

7th Inning Stretch

Remember...If it isn't fun...it isn't Little League!!!



February 2009

Volume 4, Number 12

Last Issue!!!

No, not likely! The last issue of the 4th year of this version of the Stretch...As I move into the 5th year of putting out this newsletter, I want to thank all who have contributed to what it is...Hopefully people are getting something out of it, as I believe they are. I am still looking for contributors, as well as fresh ideas to keep it interesting...send me your thoughts, ideas, and contributions...all are quite welcome!

Until next month...

Thanks for taking the time to read this and every issue.

Bob Taunton, Editor, The 7th Inning Stretch

Play Ball!

Email: thestretch@littleleague.ca

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2009 Camp Dates Are Out!

By Jamie Joy, Manager of Operations, Little League International

Do you remember going away to camp? It has been a lifetime for me but what I do remember are the vivid memories of having a great time. Why not team up with Little League this summer and provide your son with this same experience at one of our three Little Leagues camps. Several sessions of week-long instruction are offered at Little League's Eastern regional headquarters, Little League International, in Williamsport, Pa., home of the annual Little League Baseball World Series, and Green Acres in Hillsgrove, Pa. Youngsters are encouraged to develop leadership skills and self-confidence amid newfound friends.

The nice thing about a Little League camp is it provides your son with a well rounded experience away from home. Not only will your son learn about baseball but he will also learn character, courage and loyalty. The camp schedule is created to maximize fun for your youngster, with activities including swimming, volleyball, basketball, and ping pong, all locations provide a well-rounded total camp experience. Your son will leave our camp having a fun-filled experience and acquire a ton of baseball skill and knowledge. Little League Summer Camp emphasizes fundamentals, sportsmanship, and just plain fun, as youngsters learn baseball as the game should be played. The comprehensive program challenges campers to improve their batting and individual skills, experiment at new positions, and gain actual game experience as part of a camp team. Achievement awards, recognizing baseball and other recreational skills, are presented at the conclusion of camp. We have openings at all four of our camps but sessions are filling fast! So don't delay and register today!

http://www.littleleague.org/Learn_More/About_Our_Organization/Baseball_Camps.htm

The Umpire's Corner

By Bill Carter , Western Region Umpire-In-Chief

Article taken from *The Little League International Umpire Publication "Fairball"*



Getting Ready for the Season

This is the time for all Little League Volunteer Baseball and Softball Umpires, new and experienced, to get ready for the upcoming season. There are three primary areas all umpires need to focus on prior to the start of the baseball and softball season. They are equipment, physical, and mental readiness. Let's take a look at these three basic important areas.

An umpire's equipment is a very important and vital part of safety, comfort and appearance. All protection equipment, chest protector, shin guards, mask, and other associated personal equipment should be checked to make sure that all straps, clips, fasteners and padding are in good condition and will provide the utmost protection and versatility for the umpire. The outer garments need to be checked also to make sure the uniform fits the individual so he or she can look their best on the field. If any of the equipment needs to be replaced, it should be done at this time, while equipment is available at the umpire outfitters. For new umpires just starting out, one of your questions might be, what do I need to get started? Your best resource would be to confide in your league or district Umpire-in-Chief (UIC) for their input and experience. The local league you are umpiring in might be able to help you get started with your first set of gear and uniform. The local league UIC can provide you with information on umpire outfitters such as Honigs Whistle Stop that can help you get started. Find out first what uniform is required by your local organization before you get started.

The physical part of the umpire's readiness is also very important. Months before getting on the field for the first time after the long winter off season, the umpire should start a physical exercise program to get into good condition. Start getting those muscles in shape by starting your conditioning program slowly and working up to 45-to-60 minutes a day. Start off slowly, by simply walking 30 minutes a day with some resistive exercises. Get yourself into a state of physical readiness so when you get on the field you can perform your duties without injuring yourself, losing time from work, while enjoying the vocation you look forward doing...umpiring.

The third, and just as important as the other two, is mental readiness. During the offseason, Little League umpires should get into a rules instruction and mechanic clinic as soon as one becomes. It's very important to keep up on the rule changes for the new year and also to refresh those field mechanic drills and tune up to learn any new skills. There are many resources available for beginner and experienced umpires. Little League rulebooks and other training resources can be ordered through Little League's Online Store at www.LittleLeaguestore.net. Williamsport and all Little League Regional Centers offer weekend and week-long rules and mechanics clinics. The training at these centers is top quality and the experience of the volunteer instructors is superior. You can find the dates for these clinics at www.LittleLeague.org, click on clinics or call your local regional center. Another great resource for the volunteer umpire is the Umpire Registry. By joining this group you will belong to a select group of umpires in the Little League fraternity. By joining the registry you will receive Little League Baseball and Softball rulebooks in hard copy and also electronic versions. Also, you will receive Little League Baseball's "The Right Call," and "The Umpire In Little League," plus many other benefits including the Fair Ball newsletter. Check out the Registry at www.eteamz.com/lbumpireregistry.

There's a lot to do between now and when you umpire your first game on the field, so why wait any longer get started today. Have a great season and thanks for all the time you volunteer to make the program better.

The Little League Pledge:

I trust in God

I love my country

And will respect it's laws

I will play fair

And strive to win

But win or lose

I will always

Do my best

Do You Love Me?



This picture was taken at the annual LL Alberta AGM, January 17, 2009, during the awards presentations.

Kevin Kvame (left) is a single man who is looking for a woman, and they had a little surprise for him.

Kevin was about to receive an award as one of the presidents of LL Alberta during its 30th year history when another Past President, Howard Davidson, leaned on Kevin's shoulder, and sang, in a Marilyn Monroe voice, Take Me Out To The Ball Game!

We're Talking About Practice

By Jamie Joy, Manager of Operations

Taken from the Little League International Publication "The Coaches Box"

You have heard it over and over ... "Practice makes perfect," but, what about fun? Fun can be organized, challenging and able to bring a community together for a common goal.

Well, if you think about it, a Little League practice is able to accomplish all of those and more. Just think, something that was once thought of as unnecessary and boring can transform not only a team, but it can also bring a league and a town together.

When you create your next practice make sure that you incorporate the above mentioned items.

Start with fun. Players will be very receptive to activities that make them better, especially if they learn while having fun.

Organization is critical to running a successful practice. This is where you can tie the community feel into your practices. Parents often want to assist in practices. Why not use them to help towards your teams' common goal of learning and having fun.

Make sure that you show the volunteering parents how you want the drill to be taught and allow them to assist under your direction. This will help create an atmosphere conducive to success. By doing this you can work in a more manageable setting with the players.

By creating a practice plan with parents in addition to your assistant coaches, you will have the time to challenge players with more difficult drills. By having extra volunteers the manager or coaches will be able to spend valuable time instructing the players in a one-on-one setting. With this new found time you'll be able to fine tune the players skills with more challenging drills.

Managers and coaches, I encourage you to take advantage of Little League Baseball and Softball's informative and free online resource www.LittleLeaguecoach.org.

On this website, you will be able to learn drills, plan your season, create practice plans, and much more. Take a moment to visit the site and sign up today! Make the most of your practices and until next time keep swinging!

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
decisions of the
umpires

I will praise a good
effort despite the
outcome of the game

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Baseball Coaching Tips by Marc Shoenfelt

Marc has been busy this month, and will be back next month with more tips for you.

Marc Shoenfelt is the founder and President of B2B Baseball and Softball Academy, an instructional baseball business that conducts youth coaching clinics. Marc has also written the book "Baseball's Forgotten Basics", an instructional book with a DVD companion.

The book can be seen and purchased at www.baseballsforgottenbasics.com, or for an autographed copy or to book Marc for a coaching clinic, contact him at info@B2Bbaseball.com.

“GETTING BIG THINGS from little swings”

Planning to Attend the Little League Baseball World Series? Here's How to Request Tickets

By Communications Division
WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., January 9, 2009

The annual Little League Baseball World Series Ticket Lottery provides Little League fans with a chance to receive tickets to the World Championship Game of the 2009 Little League Baseball World Series, scheduled for Aug. 30.

Each year thousands of ticket requests are received by Little League International. This year, requests will be accepted through the end of March. Winners will be drawn and notified in April.

Even if tickets are not requested, they are not required for admission or seating in most areas for the other 31 Little League Baseball World Series games. No ticket is ever required, including for the World Championship Game, for seating on the terraced hills overlooking the outfield fence at Howard J. Lamade Stadium.

As always, there is never any admission charged at the [Little League Baseball World Series](#). Parking also is free.

Those desiring tickets for the World Championship Game must prepare a letter requesting up to four tickets (maximum). Little League International will accept mailed or hand-delivered requests through March 31, 2009. Telephone, fax and e-mail requests, as well as requests received after March 31, will not be accepted.

Requests must be mailed or hand-delivered to:

**Attention: Championship Game Tickets
Little League International
PO Box 3485
539 U.S. Route 15 Hwy
Williamsport, PA 17701**

Little League International will notify individuals submitting ticket requests through the lottery process as to whether or not they were selected. Individuals receiving tickets must pick up their tickets at the “will call” window at Lamade Stadium during the week prior to the World Series, or during the Series.

“It’s important to remember, even if someone does not receive tickets for the World Championship Game, they still will be able to attend and watch the game from the terraced hills at Lamade Stadium,” Scott Rosenberg, Little League International’s Director of Public Relations, said. “Tickets are never required for the terraced hills. All you need to do is arrive and find a place to sit. Many people bring a blanket or lawn chairs to make a day of it, and it’s a great place for a family outing.”

The tournament begins on Aug. 21 with games scheduled each day except Aug. 28, through the final on Aug. 30. The specific schedule of games will be released during National Little League Week (the week of June 7-13), which was proclaimed by both President Dwight D. Eisenhower and President John F. Kennedy.

The sixteen teams in the Little League Baseball World Series will reach Williamsport at the end of the world’s largest elimination tournament. The Little League International Tournament begins on July 1, and will feature more than 16,000 games over the following 45 days to determine the 16 finalists. Last year, the attendance over the 32 games of the Little League Baseball World Series topped 300,000.

“Seating for the preliminary games in most areas of Lamade Stadium and Volunteer Stadium is first come, first served,” Mr. Rosenberg said. “Although we have not experienced lengthy delays because of enhanced security measures in the last few years, we suggest if you plan to sit in the stadiums, you arrive early.”

Individual game passes may be distributed upon entering either stadium during some games, to assist World Series ushers in controlling crowd size. These passes are not available in advance and will be distributed only by ushers prior to the respective games.

Souvenir tickets for the terraces are available by writing to:

**Attention: Souvenir Terrace Tickets
Little League International
PO Box 3485
539 U.S. Route 15 Hwy
Williamsport, PA 17701**

Requests for these souvenir tickets must include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. These souvenir tickets will be mailed in early August.

Little League Baseball and Softball is the world’s largest organized youth sports program, with nearly 2.6 million players and one million adult volunteers in every U.S. state and scores of other countries.

Brain Teasers

Short one this month...

“The catch was made on the outfield grass, ump, that’s not an Infield Fly.”

Infield Fly is a judgment call. It is based on whether the ball can be caught with **ORDINARY** effort by an **infielder**. **See Rule 2.00 INFIELD FLY**



Tips on Establishing a Coach-Parent Partnership

By David Jacobson, *Positive Coaching Alliance*

Taken from the *Little League International Publication "The Coaches Box"*

Little League Double-Goal Coaches®, who strive to win on the scoreboard while teaching life lessons, need cooperation from players' parents to create a positive, character-building environment. Just as coaches have the "Second Goal" of teaching life lessons through sports, we encourage "Second Goal" parenting, where parents focus on helping their children take life lessons from baseball and softball.

The following tips, directed at parents, are excerpted from the new book *Positive Sports Parenting: How "Second-Goal" Parents Raise Winners in Life Through Sports* by Positive Coaching Alliance Founder Jim Thompson.

Recognize the commitment the coach has made: For whatever reason, you have chosen not to help coach the team. The coach has made a commitment that involves many hours of preparation beyond the hours spent at practices and games. He has earned the right to make decisions (including playing time) with his commitment. Recognize his commitment and the fact that in most cases he is doing so without pay. Try to remember this if something goes awry during the season.

Make early, positive contact with the coach: As soon as you know who your child's coach is going to be, contact him/her to introduce yourself. To the extent that you can do so, ask if there is any way you can help. By getting to know the coach early and establishing a positive relationship, it will be much easier to talk with him/her later if a problem arises.

Let the coach coach: You are not one of the coaches, so avoid giving your child instructions during the game. It can be confusing for a child to hear someone other than the coach giving instructions during a game. And remember, the best way you can help your child is to be a "Second-Goal Parent," so focus on helping your child learn life lessons and let the coach coach.

Positive Sports Parenting provides 60 concise pages of insightful and sensible advice on how parents can help children get the most from sports.

The book is available at <https://www.positivecoach.org/store>.

For more ideas on getting the most out of your players while teaching life lessons, take the Little League Double-Goal Coach Course at www.positivecoach.org/LittleLeague.

Reminder...Passports Required!!!

A **VERY** important reminder to all parents of ball players in Little League Canada who may have a child participating in the Little League World Series Tournaments at ANY level this coming summer, or simply participate in any cross border tournaments in the US:

Starting June 1, 2009, YOU WILL NEED A PASSPORT IF YOU WANT TO TRAVEL INTO THE UNITED STATES. THIS INCLUDES ALL CHILDREN

Don't wait until its too late and be disappointed when your child cannot cross the border with the team! This must be done!

You can pick up an application at any Post Office, or to find a service location near you, call or visit:

www.passportcanada.gc.ca

Or call 1-800 O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)



Become an Alumni Member and support Little League in your community and across the Country.

The Little League Canada Foundation's goal is "to ensure that all children in Canada have the chance to participate in Little League regardless of their abilities, either physical or financial". For an annual membership of \$10.00 or three year membership of \$25.00, as an Alumni member you will have the opportunity to have input into the growth and direction of Little League and its programs.

For a membership application form, please contact Little League Canada at Canada@litttleleague.org.

Little League Canada

235 Dale Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1G 0H6

Phone: 613-731-3301
Fax: 613-731-2829

E-mail: canada@litttleleague.org

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All Little League Baseball Canada League Officials, Volunteers, and Parents are now eligible to receive a NO-COST Family Benefit Package that includes; AD&D insurance, exclusive eye-care discounts and FREE Child Safe ID Kits.

For more info please call Casandra Robinson at (613) 301-2988 or Toll-Free (877) 336-3349 or visit:
Parents Link:



<http://returns.altig.ca/littleleague>
League Officials and Volunteers Link:
<http://returns.altig.ca/llbc>



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Questions or comments? E-mail us at canada@litttleleague.org or call 613-731-3301

[Privacy Policy](#)

Little League Baseball Canada 2009 Tournament Schedule

Baseball

Major (Little League):

World Series: August 21-30 Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Canadian Championship: August 8-15 Val D'Or, Quebec

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Quebec: TBD

Ontario: Pembroke D8

Prairies: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Junior:

World Series: August 16-22 Taylor, Michigan

Canadian Championship: August 6-13 Langley, British

Columbia

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Quebec: TBD

Ontario: South Ottawa D6

Prairies: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Senior:

World Series: August 16-22 Bangor, Maine

Canadian Championship: August 6-13 Saint John, New

Brunswick

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Quebec: TBD

Ontario: Orleans D6

Prairies: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Big League:

World Series: July 29 -August 5 Easley, South Carolina

Canadian Championship: July 22-26 Location TBD

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Quebec: TBD

Ontario: Windsor D5

Prairies: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Softball

Major (Little League):

World Series: August 13-19 Portland, Oregon

Canadian Championship: TBD

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Ontario: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Junior:

World Series: August 16-22 Kirkland, Washington

Canadian Championship: TBD

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Ontario: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Senior:

World Series: August 9-15 Lower Sussex, Delaware

Canadian Championship: TBD

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Ontario: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

Big League:

World Series: August 6-12 Kalamazoo, Michigan

Canadian Championship: TBD

Divisionals:

Atlantic: TBD

Ontario: TBD

British Columbia: TBD

If anyone has information that can help to fill in the blanks...dates, District or League hosts, for any of the above, please email me with the details so I can update this page...thestretch@littleleague.ca