



2026 SPRING SEASON
REGISTRATION
GUIDE

www.wsllbaseball.net

LET'S PLAY BALL



Welcome new and returning families to the 2026 spring baseball season! Every year, more than 600 athletes from across our community descend upon the ballfields at our Byron complex where they will develop the skills to play baseball for years to come, along with acquiring an appreciation for sportsmanship, teamwork, pride and integrity.

Please take a few minutes to read through this guide which contains helpful information regarding player eligibility, how to register, team formation, and key dates.

Thank you for your continued support of our league and for making this a great season of baseball.

Sincerely,
John Ellison
President, West Springfield Little League



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FAMILY FAQS



WHAT AGES ARE ELIGIBLE TO PLAY?

Girls and boys who are League Age 5-12 are eligible to play with WSLL in our 5T through Majors divisions. Players League Age 13 can play at the Intermediate (IM) division if available. League Age can be determined by visiting the calculator on the Little League website:

littleleague.org/play-little-league/determine-league-age

DO I HAVE TO LIVE NEARBY TO PLAY FOR WSLL?

League eligibility is determined by any of the three following methods:

1. In 2025, Little League updated Regulation II to permit any player through League Age 7 to participate in any league they wish, regardless of where they live or go to school. Older siblings are permitted to play in the same league if the younger sibling is joining based on Regulation II.
2. If a player attends a school that falls within the boundaries of WSLL, they are eligible to play for the league. A list of eligible schools can be found during the registration process.
3. Any player who can establish proof of residency within the defined boundaries of WSLL is permitted to play for the league.

Families are encouraged to use the Little League League Finder to help determine eligibility:

littleleague.org/play-little-league/league-finder/

WHEN ARE PRACTICES & WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

There is not a set day of the week for practices. Practice start time is at manager discretion and typically starts between 5:15-5:45 on weeknights, running for 1.5 - 2 hours depending upon the division level and team. We make every effort to avoid Sunday commitments unless required based on rainouts.

5T: Combined practice & game on Saturdays

Tee Ball: 1 weeknight practice; games on Saturdays

1A: 1-2 weeknight events (game or practice); game on Saturdays

AA-Majors: 1-2 weeknight events (game or practice); game on Saturdays



WHEN DOES THE SEASON START & END?

Evaluations at required divisions will occur in late January and early February. Teams will be formed by late February with practices for most divisions starting in early March. Games at AA and above will begin the last week in March while games at 1A and below will start on April 11th. Games are scheduled to run through Saturday June 6th.

WHAT EQUIPMENT IS PROVIDED BY THE LEAGUE?

Registration fees cover the cost of a team jersey and hat. Families will need to provide socks, a belt, and pants (gray at Majors, white at AAA and below). Coaches will have league provided catcher's gear, bats, and helmets if you do not have your own. Players should have their own glove, cleats, and protective cup

HOW ARE TEAMS FORMED? CAN I REQUEST TEAMMATES?

At 5T, Tee Ball, and 1A, teams are formed based on player requests and school attendance. We make every effort to fulfill all requests, but they are not guaranteed.

AA, AAA, and Majors teams are formed by a draft and no requests can be made. Returning Majors players are automatically assigned to the same team as the previous spring. AA and AAA players are re-drafted with each new season.

ARE THERE TRYOUTS?

Evaluations are held in late January and early February for specific divisions. All players registered for Majors (except those already assigned to a team) and AAA are required to participate in the evaluation process. Select AA players – those who did not play in the previous spring season, and children of coaches – will be asked to participate in evaluations.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

WSLL is a 100% volunteer based organization and relies upon dedicated families to make it run. We provide our volunteer coaches with training materials, practice plans, and other resources to ensure they deliver a great baseball experience for every player on the team. There is no shortage of opportunities to get involved, including: managing a team, serving as an assistant or practice coach, being a team parent, scorekeeping during games, assisting with field maintenance before/after games, working the concession stand, and helping the league run special events during the season. Some roles are presented during the registration process. Ask your coach on day 1 what other ways you can pitch in.

SEASON DETAILS



Key dates for the upcoming season are:

Early January

MANAGER SELECTION

Majors managers will be interviewed & selected based on league policy. Managers at other levels will be confirmed and additional volunteers will be solicited if needed.

January 31 & February 7

PLAYER EVALUATIONS

All non-returning Majors players, select AA players, and those seeking an age waiver will undergo evaluations on Jan-31. AAA players and make-ups will be held on Feb-7.

Mid-February

DRAFT & TEAM FORMATION

AA, AAA, and Majors teams will be formed by manager draft. Players will be notified shortly after being drafted regarding team placements. 5T, Tee Ball, and 1A teams will be formed based on schools, neighborhoods, and requests.

Early March

PRACTICES BEGIN

Most divisions will begin practicing the first week of March at assigned school fields. 5T practices will begin in April.

Late March / Early April

GAMES BEGIN

AA, AAA, and Majors will play games starting the week of March-23. **Families should expect games to be played on Saturday March 28th.** 5T through 1A will begin the week after FCPS Spring Break. Unless required, games will not be held over Memorial Day weekend.

Early June

SEASON ENDS

Championship games & closing ceremonies will be held on June 6th.

REGISTRATION FEES



Please find below the approved rates for the 2026 spring season.

PLAYING LEVEL	STANDARD REGISTRATION RATE
5T	\$95
Tee Ball	\$135
1A (Machine Pitch)	\$190
AA	\$190
AAA	\$190
Majors	\$190
Intermediate (IM)	\$190

SIBLING DISCOUNT

There is a \$25 discount per player for the second child and any children beyond within the same family.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

No child will be turned away due to an inability to pay, regardless of ability. If you wish to apply for a league scholarship, please contact WSLL scholarship chair, Jason Suter, or fill out an online application from our website.

Please note that scholarships do not cover the volunteer fee, which is fully refundable. This can be paid via a check that will not be cashed, as long as you meet the volunteer requirements. You can also pay by card, and the charge will be refunded once requirements are met.



VOLUNTEER FEE

To successfully run a baseball season requires hundreds of hours of volunteer effort above what can be performed by the WSLI Board of Directors.

Accordingly, WSLI charges a \$200 refundable volunteer fee to each family (excluding families with players only registered at the 5T and T-ball levels) in order to incentivize families to perform that work or to use the funds to contract out such work.

The volunteer fee also helps WSLI avoid time consuming fund-raising endeavors that can be frustrating for both players and parents.

HOW IS THE FEE PAID AND REFUNDED?

If paying by credit card, the \$200 volunteer fee must be pre-paid when registering online. The full fee will be refunded later if your volunteer work requirements are met.

WAYS TO EARN BACK THE VOLUNTEER FEE

- Working one (1) four-hour shift on any of the dates during any of the preseason field preparation dates
- Working two (2) 3-hour shifts in the Snack Bar/Concession Stand, two (2) tryout sessions (as available), two (2) league equipment pick up/turn-in sessions, or any combination of two (2) shifts of these activities
- Attending umpire training and umpiring five (5) games at the 1A level or above
- Serving as a League photographer and submitting photos that meet the requirements specified by the WSLI Yearbook chairperson
- Serving as a Team Manager at the 1A level or above, plus two (2) sessions assisting WSLI Board Members while they perform Gray Hat duties
- Volunteering for special events (e.g., Byronfest)
- Special Projects in Facility Improvement as approved by Volunteer Coordinator and League President





UNIFORM SPECS AND SIZING

All players must provide their own pants. 5T, T-ball, 1A, AA and AAA players must wear white baseball pants. Majors players must wear gray baseball pants. Please ensure you make uniform selections when you register so we can place our order to guarantee delivery in time for the start of the season.

The size chart below is a generic size chart issued by the manufacturer and is used for many different styles. The Average Age is meant only as a basic recommendation. We recommend you measure your players before you complete the registration.

JERSEY SIZE CHART									
SIZE	YXS	YS	YM	YL	YXL	AS	AM	AL	AXL
Chest	27-29	28-30	31-33	33-35	36-38	37-39	39-41	43-45	47-49
Avg. Age	4-5	6-8	8-10	10-12	-	-	-	-	-

ELIGIBILITY & PLAYING LEVEL

AGE REQUIREMENTS TO PLAY WITH WSL

Girls and Boys who are League Age 5-12 can register for 5T through Majors divisions. Players League Age 13 can participate in our Intermediate division. Families should check the age calculator on the Little league website to confirm a player's League Age:

littleleague.org/play-little-league/determine-league-age

DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE DIVISIONS

The following divisions of play are available with WSSL for players aged 5-12.

5T: Introduction to baseball concepts and skills for 5 year olds. Teams meet weekly on Saturdays for 90 minutes. The weekly meetings will consist of two parts, a practice session and a game.

TEE BALL: For players, typically age 6, who require some training in basic baseball concepts and skills. Teams will meet for one weeknight practice each week and have games on Saturdays.



1A: Our machine pitch division that introduces players ages 6-8 to more structured play of baseball. To play at this division, a player should be comfortable standing at the plate with the ball traveling from the machine at 36 MPH, be able to spend the majority of a game alert and paying attention, generally be able to field the ball, know where the play should occur, and occasionally be able to catch with proper form.

AA: Introduction to kid pitch designed for players 8-10 years old. Players at this level should feel confident stepping up to the plate, not be afraid to get hit by the ball, and consistently making contact on pitches. Players should be able to catch the majority of balls thrown to them 50 feet away, be able to throw accurately from 50 feet, and have good form when fielding the ball.

AAA: For more advanced players ages 9-11. Players should be able to throw and catch with ease from a distance of 60 feet and greater. At the plate, batters should have a keen sense of the strike zone and be able to consistently hit the ball with power. Players should be able to handle routine grounders with ease, be able to track and catch fly balls, and consistently know where the play should be prior to the ball being hit.

MAJORS: For players ages 10-12. Players who are League Age 12 are required to play at this level. At this point, players should have a very strong understanding of the game and meet all the qualification criteria listed for the AAA level. Players should have had some success in AAA; or, if they never played in AAA, demonstrate through evaluations or their play at other levels or leagues that they could have.

INTERMEDIATE: For players League Age 13. All events will be held on a modified field with 70' base paths and a 50' mound. This division is designed to prepare players for the eventual jump to a 60/90 full-size field.



WAIVER PROCESS



While the above mentioned age ranges at each division of play are standard for the league, WSLI does permit players at certain ages to “play-up” if they are deemed eligible and space permits. Any player requesting a waiver must participate in the scheduled evaluations.

Questions are included in the registration process to indicate a family’s interest in being considered for a waiver.

LEAGUE AGE 6 PLAYERS

Players who are League Age 6 and registering for Tee Ball are eligible to be considered for play at the 1A (machine pitch) division.

These players should be able to comfortably hit off a machine throwing at 36 MPH, reliably field the ball, make accurate throws with good mechanics, and be able to catch most balls thrown.

LEAGUE AGE 7 PLAYERS

Players who are League Age 7 and registering for 1A are eligible to be considered for play at the AA division.

These players should have demonstrated the ability to frequently hit the ball to the outfield at the 1A level. Players should be able to routinely field the ball, catch fly balls, and make accurate throws across the field. Players should also be able to reach the plate on pitches from a 46' mound.

PROCESS TO REQUEST A WAIVER

- 1 When registering, indicate your player would like to be considered for an age waiver.
- 2 Contact the league Player Agent (player.agent@wsllbaseball.net) to confirm your intent to be considered
- 3 Attend the scheduled evaluation at your assigned time on January 31st.

Approved Age 6 players will be placed on a 1A team. Age 7 players will be included in the AA draft. **Please be aware that:**

- If the waiver is approved, your child may play with other children that could be up to 3 years older than him/her
- If the waiver is approved, your child may play in weekday games that may run past 9pm
- No refunds will be provided based on the denial of an age waiver for any reason
- If your player registers to play during the following fall season, he/she must register at the same level played during the spring season.

HOW TO REGISTER

- 1 Create an account and player profile(s) at wsllbaseball.net
- 2 Log into your account and click the PROGRAMS AVAILABLE button next to a player's profile
- 3 Select the desired division level and proceed
- 4 Complete the program questions section. If you are new to the league, *you will need to upload a copy of the player's birth certificate as proof of age.*

In the residency & school eligibility sections, you may choose which of the methods to verify eligibility. **It is strongly encouraged that you use the school enrollment form as it only needs to be completed once** during a player's Little League career so long as he/she does not change schools. The 3 forms of proof of residency, however, must be completed annually if you elect to use that method.

- 5 Proceed to select any volunteer roles, submit payment, and complete the registration. Be sure to save the email which will serve as confirmation your player has been registered.

EVALUATIONS & PLAYER DRAFT



It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure their player(s) attend tryouts. Please arrive 15 minutes ahead of your child's scheduled time. Any player requesting an age waiver and does not attend tryouts will result in an automatic denial of the age waiver request

WHO NEEDS TO ATTEND AN EVALUATION?

AA: Players who did not play in the previous spring season, children of confirmed Team Managers, and children of pre-selected Assistant Coaches

AAA: All players, including children of confirmed Team Managers

MAJORS: All players who did not play Majors in the previous spring season. Little League requires any player seeking to play at the Majors division to attend an evaluation or he/she will be ineligible to play at that level

WAIVER PLAYERS: League Age 6 players seeking a waiver to play up to 1A and League Age 7 player seeking a waiver to play up to AA must attend the evaluation

WHEN ARE EVALUATIONS HELD?

- **Saturday January 31:** Non-returning Majors players, select AA players, and LA6/7 players seeking an age waiver
- **Saturday February 7:** All AAA players and any other player needing a makeup

Individual evaluation times will be sent to applicable families no later than 1 week prior to the evaluation dates.

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN THE EVALUATIONS

Evaluations will last approximately 30 minutes. Players will be observed by 10-20 coaches as they are given three pitches off of a machine plus three grounders & three fly balls thrown by a coach. Players also have the option of throwing three pitches and also to catch.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER EVALUATIONS ARE CONDUCTED

Approximately two weeks after tryouts, the drafts for the Majors, AAA, and AA playing levels will be conducted. Some players who tried out for Majors (or AAA) may go undrafted and will then be automatically entered in the AAA (or AA) draft. Players will be notified of their team assignment 1-2 days following each draft.



WSLL conducts three separate drafts for the AA, AAA, and Majors divisions. These events are only for the applicable coaches and assigned board members.

MAJORS DRAFT PROCESS

- The first of our three league drafts; typically held in mid-February
- All League Age 12 players will be registered to the Majors level and must be drafted to a Majors team, unless a special age waiver to play in AAA is requested by the parent and approved by the District Administrator
- Any League Age 10 or League Age 11 player who registered for Majors and was not selected will automatically be reassigned to the AAA division and placed in that draft pool.

AAA DRAFT PROCESS

- The second of our three league drafts; typically held a few days after the Majors draft
- All League Age 11 players in the AAA draft pool will be drafted to a AAA team
- Players in the AAA draft pool who played AAA in the prior WSLL spring season are required to be drafted at the AAA level regardless of their age
- Any League Age 9 or League Age 10 player who registered for AAA and was not selected will automatically be reassigned to the AA division and placed in that draft pool.

AA DRAFT PROCESS

- The final of our three league drafts; typically held a few days after the AAA draft
- All players in the AA draft pool must be selected and assigned to a AA team



CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION

By registering to play for West Springfield Little League, I have read and accepted these conditions of registration. In addition, I affirm that I have read the registration guide containing additional information about the season.

TRYOUTS & DRAFT

I understand that Little League International requires my player to attend at least one tryout scheduled by the League to be considered eligible for team assignment at the AAA and Majors level. A subset of players are required to tryout at the AA level. The League will publish tryout dates in its registration guide and will communicate the date and time of each player's tryout in late January. Failure to attend your scheduled tryout may result in your player being deemed ineligible for the season. No refund will be offered if you fail to attend your tryout and are determined to be ineligible for the season.

I understand that by registering my player for AA and above, I consent to their team assignment via draft in accordance with Little League International and WSLI rules and policies. No requests for team assignments or changes will be accepted. In addition, I understand that more players register for a division than there are roster spots available. Therefore, I understand that if my player goes undrafted at the level in which they are registered, they will drop to the next available level and be placed in the draft pool. League Age 10 players who register for Majors are able to drop two levels to AA if they go undrafted in the Majors and AAA drafts.

BEHAVIOR

I understand that failure by either a parent or player to abide by Little League, WSLI, or team rules is grounds for suspension, and removal of the player from the league. Grounds for such actions include: persistent, unexcused absences from practices; verbal and physical abuse of parents, coaches, managers, umpires or league officials; misuse of league grounds and equipment; violations of public law; and any other behavior that undermines the league's effort to conduct itself according to the rules of Little League Baseball. Additional information regarding behavior can be found in our Administrative Policy and on the Little League website.



REFUND POLICY

SPRING SEASON Upon written request submitted to the President (president@wsllbaseball.net (treasurer@wsllbaseball.net) or Treasurer) received before January 31 (on or before March 1 for 1A and below), the League will refund 100% of amounts paid. Upon written request submitted to the President or Treasurer before the last day of tryouts, the League will refund 50% of the registration fee and 100% of any volunteer fee paid. **No refund will be given after tryouts conclude except for military move or serious injury.** No refunds will be provided based on the denial of an age waiver for any reason. A \$10 handling charge for all refunds will be assessed. A \$15 returned check fee will be charged for all returned checks (not sufficient funds/closed account.)

FALL SEASON: Upon written request submitted to the President (president@wsllbaseball.net) or Treasurer (treasurer@wsllbaseball.net) received before team formation the League will refund 100% of amounts paid. **Following team formation, no refund will be given except for military move or serious injury.** A \$10 handling charge for all refunds will be assessed. A \$15 returned check fee will be charged for all returned checks (not sufficient funds/closed account).

INFECTIOUS AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

I understand that participation in sports includes possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases, including but not limited to MRSA, influenza, and COVID-19, which could cause serious complications or even death. I agree to follow the terms and conditions for participation as regards protection against infectious diseases imposed by the WSLI board of directors. If I become ill during the season, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the appropriate league officials.

IMAGE RELEASE

I grant WSLI the right for myself, my family and my minor child/children to use photographs, voice recordings, or video taken of me during the games and events associated with WSLI in any manner to help promote the league activities as determined in the sole discretion of WSLI. Such use could include live streaming through third party applications, publications, media releases, announcements, electronic or otherwise, and on league websites or social media pages. I understand that neither I, my family, nor my child/children/ward will receive any compensation if such material appears in any of the manners listed above or any other manner that the league deems appropriate. I agree that such material is the property of WSLI.



RAINOUTS

Unless otherwise notified by their manager or the league, players must come to the game field. On weekdays, the league attempts to make a decision regarding the status of scheduled games by 3pm, then will communicate that information via email or website posting. On weekends, when the weather is so bad that there clearly will be wholesale cancellations, WSLI endeavors to communicate cancellations as soon as they are known.

DISPUTES

I understand that the team must try to satisfy up to 12 different families, within the restraints imposed by the Rules of Little League Baseball and WSLI. Thus, if I cannot volunteer to be a manager or coach, I will do my best to support the manager. If I have a serious disagreement with the manager, I will seek an appointment with him or her away from a game setting to discuss my concern. I understand that, if the dispute cannot be resolved, I may contact the League Director, who is my manager's supervisor. League Director email addresses can be accessed through the web site. I also may contact the Vice President for Baseball Operations, who supervises the League Directors, or the President any time I have a concern or question that cannot be resolved at the team level.

UMPIRES

I understand that if I do not volunteer to umpire, and if no one on my team volunteers to umpire, there may be no umpires for my child's games. WSLI has multiple training opportunities for new and returning umpires. The league does not assign umpires to 5T, T-Ball, and 1A games. While WSLI endeavors to attract and assign at least one umpire to AA, AAA, and Majors games, our experience indicates that on average volunteers will cover only 75% of the games (less at lower levels, more at higher levels). Umpires are to be treated with all due respect. Our adult umpires are volunteers and our youth umpires are learning the art of being an umpire while providing a needed service to our League.





CONTACT INFORMATION

REGISTRAR – For support with technical issues.

Santiago Navarro

registrar@wsllbaseball.net

PLAYER AGENT – For support with division placement questions, age waivers, and other player related issues.

Jason Suter

player.agent@wsllbaseball.net

PRESIDENT – Any other issues, concerns, or questions.

John Ellison

president@wsllbaseball.net