



June 2018

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## LGLL Upcoming Events

**June 6-8:** Dick's Sporting Goods League Appreciation Sale (20% Off)

**June 8-9:** Playoffs Targeted to Start

**June 16:** Closing Ceremonies – Save the Date and Join Us at Sedgwick Park!

- Farm League All-Star Game
- Softball – Majors Championships
- Baseball – A, B, and C League Championships
- Home Run Derby
- Parade of Teams
- And much more fun!

## Upcoming Challenger Events

**June 9:** Challenger Picture Day and Games (6pm / Sedgwick)

**June 16:** Challenger Game (9:30am / Sedgwick)

**June 23:** Challenger Games (11am / Sedgwick)

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

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## LGLL – Player Development 2018 Recap

Hello Little League Families!

Even though Mother Nature has other ideas at times, our kids have played great ball and the playoffs are almost here! Our objective with the Player Development program is to help your child learn the skills necessary to be successful at their level and to prepare for the season. We are enjoying a fun and rewarding season... and the hope that your child will develop (and continue) a love for the game of baseball.



We've had a number of league wide Player Development offerings this year that we're pleased to report on:

### **Big Al Baseball**

For the third year in a row, the LGLL is proud to be partnered with [www.bigalbaseball.com](http://www.bigalbaseball.com). EVERY team's manager has been provided with a complimentary license to this wonderful online resource for practice plans, drills, game tips and more.

### **Combined team practices**

You'll notice this year that we've restructured the practices for our younger leagues (T-Ball through C League, Peanuts and Minors). Similar to Hockey and Soccer, it is just as important to develop our player's skills as it is to play games. So, we've combined teams for practices, scheduled practice times/fields, and provided managers with week by week practice plans. Let's face it... Baseball isn't always the most engaging sport at the younger ages, so the idea here is to KEEP THE PLAYERS MOVING AND ACTIVE. You'll notice players broken up into smaller groups and rotating between multiple stations focusing on MORE reps for individual skills... throwing, catching, fielding, hitting, pitching, and so on.

### **White Sox Player Development sessions**

We are pleased to have partnered with the Chicago White Sox Training Academy for the second year in a row. Large group sessions were held at the Park District and White Sox Academy starting in February for our younger leagues... and team specific

sessions are currently in progress for our older leagues. Thanks to all for coming out for these pre-season sessions. They were a great way to kick off the season and warm up the arms!

### **Challenger League Player Development**

We held our White Sox Player Development sessions for our Challenger League (players with mental or physical disabilities). Once again, the turnout was fantastic! Three White Sox instructors (including former major league star Dan Pasqua) ran stations for 90 minutes, and several of our A League and B League players volunteered so each Challenger player had a buddy for drills. Highlight of the day was, once again, the finale of "Take me out to the ballgame" lead by our Challenger League leader John Walsh.

### **Diamond Edge Academy**

Mother Nature makes spring baseball in Chicago especially challenging as evidenced by the cancellation of opening day at Wrigley Field due to snow. To help get our players ready for the season, the LGLL provided two free one-hour long cage rentals at Diamond Edge Academy in Willowbrook. These sessions were made available to be used by your managers at any point in the season.

### **LTHS Youth Coaches Clinic**

The LTHS baseball and softball coaching staff hosted a FREE Youth Coaches Clinic at LTHS South Fieldhouse on February 3. The sessions were led by Head Baseball Coach Kevin Diete and Head Softball Coach Nicole Marinec. The clinic covered a variety of specialized drills and techniques, along with key fundamentals including hitting, pitching, fielding and base running

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our league, and your feedback is invaluable. Please don't hesitate to share comments, concerns, praise for a Coach, or suggestions on any of the above with our Player Development coordinator Tom Ratcliffe [tomratcliffe11@gmail.com](mailto:tomratcliffe11@gmail.com).

Thanks, and Play Ball!

LGLL Board

Tom Ratcliffe - Player Development

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## **Sponsor Spotlight**

**Cari Pajauskus and Patti Cella – Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate**

Sponsors play a big role in keeping La Grange Little League running, and this month we would like to recognize the sponsors that are making contributions to their own community by supporting LaGrange Little League baseball and softball. Our league would not be possible without their generosity - we thank you for your continued support of these amazing sponsors!

## **Cari Pajauskas & Patti Cella**

**REAL ESTATE BROKERS**

**Cari 773.412.5856 | Patti 708.288.4135**



### ***Selling and Supporting Our Hometown***

Cari Pajauskas and Patti Cella are sisters that grew up in LaGrange and grew up in Real Estate. Their mother, Laura Murphy, was a top producing agent in the Western Suburbs for more than 3 decades. Cari and Patti have continued their mother's accomplished legacy as they've become a successful team focusing their real estate practice on LaGrange, LaGrange Park and Western Springs.

Cari and Patti are actively engaged in supporting the growth of the community that raised them and the community they chose to raise their own children.

Cari and Patti are proud to sponsor LaGrange Little League and all the families and kids Involved.

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## **Volunteers – Thank you!**

Thank you to everyone that has committed their time this season. While the regular season volunteer opportunities have been mostly filled, please check for additional opportunities during the playoffs as well as closing ceremonies. It is so important to our league operations and our concession stand to have volunteers participate – we can't do it without you!

Click here to view the [volunteer calendar](#).

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