

Easthampton Little League is about to open registration for the spring 2020 season. We made some changes to our baseball program last year, which we feel worked well and will continue this year.

We are again splitting what used to be the AA division into a coach pitch division and a player pitch division. The coach pitch division will include 6-8 year olds and be geared to players who are progressing from t-ball, but not yet ready for a player pitch only experience. Players will be expected to play in the coach pitch division for at least one season before moving on to the Rookies division. The Rookies division will now be a player pitch only division with umpires calling balls and strikes. League age 7, 8 and 9 year olds are eligible for this division, which will have games with similar teams in surrounding towns. Players at this level must demonstrate a consistent ability to throw and catch a baseball and be comfortable facing live player pitching.

Additionally, at the AAA, Majors and Intermediate levels we will again offer a Travel Team option which will involve weekend games with other District Two programs. This program will offer a higher level of play to players who have the desire and ability to play other similar teams in a travel league throughout the District. This level will be in addition to our regularly scheduled league games. We will play our regular league games from Monday through Friday. The travel teams will play two games on the weekend, most likely a doubleheader on Saturday or on Sunday. The towns in the District are still working on finalizing plans for this level of play. During the registration process you will be able to indicate if you are interested in trying out for this additional opportunity. We will not have final details until more planning at the District level takes place.

Description of the ELL Baseball Program - 2020

Baseball is offered for boys and girls 4 to 13 years old. **League age requirements are determined by Little League International. Please refer to the provided age chart to find your child's league age.** Within the baseball program are teams in the following divisions: T-Ball, Coach Pitch, AA, AAA, Majors and Intermediate. Below are descriptions and information about each division.

T-Ball

T-ball is designed for boys and girls 4 to 7 years old. It is an introductory program where players are introduced to the game of baseball. Players bat using a tee and/or soft toss from a coach. Scores and standings are not kept, teams typically play once during the week and once on the weekend.

Equipment Needed: League supplies all equipment - helmets and bats etc...

Uniforms: Players will be provided a uniform shirt and hat.

Coach Pitch

Coach Pitch baseball is designed for boys and girls 6 to 8 years old who have played at least one year of t-ball. It is an instructional division that will focus on throwing, catching and batting skills to prepare players for advancement to player pitch divisions. Scores and standings are not kept, teams practice or play twice a

week. Players signed up for Coach Pitch do not participate in spring training and will be placed on teams in early April.

Equipment Needed:

Helmets – We recommend that parents purchase helmets for their player due to health & sanitation purposes - teams will have two shared helmets per team.

Bats - League will supply two team bats per team, parent are welcome to purchase bats for their player

Rookies

The Rookies Division is designed for boys and girls 7 and 8 years old who have played at least one year of Coach Pitch baseball. This division will be entirely player pitch with umpires calling balls and strikes. Players will pitch from 40', rather than the 46' distance of AAA and Majors. The environment is competitive with teams from other surrounding towns being involved in league play.

The transition from coach pitch to player pitch can be very challenging. Players at this level must demonstrate a consistent ability to throw and catch a baseball for basic safety reasons. The focus at this level continues to be on individual skill development and understanding of situational play, including the development of pitching and the catcher positions. However, the main emphasis remains on development and fun. Generally, players will experience playing different positions.

Uniforms: Players will be provided a uniform top, hat, gray baseball pants and socks.

Spring Training: Will be used to determine the player's readiness for this division - players MUST attend

Equipment Needed:

Helmets – We recommend that parents purchase helmets for their player due to health & sanitation purposes - teams will have two shared helmets per team.

Bats - League will supply two team bats per team, parent are welcome to purchase bats for their player

NOTE: DIVISIONAL PLACEMENT IS EVALUATION BASED - ELL makes all divisional placement decisions

AAA

The AAA division is designed for players 9 and 10 years old. This is a player pitch league in which scores and standings are kept and includes the opportunity to compete against teams from surrounding towns in District Two. Emphasis is based on applying the fundamentals learned at the lower levels and continuing to learn game strategy, while learning the skills specific to each position. Teams will typically play 2 games a week.

Uniforms: Players will be provided a uniform top, hat, gray baseball pants and socks.

Spring Training: Will be used to determine the player's readiness for this division - players MUST attend

Equipment Needed:

Helmets – We recommend that parents purchase helmets for their player due to health & sanitation purposes - teams will have two shared helmets per team

Bats - League will supply two team bats per team, parent are welcome to purchase bats for their player

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Majors

Majors is a competitive division designed for 10 to 12-year-olds in which scores and standings are kept. This division represents the highest level of play on the 60' diamond. Our teams will compete with other towns in District Two. While the competitive feel increases at this level, coaches continue to focus on refining and improving skills, team building and teaching the game. Playing time may not necessarily be equal among players at the Majors level.

Uniforms: Players will be provided a uniform top, hat and socks. Gray pants are also available, but we have found that most players at this level choose to provide their own pants. For this reason we ask parents to purchase a pair of gray pants.

Spring Training: Will be used to determine the player's readiness for this division - players MUST attend

Equipment Needed:

Helmets – We recommend that parents purchase helmets for their player due to health & sanitation purposes - teams will have two shared helmets per team

Bats - League will supply two team bats per team, parent are welcome to purchase bats for their player

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Intermediate

The Intermediate division is a competitive division open to 11, 12 and 13 year olds. All 13 year olds will play in this division. We strongly encourage 12 year olds to play in this division, though they do have the option of playing in majors on the 60' diamond. Players advancing to Intermediate should have played at least one year in the Majors level or have equivalent experience. A major objective is to introduce players to an intermediate size diamond (50/70) in preparation for eventual play on a 90' diamond as players get older. The Intermediate Division provides a game that more closely resembles "real" baseball, including rules regarding leading off bases, stealing and others that are in line with the sport on higher levels. For those players who are ready, it will allow players to be challenged and to play with and against like-minded players of similar ability in Northampton and our surrounding communities.

Easthampton teams will compete with other towns in District Two. The teams typically play 2 games per week.

Uniforms: Players will be provided a uniform top, hat and socks. Gray pants are also available, but we have found that most players at this level choose to provide their own pants. For this reason we ask parents to purchase a pair of gray pants.

Spring Training: Will be used to determine the player's readiness for this division - players MUST attend

Equipment Needed:

Helmets – We recommend that parents purchase helmets for their player due to health & sanitation purposes - teams will have two shared helmets per team

Bats - League will supply two team bats per team, parent are welcome to purchase bats for their player

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