

PARENT NEWSLETTER



Western Duluth Little League
February, 2018



2018 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Registration for the 2018 season is now open! We hope you and your players are as excited as we are for the upcoming spring and summer of baseball. **Registration Ends March 18.**

There are three easy ways to register...

(1) ONLINE

Online registration is available on our website, www.westernduluthlittleleague.org. If possible, we strongly encourage families to register online.

(2) BY MAIL

Players may register by mail. Please click on this link to download a registration form: www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/doclib/2018%20WDL%20Registration%20Form.pdf.

Completed forms, **along with cash or a check payable to Western Duluth Little League**, should be mailed to...

Roger Peterson
C/O Western Duluth Little League
1511 Tower Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

(3) IN-PERSON

We will be holding in-person registration on the following dates...

~**Saturday, March 17 (Part Of WDL Player Evaluations):** 1:30-6:00 PM,
UWS Marcovich Wellness Center

~**Sunday, March 18 (Part Of WDL Player Evaluations):** 1:30-6:00 PM,
UWS Marcovich Wellness Center

~**Sunday, March 25 (Part Of WDL Player Evaluations):** 5:00-7:00 PM,
UWS Marcovich Wellness Center

Scholarships are available. If you would like to request a scholarship, please contact WDL Vice-President Matt Peterson at vp@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

If you have any questions or concerns about the registration process, please contact info@westernduluthlittleleague.org or visit www.westernduluthlittleleague.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

Saints Youth Camp: 9:00-10:00 AM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Hitting Camp: 10:00-11:00 AM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Pitching Camp: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Catching Camp: 12:00-1:00 PM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

MN District III Little League Meeting: 5:00 PM, Heritage Center

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

Saints Youth Camp: 9:00-10:00 AM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Hitting Camp: 10:00-11:00 AM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

UWS Baseball & Softball Youth Camp: 10:00-11:30 AM, UWS Marcovich Wellness Center

Saints Pitching Camp: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Catching Camp: 12:00-1:00 PM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

WDL Board Meeting: 6:00 PM, Kraus/Anderson Construction Co.

FEBRUARY 19, 2018

Twins Youth Camp: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM, National Sports Center, Blaine, MN

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Saints Youth Camp: 9:00-10:00 AM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Hitting Camp: 10:00-11:00 AM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Pitching Camp: 11:00 AM-12:00 PM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

Saints Catching Camp: 12:00-1:00 PM, St. Scholastica Wellness Center

MARCH 1, 2018

Early Registration Ends: Registration Fees Increase By \$10



IMPORTANT WDLL TEENAGE DIVISION CHANGES

With registration open for the 2018 season, we wanted to share some important information with you regarding significant changes at Western for the coming season and beyond.

In previous years, we have offered the Intermediate (50/70) and Junior League/Bantam programs for players ages 13-15. These divisions served as an extension of our program, helping to bridge the gap between Little League and high school baseball.

Beginning in 2018, Western Duluth Little League will no longer offer the Intermediate (50/70) and Junior divisions. This decision was approved by our Board Of Directors in conjunction with several other area associations in response to declining participation and the desire for an enhanced tournament experience.

Another area association, Duluth 709 Baseball, is in the process of being created to serve players ages 13-15 in all of Duluth. This association will be part of the Gopher State baseball program. They will be contacting you with more information regarding their program.

We wish to emphasize that Western Duluth Little League, Inc. is in no way affiliated with Duluth 709 Baseball. We also wish to emphasize that the WDLL experience for players ages 5-12 will not change.

If you have already registered your player(s) for the Intermediate (50/70) Division or the Junior League with Western, you will receive a full refund. Online registration for these divisions has now been removed.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience as we work through this transition.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact WDLL Vice-President Matt Peterson at vp@westernduluthlittleleague.org.

REGISTRATION PROMOTIONS & SPECIAL OFFERS



EARLY DISCOUNT

All Players Who Register Before March 1 Will Receive \$10 Off The Registration Fee.

FAMILY DISCOUNT

Each Additional Child Registered By The Same Family Will Receive \$100 Off The Registration Fee.

FIRST-TIME PLAYER DISCOUNT

All First-Time Players Will Receive A \$10 Refund.

(Refund issued after registration ends, all registration fees must be paid by 5/1/18 to qualify, does not apply to \$50 volunteer fee)

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Returning Players Receive \$10 Concession Cash If They Refer A New Player Age 12 Or Under.

(Issued after registration ends, first-time players must indicate who referred them on their registration form, first-time players may list only one referrer on their registration form, fees must be paid by 5/1/18 to qualify)

WDLL PLAYER EVALUATIONS

Each year, players participate in skill evaluation sessions in an effort to create balanced teams and place them at the appropriate level. **We will be evaluating Major, Minor, and Rookie League players (ages 7-12).** We **strongly encourage** all players to attend the evaluations, even if they are not considering moving up to a higher level at an earlier age.

The evaluation results will be used in the 2018 WDLL Player Draft. **If you have not yet registered for this season, you may do so at these events.**

Dates and times for this year's evaluations are as follows. All sessions will be held at the **Marcovich Wellness Center on the UWS campus.** We will be splitting the timeslots up by age group. The specific times for each age group will be announced as they are finalized.

- Saturday, March 17:** 1:30-6:00 PM
- Sunday, March 18:** 1:30-6:00 PM
- Sunday, March 25:** 5:00-7:00 PM

Players must attend at least one of the evaluation sessions but certainly may attend multiple days if they wish. Returning Major League players are **not** required to attend the evaluations but certainly may.

For directions to Marcovich Wellness Center and parking information, please visit <http://www.uwsuper.edu/aboutuwsuperior/maps/index.cfm>.

Please look for more information about the player evaluations in the March Parent Newsletter and on our website.

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 Western this season, please visit www.westernduluthlittleleague.org and click 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.

There are several ways to volunteer at Western...

- ~Board Of Directors
- ~Managers/Coaches
- ~Concessions
- ~Field Maintenance
- ~Umpires
- ~Fundraising

We are also open to your suggestions as to what you would like to help out with.

Please note, in addition to registering on our website, all volunteers will be required to fill out the Little League Volunteer Application form and submit to a background check before assuming their duties.

We thank all of our volunteers for their service!

2018 UMPIRE REGISTRATION



If you are interested in umpiring for WDLL this year, please register on our website, www.westernduluthlittleleague.org. Click on "2018 Umpire Registration" 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. We are especially in need of umpires for the older age groups.



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 nearly \$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 in 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.



DULUTH HUSKIES CARDS

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



2018 REGISTRATION GUIDE

The **2018 WDLL Registration Guide** contains the most important information regarding 2018 player registration. Included is information about the registration methods, age structure and fees, divisions of play, fundraising, volunteer opportunities, and much more.

For answers to all of your registration-related questions, please view the Registration Guide by clicking here...

<https://www.secure-sam.com/www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/doclib/WDLL%20Reg%20Guide%202018%20UPDATED.pdf>



UPDATED 2018 WDLL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The WDLL Board Of Directors held a special election in January to address officer changes. The updated list of WDLL Board Members appears below. Thanks to everyone for your service!

- President:** Mike Dosan
- Vice-President:** Matt Peterson
- Secretary:** Roger Peterson
- Treasurer:** Jeff Schaefer
- Director Of Baseball:** Corey Verhel
- Player Agent:** Joe Scott
- Safety Officer:** Kari Bulthuis
- Umpire-In-Chief:**
- Information Officer:** Matt Peterson
- Coaching Coordinators:**
- Sponsorship/Fundraising:** Kari Bulthuis, Michelle Kilroy
- Concession Manager:** Stacy Nylund
- Public Relations:** Matt Peterson
- Field Maintenance:** Tom Kowalik
- Other Officers:** Pat Bergquist, Cal Fougner, Nick Garramone, Howie Hanson, Ian Lewandowski

DICK'S SPORTING GOODS GIFT CARD WINNERS



The following players were selected as winners of **\$10 Dick's Sporting Goods gift cards** for registering prior to February 1, 2018.

Congratulations to all!

Winners will be receiving their gift cards in the mail in mid-February.

- ~Dean Ault
- ~Zacharia Ault
- ~Cameron Berg
- ~Drew Doyle
- ~Eric Halverson
- ~Kobe Halverson
- ~Michael Olcott
- ~Orion Omdahl
- ~Josh Risdall
- ~Carter Wilson



NEW LITTLE LEAGUE AGE GUIDELINES

Beginning in 2018, Little League International will change its age determination date to August 31. This change will allow more Little Leaguers to play with their classmates, as August 31 is the date used by schools in most states for student registration.

Players born between May 1 and August 31, 2005, will be grandfathered as League Age 12 year-olds for the 2018 season, ensuring that no player loses his 12 year-old season.

To determine your child's Little League Age for 2018, please visit www.littleleague.org/media/llnewsarchive/2015/September-December/llb-age-determination-date.htm. This link is also available on our website.

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.

PLEASE NOTE, this rule applies to regular season games and practices in addition to District Tournament play.

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



Bats marked with a BPF of 1.15 or a BBCOR marking will **NOT be permitted to be used in any Little League activity.**

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



TWINS YOUTH CAMP

The Minnesota Twins will be hosting a youth baseball camp on **Monday, February 19, 2018**. The camp will run from **10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** and costs **\$80**.

The event will be held at the National Sports Center in Blaine MN and is open to players ages 7-14. Each player who participates will receive four tickets to a 2018 Twins home game and a free T-shirt.

For more information and to register, please visit www.twinsbaseball.com, and click on "Community."



ST. SCHOLASTICA FEBRUARY SKILLS CAMPS

The St. Scholastica Saints will be hosting several youth baseball camps for players in grades K-12 during the month of February. For more information or to register for any of these camps, please visit www.csssaints.com/sb_output.aspx?form=84.

2018 YOUTH CAMP

Grades: K-4

Cost: \$100

Dates/Times: February 11, 18, & 25, 9:00-10:00 AM Each Day

This camp will feature 30 minutes of baseball instruction followed by a 30-minute Whiffle ball game.

2018 HITTING CAMP

Grades: 5-12

Cost: \$150

Dates/Times: February 11, 18, & 25, 10:00-11:00 AM Each Day

2018 PITCHING CAMP

Grades: 5-12

Cost: \$150

Dates/Times: February 11, 18, & 25, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM Each Day

2018 CATCHING CAMP

Grades: 5-12

Cost: \$150

Dates/Times: February 11, 18, & 25, 12:00-1:00 PM Each Day

If you register for more than one of the Hitting, Pitching, or Catching camps, you will save \$50.

I don't know a lot about politics, but I know a lot about baseball.

~President Richard M. Nixon~

YELLOWJACKET BASEBALL & SOFTBALL YOUTH CAMP



The UWS Yellowjackets will host a baseball camp for players **ages 5-12** on **Sunday, February 18** from **10:00-11:30 AM** at the **Marcovich Wellness Center** on the UWS campus.

The cost is \$15. All proceeds will benefit local youth sports organizations.

The camp will include approximately 45 minutes of instruction followed by a 45-minute Whiffle ball game.

For more information or to register, please visit www.uwsbaseball.com/2018-baseball-and-softball-youth-camp.cfm.

DOUG HARVEY: 1930-2018



National Baseball Hall Of Fame umpire **Doug Harvey** passed away January 13, 2018, at the age of 87.

Harvey, who earned the nickname of "God," worked 4673 games during his 31-year career, including nine National League Championship Series, five World Series, and six All-Star Games.

For 18 of his 31 seasons, he served as a crew chief.

He was elected to the Hall of Fame in 2010, the ninth umpire to be enshrined in Cooperstown.

2018 NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

VLADIMIR GUERRERO

Vladimir Guerrero spent 16 seasons in the Major Leagues as an outfielder with the Expos, Angels, Rangers, and Orioles.



He was named to nine All-Star Games, won eight Silver Slugger Awards, and was the 2004 American League MVP. Guerrero posted a .318 career batting average with 449 home runs, 1496 RBI, and 2590 hits. Of all the players in MLB history with at least 449 home runs, only four struck out less frequently than Guerrero.

TREVOR HOFFMAN

Trevor Hoffman saved 601 games over 18 Major League seasons with the Marlins, Padres, and Brewers.

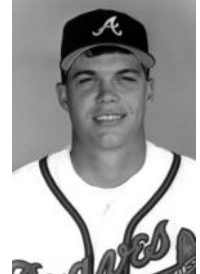


In 1998, he converted 41 consecutive saves to lead the Padres to the World Series. He set a record in 2001 with his fourth consecutive 40-save season.

Hoffman was a seven-time All-Star selection and led the NL in saves twice. He was the first player to reach the 500-and-600-save milestones.

CHIPPER JONES

Chipper Jones anchored third base for 19 seasons for the Atlanta Braves, during which time the Braves made 11 straight trips to the playoffs and won the 1995 World Series.



Jones was an eight-time All-Star, the 1999 NL MVP, a two-time Silver Slugger Award winner, and the 2008 NL batting champion.

Jones is one of only nine players in MLB history with at least 400 home runs, a .300 average, a .400 on-base percentage, and a .500 slugging percentage.

JACK MORRIS

Jack Morris won 254 games, made 14 straight Opening Day starts, was a four-time World Series champion, and earned five All-Star Game selections during 18 seasons with the Tigers, Twins, Blue Jays, and Indians.



Morris is perhaps best known for his 10-inning complete game win in Game 7 of the 1991 World Series for the Minnesota Twins.

Morris won 20 games in a season three times and pitched a no-hitter in 1984.

JIM THOME

Jim Thome hit 612 home runs over 22 seasons with the Indians, Phillies, White Sox, Dodgers, Twins, and Orioles.



His home run total ranks eighth all-time, and his 1747 walks rank seventh all-time. He also totaled 1699 RBI and 1583 runs scored.

Thome was a five-time All-Star and won the 2002 Roberto Clemente Award for community service.

ALAN TRAMMELL

Alan Trammell played shortstop for the Detroit Tigers for 20 seasons, during which time he became the face of the franchise.



Trammell was selected to six All-Star Games, won four Gold Glove Awards, won three Silver Slugger Awards, and was the 1984 World Series MVP.

He batted over .300 seven times during his career and became the first player to hit at least .340 with 28 home runs and 100 RBI in a season while playing at least half his games at shortstop.