

One-Stop Shop for NCLL Information

Welcome to Northridge City Little League. Here is our one-stop shop for the first time and returning families. Here you will find what you need to know about the different divisions and the expectations for each player.

Our Mission Statement:

Utilizing baseball to inspire and educate our community's youth today to become impactful leaders of tomorrow.

To accomplish our mission, our Board also adopts the following core values that we believe will make NCLL the **PLACE** to play.

Positive coaching environment, focusing on integrity and fundamentals.

Learn and experience life lessons through the successes and failures of the game.

Align with all our families to make our program great.

Create a safe and fun environment for the entire family.

Encourage fairness with balanced and competitive teams.

Here are some frequently asked questions:

Life at NCLL and Covid-19.

- a. NCLL will continue to follow the local and federal guidance for any and all pandemic issues.

What does "League Age" mean?

- a. The League Age of a player for the 2021 Fall and 2022 Spring Season is determined by what your child is on August 31, 2022.

How are teams formed?

- a. Try outs are held prior to the season in order to determine as best as possible the current skill level of all players.
- b. Players are selected for teams in a Formal Draft process. Managers evaluate the players during our try outs and then the draft is supervised by the Player Agent and Commissioners.
- c. The goal at NCLL is to create balanced teams. Balanced teams make for a better experience for all the kids and families.

Fall 2021:

When does the Fall Season start?

- a. The Fall season try outs will be on the final weekend of August, the 28th and 29th.
- b. Drafts will follow during the week immediately after try outs.
- c. Practices will start as soon after as possible. Most teams get one weeknight practice and a Saturday practice.
- d. Games are on Sundays and start on September 19th and go for 10 weeks, finishing on November 21st.

What are the different levels of play?

- a. **Farm T Ball.** This is the first level of play. It is usually reserved for 4 year olds and first time 5 year olds.
- b. **Farm A Ball.** This is the next level of play. It is usually reserved for 5 year olds who have played one season already and 6 year olds. 7 year olds are permitted to play A Ball as well.
- c. **Baseball Division 3.** This is the first level of baseball and is usually reserved for ages 7 and up. It is played with AA rules throughout the season.
- d. **Baseball Division 2.** This is the next level of baseball and usually includes 8, 9 and 10 year olds. Division 2 plays a hybrid of AAA and Minors rules, where stealing begins during the second half of the season.
- e. **Baseball Division 1.** Division 1 is played using Majors rules and usually includes 10, 11 and 12 year olds.
- f. **Intermediate.** Technically, this is available for players League Age 11 to 13 but mostly for just 13 year olds.
- g. **Juniors.** Juniors is for 13 thru 15 year olds.
- h. **Challenger Division.** This Division is for all ages of players with special needs. Challenger Division is only available in the Spring.

What is T Ball? T Ball is played with FUN being the main goal for the kids while they learn the basic fundamentals of the game like how to swing the bat, how to field, how to throw and how to run in an organized game atmosphere. During the Fall season, games are on Sunday. Teams also practice at least once per week, usually an hour long. The games are 60 to 90 minutes long. Each player bats in a continuous batting lineup and each player plays in the field during each inning. In the first half of the season, the kids hit off the Tee exclusively. In the second half, the coaches pitch to the batters and utilize the Tee as well. No score is kept during the games. Teams are formed by the League Commissioner and Player Agent with input from the Volunteer Managers. Carpools and friend requests are accepted at this level. At all times, we attempt to maintain balanced teams.

What is A Ball? A Ball is played with FUN being the main goal for the kids while they advance their basic fundamentals as noted above in T Ball. Games are identical in length and participation as T Ball. In A Ball, the coaches pitch to the batters from the beginning of the season and utilize the Tee as well. Also, although the batting order is continuous, outs count and when three outs are made, the inning ends. No score is kept during the games. Teams are formed by the League

Commissioners with input from the Volunteer Managers. Carpools and friend requests are accepted at this level. At all times, we attempt to maintain balanced teams.

What is Division 3? Games start looking like real baseball at this level. The kids pitch from 42 feet and are restricted to two innings per game. There are no Walks at this level. During an at-bat, if ball 4 is reached, a coach comes in to complete the at-bat. The score is kept and wins and losses are recorded in league standings. The kids begin learning advanced fundamentals at this age. There is no stealing at this level. The teams are selected by the Volunteer Managers in a formal Draft setting. Carpools and friend requests are not guaranteed.

What is Division 2? Very similar to Division 3, just one level up. Pitching is from 46 feet and as with all levels in the Fall, pitchers are limited to two innings. There is no stealing at this level until the second half of the season.

What is Division 1? Division 1 is played with Majors rules with the one exception being that a continuous batting order is used throughout the season.

What is Intermediate? Intermediate is played with larger dimensions than majors but smaller dimensions than Juniors. Pitching distance is 50'. Bases are 70'. Everything else is like real baseball where the players can lead off the bases and steal, etc.

What is Juniors? Juniors are for Age 13 and above. They play on dimensions of a real baseball field – 90 feet bases and the pitcher's plate at 60' 6".

Spring 2022:

When does Spring 2022 start?

- a. Spring Try outs will span two weekends, usually starting with the weekend of January 8th/9th and then the following weekend of the 15th and 16th.
- b. Drafts will follow during the week immediately after try outs.
- c. Practices will start as soon after as possible. All teams get one weeknight practice and a Saturday or Sunday practice during the preseason.
- d. Games usually consist of a weeknight game and a weekend game. Farm and Minors usually play on Sundays. AA, AAA and Majors usually play on Saturdays.
- e. Opening Day is tentatively scheduled for Saturday March 5th.
- f. Closing Day is tentatively scheduled for June 11th.

What are the different levels of play?

- i. **Farm T Ball.** This is the first level of play. It is usually reserved for 4 year olds and first time 5 year olds.
- j. **Farm A Ball.** This is the next level of play. It is usually reserved for 5 year olds who have played one season already and 6 year olds. 7 year olds are permitted to play A Ball as well.
- k. **Baseball Coast AA.** This is the first level of baseball and is usually reserved for ages 7 and up.
- l. **Baseball Coast AAA.** This is the next level of baseball and usually includes 8, 9 and 10 year olds.
- m. **Baseball Minors.** This is the next level of baseball and can include 8 thru 11 year olds.
- n. **Baseball Majors.** All 12 year olds play in Majors along with 10 and 11 year olds.

Note: There are several little league restrictions regarding age appropriate levels, however some exceptions can occur for all age levels with parental consent.

- o. **Intermediate.** Technically, this is available for players League Age 11 to 13 but mostly for just 13 year olds. Spring 2019 was our first Spring season with Intermediate and our All Star Team representing Northridge City Little League won the Southern California Championship and travelled to the Western Regional tournament in Nogales, Arizona.
- p. **Juniors.** Juniors is for 13 thru 15 year olds.
- q. **Challenger Division.** This Division is for all ages of players with special needs.

What is T Ball? T Ball is played with FUN being the main goal for the kids while they learn the basic fundamentals of the game like how to swing the bat, how to field, how to throw and how to run in an organized game atmosphere. During the Spring season, there are two games a week – one during the week and one on Sunday. Teams also practice at least once per week, usually an hour long. The games are 60 to 90 minutes long. Each player bats in a continuous batting lineup and each player plays in the field during each inning. In the first half of the season, the kids hit off the Tee exclusively. In the second half, the coaches pitch to the batters and utilize the Tee as well. No score is kept during the games. Teams are formed by the League Commissioner and Player Agent with input from the Volunteer Managers. Carpools and friend requests are accepted at this level. At all times, we attempt to maintain balanced teams.

What is A Ball? A Ball is played with FUN being the main goal for the kids while they advance their basic fundamentals as noted above in T Ball. Games are identical in length and participation as T Ball. In A Ball, the coaches pitch to the batters from the beginning of the season and utilize the Tee as well. Also, although the batting order is continuous, outs count and when three outs are made, the inning ends. No score is kept during the games. Teams are formed by the League Commissioners with input from the Volunteer Managers. Carpools and friend requests are accepted at this level. At all times, we attempt to maintain balanced teams.

What is AA Ball? Games start looking like real baseball at this level. The kids pitch from 42 feet and are restricted by a Little League established pitch count. There are no Walks at this level. During an at-bat, if ball 4 is reached, a coach comes in to complete the at-bat. The score is kept and wins and losses are recorded in league standings. The kids begin learning advanced fundamentals at this age. There is no stealing at this level. The teams are selected by the Volunteer Managers in a formal Draft setting. Carpools and friend requests are not guaranteed.

What is AAA Ball? Very similar to AA Ball, just one level up. Pitching is from 46 feet and as with all levels, the Little League Pitch Count is adhered to. There is no stealing at this level.

What is Minors? One level below Majors. The biggest difference here is that players can begin to steal bases. There is a League Tournament at the end of the season to determine a champion.

What is Majors? The top level of Little League. Little League Baseball's origins began with this level. It is the most competitive division and consists of the top players in the League. As with Minors, there is a League Tournament at the end of the season to determine a champion.

What is Intermediate? Intermediate is played with larger dimensions than majors but smaller dimensions than Juniors. Pitching distance is 50'. Bases are 70'. Everything else is like real baseball where the players can lead off the bases and steal, etc.

What is Juniors? Juniors are for Age 13 and above. They play on dimensions of a real baseball field – 90 feet bases and the pitcher's plate at 60' 6".

What is Challenger Division? The Challenger Division is a unique division set up for all players with special needs. All the players have a "buddy" during the game. The games are once a week

on Sunday late afternoons. It is a division that is immensely rewarding, not only for the players, but for the volunteers that come out to help as well as anyone who comes out to watch.

Who are the Managers? The Managers and coaches are all volunteers. Anyone can volunteer. An application is filled out and a background check is conducted to ensure the safety of all the kids.

How can I volunteer? Send an email to the league and request to Manage or Coach a team. Or become a Team Parent, Scorekeeper or Field Prep Leader. We are also always looking for qualified umpires. And every year on Closing Day, we elect a new Board of Directors. Submit your name to the ballot and serve on our Board.

How much does it cost? Please see our registration section for this information.

<https://www.northridgell.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1950058>

How do I sign up my child? We have on-line registration. Please see our registration section for this information. At a certain point, the on-line registration is closed and only walk-up signups may occur.

What is included in the costs? We include a team uniform and cap. Your child will have to have his/her own glove, bat, helmet and shoes/cleats. Before you purchase a bat, please review the bat regulations within the Little League rulebook. Baseball pants are optional.

What are Tryouts? Try outs are conducted by the Player Agent and the Commissioners of the Divisions. They include a skills evaluation of pitching, fielding, throwing, hitting and running. The try outs are set up by League Age.

All Stars? There are five age groups that represent Northridge Little League and compete in All-Star tournaments at the end of the season.

- a. There is an 8 to 10-year-old Team. A committee comprised of the Managers from the Minors division, the Baseball Player Agent and the Minors Commissioner vote and select the All Star Players. The team is then approved by the Northridge Little League Board of Directors.
- b. There is a 9 to 11-year-old Team. A committee comprised of the Managers from the Majors division, the Baseball Player Agent and the Majors Commissioner vote and elect the All Star Players. The team is then approved by the Northridge Little League Board of Directors.
- c. The 10 to 12-year-old Team is selected in two stages. The players select the first 7, 8 or 9 12-year-old players. After those players are selected, a committee comprised of the Managers from the Majors division, the Baseball Player Agent and the Majors Commissioner vote and elect the All Star Players. The team is then approved by the Northridge Little League Board of Directors. This is the Team that has the opportunity to play on ESPN and continue all the way to Williamsport and the Little League World Series. NCLL won the US Championship in 1994 and also sent a team to Williamsport in 1975 and 1967.
- d. There is an Intermediate All Star team for players from that division.
- e. There is a Juniors All-Star team for 13 and up.
- f. Managers of the teams are selected and approved by the Northridge Little League Board of Directors. The Manager is allowed to select one to three additional players to add to the teams, players that he/she feels are worthy of consideration. The additional players are also approved by the Board of Directors.

Thanks,

NCLL Board of Directors

p.s. See the link for a list of our current Board Members.

<https://www.northridgell.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1950055>