



Juniors, Seniors and Bigs 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 **Junior & Senior Divisions** are comprised of 13-16 year old players. **Juniors** are 13-14 year old players. This division is the first year players begin playing on a full size baseball field and get to enjoy the ultimate baseball experience. Players can lead off, be picked off, steal bases on the pitcher and can now wear metal spikes just like their favorite big leaguer.

Players can remain on the same team until they move up to the Senior Division. The junior division is much like the minor league division in that a continuous batting order is used and every player must play at least 6 defensive outs. A five run limit per-inning per-team is in effect.

More emphasis is placed on pitching and catching due to the increase dimensions of the field. Not everyone will be a pitcher or catcher. Pitchers must be able to throw strikes from 60 feet and the catcher must be able to first stop the pitch and be able to make a much longer throw to second base. For first year players, it may take about a third of the year before everyone has adapted to the new field size. By then, most coaches are able to place their players in a position best suited for their skill level.

The **Senior Division** is made up of players aged 15-16 years old. The rules in this division are very close to the official rules of baseball. Only nine players are in the official lineup at one time. However, every player must have at least one turn at bat and play at least 6 defensive outs.

Players are can remain with the same team in a returning year if they wish. For both Junior and Senior Divisions, attending practices, having a good attitude and hard work are important factors in determining playing time.

Most all of the players that continue to play at this age are here because they really enjoy playing baseball and are competitive baseball players.

Teams play other teams throughout the city and may get to play games on local high school fields. After the regular season is over, a post-season city tournament is traditionally held with every regular season team being allowed to participate. Games are seven innings; time limits may be instituted by the local Board of Directors.

Weekday games will start at 6:00pm or 8:00pm. For regular season games, no new inning will start after 10:30pm. Little League allows players to participate in high school baseball and play little league at the same time. All Stars are chosen for District 7 play based on skills and availability for the tournament. Little League has a national tournament and World Series for Juniors and Seniors.

The **Bigs Division** is for players 17 and 18 years old. These players will play other teams from the area. If we have enough players we will have our own team. If not, we will try to combine with other leagues to form teams. Coaches are allowed to recruit players to play in this division to try to form a complete team. Little League also has a post-season national tournament and World Series for this division.

Practices – Typically, teams practice one to two 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 two games a week subject to rescheduled games if weather interferes with the game schedule.

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
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League e-mail Address:

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Website: www.nallball.com

Volunteers

Many hands make 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!

Being a Good Fan – “While some believe 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
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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.

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.

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