

**Falls Church Kiwanis
Little League
Parent and Player Handbook**

FALLS CHURCH

Kiwanis Little League
Celebrating 60 years
1948--2008



★ PO Box 6612 ★
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★ www.FCKLL.org ★ 703-893-4619 ★

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This handbook provides a basic understanding of the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League (FCKLL) program. The content is intended as a general overview and is not a substitute for the league's official policies and procedures.

General Information

League Goals

FCKLL provides an opportunity for children to learn lifetime skills — leadership, sportsmanship, and teamwork. As a parent you play a vital role in your child's experience and are instrumental in making it a positive one. We encourage you to be involved and to help your child develop these new skills.

League administrators, managers, coaches, officials and parents must work cooperatively to provide a safe and positive environment. When adults put the best interest of children first, then the players are likely to have a constructive and enjoyable experience. It is our goal that each child

- acquire an appreciation for an active lifestyle
- develop a positive self-concept by mastering baseball skills
- learn how to work as part of a team
- develop social skills with other children and adults
- learn about managing success and disappointment
- learn good sportsmanship
- learn respect for others

Board of Directors

FCKLL is a non-profit corporation registered with the Commonwealth of Virginia and chartered by Little League Baseball, Inc. The program is administered by a board of directors and operated by volunteers. The board is elected at the annual meeting of the corporation held each year on the second Monday in September. Everyone associated with the league is urged to attend this meeting. In addition, the board of directors meets at least once a month, typically the first Monday of the month at the Falls Church Community Center. Any parent/guardian of a child participating in the league is encouraged to attend.

League Operation and Volunteers

Organizing and operating a sports program is a big undertaking. Your willingness to invest time and effort will benefit your child and is essential to the successful operation of our league. The success or failure of the league is directly attributable to the commitment of the people in the community.

FCKLL is completely administered and managed by volunteers. It is crucial that each player's parents or guardian help the league. With your help, we can continue to ensure that the league is a safe, fun environment in which children can learn to play baseball, improve their athletic skills, and, most importantly, build and mold a positive character.

Falls Church Kiwanis Little League is only as strong as our volunteers. Some volunteer activities are very visible while many go unnoticed. Some activities are tremendous time commitments while others require only a couple of hours. Some activities require specific knowledge and skills while others require nothing but a willingness to pitch in. But, all of our volunteers make this league work.

There are a variety of jobs that have to be done for a Little League to operate, and the philosophy of Little League International is that leagues are to be managed by volunteers not professionals. That means all of us.

FCKLL wants to give credit to all of our volunteers... **A Volunteer Credit.** FCKLL families that perform recognized volunteer service on behalf of the league will receive a \$30 credit towards their next year's registration. It is a small gesture really, but an important one. It is vital that everyone recognize the value of volunteering. Volunteers make FCKLL operate successfully and efficiently. The more volunteers the better for everyone.

Take a look at the following list of officially recognized volunteer commitments. Performing any of these jobs in 2008 will qualify your family for the 2009 Volunteer Credit and will make our league better.

FCKLL Volunteer Activities

Administrative Assistance— As needed by the league. Immediate opportunities include registration data entry.

Adult Umpire—Umpire training begins in mid-January. (2 games required)

All Star/Tournament Announcer—As a host league, FCKLL provides an announcer for each tournament game held at Westgate who announces the players, coaches, and umpires at the beginning of the game; announces each batter and any substitutions. Tournament games are mid-June through mid-July. (2 games required)

All Star/Tournament Scorekeeper—As a host league, FCKLL provides a scorekeeper for each tournament game held at Westgate. The scorekeeper is responsible for keeping accurate statistics in a score book during the game. Knowledge of substitutions is necessary. Tournament games are mid-June through mid-July. (2 games required)

Assistant Player Agent—There is an assistant player agent for A-ball and each level of T-ball who works directly with the Player Agent. Makes team assignments and resolves player and parent issues during the season.

Board of Directors—The directors are elected at the Annual Meeting held the second Monday in September. The board is responsible for the operation of FCKLL. The board has many positions with varying areas of responsibility.

Coach of Record—Each team has two coaches of record. These are the full-time coaches who work closely with the manager and help to run practices and develop the players' skills.

Fall Work Day—Spend several hours helping to prepare Westgate for the winter. Duties may include weeding, bull pen/batting cage maintenance, cleaning snack bar, painting, etc. The Fall Work Day is typically the first weekend in November. (4 hour shift)

Family Fun Fair & Awards Day Committee—Help organize and prepare for FCKLL's annual Family Fun Fair and Awards Day. It's an event that everyone looks forward to. Tasks include ordering amusements, coordinating volunteers, overseeing set-up and clean-up. Volunteers who take a shift on the day are included in this committee.

Fundraising Committee—Responsible for preparing the forms for the Hit-A-Thon, presenting at the Team Parent/Fundraising Parent meeting, collecting the funds from the fundraising parents, overseeing Hit-A-Thon field preparation, ordering and distributing the prizes.

Fundraising Parent—The Fundraising Parent is responsible for handling the Hit-A-Thon paperwork for your individual team, promoting the event to the team and distributing prizes earned by your team's players. Fundraising parent is expected to attend one meeting, their team's hitting session on the day of the event, and to collect and turn in the funds raised by the team.

Hit-A-Thon Committee—Group responsible for preparing the fields for the Hit-A-Thon, for ensuring that the necessary equipment is set out on each field and for dismantling and storing the equipment after the Hit-A-Thon.

Hotline Monitor—One of the most important jobs since you become a spokesperson for FCKLL. This person is responsible for checking the hotline voice mail and returning phone calls. Anyone with a few years in the league has enough experience to answer the majority of the questions.

Manager—Individual responsible for handling all aspects of team management: instructing players in the proper techniques of baseball during practice, game management, soliciting volunteers to assist in running the team, demonstrating proper sportsmanship, and insuring that the players are safe at all times—just to name a few. The manager must represent the attitude and philosophy of the league.

Manager Selection Committee—Recruits and interviews prospective managers to find those with the best approach to coaching, team building and sportsmanship.

Memorial Day Parade Committee—Players and their families alike participate in the Falls Church City Memorial Day parade. Help plan and prepare the float, coordinate the sound system, enter FCKLL's registration and have a lot of fun in the process!

On-Call Field Hand—On-Call Field Hands are on call from 7—10 am on Saturdays (only 3 Saturdays are required) to help get the fields into shape, if they need it.

Opening Day Committee—Organizes Opening Day festivities. Tasks include coordinating parking; inviting local dignitaries, clergy, and a speaker; organizing the teams the morning of the parade; field preparation and set-up.

Publicity—Level publicists (Majors, AAA, AA, A, Sluggers, and Tball Rookies) are responsible for providing a recap of the week's games for publication on the internet and in local newspapers. Works closely with the Director of Publicity.

Registration Committee—Distribute flyers to local schools, staff registration events, and help the Player Agent as needed.

Scheduler—Develops and maintains the practice and game schedule for the league.

Scholar Athlete Program—In order to promote the importance of academics, FCKLL awards players who maintain a B or better average a Scholar Athlete Award. This individual is responsible for the flyer and form which is distributed, collects all returned forms and creates the award certificate.

Skills Assessment Committee—This group prepares for the skills assessment, checks the players in, prepares the players, and provides other support as required.

Snack Bar—Help feed the hungry crowds. Staffing the snack bar includes managing the pizza, snack and drink inventory, preparing hot foods, and cleaning as necessary. (2 game shift)

Sponsorship Committee—This group solicits donations from local businesses, orders banners, coordinates with the Quartermaster, and ensures that the teams keep in contact with their sponsors.

Spring Work Day—Help prepare Westgate for the spring season. Duties may include weeding, bull pen/batting cage maintenance, cleaning snack bar, painting, etc. The Spring Work Day is typically in late March. (4 hour shift)

Team Parent—The team parent assists the manager by coordinating the team's participation in league events, coordinating snack assignments, the team party and much more.

Team Scorekeeper—Responsible for keeping accurate game statistics in a team score book. Scorekeeping includes entering the lineups, recording every pitch, hit, etc. while following the standard procedures used universally by scorekeepers (these are easy to learn and FCKLL provides training clinics).

Team Sponsorship—Your contribution will help pay for equipment and uniforms, field maintenance, training and umpiring costs. Team sponsors have their name on the back of the players' uniforms. Spring, Fall, and All Star sponsorships are available.

Training Committee—This group plans, organizes, and implements the training program for players and coaches. There are opportunities for hands-on teaching, for administrative help, and for learning.

Trophy Coordinator—Arranges trophies for the league as well as the 12-year old medallions.

Umpire Coordinator—Schedules umpire crews for all regular season and playoff games each week during the spring and fall seasons. Works closely with the Chief Umpire and the Scheduler.

Web Administration—Help maintain, update and create a friendly, informative web site for our league. Some training is provided.

Protecting Our Children

To maintain a safe environment, some of the volunteer positions (such as board member, manager, coach, umpire, and snack bar) require a completed volunteer application that gives consent to a background check. These procedures protect our children and maintain Little League as a hostile environment for those who would seek to do harm to the children; protect individuals and the league from possible loss of assets because of litigation; and take advantage of technology and laws that have made background check information accessible.

Registration

Eligible Players

All boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 12 who reside within the league boundaries are invited to join the program. A child's *league age* is the age of a child on April 30th of that year. A birth certificate (or other authorized proof of age document) must be provided for every player. Additionally, parents/guardians must provide proof of residency that establishes that a player resides within the FCKLL playing boundaries.

Acceptable Forms of Documentation

Residence will be established and supported by three of the following documents:

- Driver's license
- Support payment records
- School records
- Utility bills
- Voting registration
- Homeowner or tenant property insurance
- Federal, state and local records
- Welfare records
- Financial records
- Insurance documents
- Internet, cable or satellite records
- Vehicle records

The player's league age will be certified by one of the following original documents:

- Proof-of-age document issued by federal or state registrars of vital statistics (e.g., birth certificate)
- Document issued by federal or state registrars of vital statistics listing the date of birth with reference to the location and issue date of the original birth certificate
- Report of Birth Form GS240 for children born abroad of parents who are United States citizens
- DD Form 1173 identification cards and military hospital certificates for military dependents

*Please note that a passport or a child's ID card is NOT a valid proof of age document.

Registration Process

Registration for the spring season typically occurs in early January. While this is a few months before the season begins, it allows the league to plan the number of teams, managers, and equipment required for the upcoming season. Although we encourage every family to register in person at one of the many registration sessions, you may take advantage of our online registration; you may register by mail by downloading a form from FCKLL.org and mailing it to the PO box. NOTE: any family that does not register in person will still be required to submit original documentation.

Fees must accompany the registration form. Checks should be made payable to Falls Church Kiwanis Little League. To make baseball affordable for all families, FCKLL offers a variety of discounts:

- Sibling Discount: If you are registering more than one player, please deduct \$25 from the fee for the second and subsequent children.
- Early Bird Discount: Deduct \$5 from each registration submitted by early bird deadline on the registration form.

Financial Assistance

All children who meet the age and residency requirements are eligible to play little league baseball and to participate in our training opportunities regardless of the family's ability to pay the fees. Please discuss your situation with the player agent or the president.

League Structure

The league is divided into six levels of play ensuring that children participate at a level commensurate with their age, maturity and ability. FCKLL offers T-ball Rookies, T-ball Sluggers, A, AA, AAA, and Majors. With the exception of Majors, all teams are disbanded at the end of each season and new teams are formed the following year.

Children who are 8 or older are required to participate in a skills assessment/tryout session that allows the managers to place them into the level where they will be most successful. 7 year olds are encouraged to participate as well. The following is a brief description of the various levels:

T-ball Rookies

Age Range: League age 5 year olds; any new 6 year olds.

Team Formation: Teams are formed primarily according to common neighborhoods and schools among the players. Requests to play with specific coaches or players are accommodated if possible.

Description: Players learn, develop, and practice fundamental baseball skills in a nurturing environment.

The batter hits the ball from a batting tee, developing hand-eye coordination and the swing technique without fear of being hit by a pitched ball. Defensive players are encouraged to register outs, though base runners are not removed from the bases. Participation trophies are awarded to all players.

Sluggers

Age Range: Mostly league age 6 year olds; new 7 year olds.

Team Formation: Teams are formed primarily by common neighborhoods and schools among players. Requests to play with specific coaches or players are accommodated if possible.

Description: This level is geared to older/returning players who are ready for more of a challenge. Batters hit pitches thrown by their coach. If a batter does not make contact with a pitched ball, the at bat is completed from a batting tee. There are no strikeouts, but outs are recorded on defensive plays, so an emphasis is placed on developing field and throwing skills... Participation trophies are awarded to all players.

A

Age Range: Mostly league age 7 year olds with many league age 8 year olds.

Team Formation: Teams are formed primarily by common neighborhoods and schools among the players. Requests to play with specific coaches or players are accommodated if possible. In order to balance the competitiveness of teams, the age and experience level of players will be considered in assigning players to teams.

Description: A-Ball is focused completely on player development, but competition is introduced as a part of the game at this level. Teams keep score and win/loss records are kept. Outs can be made on batters and base runners, and batters can strike out. The strong developmental aspect of the level dictates a few unique rules and practices. Coaches use pitching machines to pitch to the batters. Defensive coaches are positioned on the field during play. Teams use a continuous batting order. Playing time is divided evenly; the opportunity to play a variety of positions is afforded each child. Trophies are awarded to regular season and tournament champions; participation trophies are awarded to all players.

AA

Age Range: Mostly league age 8 and 9 year olds with a very few advanced 7 year olds and 10 year olds who are determined to not be ready for AAA.

Team Formation: All players of league age 8 and older must participate in a skills assessment/tryout. Only players achieving a minimum score will be eligible for AA. Teams are formed by a player draft. Not all players eligible for AA will be selected in the draft to play at the AA level. If AA teams need to replace players during the season, AA eligible players will be selected from A level teams.

Description: At AA, the focus on player development is balanced with increased team competitiveness. This is the level where players first pitch in games and they are allowed to steal bases. A continuous batting order is used, playing time is distributed evenly and each player will play infield positions in every game. While all players should be encouraged and taught to play all positions, for reasons of competitiveness, managers may assign increased playing time at key positions based on player performance. Trophies are awarded to regular season and tournament champions, and participation trophies are awarded to all players.

AAA

Age Range: Mostly league age 9, 10 and 11 year olds with a very few advanced 8 year olds and a very few league age 12 year olds who are determined to be unready for the Majors level.

Team Formation: All players of league age 8 and older must participate in a skills assessment/tryout. Only players achieving a minimum score will be eligible for AAA. Teams are formed each year by a player draft. Not all players eligible for AAA will be selected in the draft to play at the AAA level. If AAA teams need to replace players during the season, AAA eligible players will be selected from AA level teams.

Description: While Little League Baseball is always focused on player development, AAA is a completely competitive level. Some special rules still apply to help managers even out playing time and assignment of positions. Specifically, teams use a continuous batting order and no player may sit out for consecutive

innings. AAA players are beginning to develop advanced baseball skills and position specialization is beginning to take place. Trophies are awarded to regular season and tournament champions only.

Majors

Age Range: Mostly league age 11 and 12 year olds with a very few advanced 10 year olds.

Team Formation: Players not currently on a majors team will participate in a skills assessment/tryout, and teams will be formed by a player draft. Once a player is assigned to a Majors team, that will be his/her team for future seasons through the remainder of their Little League eligibility. However, fluctuations in the size of the league and other factors may occasionally result in expansion drafts or player trades which result in players being moved to another team. These situations are the exception, and care is taken to consider the interests of the individual players as well as the needs of the league.

Description: While Little League baseball is always focused on player development, the Majors level is the most competitive level. The Majors level follows official Little League rules and regulations with no special rules such as the continuous batting order used at the lower levels. Following standard baseball rules regarding substitutions, etc. means game strategy and substitutions will be different than players and parents experienced at the lower levels. Majors level teams play "real" baseball at a competitive but supportive level. Trophies are awarded to regular season and tournament champions only.

Challenger

Age Range: League age 5 to 22 year olds with physical or mental disabilities and special needs.

Description: The Challenger program allows those children with special needs to participate in a baseball program with the assistance of Majors teams. This enriching experience gives these players the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of Little League baseball in a suitable environment.

Beyond Little League

Matriculating 12 year olds are given the opportunity to play transition ball during Fall Ball. This opportunity is jointly provided by FCKLL and Falls Church-Annandale (FCA) Babe Ruth. It introduces players to the 90' game. The following spring, 13 year olds, may register with FCA or decide to play on travel teams, usually through Northern Virginia Travel Baseball League.

Training

FCKLL provides a variety of clinics and training for players, umpires, managers, and coaches. Managers and coaches are able to learn age- and level-specific drills to teach baseball skills. Umpires learn the rules for each level and practice in game-like situations. Players have the opportunity to improve their skills through a variety of classes, as well.

Top Gun clinics offer the most experienced players the chance to reinforce their skills, as well as learn more advanced concepts. Intermediate clinics provide players with the opportunity to learn more about pitching, catching, hitting, and infield play. Beginning level courses introduce younger players to pitching, catching, and the fundamentals of baseball. Baseball Basics teaches baseball skills to the youngest players. While some sessions begin as early as November, most training sessions are provided at the beginning of the year (January/February/March) prior to the start of the season. Players may register for training classes online at FCKLL.org, by printing and submitting the form from FCKLL.org; at registration, by calling the Hotline at 703-893-4619 mailbox #5; or by submitting the training registration received in their registration packet.

Skills Assessment/Tryouts

Overview

A skills assessment or tryout is conducted to determine the skill level of players. Children ages 8 to 12, not already on a Majors team, participate in tryouts. Any child aged 8 or above must participate in a skills assessment to be eligible to participate on a Majors, AAA, or AA team, or for placement on a A-level team. Any league 7-year olds who would like to be considered for selection to a AA team must participate in a skills assessment.

At the skills assessment/tryouts, the managers and coaches rate each player's ability to hit, throw, run, field fly balls, and field ground balls. Managers may also ask a child to pitch (pitching is not included in the total score). A player's score is kept confidential.

The skills assessment/tryout is approximately 20 minutes in length. Only players are allowed in the gym.

What to Bring

Each player should come equipped to play ball. Children should wear gym shoes (no cleats) and comfortable clothing, as they will be running in the gym. Each player should bring his/her glove. Bats and helmets are provided; however, one bat and helmet per player is allowed.

Eligible Players

When the skills assessment/tryouts are over and the scores are compiled, the player agent creates a list of players eligible for draft selection at each level by tabulating the scores each child receives for hitting, fielding, running and throwing

The Draft

Balancing the League

Everyone involved in Little League wants what is in each child's best interest:

- Each child wants to have fun playing baseball.
- Parents want their children to have a positive experience.
- FCKLL wants the teams to be selected so that each child has a fair opportunity to participate and contribute.

The skills assessment/tryout and draft is the Little League-approved method for achieving these goals.

Although FCKLL is sensitive to the wishes of parents regarding the level into which their child is drafted, it is Little League's policy that a child will play at the level at which he/she is drafted. This rule means that by registering to play baseball, a child (and his/her parents) agree to play at whatever level the managers determine is best, based on the child's ability. If you wish an exemption, you may discuss your situation with the player agent; however, all exemptions, detailing the reasons for the exemption, must be submitted in writing to the player agent. Exemptions may be granted to have siblings playing together on a team, to have an 8 year old remain at a specific level.

FCKLL's job to ensure that each player is playing at an appropriate level.

The draft is the method which most successfully

- distributes talent into the appropriate level of play (i.e., Majors, AAA, AA), keeping the league strong and growing.
- distributes talent evenly throughout each level, making the games more competitive and fun.
- promotes the safety of the players (if a player is playing above his/her skill level, he/she could be hurt. If a player is playing below his/her skill level, he/she could hurt others).

The list of Major-eligible players (i.e. they earned the minimum required rating which indicates that they have the skills necessary to play in the Majors) is presented to the board of directors at a special meeting. Once the list is approved, only the players on the list are eligible to be drafted into the Majors. Typically, there are more players on the Major-eligible players list than there are available positions on Major teams. Not every child on the list will be drafted to the Majors. The remaining players are included in the AAA draft and are available to be called up to the Majors to fill vacancies that may occur during the season.

Once the Majors teams have completed their draft, a list of AAA-eligible players is prepared for that level's draft. A similar process is used to prepare for the AA draft. Not every child who attends tryouts will be drafted onto a Major, AAA, or AA team. Those not selected in the AA draft will be placed on A teams.

Team Assignment for A, Sluggers, and T-ball Rookies

For T-Ball or A teams, a player's parents may request the team for which he/she plays. If no request is made, players are assigned by home/school area. Every attempt is made for each team to have an equal number of each age group to balance the competitiveness of teams. Teams are formed by the Player Agent. Once teams have been assigned, the manager will contact each player's family with the practice schedule.

What You Can Do as a Parent

1. Keep in mind that we are working within a draft system and following established Little League policies and guidelines. FCKLL attempts to balance these policies and guidelines with what is in the child's best interest and the league's best interest.
2. Share any concerns in an appropriate manner:
 - Use the comments section on the registration form. These comments are kept confidential. They are reviewed by the Player Agent and when appropriate, shared with the managers.
 - If necessary, you may submit a written request to the Player Agent to exempt your child from playing for one specific manager or coach.
 - Contact the player agent. The player agent is your child's advocate within the system and knows what options are available for your child. Mailbox #6 at 703-893-4619 is for the Player Agent.

Practices and Games

Practices usually begin in March (shortly after tryouts). Major teams begin first, followed by AAA, AA, A, and T-ball (A, Sluggers and T-Ball Rookies teams typically start their season a few weeks after the Majors). Games begin in early April for all levels and end around the time elementary schools let out for the summer. Post-season championships and playoff games begin immediately following the regular season. Tournament games (All Stars) begin in late June (minors) and early July (majors).

Little League policy states that a minimum of 12 games will be played in a season. Majors may have 4 meetings (games or practices) per week; AAA, AA, and A may have 3 meetings per week per week; Sluggers and Rookies are allowed two. Managers may, at their discretion, hold optional practices.

Games are played on weekday evenings as well as Saturdays. Games are normally scheduled Monday through Thursday during the week; Fridays are reserved for make-up games that are missed due to weather or darkness. Games are scheduled to begin at 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 8:00 pm on weekdays and throughout the day on Saturdays.

Each team will practice and play games according to a pre-determined schedule. Times and locations of practices and games will vary. A list of available fields is included for easy reference.

During the regular season, managers are required to play each player in every game. The amount of playing time will vary according to the level played. Except for the major level, each player will play at least half of the game. Managers will do their best to ensure balanced playing time. Minor league players bat in a continuous batting order (all players are included in the batting order and given the opportunity to bat even when they are not playing a defensive position), maximizing the frequency with which they are able to bat. If you have a concern regarding your child's playing time, please discuss it with his/her manager.

Pitch Counts

We want our Little Leaguers to be able to play baseball later on in life—high school, college, and just simply for fun. Current philosophies of best practices for coaching youth baseball recommend placing limits on the number of pitches a child may throw. USA Baseball, the American Sports Medicine Institute, Dr. James Andrews and others advocate pitch limits for children participating in baseball. FCKLL has embraced this approach for many years and has specific guidelines to limit the number of pitches a player may throw in a game situation. Beginning in 2008, Little League has also instituted a limit to the number of pitches a player may throw in both the regular season and tournament games.

For level specific guidelines and links for more information, visit FCKLL.org

Tournaments

Season Playoffs

Playoffs are held at the end of the season for all levels, except Sluggers and T-ball Rookies.

AA-Select Game

The AA-Select Game is held during the Family Fun Picnic and Awards Day. It is an opportunity for the AA teams to showcase their best players.

Papa Wayne Starliper Tournament

Following the regular season (the third week of June through the early of July), District 4 sponsors a single elimination, AAA tournament in which the winning AAA team competes against other AAA teams in the district. Alexandria, Arlington, Mason District, Falls Church, Great Falls, McLean, Reston, and Vienna Little Leagues comprise District 4.

All Stars

Background

FCKLL provides an opportunity for select children — those who best represent the combined attributes of physical ability, baseball knowledge, positive attitude, and dedication to baseball as a team sport— to compete in All-Star tournament play.

Selection and Eligibility

Being part of an All Star team is an honor and privilege. It requires dedication and hard work from the player and a large commitment of time from the parent/guardian and child. Families with eligible players should keep these dates in mind when planning summer activities.

For the Majors (or 11-12 year old team), eight All Stars are selected by their peers and the remainder are chosen by a selection committee comprised of the Majors managers. The 9-10 All Stars and the 10-11 All Stars are selected through a combination of voting and tryouts. To be eligible for All Star tournament play, a player must be available for 90 percent of the practices (before and during the tournament) and all but one game.

Typically, the 9-10 and 10-11 tournaments begin in late June and run through mid-July. The 11-12 Majors All Star Tournament begins around July 4 and runs through late July.

More detailed information is available at fckll.org

General Information

Information Hotline/Inclement Weather—703-893-4619

FCKLL uses the information hotline to share information with players and their families. For updates on registration, training, to check and see if games are cancelled due to inclement weather, please call 703-893-4619, #2. FCKLL also has a web site, FCKLL.org where information can be obtained.

If you have questions or concerns, you may also use the hotline or the web site to leave a message. A league representative will get back to you.

Insurance

The league provides free “excess Medical Insurance” for all players as well as managers, coaches, and umpires. This insurance begins where a family’s personal medical insurance ends with a \$500 deductible. Coverage begins with the first practice and continues to the end of the season, including any playoff and tournament games.

In the event of an injury to a player during a practice or a game, the first step is to alert the team manager. In addition, the league’s safety officer must be notified as soon as possible. Insurance claim forms are available from the safety officer who can assist in their preparation and filing.

Scholar–Athlete Program

FCKLL promotes excellence in athletic and academic achievement, stressing hard work, sportsmanship, and fair play in baseball and insisting that playing sports comes after the player has completed his/her homework or study requirements. It is our goal to encourage young players to become better athletes and better students, realizing that success on the athletic field only comes with success in the classroom. Every player who maintains a “B” average or the equivalent will receive this award at the end of the season.

Sponsorship

Sponsors play a vital role in the financial stability of FCKLL. Their generosity helps purchase uniforms and equipment and enables FCKLL to have the most reasonable registration and training fees in the area. Please patronize our sponsors.

Uniforms and Equipment

The league provides uniforms for all players. Players receive pants, a jersey, a hat, and socks. FCKLL also sells practice pants and extra uniforms.

Gloves

Players must provide their own fielding glove. The glove should be of an appropriate size to fit the player's hand and large enough so that a baseball will fit in the pocket. Typically, smaller gloves are easier for the players to use. The league will provide catcher's gloves and gear to each team at the start of the season.

Shoes/Cleats

Shoes should provide good traction on hard ground. Tennis shoes are fine. Cleats can provide better traction, but only rubber cleats are allowed in Little League. No metal spikes or metal cleats are allowed.

Bats

Each team is provided with several bats which are specifically selected to meet the developmental requirements of the players. If you choose to purchase a bat for your child, lighter is often better. Bats are measured by length in inches and weight in ounces. Manufacturers will typically highlight the differential of the length of a bat and its weight. The greater the differential, the lighter and more manageable the bat will be. For instance, a bat appropriate for a T-ball player may be 25" long. If the bat weighs 16 ounces, it will have a -9 differential. If the bat weighs 15 ounces, it will have a -10 differential, which is better for most players.

Use of Tobacco Products

To provide a wholesome environment for the children who participate in the Falls Church Little League, the use of any form of tobacco is prohibited within 50 feet of all playing and practice fields. Please help us keep the children healthy.

Suggestions, Concerns, Complaints

We are always interested in improving what we offer our community, and we want to hear from you. FCKLL distributes a yearly survey to obtain feedback from the general membership. If you have more pressing concerns, please share any suggestions, concerns, or complaints in an appropriate and constructive manner. Managers, coaches, and board members are good places to start. You can always leave a confidential message on the hotline (703 893 4619, #6) for the player agent or for the President (703-893-4619, #7).

Umpires

FCKLL uses both adult and student (12 and older) umpires. We provide training for both novice and experienced umpires. Contact the Chief Umpire (703) 371-9085) to volunteer.

Scheduled Events

Opening Day

Prior to the first game, FCKLL has an Opening Day Ceremony. Players gather with their teams and march to the Westgate fields. Parents and friends are strongly encouraged to observe. Local dignitaries attend the ceremony and are an important part of the activities. The ceremony is one of the few times that all players are together at one time. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend.

Hit-a-Thon

The annual fundraiser is an important part of the league season. The Hit-A-Thon provides over 40 percent of our operating income. Without it we could not operate. This activity enables the league to provide an enjoyable playing experience for the youth of our community. Each year we try to complete at least one improvement project. We need your help to make this event a success.

Falls Church Memorial Day Parade

Each year on Memorial Day, Fall Church has a citywide parade in which FCKLL participates. Every child is invited to participate. This parade is one way we can show our sponsors who we are, thank them for their support, and put our name in front of the public. Details about the parade will be forthcoming from team managers. It's a great way to spend part of your Memorial Day weekend.

Family Fun Fair and Awards Picnic

The Family Fun Fair and Awards Picnic is when trophies, Hit-A-Thon prizes, and league awards are presented to players. Teams picnic on the grounds of Westgate fields. Fans have the opportunity to watch the AA-Select game and players of various levels participate in parent-child games. It's a great way to end the season.

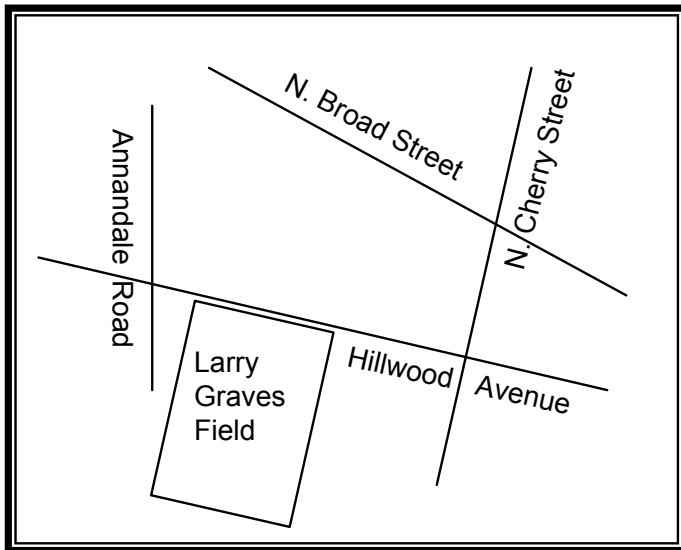
Fall Ball

Registration for the Fall Ball instructional league begins mid-season. During the fall season, FCKLL competes against teams from Arlington, Vienna, Great Falls, McLean, and Reston. Typically, a player registers for the next level up, using Fall Ball as an opportunity to prepare for the upcoming spring season. Players gain valuable experience and to continue to improve their skills. We encourage all players to join. Twelve-year-olds, who will play on a 90-foot diamond in the upcoming season, are encouraged to join a Transition League team to gain experience on the larger field.

Parts of this handbook were adapted from A Parent's Guide to Little League Baseball by Rainer Martens.

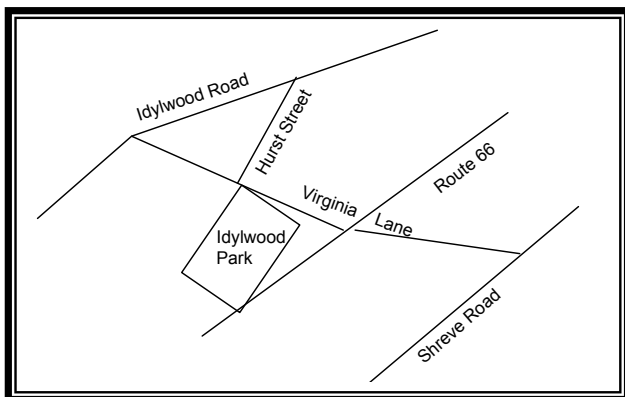
Park Location and Directions

Larry Graves Field



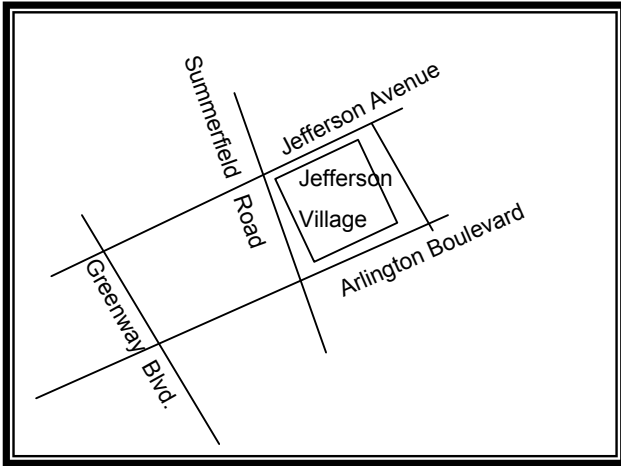
Idylwood Park

Virginia Lane over Route 66



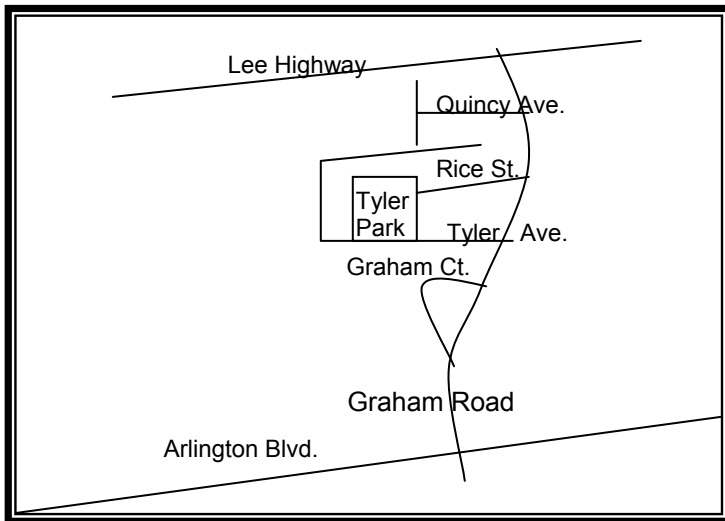
Jefferson Village

Arlington Boulevard and Summerfield Road



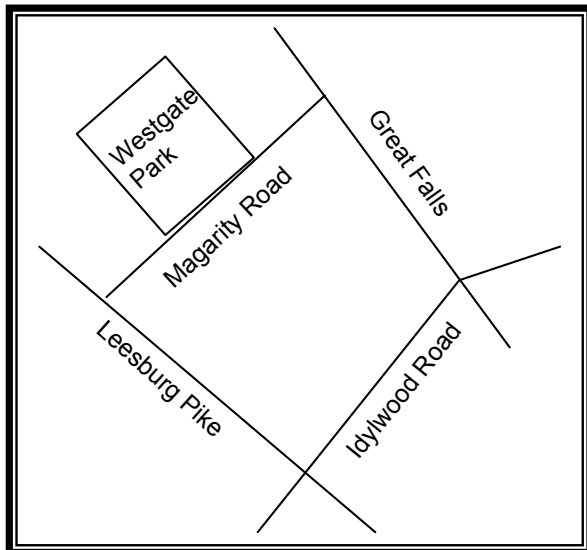
Tyler Park

7200 Tyler Avenue



Westgate Park

7500 Magarity Road



	Actuals Oct '06 - Sep 07	Budget Oct '07 - Sep 08
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Concession Stand		
4100 · Product Sales	15,879.00	15,517.00
4150 · Snack Bar Employees	3,053.00	2,983.00
Total Concession Stand	18,932.00	18,500.00
Fall Ball		
4200 · Equipment Fees	13,242.68	12,500.00
4275 · Registration Fees	13,242.69	12,500.00
Total Fall Ball	26,485.37	25,000.00
Spring Ball		
4225 · Equipment Fees	23,717.51	26,000.00
4250 · Registration Fees	23,717.51	26,000.00
4255 · Volunteer Credits Applied		-6,000.00
Total Spring Ball	47,435.02	46,000.00
4300 · Hitathon	33,536.48	38,500.00
4350 · Events, Awards, Etc.		425.00
4500 · Team Sponsorship Fees	12,950.00	16,000.00
4600 · Miscellaneous		50.00
4700 · Interest	7,765.43	1,200.00
4800 · Training Clinic Fees	12,065.00	13,200.00
4850 · nationals ticket sales	3,474.00	3,500.00
4875 · Fundraising Support		1,500.00
Total Income	162,643.30	163,875.00
Expense		
Administration		
5010 · Bank/Check Fees	73.50	100.00
5015 · Copying	99.63	100.00
5020 · Office Supplies	417.73	500.00
5025 · Postage		250.00
5030 · Other	433.39	500.00
5040 · Board Room Rental	577.00	600.00
5050 · Software Purchase		1,500.00
5060 · Special Events		300.00
Total Administration	1,601.25	3,850.00

All Stars

5310 - All-Stars	11,073.76	7,500.00
6210 - All-Stars Trophies	4,196.44	5,000.00
6750 - All Star Travel		3,000.00
Total All Stars	15,270.20	15,500.00

Concession Stand Expenses

5110 - Cost of Goods Sold	9,507.86	10,000.00
5130 - Supplies	71.87	100.00
5135 - Snack Bar Equip. Repair	315.84	400.00
5140 - Staffing	4,762.90	4,800.00
Total Concession Stand Expenses	14,658.47	15,300.00
Equipment	40,677.76	46,040.00

Field Maintenance

5410 - Contractual	29,006.60	35,000.00
5420 - Repairs (o/s contract)	1,905.13	1,750.00
5430 - Supplies/Gas	1,984.68	2,000.00
5455 - Paint/Field Decoration	585.00	675.00
Total Field Maintenance	33,481.41	39,425.00

Field Usage Fees

6800 - Fall	814.00	1,500.00
6810 - Spring	2,271.00	2,425.00
Total Field Usage Fees	3,085.00	3,925.00

Hitathon Expenses

6410 - Administration	21.41	750.00
6420 - Prizes - Tickets	1,350.00	750.00
6425 - Prizes - Transportation		750.00
Total Hitathon Expenses	1,371.41	2,250.00

Little League Fees

5610 - Charter	2,282.70	2,700.00
5620 - District 4	400.00	400.00
Total Little League Fees	2,682.70	3,100.00

Other Expenses

6600 - Challenger League	93.39	500.00
6650 - National Tickets	2,520.00	2,600.00
6700 - Sponsorship Exps	2,364.47	2,350.00
Total Other Expenses	4,977.86	5,450.00

Registration Expenses

5910 - Postage	252.75	250.00
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5920 · Room Rental	480.00	480.00
5930 · Copying/Labels/Printing	1,625.10	1,625.00
5940 · T-Shirts	2,160.00	2,200.00
5950 · Try Out Room Rental		350.00
5955 · Try Out Equipment	57.62	200.00
Total Registration Expenses	<u>4,575.47</u>	<u>5,105.00</u>
Training		
6005 · Coaches	0.00	550.00
6010 · Equipment	91.06	100.00
6020 · Fees	7,765.53	7,800.00
6025 · Staffing	510.00	500.00
6030 · Room Rental	633.57	750.00
Total Training	<u>9,000.16</u>	<u>9,700.00</u>
Trophies & Awards		
6230 · Spring	456.75	5,000.00
Total Trophies & Awards	<u>456.75</u>	<u>5,000.00</u>
Umpires		
6100 · Equipment	1,775.90	1,500.00
6120 · Training		500.00
6130 · Staffing	10,281.00	9,200.00
Total Umpires	<u>12,056.90</u>	<u>11,200.00</u>
Utilities		
6310 · Electric	1,436.97	1,500.00
6320 · Telephone	1,264.78	1,300.00
6330 · Water	102.63	105.00
Total Utilities	<u>2,804.38</u>	<u>2,905.00</u>
5210 · Parent Handbook	517.50	600.00
5700 · President's Fund	237.50	300.00
5800 · Publicity	1,508.80	1,500.00
5850 · Opening Day Ceremonies	20.93	300.00
8000 · Family Fun Fair	375.00	375.00
8100 · Memorial Day Parade	186.12	250.00
Total Expense	<u>149,545.57</u>	<u>172,075.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>13,097.73</u>	<u>-8,200.00</u>
Net Income	<u><u>13,097.73</u></u>	<u><u>-8,200.00</u></u>

Little League Pledge

I trust in God
I love my country
And will respect its laws
I will play fair
And strive to win
But win or lose
I will always
Do my best

The Little League 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 decision of the umpires
I will praise a good effort
despite the outcome of the game

Celebrating 60 years
1948--2008