



Magnolia Little League Baseball Association

P.O. Box 11, Magnolia, TX 77353
www.MagnoliaBaseball.com
RAIN HOTLINE: 281-315-1003

2008 Spring Publication Handbook

Magnolia Little League would like to welcome you to our league. The following publication has been created and made available to all little league parents, managers, coaches, and volunteers as a means of keeping you informed. We are gearing up for a GRAND 2008 season and would like to thank each of you for being a part of our league.

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January 27, 2008

Welcome to Magnolia Little League's Spring 2008 Season! I am very excited to start the season off to such a positive start. We have a great bunch of returning managers and coaches as well as some new faces.

As you might have noticed, we are focusing on safety this season. The MLLBA board has implemented mandatory CPR clinics for all managers, along with mandatory manager and coach training with the help of AI and AI baseball clinics.

With our fundraising efforts from past seasons as well as some help from our wonderful sponsors, we were able to purchase two AED (Artificial Electronic Defibrillators). One will be available at each park's concession stand (the little league park as well as the big league park) for emergency situations involving players and fans. Weatherproof posters have been installed into each dugout reminding players, managers, coaches and parents about safety issues. We have also installed a brand new sound system that will allow us to make important announcements during special events and game days as well as alert players and fans of impending bad weather.

We appreciate all of the volunteers that helped make all of this happen. Without each and every one of you, none of this would have been possible. I urge every family involved with Magnolia Little League to volunteer your time, talents and services to help us improve our Little League. It takes a lot of man hours to operate our growing league. We will have over 600 little leaguers participate this season alone. From our newest little ones in TB4 to our Big Leaguers, we strive to be the best. But we can only do it with your help and support. Please support YOUR Magnolia Little League by purchasing from our fundraisers, eating at our concession stands, volunteering your time and supporting your managers, coaches and MLLBA board members. I look forward to seeing you at the park!

Let's Play Ball!

Sincerely,
Melissa White
Magnolia Little League Baseball Association
President
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2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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MAGNOLIA BASEBALL

LITTLE LEAGUE PLEDGE

I TRUST IN GOD.
I LOVE MY COUNTRY
AND WILL RESPECT IT'S LAWS.
I WILL PLAY FAIR
AND STRIVE TO WIN.
BUT WIN OR LOSE
I WILL ALWAYS DO MY BEST

PARENT & VOLUNTEER PLEDGE

I WILL TEACH ALL CHILDREN
TO PLAY FAIR AND DO THEIR
BEST.
I WILL POSITIVELY SUPPORT
ALL MANAGERS, COACHES
AND PLAYERS.
I WILL RESPECT THE
DECISIONS OF THE UMPIRES.
I WILL PRAISE A GOOD EFFORT
DESPITE THE OUTCOME OF
THE GAME.

Magnolia Baseball is possible through the help of parent volunteers working toward one common goal of providing a safe and positive baseball experience for the children in our community. We believe that setting a standard of excellence further helps our league be the best it can be. This foundation of excellence is obtained by simple adherence to the following motto we have adopted as a league:

“Learn It, Live It, Love It & Support It”

Learn It – With each new season of play comes a new level of baseball both in rules and in competition that must be learned by coaches, parents, and kids alike as we progress through the many levels of Magnolia Baseball. Collectively we are always learning, and growing.

Live It – Through each learning experience despite the challenges it presents, all Magnolia Baseball parents and volunteers are expected to set an example to our children of good leadership by displaying proper sportsmanship as outlined in the Parent & Volunteer and Little League Pledges above.

Love It - Once you *learn it*, and *live it*, you cannot help but *love it!* Baseball should be a FUN and POSITIVE experience for all. Should you encounter something negative at our park we encourage you to file a grievance form (located on our website for download & in concession stand) with complete details.

Support It - Registration fees are kept within the operation budget that is calculated annually on a cost per child basis. Therefore, we are dependent on and most THANKFUL for our Sponsors. The Magnolia Baseball Complex would not exist without the fundraisers and donations that make field improvements and upgrades to our park possible.

You can SUPPORT Magnolia Baseball in many ways!
Team Sponsors - Field Sponsors – Golf Tournament & Hole Sponsors
Silent Auctions, Website Ads, Annual Fall Fun Fest, T-shirt Sales,
Purchasing Food and Team Snacks at our Concession Stands and More!
For more information about Magnolia Baseball, visit our website at

www.MagnoliaBaseball.com

Magnolia Baseball - Offering Little League Baseball - Challenger Division Baseball- High School Preparatory & High School Level Ball & Adult Baseball & Softball Programs

Parents

Parent Participation

Many responsibilities exist beyond the normal team level commitments that make the Magnolia Little League function smoothly. Parents are what make the program a quality experience for all our children. The MLLBA can only be as good as we, the parents, make it. The following are some important volunteer areas that are required during the season. Managers/Coaches

- Team Moms
- Scorekeepers
- Field Preparation and Maintenance
- Special Events Participation
- Fundraising

Parent Support

Parent support during both games and practices is critically important to the success of the league. Be supportive of the team by ensuring your child attends each practice on-time. Be a positive role model during games, whether you are a manager, an assistant coach, or simply a spectator. Finally, please keep the following in mind:

- Always be positive and enthusiastic.
- Show your child positive reinforcement.
- Observe practices and games to learn proper techniques to practice with your child.
- Encourage your child toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game.
- Teach your child to always play by the rules.
- Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Let the managers and coaches do the coaching.
- Let an umpire be the umpire. Recognize that the umpire is the closest to the play and that each umpire will "call them as they see them".

The Role of the Parent

Parents play a very important role in helping to shape a positive experience for players, coaches, umpires, and other parents! To help you understand the key role parents play in Magnolia Little League, the following excerpt was taken from the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of National Little League Baseball.

"The parents of millions of Little Leaguers, combined with their youngsters, league officials, umpires, managers, coaches, auxiliary members and countless volunteer agencies including sponsors, represent an imposing cross section of this nation.

Parents should accept the fact that they must shoulder responsibility and take initiative to make the local program successful. Little League is not a club in which membership implies baby-sitting benefits and entertainment privileges for your children.

Practically speaking, Little League is an adult, volunteer work project constructed, supervised and assisted by parents who desire to make its benefits extend to their children.

Each parent should join in the total effort. There is a place and a job to do for all. The burden of operating the League should not fall on a few. The parent who shirks this responsibility cannot, in turn, expect others to assume the burden."

Parent Concerns

If you have concerns about anything regarding your team or the league, first talk to your manager. If your concern is not resolved, then contact your Division Player Agent listed on Board Members page.

Volunteering

SUPPORT MAGNOLIA AREA YOUTH - VOLUNTEER!

Magnolia Baseball is operated solely by volunteers. The majority of help comes from the parents of the little leaguers, but you do not need to be a parent to volunteer your time!

There are numerous areas where MLLBA can use help. Managing, coaching, team moms and scorekeeping are just a few of the areas where you can show off your skills!

Lend a hand supporting Magnolia youth by volunteering a small portion of your time. The experience is rewarding and you will maximize the quality experience young players will have in the Magnolia Little League.

Volunteer Today!

Help to coordinate or work at an event, such as the annual silent auction on opening day, serve on a sub-committee, such as the fundraising committee, or help with our annual fall fun festival. People like you, volunteers, are what make Magnolia Little League possible!

All MLLBA volunteers MUST submit a National Volunteer Form prior to the season. Please see the download section of our website for printable form, or pick one up at the park.

Coaching

Introduction

Magnolia Little League teams are managed and coached by volunteers, typically parents of players. Every team, from T-Ball through Big League, needs 1 manager and 2 assistant coaches.

A committee reviews candidates and establishes a list of potential appointees. The MLLBA President appoints all managers and coaches, subject to ratification by the Board of Directors. There is no seniority or tenure in serving as a manager or coach year to year.

To be considered, simply submit a completed **Manager/Coach Application** (available online and at in person registrations) to the Board for review prior to the season.

Managers will receive a Managers Information package upon approval.

Guidelines

Managers and coaches must provide a positive role model for all players. Please read and become familiar with the league's local rules for your division, codes of conduct, parent handbook, and safety codes. In addition, all managers and coaches must submit a National Volunteer Form prior to the season.

Who Are the Scorekeepers?

Magnolia Little League Scorekeepers are all volunteer parents who dedicate their time and efforts to keeping track of team statistics for their Little League team. Each team needs one or two parents to step up and volunteer to be the team's scorekeeper.

At the beginning of each season, MLLBA provides a scorekeeper training clinic and encourages parents to volunteer for scorekeeping in the T-Ball division to begin learning how to keep score, how to track pitch count, (for the older divisions) on-base percentages, hits, walks, and errors. As scorekeepers move up a division with their child, they become more adept at being a solid scorekeeper.

In addition, new pitch count rules and recording procedures will be discussed at this important clinic along with a scorekeeper's information packet for each team.

Help set a positive example - become a scorekeeper for your child's team!

**Scorekeeping Clinic
March 2nd, 2008
2:00pm
Old Community Development Center**

The MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL SPONSOR PROGRAM

The MLLBA is dedicated to building character, courage and loyalty in local area youth by providing a fun, safe, and competitive baseball program. To be successful, MLLBA requires a tremendous amount of support by the local community.

Your tax-deductible donation helps offset the costs of equipment, player insurance, adequate umpire training, and operational expenses, and will help supplement participation fees.

Benefits of Being a Sponsor

Your help and support will ensure Magnolia area youth have a positive baseball experience. As an individual or local business involved with MLLBA, you will benefit by being recognized for your goodwill and support of youth baseball. For less than the price of a full-page ad in any publication, you can broadcast your message, every day, to the hundreds of people who visit the Magnolia Baseball Complex on Magnolia Industrial Park Lane.

In exchange for your support, MLLBA offers the following benefits depending upon the package(s)/option you choose:

OFFICIAL LEAGUE SPONSOR

Being an Official League Sponsor of the Magnolia Little League entitles you or your company to a host of advertising and marketing opportunities not available elsewhere. With over 700 active players involved with Magnolia Baseball, the exposure and touch points we offer both the players and their families throughout the entire season is substantial. These programs are created to keep our fans abreast of what is going on in the league as well as specials made available by our sponsors. Being an Official League Sponsor has its privileges.

Annual Cost: \$1,000 (includes one 4'x8' outfield sign)

"Official League Sponsor Benefits"

- Usage of the Magnolia Little League logo and title of "Official League Sponsor" which can be used in local print advertisements
- Logo listed on the Magnolia Baseball website as an official sponsor of Magnolia Little League
- Ad on the Magnolia Baseball website. Your Business Banner can be a link to your business website as well.
- Advertisements available in our Magnolia Baseball Program on Opening Day
- Coupons to be displayed on our new bulletin board (near snack bar)
- Opportunity to take part in specially featured Little League promotional days
- Listed as select locations for all MLLBA players, coaches and fans to shop or eat
- Opportunity to be presenting sponsor at one of our selected "Feature Nights" at the complex

SIGNAGE SPONSORSHIPS

OUTFIELD SIGN SPONSOR

Field availability (Major, Minor, PW8 & PW7)

Here's your chance to own a piece of the park. By becoming a field sponsor, your company will be displayed along the most visible part of the park, the outfield fences. MLLBA has four fields of choice, the Majors, Minors, PW8 & PW7. Field location and choice is dependant upon availability, first come-first served. Sign Dimensions: 4'x8'.

Annual Cost: \$300.00

SCHOLARSHIP SPONSOR

Field availability (All Fields)

Magnolia Baseball approved over \$3000 in hardships this season to children that would not have otherwise been able to play ball. New this season, all combined Scholarship Sponsors will be printed on a "Special Thanks" sign to be hung at all 8 of our baseball fields. This new option is available on the 2008 Sponsor Form **Annual Cost : \$500 +**

Signage Discounts: Magnolia Little League will provide both discounts for multi-year commitments as well as those interested in multiple signs within the park. For more information or a form, please visit our web site "Forms to Download" section.

TEAM SPONSOR

Subject to Team availability

Find out first hand what it's like to "own" your own club. Team sponsors are a more specific form of advertising. MLLBA has approximately 60 teams available. Team sponsors are presented an Appreciation Plaque with Team Photo at the end of the spring season, which is yours to display at your place of business showing your support of the youth in our community.

Annual Cost: Spring Season \$350.00, Fall Season \$250.00

How to Become a MLLBA Sponsor

It is easy to become a Magnolia Little League Sponsor and support Magnolia area youth. Simply take one of the following actions to become a sponsor today:

1. Visit our website at www.MagnoliaBaseball.com to complete the online Sponsor Form, complete the form and mail your tax-deductible donation, or
2. Ask one of the Board of Directors, or the Concession Stand staff for a form while visiting our baseball complex.

Please make your pledge today in support of the Magnolia Little League and Magnolia area youth.

Fundraising

It All Starts with You!

Raising funds to support our Little League program is not an option! Fundraising accounts for a majority of the revenue needed to pay for equipment, field maintenance, improvements, and operating costs.

Fundraising begins with every individual involved in the Magnolia Little League. Volunteers, most often the parents of little leaguers, operate the league. The league must rely on parent support to help raise funds necessary to stay in operation.

A number of fundraising events are held each year. Help is always welcomed to pull off a successful event. Managers and Team moms will have information each season with ways you can help or you can visit the league website for current FUN-raising events!



Overview

Magnolia Little League endorses the National Little League overarching philosophy and the MLLBA Board has made only slight modifications to the playing rules to enhance the playing experience for our children. The following excerpt is taken from the Official Regulations and Playing Rules of the National Little League organization:

"Little League Baseball is a program of service to youth. It is geared to provide an outlet of healthful activity and training under good leadership in an atmosphere of wholesome community participation.

The movement is dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens. It strives to inspire them with a goal and to enrich their lives toward the day when they must take their places in the world. It establishes for them rudiments of teamwork and fair play."

Let us start with Understanding Divisions

Challenger

Challenger Baseball is for physically and/or mentally challenged boys and girls 5 years old to 12 year old who want to learn the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. In Challenger, players hit a ball off a batting tee. The primary goals of Challenger are to instruct children in the fundamentals of baseball and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork. Rosters may be composed of between 10 – 12 players. No live pitching is permitted in this division. The diamond used is a 50-foot diamond.

T-Ball 4

Each team will consist of 11-13 players with 4 adults (1 manager, 3 coaches).

Teams may practice a maximum of 1 ½ hours per week and play a maximum of 1 game per week (on Saturday if possible). Teams will use a "low-impact ball" or an "incrediball". Games will consist of 2 innings, and no score will be kept. On offense, each team will bat the entire line-up in each half inning. Players will remain on base when "put out", and the last batter will advance to home plate at the end of the half inning.

A manager/coach will coach 1st and 3rd bases, 1 will be at home plate to assist batters and the 4th will be in the dugout. On defense, each team will be allowed a pitcher, catcher and 5 infielders, with the remainder of the players in the outfield. Infielders may be no closer than the pitcher's mound prior to the ball being hit. During the game, no player will play 2 innings in the outfield. 1 defensive coach may position himself in the outfield. Game time approximately 40 minutes.

T-Ball 5

Tee Ball 5 Baseball is for boys and girls 5 years old (or 4 yr olds who will turn 5 on or before April 30, 2008) who want to learn the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. In Tee Ball, players hit a ball off a batting tee. The primary goals of Tee Ball are to instruct children in the fundamentals of baseball and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork. Rosters may be composed of between 10 – 12 players. No live pitching in this division is allowed. The diamond used is a 50-foot diamond.

T-Ball 6

Tee Ball 6 Baseball is for boys and girls who will be 6 years old on or before April 30, 2008, who want to learn the fundamentals of hitting and fielding. In Tee Ball, players hit a ball off a batting tee. The primary goals of Tee Ball are to instruct children in the fundamentals of baseball and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork. Rosters may be composed of between 10 – 12 players. Coach pitch is allowed for the first 3 pitches. If batter is unsuccessful, the batter places the ball on the tee to put ball into play. This is to get this age group ready for the next division of Coach or Machine Pitch. The diamond used is a 50-foot diamond.

P-Wee 7

This division is for kids that will be 7 years old on or before April 30, 2008. This is a Machine Pitch division. By local option, a player who is age 6 for the current season and has played a year in Tee Ball may be "moved up" to a machine pitch division with the approval of the VP - Baseball and the child's parents. Base stealing is allowed in this division. Rosters may be composed of between 10 - 12 players. The diamond used is a 60-foot diamond and the pitching distance is 46 feet. Players are eligible for All-Star play in the Spring season only.

P-Wee 8

This division is for kids that will be 8 years old on or before April 30, 2008. This is a Machine Pitch division. Base stealing is allowed in this division. Rosters may be composed of between 10 - 12 players. The diamond used is a 60-foot diamond and the pitching distance is 46 feet. Players are eligible for All-Star play in the Spring season only.

Minor

This division is for kids who will be 9 years old on or before April 30, 2008 (9 & 10 year olds in Fall) where the kids pitch and learn more advanced aspects of baseball. It gives children of this age the opportunity to experience tournament competition, up to State level. Base stealing is allowed in this division. The diamond used is a 60-foot diamond and the pitching distance is 46 feet. Players are eligible for All-Star play in the Spring season only.

AAA

This division is comprised of all of the 10-year-old boys and girls Magnolia has to offer. Those 11 & 12 year olds not playing in the Majors Division will make up the remainder of the kids in this division. This division is kid pitch and played on a 60 ft. base paths and 46 ft. pitching distance.

Major

This division is for 11 & 12 year olds boys and girls where the kids pitch and learn more advanced aspects of baseball. This division consists of a number of teams determined by the enrollment of 12-year-old players. In the Spring, players go through a tryout and coaches can pick a maximum of eight 12 year old players, and the remainder of the team is made up of 11 year old players. The diamond used is a 60-foot diamond and the pitching distance is 46 feet. Players are eligible for All-Star play in the Spring season only.

Junior League

Junior League is intended to provide high school preparatory baseball for 13-14 year olds will play on a 54' pitching distance and an 80' base path. This league will allow the young adults the opportunity to step to the next level of play by offering open bases and big barrel bats all on a field size appropriate for these ages. This league is designed to give all of the aspects of high school baseball rules while working on fields that build the strength of these kids to prepare for the high school level fields. Players are eligible for All-Star play in the Spring season only.

Senior League

Senior Baseball will be the ages from 15 – 16 years of age. League Age is determined by the age the child is on April 30 of the year of the Spring Season. I.e., if a child turns 15 on April 28, 2008, that child will play in the 15-year-old division for the 2007 Spring Season. If the child turns 15 on May 2, 2008, the child will play in the Junior League Baseball Program as a 14 year old. This league will allow the young adults the opportunity to step to the next level of play by offering open bases and big barrel bats all on a high school field size appropriate for these ages. Those 15-16 (Senior) & 17-18 (Big) age groups will play on an official regulation baseball field, just as they would in high school level. This field size will be a 60' pitching distance and 90' base paths. Players are eligible for All-Star play in the Spring season only.

Big League

Big League is intended to provide high school level baseball to 17 & 18 year olds. This division has post season where all boys who do not make the Magnolia High School team can play. Registrations will remain OPEN to all High School Players who can register AFTER HIGH SCHOOL GAMES ARE FINISHED. Email Lynette Gibbons at LynGibbons@aol.com for more information! Players are eligible for All-Star play in the Spring season only.

Playing Rules



National Little League Baseball offers a booklet titled "Official Regulations and Playing Rules". The booklets will be available for purchase at the ballpark for parents, and each team manager is provided with a copy. We encourage all players and parents to read and become familiar with both the Official Regulations and Playing Rules and any Local Rules that may apply.

Local Rules

Local rules are encouraged by National Little League to adjust for local conditions. The Magnolia Little League Board of Directors approves local rule modifications to the National rules. Please review the local rules appropriate for your child's playing level in the download section of our site under 2008 GROUND RULES.

Pitching Restrictions

NEW rules for each division regarding pitching restrictions and mandatory rest periods will be available in the 2008 GROUND RULES, the Manager, and Scorekeeper Information Packages.

Game Conduct

Players are expected to arrive on time for pre-game workouts and conduct themselves during the game in an acceptable manner. It is a team's responsibility to promote good sportsmanship and fair play. Following are simple rules for players to follow throughout the season:

- Play for the fun of playing, not just to please your parents.
- Play by the rules.
- Never argue with or complain about umpire's calls or decisions.
- Control your temper and resist the temptation to retaliate when you feel you have been wronged.
- Concentrate on playing baseball and on affecting the outcome of the game with your best effort.
- Be a good sport by cheering all good plays, whether it is your teams or your opponent's.
- Treat all players as you would like to be treated.
- Cooperate with your manager, coaches, teammates, opponents, and umpires.

Any player, manager, coach, parent or spectator whose conduct is not consistent with these guidelines may be cautioned by the umpire or other League official. Foul or abusive language is strictly prohibited. If an individual is unable to refrain from using foul language or making derogatory remarks to any player, manager, coach, or umpire, the umpire or other League official may suspend the game until that individual leaves the Little League Park or other playing area. If the individual refuses to leave the Little League Park or other playing area, the umpire may discontinue the game and the police will be called for assistance. If the disruptive individual is a manager, coach or player, additional sanctions will likely occur depending on the circumstances.

Ejection Protocol

Each umpire has the power and authority to eject players, managers, coaches and spectators from the game and or Little League Park or other playing area.

Players

If a player is ejected, the player shall immediately leave the playing area (field, dugout, bullpen etc.) before play continues, but may become a silent spectator in the stands. In addition, the player is expected to attend subsequent practices for behavior modification counseling.

As a minimum, the ejected player(s) shall NOT participate in the next scheduled game, but may watch the game from the stands, but may not wear the team uniform.

Depending on the severity of the offense or pattern of misbehavior, The Magnolia Little League reserves the right to consider more severe penalties up to and including player removal from Little League activities for the remainder of the Season.

Manager/Coach

When a manager or coach is ejected, that individual shall IMMEDIATELY leave the Little League Park or other playing area and automatically receives a ONE GAME SUSPENSION. In addition, that individual shall have NO CONTACT with the team and shall be PROHIBITED from the Little League Park or other playing field until the day AFTER the completion of the next scheduled team game.

Depending on the severity of the offense or pattern of misbehavior, The Magnolia Little League reserves the right to consider more severe penalties up to and including manager/coach removal from Little League activities for the remainder of the Season

Parents/Spectators

Other ejected individuals shall immediately leave the Little League Park or other playing area. Refusal to do so may result in the Umpires "calling" the game and other sanctions being assessed on the team associated with that individual.

Other Disciplinary Action

The Board feels strongly that proper field decorum is an important element of the Little League experience. For example, ejected individuals who do not "go quietly" once ejected can expect additional sanctions.

Note: Any player, manager or coach who is ejected or otherwise suspended three times in a season, will have their association with Magnolia Little League terminated.

In addition the MLLBA Board of Directors has established an official grievance report that can be completed and turned in to the concession stand staff or any serving board member should you feel that any parent has violated the code of conduct as outlined in this publication or rules in the national little league rulebook. This form is available in the "Forms to Download" section of our web site.

The Executive Committee or Protest Committee is responsible to impose any other disciplinary sanctions necessary to effectively operate the League.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the structure of MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE baseball?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE Baseball leagues offers eight levels of play: T-Ball, P-Wee, Minor, AAA, Major, Junior, Senior and Big League levels as outlined in the Divisions Section above.

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE follows the age cutoff dates established by National Little League to ensure players develop appropriately in terms of skills, knowledge, and sportsmanship.

Pitching distances are scaled to the ability of the players in proportion to the size of the diamonds. The scaled down diamonds in the lower divisions allow the players to make the same plays made by the upper division players on larger diamonds.

An elected Board of Directors who administers the league in line with established National Little League Rules and local bylaws manages MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE. The league is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization.

When does the season begin and how long does it last?

Please check the MAGNOLIA BASEBALL League calendar on our website at www.MagnoliaBaseball.com for exact league dates and events. Typically, the season begins at the end of Feb or first of March and extends through the end of the school year at which time All Star and Tournament teams are formed. An Opening Day event kicks off the beginning of the season. The season continues for players selected to the District 28 All-Star tournament teams. Please consider your vacation plans if you have a child that may be selected to these teams.

Where are MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE games played?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE games take place at the MAGNOLIA BASEBALL COMPLEX located at 31225 Friendship Drive. Major, Junior, Senior, and Big League games take place at 31831 Sugarbend temporarily while new fields are constructed at the Magnolia Baseball Complex on Magnolia Industrial Park Lane.

What days and times are the games played?

All teams in MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE are scheduled for at least two games a week, and some cases three. Game days are typically Monday through Saturday, with the exception of Wednesday nights, which are reserved for RAINOUTS only. Saturday games will generally start at 10am, 12 pm, 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm. Weekday games generally will begin at 6:30pm depending on league growth at which time it may become necessary to play two games per evening, possibly at 6pm & 8pm.

It is MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE'S desire to have games completed by 9pm on weekdays. It is recommended that players arrive at the field an 30-45 minutes prior to game time so they can properly warm up, and managers can get the line-up cards ready prior to the start of the game.

Who umpires MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE games?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE uses paid umpires consisting of certified umpires, and trained students. All umpires are required to attend training clinics. A plate umpire and a field umpire are used in all games; unless a scheduling issue arises causing a shortage of available umpires. In the T-Ball division, only one umpire per game is allowed.

When will the practices begin?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE targets the first of February for all teams to start practicing. The goal is for teams to be in a position to begin practices at least 3 weeks before Opening Day. Practices typically begin the week after draft night. Actual first practices will depend upon weather, your manager, and formation of teams.

How often and long will my child practice?

Practice frequency and duration are up to the team manager. No team is allowed more than 4 events per week, including games. Practices during the week generally run anywhere from 60-90 minutes for younger players and up to two hours a session for the older kids, depending on your manager.

Where will my child practice?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE schedules field practice times at the Little League complex before games begin, however, your manager will be given a list of APPROVED practice locations through out the area where he/she may decide to conduct practice. You will know where your child will practice once your child is placed on a team and your manager contacts you.

What equipment will my child need before the first practice or game?

Players should arrive at their first practice with a glove, hat, baseball pants, and rubber molded cleats. A baseball bag is recommended to transport bats, batting gloves, water bottles, hats, and other items.

Are there any uniform supplies my child needs?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE will provide each player a team jersey, pants, belt, socks, and a team hat during the spring season. (Shirts & hats only during the fall season) The jerseys do not provide much warmth during the early months of play, so it is a good idea to purchase a long-sleeve baseball shirt to match the color of your child's team. Your manager will provide more specifics as for the color. Rubber cleats are highly recommended, and steel spikes are not allowed (except for Jr., Sen., and Big). A quality leather glove is necessary & it is recommended to stay away from vinyl and simulated leather gloves that may be cheaper, but tend to cause the player a great deal of frustration. It is impossible to form a pocket in gloves made of vinyl or simulated leather. Therefore, the ball tends to pop out when the player attempts to catch it. All players should bring a windbreaker, jacket, or sweatshirt to every game and practice, especially early in the season.

When will I find out what team my child will play on?

All teams should be formed by late January or the beginning of February. Your child's manager will notify you of the team's first meeting. If you do not hear from a team manager by mid-February, please contact a league official.

Can my child be placed on a team with one of their friends?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE allows friends to request to be placed on the same team together only in the T-ball 4 & 5 divisions. In ALL other divisions, a request may be made, but there is no guarantee that it will be approved. Players are distributed based on ratings in a balanced process to form teams.

In the AAA and Majors divisions, there are absolutely no requests due to the player selection process of the draft. The upper division teams are created using a balanced draft process that helps to promote even and competitive leagues.

If my child is unhappy with the team they are placed on, can they switch teams?

Only in extreme cases does the league allow children to switch teams after the teams have been formed. Such requests must be made in writing to the MLLBA divisional player agent who will notify the VP of Baseball. Approval requires extenuating circumstances, so any request is highly unlikely to be approved, and in most cases we will ask the player remains with their team. Team balance is established early on, and changes of this type are difficult if not impossible to implement without upsetting the balance that has been established.

If my child decides to quit, is it possible to get a refund?

Magnolia Little League Baseball Association will refund 75% of your registration, less the Active fee charged to MLLBA for online registration as applicable, until the date of the player's first game. After the date of the player's first game, no refunds will be provided.

Can I keep my child down in a lower division or bring him/her up a division a year early?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE strongly supports age appropriate competition and development and does not allow players to move up a division early or to play down a division to develop additional skills without approval from the League President or VP Baseball. The only time an adjustment may be made is when there is a safety risk to a player playing in their age appropriate division. At that time, a parent request needs to be made to the Board of Directors. All decision are made on an individual only basis.

How many managers/coaches can be on a team?

Every team has a manager approved by the Board of Directors. Each team's manager can have as many assistants as they can find for practices, but only two assistant coaches are allowed in the dugout during games. Any manager or coach that comes into contact with players MUST submit a National Little League Volunteer application to the league.

What are the responsibilities of a manager and a coach?

The team manager oversees the management of the team throughout the season. They are responsible for setting a practice schedule, developing a practice format, creating a lineup card for every game, and ensuring kids get their minimum playing time in each game. Managers are the focal point of the team and must be committed to following through with managing the team from February to end of regular season. Time commitment is usually around 8-10 hours a week depending upon division. Managers need to be able to commit to be at all practices and games. Managers also must attend a pre-season coaching clinic provided by the league, and a manager's meeting with the division representative. As well, they must schedule and conduct a parent meeting prior to the first practice of the season. A volunteer team mom or parent that helps with things like fundraising events, uniform distribution, and picture day assists managers.

Two assistant coaches are allowed in the dugout during games. However, a manager may elect to use more than two coaches during practice. Coaches provide support during practice to ensure kids get enough attention while developing their skills. Coaches are under the guidance and direction of the manager. Typically, a manager will design a practice format and have assistants take care of coaching small groups of players, assisting with batting practice, hitting fungos, or other assistant duties. Assistant coaches should commit to be at all practices and games, generally about 6-8 hours a week depending upon division. Coaches need to attend a pre-season clinic provided by the league. All actions of an assistant coach during games are the ultimate responsibility of the manager.

Managers/Coaches are also responsible in assisting field preparation including raking/adding baselines prior to games (Home Team) and raking the field and cleaning the dugouts and stands after the games (Away Team), assigning a scorekeeper and addressing all player and parent concerns.

Are there conduct rules that apply during games?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE does not tolerate foul language or taunting at any level by the players, parents, managers, or coaches. Any spectator, player, manager, or coach that is warned is subject to being ejected from the premises and banned from the complex for additional games. Good conduct is strictly enforced and expected at all times.

Who staffs the Snack Bar at the MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE complex?

Unlike most baseball organizations, MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE does not require parents to operate and run the concessions stand. Wanda Barlow, owner of THE PIT in Magnolia fully operates our concession stands at the Little League fields and at the Big League Fields offering many great menu choices. A generous percentage of all proceeds are donated back to MLLBA to help support our league. Please do your part in support of our league by ordering your food, snacks, and TEAM SNACKS at the concessions stand. Bringing fast food into our complex is not looked upon very well by those who enjoy the great services of our snack bar and support it. If you have not tried our great food, you are missing out!

Do I have to participate in any fundraising?

MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE relies on fundraising to help support the operations of the league. Player registration fees only account for 55% of the needed operating capital required for equipment, facilities maintenance and repairs, uniforms, etc. MLLBA supplements player registration fees with league sponsors and fundraising. Each team is expected to participate in the league's annual fundraising activities as much as possible.

Whom do I contact if I have a problem that needs to be resolved by the league?

If at any time you have a problem or just want information, you can e-mail the league at any time. However, please first discuss any concerns with your child's manager, then with the division's player agent (who is a Board Member assigned to oversee that Division). Contact information is on the MAGNOLIA LITTLE LEAGUE web site under the "Board Member" link as well as this publication. You are also welcome to attend a Board meeting and express your concerns directly to the Board with prior approval from the President.

What is available on the website?

The league's web site is at www.MagnoliaBaseball.com. The site offers all the information you need to stay informed about events, schedules, rules, board member contacts, sponsorship information, baseball clinics, etc, AND provides a team page for every team in the league along with team stats and standings.

What is Mad Dog Ball?

Magnolia Baseball offers Adult Baseball & Softball for anyone over 18 years old. For more information about Adult Baseball, or to sign up please contact Lynette Gibbons by email at LynGibbons@aol.com or call 281-252-0681. For information about Adult Softball teams contact Ron Shewbert at shewby@sbcglobal.net or 832-287-4570.