

January 21, 2020



It's Time to Register for SPLL

It's time to register your child(ren) to play ball at SPLL for the 2020 season. We are currently accepting registrations for all of our divisions – T-ball to Seniors, Softball and Baseball!

To register, go to <http://southportagell.com> Click on REGISTER in the top-right corner. If you created a username/password previously – use those to login. If you are new to this registration system, create a new account

If you need financial assistance for your player(s), please get in touch with Josh at President@southportagell.com or (269) 352-8814. Both SPLL and Little League International support an “everyone plays” attitude – no one will be denied playing for SPLL based on financial ability to pay.

Should you have any questions about Registration, please contact our Registrar via email at Registrar@southportagell.com

Field Wiring Electrical Project – COMPLETE!

We are so proud to announce that we have finally completed the Electrical wiring project that began in 2019 to provide power for the Pitching Machines on Fields 3-10 (both Softball and Baseball fields). Thank you to a lot of hard work from a group of amazing volunteers who buried the conduit and wires, and to **HiTech Electrical** for handling all of the electrical connections. We are happy to announce that we secured final approval in October from the City of Portage Electrical Inspector.

A HUGE “Thank You” goes to **Kendall Electric** – they donated all the materials needed to make this project a reality – nearly \$1,600 in supplies!

Also, another HUGE “Thank You” goes to **Sunbelt Rentals** – they provided the trencher that saved us hours of back-breaking work laying the conduit at the fields.

THANK YOU for the great work

Nights of Play Announced!

We have officially announced the tentative nights of play for each of our divisions:

Co-Ed T-ball – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (2 of 3 nights)

Baseball

Minors (Machine Pitch) – Monday, Wednesday, Friday (2 of 3 nights)

Little Majors – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (2 of 3 nights)

Majors – Monday, Thursday, Friday (2 of 3 nights)

Softball

Minors (Machine Pitch) – Monday, Wednesday

Little Majors – Monday, Wednesday

Majors – Monday, Wednesday

ALL players should plan on participating in a game during the daytime on Opening Day – Saturday, April 25, 2020. More details will be provided after teams are formed.

Travel Tournaments (“Rentals”) at Our Fields

At South Portage Little League, we own all of our fields, equipment, and buildings that we use for our Little League season. Unlike other Leagues that use City- or School-owned fields, we have great control over how we use these fields. This also means we have HUGE costs to maintain our property. FYI – our lawn mowing bill for 43-acres is over \$20,000 each year!!!! To help keep our costs low, we rent our fields to private (travel) organizations for practices and tournaments. Little League games and practices have first priority use of our fields – but when there are no Little League activities on some weeknights and weekends, you’ll see non-SPLL teams using our facilities.

For rentals that include multi-field tournaments, we pay younger workers (typically high school students) to work our concession stand and to help prep fields. Each of these tournaments requires someone to manage the concession stand and another person to manage the fields. This commitment can be 10+ hours a day! Because these tournaments generate revenue for SPLL in rentals and concession income, the Board of Directors voted to use a small portion of these revenues to provide a stipend to those volunteers who help manage the tournaments.

In 2019, we took in over \$10,000 in rental and concession revenue; we paid out \$1,200 in stipends. This stipend is designed to help cover any expenses that might arise (excessive cell-phone use, meals, gas for back/forth travel to fields during tournament days, etc.).

If you know someone looking to rent fields at SPLL, ask them to email rentals@southportagell.com.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in helping manage Concessions or the Fields for these travel tournaments, please contact president@southportagell.com.

Thanking Our Volunteers

This League survives thanks to amazing efforts from an army of volunteers. It’s a struggle to convince parents like all of us to dedicate vast amounts of time away from their families to support our League. Specifically, League Board Members are some of the most dedicated workers, yet are the hardest volunteers to find. In 2019, the Board voted to try a program that provided board members a discount on their membership. This is a practice that is approved by Little League International and used by other Little Leagues (plus other youth sports organizations) in our area. The Board decided that such discount was not permanent – and

would need to be voted upon each year based on needs for volunteers and financial health of the League. The Board is currently considering offering discounts to increase volunteerism in hard to fill positions including board members, coaches, umpires, concession managers, equipment managers, etc. Do you have a strong feeling about this topic that you wish for the Board to consider in their decision making? Send us an email at president@southportagell.com before our next Board Meeting on February 9, 2020 – or come join us at the Board Meeting at 6:30 PM in the Training Facility!

Contact Information for SPLL

As a reminder, South Portage Little League Board members are issued a SPLL email that is to be used for conducting SPLL business. All of these email addresses end in “@southportagell.com” We caution everyone to pay attention of the emails they receive, and report any suspicious emails from people/groups that are pretending to be SPLL to media@southportagell.com. You should NEVER email personal information like children’s DOB, credit card information, etc. to any email address other than those that end in “@southportagell.com”

As a quick reminder, here are some official SPLL email accounts:

Josh Hill	President	President@southportagell.com
Stephanie Brown	Vice President, Baseball	Baseball@southportagell.com
Maggie Piotter	Vice President, Softball	Softball@southportagell.com
Denise Corradini	Secretary & Registrar	Secretary@southportagell.com
Paul Moss	Treasurer	Treasurer@southportagell.com
Mike Evans	Properties Director	Property@southportagell.com
Amber Schidecker	Concessions Director	Concessions@southportagell.com
Dan Corradini	Safety Officer	Safety@southportagell.com
	Equipment Manager	equipment@southportagell.com
	Uniforms Coordinator	uniforms@southportagell.com
	Rental Coordinator	rentals@southportagell.com
	Media Coordinator	media@southportagell.com