

2018 REGISTRATION GUIDE



Western Duluth Little League
UPDATED January, 2018

2018 REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!



Registration for the 2018 Western Duluth Little League season is now open! We hope you will find this guide helpful as you and your players prepare for another exciting spring and summer of baseball. **REGISTRATION RUNS THROUGH MARCH 18.**



HOW TO REGISTER

There are three easy ways to register for 2018...



(1) ONLINE

Online registration is available on our website, www.westernduluthlittleleague.org. If possible, we strongly encourage families to register online. **THE FIRST PLAYER TO REGISTER ONLINE WILL EARN A \$10 CERTIFICATE TO THE WDLL CONCESSION STAND.**

(2) BY MAIL

Players may register by mail. Please click on the following link to download a registration form: www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/doclib/2018%20WDLL%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

All players who played with WDLL in 2017 will be receiving a registration packet for 2018 in the mail in mid-January.

(3) IN-PERSON

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

Sunday, March 17 (Part Of WDLL Player Evaluations): Times TBA, UWS Marcovich Wellness Center
Sunday, March 18 (Part Of WDLL Player Evaluations): Times TBA, UWS Marcovich Wellness Center

REGISTRATION GUIDE CONTENTS

Age & Fee Information:
Page 2

Common Questions: Page 3

Divisions Of Play: Page 4

Fundraising Information:
Page 5

Volunteer Opportunities:
Page 5

Dunham's Sports Team
Discount Program: Page 5

Important Little League
Changes: Page 6

Little League Fun Facts:
Page 6

Registration Discounts &
Special Offers: Page 7





AGE STRUCTURE & FEE INFORMATION

In 2018, WDLL will be offering boys and girls ages 5-12 the opportunity to participate in one of the following four divisions tailored specifically to their age and skill levels. For more information on each of the available divisions of play, please turn to page 4 of this guide or visit our website.

To determine your player's Little League Age for 2018, please visit www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/doclib/2018%20LL%20Age%20Chart.pdf.

<u>DIVISION</u>	<u>LITTLE LEAGUE AGES</u>	<u>REGISTRATION FEE</u>
Little League Major Baseball	9-12	\$155 (\$105 After Volunteering)
Minor League Baseball (Minor League, Rookie League, Intro League)	Minor & Rookie Leagues: 7-11 Intro League: 5-7	Minor League: \$130 (\$80 After Volunteering) Rookie League: \$110 (\$60 After Volunteering) Intro League: \$75 (\$25 After Volunteering)

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Are discounts available for families with multiple children participating?

Yes. Each additional child registered by the same family will receive **\$100 off** the registration fee. For a list of the additional special registration promotions we are offering, please refer to the last page of this guide or visit our website.

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Is assistance available for families who are unable to pay the registration fee due to financial hardships?

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, full and partial scholarships are available. To be considered for a scholarship, you must contact WDLL President Mike Dosan at president@westernduluthlittleleague.org prior to the end of registration.

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Are there any volunteer requirements within the association?

Each family is required to pay a \$50 volunteer fee, which is included in the registration fee. If a family member volunteers at least eight hours of time during the season, this fee is refunded. Volunteer opportunities will be announced as the season begins. For more information about volunteering at Western, please refer to page 5 of this guide or visit our website.

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What is money from registration fees used for?

The revenue we earn from registration fees (in addition to that raised from fundraisers and donations) helps assist us to cover the necessary costs associated with our league's operations, including uniforms, charter and insurance fees, umpires, field equipment/improvements/maintenance, tournament fees, concessions, general repairs, and more.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Please use these responses as you and your players are registering for the upcoming season.

What are the expectations of me as a parent?

Most importantly, we ask that parents remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for youth, not adults. We expect parents to fully support coaches, umpires, and league officials and follow our Code Of Conduct. We encourage parents to volunteer at Western in any capacity they are willing and able to in order to make the experience better for everyone.

Can I request that my child be placed in a specific division of play? How are such requests handled by the league?

When registering, parents may choose the level of play they would like their child placed in. Based on the results of the Player Evaluations in March, the league may recommend players to move up or down to a different level with parental consent.

When are Player Evaluations? Does my child have to participate?

Player Evaluations will be held **March 17 and 18** at the Marcovich Wellness Center on the UWS campus (times TBA). We evaluate players ages 7-12. Players who participated in the Major League last year are not required to participate but certainly may if they wish.

When does the season begin and end?

The season begins in early May for the younger levels and goes through mid-June. For the older levels, the season begins in mid-May and continues through late July or early August.

What will be provided for my child, and what will I need to purchase for him/her to participate?

Players are required to purchase their own **glove, baseball pants, baseball cleats, protective athletic supporter, batting helmet, and accessories (batting gloves, etc.)**. The purchase of a bat is optional but recommended.

The association will provide **a uniform shirt and hat, catchers' equipment and mitts, team bats, and first aid equipment.**

How are managers & coaches selected?

If you are interested in serving as a manager or coach, please sign up on our website. The Board Of Directors will assign team managers. Managers may choose their coaches.

How are players selected to a team?

Players in the Minor League and above are selected to a team via a draft process, which will take place in late March. Players should be contacted by their team manager in early April.

What time are games and practices? How many per week?

Typically, teams will have two to three games per week (Sunday through Thursday evenings). Practices typically run 1.5 to 2 hours in length and are held weekday evenings and weekends. Typically, each team practices two times per week (sometimes three before the season starts).

Will we be required to travel to other leagues for any games?

Travel is required at the Rookie League level and above.

DIVISIONS OF PLAY

Junior League Baseball (Bantams)

Little League Ages

Players play on a full-size baseball field and in preparation for high school baseball and college baseball.

Regular Season Opponents: MN District 1 North WI

Base Path Length: 90 Feet

Pitching Distance: 60 Feet, 6 Feet

Bat Rules: USA Bat Standard

Lead-Off Permitted: Yes

Stealing Permitted: Yes

Uncaught 3rd Strike: Yes

Game Length: 7 Inning

Pitching Limits: 95 Pitches

Tournament Offered: Junior League (Ages 13-14 Only)

Intermediate (50/70) Baseball

Little League Ages

Provides an opportunity to help players transition from the Little League field to the full-size diamond.

Regular Season Opponents: MN District 1 North WI

Base Path Length: 70 Feet

Pitching Distance: 50 Feet

Bat Rules: USA Bat Standard

Lead-Off Permitted: Yes

Stealing Permitted: Yes

Uncaught 3rd Strike: Yes

Game Length: 7 Inning

Pitch Limits: 85 Pitches (Ages 11 & 12), 95 Pitches (Age 13)

Tournament Offered: Intermediate (50/70)

Little League Major Baseball

Little League Ages 9-12

Traditional "Little League Baseball" division

Regular Season Opponents: Quad City Little League

Base Path Length: 60 Feet

Pitching Distance: 46 Feet

Bat Rules: USA Bat Standard

Lead-Off Permitted: No

Stealing Permitted: Yes

Uncaught 3rd Strike: Yes

Game Length: 6 Innings

Pitch Limits: 75 Pitches (Ages 9-10), 85 Pitches (Ages 11-12)

Tournament Offered: Little League (Ages 10-12), 9-11 Year-Old, 8-10 Year-Old

Minor League Baseball

Little League Ages 5-11

Instructional level of play that incorporates machine pitch (**Intro League**), coach pitch (**Rookie League**), and player pitch (**Minor League**) to enhance player development

Regular Season Opponents: Quad City Little League (Minor, Rookie), In-House (Intro)

Base Path Length: 60 Feet

Pitching Distance: 46 Feet

Bat Rules: USA Bat Standard

Lead-Off Permitted: No

Stealing Permitted: Yes (Minor), Limited (Rookie), No (Intro)

Uncaught 3rd Strike: No

Game Length: 6 Innings (Minor, Rookie), 45 Minutes (Intro)

Pitch Limits: 50 Pitches (Ages 7-8), 75 Pitches (Ages 9-10), 85 Pitches (Age 11)

Tournament Offered: 9-11 Year-Old, 8-10 Year-Old



FUNDRAISING

As the new season begins, we at Western are being extremely proactive in 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 necessary 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) 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 sponsors, we were able to reduce registration fees for the Minor, Rookie, and Intro Leagues for 2018. We will continue to offer scholarships as well.

This season, we hope to begin the process of building a new concession and storage facility.

Please consider supporting Western Duluth Little League and helping us maintain our status as one of the premiere Little League associations in northern Minnesota.

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



DULUTH HUSKIES CARDS

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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

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. When the season begins, you may sign up to volunteer on our website.

We thank all of our volunteers for their service!

DUNHAM'S SPORTS TEAM DISCOUNTS



In preparation for the upcoming season Dunham's Sports will offer an **exclusive 20% discount for all WDLL families January 5-7, 2018**, at their Duluth location (5115 Burning Tree Rd.). Hours are 9:00 AM-9:00 PM Friday/Saturday and 9:00 AM -7:00 PM Sunday.

Please click here to download the event flyer... www.westernduluthlittleleague.org/home.php?layout=6513465

To take advantage of this offer, you may either show a printed copy of the flyer, or you may show it on your smartphone. Some exclusions apply.

NEW USA BASEBALL BAT STANDARD



Beginning January 1, 2018, Little League will implement the new USA Baseball Bat Standard. **BATS THAT WERE LEGAL IN 2017**

AND PREVIOUS YEARS WILL NO LONGER BE 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.

Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;

The band is playing somewhere and somewhere hearts are light;

And somewhere men are laughing and little children shout;

But there is no joy in Mudville, mighty Casey has struck out.

~Ernest Lawrence Thayer (*Casey At The Bat*, 1888)~



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.

Please note, as a consequence of this change, players born between May 1 and August 31, 2004, will lose their 13 year-old year of eligibility. They will be considered League Age 14 year-olds in 2018.

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

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

LITTLE LEAGUE FUN FACTS



~The first Little League game was played in Williamsport, PA, in 1939.

~The first Little League World Series was held in 1947.

~The first leagues outside the US were formed at each end of the Panama Canal in 1950.

~23 former Little Leaguers are now enshrined in the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

~16 former Little Leaguers earned MLB postseason awards in 2017, including Aaron Judge, Cody Bellinger, and Giancarlo Stanton.

~Little League Baseball is currently played in over 80 countries around the world by 2.4 million kids. There are over 7000 associations, with over 150,000 teams and more than a million volunteers worldwide.



REGISTRATION PROMOTIONS & SPECIAL OFFERS



\$10 OFF

ALL REGISTRATION FEES

EXPIRES MARCH 1, 2018

Registration & Payment Must Be Received By 3/1/18 To Qualify.

Does Not Apply To \$50 Volunteer Fee

REGISTER EARLY FOR A CHANCE TO WIN



EVERY SEASON STARTS AT **DICK'S SPORTING GOODS** Players Who Register By 2/1/18 Will Be Entered Into A Drawing For A \$10 Dick's Sporting Goods Gift Card.

Registration & Payment Must Be Received By 2/1/18 To Qualify.

We Will Award Up To Ten \$10 Gift Cards.

FAMILY DISCOUNT

EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD REGISTERED BY THE SAME FAMILY WILL RECEIVE \$100 OFF THE REGISTRATION FEE.



FIRST-TIME PLAYER DISCOUNT

ADDITIONAL \$10 REFUND FOR ALL FIRST-TIME PLAYERS

Refund Will Be Issued After Registration Ends

To Qualify, All Registration Fees Must Be Paid By 5/1/18.

Does Not Apply To \$50 Volunteer Fee



REFERRAL PROGRAM

RETURNING PLAYERS RECEIVE \$10 CONCESSION CASH IF THEY REFER A FIRST-TIME PLAYER.

Issued After Registration Ends, May Be Used For Any Items At The WDLL Concession Stand

First-Time Players Must Indicate Who Referred Them On Their Registration Form.

First-Time Players May List Only **One** Referrer On Their Registration Form.

To Qualify, All Registration Fees Must Be Paid By 5/1/18.

