



Minors / Majors 2010 Spring Season North Arlington Little League



Dear Parents,

This newsletter has been designed to provide some basic information about our league. We hope that your family has a fun and enjoyable season!

-NALL Board of Directors

The **Minors Division** is comprised of 9-11 year olds who were not selected to play on a Major league team through the draft process or elected not to try out for the Majors. All 12 year olds play in the Majors Division.

The Spring minors season is considered instructional. For the 2010 Spring season, an end of season tournament will be held. The first and second place teams from this tournament may advance to a city-wide post-season tournament to represent the League.

The Minor league is designed to “feed” players to the Majors—to prepare kids for the competitive level of the Majors where 9-12 year olds try out to make a team. Thus the Minor league is also a competitive league. The instructional focus of Coach Pitch division and Fall Minors is broadened to include the intent to try to win each game. While continuing to focus on improving at particular position(s), we continue to stress playing hard, learning from our mistakes, rewarding effort with praise, and having fun!

Minors is the first division that includes player pitching, and players begin to focus on playing other specific position(s). This stems from the philosophy that to become proficient at a particular position, you have to play that position with some regularity. In the Minors the uniqueness of each position becomes important (e.g. who covers 2nd base on a throw from the catcher, who backs up the first baseman on a throw to 1st, where does the outfielder throw the ball with a man on second, who covers what base on a bunt, etc.). Thus not everyone will play every position.

Regarding catchers, not every child will have an opportunity to be a catcher. Players who catch must have demonstrated the aptitude, skills necessary, and desire to catch. Catching is one of the most demanding positions on the team, not only because of the physical prowess required, but because of the required attentiveness to everything happening on the field with regard to the pitcher, batter, and base runners. The catcher is actually the defensive leader on the field, because from this division up (Minors, Majors, Juniors, Seniors) stealing bases is allowed.

Regarding pitchers, managers will begin to narrow on 5-6 players who will be considered their pitching staff. Like catching, they look for players with the aptitude, skills, and desire to pitch. This also includes the mental attitude to handle both the successes and failures of pitching. Not everyone will be a pitcher. Those who are pitchers will be expected to work on pitching outside of practice. Pitching is the most specialized position in baseball and requires a lot of practice and hard work!

Other defensive positions: Unlike earlier leagues, the only fielding requirement in the Minor & Majors is that a child plays a defensive position (in the field) two (2) innings in a six-inning game (with no infield or outfield requirement). And the complete roster makes up the batting order—in other words, every child bats regardless of when they play defensively. Like early divisions, there is still a five (5) run restriction per team per inning.

The **Majors Division** is comprised of 9-12 year olds that were selected to play on a team through the draft process. It is a competitive league—standings are kept; innings pitched by all pitchers are monitored in accordance with League rules; a champion is determined for the Major Division, and top teams may advance to a city-wide post-season tournament to represent the League.

While Little League always remains instructional, games in the Majors are always played with the intent of trying to win each game. Players earn their positions on the team. As always, we continue to stress playing hard, learning from mistakes, rewarding effort with praise, and having fun!

As mentioned, players usually earn their positions on a Major league team. Before a player starts at a position during a game, he has to demonstrate his readiness to play that position throughout practice.

Other defensive positions: Unlike earlier leagues, the only fielding requirement in the Majors is that a child plays a defensive position (in the field) two (2) innings in a six-inning game (with no infield or outfield requirement). Also, like advanced levels of baseball, only nine (9) players bat (those playing defensively). And there is no run restriction per inning as with earlier divisions.

In the Majors, not every player plays the same amount of time. Playing time is based on a player's individual ability, who the opponent is, the player's participation in practice, other players who can play the same position, how a player is performing during a game, and how long a game lasts. In part, this is the competitive essence of the Majors.

In Majors we play six (6) innings unless a run limit concludes a game early without time limit.

Practices - Typically teams practice one to three times a week during the pre-season. Once the season starts some managers choose to reduce the number of practices. Scheduling of practices is the manager's responsibility.

Games – Parents can expect teams to play one to three games a week.

Rain Outs – Rainouts at Dunlop are decided by the City of Arlington. On questionable weather days to check field status please call the city rainout line at (817) 462-8441.

League Mailing Address:

NALL
PO Box 121282
Arlington, TX 76012

League Website and Email Address:

Website: www.nallball.com
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Volunteers

Many hands light work. North Arlington Little League exists to serve the youth of North Arlington. The league is successful through the work of parents willing to make a small commitment of time to create a safe, and wholesome environment for our children.

Remember, we do it for the kids!

Note: One parent for each child is expected to take, at minimum, one turn at concession duty each season.

Being a Good Fan – “While it is the prerogative of baseball fans at professional games to voice loud, uncomplimentary opinions of umpires, managers, and

players, this practice is not condoned at Little League games.

Parents must accept the fact that umpires, coaches and others identified with the program are volunteers and should not be subjected to criticism during ball games. ! ~ Role of the Parent in Little League, 1995 ~

Good fans are one of the best parts of playing any competitive sport—cheering for the players by name, applauding every player's accomplishment, yelling words of encouragement. Bad fans are one of the worst parts of competitive sports—shouting at an umpire, yelling at players who make mistakes, loudly criticizing coaches and players during the game.

Simply put, we want good fans and the League will not tolerate bad fans. Remember that an umpire has the complete authority to stop play and remove a bad fan from the spectator area.

Coaching from the Stands – Managers and coaches are always looking for help, particularly at practices, and we encourage everyone to participate! During the game, however, it is important that players listen to one voice, focusing on what the coaching staff is trying to help accomplish at the moment. Please let the managers and coaches do the coaching during a game—they are trying to minimize the pressure a child feels when they are on the field. A player will be told to listen to the coaches—please be supportive of this philosophy.

Player Agent - The role of the player agent is to provide parents, players and coaches with a resource to help facilitate an issue-free player registration, evaluation and regular-season. In addition, the player agent plays a primary role in interpreting league rules and guidelines that establish criteria for a player to maintain an active playing status in the regular and post-season tournament play. At all times, the player agent will listen to the concerns of parents, players and coaches so that a balanced decision is made in the best interests of the player and Little League.

Questions or Comments - If at any time you have questions or comments or ideas, we always encourage you to discuss your thoughts with your coaching staff. Also, always feel free to approach any Board member with your thoughts.

Role	Name	Phone Number	Email id
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