A manager may waive this option prior to the draft. The option must be exercised in the round that the player is projected to be drafted as determined solely by the ranking of players by the ICIs. Example, if the draft will consist of 5 picks in the first round and the protected child is ranked as one of the top five players by the ICIs, the manager must take his child in the first round or lose the option to protect his child. If there are 5 picks in the second round and the player is ranked as the 6th through the 10th player in the draft then the manager would be allowed to draft his child in either the first or second round.
- ii. Sibling Options. A manager has the option to protect the eligible brother or sister of a returning player on his team. This option must be exercised in the round that the player is projected to be drafted as determined by the ranking of players by the ICIs. See example above.
- iii. A manager who selects a player who has an eligible brother or sister in the same draft has the option to draft the second player. This option must be exercised in the next round of the draft.
- iv. There are no protected players other than those defined in this section. All options defined in this section must be communicated to the Player Agent in writing before the draft.

Trading Players

- i. Trades are only allowed on the day of the draft immediately following the draft process.
- ii. The Player Agent must approve all trades.
- iii. Trades are never to be mentioned to players.

Replacement Players

- i. In the event that a team loses a player(s) during the season they may ask the Player Agent to prepare a list of candidates to be drafted from a lower division.
- ii. The Player Agent will create a list of players starting with the players who failed to move up a division at try-outs.
- iii. If no such players exist, the Player Agent shall contact the lower division managers and ask them to identify any players who can move up a division.
- iv. The Player Agent has final say as to whether a team shall be awarded replacement players.
- v. Replacement players must re-enter the draft the following year.

