



Spring 2026 Coaches' Meeting

February 18th, 2026

Bailey Middle School - Cafeteria





Lake Norman Little League

- ❖ Lake Norman Little League was established in 2011 as a non-profit, 100% volunteer-run, baseball and softball organization affiliated with Little League® Baseball and Softball. As a proud member of the Little League community, Lake Norman Little League believes in the power of youth baseball and softball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities and will work together as One Team. One Little League. Lake Norman Little League is a member of Little League's North Carolina District 3 consisting of member organizations from the greater Charlotte metropolitan area.

League Charters

2026 LITTLE LEAGUE® *Certificate of Charter*

This certifies that

Lake Norman Little League

is an official Little League program for the 2026 season and agrees to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. As a proud member of the Little League community, this league believes in the power of youth baseball and softball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities and will work together as One Team. One Little League.

ISSUED JANUARY 1, 2026 AT WILLIAMSPORT, PENNSYLVANIA


Little League President and CEO



Little League Charter

(Tee Ball through Senior League)



Babe Ruth League Charter

(18U Baseball)



Board of Directors

Jerri Shephard
President

LEAGUE OPERATIONS

Darren Best
Treasurer

Heather Kline
Secretary

Soren Johnson
Player Agent

Todd Elwell
Safety Officer

BASEBALL PROGRAMS

Sean Malone
Vice President

Brian Ragone
Coaching Coordinator

Steve Treffeletti
Director

SOFTBALL PROGRAMS

Megan Rowell
Vice President

Lindsey Brammer
Coaching Coordinator

DIRECTORS AT-LARGE

Josh Day
Sponsorship

Eric Sherman
General Counsel

Brian Ragone
Challenge

Brett McClure
Umpire Director

Topher Scott
Sponsorship

Walt Sullins
League Information Officer

Joe Glushenko
Equipment Mgr

Sarah Stertzbach
Director



Little League Baseball & Softball

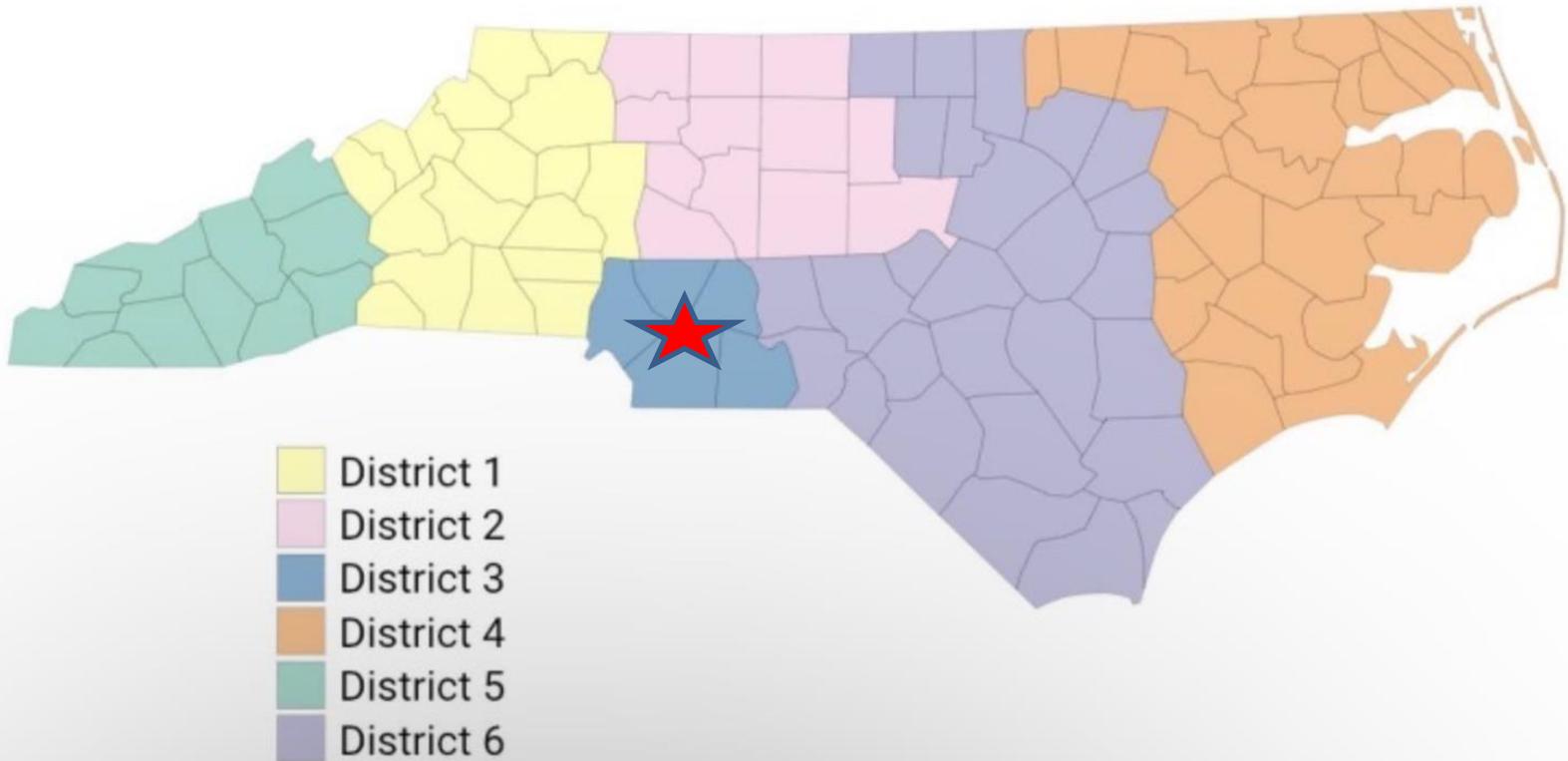
North Carolina's District 3

Southeast Region

(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)



NC Little League Districts



Player Eligibility – League Age

- **Babe Ruth 18U Baseball Division**
 - Players who are age-eligible to participate in Senior League Baseball are encouraged to do so through the end of their Little League eligibility.
 - Spring '26 seasons reference the 2026 Babe Ruth League Birth Chart for Baseball
 - Any player born in 2007 through April 2010 is eligible to participate.
 - Any player eligible to participate in high school athletics is eligible to participate.



Player Eligibility – League Age

2026 Little League® Age Chart



Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

- Little League Softball
 - Divisions of play are structured by league age
 - Spring & Fall seasons reference the current year's Little League Age Chart for Softball
 - The 2026 Age Determination Date for Softball players is the actual age of a child on December 31, 2026

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	4
2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	5
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	6
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	7
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	8
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	9
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	10
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	11
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	12
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	13
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	14
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	15
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	16

NOTE: This age chart is for SOFTBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2026.

Player development needs considered for petitions to play up/down.



Player Eligibility – League Age

- Little League Baseball
 - Divisions of play are structured by league age
 - Spring '26 seasons reference the 2026 Little League Age Chart for Baseball
 - The Spring '26 Age Determination Date is the actual age of a child on August 31, 2026
 - Fall '26 will reference the 2027 LLB age chart

2026 Little League® Age Chart



Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2022	2021	2021	2021	2021	4
2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2021	2020	2020	2020	2020	5
2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2019	2019	2019	2019	6
2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	7
2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	8
2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	9
2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	10
2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	11
2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	12
2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	13
2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	14
2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2010	2010	2010	2010	15
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	16

NOTE: This age chart is for BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2026.

Player development needs considered for petitions to play down.



Player Eligibility – Residency

- Youngest level of Little League Baseball and Softball program (League Age 4-7) have the ability to register for any Little League program they choose, without respect to boundary
- Age-eligible youth, playing single-A and up, that reside or attend school within our league boundaries have full eligibility for participation.
- Little League boundary regulations are designed to maintain a community, hometown spirit.
- No Little League boundary can overlap or encroach on another chartered Little League's boundary.

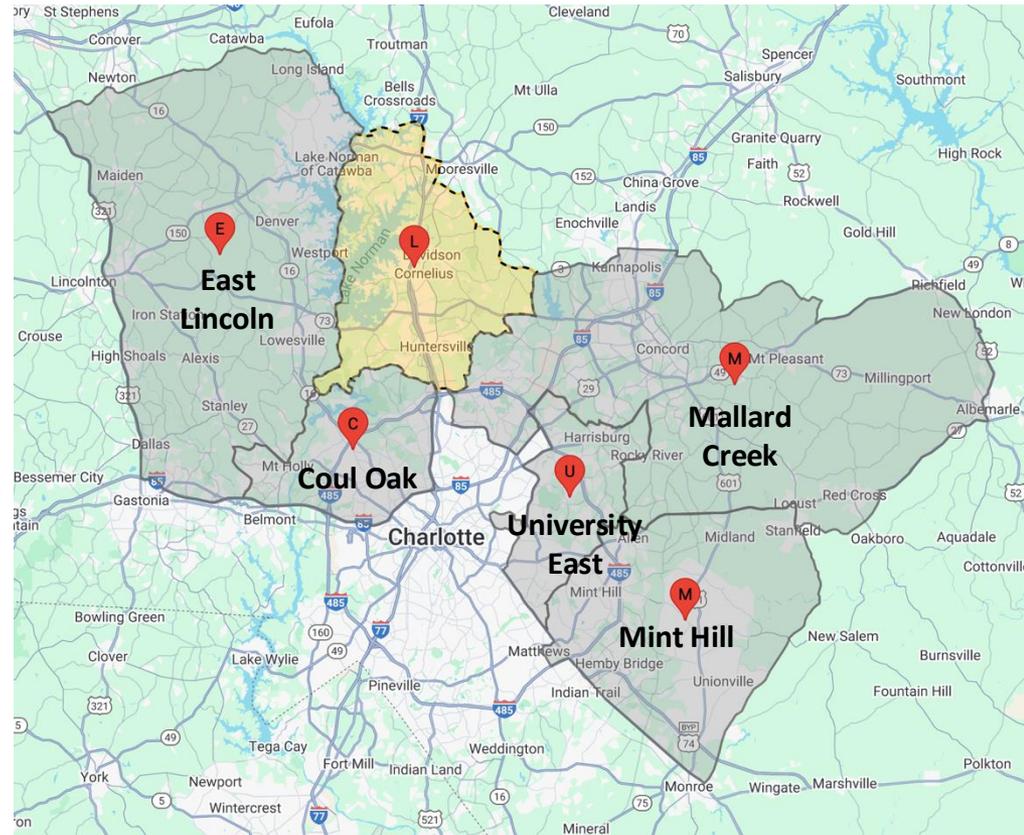


Softball Boundary

LKNLL Softball



NC District 3 Softball



Community Partnerships



Abernathy Park
Alexander Middle School
Bradford Park
Bradley Middle School
Huntersville Athletic Park
Huntersville Elementary
North Mecklenburg Park
Torrence Creek Elementary
Waymer Park

Bailey Road Park
James Hoyt Wilhelm Park
Smithville Park
Torrence Chapel Park
Westmoreland Athletic Complex

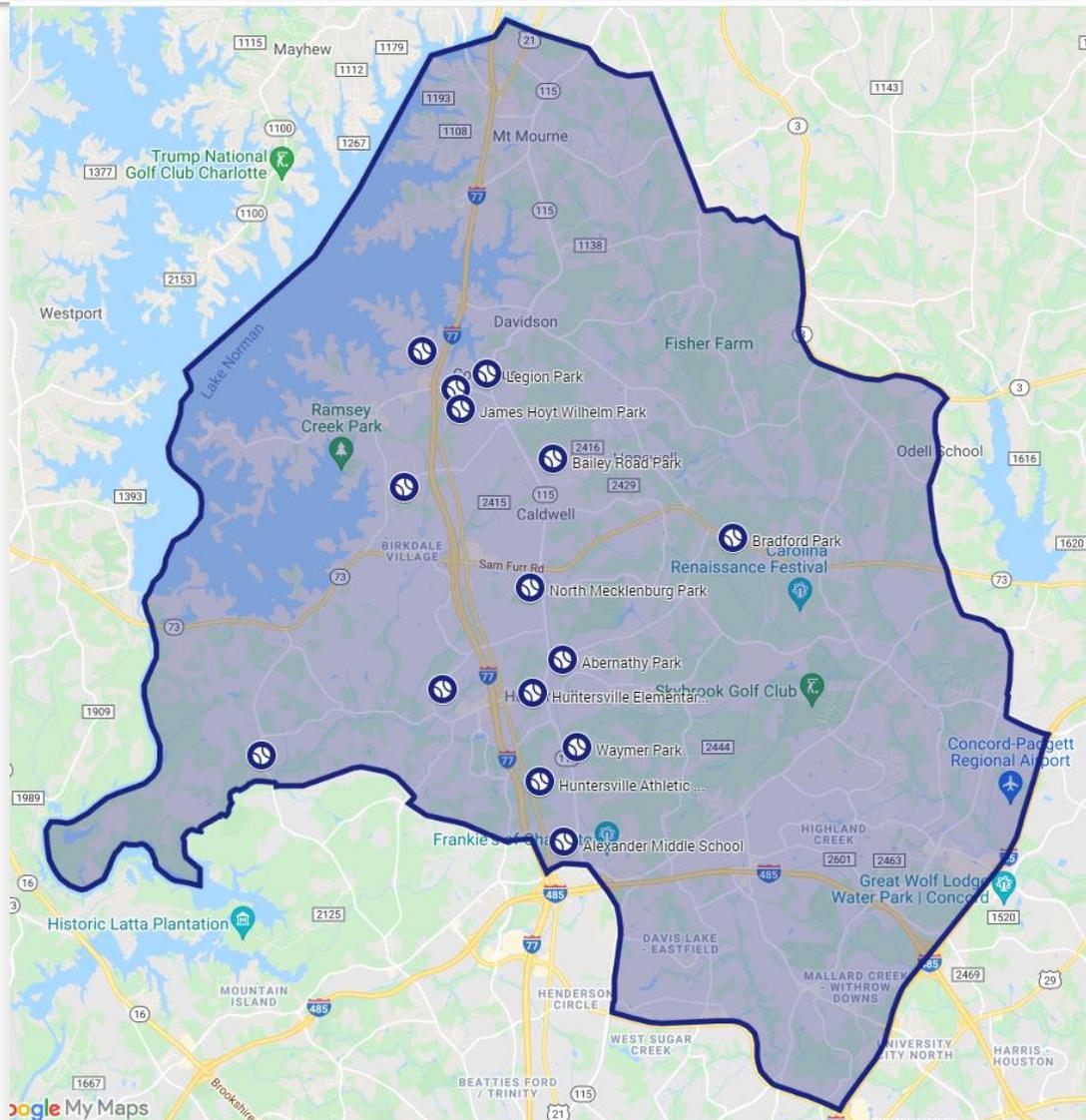
Light Code – 877.347.3319

User Name: Coach

Password: Spring2026



Ballpark Locations



Programs Report



2026 Divisions of Play



Baseball	League Ages	Softball	League Ages
Tee Ball	4-6		
Single A	6-7	Rookies	6-8
Double A	7-8		
Triple A	8-10	Minors	8-10
Quad A	9-11		
Majors	10-12	Majors	10-12
Junior League	13-14		
Senior League	14-16	Senior League	13-16
Baseball	Ages		
Babe Ruth	16-18		

“Big League” Divisions
District League Game Schedules



Division Commissioners

Program	Division	# Teams	Commissioner	Email
Softball	Rookies		Mark McAuley	MarkMcAuley@lknll.com
	Minors		Lindsey Brammer	LindseyBrammer@lknll.com
	Majors		Shannon Malone	ShannonMalone@lknll.com
	Seniors		Bill Donnelly	BillDonnelly@lknll.com
SB Challenge			Brett McClure	BrettMcClure@lknll.com
Baseball	Tee Ball		Brandon Caputo	BrandonCaputo@lknll.com
	Single A		Dan Simpson	DanSimpson@lknll.com
	Double A		Walt Sullins	WaltSullins@lknll.com
	Triple A		Damon Towe	DamonTowe@lknll.com
	Quad A		Ryan Miller	RyanMiller@lknll.com
	Majors		Flint Foley	Flintfoley@lknll.com
	Juniors		Boston Reid	BostonReid@lknll.com
	Seniors			
	18U		Rob Johnston	RobJohnston@lknll.com
BB Challenge			Brian Ragone	BrianRagone@lknll.com

Spring 2025 All Star Recap

TOC Champions

- Myers Park Hosted Modified tournament this season. No Champions were determined

District Champions

- 8's Softball (Runner Up)
- 9's Baseball
- 10's Softball
- 12's Baseball

State Appearance

- 8's Softball
- 8's Baseball
- 9's Baseball
- 12's Baseball
- 10's Softball
- 18U Babe Ruth

State Champions

- 9's Baseball
- 12's Baseball
- 18u Babe Ruth

Regional Appearance

- 12's Baseball - SE Region
Semifinalist
- 18U Babe Ruth



All-Star Process

Baseball

- Special Games
 - 6–7-Year-Old Machine Pitch (Double-A division)
 - 7–8-Year-Old Machine Pitch (Double-A division)
 - 8–9-Year-Old (Kid Pitch) (Triple-A, AAAA Division)
- Little League Tournament
 - 8–10-Year-Old Team (League age 10-year-old Majors, AAAA, and possibly Triple A division)
 - 9–11-Year-Old Team (League age 11-year-old Majors Division players)
 - 10–12-Year-Old Team (League age 11–12-year-old Majors (or intermediate, if applicable) Division players)
 - Juniors (14U - Juniors and Senior League)
 - Seniors (16U – Senior League)
 - 18U (18U Base Ruth Division)

• **Typical divisions and ages are listed in parentheses*

- Single A players are not eligible to participate on TOC or district team. Single A participates in an in-house all-star game that is played once the season concludes.

Softball

- Special Games
 - 8-Year-Old Softball (Rookies and Minors Division)
- Little League Tournament
 - 10-Year-Old Softball (Minors and Majors Division)
 - 11-Year-Old Softball (Majors and Minors Division)
 - 10–12-Year-Old Softball (Majors and Senior Division)
 - Senior Softball (16 and Under – Seniors Division)



All-Stars

- All-Star voting is Confidential
- Tournament of Champions (Baseball Only)
- District Tournament
- State Tournament
- Regional Tournament (Age 10 and up)
- Little League World Series (Age 10 and up)
 - 9's and below are considered special games



All-Star Process

- Team managers (with help from their staff) nominate up to 5 players from their team to be included on the All-Star ballot.
- One team manager and assistant coach from each team vote for the top players in their division.
- The top 9 vote getters at each Little League age will automatically be selected to the all-star team.
- Final 3-5 players will be selected based on votes and the All-Star Committee
- All star tryout may be held to finalize team. All players nominated will attend the tryout and players and coaches will not be aware of the top 9 players prior to the tryout.
 - Division team managers and independent evaluators are invited to each tryout to assess players
- Team Managers are nominated by division commissioners, board members, and other coaches.
 - Coaches committee recommends coaches, and final approval is provided by the President
- A ballot may be used to finalize team managers.
- All-Star Managers will be announced when team rosters are announced
- Additional information is posted in the league by-laws



All-Star Process – Coach Selection

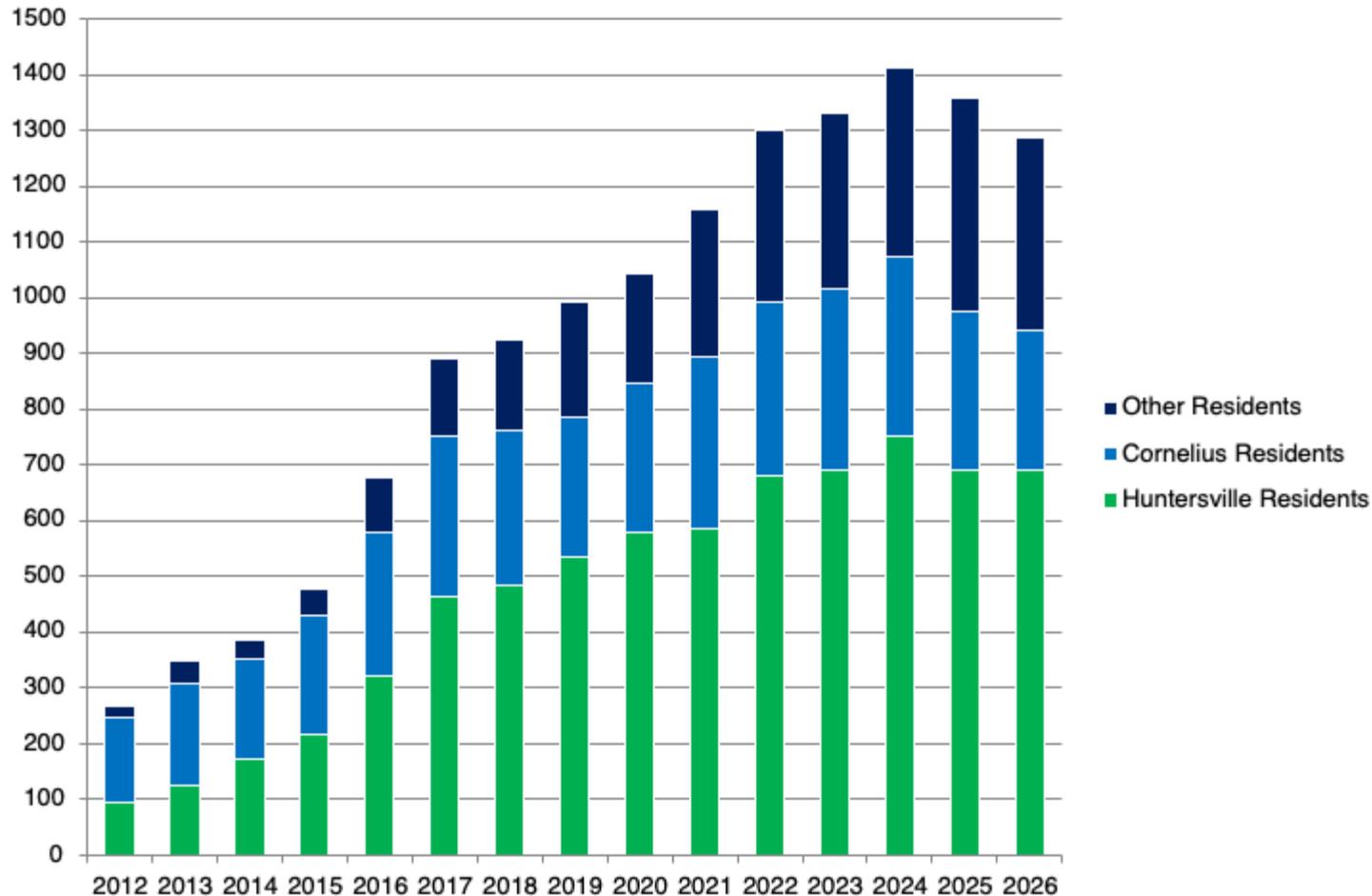
Coach Selection

- Team Managers are nominated by division commissioners, board members, and other coaches.
 - Coaches committee recommends coaches, and final approval is provided by the President
- Considerations should include previous coaching experience, including All-Star experience, character, regular and post season performance.
- Final coach selection will be made after the tryout and announced when final teams are announced



Spring Registrations

LKNLL Registrations History



Safety

Safety Coordinator:
Todd Elwell



Safety

The Safety Mission of Lake Norman Little League is to practice and promote the appropriate level of safety on and off the field. It is everyone's responsibility to prioritize the safety of our youth, parents, volunteers, umpires, coaches, and visitors. Accordingly, we work hard to establish and maintain an environment and culture where safety is our priority. In doing so, we strive to accomplish the following:

- Develop, share and promote safety awareness.
- Provide appropriate safety education to the league.
- Promote active participation by all youth in fun and healthy physical activities according to their interests and abilities.
- Promote universal recognition that organized youth sports can develop positive attributes including



Little League Safe

- Lake Normal Little League Participates in ‘Little League SAFE’ ([Little League Safe - Little League](#)). Little League SAFE brings together trusted safety resources to help leagues provide a safe, positive, and consistent experience for players, volunteers, and families. Safety is a shared responsibility, and SAFE supports leagues in building a strong, informed approach to safety at every level of the game. Please use this link ([Little League Safe - Little League](#)) to access the Little League SAFE platform. This platform provides all the resources available to LKNLL and the community to try and provide a safe environment for all.
- Here is the link for Lake Norman Little League’s specific ‘Little League SAFE’ program:
- <https://apps.littleleague.org/dc/v2/SafeSummaryDocumentViewer?wtWDJkPujbUR6Ece1FSvc9oWmdGCTkqL8D1hCFkbUNb3nDJbmc=Bs7vBJF7UVI7rJdilXNcba2clEUII6EbaJ3aBrJuWmVILxGeuK&download=False>
- Lake Norman Little League safety requirements to be a volunteer (board member, coach, or general volunteer) to step on the field.
- Required:
- Background Check ([JDP Integration With Sports Connect - Little League](#))
- Abuse Awareness Training Course ([Abuse Awareness Training Course - Little League](#))



Little League Safe

- Tournament Coaches are required to take the Diamond Leader Training ([Little League® Diamond Leader Training - Little League](#))
- Recommended:
- First Aid Awareness Training Course ([First Aid Awareness Training Course - Little League](#))
- Safety Awareness Training Course ([Safety Awareness Training Course - Little League](#))
- If you would like to report an incident, provide feedback, or help the league please contact SafetyOfficer@lknll.com / info@lknll.com.
- Here are some additional LKNLL Safety Resources:
- [Safety Manual](#)
- [AED Locator](#)
- [Understanding the AIG Insurance Program for Little League](#)
- [Accident Claim Form](#)
- [Accident Claim Form Instructions](#)
- [Incident Injury Tracking Form](#)



Background Checks

- All volunteers must complete a background check prior to participating in ANY on field activities (Games and practices)
- This includes all coaches, volunteers, scorekeepers, and umpires
- Volunteers should sign into their account at www.lknll.com and complete the volunteer application. The league will then initiate the background check through JDP.
- Volunteer will receive an email from JDP with a link to complete the check
- Team managers are responsible to ensure no one helps during practices and games without the completed background check.
- Team Roster Email will show all volunteers assigned to your team
- Gamechanger roster will also show all volunteers assigned to your team under Team - Staff

Team Volunteer Information

Role	First Name	Last Name
Assistant Coach	Jason	baker
Assistant Coach	Keith	Costenoble
Assistant Coach	Stephen	Costenoble
Team Manager	Rob	Johnston
Assistant Coach	Arick	Kanagy
Assistant Coach	Charles	Thompson



Additional Safety

- Majors and Below - No on-deck Batters. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- No swinging outside the dugout anywhere unless in a batting cage
 - No hit sticks
 - No soft toss outside the dugout unless inside a batting cage
 - Prior to games teams may do soft toss into a net inside the field or in a batting cage
- All Softball players must wear a facemask when fielding and batting helmets must have face shield





LITTLE LEAGUE® DIAMOND LEADER TRAINING

- Social and emotional learning/assistant program
- Focused on ensuring children have a positive, well-rounded experience on and off the field, the Little League® Diamond Leader Training Program is a 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® Diamond Leader Training - Little League](#)
- All Coaches are encouraged to take this course. ALL coaches who plan to coach all-stars must complete training.
 - Only need to take one time



Sportsmanship

Coaching Coordinator:
Brian Ragone



Sportsmanship

- Sportsmanship will always be one of the most important pillars of the Little League program.
- Build a positive, character-developing culture on your team.
 - Emphasize the importance of effort.
 - Teach players how to speak and behave as people of principle and character.
 - Be patient with mistakes, keeping verbal and non-verbal reactions to mistakes in check.
 - Treat umpires respectfully. Model and explain self-control techniques to players.
 - Get to know your players as people.



Umpire Interaction Policy

- Reference League Bylaws, Section 1.13
- Parents/Spectators shall not question or comment from spectator areas regarding umpire calls. Questions should be directed to their Team Manager only after abiding by the 24-hour rule, NOT at the game site.
- Parents/Spectators shall not discuss a game, a play or a strategy with a coach for at least 24 hours after the contest.
- All communications with umpires should be done in a respectful and deferential manner by the TEAM MANAGER ONLY.
- Coaches are expected to exercise control of their team's players, spectators, and parents.



Umpire Interaction Policy

Coach Interaction with Umpires:

Coach actions on the field are viewed by all spectators, parents and players from both teams; thus, coaches must set the highest standard of behavior. All communications with umpires should be done in a respectful and deferential manner by the **TEAM MANAGER ONLY**. The Team Manager should always speak directly to the umpire who made the call. Yelling across the field at an umpire over a call is not acceptable as this can be construed as hostile even when not intended. Team Managers should request a time out to approach the umpire and discuss the situation in a respectful and conversational manner. Coaches must remember that an adult coach approaching a youth umpire can be intimidating to the young umpire, A coach acting in a respectful manner will help mitigate that intimidation.

Additionally, coaches are expected to exercise control of their team's players, spectators, and parents; proactively intervening early in situations that could potentially result in disciplinary actions from the umpire and/or league.

Judgment calls by an umpire shall **NEVER** be questioned. Coaches may not demand that an umpire seek help from another umpire. Umpires, at their discretion, may consult with the other umpire for help.

Interpretations of a rule may be questioned, but only in a quiet and respectful way by requesting to approach the umpire. For example, if a coach wanted to discuss the proper penalty for an interference call it would be appropriate since there are guidelines spelled out in the Little League Rulebook and it is not up to umpire discretion. However, arguing the umpire's judgment to call interference is not acceptable. If something cannot be resolved on the field, refer to the Little League Rule 4.19 regarding protesting a game.



Draft Night

- Draft night will be February 23th-27th
 - Commissioners will reach out to coaches with locations
- Balanced Teams
- Focus on development
- All trades must be approved by division commissioner AND VP of baseball, VP of softball OR President



Skill Day



Skills Day

- WE NEED VOLUNTEERS for Softball & Baseball
- Focus on measurable skills
 - Running Speed
 - Throwing Distance
 - Infield/Outfield
 - Hitting
- Talk to Soren Johnson about volunteering



Skills Day Signups



WE NEED UMPIRES!!



- Great part time job
- Keeps teenagers and adults around the game
- Perfect for our older kids that are still playing big league division baseball and softball or those that have graduated from the league



League Fundraising Events



Team & Individual Pictures

ckvisuals

- Spring pictures scheduled for April 25-May 1
- Team picture plaques provided to sponsors
- 100% participation is expected for team photos



Additional Opportunities

- League Shop Days
- Charlotte Knights
- Kannapolis Cannonballers
- City Barbeque



Feb 20-23



Mar 7-9



Resources

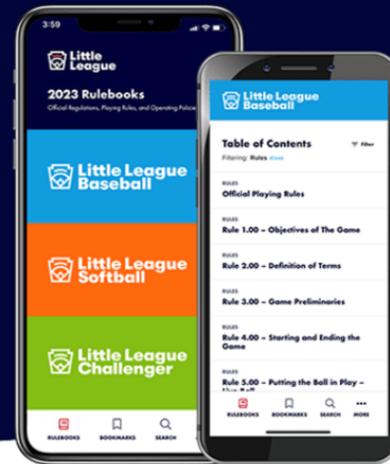


Little League Rulebook App

RULEBOOK APP IS NOW FREE

Along with the 2023 Little League® season updates, the Rulebook App is now a FREE download on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Download the FREE Rulebook App Today!



[Rulebook App - Little League](https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/)

<https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/>



GC Team Manager App

GAMECHANGER
TEAM MANAGER
BY DICK'S SPORTING GOODS



Upgrade for Free Today to Team Manager for the Features You've Been Wanting

Only in Team Manager: Season pitching spray charts, in-game play editing, and enhanced team management (Health Tracker)

[Learn More](#)



Important Next Steps



Complete Volunteer Application

- To become an approved league volunteer, you must first register online through your league account.
- Once registered, you will receive an automated email to complete the volunteer application and authorize a background check. This is required each **CALENDAR** year.
- Only approved league volunteers are permitted to participate in team activities.

Division Commissioners have complete listing of approved volunteers



Review Playing Rules

- The 2026 Little League rulebook governs all play.
- League Bylaws established as the General League Policy.

LAKE NORMAN LITTLE LEAGUE
BYLAWS
2026 Edition



Approved: November 9, 2025

Review Playing Rules

- Download the Little League Rule book app to your phone.
- Bookmark and print spring the local Rules/Bylaws
- Page 15 starts local Rules (Section 6)
 - 6.1.7 Start of a new inning
 - 6.1.11 Approved Volunteers allowed on field
 - 6.1.12 Bat Rules (Team Manager Responsibility)
 - 6.1.15 Mandatory Play Rule
 - 6.1.19 Music Rule

Review Tee Ball Curriculum



- 10-week plan that features structured learning
- Coaches and parents engage in a series of lessons utilizing up to 40 activities that include skills, drills and plenty of physical activity.

Take Note of Important Dates

	All Programs	Big League Baseball (schedule exceptions)
Registration Opens	January 1	
Early Bird Deadline	January 11	
Registration Closes	February 15	March 15
Coaches Meeting	February 18 (updated)	
Skills Day	February 21	March 22
Challenge Baseball Tryouts	February 22	
Team Drafts	February 26	March 26
Team Announcements	by March 1	by March 29
Practices Begin	week of March 2 (Tee Ball - week of March 9)	week of March 30
Games Begin	March 19-23	April 25
Spring Break*	April 3-12*	
Pictures	April 25 - May 1	
Memorial Day Break*	May 22-25*	
All-Stars Announcement	by June 1	
Regular Season Ends	by June 6	by June 20
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All-Stars	June - TOC's & District	June - District
	July - State & Regional	July - State & Regional
	August - World Series	August - World Series

What Equipment is Required?

- Shared equipment is discouraged
- Contact your Division Commissioner if any child needs equipment assistance
- Parents are encouraged to equip their children with all equipment necessary to participate
 - Glove
 - Bat
 - Batting helmet
 - Cleats
 - Batting gloves
 - Personal protective gear
 - Fielding face guard (softball)
 - Personal equipment bag

What is included with Uniforms?

- Parents for all players provide game pants
 - Coach to determine based on team colors
- League provided uniforms include:
 - Hat (Baseball)
 - Jersey
 - Socks
 - Belt (no belts for Tee Ball)
- Big League Baseball uniforms and senior softball include two jerseys

“Little League” Uniforms

- Uniform cost included in registration
- Uniform standardization across league
- Baseball – MLB Colors
- Softball – College Colors



“Big League” Baseball Uniforms

- Uniform cost included in registration
- Returning players who own a uniform package can receive a refund for the uniform cost



Senior Softball Uniforms

- Uniform cost included in registration



Belt



Divisional Break-out Meetings

Thank you for Volunteering!



Divisional Break-out Meetings

Program	Division	Commissioner	Game Days
Softball	Rookies	Mark McAuley	Wednesdays (6:45) & Saturdays (9:00, 10:45, 12:30, 2:15)
	Minors	Lindsey Brammer	Mondays & Thursdays (6:45)
	Majors	Shannon Malone	Tuesdays & Fridays (6:45)
	Seniors	Bill Donnelly	Mondays & Thursdays (7:00)
SB Challenge		Brett McClure	Sundays
Baseball	Tee Ball	Brandon Caputo	Saturdays (9:00 & 10:15)
	Single A	Dan Simpson	Saturdays (10:30 / 12:30)
	Double A	Walt Sullins	Wednesdays (6:45) & Saturdays (2:30 / 4:30)
	Triple A	Damon Towe	Mondays & Thursdays (6:45)
	Quad A	Ryan Miller	Tuesdays & Fridays (6:45)
	Majors	Flint Foley	Tuesdays & Fridays (6:45)
	Jrs/Srs/18U	Boston Reid	Tuesdays/Wednesdays (6:45) & Saturdays
BB Challenge		Brian Ragone	Sundays



SKILLS DAY – WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!



- Thank you for Volunteering!

