

# *Description of Divisions*

## **Challenger**

The Challenger Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, ages 5 - 18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy the game of baseball along with the millions of other children who participate in this sport worldwide. Teams are set up according to abilities, rather than age, and can include as many as 15 - 20 players. Challenger games can be played as Tee Ball games, coach pitch, player pitch, or a combination of the three. Only players with physical and mental challenges may be enrolled in this program.

## **Tee Ball**

Tee Ball is intended for all League Age 5 year olds and most League Age 6 year olds. Those League Age 6 year olds who are more skilled and have played at least one Spring season of Little League Tee Ball in the past may register for our FARM division. In Tee Ball, a soft "RIF" (Reduced Injury Factor) ball is used. Pitching is not permitted (the ball is batted from a tee.) Teams will generally meet twice per week for practices and games. Tee Ball players do NOT attend an assessment.

## **FARM**

FARM division is typically for league age 7 year olds. Special circumstances may exist to have a 6-year-old play in FARM provided they have played at least one Spring season of Little League Tee Ball in the past. The Farm division provides players with an introduction to the fundamentals of baseball. FARM uses a pitching machine in order to provide a more consistent and fun experience for the players, as well as help the players to develop better batting skills and habits. If a player is unable to put the ball in play after 5 pitches they will get to put the ball in play from a batting tee. Teams will generally meet twice per week for practices and games. Farm players do NOT need to attend an assessment.

## **MAPS**

Machine Pitch (MAPS) division is primarily for Little League age 8 year olds with some League age 7 year olds. League age 7 year olds must have played at least one year in the FARM division before they can move into the MAPS division.

MAPS players will experience more traditional baseball playing conditions including risk/reward base running and getting 3 outs or scoring 5 runs to end each half of an inning. A pitching machine will be utilized at this level set at 40 mph. Players will receive 5 hittable pitches before they strike out. There are no tees or walks in this division. A regulation hard Little League baseball will be used. A coach from each team will be responsible for running the pitching machine and umpiring the game. Teams will generally meet twice per week for practices and games. There are NO assessments required in the MAPS division.

## **Minor B**

Minor B is open to Little League age 8-10 year olds who attend assessments. Players in this division will face player pitching off the mound, called balls/strikes, game scoring and standings, and further development of baseball fundamentals. An end of year playoff tournament will be held. All players must attend assessments to be eligible for the Minor B Draft. Players will be

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drafted to the appropriate division based on assessments. Little League age 8 year olds who attend assessments for Minor B but are not drafted will be placed in the MAPS draft.

### **Minor A**

Minor A is open to Little League age 9-11 year olds who attend assessments. Minor A players will face a faster pace of play than Minor B and the complexity of baseball fundamentals are expanded. An end of year playoff tournament will be held. RPLL submits tournament teams (TOC & All Stars) from this division and the All Star teams are eligible for the Western Region Little League tournament. All players must attend a skills Assessment to be eligible for the Minor A Draft.

Players will be drafted in the appropriate division based on the skills Assessment. Little League age 9 and 10 year olds not drafted to a Minor A team will be placed in the Minor B draft. Teams will generally meet three times per week for practices and games.

### **Intermediate**

The Intermediate division is open to Little League ages 11 – 13 year olds. The Intermediate division is competitive and requires a high level of commitment. At this level, the focus is on helping the players continue to develop and perfect their fundamental and tactical baseball skills on a larger field (50/70). Lead off base stealing is allowed. Intermediate division allows Little League approved bats. The new USA bat standards can be reviewed at the following link:

<http://www.littleleague.org/media/llnewsarchive/2015/May-August/Little-League-USA-Baseball-Bat-Standard-2018.htm>

An end of year playoff tournament will be held in this division. RPLL submits tournament and All Star teams from this division. The All Star teams are eligible for the Little League Intermediate Division World Series Tournament. All players must attend a skills assessment to be included in the draft.

All Little League age 12 year olds will be drafted to an Intermediate team. Little League age 13 year olds not already drafted to a Juniors team will be drafted to an Intermediate team. Little League age 11 year olds not drafted to an Intermediate team will be placed in the Minor A draft. Teams will generally meet three times per week for practices and games.

### **Juniors**

The Juniors division is open to Little League ages 13-15 years old (League Age 15 year olds MAY NOT pitch according to LLI rules). The Juniors Division may compete with other District 32 Junior League teams. The games are played locally on a larger field (60/90). Juniors division allows lead offs, metal cleats and Little League approved bats. RPLL can submit a tournament team (or All Stars) from within this division and the team is eligible for the Little League International Juniors tournament. Home games are at Canyonside Park. \*Note: Players are placed in the appropriate division based on skills and assessment. All League Age 14 and 15 year olds will be drafted to a Juniors team. Thirteen year olds will be placed either in the Juniors or Intermediate division based on the draft. All players must attend an assessment.