

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Western Duluth Little League
April, 2018

REGISTRATION & TEAM FORMATION UPDATE

We are currently in the process of forming teams and scheduling for the upcoming baseball season. Coaches will be contacting players soon with scheduling information. In the meantime, here are the answers to some of the most common questions we receive each year regarding team formation and the upcoming season.

How are players assigned to a team?

Players participated in evaluation sessions in March, depending on their age, to help determine which level they should be placed in. Following the evaluations, we conduct a Little League-approved draft to assign players to teams.

When will I hear what team my child was assigned to?

After the draft, each manager (head coach) will call or email families to notify them what team they have been assigned to. **Please anticipate this communication in mid-April.**

I have not been contacted by our team manager. What do I do?

Not all teams begin practicing at the same date, so you may not have missed any activity. If you have not been contacted by **Monday, April 16**, please contact info@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

What will my child need to participate?

Your child should be prepared to bring the following to all games and practices...

- ~Glove
- ~Batting Helmet
- ~Baseball Spikes (Non-Metal)
- ~Baseball Pants
- ~Protective Athletic Supporter (For Boys)

Each team will have bats and catcher's equipment available. Team shirts and hats will be provided.

How often are practices and games? When does the season start?

Games are **tentatively** scheduled to begin on the following dates...

- ~*Minor League*: May 14
- ~*Major League*: May 15
- ~*Rookie League*: May 22
- ~*Intro League*: TBA (Mid-May)

Teams usually have 2-3 games and 1-2 practices per week. Prior to games beginning, teams may practice three times per week. If you have any questions, please visit www.westernduluthlittleleague.org or contact info@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 15, 2018

**Last Day To Order 2018
Western Apparel**

APRIL 21, 2018

WDLL Coaches Meeting:
11:00 AM, Wheeler Field-house

APRIL 22, 2018

WDLL Board Meeting: 6:00
PM, Kraus/Anderson

MAY 1, 2018

**Deadline To Pay All 2018
Registration Fees**

2018 WDLL APPAREL



For a limited time, Screen Graphics will be selling a wide variety of Western Duluth Little League apparel.

The merchandise store may be found here:

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/shop

Make sure to get your gear before it's gone!
THE SALE ENDS AT 11:59 PM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 15!



2018 COACH & VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION



Family involvement is critical in order to ensure that WDLL maintains its standing as one of the premiere Little League associations in northern Minnesota. Every season, we ask for your help in this endeavor.

If you would like to coach or volunteer at WDLL this season, please register by going to www.westernduluthlittleleague.org and clicking on the "2018 Registration (Coaches/Volunteers)" tab on the home page.

Volunteering at least eight hours during the course of the season will allow your \$50 volunteer fee to be refunded.

We thank all of our volunteers for their service!

2018 COACHES MEETING



We will have a coaches meeting on **Saturday, April 21 at 11:00 AM at the Wheeler Fieldhouse for all 2018 WDLL managers (head coaches).**

Assistant coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend as well. This is a very important meeting, and each team must have a representative in attendance.

At the meeting, we will distribute game-day materials (equipment, rulebooks, etc.), talk about rules and regulations, cover proper safety procedures, and lay out our expectations of our coaches. There will also be plenty of opportunities for coaches to get their questions answered.

Please contact info@westernduluthlittleleague.org if you have any questions.

2018 UMPIRE REGISTRATION



If you are interested in umpiring for WDLL this year, please register on our website,

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org.

Click on the "2018 Officials" tab at the top of the page. If you are aware of anyone else who is interested,

please let them know to sign up as well.

To umpire at each level, players should ideally be at least two years removed from that level. For example, a player in the Major League would be allowed to umpire in the Rookie League. Some exceptions may be made during the year.

Umpiring equipment will be provided by Western Little League. You do not need your own.

2018 REGISTRATION FEES DUE MAY 1

Please remember that **all unpaid 2018 registration fees must be paid (or payment plan/scholarship arrangements must be made) prior to May 1, 2018.** Players whose families fail to adhere to these requirements will not receive their jerseys until their fees have been taken care of.

You may view your current account balance by logging into your Blue Star Sports (formerly Bonzi) account on our website.

If you have questions, please contact WDLL Secretary Roger Peterson at secretary@westernduluthlittleleague.org.



KING-DEVICK CONCUSSION TESTING

Once again this year, WDLL will offer the **King-Devick baseline concussion test** for all of our players.

New this year, umpires will also receive baseline testing.

This test is administered using an iPad. Players are required to read a series of numbers and are timed. The data is saved and, in the event of an injury where a concussion is suspected, the player retakes the test in the dugout. If the player completes the test with errors or a slower time, he/she needs to be evaluated by a physician.

Many players already completed their baseline testing during our player evaluations, but if your player has not been tested, testing will be completed during the first week of practices and during Opening Day.

If you have any questions or concerns about baseline concussion testing or have other ideas to improve the safety of our players, please contact WDLL Safety Officer Kari Bulthuis at safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

CDC CONCUSSION TRAINING



Each year, **all Western managers, coaches, umpires, and board members** are required to complete the CDC's "Heads Up" **concussion training** program prior to the start of the season.

If you are planning on serving as a manager, coach, or umpire this year, please click here to complete the training...

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/home.php?layout=5938837

THE TRAINING MUST BE COMPLETED BY MAY 10.

IMPORTANT!!! When you complete the training, you must email your certificate of completion to WDLL Safety Officer Kari Bulthuis at safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org! Otherwise, you may be forced to complete it again.

If you have questions, please contact safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

CPR/FIRST AID TRAINING



Once again, we will be hosting **CPR and first aid training for coaches.**

Please note, each coach must attend this training at least once every three years. Also, at least one coach from each team must be trained.

The training will be held **May 7 and 8. Times and locations are TBA.** Attendance at only one session is required.

If you have any questions, please contact safety@westernduluthlittleleague.org.



FUNDRAISING

As the new season begins, we are again ramping up our efforts to raise money. Ultimately, all funds raised will benefit the current and future generations of players at Western.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors last year, we raised over \$50,000 to cover the costs associated with running our program. With these funds, we were able to install a new blacktop path at our fields, cover the cost of our Intermediate (50/70) Division District/State champions' trip to the Central Regional Tournament, and offer approximately \$1000 in scholarships to families in need.

Also, thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to reduce registration fees for the Minor, Rookie, and Intro Leagues for 2018 while continuing to offer scholarships.

This season, we hope to begin the process of building a new concession/storage facility, upgrade fencing, and install grass infields.

If you would like to donate, or if you have ideas for future fundraising projects, please contact fundraising@westernduluthlittleleague.org. Thank you for supporting Western Duluth Little League!



ONLINE DONATIONS

Please consider supporting WDLL with an online, tax-deductible donation. Please visit

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/home.php?layout=848788 and click on the "2018 Fundraising" button on the left side of the page.



CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISING NIGHT

Chipotle Mexican Grill, Miller Hill Mall
Sunday, May 6
4:00-8:00 PM

Chipotle will give WDLL 50% of proceeds when customers mention our organization!



BUFFALO WILD WINGS

BUFFALO WILD WINGS TEAMMATE CARD

EXPIRES 7/29/18

When you show this card at Buffalo Wild Wings throughout the spring and summer, they will donate 10% of your purchase to WDLL! Please click the link below to download your Teammate Card.

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/home.php?layout=848788



DULUTH HUSKIES CARDS

Western Little League will again be selling Duluth Huskies coupon cards in 2018. Please contact fundraising@westernduluthlittleleague.org

for more details.



EQUIPMENT

If your player is in need of gear for the season, we still have several pairs of pants, cleats, gloves, and some helmets available at no charge from our equipment swap. Please contact info@westernduluthlittleleague.org if you are interested.

ROGER PETERSON BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



Western Duluth Little League will host the 3rd annual Roger Peterson Tournament June 1-3, 2018. This year, the tournament will feature teams at the 14/15, 13AA, 12U, 11U, and 10U age levels.

Western's 12U team has won their division of this tournament each of the last two seasons, and our 13 year-old Intermediate team finished second last year.



This event is named in honor of longtime WDLL coach and board member Roger Peterson, who is pictured above. Roger began coaching in 2002 and has been on the board since 2004.

NEW USA BASEBALL BAT STANDARD



On January 1, 2018, Little League International implemented the new USA Baseball Bat Standard. **BATS THAT**

WERE LEGAL IN 2017 AND PREVIOUS YEARS ARE NO LONGER LEGAL.

Beginning January 1, 2018, **ALL bats must be marked with the following label in order to be used in Little League Baseball...**



If you have questions on this new standard, please visit www.littleleague.org or www.usabat.com.

WDLL TOURNAMENT TEAMS

The Western Tournament Teams provide an opportunity for WDLL players to experience a significantly higher level of play within the regional Little League system. Players will have a significantly higher level of commitment and will receive a higher level of instruction to compete against other Tournament Teams.

More information about the 2018 WDLL Tournament Teams will be announced as the season begins, but the preliminary schedule of tournaments appears below.

TENTATIVE 2018 TOURNAMENT TEAM SCHEDULE

June 1-3, 2018: Roger Peterson Baseball Tournament, Western Duluth Little League

June 22-24, 2018: Proctor Youth Baseball Tournament, Proctor Little League

MN District III Tournament: TBA (July)

July 27-29, 2018: Superior Last Chance Tournament, Superior Youth Organization (Ages 11-12) & Carlton Daze Tournament, Carlton/Barnum Little League (Ages 9-10)

August 3-5, 2018: Art Von Tournament, Lake Park Little League

NEW LITTLE LEAGUE AGE GUIDELINES



Beginning in 2018, Little League International will change its age determination date to August 31.

To determine your child's Little League Age for 2018, please visit

www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/doclib/2018%20LL%20Age%20Chart.pdf.

RESOURCES

PARENTS

Parent Confessions: I Focused On Performance, Not Fun



With the new season just around the corner, now is a good time to remind ourselves of the

real reasons youth play Little League: to have fun, to be part of a team, to be physically active, and to build confidence through facing adversity. Please read this testimonial submitted by an actual Little League parent from Massachusetts, who reminds us of the importance of just sitting back and watching the players play.

COACHES

8 Helpful Tips For New Little League Coaches

Little League University outlines some essential tips for those volunteers who are just starting their careers as Little League coaches. From learning the rules to planning practices and parent meetings



to game-day routines, this list gives new coaches some advice to start the season off on the right foot. Even veteran coaches

should review this list too...

www.littleleague.org/university/articles/8-helpful-tips-for-new-little-league-coaches/

UMPIRES

Description Of The "Basic Six" Field Mechanics



Little League University covers the six most commonly used mechanics by base umpires

in this article. There are videos available as well which detail each of these positions.

www.littleleague.org/university/articles/description-of-the-basic-six-field-mechanics/

CONTACT US



www.westernduluthlittleleague.org



info@westernduluthlittleleague.org



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 100 Little League alumni were on MLB rosters when the season opened on March 29, including Cody Bellinger, Aaron Judge, and George Springer.

Ten current MLB players also participated in the Little League World Series...

Cody Bellinger, Michael Conforto, Todd Frazier, Randal Grichuk, Scott Kingery, Lance Lynn, Yusmeiro Petit, Jurickson Profar, Jonathon Schoop, & Devon Travis

"The wind always seems to be blowing against catchers when they're running."

~Joe Garagiola~