

## Lionville Little League – Frequently Asked Questions

### **Organization and Structure**

- Q. Is Lionville Little League a part of the Lionville Youth Association or separate?
- A. The Lionville Little League is one program offered under the umbrella of the Lionville Youth Association.
- Q. Who oversees the Lionville Little League?
- A. The Lionville Little League President (2005 – Steve Reber) is responsible for the overall little league program. A Baseball Committee is in place to discuss issues and vote on changes. The Baseball Committee is a “working committee” in that members must serve a greater role in the running of the little league program than simply being a coach or interested parent. The Lionville Little League President chairs the Baseball Committee.
- Q. We hear different names as commissioners within Lionville Little League. Is there just one commissioner (like Major League Baseball) or are there many?
- A. There are many. Unlike Major League Baseball, all positions within Lionville Little League are volunteer positions with the exception of game umpires. Each Youth Division league (T-Ball, Rookie B, Rookie A, Minor B, Minor A and Majors) has a commissioner overseeing each league. The Teen Division (Junior, Senior and Big League) has one commissioner overseeing all three leagues.

### **Registration**

- Q. Why is registration so early (i.e. January)?
- A. We must hold registration in late January to allow enough time for pre-season planning and scheduling, coach recruiting, assignments and training, equipment and uniform ordering, team formation, etc. The amount of work that goes on behind the scenes during pre-season to prepare for the upcoming season is enormous.
- Q. Why are there different registration fees for different age levels?
- A. Different age levels have different needs/costs such as equipment and umpiring related fees.
- Q. Why can't I sign my child up for whatever level I want – age appropriate or skill appropriate?
- A. We receive a number of these requests every year. Our position is that every player should play in his age appropriate league. Only under rare circumstances, would players be allowed to a “play-up” and that would be with Baseball Committee approval based on input from prior years' coaches. There is a wide range of skill levels within every age group.
- Q. Who determines the birth date cut-off
- A. Little League International headquartered in Williamsport, PA dictates this date. Beginning in 2006, the birth date cut-off is April 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Q. Why do you require birth certificates at registration (beginning in 2006)?
- A. Some parents, to get their child to play in the league that they want, will lie about their child's birth date.

- Q. Who can play in Lionville Little League?
- A. Players residing in Uwchlan, West Pikeland and the Northern section on East Caln townships can participate in Lionville Little League. This territory is dictated by Little League International. We cannot accept players residing outside of this territory in our little league program per Little League International.

Players who reside outside of this territory but formerly resided in this territory and played in Lionville Little League while residing in this territory can continue to play in Lionville Little League as long as they do so continuously without any breaks/time off.

### **Coaching**

- Q. How are coaching assignments determined?
- A. Coaching assignments are made by the league commissioner with the approval of the Lionville Little League President. Assignments are not based solely on ability to teach baseball skills and knowledge of baseball. Coaching assignments are taken very seriously as we look for responsible adults who will be good role models for the players, have strong organization and communication skills, will commit to being knowledgeable of the rules that apply to their league and follow and enforce the rules and policies, and respect the authority and decisions made by game officials, league commissioners, Little League President and LYA officials. Coach evaluation forms are distributed every year by coaches to their players' parents that also serve as a tool when deciding on future coaching assignments.

### **Rules**

- Q. Who determines the rules?
- A. Little League International establishes the basic rules for local Little Leagues to follow. They also allow local Little Leagues to modify the rules for their "internal" leagues. LYA and Lionville Little League Baseball Committee have developed policies and rules that either override or are in addition to Little League International rules. All rules are provided to and reviewed with coaches before the season begins.
- Q. How can rules be changed?
- A. A Baseball Committee member must propose any rule change to the Baseball Committee. A majority vote in favor of the revision or addition by Baseball Committee members results in a change.
- Q. How can I obtain a copy of the rules?

- A. Lionville Little League provides copies of the rules to every coach prior to each season. If you would like to review or make a copy of the rules, you should ask your child's coach.

### **All-Star Games**

- Q. Who determines who plays in All-Star games?
- A. Coaches nominate players from their own team to participate in the All-Star game.
  
- Q. Why are All-Star games played on the Monday of Memorial Day Weekend?
- A. All-Star games have only recently been introduced. They have not been part of our program since Lionville Little League's inception 35 years ago.

Field space is scarce and extremely valuable towards the end of every season. Games that have been rained-out need to be made up and playoffs begin. Playoffs need to be completed by approximately June 15<sup>th</sup> every year. A suggestion was made to hold All-Star games on the Monday holiday as we do not schedule any other games on that day and the All-Star games would not interfere with the schedules. The holiday weekend would also afford the opportunity to family who do not live close by to attend the games.

### **Tournament Teams**

- Q. How are these teams selected?
- A. The player selection process for each age level is slightly different but the one constant among every process is input from the coaches. Players on these teams should represent the strongest skilled baseball players for each age group WHO CAN MAKE THE COMMITMENT.
  
- Q. What is the required commitment of tournament team players?
- A. Players are expected to make a 100% commitment to be available and attend every practice and game. Parents should not plan vacations during the latter half of June and the month of July that would prevent them from making this commitment should their child be selected for a tournament team.