



ROWAYTON LITTLE LEAGUE ON-LINE REGISTRATION SPRING/SUMMER 2015

**For all 6th Taxing District residents
Baseball ages 4-12
Softball ages 7-12**

**ALL 2015 REGISTRATIONS are being handled
through our online process**

**The official registration period closes February 1st.
Only players registered during the official
registration period are assured a spot in the league
and a uniform. Late registrations will be taken
through February 15th, if space permits, and will
carry a penalty fee of \$75.**

Please go to www.rowaytonlittleleague.com and sign up as soon as possible. Click on "Registration-online" in the left side navigation pane and the instructions will guide you through the registration process.

For those registering for the first time in Rowayton Little League: proof of residency or school attendance in Rowayton and a copy of the player's birth certificate must be received to complete the registration process. Please complete the online registration and scan/attach a copy of your child's birth certificate and a copy of a utility bill identifying your residency. If your child is participating in Rowayton Little because he/she attends school in Rowayton, please scan documentation confirming your child's attendance at that school.

If you have any questions, please go to our website. You can also contact our registrar, Jody Sattler (jodysatt@me.com) or any other Board member. Additional contact information can be found on our website. In addition to registration fees outlined below, a fee to play in our summer sessions (i.e., friendship leagues, all-stars, etc.) through mid-July will be due at the time of summer registration. Need based scholarships are available – please contact Roger Knight (rknight@lakewoodcap.com).

League Age

Little League International has approved new rules to determine the league age of a baseball player (softball remains the same). The rules are being implemented over a three-year period, which does run the risk of some confusion.

If your child was born on or after January 1, 2006, your child's league age is the age he or she will reach on his/her birthday in 2015. For example, if your child is currently 6 years old and will be 7 anytime in 2015, your child's league age is 7.

If your child was born before January 1, 2006, his/her league age will his/her age on April 30, 2015.

Softball – Little League International requires us to determine a players league age by measuring her actual age as of December 31 of the previous year. For this season, your daughter's league age will be her age as of December 31, 2014.

Baseball Divisions

T-ball - Our T-ball program is designed for girls and boys league age 4 through 6. Parents/coaches teach the fundamentals of throwing, catching, hitting, proper positioning on the field, including the introduction of basic baseball rules. Optional practice is held one day per week with skills/games work for everyone on Saturday mornings. Any child under the age of 6 who has not played in league before must play one year of T-ball before being considered for the Minor Leagues.

Minor Leagues

A Division – Our A Division is comprised of children primarily league aged 6 and 7. The A Division continues to emphasize the fundamentals within a “live” game format where parents/coaches pitch in practices and games. Practice is held one night/week with games on Saturday morning. Rosters will be designed by the league to balance all the teams based on several criteria, including, but not limited to age, experience, sex, and matters of safety.

AA Division – Our AA Division is designed primarily for players between league ages 8-10 and is the first division in which we play a schedule of games against teams within Rowayton Little League as well as games with teams from Norwalk Little League. Skills development is of primary importance and players will play multiple positions as they learn competitive game play. AA is also where players will begin to learn the

fundamentals of pitching and games are played with a combination of coach and player pitching. Rosters will be designed by the league to balance all the teams based on several criteria, including, but not limited to age, experience, sex, and matters of safety. Please review the information on Assessment Days below.

AAA Division – Our AAA Division is comprised of players between league age 8-11. Players will typically have played several years of competitive baseball and have developed a solid understanding of the game. They will have the necessary skills to pitch, catch and hit. Each child is expected to have achieved a certain level of competence in order to protect him/herself in competitive games against teams from Norwalk Little League as safety is of primary importance. Each year, AAA Division teams will play in a league Championship tournament at the end of the regular season in June. Rosters will be chosen via a Little League International designed draft. Please review the information on the Assessment Days below.

Major Leagues – The Major Leagues is the highest level within our Little League baseball program and is geared primarily toward boys and girls who are league age 11-12 who have demonstrated both the skill and interest in competing at the highest level of play. This year, our Majors Divisions will be combining with Norwalk Little League and teams will be drafted from one pool of Norwalk and Rowayton Little Leaguers. Rosters will be chosen via a Little League International designed draft and all players must participate in the Assessment Day to be considered for a slot on a Major League team. Information on the dates for the Assessment will be emailed as soon as they are available. **Please note that Majors players may only compete in one Norwalk baseball league per season as per NLL rules.**

Girls Softball Divisions

The softball program has grown leaps and bounds since its beginning just a few short years ago and is our fastest growing division. For the 2015 season, we will field teams across multiple age groups from league age 8 through 12. We are also pursuing options for travel teams across the

Minors AA Division – developmental focus for league age 7-8 year olds

Minors AAA Division – continued development with intra-league game opportunities for 8-10 year olds

Major Leagues – Our most advanced from for players league age 10-12. Games are played against other leagues in Fairfield County

Rowayton Little League has been designated the official Little League softball organization for all girls within zip codes 06853, 06854 and 06855. Please spread the word to friends and classmates outside of 06853 to come join us and expand our program.

For those girls with a strong interest in baseball/softball, Little League International does allow us to register girls for both a baseball and a softball team. While the schedule gets more complicated in the later years, we are happy to discuss this option if parents are interested. If

your child would be interested in such an arrangement, we suggest a conversation between the parents and a representative of the league to determine if this is a good option for a particular child. please contact Jody Sattler (jodysatt@me.com) or Roger Knight to discuss further.

Boundaries of Rowayton Little League

In the 1950's, the Norwalk Little League presidents established four Little Leagues that draw children from specifically defined geographic areas in the city. Recently, the three other leagues chose to combine their operations into one Norwalk Little League. However, Rowayton Little League chose to remain independent in order to maintain our community "culture". Accordingly, the Rowayton Little League includes children primarily from Rowayton and Wilson Point. Last year, Little League approved a modification to the boundary requirements. Players can choose to play in the Little League whose charter includes that players home address or play in the League whose charter includes the address of that player's full-time school. What this means for Rowayton is that all children attending Rowayton School or Roton Middle School can participate in Rowayton Little League if they meet the age requirements. If your child lives in Rowayton, but goes to school in another town, he/she could sign up for that town's little league team. The decision is purely that of the player and not waiver or special approvals are required. Any requests for exceptions outside these criteria must meet narrow guidelines as established by Little League International and be approved in writing by the Commissioner of CT District 1 of Little League, the President of the League that holds the right to the player, and the President of Rowayton Little League.

Late Registration Fees

A late fee of \$50 will be required for all returning registrations that are received after January 31st. With the introduction of online registration, we are confident that everyone who wants to play in the league will have ample time to sign up by the end of January. Late registrations are extremely difficult for the league to manage and we want to encourage everyone to sign up as early as possible. Our goal is to have every child in our community play baseball and we will do our very best to accommodate as many late registrants as possible. **However, we cannot guarantee placement on a team or a uniform for registrations received after the official registration period.**

Last year, nearly 50% of our players signed up after the official Registration Period. By far, this is the highest total in southern CT. While this did result in more cash than we expected, the disruption it caused on our rosters, the additional expenses we incurred, the strain we put on our uniform suppliers, and the challenges it caused on team practices was dramatic. Such a high percentage is almost impossible in many of our sister leagues as they simply do not allow for late registrations. RLL is committed to provide opportunities for as many players as possible, so we continue to allow for late registrations, to the extent possible. However, I ask each of you, PLEASE, to sign up within the open registration period and spread the word to as many Rowayton families as you can to do the same.

Player Assessment Days

AAA Assessments - On February 28th and March 7th, times and location to be determined, we will hold our Player Assessment Day for ALL baseball players league age 8-10. ALL players who fall in this age range MUST participate in one of the two Player Assessment Days to be eligible for the AAA draft. Rowayton Little League is committed to balanced teams, and it is very important that all eligible players be available to participate in on the assessment events. Team rosters in AAA will be determined by a draft based significantly upon these assessments and any players not available threaten the integrity of the process.

Majors Assessments – Majors Division assessments will be conducted jointly by Rowayton and Norwalk Little Leagues for players league age 10 – 12. Anyone who cannot participate will NOT be eligible for the Majors Division. As this is a joint effort, no exceptions are possible. We will be posting the Assessment date on our website shortly – it will be in mid-March.

Opening Day

Opening Day for the 2015 season will be held on April 25th at Velotti Field/Bayley Beach. Opening Day is very special traditional in Rowayton Little League, and we hope that every child in our programs will be able to participate in this wonderful kickoff event.

Regular “Spring” Season

The regular “Spring” season for Majors, all Minors and Softball begin with practices in early to mid- March, depending upon weather, with games running through late June. T-ball begins in late April and ends in late June. The Minors and Majors divisions will participate in League Championship Series’ in June, leading up to the Awards Ceremony/Year-end Picnic.

“Summer” Season

Rowayton Little League has a number of programs that provide opportunities for additional baseball play through mid-late July. While all-star teams from leagues around the U.S. participate in tournaments leading to the Little League World Series, many other teams are formed to play in local “friendship” leagues. Rowayton Little League has been active in summer interleague play for many years and 2014 was our most successful yet. Bayley was filled with baseball through the month of July and the experience gained by those who participated cannot be measured. This year, we will again provide for all star play and friendship teams from players league aged 7-12. We also will continue T-ball and A Division play for as long as there is enough interest, which we expect will be through mid-July. **Please give serious consideration NOW to having your child play in our summer season.** There is a spot on the registration form to indicate your intentions. We ask this so that we can begin to plan accordingly. Actual sign-ups/registration and determination of the number of teams and ages of players will occur later in the Spring.

Awards Ceremony/Picnic

As is tradition, we will end our regular “Spring” season of play with an awards ceremony/year-end picnic for all players and families. This year, the picnic will be held on Saturday June 20th, starting at 4:30pm. More information to follow. Dave Baldwin and the Events team did a great job last year. If you would like to help Dave and his team with Opening Day, Spring Season Picnic, etc., please contact Dave and join his team of important volunteers.

Safety

To maintain a safe environment for the players and the other young children who may be watching a game/practice, we ask that you please keep all children off of the fencing around our fields. The yellow plastic fence guards at Bayley Beach are there to protect players from sharp spikes at the top of the fence, and sitting on the fence not only damages the plastic tubing but also puts players and spectators at risk. Also, please have children use the gates to enter and exit the field, rather than climbing over the fences.

RLL Board member, Marc Laibe, will be our League Safety Officer in 2015. If you have any suggestions/concerns, please contact March at anytime.

NO PARENTS/SIBLINGS/FRIENDS IN DUGOUTS OR ON FIELDS BEFORE OR DURING GAMES

In order to continue our successful program, game and player decisions must be left in the hands of our coaches. Therefore, in order to abide by International Little League policy, **no parents/siblings/friends are allowed to enter the dugout before or during games.** This policy was established by Little League International in order to protect the players as well as the coaches and is important to show respect for our programs. It also helps promote team unity and focus on the tasks at hand. Parental concerns regarding the league are to be directed to a child’s team Manager, the Division Head and/or a member of the Board of Directors. Discussions with coaches should be handled in a respectful manner and should be done with discretion and not within earshot of other players or parties.

Little League rules require only one manager and two adult coaches per team during official games. Please make the job of our umpires and managers a little easier by ensuring that no team will have more than three adult coaches in the dugout at any one time. **Umpires will be enforcing this rule in 2015.**

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AT ANY FIELD DURING GAMES

The rules of Rowayton Little League state that alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the field or in and around the stands or other viewing areas while any little leaguers are on the field of play.

Parent Involvement/Participation

We are committed to delivering the very best baseball experience possible for all the players in our programs. We cannot do this without significant parental participation. As most you know, we have established a number of administrative teams to manage Rowayton Little League. These teams are charged with running particular aspects of our League and we have designed them with meaningful responsibilities. We also believe that these teams enable us to tap the creativity of our community to help improve our existing programs as well as develop new initiatives. In recent years, we have held the Pitch, Hit and Run Competition, introduced “Wood Week”, re-designed practices in all of our leagues, extended softball to younger age groups, established winter baseball and softball clinics, created the AA Division, added a Championship Series to the Minors Division, expanded our summer season dramatically in order to include as many players as possible, and added a bathroom at Bayley Beach, just to name a few improvements. It is our goal to have every family represented on one or more of our administrative teams. Information about each of our teams can be found in our Newsletters, but the best information comes from conversations with our board members/team leaders. If you have any questions about the teams, or where you might fit in, please contact Roger Knight (rknight@lakewoodcap.com) or any of the Team Leaders/Board Members. Their contact information can be found on our website. Participating on a team does not commit you to anything you cannot handle. Each team has roles for parents that have very little or more time available.

Website

Most information that you may want/need about Rowayton Little League can be found at www.rowaytonlittleleague.com. We expect to utilize the website even more this year, and a number of admin teams are working on how to utilize the site for their particular areas of responsibility. In particular, the players’ divisions are developing standard procedures for weather delays/cancellations/changes that we hope will help bring a little order to what is a naturally chaotic challenge!

**PLEASE SIGN UP BEFORE JANUARY
31ST**

AND

LET’S PLAY BALL!!!