Little League Softball®
Little League Softball®

- Founded in 1974
- Offered for girls ages 4-16
- Age determination date of January 1
- Currently over 360,000 girls participate in Little League Softball - in over 25 countries worldwide
**Little League Softball: Divisions of Play**

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<th>Division</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
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<td>Tee Ball</td>
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<td>Minors</td>
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<td>Majors</td>
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<td>Juniors</td>
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<td>Seniors</td>
<td>13-16</td>
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What will it cost to affiliate with Little League?

- $10/team
- Average of about $5/player (Charter fees and Insurance cost included)
- $200/team tournament fee
- $1/mile tournament travel reimbursement
Insurance

Required

• Accident Insurance for players and volunteers

• General Liability Insurance includes D&O and cyber coverage

Optional

• Crime insurance
Benefits of Little League Softball

- World Series Championship and semi-final games televised on ESPN
- Little League International provides travel to and from the different Little League Softball World Series tournaments for all international regional championship teams.
- Access to the only true International Youth Softball Tournament
- League Resource including marketing, insurance and operation resources
- Free online training for softball managers, umpires, BOD and parents
  - LittleLeagueU.org
• Softball Factory Player camps and recruiting information
• Additional educational resources and material provided by Positive Coaching Alliance
• Access for players to softball days at colleges and universities
• Coaches Clinics with Michele Smith, Jen Schroeder, USA Elite and Mark Cooke
• Softball Excellence Partnership
• Grow the Game Grants
The Little League International Tournament

• Three Softball World Series tournaments: Little League, Junior, and Senior League
• In all seven divisions, more than 30,000 games are played in less than two months to determine seven World Champions
• Almost 15 softball games televised on the ESPN Family of Networks
• Entry fee of $200 per team is for ENTIRE tournament, up to and including the World Series
• Leagues advancing to the state level and beyond are reimbursed at a rate of $1 per mile for one roundtrip
Coaches Resource Center

- Free to all chartered leagues
- Updated regularly
- Features both video and text based articles as well as the latest Little League news
- Content specific for softball, describing skills, helpful drills and suggestions on how to structure practice
- Instructors include Heather Tarr, Jen Schroeder and Lisa Dodd
- Tee Ball Program

LittleLeagueU.org
10-Week Tee Ball Program

LittleLeague.org/TeeBall

Tee Ball Practice

Week 2

- Practicedrill: **Tee Ball Practice Plan: Week 2**
  Practice drill: what the kids should know by the end of today.
  The players should be able to throw overhand, stepping with opposite foot and swinging all the hitting drills.
  Materials and equipment:
  - **Tee ball (1)**
  - **Base (1)**
  - **Bats (2)**
  - **Dugout (1)**
  - **Baseball (2)**
  Take turns (2 or 3), wear 2 or 4 large circles of yellow to form a 3 or 4
  **Home Run (2)**
  **Run (1)**
  **Run (1)**

Practice fluency:
1. Gather and welcome players, introduce coaches’ names and players’ names.
2. Practice drill: targets for the first drill and players use their practice
3. Players may use their bats to throw and play their practice drills.
4. Players may start throwing hand and their practice throwing drills.

Practice Planning: Assignment (Tee Ball Practice)

Week 1: Hitting from the Circle (Tee Drill)

- All players, even good ones, make mistakes. Develop your hitting habits
- Or your team and it should be made a mistake. If you practice
- It must be clear to the hitter that only those who are hit will be hit.
- Use a tee drill to help your athletes focus on the most important:
- The next player. When your team makes a mistake, the practice
- Control ball in hitting. Practice hitting
- Also, tell them that...
- Tee Ball Practice Plan: Week 2

Practice drill: **Tee Ball Practice Plan: Week 2**

- Introduction
- Welcome players
- Review names (players and coaches)
- Review rules of the day
- Practice plan for complete instructions
- Test the full practice plan for complete instructions

Break

- 6:35 - 6:40 Swinging
- Demonstrate a swing to players
- Have players practice swinging without a bat (dry swing)
- Have players practice swinging with a bat (dry swing)
- Have players practice swinging with a bat (dry swing)

Conclusion

- Have each player complement another/PCA tip of the week
- Review what they learned
- Reminder of next event (practice, game)

**If**

- 7:45 - 8:00 Fielding (Basic Fielding)
- In this team, fielding is the most important. With the help of mistakes, we won’t try our hardest. Remember.

Run the Bases Relay

- The players are divided into two teams. One team lines up at second base and the other team lines up at home plate. Each line should be out of the way of the base paths.
- The first player in line at second base runs to second base while, at the same time, the player at home runs around the bases back to home plate. Once the players arrive back to their team’s line they tag the next player to continue the race.
- The first team finish the winning team.
Little League University - Umpire Resource Center

- Free to all Chartered Leagues
- Updated Regularly
- Features both video and text based articles as well as the latest Little League news
- Content specific areas for baseball and softball; plate and base umpires; and 60’ and 90’ diamonds

www.LittleLeagueU.org
Softball Factory Partnership

Little League’s Preferred Softball Player Development Partner and College Recruiting Service offers instructional services, access to hundreds of US colleges and universities, and direction concerning the recruiting process.

National Player Evaluation and Training Tour

2016 Locations:
- Grosse Point, Bellevue, Indianapolis, Bristol (VA), Pearland

Players will receive:
- Instruction
- Evaluation with areas of improvement
- Video skills and drills
Partnership with Softball Excellence

Partnership provides Little League® approved content to coaches and parents for a discount

www.LittleLeague.org/SE

Starting the Motion:

**Presenting Ball:**
- Hands Down, Together
- Shoulders Relaxed
- Weight Back

**Start:**
- Hand Back is Optional
- Chest and Shoulders Move Past Front Foot
- Body Drives Forward
- Starts Stride Part of Motion

- Seven online seminars covering 11 game aspects
- Coaching Courses for all levels
- Online Instructional photo and video tutorial with downloadable notes
Little League Softball Days

Over 35 colleges and universities across the country hosted Little League Softball Days

Partnered with Oregon State, Arizona State, UCLA, UMASS, Boston College, Hofstra, South Florida, Tennessee, DePaul, Michigan, Baylor and many more.
Introduced in 2015, Little League’s Grow the Game Grant Program provides assistance to chartered Little League Softball programs working to further the mission of Little League in their community. Grants of up to $20,000 are available and can be used towards:

- Coach Education
- Player Training and Instruction
- Capital Projects (facility updates and improvements)
- Marketing Campaigns
- Starting/Adding a Softball Program
- And more…

To learn more, visit LittleLeague.org/GrowtheGame.
Little League Softball
Special Games

• Allows Little League programs to organize weekend tournaments easier during the Regular Season, Second Season and Fall Ball.

• Additional flexibility in rules for participation, pitching, games in a day and team composition to increase the attractiveness and competitive level.

• Games played count towards Tournament eligibility for Junior and Senior League.

• Complete details of special games options are available online at LittleLeague.org/Assets/forms_pubs/SpecialGamesGuidelines_Softball.pdf
Recent Softball Changes

The following changes were recently revised in the past few years:

• Regulation IV – allow 12-year-olds to participate in Majors and Juniors;
• Pitching Distance change from 40’ to 43’ for Junior and Senior League Softball (aligns with NCAA and ISF);
• Bat BPF to 1.20;
• Metal cleats option for upper divisions;
• Definition of a bunt (aligns with NCAA);
• Allowing a runner to steal at the release of the pitch in the Major Division;
• Allowing the batter to run on a dropped 3rd strike at the Major Division;
• Allowing tournament teams to participate in special games after tournament teams are announced;
• Penalty for use of an illegal bat
Softball Changes cont.

• Relaxed pitching regulations –
  – **Minor/Majors**: 12 innings in a day; 6 innings or less, no rest required.
  – **Junior/Senior League**: No restrictions

• Relaxed games in a day:
  • **Minor/Majors**: Two doubleheaders in a 7-day period
  • **Junior/Senior League**: Up to 3 games in a day.
Little League® Graduates

A few Little League Softball graduates through the years:

- **Crystal Bustos:** USA Softball Team (Canyon Country LL)
- **Sue Enquist:** Former Head Coach at UCLA
- **Cat Osterman:** USA Olympian (Bear Creek LL)
- **Heather Tarr:** Head Coach at the University of Washington
- **Angela Tincher:** VA Tech; No hitter against US Team (Clifton Forge LL)

**Jackie Traina** – University of Alabama and 2012 WCWS Champions (Naples LL)

**Gatorade National Players of the Year**

- Carly Hoover (SC), Alexis Bower (PA), Pauline Tufi (AK)
- Sarah Ing (Washington DC), Carolyn Szymanski (DE)
Chartering
Little League Softball®

Methods of Chartering
• Addition to an existing charter
• Addition to an existing charter with modified boundaries
• Softball Only Charter
Addition to an Existing Charter

- Softball can be chartered by simply listing softball teams on your league’s charter application.
- Charter fees and insurance rates are the same as those for baseball.
- Most appropriate when the same board is running both baseball and softball programs in a community.
Addition to an Existing Charter w/ Modified Boundaries

- Chartered by listing softball teams on the league’s charter application
- Charter fees and insurance rates are the same as those for baseball
- The league may request to operate with expanded boundaries for the softball program only to draw more girls to the program
Addition to an Existing Charter w/ Modified Boundaries (cont’d)

- Modified boundaries may include unchartered areas or areas chartered by another league not offering softball
- If an area in a modified boundary is chartered by another league, that league must give up rights to operate softball in that area
- All modified softball boundaries must be submitted as a waiver request and approved by the Charter Committee
Softball Only Charter

- A softball league can be chartered as a separate entity from a baseball league in a community
- This option is best when the softball program is operated by a separate board or when there is a group of individuals who would like to focus only on softball operations
Softball Only Charter (cont’d)

To charter a softball only league:

1. Complete and submit a charter application
2. Complete and submit a Little League constitution
3. Complete and submit a boundary map signed by the District Administrator, the League President, and the League Presidents of any baseball leagues whose boundaries the softball only league encompasses
Softball Only Charter (cont’d)

- All baseball leagues whose boundaries the softball only league overlaps must submit a letter giving up their rights to charter softball
- All softball only charters must be approved by the Charter Committee
New League
Incentive Package

As a newly chartered Little League Program, you will receive the following:

- 50 Additional Rule Books for your first season (in addition to the 1 per team you will already receive)
- 50% off your league’s Little League uniform patch order for your first season
- Your league’s charter fees will be waived in full for your second year of affiliation
For more information, visit 
LittleLeagueSoftball.org or 
Facebook.com/LittleLeagueSoftball

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