

Frequently Asked Questions

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What are the eligible ages for Seekonk Youth Baseball and how is age determined?

Seekonk Youth Baseball is affiliated with **Little League International**, therefore we follow Little League age requirements as follows:

Tee Ball - Ages 4 & 5 (child must be born on or before August 31, 2015 to be eligible)

Coach Pitch - Ages 6 & 7 (5 year olds are eligible to play if they played at least one season of Tee Ball)

Minor League - Ages 7, 8, 9 and some 10's (advanced 7 year olds may choose to try out for Minor)

Major League - Ages 9, 10, 11 & 12 (advanced 9 year olds may choose to try out for Major)

Senior League – Ages 13, 14, 15 and 16

*Age determination is determined by using the Little Age Calculator. Please note: A child's "baseball age" may differ than their actual calendar year age. League age for the 2019 season is the age the child will reach on August 31, 2019.
<https://www.littleleague.org/play-little-league/determine-league-age/>*

The Board of Directors reserves the right to make changes to the above division ages based upon the safety of the children. It also reserves the right to move a player up or down a division if that player is deemed a safety risk to his/herself or others. In all cases, the board will confer with coaches and parents to ensure the safety of all children involved.

How much are the registration fees?

The registration fee is \$100 for Tee Ball and \$125 for all other divisions.

Why is there a late registration fee?

The late fee (\$25) exists to encourage families to register early. Late registrations make forming teams and ensuring that we have the correct number of teams, sponsors and uniforms very difficult. To allow us to organize the league in a timely manner, we ask that everyone complete the registration process as soon as possible and pay all fees by credit card on-line.

What if I can't afford the registration fee?

Seekonk Youth Baseball will work to accommodate every child that wants to play baseball, regardless of the ability to pay. If you are not able to pay the registration fee or need additional time to make the payment, please contact our league president Brian LaSalle at seekonklittleleague@gmail.com or 401-529-6857. No child will be turned away for an inability to afford the fee: ***Everybody plays Baseball!!!!***

What paperwork is required and how do I submit it?

A medical release form should be submitted to your regular season coach. It can be found on our website and it will also be given to players by their coach once the season gets underway. New players must submit a copy of their birth certificate. The birth certificate should be mailed to the address below or given to a board member. Additionally, paperwork will be needed for All Star players who play in the Massachusetts District 6 Little League Tournament. Upon selection to an All Star team, players will be notified of specific paperwork needed.

Seekonk Youth Baseball
PO Box 191
Seekonk, MA 02771

Do you issue refunds if my child decides he/she does not want to play?

Our refund policy is as follows:

All refund requests must be made in writing and sent to the President (email is considered a written request). The request must include the parent(s) name, players' name(s), date of birth, division of play and the reason for the request. Additionally, please include an address for mailing.

Late fees are not refundable.

Spring Season:

Drop or withdraw **before** the Player Draft: Refund will be the amount paid minus a \$20 administration fee.

Drop or withdraw **after** the draft date: No refund.

Fall Season:

Drop or withdraw **before** the Player Draft. Refund will be the amount paid minus a \$20 administration fee.

Drop or withdraw **after** the draft date: No refund.

The Board of Directors shall vote to approve any exception to the refund policy.

Do we have to live in the Seekonk to have our child play here?

Yes, Little League International requires that each player either resides or attends school within the Seekonk town boundaries. The only exception would be if a player started playing in Seekonk and then moved to another community. If that player chooses to stay in Seekonk Little League he/she may do so.

Are there tryouts?

There are tryouts for all players in the Minor Division and only new players either moving up to Major, new to Seekonk Youth Baseball and playing Major. Players who have skipped a year of baseball other than due to an injury must also try out. Tee Ball and Coach Pitch divisions do not have tryouts!

The Senior division typically does not have tryouts due to the number of players in recent years. The Board reserves the right to hold a tryout and/or a draft if it believes that it is in the best interest of the league to do so.

What will happen during tryouts and what should my child bring?

Tryouts consist of players receiving thrown or batted ground balls, line drives, pop ups and running. Additionally, each participant will hit in the batting cage. Coaches from various teams will rank the players on their ability to catch, throw, hit and run. Participants will be ranked from 1 to 10. At the completion of tryouts the scores from all coaches will be tabulated. Players will then be ranked for selection at the draft based on their combined scores.

Participants should bring their baseball glove, baseball bat and batting helmet. If a player does not have a bat and helmet, we will provide one.

Does every player make a team?

Yes, all players will be selected to a team. However, there is no guarantee that a player will be selected to the division in which he/she does a tryout for. For example: a player trying out for a Major team and is not selected for a Major team will be placed on a Minor team.

How many players are on a team?

Tee Ball – Typically 6 to 8

Coach Pitch – Typically 10 - 12

Minor League - Typically 10 - 12

Major League – Typically 11, although some teams may carry 12 (dependent upon player numbers)

Senior League – Typically 12 to 14

Does each player play every game?

Yes, in regular season games we use a continuous batting order, so every player will be in the batting order for each game. Managers will move players around in the field defensively. There are 10 defensive positions in Minor and 9 defensive positions in Major. Please note: there are additional Minor league rules that apply specifically to Seekonk Youth Baseball. The rules are posted on this website.

I have more than one child, can they both play on the same team?

Yes, if they are playing in the same division. If for some reason you want your players to be on different teams, please let us know prior to the player draft.

How are teams formed? How are players placed on a team?

Spring Season

Tee Ball and Coach Pitch are formed by the coaches and/or board members in the respective division. Players from the previous year's team will be added to the same team and new players will be added by coaches and/or board members.

Minor Division teams are re-drafted every year with the hopes of having fair, balanced and competitive teams. All players in the Minor Division must tryout each year. If a player does not attend, he/she cannot be drafted by a coach. Players not attending tryouts will be randomly added to teams at the end of the draft selection process. New players not attending the draft have the risk of possibly not being selected to a Minor team due to the fact that they were not able to be evaluated.

All new players to the Major division must attend tryouts. If a player does not attend he/she cannot be drafted by a coach. Players not attending tryouts will be randomly added to teams at the end of the draft selection process. New players not attending the draft have the risk of possibly not being selected to a Major team due to the fact that they were not able to be evaluated. The Major division currently does not have a re-draft. All players returning from the previous years' team will be placed on the same team and players will be added based on how the team finished in the previous season. (i.e. the last place team will draft first, second to last place team will draft second and so on). Please note: Effective for the 2020 season there will be a re-draft in the Major division.

Fall Season

Teams are generally formed in late August. A coach will contact players one to two weeks prior to the start of the season. We typically try to keep teams together from the previous year. There are no tryouts but everyone is welcome to play and no one is turned away if they sign up at the regularly scheduled time and do not get wait listed.

When does the season start and end?

Spring Season

The season typically starts in early April for Minor and Major teams. Senior league teams typically start in mid-April. Tee Ball and Coach Pitch will start their games on Opening Day. Opening day is typically the 3rd or 4th week in April. Practices will typically start in late March or early April. The start of practice is weather dependent. The season will typically end for Minor and Major around the first week of June. All other divisions will end the second or third week in June. Playoffs for Minor and Major leagues begin immediately following the regular season. All-Stars begin play following the conclusion of the playoffs and may continue into early August.

Fall Season

For all Divisions, games begin in early to mid-September and end the weekend before Halloween. All Divisions will have one to two games per week and one to two practices per week. Practice days and times are determined by your child's coach (*we cannot guarantee a specific practice day for your child*). Games are played in the surrounding communities of Pawtucket, East Providence, Barrington and some other nearby communities.

When will we hear from our coach?

We encourage our coaches to contact families within one week of teams being formed. For the Spring season expect to hear from your coach by the last week in March. For the Fall season expect to hear from your coach by the last week in August.

How often are games and practices?

The frequency of games and practices vary with each level. Tee Ball will play one game per week on Saturday. Coach Pitch will play two games per week with one game being a weeknight and one game being on a Saturday. Weekday games will start at 5:30 pm. Practices may be once or twice a week depending on the coach.

For Minor and Major there are two games per week: weekdays (5:30pm) and Saturday mornings/early afternoon. There will be some weeks, as the season progresses, where there may be 3 games per week in order to fulfill a 15 games schedule. Typically, there are 2 practices per week.

What if I think my child is in the wrong division?

Player abilities vary greatly at all ages and our coaches will work with each individual player to assure that they are placed properly on the field to minimize the risk of injury. Please contact the league President if you think there is an issue. If possible, we will do our best to remedy the situation if it is within the guidelines of Little League baseball rules, however, there is no guarantee. If you anticipate that your child may be too advanced for a particular division please bring this to our attention prior to teams being selected. Once teams are selected it is very difficult to move players from one division to another, especially in the Minor and Major divisions.

The Board reserves the right to make changes to various division game nights should there be a reason to do so.

What equipment do players need?

Players only need a baseball glove. Players may also wear rubber cleats (recommended for Coach Pitch and above) but they are not required. The league will provide bats for each team along with helmets. Players may bring their own helmet and bat. The bat must bear the stamp of “USA Baseball” to be legal. Any bat not stamped “USA Baseball” will be considered illegal and cannot be used in any game or practice. Uniforms will be provided and consist of a shirt and hat for all divisions. We recommend that you purchase baseball pants, but they are not required.

Are there pitch counts in Little League baseball?

Yes, Seekonk Youth Baseball and Little League International take arm care very seriously. There are pitch counts in the Minor, Major and Senior divisions, they vary based upon the age of the player. Our rules are governed by a tiered pitch count that is tied to the number of pitches thrown in a game as opposed to the number of innings pitched. The pitch count determines how many days of rest are required before said player may pitch again in a Little League game.

Pitching Rules

(a) Any player on a regular season team may pitch. (**NOTE:** There is no limit to the number of pitchers a team may use in a game.)

(b) A pitcher once removed from the mound cannot return as a pitcher, **except for the Intermediate (50-70), Junior, and Senior League Divisions only:** A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game, but only once per game.

(c) The manager must remove the pitcher when said pitcher reaches the limit for his/her age group as noted below, but the pitcher may remain in the game at another position:

League Age:

13-16 – 95 pitches per day

11-12 – 85 pitches per day

9-10 – 75 pitches per day

7-8 – 50 pitches per day

Exception: If a pitcher reaches the limit imposed in Regulation VI (c) for his/her league age while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: 1- That batter reaches base; 2 - That batter is put out; 3 - The third out is made to complete the half-inning. **Note 1: A pitcher who delivers 41 or more pitches in a game cannot play the position of catcher for the remainder of that day.**

Note 2: Any player who has played the position of catcher in four or more innings in a game is not eligible to pitch on that calendar day. Once pitch thrown in inning four constitutes 4 innings.

Pitchers league age 14 and under must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 66 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 51-65 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 36-50 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 21-35 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 1-20 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

Exception: If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.”

Pitchers league age 15-16 must adhere to the following rest requirements:

- If a player pitches 76 or more pitches in a day, four (4) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 61-75 pitches in a day, three (3) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 46-60 pitches in a day, two (2) calendar days of rest must be observed.
- If a player pitches 31-45 pitches in a day, one (1) calendar days of rest must be observed.
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- If a player pitches 1-30 pitches in a day, no (0) calendar day of rest is required.

Exception: If a pitcher reaches a day(s) of rest threshold while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any one of the following conditions occurs: (1) that batter reaches base; (2) that batter is retired; or (3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning or the game. The pitcher will only be required to observe the calendar day(s) of rest for the threshold he/she reached during that at-bat, provided that pitcher is removed, or the game is completed before delivering a pitch to another batter.

Who is responsible for keeping the pitch count records?

During a game both teams should keep a pitch count for ALL pitchers. Upon the completion of an inning both teams shall confer and agree with one another regarding the pitches thrown by a pitcher(s).

Team managers are responsible for submitting all pitch count information. Pitch counts are kept on our league website and can be viewed by team managers. Managers will be shown how to properly enter the information just prior to the season starting. NOTE: If the opposing manager knows that a pitcher has reached his/her maximum pitch count he/she should tell the other team manager before the pitcher continues to pitch, rather than relying on protesting the game once the infraction occurs. Good sportsmanship should be of utmost importance.

Where are the fields?

Games and practices are played in two locations:

North School Field (2 North Street Seekonk, MA).

Water Lane Field (located behind Hurley Middle School – 650 Newman Ave, Seekonk, MA)

Divisions playing at North School – Tee Ball, Coach Pitch and Minor

Divisions playing at Water Lane – Minor, Major and Senior

Please note: Minor weekday games are played at North and Minor Saturday games are played at Water Lane

Occasionally, if time permits, we do schedule Tee Ball and Coach Pitch games at the Water Lane Fields. As a Board, we like to give the younger players a chance to play on the “big boy fields”.

What are the important dates to be aware of with the Seekonk Youth Baseball?

Please review our Important Dates page.

How can I become a Team Manager, Coach or Volunteer?

Little League relies solely on volunteers. While registering online you will be prompted with a question asking if you would like to volunteer. You can choose to volunteer in several capacities, please check any and all boxes as you see fit. Additionally, you can contact any of our board members for more information on how to volunteer. **VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR OUR CONCESSION STANDS.**

Does Seekonk Youth Baseball have fundraising events?

Typically no. All fundraising occurs with the league registration fee. Included with your registration are \$50 worth of raffle tickets. The tickets can be sold and the proceeds kept by you to further reduce your registration cost. The raffle is held at the year-end banquet. However, we do raise money with our Concession Stands. Our North School Concession Stand sells drinks, chips, candy and ice cream. Our Water Lane Concession Stand sells drinks, burgers, chicken fingers, chips, candy and ice cream. Please visit our Concession Stand before, during and after games and support Seekonk Youth Baseball. However, it is possible that a fundraising campaign may be established in the future to fulfill the financial needs of a large project or improvement.

How can I view the standings?

Standings are only maintained for Minors and Majors. The standings can be viewed by clicking on the Standings tab on our website.

Does Seekonk Youth Baseball have All Star teams?

Yes, we select the following teams:

8 year old

9 year old

10 year old

11 year old

12 year old (this team has the chance to advance to Williamsport, PA for the Little League World Series).

When are All Star Teams announced?

Teams are announced on June 1st per Little League International rules.

I heard that players are asked to sign a Commitment Letter to participate in All Stars, is this true?

Before a player can be placed on the All Star nomination ballot for consideration to become an All Star, he/she must read and sign a Commitment Letter. The commitment is related to District All Star games and not necessarily to Non-District All Star games. The intent is not to ask someone to give up their entire summer but only to commit to playing and practicing for the District Tournament.

The level of play in tournaments is much greater than what may have been experienced in league play and the preparation of our players starts with practices. Attendance at practices and games is imperative. All Star Tournament play is competitive and requires dedication beyond the requirement of a regular Little League season. Consequently, only those players who desire to commit their time and effort will be considered.

The number of practices to be held is at the sole discretion of the Manager/Coaches and may differ from one manager to another. Please plan on a minimum of 3 to 5 practices per week, possibly more.

Does the Commitment Letter apply to all All Star Teams?

No, the Commitment Letter only applies to the 10, 11 and 12 year old teams. 8 and 9 year old teams will be asked to sign a Letter of Intention before being nominated.

What is an All Star?

- Exemplifies good sportsmanship and team spirit whether winning or losing.
- Demonstrates the highest and most consistent ability to execute the fundamental skills of the game.
- Demonstrates commitment to an intensive schedule of practice and games.
- Skilled at playing more than one position and shows a willingness to play any position assigned.

Are the playing time rules for All Stars the same as the regular season rules?

No, the rules governing All Star tournaments are different than those that govern the regular league season. Teams with 12 or fewer eligible players in uniform in a non-shortened game are only ensured one at bat and playing time in the field for six consecutive defensive outs. Teams with 13 or fewer eligible players in uniform in a non-shortened game are only ensured one at bat and are not ensured any playing time in the field. Some players may be asked to play a different role on an All Star team which may mean playing a different position than the position played during regular season. The player must agree to play whatever position is assigned by the Manager and/or come off the bench with every bit of heart expected by an All Star. It is expected that one's commitment will remain in full force until the All Star team is eliminated from the District tournament or wins the championship.

There is no continuous batting order in District, Sectional, State, Regional or National All Star games. Only 9 players may be in the batting order at one time.

There may or may not be a continuous batting order in non-District All Star tourneys and playing rules may vary from tourney to tourney and within various age levels.

How are players and managers selected to All Star teams?

As board members, our goal is to make the All Star experience transparent. Furthermore, our duty as board members and team managers/coaches is to try and get this process done right for each and every player and their family! Although no system is perfect and will possibly leave some players and/or families disappointed; it is our intent to do all in our power to make the process fair. 10u, 11u and 12u players must sign a **Commitment Letter** to be eligible for All Star selection. 9u and 8u players will only be asked by their respective regular season managers if they are interested in being nominated for selection. Players not affirmatively responding will not be nominated. 9 year old players that currently play on a Major team are automatically selected to the 9u All Star team, no manager voting is required.

The Commitment letter must be signed and received by your team manager on or before the due date.

(For the 2019 season – May 22, 2019)

Players wishing to play All Stars at the 8 and 9 year old division are asked to sign a **Letter of Intention**. The reason being, in past seasons some of our younger players made the All Star team and then could not fulfill their obligations to the team. In the Boards opinion that is not fair to players who are willing to commit to playing on the team.

ALL STAR PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS

- Seekonk Youth Baseball will, at a minimum, enter teams in the "Williamsport Tournament" district play-offs in the little league major division.
- Participation in other tournaments sanctioned by Massachusetts Little League district six (6) will be left to the discretion of the president.
- Children will be selected to play on tournament teams representing Seekonk Youth baseball, based solely on ability and by a vote of managers.
- A ballot will be produced by the president or his/her representative listing all players nominated by respective coaches. this ballot will be used by managers and coaches for the purpose of voting for all star players in each age division.

To be eligible for All Star selection, a player must submit a signed commitment letter. (pertains to 10u, 11u and 12u only). Additionally, each player must have played in 60% of his/her regular season games. (See exception to 60% rule below).

- A player who has been ejected from a game twice in the same season is not eligible to participate on a tournament team representing Seekonk Youth Baseball.

Players on All Star teams are to be selected as follows:

- Each manager shall nominate players from the regular season league roster who are truly deserving of being an All Star. Players should be nominated with the intent of competing at the highest level in each age group.
- Each manager shall receive an official ballot of all nominated players at the Selection meeting.
- Each manager shall then vote for players, who in his/her opinion, are worthy of becoming an All Star. 12 points will be awarded to the best player (in his/her opinion), the second-best player shall be awarded 11 points, so on and so forth, through the twelfth best player who will be awarded 1 point. Each manager shall only vote for 12 players. The vote will be by secret ballot.
- Managers cannot vote for players on their current league roster.
- Players will be ranked from highest point total to lowest point total. The player receiving the highest point total will be the 1st player named to the All Star team. The next 11 highest players receiving votes shall also be selected to the team. 12 players in total shall be voted on each team.
- In the event of a tie for the last remaining roster position(s): the roster position(s) in question will be re-voted on by all managers. Managers cannot vote for players on their current league roster.
- Two alternates will also be selected and will have received the next highest vote totals after the 12 All Stars have been selected. In the event of a tie for the alternate roster position(s) a revote will take place by all managers. Managers cannot vote for players on their current league roster.
- 8 year old players can only be selected to the 8 year old team.
- 9 year old players can only be selected to the 9 year old team.
- 10 year old players can only be selected to the 10 year old team.
- 11 year old players can be selected to either the 11 and 12 year old team or the 11 year old team.
- Any replacement players on the official roster must be selected from the list of alternate players and approved by the board of directors.

The Board reserves the right to make changes to players “playing up” a division during All Stars if it is determined that there is a lack of players to fill a division roster. For example: if there are not enough players nominated and/or committed in the 10 year old age group then a 9 year old player(s) may be moved up to fill those roster positions.

Pre-All Star Selection Discussion

Prior to the All Star selection, managers will hold a discussion regarding players on their team. The purpose of the meeting is for a manager to discuss their own players and answer questions from other managers about a

players' skills and/or successes during the season. The intent is to make sure all potential All Stars are known to all managers and no player is over-looked.

School Baseball Program Participation (exception to 60% Rule)

A player who is NOT able to participate in local league regular season games because of participation in a school baseball program will receive an adjustment on the minimum participation in games required under this rule.

EXAMPLE: If, for any given division, if Team A played 20 regular-season games before June 1, and a player missed 10 games because of participation in a school baseball program, that player is required to have participated in only six (6) regular season games to be eligible for the Tournament Team. This is a Little League International rule.

ALL STAR MANAGER SELECTION PROCESS:

- Any coach interested in managing a particular All Star team must submit his/her intention in writing to the president (email is valid) and follow up verbally with the president at least one week prior the All Star selection meeting. The follow-up is to make sure that an email was not overlooked.
- Based upon All Star manager interest, the board of directors shall have sole authority in selecting the All Star manager and must approve his/her assistant coaches for each age group.
- If no such intention is made by a coach to become a manager for a particular All Star age group, the board of directors shall have the authority to select a manager.
- Any manager or coach who has been ejected from a game by an umpire twice during the regular season is not eligible to participate on the coaching staff of a tournament team.

If there is more than one coach interested in becoming an All Star manager in a particular division then the Board will vote on a manager. The vote shall be administered by the league treasurer. All interested coaches are welcome to attend the manager selection meeting; however, the managers being voted on may be asked to leave the room during the voting process.

Do All Stars get new uniforms?

All Star uniforms are different than the regular season uniforms. Players will be given a jersey and hat when they are selected for the All Star team. Players get to keep both the jersey and hat, but are asked to use the jersey again if selected in a subsequent year if their uniform is still in good condition and still fits. They will be provided a new hat each year.

10U, 11U, and 12U teams must also all have the same pants. Pants can be used from year to year if they are in good condition and still fit. The league covers half of the cost and the player is responsible for the other half (2018 player cost was \$ 11.00).

8U and 9U are not required to have matching pants, but players can be purchased through the league for full cost (2018 cost was \$ 22.00).

There will be a **mandatory** uniform try out night a day or two after the teams are announced.