



Diamond Doings

Libertyville Little League (LLL) Baseball Inc.

P.O. Box 546

Libertyville, IL 60048

(847) 367-1448

Web site: www.libertyvillebaseball.org

E-mail: comments@libertyvillebaseball.org

Play Ball!

2010 Libertyville Little League Registration Issue

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- **December 7, 2010 — Registration opens**
- **January 31, 2010 — Last day to register with no late fee**
- **February 1, 2010 — \$30 Late Fee Applies (players will be placed on a team only if the division has available spots)**
- **February 28, 2010 — Registration Closed**
- **February 21, 2010, and March 7, 2010 — “Rust Busters” Winter Training Camps @ LHS Fieldhouse for ages 7–12**

See the entire LLL calendar @ <http://www.libertyvillebaseball.org/calendar>.



Diamond Doings

Are you ready for another great season at the fabulous Butler Park Ball Fields?

Is it time for baseball already? Not quite, but it is time to sign up! Please sign up your 5 to 14-year-olds by February 1, 2010, to avoid a late fee. Seniors Division (age 15–18) players can also register now. It's a lot of fun to play up on the Juniors field.

I would like to thank those leaving the Board — Jeff Kistler, Matt Kovatch, and Bob Oitker — for all of their volunteer time over the years in support of our program. Your thousands of hours and passion for this program have touched thousands of kids in our community in a positive way. I would also like to welcome Tim Archibald, Gary Bennett, Mike Haddon, Eric Larsen, Lisa Lees, Jason Newman, and Patrick Scheibler to the Board. I look forward to working with you as we continue providing a quality experience for our youth. I cannot help but mention John Offner (also a LLL product!), returning again this year as our Field Management Supervisor. John is responsible for getting the fields ready for play throughout the year. Rarely does he get to hear the compliments that we all hear and say to each other on how beautiful our grounds are. John, you are the best!

As many of you may already know, I grew up in this league, and my father was a fixture at Butler Park in the 70s and 80s. Dad is now memorialized in a plaque at the benches in Flood Field's right field. It is my honor and privilege to serve as President to continue on the fine tradition at Butler Park, and I am incredibly thankful for this opportunity!

Thanks to Jen Belk, our Web Master. The LLL site looks great, and there have been many recent improvements to make it easier to navigate! Please visit and register your players if you haven't done so already, and take a moment to read the objectives of our program. The challenge of our youth baseball program is not to create more leagues, initiate larger tournaments, develop better players, make more money, etc., but to make the program more qualitative — to make it a better, more wholesome, and enriching experience for our youth. While our players are striving to excel and acquire the skills of baseball, they are also learning the many habits and attitudes with regard to themselves and other people that are extremely important to their future success and happiness.

Little League Baseball provides us all an excellent opportunity to teach far more than pitching, hitting, and fielding. When we as adults put the best interests of the children first, then our youth will learn positive lessons, and, most importantly, have FUN!!!

While you are registering for the Spring season, don't forget to also register for the Rust Buster camps and Summer League. Registering early for Summer League will assist us in planning this popular program.

This season, just like every season, we will be trying new things to make our program more fun and fulfilling for our community, and I would welcome anyone interested to get involved in what ever capacity you have a passion for! If you have any questions/comments, I (or any of our Board Members) are always here for you.

I look forward to a great season and many more to come ... see you all out there at the ball field!

Bill Bennett, President



Diamond Doings



Libertyville Little League “Rust-Buster” Camps — Feb. 21 and March 7 @ LHS Fieldhouse

- ❑ Camp will run Sunday, Feb. 21, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm., and Sunday, March 7, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, for players age 7–12 (as of April 30, 2010). Register online at: www.libertyvillebaseball.org by January 31, 2010. **We have extended the age categories from 9–12 to include, for the first time, 7- and 8-year-olds.**
- ❑ Walk in registration will be accepted on an AVAILABILITY ONLY basis for a fee of \$40 per session.
- ❑ All players should wear gym shoes and a protective cup and bring their glove, bat and water bottle.
- ❑ ***Any parent interested in coaching or managing at the Majors level is highly encouraged to attend one or both sessions. Training will be provided.**
- ❑ Contact Geoff Apgar (847) 362-8216 or Apgar.Geoff@principal.com at with questions.



Diamond Doings

Libertyville Little League Registration 2010

Register for the 2010 Regular Season and Summer League via the LLL Web site from December 7, 2009, to February 28, 2010. (Please register by Feb. 1, 2010, to avoid late fee).

- Access the LLL website at <http://www.libertyvillebaseball.org>.
- Click on the button labeled "Registration." Sign in with your username and password.
- Follow the on-screen instructions to register your children.

Note: Copies of birth certificates for new players must be mailed in to the address below:

Libertyville Little League
P.O. Box 546
Libertyville, IL 60048

- When finished registering, please proceed to the payment screen where you may pay by Visa/MasterCard. Credit card transactions are handled by a secure Internet site with privacy and accuracy assured by the vendor hired by LLL. You must pay by credit card to register online.
- Registration is complete once credit card payment is made.

Registrations on or after Feb. 1, 2010, will be assessed a \$30 late fee.

Libertyville Little League Eligibility

To be eligible to play in LLL, your child must be at least 5 years of age as of April 30, 2010, and you must live within the Libertyville Little League boundaries. The boundary map is located on our Web site under "League Info."

2010 Registration Fees

Player Fee: \$150 or \$400 Family Maximum

Non-Resident Fee: \$25 (The non-resident fee is applicable for families residing outside the Village of Libertyville. Township residents and residents of Green Oaks are non-residents.)

Facility Fee: \$35 per family

Volunteer Opt-Out Fee: \$100 per player or \$250 Family Maximum

Late Fee: \$30 per family on or after Feb. 1, 2010



Diamond Doings

Volunteer Commitment

Your assistance throughout the season is critical to the success of our League operations. Please see the LLL handbook at: www.libertyvillebaseball.org for further information.

Mandatory Background Checks

The national Little League organization is requiring either sex offender or criminal background checks for **all volunteer managers, coaches, directors and any other persons, volunteers or hired workers** who provide regular service to the league and/or have repetitive access or contact with players or teams.

Individuals in these positions must complete and submit a Little League Volunteer application.

The form is downloadable, and can be found at:

http://libertyvillebaseball.org/pdfs/Volunteer_App_2010.pdf

We must receive a completed and signed application, including a copy of a driver's license from all volunteer before they become eligible to manage or coach. Please mail all completed forms to:

Libertyville Little League
P.O. Box 546
Libertyville, IL 60048

Have a great season and we look forward to seeing you at the ballpark.





Diamond Doings

Youth Sports Parent Code of Conduct

Preamble

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The greatest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

I therefore agree ...

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials, and spectators at every game, practice or sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting, refusing to shake hands, or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.



Diamond Doings

Please Patronize these fine Libertyville Little League Sponsors

AAA Auto Club	El Famous Burrito	MGN Lock
Abel Electric Contractors	Emagination	Pampered Pupz
Ace Hardware	Famous Dave's	Pauly Honda
Amcor Flexibles	Fodrak's	PCA
American Legion Post 329	Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 33	Porsche Exchange
Arpino Orthodontics	Geary Electric	Reliable Distributors
Auto Lab	Greenleaf Orthopaedic Associates	Richard Mittelman, P.C.
Awards & Engraving	Hollister	Rouse's Auto Repair
Berry Tire	Ireland Heating	Rust-Oleum Corp.
Bishop Heating	Joel Kennedy Construction	Slammers
Buhrman Design Group	John Welu, DDS	Sports 11
Burnett-Dane Funeral Home	Kids Therapy, Inc.	Star Auto Authority
Care Animal Hospital	Lake Forest Pediatrics	Sunset Foods
Casey Landscaping	Libertyville Bank & Trust	Team Athletics
Circle Concrete Construction	Libertyville Citgo	Terry Wepler, Attorney
Culvers	Libertyville Cyclery	Total Image Photography
Dairy Dream	Libertyville Dental	Unique Indoor Comfort
Dick's Sporting Goods	Libertyville Insurance	VFW Post 8741
Downey Robbins Szafarz Architects	Libertyville Lincoln Mercury	Wapaghetti's
Dr. Epstein	Libertyville Tennis & Fitness	Weil Cadillac
Dr. Peter Allegretti	Libertyville Vision Center	William Duguid Co.
Edward Jones Investments	McMurrough Chapel	Zengeler Cleaners



Diamond Doings

Our season would not have been successful had it not been for the support of our many sponsors. Please be sure to thank them by using their services whenever possible. Please consider joining this illustrious list. We have already begun offering sponsorships for our 2010 season. If you are aware of any business that may be interested in sponsoring a team, please contact Jason Newman at (847) 980-7592 or jnewman@mtcus.com, or complete the application below.

Sponsoring a Little League team is a great way to support your community while increasing advertising for your business. By becoming a sponsor of Little League you get a team with your business name on the uniform, an outfield sign with your business name, telephone number and logo, and a plaque to display at your business. In addition, through newsletters and other announcements, the league strongly encourages the thousands of players and parents to support our local sponsors. Cost for sponsoring a Little League Team is very reasonable, \$450 for the first year and \$350 for the following years. A second team can be added for \$350 for the first year and \$250 for the following years. If you cannot sponsor a team, outfield signs are available for \$200 per year.

LIBERTYVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE SPONSOR APPLICATION

CONTACT NAME _____
COMPANY _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
CONTACT TELEPHONE _____ FAX _____

Please indicate any requests, i.e. specific division, sign location etc:

- ____ Team Sponsor: \$450 first year, \$350 annual renewal
____ Second Team: \$350 first year, \$250 annual renewal
____ Outfield Sign: \$200 first sign, \$150 second sign

Please include artwork of company logo for reproduction on uniform and/or signs.

Return this form to:

Jason Newman
Director of Sponsors
Libertyville Little League
P.O. Box 546
Libertyville, IL 60048

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Diamond Doings

Division Recaps ...



Libertyville Little League Seniors Division

In 2009, the Seniors Division continued to grow in popularity, with 65 high school players participating on 5 teams. Our regular season schedule included 12 regular season games, which culminated in a round-robin, season-end tournament. The two teams that fought their way through to the Championship game were the AAA Automobile Cubs and Slammers White Sox. The Championship went to the AAA Automobile Cubs (coached by Bob Smith) in an exciting come-from-behind 5-4 win in the bottom of the 7th inning.

We are looking forward to another exciting year in 2010. The Seniors Division is composed of high school players that compete on our Juniors/Seniors field, with the field set at Major League Baseball dimensions (Pitching mound, 60 feet; bases, 90 feet). The games are umpired by college-age, “patched” (certified) umpires to keep up with the high level of competition. The Seniors Division starts play after Memorial Day and completes its season ~ July 15. The registration deadline is different (later) for the Senior Division than for all other Little League Divisions. The registration deadline for 2010 will be May 15. All 9th through 12th grade students that live in the Libertyville Little League boundaries are eligible to play, with the exception of players who participated on their high school Varsity baseball teams in the Spring.

I look forward to another great year in 2010.

Phil Kym
Director–Seniors Division



Diamond Doings

Libertyville Little League Majors Division

The 2009 Majors campaign featured six hard-working teams — the Edward Jones Mets, the Unique Indoor Comfort Angels, the Slammers Cubs, the Porsche Exchange Yankees, the Sunset Foods Cardinals, and the Libertyville Bank & Trust White Sox. A large percentage of the games were decided by one run and/or extra innings — a testament to the competitiveness and balance of the teams in the Majors.

Once again, Libertyville Little League kicked off its season with a Friday night Majors Division opening game between the 2008 championship game participants. In successful defense of its 2008 championship, on a beautiful April night, the Edward Jones Mets defeated the Unique Indoor Comfort Angels 9–7.

The Majors' All-Star activities were held Saturday, June 6, 2009. Patrick Wales won the Outfielders' Competition, and Patrick Nolan was the victor in the Home Run Derby. In the evening, the National League All-Stars defeated the American League All-Stars 5–4, with the Americans leaving the tying and go-ahead runners on base in the bottom of the 7th inning.

The 2009 Majors Championship game was played on a warm, muggy night under the lights of Flood Field. The game featured the Porsche Exchange Yankees vs. the Sunset Foods Cardinals. The Cardinals jumped out to a 7–0 lead after three innings. The Yankees, who had made up large deficits during the regular season, staged another comeback, starting with a five-run 4th inning. Still down 7–5 in the bottom of the last regulation inning (6th inning), the Yankees scored two runs to tie the game. After neither team scored in the 7th, the 8th inning became a game within the game. In the top of the 8th, the Yankees pushed across 5 runs. Their lead looked safe until, with two outs in the bottom of the 8th inning, the Cardinals' Keith Wilson crushed a grand slam to pull the Cardinals within one run. The Cardinals then put two more runners on base, but a fly-out to left field ended their rally, and the Yankees won the championship 12–11, in one of the wildest thrillers ever played on Flood Field.

As for the 2010 season, the Majors Division held its first comprehensive outdoor tryout last September to determine who would play in the division this coming season. More than 90 players tried out for 44 spots, receiving some 5,400 scores from six independent, qualified teachers of the game. I want to thank the many volunteers who donated hundreds of hours developing the try-out process, preparing for and conducting the tryouts, and collating the competitors' scores.

We look forward to another outstanding year in 2010.

Rocky Hudson
Director–Majors Division



Diamond Doings

Libertyville Little League Varsity Division

In 2009, the Varsity Season fielded 6 strong teams that sported the National League names of Cubs (Ace Hardware), Cardinals (Dairy Dream) and Mets (Hollister Corporation). In the American League, we featured the Yankees (Porsche Exchange), Angels (Pampered Pupz) and White Sox (Fodrak's).

Our regular season schedule spanned 15 interleague games, which lead into our double-elimination season-end tournament. The two teams with the best regular-season records (the Porsche Exchange Yankees and Hollister Mets) received a bye for the first round. These two teams battled it out against each other in two well-played games that had the Porsche Exchange Yankees (coached by Joe Barry) winning the Championship.

In 2009, Varsity continued the tradition of a mini-travel schedule, as we again partnered with Mundelein's Majors/Varsity Division for additional games. Each of Mundelein's teams had a chance to come to the LLL Butler Lake Complex to play under the lights, and Mundelein reciprocated one Sunday afternoon by hosting our six teams. Once again, the feedback received from LLL players traveling to their neighboring town's ball fields indicated that this home-and-away competition was well-received. We hope these types of experiences continue in the years to come.

In early June, we took our mid-season break to hold the All-Star weekend festivities. Our day began with three players from each team competing in the Outfield/Throwing Competition. Players are positioned ~120 feet from home plate, where they are instructed to catch a pop fly, and, in one continuous motion, "throw it home" to an array of targets worth increasing numbers of points. Mr. Carter Olson from Pampered Pupz was our champion. The Home Run Derby followed featuring a total of 5 balls "going yard." The HR Derby Champion had to endure a tie-breaking playoff that resulted in Mr. Sean Farley as our winner. The All-Star Game was played next, with 5 players from each team who were elected by their respective teammates from both the National and American Leagues.

The Varsity Division is made up of 11- and 12-year olds who do not play in the Majors Division. Their games are mostly played on Flood Field, where night games bring a special joy to the players and fans.

In 2010 we expect to have a minimum of 8 teams competing at the Varsity Level.

I am also proud to turn over the keys to the Varsity Division to Mr. Gary Bennett who recently joined our board after 13 seasons in Major League Baseball. Gary will bring a fresh look into this program to further ensure these players/coaches understand what success in baseball is all about.

I want to again thank the Manager and Coach volunteers who put the teaching and enjoyment of the game ahead of all else.

Brian Snader
2009 Director-Varsity Division



Diamond Doings

Libertyville Little League AAA Division

In 2009, the LLL AAA Division had a great season, with 116 players participating on 10 teams. The AAA Division introduces the kids to a more competitive atmosphere, with playoffs to end the season. The focus remains on teaching the basics of hitting, running, fielding, catching, throwing, sportsmanship, and safety.

The season ended with a round-robin tournament, in which all 10 teams participated. In the Championship Game, the Yankees beat the Mets in a Libertyville version of the “Subway Series.”

There will be a player draft in 2010 for the AAA Division. There are no player tryouts. Managers, and their chosen coach, will rely on previous years’ player evaluations and their knowledge of players from the past to draft their teams. The AAA Division consists of two divisions — National and American.

2010 promises to be a great year for the AAA Division. Thanks in advance for everyone’s time, effort and support. Good luck to all, and I look forward to seeing you at the field.

Mark Wittenbrink
2009 Director–AAA Division

Libertyville Little League AA Division

In 2009, the LLL AA division had another wonderful season that saw 125 players participate on 10 teams. All teams were competitive and fun was had by all. The AA Division is an instructional league, with enhanced rules to help elevate level of play. Managers and coaches teach the basics of hitting, running, fielding, catching, throwing, sportsmanship, and safety.

AA has player pitching for the entire season. All managers are encouraged to allow every player who wants to pitch the opportunity to do so. A scoreboard is maintained by the home team, yet no standings are kept.

There will be a draft in 2010 for the AA Division. There are no tryouts. Managers, and their chosen coaches, will rely on previous years’ evaluations and their knowledge of players from the past to draft their teams.

The AA Division consists of two divisions — National and American. With this, the AA Division sends the most qualified players from both divisions to the District 16 Little League International post-season tournament. This two-week competition consists of teams from other Little League communities in the area.

2010 promises to be a great year for the AA Division. Our success depends on the enjoyment the players realize from their Little League experience. Thanks in advance for everyone’s support. Good luck to all, and I look forward to seeing you at the field.

Stu Vieth
2009 Director–AA Division



Diamond Doings

Umpires Wanted

Libertyville Little League is looking for boys and girls ages 13 to adult who would like the opportunity to umpire our games during the 2010 season. This is a great opportunity for our youth to develop leadership skills in decision making, communication, and organization and to gain experience with managing responsibility. An umpire's role includes helping to make sure the games are played fairly and safely and, most importantly, helping to maintain a fun and relaxed atmosphere for all participants. Umpires are paid \$12 to \$25, depending on the level they umpire.

You can sign up starting February 15, 2010, through the LLL baseball registration process by completing the application online at <http://www.libertyvillebaseball.org/forms/default.aspx>. For more information, please contact me via e-mail at: comments@libertyvillebaseball.org or call me @ (847) 680-6011.

I look forward to a great 2010 Baseball season!

Rick Rodriquez
Director-Umpire-in-Chief

Equipment Pick-Up and Return — Attention, all 2009 and 2010 Managers

If you are still in possession of your 2009 season equipment and uniforms, please hand them in by contacting me to arrange the return.

Please note that you will not be allowed to manage a team in 2010 if you are still in possession of last year's equipment!

Equipment handout for the 2010 LLL Spring baseball season will be March 20, from 9 am to 1 pm.

Thanks for your help.

Tom Jean
Director-Equipment
(847) 609-2373
E-mail: tomdawnjean@sbcglobal.net