



What is the Working Towards Williamsport (WTW) Program?

- CLL is striving to improve the level of instruction our players and managers/coaches receive throughout the season in order to improve the quality of play of all players and to improve CLL's post-season competitiveness.

Why does CLL need the WTW Program?

- Our league continues to demonstrate its ability to conduct a fully functioning league for over 1100 children each year; focusing on fairness and effort, and we should be very proud of that.
- CLL has struggled to be competitive in the post-season tournaments, and we continue to lose quality players to travel organizations.
- The Little League Pledge encourages the children to play fair, do their best and strive to win, and as a League we have struggled to provide them and our coaches with the proper skills/tools to strive to win.
- The WTW Program is aimed at lifting the overall quality of play of all of our children, which should over time produce better play during the regular season, better results in our post-season play, and incentive for players to stay with CLL.

What are the goals of the WTW Program?

The following goals are not 'pass or fail' but should inspire CLL to work towards a common good:

- 2008 – CLL All-Star & Invitational teams are more competitive at the District 5 All-Star Tournament.
- 2009 – One or more CLL All-Star or Invitational teams reach the finals of a District 5 All-Star Tournament.
- 2010 – One or more CLL All-Star or Invitational teams win a District 5 Tournament.
- 2011 – A CLL All-Star team reaches a semi-final round, or better, at the State All-Star Tournament.
- 2012 – A CLL All-Star team qualifies for the Regional All-Star Tournament.
- 2013 – A CLL All-Star team qualifies for the Little League World Series (Williamsport)

What activities are included in the WTW Program's improvement plan?

There are nearly 20 tasks that CLL has committed to perform in 2008 that address the following:

- Standardizing which skills the kids must learn at each of the CLL Divisions.
- Standardizing how our coaches instruct the kids and what they are expected to teach.
- Improve the coach feedback and assessment process.
- Increase parent and volunteer baseball knowledge and overall participation.
- Improve the partnerships with the other non-Little League baseball organizations in Chesterfield County.
- Maintain a balance between competition and fun, fairness and sportsmanship.

Are there potential negatives/risks to implementing the WTW Program?

- Yes, potentially. The WTW Program will not be successful if coaches/parents view the program as permission to encourage a 'win at all cost' attitude.
- We must continue to balance the improvement of our coaching and play with CLL's core principles of fun, fairness, and sportsmanship. If we fail, we will lose more CLL families than we keep/recruit.
- Avoiding these negatives are completely within the control of every manager, coach, parent, volunteer and Board member, based on how we choose to act. We must work together as a league to ensure we maintain the appropriate balance.
- Negative behavior/conduct that detracts from Little League's and CLL's core principles will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly by CLL's Disciplinary Committee.

How can you help make WTW a success?

- Leverage the Skills Map and supporting skills documents (coming soon), and ask questions.
- Coaches - Work closely with your Division and Coach/Player Development Directors consistently throughout the year as partners in improvement.
- Parents – reinforce what your child's manager is teaching & help maintain the 'balance' off the field.