



2012 Saratoga Little League Information Package

Important Registration & League Information *[Print and review this document for reference]*

- Letter from the President
- Online Registration process overview and Verification Night
- Definition of League Divisions and Skill Goals
- Want to be an Umpire?
- Volunteer position descriptions
- Safety Program
- Code of Conduct

Dear Saratoga Little League Community,

Registration for the 2012 season is now open. I would like to encourage each of you to visit our website (www.saratogall.org) and click on the registration link to begin the process of registering your kids for the new season. We are really hoping to see all of you back and would also appreciate your help in spreading the word particularly with any new families that may have moved into the area recently.

We are looking forward to a great 2012 season. Last year we had 300 players representing T-Ball all the way to Majors who played over 500 fun-filled regular season games. Beyond that, our Farm, AA, AAA, and Majors teams participated in a very exciting round of playoffs with a couple of the Championships being decided in the last inning of the final game.

In 2012, we are committed to enabling:

- 1) Another great season of HAVING FUN PLAYING AMERICA'S PASTIME.
- 2) A primary emphasis on player development in order to create a very positive playing environment for all age groups.
- 3) A renewed focus on managers, coaches, and other volunteers serving as role models to players in teaching life lessons such as teamwork, sportsmanship, competition (winning AND losing), responsibility and trying your best.

We will continue to stress an atmosphere and coaching style in accordance with the Positive Coaching Alliance which we joined last year.

- For the very first time, we plan to institute **Sportsmanship Awards** to honor teams that exemplify the spirit embodied in our Little League Pledge.
- We are also committed to **bringing about a real sense of fun and enjoyment throughout the season for all age groups**. After all, It's a game played by kids and everything we do should promote the kids' interest first and foremost.

We also boast one of the most successful youth and adult umpire programs around. It is an excellent way for all to participate in the great game of baseball along with your kids. We are also very grateful for the support and commitment of numerous volunteers like you who put in a tremendous amount of time and effort in helping us plan and execute the program for the year.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your participation in and support of OUR Saratoga Little League and we look forward to a great 2012 season! Please do not hesitate to contact me with any of your questions, ideas, or suggestions.

Dinesh Bettadapur
2012 Season President
Saratoga Little League
president@saratogall.org

Online Registration with In Person Verification

Please note: Online registration open through Monday December 12 at midnight.

IN PERSON VERIFICATION NIGHT – DECEMBER 15, 2011
Argonaut School Multi-purpose Room 6:30-9PM

Online is the only way to register; you must then come in person to **VERIFY your residency, players age, sign up for a volunteer job and tryout time.**

FEES:

Division/Level	Cost per Child	Additional children/family
T-Ball	\$200.00	\$175.00
Mini-Ball	\$200.00	\$175.00
Farm	\$275.00	\$200.00
AA	\$275.00	\$200.00
AAA	\$275.00	\$200.00
Majors	\$300.00	\$225.00

In order to promote Little League to younger players, we offer lower registration fees for T-ball and Mini-ball players.

REFUND POLICY:

In the event a player elects to withdraw from the program, refunds will be provided as follows:

- Player withdrawal prior to verification night - 100% minus \$15.00 (registration fee)
- Player withdrawal prior to try outs - 75% of Registration Fee.
- Player withdrawal after try outs - 50% of Registration Fee.
- Player withdrawal after team formation NO REFUND.

Refund(s) for player withdrawal due to unforeseen circumstances (injury, relocation, etc.) will be considered by the Board of Directors on an individual basis. All refunds will occur by the end of the season. All refund requests must be made in writing via email to registrar@saratogall.org.

BEFORE REGISTERING:

Children ages 4-12 (**as of 4/30/11**) are eligible. Registration will consist of 3 requirements; Online Player Registration (including medical and participation waivers) and payment via credit card, Online Mandatory Volunteer Registration (including necessary legal waivers) or opt out payment and, an in-person verification. The goal is to automate the process online for registration and payment and make the in-person verification process as simple, efficient and stress free as possible.

Verify: That you live within the League Boundaries (unchanged from last year). [A map and information can be found here](#). If there is any question regarding eligibility or in what Division your child(ren), should register/try out, especially for families new to the league, please contact [the Player Agent via email](#). For returning players you may wish to consult your manager/coach from last year.

STEPS FOR REGISTRATION - BOTH Steps are Mandatory

1. REGISTER THE PLAYER(S) and VOLUNTEER(S)

- The URL for registering is: <https://www.tawala.com/p/1ndr7ndhun4mh40/nm7eppl.Registration>
 - **There is no scheduled walk-in registration. Please [email the registrar](#) if there is some reason you cannot register online.**
 - Register the adult who will be fulfilling the mandatory volunteer position or you can opt out by making a \$350 donation.

2. VERIFY IN PERSON: **(Required after Online Registration)**

- **When:** Thursday December 15, 6:30pm – 9:00pm
- **Where:** Argonaut School Cafeteria - Multi Purpose Room ([MAP here](#))
- **What to Bring:**
 - A clear copy of the volunteer's drivers license
 - An ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE for each new player (**No Abstracts, No passports**).
 - One proof of residency (i.e. PG&E, cable, phone, etc.)
 - A copy of the registration receipt
 - A copy of the volunteer registration confirmation (you still need to register as a volunteer even if you buyout)
- **Process:**
 - Verify Residency within League Boundaries
 - Volunteer Job sign-up and ID verification
 - Try out sign up.
 - Purchase Little League Merchandise
 - View brief presentation on League policies and expectations

Divisions Descriptions 2012 Season

Divisions

Saratoga Little League is divided into 6 separate Divisions. A Divisional Competitive charter defines each Division to ensure players are appropriately placed depending upon their age and skill level. This is designed to increase playtime in our Minor's division, increase player rotation defensively and offensively throughout the league, and increase the development of pitching and establish competitive levels of play appropriate for the Divisional age groups.

The Board believes that these measures will improve the opportunity for skills development of the majority of our participating players by providing more of why we are here: Game Play Time.

Specifically, we have implemented the following rules that far exceed the National Little League Policy of 6 defensive outs and 1 at-bat:

- Minimum play in the Minors divisions is increased from 3 defensive innings of a 6 inning game to 4 innings of a 6 inning game. Recognizing that there are games shortened due to rain or darkness, minimum required play is 2 innings of 4, 3 innings of 5, and 4 innings of a complete 6 inning game. A player not meeting his minimum play requirement will start the next game.
- Require defensive player rotation in Farm and AA to ensure every player gains experience in both the infield and the outfield. Defensive player rotation is encouraged in AAA and Majors.
- Retention of continuous batting order. In 2006 we will adopt regulations that further improve batting rotation by limiting the number of times that a batter bats last in the order and for the Minor's division, providing player the opportunity to bat in the lead-off position.
- Pitching rotation. Pitching is the key to successful post-season play and is a prime position that many players seek to try. Beginning this season we have established limits to the number of innings that a player can pitch in a given game. This accomplishes three objectives:
 - 1) Provides more opportunity for players to try and develop pitching skills,
 - 2) Develops more pitchers throughout the course of the season, and
 - 3) Protects the arms of young pitchers.
- Elimination of Division standings in Farm and AA during the regular season. Post season tournaments remain competitive in all divisions, but will be established by random seeding rather than by Season standings, affording managers more latitude to develop players without the pressure to win at all costs in competitive environments.

We are hopeful that the institution of these measures will provide for a more enjoyable format for our players and their parents. We also expect that these measures will increase overall player development and skill, improving the level of competitiveness in post-season play.

Please visit the website for specific division descriptions.

Saratoga Little League Umpire Program



- For youth (age 11 through high school) and adults
- Youth umpires earn \$15 and up per game
- Adult umpires are volunteers and have the opportunity to represent SLL in postseason tournaments throughout Northern California
- Training provided
- Positive environment strictly enforced
- See the umpire table on verification night to sign up
- It's a great way for parents to bond with their kids and umpire games together!!!

Eric Gonzales
Chief Umpire
umpire@saratogall.org

Saratoga Little League is a 100% Volunteer Organization

To keep our program running smoothly for the 500+ children who participate, we rely on you! Our 100% volunteer program allows you to participate in activities spanning from pre-season organization to regular and post-season play. Given the range of positions available to choose from, it is easy to find one that fits your schedule.

How much time does this take? Not that much! Your volunteer commitment is per family, not per child participating in the program. **Each family is expected to volunteer 15 hours during the season.** Of course some positions including Board Members, Managers and Coaches require a higher level of commitment. Regardless of the position, the reward for all volunteers is allowing your children to enjoy the experience of participating in a first rate Little League program while having fun working with other families in the community.

How do I know what I'm signing up for? A detailed description of each position is available on the Saratoga Little League website at www.saratogall.org. (Click on Volunteers) Training and support are available for all positions.

When do I sign up? Sign-ups for volunteer positions take place at Verification Night. Board Members and experienced volunteers will be available during the evening to answer questions about volunteer jobs. Please come to verification night prepared with multiple choices since positions fill up quickly. Volunteer job assignments are finalized and you are notified after the teams are formed. To keep the program running smoothly, please remember that once your job is assigned, *only the Volunteer Coordinator can approve a position change.*

What positions are available? The list of positions we need to fill during the regular season is below. The specific number of volunteers needed in each position is determined once the number of families participating in our program is known. (Note: Sign-ups for volunteer positions for post-season play will take place when children are selected for All-Star teams.)

Team specific volunteers

- Team Managers
- Team Coaches
- Team Assistant
- Team Scorekeepers
- Team Scoreboard Operator

League-wide volunteers

- Board Members
- Division Assistants
- Head Divisional Scorekeeper
- Game Coordinators/Volunteer Umpires
- Grounds Crew
- Opening Day Photo Asst/Trophy Coordinator
- Banner Assistant

Additional Tournament Specific Roles

- Tournament Assistant Director
- Tournament Umpire Scheduler
- Tournament Volunteer Scheduler
- Tournament Fields Coordinator
- Tournament Scorebook Coordinator
- Tournament Merchandise Coordinator
- Tournament Volunteers

What if I can't volunteer or meet my volunteer commitment after signing up? If you are unable to meet your commitment, **you will be invoiced for the Volunteer Buyout Fee of \$350.** In the event that you cannot show up for your assigned shift or fulfill your job you must inform the volunteer coordinator or the Board member supervising your position in advance. If you continue to be unable to meet your volunteer commitment you will be invoiced for the Volunteer Buyout Fee.

Questions? Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Todd Sloan via email: volunteer@saratogall.org

Saratoga Little League 2012 Season Safety Program

Dear Saratoga Little League Participants:

Welcome to another fun and exciting season of Saratoga Little League Baseball!

Saratoga Little League's Board of Directors is dedicated to the overall safety of our league. We are addressing the well being of our Players both from a physical and psychological standpoint. From the physical standpoint, we have well-maintained fields, use high quality equipment and enforce safety rules to keep our players safe. This will be the sixth year of implementation of our Code of Conduct Policy with a Three Strikes and You're Out implementation.

The Code of Conduct Policy is for the most part, standard throughout the Little League. A copy of this Policy can be found on our Web Site. What is unique in our Saratoga Little League is the implementation of our Three Strikes Policy. This will be the seventh year of implementation of our Code of Conduct Policy with a Three Strikes and You're Out implementation. Game Monitors will attend random games that are played this season. Game Monitors, Managers, Coaches, Umpires or Members of the Board can file a Code of Conduct Incident Form to be later reviewed by the Code of Conduct Review Committee. If the Committee determines that the Player, Manager, Coach, Umpire or Volunteer did not adhere to the Code of Conduct, a Strike will be assigned to his/her record as outlined below. Strike One is a Suspension for 1 - 3 games; Strike Two requires forfeiture of Position and Strike Three is suspension from the League. In addition, Umpires have been instructed to halt a game until an abusive Fan or Parent leaves the field if they are directly involved in a Code of Conduct violation. Strikes were assigned last year, and many parents have commented on the change in the behavior exhibited by many of our Little League members.

In an effort to help our managers and coaches comply with our safety standards, the Board of Directors has put forth a mandate of safety rules to be followed as outlined in our Saratoga Little League Safety Manual. Each team will ensure that the safety guidelines are met whether at practice or during a game. These will be reviewed with all managers and coaches after they have been selected for the 2012 season.

National Little League mandates that all Volunteers must fill out a Volunteer Application Form. They are only allowed to volunteer after the Safety Officer has made a background check for Sex Offenders. All information must be filled out on the form (including Social Security Number) and a photocopy of the Volunteers Drivers License or Government issued ID must be attached. There are no exceptions to this rule. This is to protect our children and our ability to hold Little League Tournaments at our facility is at stake. This information will be secured by the Safety Officer and shredded at the start of the next season. This year we are again using Choicepoint to perform background checks on all Saratoga Little League Volunteers.

SARATOGA LITTLE LEAGUE "CODE OF CONDUCT"

(For Parents, Volunteers, and Fans of the Saratoga Little League)

1. I will not force children to participate in Little League.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform a league official of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of children or the safety of others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the Saratoga Little League.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, managers, 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 youth to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
9. I will demand that athletes 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 ones' 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 athletes 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 youth or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
13. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit athletes 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 players 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 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.