



Fort Belvoir Little League
2008 Season



What you should know about signing your kids up for baseball

by Bill Behring, League President

Welcome to Fort Belvoir Little League Baseball. This document is provided to you as general information about our league and is intended to help you understand some of the policies and procedures involved in the operation of a youth baseball program. The information contained herein is general in nature and future editions of the newsletter, *The Fielder*, are to be published as the season progresses to keep you up to date. This information is also available on the Fort Belvoir Morale Welfare and Recreation Website, www.belvoirmwr.com. Adobe Acrobat Reader, available free from Adobe.com must be used to read the document.

There are many versions or brands of baseball: Pony, Babe Ruth, Khoury and Little League, just to name a few. Fort Belvoir is a sanctioned league of Little League Baseball, Inc., a registered organization by the government of the United States. By virtue of legislation approved unanimously by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed into law by the late President Lyndon B. Johnson, on 16 July 1964, Little League has been granted a Congressional Charter of Federal Incorporation. It is this parent organization with which we maintain our charter for play, issued to us annually, and are bound by its regulations.

All players, 9 through 16, new and retuning, must attend tryout sessions

Dates and time are specified on page 13. Those involved in other sport activities will call for info on attending an alternate or special session. All players league age 12 will be placed in the Major Division. See further information, page 2 paragraph 2.

Age Determination

After 55-years of using 31 July as the League Age cutoff date, Little League changed the cutoff date to 30 April, as did virtually all youth baseball programs. With this change in place, it permits kids to play with kids their own age throughout the season. For instance, a 12-year-old player born in June, in the previous set up, would play the entire season on a team with kids 13 and 14 years old even though he would not turn 13 until the season almost over.

Who May Play

All **military** dependent boys and girls, regardless of where they live, league age 5-16, that have registered with Child and Youth Services are eligible. If in signing up for a previous sport since 1 September 2007, you are already registered with Child and Youth Services, you need not register again but only sign up for baseball, which will involve completing the Team Assignment card and pay the sign-up fee. Signing up before 1 March will save you five dollars off the baseball fee. Kids living on the installation must sign up with the Fort Belvoir League with the exception of those living in Woodlawn Housing. They may sign up with either the Belvoir or Woodlawn League as explained in a subsequent paragraph below.

The player's age and residence is now more than ever under close scrutiny by

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**FORT BELVOIR
LITTLE LEAGUE STAFF
(2008 Season)**

Youth Baseball Commissioner
Little League President
Bill Behring
1-540-752-2662

(Equiped with message answering machine)

Youth Sports Director
Jerry Arrington
703-805-9139

(Equiped with message answering machine)

Youth Sports Assistant Director
Rashawd Pope
703-805-1257

(Equiped with message answering machine)

Fort Belvoir Little League Hotline
703-805-9138

Little League Headquarters in light of the fiasco created in 2001 by the Rolando Paulino Little League of Bronx, New York whereby, a kid was playing that was too old for the Major Division and did not have legal residence within the league's boundaries, causing forfeiture of the World Series Championship. As the Fort Belvoir League President, I will always be in close scrutiny of the residence and age of each player to insure the kind of embarrassment created by the Paulino Little League to all of Little League Baseball does not befall our league or more important, the players who are, as usual, the innocent victims.

Ages: Players, league ages 5-16 years old are eligible. See Table A, below, to determine your son's league age. This league age determines in which division he will play except for players 9 through 11 years old. The 9- through 11-year-old players will be placed on a team in the Minor or Major Division based on their skills displayed at the tryout sessions. See Table B, page 6, for the division/age breakdown. New rule this season, all players 12 years old will tryout and be placed on a Major Division team. Exceptions to permit the 12-year-old to play in the Minor Division can be granted through District Headquarters with the parents request through the league president. The rule prohibiting 12-year-olds pitching in the Minor Division is still in effect. This same tryout format will apply to the 13-14-year-old Junior Division and the 15-16-year-old Senior Division in the event we have enough signed up to create more than one team in each division. Based on past history, in both of these divisions, we usually have only one team, which is created by the first 13 that register. Ideally, we would like to have more than one team but a minimum of 12 players per team is needed. (Games are played with other leagues around Fort Belvoir.)

Players 17 and 18 who wish to play will not register with Fort Belvoir as there are not enough teams around Fort Belvoir to create a schedule of games.

In effect, this will be a travel team playing games throughout the District 9 and surrounding districts. District sign up is vested in the Dale City League. If interested, contact the Fort Belvoir Little League hotline, 703-805-9138.

Residency: Little League Baseball has strict geographical boundaries from which all players in a given league must reside. Military dependents residing on Fort Belvoir must sign up for the Belvoir League at Youth Services. The only two exceptions Little League provides for are: 1) military dependents, of active or retired sponsors, may play for a military league regardless of where they live. Conversely, dependents living on the installation (the Fort Belvoir Little League boundary) cannot play in off post Little Leagues.

Dependents living in the Woodlawn village on north post may play for the

Table A

LITTLE LEAGUE AGE CHART 2008 SEASON

AGE	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AGE
TEE BALL DIVISION													
5	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2003	2003	2003	2003	5
6	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	2002	2002	2002	2002	6
MACHINE PITCH DIVISION													
7	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2001	2001	2001	2001	2001	7
8	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	8
MINOR AND MAJOR DIVISIONS													
9	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1999	1999	1999	1999	1999	9
10	1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	10
11	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	11
MAJOR DIVISION*													
12	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	12
JUNIOR DIVISION													
13	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	13
14	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	14
SENIOR DIVISION													
15	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	15
16	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	16
BIG DIVISION**													
17	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	1991	1991	1991	1991	1991	17
18	1989	1989	1989	1989	1989	1989	1989	1990	1990	1990	1990	1990	18

AGE MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR AGE

*See text this page, paragraph 2

**See text this page, paragraph 3

Woodlawn or Belvoir League. This is because the Woodlawn Little League was formed considerably earlier than our league and because of its proximity, the Woodlawn League included this village. We had an independent baseball program in those days and when we joined Little League it was decided not to be in the best interest of the Woodlawn or Belvoir leagues to require Woodlawn residents to leave Woodlawn and play at Belvoir. The Woodlawn housing area at that time had been and still remains within the boundaries of the Woodlawn Little League. However, by virtue of the fact the residents are military, they may play for the Belvoir League.

The other exception, 2) is for players who have lived off post and played in another league. Those players moving on post may continue to play for their former league. For this exception, I have to sign a waiver each year for this to happen. The waiver is not automatically instated each season but is virtually accepted by Little League Headquarters each season.

Registration

The annual registration fee of \$18.00 per child has been **waived** for the FY 2008 season. Registration is at the Central Registration Office, Markham School Age Services, building 950 at 9500 Barlow Road at Mount Vernon Road from 8am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

Also, new this season, are discounts for children of sponsors who are Wounded or Deceased Warriors, or deployed or in deployment associated duties, in support of Iraq or Afghanistan freedom efforts. The registration office has a full listing of the discounts. A copy of the sponsor's deployment orders and or status must be presented in addition to the information requested below.

Registration is the process whereby the administrative staff of Youth Services inputs your family's specific information into a database of all eligible and potential users of Youth Services. The information collected is required by Headquarters, Department of the Army and is not passed on to us who are running the Little League as much of it, including Social Security numbers and shot records (with the exception of the latest booster shot date) is not needed for Little League purposes. This is why the two-part Player Assignment Card is completed containing only the information the league officials and the team coaching staff need. Therefore a copy is held by the league president and upon player assignment; one is given to the manager of the child's team. Most important is the medical release form on the back of the card, which is given to the manager. If necessary, this permits him to seek medical assistance, usually at Dewitt Army Medical Hospital, located on post at Belvoir Road and 14th Street, in the event the parents are not present. Your local phone numbers are also important, as this is how you will be contacted in the event of an emergency or even for routine notifications as in the case of schedule changes.

To register for baseball you will need to provide: 1) a valid sport physical for your child for the duration of the sport (health assessments are accepted if it includes a statement that the "registrant may fully participate in sports," 2) the child's state issued birth certificate or, preferred, the military identification card, and 3) the sport activity fee. The fee for baseball/softball is \$65.00. Parents who volunteer for 20 hours or more during the season will receive a ten percent credit on their account towards enrollment in their child's next activity. The manager of the team is responsible for reporting the volunteer time of his player's parents. In addition, this season, parents registering for baseball prior to 1 March will be granted a five-dollar savings.

CALENDAR¹ (2008 Season)

Youth Services Registration – Ongoing

8 January	Baseball sign-up begins
1 March	Sign-up Closes
1-8 March	Tryouts (9-16 year old)
10 March	Teams formed (9-16 yrs)
12 March	Teams assigned (5-8 years)
12 March	Team practices begin
TBA March	Parent's orientation
16-23 March	Easter school break
23 March	Easter
5 April	Opening day ²
18 June	School ends
21 June	Fun tournament begins
30 June	All-star tournament begins

¹Calendar may be altered due to weather or other unforeseeable circumstances.

²Because of the inter-league play in the Major, Junior, and Senior Divisions, games could begin earlier.

**Signup / Registration
Hours are 8am to 4:30pm
Monday through Friday.**

**Registration Info and
Appointments Call
703-805-9114, 9116,
or 9118**

**Baseball Info Call
Coach Bill 540-752-2662
or the Hotline 805-9138
or
Jerry Arrington
703-805-9139**

Challenger Division

The Little League Challenger Division is for all kids ages 4-21 with disabilities. It is operated under the auspices of Little League Virginia District 9 (the District Fort Belvoir belongs to) by Central Springfield Little League. Opening ceremony is 2pm, Sunday, 30 March at West Springfield High School with games beginning on 6 April. Games are played on Sundays at Springfield's Trailside Park. Many other activities are available as members of Eddie's Club.

The Challenger Division information packet is available at Central Registration, Fort Belvoir. More is on the web at springfieldchallenger.org

or for ages 4-12 contact:

Eddie Garretson
703-304-2330
Egarret166@aol.com

or for ages 13 -21 contact:

Bella Hosler
540-372-6605
VAMAMoose@aol.com



The **manager's** first child plays free, and each additional child enrolled in the same sport will play at a 50% discount. (For the purpose of fees and registration, tee ball, machine pitch, and softball are considered the same sport-divisions of baseball.) As mentioned above, parents will also complete the Team Assignment Card, which will be provided to the player's team manager and league president. This is how the staff will be able to contact parents with information on practices, meetings, games, and in cases of emergencies, permission for hospital treatment.

No player will be signed up with any guarantee to be on a particular team, or with a particular coach except in the case of the team manager's son. See the Team Formation section on page 6. This policy is in place to prevent the "stacking" of teams, or the "red-shirting" of players. Managers, as well as all personnel have been encouraged to recruit players for the league but they cannot make promises as to which team they will be assigned.

Waiting List: Sign up early as teams are formed to accommodate all prospective players until such time when the registration has to be closed (in early March) and the teams formed. Signups cannot go on throughout the season, as all teams must have an equal number of players. This number is ideally 12 for most divisions as this makes for the maximum practical amount of player participation time. Loading a team with more players cuts down the individual playing time of each player.

A waiting list will be kept after the teams are formed so as to permit filling vacancies **if and when** they occur. Parents of those on this waiting list will complete the signup process but make no payment of the registration fee. The potential player will not attend tryouts, or practice with any already formed team until they are notified by, and only by, the Youth Sports staff (directory upper left corner of page two) of a vacancy.

Sign Up Fee: This fee contributes to the cost of baseballs, field stripping chalk, Turface, and caps and shirts for each player, which they keep. Other expenditures incurred are for replacement game equipment such as helmets, catcher's equipment, bats, pants, printed material, postage, umpire equipment and training and franchise fees to Little League Headquarters, Williamsport and Little League Virginia District 9. Other expenses are incurred with participation in all-star competition or other tournaments. Some of these additional expenses are: all-star uniforms/shirts, caps, additional baseballs, and team entry fees to the league or organization sponsoring the tournaments.

Items the registration fee does not cover, but the players will need, include but are not limited to: a catcher's protective cup (some coaches may require all players to wear one at all times), a (leather) fielder's glove (the catcher's mitt is furnished), rubber molded cleats or athletic shoes, and white socks. (The white socks are not required in our machine pitch and tee ball divisions.) Player-owned first baseman's and catcher's mitts are not required, nor recommended, however players who have them must also have a fielder's glove as the mitts cannot be worn when playing any other position.

Game Scheduling

The schedules will call for two games to be played each week, usually one on Saturday and one on a floating weekday. Games in Tee Ball, Machine Pitch,

and the Minor Division, are played here on Belvoir's fields. The Major, Junior, and Senior Divisions will usually have one game on post and one away, weekdays and Saturdays.

Every effort is made to avoid Sunday games but it is possible they could occur because of rain or other unforeseen situations.

Field Locations

The locations of the Belvoir fields are: The Tee Ball Division plays on the corner of the main post parade field at 18th Street and Belvoir Road. Machine Pitch Division games are on the field located on Washington Road off Taylor Road, which is near Pence Gate, just before the out-bound Jersey wall barriers. Minor and Major Division games are played on the fields at the corner of Belvoir Road and 18th Street opposite the tee ball corner. Junior and Senior Division games are played away and at our Route One Field, located on Casey Road. Access to this field will be made through the Woodlawn Baptist Church, using their access from Route One and their parking lot which is adjacent to the field on Belvoir's north boundary. Traditionally, "away" games in the Major Division are played at Woodlawn. The Junior and Senior Division games are played at Woodlawn, Alexandria Potomac, and Fort Hunt fields. Directions to these fields will be made available once the schedules are released and it has been determined where the teams will be playing.

Practices

Practices are held at the discretion of the team manager and are usually a minimum of two times per week depending on the player's age, attention span, and space availability. While each manager sets his own practice schedule, he may not always be able to get there on time. It must be noted, that the manager, coaches, and other people, including the league president, working with your son's team are volunteers and cannot spend eight hours a day or more working on baseball. They, just like you, have families, other jobs, duties, and obligations. For obvious reasons, do not drop your kid and run unless a coach is present. Likewise be sure to return on time to pick up your kid. It is not the duty of the coaches to "baby sit" after practices or games. Many practices will take place on the auxiliary Pullen Field on Belvoir Road opposite the football field, the main post parade field, the league fields, and other open real estate on post. Generally, there are no more than five practices per week, again, depending upon the age and attention span of the players. With post-season all-star teams, which take place after school is out there may be multiple practices every day.

Player Participation

Each division of the league has a minimum playing time each kid must play per game except in games shortened by inclement weather. There is no maximum limit per player except in the tee ball and machine pitch divisions as described below.

Tee Ball: All members of the team present at the start of the game are in the batting order and take their turn batting whether or not they are in the game defensively at the time their turn at bat comes around. Players are substituted in positions on the field at the discretion of the manager. With a maximum of eight players on a team, all will be in the field every inning. Players may play pitcher and/or first base positions no more than a total of two innings per game. There is NO SCORE or STANDINGS kept for the tee ball games. Scorers are used solely for the purpose of keeping track of the batting order and the

**Parent's Orientation
Time and Place
to be Determined**

One parent or guardian of each player must attend.

No kids are to attend.

The information contained herein will be discussed and parents will be given the opportunity to quiz the league commissioner and sports director. Afterwards, parents will meet with their player's coaching staff. The coaches will have the opportunity to put forth their team policies and procedures and answer any questions.

**Team Photo Day
To be announced**

All players are to be present to have team pictures taken and will have the opportunity to purchase team and individual pictures if they wish. Details will be forth coming.

number of outs. Teams change sides when three outs occur or if the team has batted through the entire order, whichever comes first. No new inning will start after one hour has elapsed.

Machine Pitch Division: All members of the team present at the start of the game are in the batting order and take their turn batting whether or not they are in the game defensively at the time their turn at bat comes around. Players are substituted on the field at the discretion of the manager, but in such a manner so that each player will be in a defensive position at least every other inning of the game. There is no restriction on the positions in which managers place their players as in tee ball. Teams change sides when three outs occur or four runs have crossed the plate whichever comes first. No new inning will start after one hour has elapsed.

Minor Division: All members of the team present at the start of the game are in the batting order and take their turn batting whether or not they are in the game defensively at the time their turn at bat comes around. Players are substituted on the field at the discretion of the manager, but in such a manner so that each player will be in a defensive position at least every other inning of the game. Teams change sides when three outs occur or four runs have scored in innings one through five, or eight runs in the sixth inning and only if there is time for a sixth inning. No new inning will start after one-hour and forty-five minutes. Any game tied at the end of the complete inning after one hour and forty-five minutes will remain tied.

Major, Junior, and Senior Divisions: Conventional nine-man baseball lineup applies, but as was the case last season, the continuous batting order was used by the leagues in which these divisions participated. This will be decided early in the season. Playing time is governed by Little League Regulation IVi which states: "Every player on a team roster will participate in each game for a minimum of six defensive outs and bat at least one time." There is no further playing time modification for these three divisions, unless the continuous batting order is used.

League Organization

The Belvoir League consists of three major officers, the commissioner/league president, sports director, and the assistant sports director. We are available as much as possible to answer your questions. Would-be problems must be submitted in writing so that a full investigation of the alleged situation can be conducted. However, if a problem arises, you are asked to use this chain of command/concern: If the question is within your son's team, give the manager of his team the courtesy of talking to him first. If his response does not satisfy you, then the commissioner and/or sports director should be advised in writing as stated above.

The league is divided into six divisions by the ages of the players. See the table at left. The 9-11 year old players are further divided in to two divisions based on playing ability. Managers and coaches as well as parents and players are encouraged to recruit players for the league but they cannot make promises as to which team they will be on. Promises by any of the coaching staff to be placed on a particular team will NOT be honored. Teams will be formed as indicated below in order to promote an equally balanced and talented league.

Team Formation

All players must be completely registered through Youth Services and signed up for baseball before being permitted on the field at the time of tryouts. No

Table B DIVISIONS (Age as specified on table page 2)
Tee Ball Division 5 and 6 year old players
Machine Pitch Division 7 and 8 year old players
Minor and Major Divisions 9 through 11 year old players
Major Division 12 year old players
Junior Division 13 and 14 year old players
Senior Division 15 and 16 year old players

one will be cut from the league that has signed up and paid before the league player quotas have been reached (Minor-Major Divisions, 12 players per team, Junior and Senior Divisions, 13 players per team) and signup closed. The tryout/evaluation process is solely to let the manager of each team determine the order he would like to pick his players when the teams are drafted.

Exceptions to team formation are: 1) Players who are eligible to return to Major, Junior, or Senior Division teams, by virtue of their age, will be placed on their last season's team unless extenuating circumstances with the league prevent this. In the event the player's former team is no longer in existence due to an insufficient number of players to form the same number of teams as last year, those players may be reassigned to a different team or will be placed in the draft with the understanding they will still be drafted to the respective division. 2) Managers may elect to have their kids on their team, and 3) where there are two or more players from the same household, in the same division, they will be placed on the same team unless the parents wish otherwise.

Tee Ball and Machine Pitch Divisions: Five and six year old players comprise the Tee Ball Division with eight players per team. Seven and eight year old players comprise the Machine Pitch Division with twelve players per team.

No player evaluations/tryouts are held. Teams are formed by the luck of the draw. The teams are dealt the players so as to yield (as close as possible): 1) an equal amount of players of the same ages on each team, 2) an equal amount of boys and girls, and 3) even distribution of previous experience which is determined only by the parent's indication, on the Team Assignment card, of the number of seasons previously played. Managers will have their kids on their team. Teams will be formed no later than mid-March. If you haven't been notified by the third week, contact the commissioner or Youth Sports (page 2).

Minor and Major Divisions (Ages 9 thru 12): Four or five Minor Division teams, and four Major teams are planned but this depends on the number signed up. More teams will be added if necessary. The ages, 9-11, are identical for both divisions. However, the Major Division usually consists mostly of players 11- and 12-years old, as picked by the managers based on their evaluation of the disposition, attitude, and playing ability of the candidates. As stated earlier, all 12 year old players will be assigned to the Major Division unless exception is requested in writing to the league president for forwarding to district headquarters. Note that 12 year old players in the minor division cannot pitch.

Minor, Major, Junior, and Senior Divisions: Players previously in the Major, Junior, and Senior Divisions last season will return to the same team provided their age permits. All new players league ages 9-12 and players previously in the Minor Division will attend tryouts and be drafted to a Minor or Major Division team. Minor Division players will not necessarily be drafted to the team they were with last season as the requirements of this division, like tee ball and machine pitch, are that the teams are dissolved at the end of the season and start from scratch in each subsequent season. Players placed on/ or selected to teams will not change teams except as provided for by Little League regulations when vacancies occur in the Major or Senior Divisions as described below.

Tryouts (evaluations): Tryouts for player's 9-12, 13-14, and 15-16 are held as frequently as possible to give each candidate as much opportunity as possible



to be observed by the team managers. It is important that each player attend all of the evaluation sessions available to him. The schedule for the tryouts is on the last page, 13.

In the event candidates cannot make the tryout time scheduled due to the basketball schedule or other obligation, he needs to show up at the tryout time before or after his basketball obligation takes place or contact the league president for another possible option.

If an evaluation session is missed, it is your responsibility to call Youth Sports, the sports director, or the commissioner to find out when the next session will be held. You will not be called unless your son has attended the tryout sessions or in the case of tee ball and machine pitch, when your son is placed on a team.

Major Division players from last season's teams must attend evaluation sessions. They will return to the team they were on in Major Division last season but the players have the option to be placed in the draft for possible selection to another Major Division team. This option must be expressed in writing to the league president before the last evaluation session is held. They cannot, however, return to the Minor Division.

Minor Division players can be promoted to the Major Division at any time except during the last two weeks of the season, or the last four games, whichever amounts to the greater number of games remaining. Minor Division players not accepting promotion to the Major Division will forfeit their eligibility to take part in any post-season all-star tournament.



Junior and Senior Divisions (Ages 13-16): Tryouts will be conducted similarly to that of the Minor and Major Divisions outlined above to permit the team managers to evaluate the talent and pick teams. As in past seasons, we are looking to have at least one team of each division. In the event there are enough players (24) to form two teams, tryouts will be held in the same manner as the Minor-Major Divisions. If only 12 players are signed up, obviously tryouts are not necessary.

After the managers have met and the team member selection process has been completed the manager will contact you and advise you when and where practices will be.

Tournament Play

Fun Tournament Series: In addition to the regular playing season, players 9 through 12 years old, who are not participating in an all-star tournament, may take part in the post-season fun tournament series District 9 (the district Fort Belvoir belongs to) sponsors in June. The main requirements are that we field 12 dedicated players per team, regardless of talent, in which ever age brackets we participate; players are on field site at 5pm weekdays; and we supply volunteer umpires to officiate other games. Age groups are 9-10 and 10-12.

All-Star Tournaments: In addition to the fun tournament series, Little League sponsors two versions of all-star tournaments: First are the International All-Star Tournaments in which practices begin in late June, with the first games being played over the Independence Day holiday. Talented players are selected by popular vote of the players peers, cast by all the registered players in their respective age bracket, their coaches, and the tournament team manager.

Players league age 11 and 12 from the Major Division, 13 and 14 from the Junior Division, and 15 and 16 from the Senior Division, are selected to participate in the Little League Virginia District 9 All-Star Tournaments. These tournaments culminate in a World Series in August.

Additionally other all-star tournaments for players 9 and 10 years old and 10 through 12 years old, from both the minor and major divisions are conducted, but advancement is only to the state level. That is, whichever team wins the District Level Tournament advances to the State Level Tournament and goes no further. Players from the Major Division cannot participate in both tournaments.

Following are some of the considerations that must be taken into account should we commit teams to tournament play.

First and foremost he must be available every day from 15 June through the end of the District Tournament, about 15 July. (Availability will be extended in the event the team wins the district and goes on to state.) 2) The all-star team members cannot be announced before 15 June. 3) Intense practices will be conducted for at least two weeks prior to the tournament, which begins the week of July 4th. 4) The weather is usually hot, and 5) while proof of age was required upon registration, proof must be shown again, in the form of the original birth certificate or military ID card, to the District 9 Headquarters staff. Certificates and ID cards must be surrendered, possibly for a couple of days but will be returned immediately unharmed.

The only proofs of age accepted for this purpose are the player's actual state birth certificate or the military ID card. Copies of these documents are not acceptable.

Parent Responsibilities

Most managers will solicit help from the parents to be coaches, team parents, scorers, and to perform other jobs that may come up during the season.

Scorer: Each team must have at least two scorers and attend the scoring class whether or not they have kept score before. Due to the new regulations on how long a kid can pitch, included in the scoring process is the tracking of the number of pitches thrown by each pitcher. The home team (Minor Division and above) is responsible for furnishing the official scorer at each game while the visiting team scorer assists. Both will be positioned behind the backstop. These scoring personnel are a neutral entity and are not to be cheering from this position. A second scorer, from each team, is recommended to attend to these duties near the dugout to assist the manager. Class(es) in scoring will be given prior to the first game. As stated earlier, scorers for tee ball and machine pitch divisions are solely for the purpose of keeping track of the batting order and the number of outs. Classes need not be attended, but is recommended for future information when the kids advance to the older divisions.

Team Parents: Each team needs at least one team parent. Team parent responsibilities include a variety of duties as requested by the team manager such as telephoning the team members to notify them of practices, games, and any changes in the team's schedules. The team parent arranges or helps to arrange for team after-game refreshments, transportation when necessary, and usually sets up a picnic, cookout, or some sort of outing at the end of the season. These picnics usually take place at the team's field site, at one of the



players homes, or wherever the manager decides, ie: Chuckie Cheese, Nationals baseball, etc.

Responsibility of Equipment

Playing: The team manager will usually keep the game playing equipment in his vehicle, however the unpacking and packing is usually the player's responsibility. The players will be required to take care of these duties after the games and practices before they are dismissed. Players are not encouraged to bring their own equipment with the exception of their fielder's glove. Care of the equipment by each team member is expected, as equipment damaged through misuse or abuse becomes the family responsibility for replacement. Bats are not to be thrown, banged into fences, posts, or each other. Helmets, bats and other equipment are not to be thrown, kicked, sat upon, or otherwise abused. Violations of this type during a game are grounds for ejection. The same care you expect your son to give his expensive glove is expected for all of the team's equipment.



Uniforms: Care of the uniform is the player's family responsibility. The uniform is not to be worn anywhere except to games, team picture day, and other activities deemed necessary by the team manager or the league officials. Launder shirts and jerseys after each game using no bleach. Hanging to dry is preferred as dryer heat may soften the adhesive of those jerseys where the numbers were installed by a hot-press method causing the numbers to come off. Pants may be laundered in a mild bleach solution.

Volunteers

We always need volunteers but we are in a unique situation being on a military installation. We usually have some normal maintenance provided for us that you would not find in other leagues in the civilian community. If this were not the case, we would need still more volunteers and funds to take care of major time- and labor-consuming things such as field grading, care and repairing of the fields, accounting, utilities, and procurement of equipment and supplies.

The biggest asset we have from the post is the cutting of the grass. Things that are not done for us are the picking up of trash and the emptying of the trash containers. When you see a trashcan becoming full, pitch in and help by emptying it in the dumpster located near each field.

This season we expect a significant increase in the number of teams in our Machine Pitch and Tee Ball Divisions. In these divisions we definitely need your assistance as managers and coaches. This might be the most difficult age bracket to teach baseball, but if you remember the kids are there to have fun only, the learning process will come in time and you will find the experience the most rewarding. If you have a son or daughter going to play in this division (or even if you don't) please consider giving the league your assistance.

Fund Raisers-Concessions: It is the food concession stand that we operate, which provides us some of the additional income needed to foster our youth sports program. Except for full time volunteers to oversee each concession site, each family is required to take one or two turns each season helping in the stands. Guest teams from other leagues will not participate in concession operation just as our teams do not participate in their concession operations when we are guests at their sites. In this manner no one is tied up every evening and Youth Sports is able to register and sign up your kid at a lower fee than most other leagues.

A game schedule will be given to each team manager annotating the games for which his team has responsibility to furnish an adult concession worker. Sorry, but no children are permitted in the concession stand. The manager of the team or his appointed volunteer, such as the team mother, will in turn, roster each family for an adult to work in the stand. The duties of the workers include but are not limited to, starting the equipment, making sales, and straightening up after each game.

A full-time volunteer is needed to stock, open, and close the stand at the end of each day's activity. These duties also include collecting the change fund and turning it into the Youth Sports office along with any list of stock reorder required.

Field Decorum

For safety and health reasons, requirements of Army regulations, and common sense, dogs and other pets are not permitted at the field sites. Your dog might be the friendliest animal in the world but it would take only one instance where he may be sleeping or hanging out alongside the bleachers when a youngster runs by and startles him or perhaps steps on his tail and the dog attempts to take a bite out of the youngster. This situation would prove to be embarrassing, not to mention expensive.

Bicycles are not permitted inside the confines of the playing surfaces. They should be left behind the dugouts where they are less likely to be disturbed or tripped over by players, coaches, and fans.

Spectators are expected to show courtesy to all the players of all the teams as although each player was their own. Our baseball program is designed solely for the kids to have fun, learn something about baseball, and exercise good sportsmanship. Spectator interference with these objectives will not be tolerated and offenders will be asked to leave and/or offspring removed from the game in which they are playing.

Little League Rules 3.09, 3.15, and 3.17 will strictly be enforced which in summary states players, coaches, managers, umpires will remain inside the confines of playing field and spectators, parents, and fans will remain outside the confines of the playing field.

Granted there will be times (and sometimes several) when the team you are rooting for will receive what you may deem a bad break or official's call. But this too is part of the game and while you may be greatly upset this is not the end of the world or the last game of the universe. Five days or five minutes from the time this happens the kids will not remember what transpired and will be to busy playing with each other to care. This is the example we wish to follow.

Officials

Volunteers for tee ball and machine pitch games are solicited from the fans and parents at the start of each game.

Officials for the Minor through Senior Divisions are all volunteers. The job of the volunteer umpire is one of the most important jobs in the operation of any Little League program. We are soliciting for umpires early in the calendar year so as to conduct training sessions and practice games prior to the start of the season. A chief umpire is being sought to assist in the training and



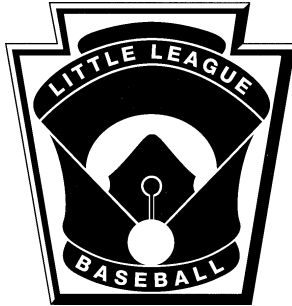
Free Umpiring Classes

Umpiring Classes will be given by Springfield Little League at Garfield Elementary School. Take I-95 north to Old Keen Mill Road (West). (Turning right is Franconia Road and Springfield Mall.) Make the first left turn on Spring Road. The school is on the corner of Old Keen Mill and Spring.

District 9 will host a weekend clinic, also free, on Saturday-Sunday, 5 March. All prospective umpires as well as all team managers are to attend. Coaches and all other interested people are encouraged to attend.

The clinic is at Carl Sandburg Junior High. Directions: George Washington Parkway north to Vernon View Drive. (The third left turn from Mount Vernon.) Follow Vernon View which becomes Fort Hunt Road. Continue to school on left. Drive to the right to the side of the school. Look for entrance sign.

scheduling of the umpires. Ideally, umpires are scheduled to umpire in games and preferably in divisions, in which their sons are not participating. However, based on the number of umpires available this may not always be possible. If you have any umpiring experience at all from the plate, bases, or the grandstand please contact the league officials (page two). You are sorely needed!



Umpiring classes are being conducted by Central Springfield Little League beginning the end of January once weekly through the end of February. A Saturday clinic is also being conducted at Carl Sandburg Junior High sponsored by the chief umpire of Virginia District 9. Both classes are free and all prospective umpires as well as coaches and managers are encouraged to attend. See the sidebar at right.

The rule of thumb here is: "Before you complain about umpiring, are you willing to trade places with them?" Another question to ask of yourself is, "Would you be making the same comment to or about the official if it was your son officiating the game?" Officials are always needed. If you are interested in officiating, contact a member of the staff listed on page 1. We want you to call the game from behind the plate, not the bleachers. If you do this once you will instantly agree that this is the best seat in the house from which to watch and call the game, however, you have to stand.

We hope you and your kids enjoy our baseball program and we look forward to your support. Call us if you have any questions. Write us if you have any problems.

Belvoir Fall Baseball

Fall baseball is for players league age 8 and above.

Registration for the fall baseball season will begin 1 June. This is a separate baseball program independent of our Little League Program although most rules and team formation follow the Little League format. Based on past history, one of two options occur:

If there are enough players, usually one team is formed in each age division with a ten or twelve game schedule. Games are played weekdays at sites off post which are lighted and some Saturday games at Belvoir.

If there are not enough players to form teams a camp format is created usually meeting one to three times a week.

The season usually last from the week school starts in the fall through mid October. More information will be available in May.



**ARMY MORALE, WELFARE,
AND RECREATION**

PLAYER EVALUATION SCHEDULE (Tryouts)

All candidates must attend all sessions to permit the coaches to see each candidate as much as possible in order to form a fair evaluation. Candidates may not do well at the first session and therefore will have one or two other chances to create a better impression. Tee Ball and Machine Pitch Divisions will not have tryouts/evaluations. Minor, Major, Junior, and Senior Divisions will have tryouts on Saturdays 8 and 15 March. Additional sessions will be held during the week, by age, to provide as many opportunities as possible for each candidate and the managers to attend. See schedule below.

**All players are to wear long pants, bring a fielder's glove and a cap.
(Bring sweatshirts or jacket if the weather is cool.)**

**DO NOT bring bats, balls, pets,
toys, food, and especially gum.**

The player's name is to be on his glove and preferably on his jacket, sweatshirt, and all other clothing likely to be removed during the course of the season. Parents are not encouraged to watch tryouts but they may do so from the top rows of the designated bleachers. Although the candidates are somewhat nervous at each evaluation session, they are constantly encouraged by the staff not to be and just do the best they can. When parents are present it is usually apparent that their nervousness is at a higher level despite the staff encouragement otherwise. Remember, too, that all players that are registered on time will be place on a team.

TEE BALL and MACHINE PITCH DIVISIONS (Ages 5-8)

No evaluations are necessary. You should be notified about 22 March from your son's team manager. If you have not been notified by 23 March, contact one of the staff listed on page 2. Do not wait until opening day!

MAJOR and MINOR DIVISIONS (Ages 9-12)

Meet Saturdays, 8 and 15 March at the Minor-Major Field Complex, 18th Street and Belvoir Road across from Sosa Recreation Center. Weekday sessions will be conducted at Specker Softball Field, across from the main post library.

TRYOUT TIMES AND DATES

League Age*	on Sat 8th and 15th at	and at 6:00pm on
9	9:30am	Monday, the 10th
10	11:00am	Tuesday, the 11th
11	12:30pm	Wednesday, the 12th
12	1:30pm	Thursday, the 13th

*League age is the age as of 30 April. See the table on page two,
What you should know when signing up for baseball.

JUNIOR and SENIOR DIVISIONS (Ages 13-14, 15-16)

Saturday, 8 and 15 March at 3:30pm.

Meet at the Specker Softball Field, 16th Street, across from the main post library and next to Specker Field House and the Home and Garden Center.

NOTICE

This is the schedule of the tryouts for 9 through 16 year old players from page 13 of the publication, *What You Should Know About Signing Your Kids up for Baseball*. The remainder of the publication should be viewed on the Web at:

www.belvoirmwr.com

If you have further questions contact: Baseball Commissioner, Coach Bill, at 703-805-9138, 1-540-752-2662 or Youth Sports at 703-805-9139.

**At the player
evaluation sessions—**

**DO NOT
BRING**

**bats, balls, pets, toys,
food, and especially
gum.**

**DO BRING
fielder's glove, cap,
seatshirt, and a great
attitude.**

Remember!

If a player evaluation session is missed it is your responsibility to call Youth Sports, the sports director, or the commissioner to find out when the next session will be held. Phone numbes are above. You *will not* be called until your son has been placed on a team.