

Lenape Valley Youth Baseball and Softball

Registration, Draft, Ordering, Coaching, All-Star, and Associated Responsibilities

Standard Operating Procedures

(Updated 20230524)

Registration Opens 1/1

Bulk order of hats will be conducted in late February. The hat ordering process will be as follows: the Executive Board(s) will determine which type/ team/ color hats will be available for selection by level. Head Coaches will not be afforded an “open limitless choice” in selection of the type of hat they want, but rather, what the organization has “on hand” or deems as “logistically and reasonably procurable/ affordable”. A variety of 4 will be selected per level:

Example: Red, Blue, Black, Green **OR** Yankees, Mets, Angels, Oakland A’s.

Hats will be ordered in bulk quantity and any excess not being utilized will be stored in the Field House Basement Storage Room in a sealed-locking storage bin. The entire order is not to be distributed to the Head Coach; only the quantity of hats required are to be provided to the Head Coach; the league controls stock and inventory.

Tee Ball: 15 Youth Hats; 5 Adult Hats

Coach Pitch: 15 Youth Hats; 5 Adult Hats

Minors: 15 Youth Hats; 5 Adult Hats

Majors: 10 Youth Hats; 10 Adult Hats

50/70: 6 Youth Hats; 18 Adult Hats

Juniors: 20 Adult Hats

Regular registration normal period ends on 3/15

Indoors training will run from approximately 3/15 to the end of the first week of April; it may overlap with fields being open for use. This is a good thing and provides teams and coaches MORE options and capability, opposed to waiting on permission from the Township of Byram to utilize the fields, which would result in no practice capability if not for the indoors option/ extension.

Indoor training will be conducted “by level”. Coaches are responsible for observing the skills and capabilities of the players during the myriad of pre-season indoor opportunities. There will be no special “evaluation day” conducted; evaluation will be ongoing and concurrent leading up until the draft for all practices and drills being conducted.

Fair, Impartial, and Balanced Drafts must take place IMMEDIATELY 3/16-3/21 (five-day window). At least 1 Executive Board Member **MUST** be present during each level’s draft. The draft will ONLY include players that have registered ON TIME and during the regular open registration period. Registrants who

registered between 3/16 and the closing date of 4/1 must understand that they are considered as LATE REGISTRATION and that they may not have their hat, uniform, or roster placement in effect in a timely manner as with the bulk of ON TIME registrants, who will be guaranteed the aforementioned, unless of course there are supply chain or emergent logistical constraints.

Final rosters must be approved by the Executive Board, with the final GO/ NO GO being the President.

Registrants after the Fair, Impartial, and Balanced Drafts are conducted will be placed on teams in the same manner, after the close of the final registration date of 4/1. These additions to the rosters and this draft is to be conducted in the same way and manner as the parameters identified above, as with final approval.

The assigned Head Coach's child is automatically assigned to the team and will not be part of the draft process. The Head Coach is authorized ONE assistant coach selection, and places the assistant coach's child onto the team. Thereafter, the coaches will review their children who were automatically placed onto a team by virtue of the coach/parent. The Head Coaches will then assess the skill level of the children on each team prior to starting the Fair, Impartial, and Balanced Draft. The Head Coach with the lowest skill consideration will select first, following the same principle with second, third, etc picks. The rotation for the section at that point will be 123, 123, 123; it will not "snake" back upward (e.g. 123, 321, 123, 321).

No special rules shall be conferred upon or established by the head coaches conducting the draft unless reviewed and approved by the executive board (e.g. These 3 players cannot be on the same team).

A bulk submission/ order for the residual late registrants must take place within 3 days of the final/second draft for late registrants.

Team Announcement Day occurs on the weekend after the drafts are completed and the initial bulk order of jerseys is ordered. Late registrants may be invited to the event, but are not guaranteed placement and/or the corresponding hat, because they registered late.

First bulk order of shirts must be submitted to vendor NLT than 3 days after the Fair and Impartial Drafts take place. The vendor MUST guarantee that the shirts will be available at least FIVE days prior to Opening Day for distribution. If a vendor cannot meet this criterion, the next best quoted vendor shall be utilized.

Team Announcement Day

Registration with a late fee starts 3/16 and closes 4/1

Any registrations from 3/16 to 4/1 will incur a late fee, will not be part of the initial bulk order process, and must understand that they will not have their team hat or assignment in time for any special event from 3/16 to opening day. But "should" have their shirt by opening day if the aforementioned timeline is followed. **This is why we urge timely registration.**

For the second bulk order of shirts, we must ensure the vendor makes an effort to provide the shirts "in time for opening day" which is optimally 3-5 days prior to opening day to allow for distribution to head coaches; however, because these are late registrations, there are no guarantees. Head Coaches must relay this point to their assigned players/ parents.

All registration windows will close on 4/1; thereafter, any interested parties must submit an email to the organization requesting special circumstances, which allows us to evaluate the rosters and determine what team, or if, we can assign the player. If we cannot, we can explore playing the player “up a level”, if reasonable. If there is no way we can place the new registrant, we can assist in exploring other opportunities for children who desire to register after 4/1 registration portal closure. The registration must not be left open after 4/1.

We urge parents to keep their children in the level which little league has designated by age brackets. Advancing a child causes rifts in the programs, can put the child at a disadvantage, the team they’re playing for, the level’s total registration numbers for roster construction, and have compounding effects.

Teams must not be composed based upon age or grade; all teams and levels must abide by the Fair, Impartial, and Balanced Draft process, which institutes and ensures that there is a variety of ages, and skill sets, on each team within the level. The process will never be flawless, and some teams may be better than other teams, based upon the selections of the head coach during that process.

Tee ball and coach pitch are more flexible with this premise and do not require evaluations or rotational drafts for placements. These can be worked out as informal agreements between head coaches on these two levels. If the coaches cannot arrive at an amicable or logical decision, the board will make the determination. The coach pitch level must certainly make an effort to also create balanced teams, though the process can be considered less stringent than levels from Minors upward.

Any parents interested in being a coach, even if they were already a coach the year prior, must select the option during registration so that it can be populated on the extracted reports from the registration portal for board review.

Prior service coaches will be afforded the same position as the year prior so long as there was no discipline implemented or factors of consideration to avoid undue conflict.

When a head coach graduates upward a level, if there is no vacancy for head coach, they will be an assistant coach until a head coach slot is available.

At the onset of the season, based upon the selection of head coaches, they may consider their own child drafted on their team, if so desired. Not friends or extended family; and not any more assistant coach considerations other than the ONE authorized by this policy. Head Coaches shall not pre-select more than one assistant coach. The remaining 2 assistant coach slots will be filled by canvassing the volunteer list of the parents whose children they have been assigned/ drafted.

Special accommodations for placement will be at the discretion of the Executive Board; parent special requests must be vetted and not all accepted at face value. “Carpooling” or “Friends” cannot be accommodated, as it will obviate efforts for Fair, Balance, and Impartial Drafts. Any requests for special accommodations will be sent directly to the League President for review and analysis; if we can make things work, we will, but that is the exception, not the rule.

The same process is followed for each level/ team from Minors through Juniors (or if Seniors is present), Coach Pitch and Tee Ball are more flexible in roster placement.

The late registrants will be placed on teams in a method that balances the numbers/ skill sets. If the late registration numbers are so large that an additional team is required, an executive board review will be

conducted to determine if a level-wide redraft is required, feasible, or if all late registrants are able to be placed on one additional team, contingent upon the numbers of registration, team rosters, coaches available, timelines, and other variables.

TEAM STRUCTURES AND TEAM HAT COLOR CONCEPT

Team colors for shirts/ hats are as follows: Red, Blue, Black, and Green (or four equivalent professional MLB team colors, again, based upon determination from the executive board and approved by the President). Head coaches may select their desired “color” based upon seniority.

Seniority is defined as having the greatest number of years as a coach in the League, when years of coaching is tied, it will go by number of years head coaching. If tied again, it goes by the number of years as a board member.

Minimum/ Maximum Roster values provided a basis to configure and plan on team sizes. The following model can be used as a basis to determine when/if splitting into another team, or reducing into smaller amounts, is relevant; however the min/max values are contingent upon the amount of teams on hand; little league recommends minimum of 10; however, we can adopt the “call up” methodology when/where needed:

Tee Ball: Min 5 Max 12 (after 12 consider split)

Coach Pitch: Min 8 Max 14 (after 14, consider split)

Minors: Min 8 Max 14 (after 14, consider split or using fill in players from other levels)

Majors: Min 8 Max 14 (after 14, consider split or using fill in players from other levels)

50/70: Min 8 Max 14 (after 14, consider split or using fill in players from other levels)

Juniors: Min 8 Max 14 (after 14, consider split or using fill in players from other levels)

Seniors: Min 8 Max 14 (after 14, consider split or using fill in players from other levels)

These values are a baseline and can be modified based upon other factors (example: knowing that 3 of your players will only make half the games would be an example of having an increased sized roster). All rosters must be approved by the Executive Board, with final sign-off being President.

Players shall not be grouped solely by age and/or grade level, it creates a disparity when moving up and the years to come. Teams shall be constructed by Fair, Impartial, and Balanced Drafts in regard to selections made based on skill, position, and other hybrid factors.

The purpose, goal, and vision of Little League regular season is not to develop and build all star teams; it is to build teams that have a mix of ages and skill levels in each respective level, as per Little League guidelines. All Stars is a bonus and additional opportunity; and it is not considered as part of the regular season fair play philosophy - it is an augmented opportunity to select children among the best from each team and/or age level eligibility criteria, and try to perform in a “competitive tournament style play”.

Creating teams by age/ grade level has an adverse effect on the experience and game play of all the kids and creates a model for future years of the upcoming kids having a losing season and possible negative

experience. Conversely, when splitting by “grade level” an older team getting beaten by a younger team creates a highly negative experience and connotation.

Head coaches are responsible for conducting Fair, Balanced, and Impartial Drafts. In accordance with the Conflict Resolution Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), which is posted on the website, any parents with questions, comments, concerns, or communication desires must start with the head coach of the players’ team. See SOP for more details.

ALL STARS

All Star coaches are selected by several criteria to include: seniority, availability, capability and final approval will come from the executive board, President, and VP and/or the selected committee assigned to this purpose.

Players will undergo a fair evaluation processed based upon the timeline, availability, and contemporary operational considerations of the league. This could be attending a formal evaluation to be rated. Rated areas could include batting, fielding, throwing, running, situational awareness, attendance, or other criteria.

Head coaches are encouraged to provide the league with considerations and/or nominations, as well as their supporting observations regarding the player. Final determination of rosters will be executed by league administrators (if merging with another league, the same applies). Note: coaches providing statistics shall not be a weighted value in this process; as there are no control measures or time to go through every single coach's books and ensure that the calculations are correct. To this end, individual team/coach input is valuable, but not a fair metric to utilize as a weight/ quantitative value.

All Stars teams rosters must be finalized and approved by the assigned committee, with the league President (or if merging, the committee with equal representation) being the final sign off, no later than May 25th so that the uniforms can be ordered and delivered on time and registration fees collected. Uniforms will be ordered immediately afterward to ensure prompt delivery prior to the start of the first games, which could occur in Mid-June.

Players who are selected for All Stars must commit to attending all the games and practices; by not doing so, it consumes the slot of another player who is willing/able to make all the events/games/practices, etc.

The uniform must bear the LL All Star Patch on the left shoulder. If hybrid or merged leagues are constructed; a custom patch can be ordered for the right shoulder indicating the two localities that are merged onto one team. Note: a merged effort does not "fall under" one charter or the other; it is a joint effort between both charters; however, only one of the two charters is responsible for entering the player data into Little League Data Center for District Approval and affidavit processes.

All Stars is comprised of the following opportunities:

9U (informal in comparison to documentation required for all other levels)

10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U

The objective is to field as many all star teams as possible to increase the opportunity for the experience. the goal is to use the Little League age of the player for placement on that respective age level team, but in some cases may need to play "up" (e.g. LL age 13 playing on the 14 team).

The goal is to select the best players by age from the multitude of teams and/or leagues merged into a singular entity. Not to create as many teams as possible with unqualified candidates. Teams will be constructed by the assignment committee with the best interests of the teams' capability for advancement. If any specific age level does not possess the amount of skill considered required to field an All-Star team, then the team may not be constructed. All-Stars is competitive and some towns have

competitive travel type teams playing in their little leagues, giving them a distinct advantage. In order to stand a chance at being competitive, to that end, teams will not be constructed just for the sake of constructing a team, only to set up the teams and players for failure, as it would be a disservice to all.

Notifications: The All-Star Committee will select at a minimum the Head Coach, and in some instances, the first assistant coach. If any coaching vacancies or support is needed to fulfill team management and coaching aspects, and has not been selected by the committee, it will be at the Head Coach's discretion to fill the slot. Once the coaching assignments are communicated and agreed upon, the Head Coaches will receive the rosters of selected players. The goal should be to strive for 14 per team, to allow for some managerial discretion with head coaches as well as offset any selected players that change their mind and do not want to play. The Head Coaches are responsible for contacting the selected candidates and relaying their expectations, confirming the commitment of the player(s) attendance, obtaining sizing information, and relaying any expectations/ roles/ assignments. This should be done as soon as possible after the Head Coach receives the roster(s). A date will be conferred upon by the committee for this action to take place and Head Coaches must report back their confirmed roster, and report any non-committals. If it results in the demand to fill any vacant slots, the committee will confer to determine the next candidate(s) in line. If any players do not receive a notification regarding their selection, then they have not been selected. All league representatives, head coaches, coaches, volunteers should be communicating to their players how proud they are of the players trying out, and that some players will not receive notification of selection.

Registration portal will be opened for a one-week window for all selected candidates to register and submit payments. The fee associated will be determined using the following criteria as a basis:

Shirts, Hats, (socks, pants, belts could be provided or may be separate), league fees, umpires, patches, balls, and other considerations.

HEAD COACH RESPONSIBILITIES

All must abide by the Code of Conduct.

All coaches must have a background check conducted and the Rutgers safety course completed IAW Little League and the Town.

All must provide reasonable opportunity for other volunteers to assist in some type of way, whether designation of a certain area on the sidelines, stands, practices, special assignments, and can select their own assistant coaches so long as it does not conflict with any previously documented conflicts.

Head coaches are responsible for disseminating league information to their assistants, volunteers, parents and children.

Head coaches are responsible for understanding "conflict resolution", which always starts with the head coach (disagreements, issues, concerns, etc).

Each level shall endeavor, if possible, to have at least one board member as a head coach or assistant coach. That board member is designated the "level representative", and responsible for ensuring cross

communication between all the head coaches on that level, collecting, and disseminating information as needed, both up the chain and down the chain, or consolidating level-specific issues for delivery.

Head coaches are responsible for running their own teams, games, and practices. If guidance or support is needed, the head coach can request support from the level rep and/or board.