



# **MCKINNEY LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL**

## ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

As of 12.14.2017

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## Important Spring 2018 Dates

<b>January 7, 2018</b>	Approved managers can start holding team practices at D-Bat Allen using the league discount
<b>February 12, 2018</b>	McKinney City Fields open for practice; approved managers will be allowed to start practice
<b>February 23, 2018</b>	Open registration for Spring 2018 ends
<b>February 24, 2018</b>	Coaches Meeting and Player Evaluation; Draft in the evening
<b>February 26, 2018</b>	Scrimmage games will start for Coach Pitch and older divisions
<b>Late February, Early March</b>	Coaching Clinic for all divisions
<b>March 19, 2018</b>	Pre-Season tournaments begin in Coach Pitch and older divisions
<b>March 26, 2018</b>	Opening Day, Pre-Season Championships and start of Regular Season
<b>May 27, 2018</b>	End of Regular Season
<b>May 28, 2018</b>	Post-Season tournaments begin in Coach Pitch and older divisions
<b>June 2, 2018</b>	Post-Season tournaments conclude; All-Stars begins

Season start and end dates may be subject to change due to weather and game reschedules during the course of the season.

Late Registration will continue after February 23, 2018. Players who register late will be charged a \$20 late fee.

Pre and Post-Season tournaments are for Beginner Coach Pitch and older divisions. T-Ball will not hold tournaments.

## Registration

### *When is registration open for McKinney Little League?*

McKinney Little League has two seasons each year. The Spring season runs from March until June and open registration begins in mid-November and lasts until February. The Fall season open registration runs from August to early November and registration begins in June and lasts until early August. Players who are registered during the open period will be guaranteed placement on a team for that season.

### *Can I register after the open registration period?*

Yes, you can. MLLB will have a late registration period until the league is full or our support vendors are required to move on to other commitments. Late registration lasts for 1-2 months. If you register during the late period there is a \$20 late fee per player. Depending on when the player is registered, uniform orders may have already been made and the player's uniform will require a subsequent late order. This could mean the player does not have a uniform for their first 1-2 games.

### *How do I register my child to play?*

Once you've created your SI Play account (click Login on website), you can go into your account and select the REGISTER TO PLAY/PARTICIPATE button on your account page. ***If you haven't logged into the McKinney Little League Baseball since Spring 2017 you will need to create a new account.***

### *How do I determine which division is best for my child?*

You can review divisions [here](#). During the registration process the website will display all available options based on the player's league age and will advise which of the options may be the best fit. League age is determined by the child's age as of August 31<sup>st</sup> of the year. Thus, a child who was born 7/1 has a different league age compared to a child born 9/5. League age can be review [here](#).

### *When is the registration fee due?*

Registration fees are due at the time of registration. Fees can be reviewed [here](#). MLLB does support late registration. If a child is registered during the late registration period there is a \$20 late fee. If a child lives outside the official city limits of McKinney the city requires the league to leverage a \$10 non-resident fee. This fee is required by the city and the league uses Google Earth geolocation to check an address against the official boundaries of the city.

### *What is included in my child's registration fee?*

Registration fees cover uniforms including a shirt and cap. Fees are also used to cover operational costs including field usage, equipment, trophies, and umpires to name a few items. MLLB is a non-profit and volunteer-based organization including our coaches and Board of Directors.

### *What equipment will I need to buy?*

The league will provide 2-4 helmets, tees (in t-ball divisions), catcher gear (coach pitch and higher), pitching rubber (kid pitch divisions), game and practice balls and a first aid kit for each team. Players should purchase a bat, glove, pants, socks, belt, and cleats (no metal tips). Player may wish to purchase additional items like a personal helmet, catching gear and batting gloves but it is not required. All male players at the catcher position must purchase and wear a protective cup. Parents should not purchase pants, socks or a belt until the manager has advised team colors for the season.

### *What are the bat rules for McKinney Little League?*

McKinney Little League follows the bat rules established by Little League International. You can find the official bat rule [here](#).

### *What is needed to complete player registration?*

Besides payment, players will need to have a medical release uploaded to their file. A hyperlink to the form is available during the online registration process. You can also download the form [here](#) if need be. We ask when uploading the document during registration that you upload a picture of the completed form to guarantee all information is included in the upload. The medical release is good for the entire calendar year.

### *How does my child get placed on a team?*

Children in T-Ball and Coach Pitch divisions are not subject to a draft. New players will be placed on teams by the league based on geophysical or school proximity to other players. If a new player requests to join a specific team the league will do its best to fulfill the request provided the team has room on its roster. Returning players have the right to return to their teams upon request and have priority over new players to the league.

Children in Modified Kid Pitch or higher may be subject to a draft. Returning players are not subject to the draft and can return to their teams upon request. New teams can join the league and protect up to 8 players before needing to fill open spots with the draft. New players will need to participate in a skills assessment to determine their ability and are then drafted by teams with available roster space.

In a new Spring season, returning players from the previous Spring have priority over returning players from the recent Fall season when requesting placement on a team.

### *How does a player draft work?*

Rules for the draft are outlined in the MLLB Rules document which can be found [here](#).

### *What is MLLB's refund policy?*

The league will refund the registration fee, minus a \$25 cancellation fee, up until 2 weeks before the start of the season. After that point, no refunds will be allowed.

### *How do I register myself as a volunteer?*

Once you've created your SI Play account (click Login on website), you can go into your account and select the REGISTER TO COACH/VOLUNTEER button on your account page.

### *Does it cost anything to register as a volunteer?*

The league does not charge adults to volunteer.

### *What is the volunteer approval process?*

Volunteers will register via the website. Every volunteer must submit a valid driver's license in addition to a completed copy of their volunteer application. First time volunteers will use [this form](#). Returning 2017 volunteers will use [this form](#). There is a link to both forms during the online registration process as well. Once a completed registration is received the league will run a background check. Once a background check comes back satisfactory the volunteer will be approved to be assigned a badge. No adult volunteer can take the field during the season without an approved badge and risks ejection from the game if found to be on the field without an approved badge.

### *What if my child wants to play with their friends?*

Baseball is always great with friends! For our T-Ball and Coach Pitch divisions, friends can request to be placed on the same team and the league will honor the request provided the team has enough open spots. In our MKP, Minors, Majors and Intermediate divisions, friends can request to play with each other and be on the same team so long as they have done so in a previous season of MLLB baseball. If a player is new to the league in these specific divisions they are subject to the [draft rules](#) to prevent stacking and maintaining competitive play. As a policy, McKinney Little League Baseball will place siblings on the same team if they are playing in the same division unless parents give a strong reason not to.

McKinney Little League also has a referral program. If a new player joins the league as a referral by an existing family, the referring family will receive \$5 off their registration. The new player must mention the referring family in the Comments while registering. As stated above, if the new player has never played in MLLB before with the referring family or their team and is in a division that supports the draft it is possible they will be subject to MLLB draft rules.



**REFER A FRIEND!**  
Have a friend join McKinney Little League and get \$5 back from your registration this Spring!

- New players must mention the referring family in their Comments when registering with McKinney Little League
- Referred players must be new to the league or have not played since end of 2015
- New players to the league in MKP, Minors, Majors or Intermediate would be subject to the draft rules
- Limit 1 referral credit per family



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## Season

### *How long is the season?*

Teams will be scheduled 12 regular season games over a 10-12 week period. Coach Pitch and higher divisions will also have a post-season that should last 1-2 weeks. In the Spring the league will host a pre-season tournament for Coach Pitch and higher. In the event of a rainout or cancelled game, the league will reschedule the game as best as it can with field and schedule availability.

Teams will have 2-3 weeks before the season to practice. The league will make fields available for additional scrimmage games on a first come, first serve basis.

### *Is this a competitive league?*

Little League is considered a recreational league that fosters a fun and inclusive environment for children interested in the sport of baseball. Coach Pitch and higher divisions are competitive divisions in that scores and standings are tracked but competition will not compromise the league's environment or culture. Select and highly skilled players are welcomed to the league but new players and teams are subject to rules concerning the draft if they join draft applicable divisions.

### *How long are games?*

Length of game depends on the division. T-Ball divisions have 50 minute games. Coach Pitch divisions have 60 minute games. Modified Kid Pitch and Minors have 90 minute games and Majors and Intermediate divisions host 1 hour and 45 minute long games.

### *Where are games held?*

Games are held on McKinney baseball fields throughout the city. T-Ball and Coach Pitch divisions will play the majority of their games at either the Gabe Nesbitt Fields or at Towne Lake Park. Modified Kid Pitch and older divisions will play the majority of their games at Gabe Nesbitt Fields or Mouzon Ball Fields. In the event McKinney Little League partners with other DFW Little Leagues, games may be hosted outside of McKinney. However, these partnerships are usually for the Majors and Intermediate divisions and will not impact younger players.

### *What days are used for games?*

The league's schedule is dependent on field access awarded to it by the City of McKinney. There are not static game days for each division but the league can approximate based on trends and history. T-Ball divisions can expect the majority of games to be on Saturdays with an occasional weekday game. Coach Pitch divisions will play the majority of their games on weekdays with a focus on Wednesdays and Fridays, although Beginner Coach Pitch will try to have as many Saturday games as possible. Modified Kid Pitch and older divisions will play on weekdays as fields are available.

### *What days are used for practices?*

Managers pick their practice day and time during the Coaches Meeting prior to every season. Practice slots are assigned based on division seniority and available field allotments from the City of McKinney. If



you are a returning team or are forming a team, it is recommended that the manager confirms availability before committing to a specific day or time.

#### *What if I cannot make a game or practice?*

Life happens and sometimes you cannot make it. That is OK. We ask all players to keep their manager apprised of their availability for games and practices. To be eligible for All-Stars in the summer, a player must have played in 60% of their games during the Spring season. Parents can communicate availability either directly with the manager or via the SI Play app. Players that miss 2 consecutive games can expect a follow up from their manager to see if they are still active for the season.

#### *What is a pool player?*

To prevent forfeits MLLB utilizes pool players to fill in gaps in a game time lineup. A pool player is a player who volunteers to play for another team to help them meet their minimum roster requirements. The league will notify families when a pool player is needed. Pool players always bat last in the lineup and can only play in the outfield. If a pool player is used to backfill a player who said they could not make a game and then the absentee player comes to play the pool player will bat before the absentee player.

## Rules and Expectations

### *Where can I find the rules for McKinney Little League?*

The MLLB Rules can be found [here](#). These are league specific rules meant to supplement the core Little League rulebook. If you'd like to purchase a Little League rulebook you may go [here](#). The league will furnish every Spring team one rule book.

### *Does the MLLB Rules override the official Little League International rules?*

In the event MLLB Rules conflict with official Little League International rules, the Little League rules take priority.

### *Do I have to keep track of scores and standings?*

For Coach Pitch divisions and older, MLLB requires teams to track and update game scores. The league uses the SI Play platform which will manage standings as game results are turned in. The home team is responsible for keeping the official book of the game while the winning team is required to update the scores after the fact. The league recommends the iScore app if you wish to score games over a mobile device.

### *What do regular season standings determine?*

For Coach Pitch divisions and older, regular season standings determine the division champions. In the event MLLB hosts a post-season tournament, regular season standings will determine seeding of teams for that tournament.

### *What happens if there is a forfeit?*

If, for whatever reason, there is a forfeit the final score will be 6-0 and the forfeiting team will take a loss. Forfeits do not occur in T-Ball divisions. The league will work to make sure a forfeit does not occur but it requires managers being able to communicate head count needs timely.

### *What are mandatory play rules?*

Little League is an inclusive league designed to give all players the chance to participate and be actively involved in their games. Mandatory play rules for each division outline requirements placed on managers for making sure all players participate. Failure to comply with mandatory play rules can lead to negative action against the offending team up to and including forfeiture.

### *What are the pitcher rules?*

Pitcher rules are the guidelines for managing kid pitchers and their pitch count. Little League pitcher rules can be found [here](#).

### *Can an umpire eject someone from a game?*

Yes. Umpires can eject not only managers and coaches but also players and spectators based on either behavior, actions, or creating an unsafe environment. Ejections can also be due to coaches challenging umpire judgment calls, which are not debatable in any capacity during a game.

*What happens if I am ejected from a game?*

Ejections are not debatable and the ejected individual is expected to leave the field of play immediately. Parents who are ejected can wait in the parking lot until the end of the game so they can pick up their child. Anyone ejected from a game will be suspended for at least one (1) additional game following the ejection. This suspension is non-negotiable and the ejected individual is not to appear at any MLLB event during the suspension.

*What should I do if I feel there is an issue that the league needs to handle?*

If you feel there is an issue during the game that needs to be called to the attention of a league authority, you may approach the umpire when appropriate. In the case of managers or coaches, the manager can call time and discuss the issue with the umpire. If you are a spectator you may notify the manager or discuss the issue with the umpire following the game. Additionally, and outside of game environments, any issue should be reported to the board of directors and concerns can be sent to league president Will Lloyd at [will\\_lloyd82@hotmail.com](mailto:will_lloyd82@hotmail.com).

## Uniforms

### *Do I have to buy my own uniforms?*

Uniforms are part of the registration fee. MLLB will provide every player with a uniform shirt and cap. Each team will get three free shirts and caps for the manager and two assistant coaches. For T-Ball and Coach Pitch divisions players on MLB-themed teams will receive a Majestic Evolution T. For Modified Kid Pitch and older players on MLB-themed teams will receive a Majestic Eagle 2-button jersey. Players on an MiLB team will receive a licensed Majestic cotton tee regardless of division. Players on an NCAA team will receive a licensed Holloway dri-fit tee regardless of division.

### *Who pays for uniforms?*

The league pays for uniforms on behalf of the players and up to three coaches per team. This includes a number on the back of the uniform.

### *Can I purchase gear for my team?*

Managers are able to purchase additional gear at their discretion. Each team gets an equipment bag with essentials including a tee (if a T-Ball team), helmets, a first aid kit, catcher's gear (Coach Pitch and above), a pitcher plastic step off (MKP and higher), practice balls, and game balls.

### *Who does MLLB use for uniforms?*

MLLB solicits a uniform vendor prior to every year. Vendor consideration occurs in October with a selection made prior to the annual Member's Meeting. For 2018 the uniform vendor is BSN Sports.

### *When will my child get their uniform?*

Uniforms are ordered prior to the season and are delivered prior to the first games. If a player registers during the late registration period their uniform may not arrive for 1-2 weeks. In the event this occurs, the late registration player is encouraged to wear a shirt that matches team colors.

### *Does MLLB put names on the back of the uniforms?*

McKinney Little League does not put names on the back of uniforms as part of the standard uniform process in 2018. Teams are allowed to add last names to their jerseys and there are a number of embroidery businesses that can do this for you. MLLB's preferred vendor is [North Texas Sports and Embroidery](#) located at 308 N. Central Expressway McKinney, TX 75070.

# All-Stars Tournament

## *What is the All-Stars Tournament?*

All-Stars is Little League International's annual summer tournament. There are two variations of All-Stars, International and Classic. Players are selected to try-out for All-Stars and, if selected, are considered the best players in the league, representing MLLB as they play other teams all over the district and beyond. All-Stars is the tournament that determines eligibility for the Little League World Series.

## *When is All-Stars?*

All-Stars is held during the summer starting in June and lasting until August. If a player is chosen for All-Stars and accepts the selection, they are committing to be available during this entire time. If your child commits to All-Stars they are expected to make all practices and games. If you plan to participate in All-Stars make sure summer vacations are scheduled appropriately.

## *What divisions are eligible?*

International All-Stars includes players in the Minors division and higher and starts in June and could last as long as August. Classic All-Stars includes players in the MKP division and higher and occurs during the month of July and early August. For Coach Pitch divisions, MLLB hosts a Futures Game in early June.

## *What is the difference between International and Classic All-Stars?*

International All-Stars is the version of the tournament that can lead to the Little League World Series. The International teams have a chance to move beyond district and compete at the Little League World Series. International begins in June and could last most of the summer depending on the teams' success. Classic is district only and occurs during the month of July following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday.

## *What divisions are eligible for the Little League World Series?*

Starting with Coach Pitch, players are eligible for the Futures Game at the end of the Spring season. MKP is eligible for Classic All-Stars, which occurs at the district level. Minors are eligible for All-Stars up to the state level and Majors can compete as far as the Little League World Series. Intermediate players can be eligible and complete as far as the Intermediate Little League World Series.

## *How do I know if my child is eligible to participate in All-Stars?*

Players must reside within the boundaries of McKinney or go to school in McKinney to be considered eligible for International All-Stars. For Classic All-Stars, non-residents can be considered for play provided they submit a [non-resident waiver](#).

## *How are players selected for All-Stars?*

Players are nominated for consideration by their teammates and coaches. Nominated players will have the opportunity to try out for the All-Star team and, if selected, will be invited to play on one of the league's All-Star teams that summer.

### *How are managers selected for All-Stars?*

All-Star managers are selected by their peers prior to the start of the All-Star nomination process. Coaches will volunteer to manage an All-Star team and other coaches will pick the managers based on the available pool. The selected managers will then select coaches to be on their All-Star staff during the tournament. Selection to staff is at the manager's discretion but the league encourages managers consider staff from not only their regular team but all teams in their division. Managers and their staff are to be role models and ambassadors of the league during the All-Star tournament.