



2010 Saratoga Little League Information Package

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

- Letter from the League President
- Online Registration process overview
- Definition of League Divisions and Skill Goals
- Want to be an Umpire?
- Volunteer position descriptions
- Fundraising Update
- Safety Program and Code of Conduct
- 2010 SLL Board of Directors Roster
- League calendar (consult before you make vacation plans)

October 1, 2009

Dear Saratoga Little League Community,

We are all looking forward to a great 2010 season. Last year we played over 500 regular season games and, with nice balance among our teams, had very exciting playoffs. After the season, the 10, 11 and 12 year-old tournament teams won District and the 11 year-old tournament team went on to win Section.

In 2010, we look forward to:

- 1) Another great season of HAVING FUN PLAYING AMERICA'S PASTTIME.
- 2) A continued strong training program for players and coaches at all levels.
- 3) And the players learning age-appropriate 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. We will have a Saratoga Little League Community Night at the San Jose Giants and continue to focus on sponsor banners and merchandise sales to support Saratoga Little League and allow for continued field improvements.

Some recent improvements over the past years allowed by the support of our community are:

- o A new scoreboard at the Majors fields
- o Shade coverings at the Majors and AAA fields.
- o Break-away bases for player safety.
- o Traditional clay pitching mounds.
- o Foul poles at the Majors and AAA level.
- o Upgraded batting cage enclosures.

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.

As always, we'll have our fun and progressively competitive year-end tournaments with trophies for all T-Ball, Mini-Ball and Farm players. Most importantly is:

- o **Over 500 total baseball games!**

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 2010 season!

Bill Baumel
2010 Season President
Saratoga Little League

Online Registration with In Person Verification

Open through Tuesday November 13th at midnight.

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	Late registration: after Nov 13
T-Ball	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$175.00
Mini-Ball	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$175.00
Farm	\$240.00	\$175.00	\$290.00
AA	\$240.00	\$175.00	\$290.00
AAA	\$240.00	\$175.00	\$290.00
Majors	\$240.00	\$175.00	\$290.00

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

After November 13th, registration may be on a wait list basis and registration fees increase \$50.00. T-ball and Mini-ball will accept late registration with no extra fee as best as possible.

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 5-12 (**as of 4/30/10**) 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 - All 3 Steps are Mandatory

1. REGISTER THE PLAYER(S)

- The URL for registering is: http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1798454
 - **There is no scheduled walk-in registration. Please [email the registrar](#) if there is some reason you cannot register online. Late registration will result in an increase in fees of \$50.**

2. REGISTER THE VOLUNTEER.

- Register the adult who will be fulfilling the mandatory volunteer position or you can opt out by making a \$350 donation.
 - This is separate from Step #1 (Very important)
- The Volunteer URL is: http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1798455

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

- **When:** Tuesday Nov 17, 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 2010 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
- Register online at www.saratogall.org
- See the umpire table on sign-up/verification night

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. 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 Representatives (T-Ball and Mini-Ball Only)
- Extra Team Volunteers
- Team Assistant/Scorekeeper (Farm, AA, AAA and Majors)
- Team Score boarders

League-wide volunteers

- Board Members
- Registration Assistants
- Tryout Day Administrators
- Tryout Day Field Assistants
- Divisional Scorekeepers
- Safety Assistants
- Game Monitors
- Game Monitor Scheduler
- Umpire Scheduler
- Umpire Paymaster
- Volunteer Umpires
- Field Materials Supply Coordinators
- Equipment Distribution Assistant
- Special Event Asst. /Trophy Distribution
- Photo/Handbook Distribution
- Database and Handbook Editor
- Merchandise Coordinators
- Banner Coordinators
- Webmaster Assistant
- Volunteer Coordination Assistants

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 Ann Johnson via email: volunteer@saratogall.org

2010 Fundraising

Welcome to the 2010 Saratoga Little League Season! We encourage you to continue supporting SLL and help pay for addition field improvements by advertising your business or well wishes on a Banner or by wearing SLL Fan Wear merchandise.

SLL San Jose Giants FAMILY FUN NIGHT

- Friday night – late spring. Date to be determined by end November
- A package of tickets will be distributed to each family two weeks before the event. Date to be announced before opening day
- SJ Giants offers great BBQ at great prices at the park so you don't have to cook. We will have a group of tables reserved this year to enjoy the pre-game feast.
- SLL player to throw 1st pitch along with SLL players being part of on-field celebrations such as the National Anthem, relays and other promotions between innings
- Jump houses, pitching games and more!
- Come out and enjoy a great time with all the families of Saratoga Little League.

Banners

- Banners displayed on SLL outfield fences and surrounding areas at Congress Springs Park
- Banners are \$375.00 for the 1st year and \$275.00 for renewals.
- Includes your logo/banner rolling on our SLL website home page.
- Exposure is phenomenal and people notice your support every day!

Go to SLL web site select fundraising, and download the order form today! Your banner can be up by opening day if ordered by February 15th!

SLL Merchandise

- Support Saratoga Little League and enjoy quality merchandise.
- Offering more new items this season.
- Purchase or order custom merchandise on Verification Night,



Bricks

Great Manager/Coach and Family gifts.
Only \$100.
Download order form on Saratogall.org website under Fundraising.



Saratoga Little League 2010 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.

Please read the section in the manual on Manager and Coach responsibilities as this section has additions based on our agreement with the City of Saratoga. We can lose the use of the Congress Springs Fields if we do not adhere to this agreement.

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.

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.

Very truly yours,

John Tatman
Safety Officer SLL
safety@saratogall.org

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.

2010 Saratoga Little League Board of Directors

The Board is made up of parents that volunteer countless hours to improving the experience for both players and parents. The board welcomes parents to participate improving the development of the program. Meeting agendas are posted before the meetings, and the minutes published afterwards.

Office	Board Member	SLL e-mail (at saratogall.org)
President	Bill Baumel	president
Vice President	Jim Joye	vicepresident
Treasurer	Todd Jackson	treasurer
Secretary	Lisa Lau	secretary
Safety Manager	John Tatman	safety
Equipment Manager	Doug Green	equipment
Chief Umpire	Eric Gonzalez	umpire
Player Agent	Patti Bush	playeragent
Majors Commissioner	Dinesh Bettadapur	majors
AAA Commissioner	Rob Reid	aaa
AA Commissioner	Bill Inserra	aa
Farm Commissioner	Jeff Stokes	farm
Mini-Ball Commissioner	Mario Ramirez	miniball
T-Ball Commissioner	Mario Ramirez	tball
Fundraising	Open	fundraising
Publicity Director	Jennifer Lauck	publicity
Field Commissioner	William Foster	field
IT Director	Jeff Johnson	cio
Registrar	Jennifer Lauck	registrar
Volunteer Coordinator	Ann Johnson	volunteer
Tournament Director	Open	tournament
Training Director	Phil Casini	training
Try-outs Director	Phil Casini	tryouts
Head Scorekeeper	Open	scorekeeper

2010 Saratoga Little League Calendar

(check the website for updates on specific events)

September 2009

- TBD Finance Committee (Treasurer, Fundrasing, Equipment Mgr, Field Commish, Paymaster) Finalize 2008 Budget
- TBD Information & Registration Committee. (Secretary, Safety, Registrar, Volunteer Coordinator, Publicity, IT) Finalize Registration.
- TBD Baseball Operations Committee (VP, Div. Commish's, Player Agent, Tryout & Training Coordinator, Chief Umpire, Tournament Director, Head Scorekeeper).

October 2009

- 5 7:00pm - 8:30pm - BOD Mtg at Saratoga Elementary
- 19 **On-line registration begins**

November 2009

- 2 7:00pm - 8:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary
- 13 **On-line registration ends at midnight**
- 17 **6:30pm to 9:00pm: In-person verification at Argonaut School**

December 2009

- 7 7:00pm - 8:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary

January 2010

- 4 7:00pm - 8:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary
- 23 Saratoga Little League Tryouts at Congress Springs Park
- 30 Backup date for tryouts in case of rain

February 2010

- 1 7:00pm - 8:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary
- 6 Majors practices start
- 8 Minors practices start

March 2010

- 1 7:00pm - 8:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary
- 6 **Opening Day Ceremonies for 2010 Season**

April 2010

- 3 Spring Break begins
- 5 8:00pm - 9:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary
- 17 Gamess resume

May 2010

- 3 8:00pm - 9:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary
- 29 No Games – Memorial Day Holiday

June 2010

- 6 Last games of playoffs
- 7 7:00pm - 8:30pm BOD mtg at Saratoga Elementary

July 2010