

## **My kid has never played before. Can they participate?**

Sure. The league is full of kids that had never played before they decided to try it out.

## **Which division should I register my child for?**

The Board has found that keeping kids the same age together generally works best, so for most ages, there is only one choice. For returning 6 and 8 year olds, parents have the option of having the child repeat the previous year's level or moving up to the next level. 11 and 12 year old baseball players have the option of playing Intermediates, but most would be better served playing with their classmates in Majors.

## **Can my kid play up?**

Other than what is outlined above, the answer is generally "no". This question normally comes from parents not wanting their child to have to repeat a level. They want their 7 yo to play in Minors or their 10 yo baseballer to play in Majors. The Board believes that these children are better served by playing with children their own age.

## **Can my daughter sign up for a baseball division?**

Absolutely.

## **What are assessments?**

Assessments are for players 9 and up. Players are run through a series of activity stations indoors to assess a player's skill. The purpose is to get players playing with other players at the same approximate skill level and age and to ensure that the teams are equally matched.

## **My child wants to play with a friend. Is this allowed?**

At T-ball, Prep-minor, and Rookie Softball, we will honor one buddy request if reciprocated by the other player. At minors and up, teams are drafted to keep teams balanced, so we do not honor buddy requests for older children.

## **I want my child to play for a certain coach. Is this allowed?**

At T-ball, Prep-minor, and Rookie Softball, we will try to honor coach requests. Keep in mind that we can only honor these requests to the point that there is room on the roster. At minors and up, teams are drafted to keep teams balanced, so we do not honor coach requests for older children.

## **I don't want my child playing for a certain coach. Is this allowed?**

For all divisions we will honor this type of request, unless there is only one or two teams in the division. With one team, there's nothing we can do. And with two teams, it becomes a backdoor coach request

## **I have 3 kids, can a couple of them be on the same team?**

Maybe. For twins, we can place them on the same team in undrafted divisions and make them a "package deal" in drafted divisions. For siblings of different ages, we can honor these requests for the undrafted divisions as long as both are of a proper age for the division. You can make the request for siblings of different ages in drafted divisions, but unless they are drafted onto teams in the same division, your request will not be honored.

## **How old does my child have to be to start T-ball?**

They will have to turn 4 before Sept. 1, 2018.

## What's with the price increase for 2018?

It really isn't a price increase. For the families that have been paying the fundraiser opt-out, the price is exactly the same. We are effectively charging everyone the old opt-out fee, but handing out every player 3 cards. We are conducting a pre-paid fundraiser.

## Pre-paid fundraiser...what's that?

What is different this year is you're not going to turn the money in to us. If you sell cards, YOU keep the money to offset your fees.

## I hate the cards and don't want to sell them.

Then don't. We're still going to hand out 3 cards to every player, and you can do with them whatever you want. We're not going to hassle you to turn them back in.

## Why do you keep doing this fundraiser every year?

Because it's the best thing we've found to raise money for field improvements. The fields we have were built with money from previous fundraiser card campaigns. We still need more places to play and practice. Read about our past field improvements [here](#).

## I've got a big family. This is so much money for baseball...

If you and your players go out and sell your cards for the league, your net cost for baseball will be easily the lowest in the Valley. That said, we are still discounting 3rd, 4th, etc players from the same family 60% off the playing fee (but not the fundraiser portion).

## Are you going to hit us up for more money later?

Nope. Little League rules only allow for one fundraiser per year.

## What else do I have to provide for my player?

Every ball player needs a glove, baseball pants, colored socks and belt. Most will want cleats, although t-ballers can generally get by in tennis shoes. All male players are required to have a protective cup.

## Why do we have to volunteer when we're paying you for a service?

SWA LL is not a service provider or a business. We are a volunteer organization of parents who come together to provide the opportunity for our children to play baseball and softball. The playing fees cover the costs of what it takes put on baseball and softball: things like uniforms, baseballs, water for the grass, dirt for the infield, catcher's gear etc. Almost all of the volunteering we're asking you to do is at your child's games and practices when you have to be at the fields anyway. We do offer the option of paying an opt-out fee, although we'd prefer you grab an umpire mask or rake and help us make every child's experience better.

## Baseball season is months away. Why are we signing up now?

We have to know how many players we have at each division to know how many coaches we need. Coach training starts in February. We can negotiate better deals for uniforms and gear if we know how many teams we are trying to outfit. Having lots of late registrants requires us scrambling to find last-minute coaches and buying uniforms and gear at full retail. We impose a late fee to try to encourage everyone to get signed up as soon as possible.

## Do we play on Sundays?

No games are scheduled for Sunday, and our Church partners do not want us practicing on their property on Sundays

## What's the time commitment?

If varies by level, and it increases as the children get older. The youngest T-ballers will have 1 or 2 activities per week and generally these last a little over an hour. The oldest Little Leaguers will have 4 activities per week that will last 2 to 3 hours per practice or game.

## What if I still have questions?

Contact [registration@swadall.com](mailto:registration@swadall.com) (use an @)

