



2023 Divisions within BLL

Birmingham Little League (**BLL**) is composed of six age-based divisions. Little League International's and, therefore, BLL's age determination guidelines are based on an August 31st cut-off date. Please refer to our website for your player's Little League age. In certain circumstances, BLL may assign a player to a division different than his/her Little League age based upon player skill. These decisions will always be made with players' parents or guardians.

TEE BALL – Entry-level into Little League. Some players have participated in the YMCA baseball program; others are beginning their baseball careers. Players are age 5 with some 4 or 6 year old. Player Rosters are 10-15 players. We use the tee exclusively and soft Tee Balls are used. The diamond has 50 ft base paths and all players are positioned in the field during the game. No score is kept and each player plays the entire game. Coaches teach the fundamentals and need to be highly organized. Soliciting help from parents is highly recommended to keep players engaged. The primary goals are teamwork, camaraderie and understanding the rules of the game. Teams are assigned by school, location and/or special requests. Players are provided with a jersey and a cap. **Practice is on Saturday; Games are twice a week Monday through Friday at 6:00**

COACH PITCH –Suggested ages are 6 & 7 with some 5 (with Tee Ball experience) and some 8. Many players begin their baseball experience at this level. Teams are league-assigned and player rosters can be between 12 – 14 players. Coaches pitch to their own players. Soft Tee Balls are used. The diamond has 55 foot base paths and all players are positioned in the field during the game. In addition, all players rotate from infield to outfield every other inning to the best extent possible depending on roster size/attendance. We begin to keep score and standings. Coaches continue to teach the fundamentals and need to remain highly organized. The use of multiple coaches is highly recommended. Teamwork, camaraderie and understanding the rules remain primary objectives. Teams are assigned by school, location and/or special requests. Players are provided with a jersey and a cap. **Practice – Saturday or Sunday; Games are twice a week Monday through Friday at 6:00**

MINORS – Transition level into Little League baseball. Most players have participated in two years of Coach Pitch. Players are usually 8 with some being 9 (and above average 7 year olds invited by BLL). The use of a Pitching Machine (PM) is introduced into practice and games based upon a schedule determined by BLL in furtherance of the following goals:

- A.) To provide pitchers adequate time to train
- B.) To allow hitters to hit more pitches in the strike zone
- C.) To keep our fielders active and engaged as much as possible

RIF (Risk Injury Factor) balls are used. Main objectives are to develop pitching and positional skills. Managers have rosters of no more than 14 players and 5 outfielders are used in a game. Players only play 1 year of Minors. Player Draft where coaches select their players – no special requests are granted. Players are provided with a jersey and a cap. **Practice is on Saturday; Games are twice a week Monday through Friday at 6:00**

ASSOCIATION – Ages are mostly 9 & 10 year olds (and possibly below average 11 year olds with BLL approval) and roster size is usually 13 players on a team. Player skills begin to develop and managers have a better understanding of Little League. Rule changes are minor and we look for managers to heighten their teaching of teamwork principles. RIF balls are used. This is our first level of full player pitching and the need for a manager to recruit full-time coaches is highly recommended. Player Draft where coaches select their players – no special requests are granted. Players are provided with a jersey, cap and socks. **Practice is on Saturday; Games are twice a week Monday through Friday at 6:00**

MAJORS – The last level of Little League rules. Managers have experience and organization to present the full baseball experience. The league will be made up of 11 and 12 year olds and, on a rare exception, 10 year olds. We limit the rosters to 12 players so each child experiences more playing time. Real LL baseballs are used. Player Draft where coaches select their teams – no special requests are granted. Players are provided with a jersey, cap and socks. **Practice is on Saturday; Games are twice a week Monday through Friday at 6:00**

JUNIORS – This league is limited to 13 & 14 year-olds (and 15 year-olds yet to enter High School) ONLY. Preparation for High School baseball is the objective. The pitching mound is set 54 feet from home plate and base paths are set at 80 feet. Pitching and defense are keys for this division. We limit the rosters to 12 players so each child experiences more playing time. Player Draft where coaches select their teams – no special requests are granted. Players are provided with a jersey, cap and socks. **Practice is on Saturday; Games are twice a week Monday through Friday at 6:00**