



January 2018

## In This Issue

*Key Dates & Reminders*

*Message from the President*

*Player Development & Skills Day*

*Volunteer Opportunities*

*Our Sponsors*



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## Key Dates & Reminders

### Calendar

**January 20:** Skills Warm-up Sessions 2pm - 4pm  
(LT South Field House – Details Below)

**January 27:** Skills Day 12pm – 8pm  
(See Details Below)

**February 3:** LT Baseball/Softball Youth Coaches Clinic 12pm – 2pm (LT South Fieldhouse - Details Below)

**March 10-11:** Dick's Sporting Goods 20% Discount storewide promotion

**April 29:** Picture Day (baseball / softball) and June 9 (Challenger)

### Reminders

**Volunteers are needed for Skills Assessment Day!** Please sign up for an available volunteer slot [here](#).

**New for 2018 - [USA Bat Standards for Little League](#)**

**See the latest updates and full calendar on our website [HERE](#).**

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## Message from the President

As we head into the 2018 season, I want to thank returning players for coming back for another great year, and also welcome you if this is your first year with the La Grange Little League.

We are coming off of a great 2017 season at LGLL. Our participation was strong and our teams were successful at all levels. Our Challenger League had a special year, LGLL was proud to host District Tournaments and we enjoyed using the renovated fields at Sedgwick Park for our baseball and softball teams.

As we head into 2018, our league is in a great position to continue on our primary goal - to make the game of baseball and softball fun for all of our kids. Our Board is committed to expanding our Player Development program focused on helping our children develop the skills to enjoy Little League.

Our league is built, managed and organized by local volunteers that are also parents, coaches, and people who love the game. I believe there is nothing better than playing ball.

For every one of our leagues, from a kid's first time picking up a bat to the kid that now hits homeruns, our number one priority is that it is fun for everyone!

*Welcome and thank you for being part of La Grange Little League!*

**Tim O'Brien**  
LGLL President



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## Player Development Tips of the Month!

For 2018, LGLL will provide a wide range of player development opportunities for our baseball and softball players and coaches. More details to follow, but for now please make note of the following development and skills day events:

### **“Warm Up” Clinic (optional): Saturday, 1/20 from 2:00 to 4:00**

LGLL will be conducting a "Warm Up" clinic for Assessment day to be held at LT South Field House on Saturday, 1/20. This will be an open gym style opportunity for players to get ready for the following week's Skills Assessment day. The board will run various hitting, fielding, throwing and pitching drills. Parents are encouraged to "Jump in" and play catch with their players.

The gym will be open from 2:00 - 4:00 on that day and we'll set up areas for Softball and Baseball accordingly. Older players (A and B League, Majors and Juniors) are encouraged to attend from 2:00 - 3:00, and younger players (C League and Minors) are encouraged to attend from 3:00 - 4:00.

### **Skills Assessment Day: Saturday, 1/27 (schedule below)**

Skills Assessment sessions will be held at LT South Field House on Saturday, 1/27 from Noon - 7:15 according to the following schedule:

Noon - 1:00 - C League Players

1:15 - 2:15 - B League Players\*

2:30 - 3:30 - A/B League Players\*

3:45 - 4:45 - A League Players\*

5:00 - 6:00 - Minors and Majors

6:15 - 7:15 - Juniors

*\* A and B League Coaches can/should attend their respective league session as well as the A/B skills session.*

The Skills Assessment day will be "Combine style" and include three separate stations: fielding and throwing, pitching, and hitting. These stations will run concurrently, and players

will switch from station to station every 20 minutes. Coaches/Managers are encouraged to freely walk around to each station at their discretion to make their assessments.

Players should wear gym shoes, and bring their gloves, bats, and protective cups are always a smart idea!

Please feel free to send any questions to Tom Ratcliffe at [tomratcliffe11@gmail.com](mailto:tomratcliffe11@gmail.com).

**LT Youth Baseball & Softball Coaches Clinic: Saturday, 2/3 from 12:00 to 2:00**

The LTHS baseball and softball coaching staff are hosting a FREE Youth Coaches Clinic at LTHS South Fieldhouse on Saturday, February 3. The sessions will be run by Head Baseball Coach Kevin Diete and Head Softball Coach Nicole Marinec. This is GREAT opportunity for our managers and coaches.

The clinic will cover a variety of specialized drills and techniques, along with key fundamentals including hitting, pitching, fielding and base running. See details below.

<b>Baseball</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>SOFTBALL</b>
Introduction of Staff	12:12:10pm	Introduction of Staff
Infield	12:10-12:25pm	Base running
Break	12:25-12:30	Break
Pitching	12:30-12:50pm	Hitting
Outfield	12:50-1:05pm	Infield
Break	1:05-1:10pm	Break
Hitting	1:10-1:30pm	Pitching
Base running	1:30-1:45pm	Outfield
Closing/Questions	1:45-2:00pm	Closing/Questions

# Volunteer Opportunities Available!

## Skills Assessment Day

Volunteers are needed for Skills Assessment Day! Please sign up for an available volunteer slot [here](#).

## ***Little League Parents,***

*As we begin to prepare for the 2018 season, please remember you will need to sign-up for volunteer spots to fulfill your commitment.*

*Please visit the LGLL website and click on the volunteer link to sign up for opportunities throughout the season to help the kids and to, of course, collect your \$100. The positions are filled on a first come, first serve basis and new opportunities will be added throughout the season.*

***Thank you in advance for a great season!***

[Volunteer for La Grange Little League](#)

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## Sponsors

### **Become a Sponsor Today!**

Our sponsors have always been key to the successful operation of La Grange Little League. Because of their generous support, we were recently able upgrade our two fields at Sedgwick Park to improve the quality of play and safety of our players.

We invite others to consider sponsoring La Grange Little League as it enters its 61st year so we can continue to fund projects and operations in order to provide a memorable experience for players and their families. If you are interested in sponsoring a team and the league, please contact John Cheney ([john@abacusscale.com](mailto:john@abacusscale.com)).

Sponsors play a big role in keeping La Grange Little League running and this month we would like to recognize the sponsors that are providing concessions at Sedgwick Park. A lot of work and commitment goes into preparing and delivering food items for us, we thank you for your continued support of these sponsors!

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# Additional Little League Resources

## New USA Bat Requirements

Reminder that new USA bat standards are required for the 2018 season. For information on the new standards, visit [LittleLeague.org](http://LittleLeague.org).

## [LittleLeague.org](http://LittleLeague.org)

For families new to Little League or for those moving up to levels of play within LGLL, we encourage you to take advantage of the resource available at our website and through the Little League Organization.

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