

# Shore Regional Little League



## Baseball Division Structure And Player Requirements (Effective 2023 season)

(Note: There have been no changes to our Softball Divisions)

Due to the growth of our program and multiple age changes initiated by Little League worldwide over the past few years, Shore Regional Little League has moved to restructure our lower aged baseball divisions to allow kids with equivalent skill levels to play together and develop at the same pace. As a parent in our league with a child LL Age 6 yrs. old, you will be asked to place your child in the proper division so that he/she will not be “overwhelmed” or “under challenged”. Children LL age 7 yrs. old may have the opportunity to be drafted into the **NEW** 8 yrs. old division. Children “**Little League**” Age 5 and 8 thru 16 yrs. old will be placed in divisions based on [Little League Age](#).

**\*Division Placement** - Parents of children “**Little League**” Age 6 yrs. old will be asked to place their child in the division which best fits his/her playing skills. **This placement is a request and will only be honored after player evaluations, division availability and player drafts and will be approved by the Player Agent.** Please review the following division descriptions (by Little League Age Group) that pertain to your child. Should you need assistance or clarification, please contact us at shoreregionall@gmail.com

**VERY IMPORTANT:** It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her SKILL LEVEL. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and, on the surface, seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal skill level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short-lived interest in playing baseball.**

**All final division selections will be determined by the SRLL Player Agents and players will be placed based on the MANDATORY Player Evaluations held in February. All players MUST attend one of the evaluations to be placed in the correct division or they may forfeit All Star eligibility.**

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## 5/6-Year-Old Baseball - Tee Ball - Beginner

**Description** – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. This division is structured to be an Introduction to Baseball. Players will play 3 inning games and will learn the basics of baseball. Hitting the soft safety ball off a tee and running to first base. Fielders will learn to field the ball and throw to first base.

- *All Little League age 5 yr. old players will play in this division.*
- *All Little League age 6 yr. old players who have never played organized tee ball/baseball should play in this division*
- *All Little League age 6 yr. old players who have 1 yr. tee ball experience will have the option to play in this division or move up to the next division.*

**VERY IMPORTANT:** It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her SKILL LEVEL. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and, on the surface, seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short-lived interest in playing baseball.**

### Batting:

- Players will learn where to stand and how to hold a bat
- Players will learn to keep their eye on the ball and put ball in play
- Players will learn to step and swing

### Running:

- Players will learn to run to 1st base after hitting ball
- Players will learn how to run through 1st base and stop at other bases
- Players will learn to run to 2nd base, 3rd base and finally touching home plate and scoring a run when next player hits the ball – baseball is played one base at a time
- Players will learn when to run and when not to run

### Fielding:

- Players will learn the positions on the field
- Players will learn to stay in proper position on the field
- Players will learn the proper “Ready or Set” position
- Players will learn how to catch a ball – glove positioning
- Players will learn how to properly throw a ball
- Players will learn to field a ball and throw to 1st base

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## 6/7-Year-Old Baseball – Recreational Coach Pitch

**Description** – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Players will play 6 inning games with coach pitching using a soft level 5 safety ball. Wins and losses will be tracked, standings will be recorded, there will be playoffs and for the 1st time, teams will play for a championship.

- *All Little League age 6 yr. old players who have never played organized tee ball/baseball are expected to play in the 5/6 yr. old Tee Ball Division and will not be eligible for 6/7 Coach Pitch Division without a Player Evaluation and the approval of the SRLS Player Agent*
- *All Little League age 6-7 yr. old players who have 1 yr. tee ball experience are recommended to play in this division*
- *All Little League age 7 yr. old players who have never played organized tee ball/baseball MUST play in this division*
- *All Little League age 7 yr. old players who have 1 yr. of coach pitch experience will be eligible to play in this division or move up to the next division after player evaluation and approval from the Player Agent and MUST be drafted.*

**VERY IMPORTANT:** It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her SKILL LEVEL. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and, on the surface, seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short-lived interest in playing baseball.**

### **Batting:**

- Players should know how to properly grip the bat – understand proper hand placement
- Players should know to swing level – not chopping at the ball
- Players should know where to stand in the batter's box when addressing a pitched ball

### **Running:**

- Players should know when to stop at 1st base and when to advance to 2nd base on a hit
- Players should know how to take a proper base running stance, one foot on the base, one foot toward next base
- Players should know to run when ground ball is hit (on a force play) and understand to get back to base when a fly ball is caught

### **Fielding:**

- Players should know all the positions on the field and be able to go to a position when instructed by a coach
- Players should know that only one player fields the ball
- Players should know that outs can be made at bases other than 1st base
- Players should know how and when to back up another player in the field
- Players should know how to properly get their body in front of and stop the ball

### **Throwing:**

- Players should know proper grip of ball
- Players should know how to plant their feet properly, step and throw overhand

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## 7/8-Year-Old Baseball - Introduction to Player Pitch / Coach Pitch Hybrid **NEW!**

**Description** – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Players will start the season playing 6 inning games with Coach pitch and transition into players pitching and players catching. Games will be played with a regulation hard ball. Wins and losses will be tracked, standings will be recorded, there will be playoffs that consist of only Player Pitch, teams will play for a championship.

- All Little League age 7 yr. old players who have 1 yr. of coach pitch experience **may** be eligible to play in this division by draft after player evaluations and approved by the Player Agent.
- **ALL 7 YR. OLD PLAYERS MUST BE DRAFTED INTO THIS DIVISION BY A HEAD COACH OR PLAYER AGENT. NOT ALL 7yr OLD PARENT REQUEST TO PLAY IN THIS DIVISON WILL BE HONORED**
- All Little League age 8 yr. old players will play in this division

**VERY IMPORTANT:** It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her SKILL LEVEL. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and, on the surface, seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short-lived interest in playing baseball.**

### **Batting:**

- Players must know how to hit a pitched ball
- Players must understand the strike zone (balls and strikes)
- Players must understand strike outs and walks
- Players must understand that you don't get to run the bases when you are called out

### **Running:**

- Players must know how to properly round a base
- Players must know when to run through a base and when to stop
- Players must know to run bases properly and follow base coach instructions
- Players must understand when and how to tag up on a caught fly ball

### **Fielding:**

- Players must understand "force out" and "tag out" rules at all bases
- Players must know how and when to get the lead runner
- Players must know what to do with the ball depending on number of outs and runners on base (situations)
- Players must know how and when to back up another player in the field and do so with minimum coach instruction
- Players must know how to throw and catch a ball properly

### **Throwing:**

- Players must know proper grip of ball
- Players must know how to plant their feet properly, step and throw overhand

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## **Minors Division Baseball – 9/10 Yr. Old**

**Description** – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 60 ft diamond. The Minors division is the next level of play after the Player Pitch Division. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook.

## **Majors Division Baseball – 11/12 Yr. Old**

**Description** – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 60 ft diamond. The Majors Division is the next level of play after the Minors division. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook.

## **Juniors Division Baseball – 13/14 Yr. Old**

**Description** – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 90 ft diamond. The Juniors division is the next level of play after the Majors division (60 ft diamond). This is a continuation of learning the fundamentals and proper play on a 90 ft diamond. Players play “real” baseball on a professional size field. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook

## **Seniors Division Baseball– 15/16 Yr Old**

**Description** – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 90 ft diamond. The Seniors division is the next level of play after the Juniors Division. This division is played with primarily 15 and 16 yr. old players with the potential to draft 14 yr. old players when necessary to round out teams due to registration numbers. Players play “real” baseball on a professional size field. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook.