

# WDLL Spring 2026



Coaches Meeting

# About WDLL



- West Deptford Little League is a non-profit organization founded in 1954 and first chartered in 1955 with the commitment to providing an exceptional youth baseball and softball experience for those in our community.
- WDLL has a proud history of play in New Jersey's District 15 Little League division producing numerous championship teams, and many athletes who have gone on to play in High School, College, and beyond.
- Our goal is to continue the tradition of providing a place for those ages 4-16 to learn, play, and enjoy the games of baseball and softball.

# WDLL Board of Directors - 2025-2026



- President - Kristyn DeGregorio
- Vice President Baseball - Matt Ward
- Vice President Softball - Jon Yates
- Player Agent Baseball - Mike Reagle
- Player Agent Softball - Kelly Citrone
- Umpire in Charge - Mike Reagle

# WDLL Board of Directors - 2025-2026



- Coaching Coordinator Baseball - Bernie Korbel
- Coaching Coordinator Softball - Sydney Jakubowski
- Uniforms - Amy Stafford
- Equipment - Pat Adair
- Tournament Coordinator - Ryan Smith



# Key POC emails

- Email your division coordinator for most issues
  - Division Coordinator is the interface between coaches and the league
- General league email: [info@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:info@wdlittleleague.com)
- Baseball Player Agent: [playeragentbb@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:playeragentbb@wdlittleleague.com)
- Softball Player Agent: [playeragentsb@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:playeragentsb@wdlittleleague.com)
  - Player agent is the interface between players and the league
- Safety email: [safety@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:safety@wdlittleleague.com)
  - Safety concerns
- Coaching Coordinator Baseball: [coaching.baseball@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:coaching.baseball@wdlittleleague.com)
- Coaching Coordinator Softball: [coaching.softball@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:coaching.softball@wdlittleleague.com)
  - Coaching specific concerns
- Umpire in Charge: [umpires@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:umpires@wdlittleleague.com)
  - Rules, umpire concerns

# Help Us Grow the Game



- We are a Volunteer-Powered League
  - Our success relies entirely on the dedication of our volunteers.
- Stay Connected
  - Monthly meetings
- Get Involved: Open Roles Available
  - We are actively seeking new members to bring fresh perspectives.
- Join Us Today
  - Interested in a board or committee role?
  - Email: [info@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:info@wdlittleleague.com)

# Key Dates





# Key Season Dates

- Spring Registration
  - November 28th, 2025 (Black Friday) to January 31st, 2026
- Player Evaluations
  - February 21st, 2026 - 12pm-5pm
  - February 22nd, 2026 - 2pm-6pm
  - February 28th, 2026 - 12pm-5pm
  - March 1st, 2026 - 2pm-6pm
- Coaches Clinic - Baseball
  - February 25th, 2026 - 7pm-8pm



# Key Season Dates

- Finalized Rosters
  - Week of March 2nd, 2026
- Field Clean Up
  - March 7th & 8th, 2026
- Practices Begin
  - Indoor - March 9th, 2026 (Coach Pitch & Above)
  - Outdoor - March 16th, 2026
- Opening Day
  - April 18th, 2026
- Season Ends
  - June 13th, 2026

# Coach Training





# Key Takeaways

- **DO NOT** promise kids or parents team placement.
- You can choose 1 assistant coach and their child.
- Little League mandates a draft to split teams evenly, that is what we will do.
- For each age group, each team must have equal pitchers/catchers
- LL is about development, we are here to teach the game of baseball/softball, improve skills, knowledge of the game, sportsmanship and leadership.
- Coach all of the players, not just the star players.



## Key Takeaways

- Abuse of umpires, arguing or yelling with opposing coaches will not be tolerated. WD has developed a very negative reputation over the past few years over this topic. If you cannot act in a respectful, controlled manner, you will be asked to step down.
- Players **MUST** move around the field. Unless it seems to be a safety issue, kids should be learning to play multiple positions. Again, we know winning is fun, but **DEVELOPMENT** is most important. If we get reports that kids are playing the same positions, you will no longer be asked to coach in the future.



## Key Takeaways

- Coaches are responsible for field care before, during and after games and practices. Please rake around mounds, home plate and bases after each practice and/or game. If you are the home team, it's your responsibility to line the field. We provide all supplies located in the sheds throughout the complex. If you take something out of a shed, please return it. Please make sure dugouts are clear and all trash is disposed of in the trash cans.



## Key Takeaways

- If you need help with practice plans or ideas, please reach out to your coaching coordinators. WDLL provides ample resources to make sure everyone has what they need to be successful.
- If you have an issue with a player, parent, umpire or opposing team... Please reach out to us immediately. Do not let issues go, the sooner we know about it, the sooner we can help diffuse the situation. If we don't know, we can't help.



# Pro-Tips for a Smooth Season

1. **Don't Wing It:** Never show up without a written practice plan.
2. **Keep 'Em Moving:** Use small groups and stations to eliminate standing in lines.
3. **Coach the Parents:** Ask parents to help shag fly balls or soft toss to turn them into "trainers".
4. **Positive Reinforcement:** Teach players what **to do**, rather than what **not** to do.

**Questions?** Contact your Division Coordinator or one of our coaching coordinators

# Coaching Resources



[WDLL Coaches Corner](#)

[Little League Diamond Training Program](#) FREE educational resource that provides coaches with an understanding of the impact that mental, social, and emotional well-being has in youth sports through detailed information, interactive scenarios, and a variety of additional resources.

[Little League University](#) videos to help instruct and plan practices for baseball and softball

# Dominate the Diamond

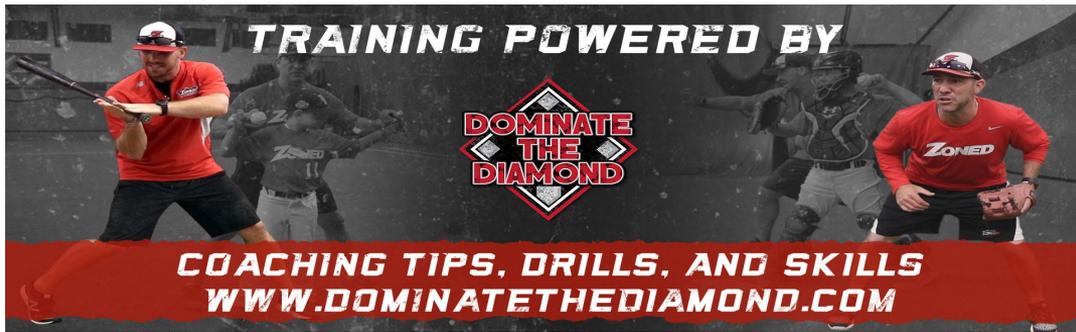


Save time and engage players with Dominate the Diamond, our new pro-led coaching resource for the season.

## Key Benefits:

- **Ready-to-Use Practice Plans:** 60+ age-specific plans (Tee Ball–12U+)
- **1,000+ Video Drills:** HD tutorials covering hitting, fielding, pitching, and catching.
- **Downloadable Resources:** Access to lineup cards, field positioning charts, and blank templates to stay organized in the dugout.
- **The Dominate the Diamond App:** Mobile app access for on-field drills and instant dugout resources.

Interested coaches can fill out this form to request access: <https://forms.gle/kWxGciAHqDDfwsTr5>



# Safety & Compliance



# Safety & Compliance (Strictly Enforced)



- **Background Checks:** Every coach/parent on the field must complete both the TruView (Township) and JDP (International) checks.
  - If you have not registered as a volunteer in SportsConnect you **MUST** do so in order to coach
- **Bat Rules:** Only USA Baseball logos are permitted; USSSA bats are prohibited.
- **No On-Deck Batters:** For divisions below Juniors, only the current hitter may hold a bat.
- **Equipment:** Catcher masks must have throat guards.
- **Incident Reporting:**
  - Submit an [accident report](#) for any injury requiring a band-aid or ice pack.
  - For all other incidents contact your division's player agent

# Logistics



# Season Timeline Review & Logistics



- **Practice Phase:** Mid-March to April 18th (Recommended: 2x per week).
- **Regular Season:** Opening Day is **April 18th**, ending **June 13th** (Recommended: 1x practice and 1x game per week).
- **Game Count:** 12–18 games depending on division.
- **All-Star Eligibility:** Players must participate in a minimum of 8 games to qualify.
- **Field Access:** Use GameChanger for parent communication. Coordinate all practice plans with Division Coordinators or League Leadership.

# Field Maintenance Responsibilities



Field care is a team effort. While the Township handles routine maintenance, they do **not** line or rake infields.

- **Home Team:** Responsible for pre-game field setup.
- **Visiting Team:** Responsible for post-game cleanup.
- **Daily Care:** Drag and rake fields as frequently as possible; return tools to sheds or storage boxes.
- **Softball Mounds:** If removed, they must be restored during cleanup.

# Field Maintenance Tutorials



[Dragging the Fields](#)



[Lining the Fields](#)





# Field Scheduling

- All head coaches will attend a **MANDATORY** game scheduling meeting prior to the beginning of the season
  - Date & time: TBD
- Outdoor practices will be scheduled on a weekly basis with your respective division VP
- If you **CANCEL** your practice/game please let us know so that field could be utilized by another team.
  - Baseball: Matt Ward - [vpbaseball@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:vpbaseball@wdlittleleague.com)
  - Softball: Jon Yates - [vpsoftball@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:vpsoftball@wdlittleleague.com)

# Player Milestones & League Rules





## Season Focus

- Development > Results
- Encouraging play at multiple different positions
- Repetition, repetition, repetition! Provide game-speed training
- Meeting milestones for divisions



# Tee Ball

- Understand basic throwing, fielding, and hitting mechanics.
  - Step-throw-follow through
  - Holding bat upright with hands together
  - Where do we stand? How do we stand?
  - Getting glove down by bending at knees, not just at the waist
- Starting to learn positions on field and staying in them when ball is in play
- Paying attention – innings should move quickly so players stay focused
- Innings end when all players have batted

# Tee Ball Rules Document





# Rookie

- Hybrid between Tee Ball & Coach Pitch combining mechanics and milestones from both.
- Progressing towards hitting live pitches (soft-core balls used)
- Games should be fast paced, but still used for teaching & instruction. 60 minutes, as many innings as coaches agree to get in.
- Heavy focus on infield positions and moving to the ball. Outfield is backup, not charging into the infield
- 5 pitches, then batter must use tee (no strikeouts)
- Inning ends when 3 runs have been scored or 3 outs have been made (outs enforced in the field).
- By mid-season the game should look very similar to Coach Pitch.

# Rookie Rules Documents



Baseball



Softball





# Coach Pitch

- Improved body mechanics
  - Power hitting and throwing is generated by muscles in legs and core, not just arms
  - Footwork and balance are more important than speed
- All positions on the field should be known
- Batters - adjusting their feet after every pitch. Swinging at good pitches
- Fielding - Baseball/Softball-ready positioning in the field.
  - Eyes up and following the ball at all times
  - Gloves down and in front of player “showing logo to the ball”



## Coach Pitch

- Base running - Running through 1st base, not running through 2nd or 3rd
  - Introduce freezing on balls hit in the air
- For batters, 3 swings or 8 pitches total = Out. A foul on the 8th pitch continues with another pitch. Coach Pitchers should be throwing from a proper distance. Pitching from a knee is encouraged as the height from where the ball will be coming is most similar to what they will see in Kid Pitch.
- Inning ends when 3 runs have been scored or 3 outs have been made (outs enforced in the field).

# Coach Pitch Rules Documents



Baseball



Softball





# Minors

- Players should have established stance that works for them
- Batters – go down swinging, not looking!
  - Positioning in the batter's box
  - Not being afraid of the ball
  - Understanding of strike zone
- Pitchers – accuracy is far more important than speed!
  - Simplify delivery, eliminate extra arm movements and steps
  - Pitch to contact and allow hitters to field
  - Pitcher controls speed of the game, take your time



# Minors

- Fielding – what am I going to do if the ball is hit to me?
  - Awareness on every play - # of outs? Runners on base? Lefty or righty batter?
  - Ready stance on balls of feet and able to move in any direction
- Baserunning
  - Must be running through 1st base, not overrunning 2nd/3rd
  - Introduce when to take extra base
  - Secondary leads on every pitch, straight steals may be introduced in future seasons
- Inning ends at 3 outs or 4 runs scored

# Minors Rules Documents



Baseball



Softball





# Majors

- Game should be significantly developed by the time players graduate  
Minors
- Players should be looking to their Manager and Base Coaches for in-game adjustments, signs, and positioning.
- The speed of the game increases.
  - Understand when the ball is live and in-play
  - Understand pace of play, when to call time, constant focus.
- Mental aspects of the game become more important.
  - Manage the highs and lows!
  - Smart baseball/softball

# Questions?





# Coaching Questions

If you have any questions regarding coaching, please reach out to one of our coaching coordinators

- Bernie Korbel - Coaching Coordinator - Baseball
  - [coaching.baseball@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:coaching.baseball@wdlittleleague.com)
- Sydney Jakubowski - Coaching Coordinator - Softball
  - [coaching.softball@wdlittleleague.com](mailto:coaching.softball@wdlittleleague.com)

