

# Lake Mary Little League Fall 2019 Season Guide



May 11, 2019

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## Welcome Message

We are extremely happy to have your family choose to participate with the Lake Mary Little League for the Fall 2019 season. We have seen tremendous growth over the past few years and feel that the strength of our program is founded on our families and the overall dedication to help teach our children the benefits that come from playing in a sport such as baseball or softball.

We have provided this guide as way to help answer questions you may have throughout the season. If you do not find an answer in the guide, please feel free to reach out to your team manager and/or the Lake Mary Little League Board of Directors, and we will be happy to help.

Thank you

The Lake Mary Little League Board of Directors

## Key Dates

Below are tentative dates we've identified for the Lake Mary Little League Fall 2019 season. A dates are tentative and are subject to change due to weather and/or field availability.

- August 9<sup>th</sup> or August 10<sup>th</sup> – Skills assessments Baseball Double A and Above/Softball Minors and Above. The day/scheduled times will be provided approximately 1 week prior.
- August 12<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup> – Teams formed and notifications start to be provided.
- August 17<sup>th</sup> – First practices start for league (Note: not all teams may practice this day due to space and overall team availability).
- September 4<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup> – Tentative first games occur (Note: not all teams may play this day due to number of teams/schedule).
- October 17<sup>th</sup> – October 19<sup>th</sup> – No games, Seminole County Public Schools Fall Break.
- November 16<sup>th</sup> – November 23<sup>th</sup> Local Tournaments for select divisions.
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Fall Season complete.

## FAQs

Below are a number of the common questions that we field throughout the season that we hope will help answer questions you may have about the league

### Registration Questions

#### When will I learn what team my player is on?

Our plans for the Fall 2019 season is to get things started in a manner that allows for us to have a full slate of games while working around important items such as the SCPS days off. With this in mind we are planning of having all teams formed between 8/13/2019 and 8/15/2019. You should hear from you manager shortly after that timeframe.

#### Do we need to attend a skills assessment?

All players who are registered in the Baseball Divisions of Double A and up or Softball Divisions Minors and up are required to attend a skills assessment. Assessments will be assigned out to specific time groupings to attempt to minimize wait times during the day. You will be provided more details and information on the specifics as we get closer to the assessment dates. We are tentatively planning for the assessments to occur either on August 9<sup>th</sup> or August 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### When will the season officially start?

Our plan is that for the divisions that have a skills assessment, the either on August 9<sup>th</sup> or August 10<sup>th</sup>. First practices are planned to begin on August 17<sup>th</sup>. Games are planned to start between September 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### How is my player assigned to a team?

Depending on the division the player is part of determines the way the player is selected to a team. For the baseball Double A and up and softball Minors and up are all formed via a full draft this season. The managers will participate in a draft where the entire pool of eligible players will be selected to team following Little League international draft methods that are defined to each division. For all other divisions which cover the youngest players in our league, the managers will participate in selecting players to teams to make sure we account for helping making it a fun experience for the kids.

#### I have a request for team placement, are you able to accommodate the request?

While we do provide an opportunity to make requests during the registration process in our younger aged divisions, we are not able to guarantee that we can accommodate requests. Due to the nature of the draft methods of Little League International that we need to apply to those divisions that have a draft, those divisions players are placed to teams based on skills and the attempt to make equally competitive teams across the division. Requests are only able to be considered directly at the Baseball Single A and below and Softball Rookies levels.

### **We need to drop from the league can I get a refund?**

We can provide refunds up to opening day; however, there is a \$5 refund fee plus if uniforms are ordered the uniform shirt cost will be reduced from the refund as the uniform is ordered specific to the player. All refund request must be received prior to 8/31/2019. All refunds are processed in a manner of a check mailed to your registration mailing address as we do not retain any credit card information to protect you data privacy.

### **We have not played previously, what equipment do I need to have?**

The main thing that will be needed is a baseball/softball glove and it's recommended to have some sort of cleats. Players in the baseball Intermediate and up divisions are allowed to wear metal cleats, but all other divisions need to have non-metal.

Most players will also want to have their own bat. Bats can have a wide range in costs so please be aware that there are specific rules on bats in terms of the weight and composition of the bats. Please review the [Little League Bat Rules](#) prior to purchasing and unwrapping a bat to be used in Little League. Also note that for the baseball Intermediate and above divisions, there are specific rules that change the bats that are legal that is in the details within the site.

The league will provide the team with several shared helmets, but most players will also want to have their own helmet. We do not require that there be a facemask or guards on the helmet, but if the player is comfortable wearing one it does provide an added level of safety for them. We cannot allow any player to wear a helmet that is airbrushed and/or has a non manufacturer applied sticker/logo due to the fact these can conceal potential cracks and could pose a safety risk.

## Season Questions

### What day will games occur on?

We expect to have games scheduled Sunday – Saturday this season; however, we will work to minimize the number of times any team would play on a Sunday. Any games on Sunday would only be in the afternoon between 12-6 PM. We will attempt to keep our historical approach to games for the T-Ball and Single A divisions on Saturday's, however, it could be that we will have an occasional game on a different day due to the large number of teams we need to schedule for and the opportunity for those divisions to have more games.

### What day will practices occur on?

Practice days will be determined manager request and their availability, field space and majority of player availability. These practices could occur on a Sunday and for our older divisions, we expect there to be practice times that will occur at the Seminole Sports Complex near the Sanford Airport to ensure adequate space for all of the teams.

### Is see there is rain forecast, how do I find out if the game/practice is still on?

We make all attempts to notify of closures/delays as soon as we are made aware. The Lake Mary Sports Complex is run by the City of Lake Mary and they have sole decisions on when to open and close the fields. They will notify select members of the league to let us know of the status of the fields and our goal is we have updates on our website and Facebook within 5 minutes of that team knowing. They do work to attempt to make the fields playable for each day, but this does mean that they may be working on that determination right up to near the time a game and/or practice is scheduled. We ask our families to watch our Facebook and/or website as a quick reference as well as any communication you team manager may provide.

### How do we find out about Lighting Delays?

The Lake Mary Sports Complex is run by the City of Lake Mary and they have sole decisions on when to open and close the fields. They will notify select members of the league to let us know of the status of the fields and our goal is we have updates on our website and Facebook within 5 minutes of that team knowing. We ask our families to watch our Facebook and/or website as a quick reference as well as any communication you team manager may provide. The alarm system the City uses is the Earth Networks StreamerRT weather service to monitor lightning and severe weather situations. Any lightning strike inside a 7-mile radius of the Sports Complex will result in the suspension of play/rentals on all fields, Skate Park, and Splash Pad. Play/rentals will only resume once staff has been issued an ALL CLEAR by the weather service. A link to the current status of the Lighting Alert for the complex can be located on the Lake Mary Sports Complex website, or by using the following link: [Lake Mary Sports Complex Lightning Alert System](#)

### **I want to help with teaching the players the game, but I'm not an official manager or assistant coach, is this allowed?**

As long as the team manager is okay with additional help during practices, we do allow this to occur, but do require that a Little League background check be on file before any person is allowed to participate in any activities with the kids. During the games only the 3 designated team officials (manager/2 assistant coaches) are allowed in the field including the dugouts, except for T-Ball, Single A, Double A baseball divisions and Rookie softball division, one approved volunteer adult may assist with the coach/manager approval.

### **I can't commit to be a manager and/or coach, but want to pitch in to help, what roles can I help with?**

Being a volunteer run organization, we have a number of ways parents can help out with the success of the league. Each team will have a team parent who helps the manager with various activities with the parents such as arranging for pre-paid snacks at the concession stand and handing out various items to the parents and players during the season. Each team also needs a designated Team Safety Officer who needs to be CPR trained or willing to be trained (the league will provide this training each season). There are also roles that we can always use help with during the season that range as small as handing out tickets or covering a sign-up sheet for the Home Run Derby during our league events such as opening day to helping us coordinate items with the All Stars. All volunteers are welcome and feel free to reach out to your team manager and/or Board of Directors to learn more.

### **I'm interested in helping umpire games, how can I help?**

Lake Mary Little League does contract for umpires for several of our divisions, but in addition to that we welcome volunteers to help. We do offer a credit toward a future seasons registration for each game umpired and will provide training and have equipment that can be used. Please see our website for more details on this program under our Umpire Corner.

### **My player got injured during a game or practice, what do I do next?**

First off we hope your player is feeling better quickly. Please contact our League Safety Officer to make sure that an accident report is recorded and to help navigate the next steps.

### **My player is injured, but was not related to baseball/softball?**

First off we hope your player is feeling better quickly. A player that requires a doctor's care must have a written release from the doctor prior to returning as an active player. This includes any injuries or illnesses not related to baseball. Until a proper release is received, the player cannot physically participate in any practices or games. For the safety of the player, any player that is injured or ill and doesn't have a doctor's release will not be allowed into the dugout or on the field during games.

### **Can we prepay for concessions for the season?**

The concession stand is not operated by Lake Mary Little League; however, we work closely with the family that runs the concessions to provide total team rosters and game schedules to determine a cost that for each team that covers a drink and a snack on game days. This information is shared with the teams once the cost per player/per game is determined. The team managers will receive this information as we near the start of games in February and will share with the families.



**I have a complaint and/or concern how to I file this?**

All complaints must be submitted in writing to the Lake Mary Little League Board of Directors who will review all written concerns and work to address that specific scenario.

## Accepted Waivers

During your registration there were a number of waivers that you accepted to participate in the league. We want to make sure you have a copy of these details in the event you have any follow-up questions related to any of the items.

### Little League Player Registration & Medical Release Waiver

1. I/We, the parents/guardians of the above-named candidate for a position on a Little League team, hereby give my/our approval to participate in any and all Little League activities, including transportation to and from the activities.
2. I/We know that participation in baseball or softball may result in serious injuries and protective equipment does not prevent all injuries to players, and do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the local Little League, Little League Baseball, Incorporated, the organizers, sponsors, supervisors, participants, and persons transporting my/our child to and from activities from any claim arising out of any injury to my/our child whether the result of negligence or for any other use.
3. I/We agree that our child (candidate) may be required to try out for a team. If such does not attend at least 50 percent of the tryouts, local Board-of-Directors' approval is required for such candidate to be placed on a team.
4. I/We agree that our child (candidate) may be chosen at any time to play on a Major Division team, if he or she is of the correct age for such division as determined by the local league and Little League Baseball. Declining to move up to such Major Division team will result in forfeiture of eligibility for the Major Division for the current season, and may be subject to further restrictions by the local league.
5. I/We will furnish a certified birth certificate of the above-named candidate to League Officials.

### Code of Conduct

We, the Lake Mary Little League, have implemented the following Sport Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their children participating in our league. Any parent guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from attending games based on reported conduct. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games.

The essential elements of character-building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles:

- Trustworthiness,
- Respect,
- Responsibility,
- Fairness,
- Caring, and

- Good Citizenship.

The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these “six pillars of character.”

I therefore agree:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will not encourage any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
8. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
10. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
11. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
12. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
14. I will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
15. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
16. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
17. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

## Anti-Bullying Policy

Given the serious effects that bullying has on youth and organizations, Lake Mary Little League has adopted an anti-bullying policy. This policy overview is intended to guide all Managers, Coaches, Umpires, Players, Volunteers, Parents, Guardians, and Spectators.

- **Definition of Bullying:** Bullying involving behavior by one or a group of people with the intent to ridicule, harass, humiliate or intimidate another person during league games, practices and/or other league events. Verbal bullying involves repetitious behavior and includes the use of words and gestures. Emotional bullying involves rejection, terrorizing, extorting, humiliating, rating/ranking personal characteristics such as race, disability, ethnicity, or perceived sexual orientation. Physical bullying can include a single incident of pushing, hitting or kicking a person or interfering with their property.
- **Reporting of Bullying:** If you are being bullied, or know of someone being bullied, you must tell a team manager, coach, or member of the Board of Directors of Lake Mary Little League as soon as possible.
- **Consequences of Bullying:** If a person involved in the league (including managers, coaches, umpires, players, volunteers, guardians and spectators) has taken part in bullying behavior, a minimum of a warning and/or an immediate suspension from all Lake Mary Little League activities until the Board of Directors can review the incident to determine next step of actions for the incident. The further actions the board can take is pursuant to the Little League Regulation XIV – Field Decorum, which can include further warnings, discussions with parents and guardians, future suspension or exclusions, ineligibility for playoff, tournament, and/or all-star involvement, up to and including permanent removal from the league and reporting to local law enforcement.

## Refund Policy

All refunds need to be processed directly with the Lake Mary Little League Board of Directors. All refunds are processed in a manner of a check mailed to your registration mailing address as we do not retain any credit card information to protect your data privacy.

All Refunds are subject to a \$5 admin fee. After 8/12/2019 the refund is subject to additional costs of the uniform for the season.

No refunds will be issued after 8/31/2019.

## **Team Assignment Acknowledgement**

All teams will be formed via a draft processes that will follow the guidelines outlined by Little League International for will involve the Player Agent and Managers within each division. The draft method for each division will be defined within our local rules and will follow a defined Little League International Section of Players options provided.

I acknowledge that this means that my player may not be on a same team as a friend and/or player from a prior season. While manager may draft with the knowledge of players from prior seasons, all players will be in a pool to be selected from to form the most even teams as possible to try to ensure equal competition.

## **Location & Time of Games/Practices Acknowledgement**

Given the space constraints at Lake Mary Sports Complex, we have worked to grow the availability of times and alternative locations for practices and/or games to occur.

With this in mind I agree to the following:

- Our goal will be to hold games particularly for our youngest players at Lake Mary Sports Complex on traditional days of Saturdays; there may be occasions where these games could occur on a different day of the week.
- We expect to have an occasional game and/or practice that will be scheduled for teams on Sunday afternoons. These will be scheduled between 12 – 6 PM.
- Practices may not occur at Lake Mary Sports Complex and could be at an alternate location that the team manager obtains
- The league may also schedule practices at the Seminole Sports Complex or Soldiers Creek. This will primarily be focused on the players in the older divisions.
- Games on weeknights could have start times as early as 5:15 due to the need to allow for games that follow to have enough time to complete before the City ordinance that the lights are out at 10PM.

## **Special Requests**

Requests are allowed, but due to draft rules are only able to be directly considered at the T-Ball/Single A/Rookie Softball levels. We cannot guarantee that requests can/will be able to be honored.

## **Discount Code**

I attest that if I am using a discount code for this registration, the code was given to me directly by a Lake Mary Little League Board of Director and is being used for its intended purpose. I acknowledge that if I have used this discount code in a manner that is not stated above I will be responsible for the registration fee in full and registration can be cancelled if full payment is not submitted.

## **Residency Proof**

As part of the registration process, you may be required to upload proof of residency documentation. These documents will be verified by a member of Lake Mary Little League to ensure they are valid and I attest these documents provided are valid for the purposes of establishing residency. In the event that the documents are determined not to meet the residency requirements, I will provide any requested updated documents in order for my player to be eligible to continue to participate in Lake Mary Little League.