

April 2023

Southeast DA + Staff Meeting

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Little League
Southeast Region

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WELCOME

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1. Diamond Leader
2. Course Work
3. Softball Updates
4. Date Planning and Reminders
5. Field and Site Review
6. Schedules
7. Tournament Experience
8. Tournament Combinations
9. Streaming
10. Sportsmanship
11. Urban Initiative Program
12. Home Run Derby
13. Awards Program

DIAMOND LEADER

- Little League Diamond Leader coach training is open
 - www.LittleLeague.org/DiamondLeader
- **FREE, 20–25-minute session for managers and coaches (and other volunteers)**
- ***Will be required for tournament team managers and coaches for 2023***
 - *Course MUST be completed PRIOR to individual being named a tournament team manager/coach*
- **One time only completion needed**
- **Database to be available to leagues and districts before tournament season**
- **DAs can determine a policy to if or how they will verify for tournament play**
 - Leagues are required to ensure they have completed the course
 - Policy should be shared in advance of tournament and ideally in May

COURSE WORK

- **In addition to Diamond Leader course, Little League has been softly rolling out other course work**
- **Current two regular season course, Prepare and Play are available**
 - League and district officials can sign up for these course now
- **Tournament courses coming in Early May**
 - DAs, ADAs, league officials and others should use these courses to help prepare for tournament
- **Will officially roll out in September, but using time now to evaluate the courses and gather feedback**
- **There is a goal to get 25% leagues, per Region to complete Prepare and Play courses**

SOFTBALL UPDATES

- **Softball only expansion email (from Matt on 4/5)**
 - If you had one or more league that chartered no softball teams in past 2 years
- **Encourage leagues offering softball to expand softball offerings beginning in the Fall (pitching instruction, clinics, etc.)**
- **Identify individual(s) on district staff to make softball only boundary adjustment proposals**
 - A league's map can be different per sport
- **Softball tournament experience improvements and considerations**

DATE PLANNING AND REMINDERS

- **Share you projected district tournament dates NOW with your leagues**
- **Begin to plan when you will be reviewing tournament affidavits and documentation**
 - Provide yourself enough time to thoroughly review and for leagues to make corrections
 - Must be reviewed before team's first game
 - Any player that does not meet the residency or school attendance requirements, must be removed from team and affidavit before first game
 - Player can be added to team in documentation is acceptable after team's first game
 - No exceptions that would allow a player to play in game while documentation is not in order

DATE PLANNING AND REMINDERS

- **May 15** – tournament team announcement date and when tryouts can start
- **June 1** – last day to charter (regular season) and make regular season team number adjustments
- **June 1** – all waivers, combined teams and interleague play applications must be submitted and approved
- **June 1** – outstanding balances to Little League must be paid in full (excludes tournament enrollment fees)
- **June 15** – deadline to enroll in tournament
- **June 20** – district tournament schedules must be shared (or two weeks before start of play if earlier)

FIELD AND SITE REVIEW

- **Review ALL possible tournament sites NOW**
- **Measure all distances at sites, do not assume**
 - Outfield fence distance
 - Pitching mound/rubber distance
 - Pitching mound height
 - Distance between bases
 - Distance from home plate to backstop
- **Use our field checklist to gather distances and other information**
 - Any site not meeting the minimum requirements can't be used
 - A waiver request could be made, but do not assume it will be approved
- **Provide as many leagues as possible a chance to host games**
- **All hosting leagues must have approved safety (ASAP) plan**

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES

- **District tournament schedules must be shared by June 20 or two weeks before play starts (whichever is earlier)**
- **Only approved methods can be used**
 - Single elimination
 - Double elimination
 - Modified double elimination
 - Pool Play
- **Pool play is not used to advance all teams**
 - Must share how many teams will advance to elimination phase, if used
 - Elimination phase can be one of the elimination methods
- **Teams are never seeded into brackets or pools**
- **Area tournaments are part of district play**
- **Must play games in order**
 - Can start games as same time

TOURNAMENT COMBINATIONS

- Leagues can now submit to combine for tournament on the data center
- If approved for the regular season, it does not equal tournament approval
 - A tournament combo must be made
 - Deadline is June 1 to submit
- Separate request is needed for tournament level of play
- Only the host league, if approved, would enroll in tournament
- Leagues in the same district can submit a combination request
 - Or if outside of district, those that in a combination or interleague play can make a request

TOURNAMENT STREAMING

- **For the international tournament games below Region-level, streaming is permitted**
- **Self-streaming, such as on YouTube or Facebook does not require a contract**
 - Using a company or outside group will require a contract
- **The Tournament Director will need to work with hosting league and that field's owner to ensure guidelines are followed**
- **Restricting spectators and parents and streaming as well as limiting locations of devices must be done in conjunction with league and property owner**
- **Teams must be made aware in advance of any streaming and on-site signage and announcements are strongly encouraged**

SPORTSMANSHIP

- **Would strongly encourage making sportsmanship a part of all tournament meetings and communications**
- **Use signage and announcements at games to encourage and promote sportsmanship**
- **Be intentional about your efforts and constantly talk about it**
- **Sportsmanship announcement is available from [LittleLeague.org](https://www.littleleague.org)**

TOURNAMENT EXPERIENCE

- **Review all aspects of the tournament for possible enhancements, improvements and more**
 - Keep in mind all players, not just the teams that win
 - How do you add value to the tournament?
 - How does the experience differ from other organizations and the regular season?
- **Make a goal to include one tournament experience enhancement this year and add on in future years**
- **Remember all the tournament teams**
 - This could be the only tournament experience for many kids
- **Make the experience worth it**

URBAN INITIATIVE PROGRAM

- **We are working to grow the Urban Initiative Program**
 - Both in leagues and knowledge of the program
- **Urban Initiative leagues are part of an underserved community**
 - Is a population that experiences inadequate access to essential goods, services, or opportunities.
 - This can be due to a variety of factors, including poverty, geographic isolation, language barriers, lack of access to transportation, and discrimination.
 - An underserved community may also be characterized by high rates of unemployment, low levels of educational attainment, and limited access to healthcare services.
 - The specific definition of an underserved community can vary depending on the context, but it generally refers to populations that face significant social, economic, or health-related disadvantages compared to other groups in the same area.
- **If you might have a league that could fit into this program, contact Demiko Ervin, Director of Urban Initiative at dervin@LittleLeague.org**

T-MOBILE HOME RUN DERBY

- **T-Mobile Home Run Derby is back**
- **Free to host by leagues**
 - Leagues receive a hosting kit
- **Free to participate as well**
 - For players 12 and under (League age)
 - Must be Little Leaguers
- **Each district should work to ensure there is at least one local competition in their district this spring**
- **Leagues register online**

SOUTHEAST AWARDS PROGRAM

- **Nominations now open for Awards Program**
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Umpire Golden Mask
 - Good Sport of the Year*
- **Nomination submissions will close in June**
- **Award winners are invited to Southeast Region in Warner Robins during the softball or baseball region tournament**
- **This is simple way for recognition**

PROMOTE, PROMOTE, PROMOTE

Thank You and Good Night!



Next DA + Staff Meetings

- *Thursday May 18*
- *Tuesday June 6*



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