



**Aptos Little League
Parent Handbook 2008**

Aptos Little League, District 39 Member Little League Baseball, Inc.

Introduction

This handbook is designed to answer questions you may have about Aptos Little League and to serve as a reference guide during the season. You can also find the latest information on our website at aptoslittleleague.org. We hope that you and your child have a fun and positive experience in Little League baseball.

Aptos Little League Objective

The objective shall be to implant firmly in the children of the community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage and respect for authority, so that they may be well-adjusted, stronger and happier children and will grow to be good, decent, healthy and trustworthy citizens.

Eligibility

To be eligible to play in Aptos Little League, the following conditions must be met:

1. Age

* May not be younger than 5-years old on April 30 of the current year.

* May not be older than 12-years old on April 30 of the current year.

2. Residency

A player must live within the physical boundaries established for our league. Eligibility is determined by residence, not by area of school attendance. See our league's boundary map at www.aptoslittleleague.org for eligibility.

Help Wanted

Aptos Little League operates as a volunteer, non-profit organization. Our revenues come primarily from Little League registration, team and sign sponsorships, as well as a single Hit-A-Thon fundraiser. We have significant costs in our field use fees, insurance, equipment, uniforms, ongoing field maintenance at all of our locations and more. As a result, we need YOUR help to continue to make Little League the special experience that it is. If you have any of the following skills please contact us at the Aptos Little League phone exchange 831-427-8116.

- * Scorekeeping
- * Umpiring
- * Recycling
- * Volunteer Coordinator
- * Painting
- * Carpentry
- * Electrician
- * Special event coordination: Opening Day & Closing Day
- * Fundraising

Fundraising is an extremely important effort that requires parent participation. You can contribute by selling advertising to businesses (signs on the outfield fences), soliciting direct donations from businesses, helping with this year's Hit-A-Thon and many other capacities limited only by the imagination.

Events Calendar

Though Little League baseball season starts in mid-March, Board meetings and game preparation continue throughout the year, beginning in September.

2008 Season Calendar

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| March 15 - Saturday | Opening Day Ceremonies - Team Photos, Hit-A-Thon Fundraiser, Major League games |
| March 17 - Monday | First AAA games |
| March 31 - Monday | First games in Minors, Farm, Tee Ball |
| March 22 - March 30 | Break, no games scheduled |
| May 27 - June 12 | Aptos Major and AAA League Tournaments |
| June 7 - Saturday | Closing Ceremonies - Free Bar-B-Q, all players and parents invited |
| Mid-June - Early July | District 39 TOC Tournaments |
| June 15 | Announcement of All Star Teams |

Board Meeting Dates

All board meetings are open to the public and are held monthly on the first Thursday of the month (with the exception of July and August) at 7:30 p.m. at Aptos Junior High School, Room 1. Anyone interested in the league's administrative affairs is encouraged to attend the monthly meetings. For upcoming meeting schedule, agendas and minutes check our website www.aptoslittleleague.org.

Divisions of Play

In Aptos Little League players are grouped generally by age and playing abilities into five divisions of play:

TEE BALL — All **5** and **6** year old players

(A 6 year old may play in Farm after completing 1 year in Tee Ball)

FARM — Coach Pitch — Mostly **7, 8, 9** year old players

MINORS — Player/Coach Pitch — **8, 9, 10, 11** year old players

AAA — Player Pitch - 9 (a few), **10, 11, 12** year old players

MAJORS — **Advanced** Player Pitch - 10 (a few), **11, 12** year old players

While players and their parents are often eager to see a child "make the Majors," it is often in the best interest of the child's self esteem and for their own safety that they play in one of the lower divisions. With that in mind Aptos Little League has spent a considerable amount of time developing a comprehensive set of rules designed to help all players in the league.

Try-Outs

Majors players are selected by a draft. All players must try-out for Majors unless certified to have a medical reason or league approved letter of absence/explanation letter from parents/guardians for not attending try-outs. Failure to try out may result in placement in player's prior season's division. The Player Agent will notify all managers of excused try-out absences prior to the Majors draft.

We encourage all players who played in Farm, Minors and AAA last year to attend try-outs. Based on try-out evaluations, lower division players are placed on to teams where they will be grouped with players of similar ability.

** No prospective players are turned away. Everyone who tries-out will make a team. **

Team Selection

After try-outs, team selection begins.

Majors

Majors is for 10, 11 and 12-year olds with an emphasis on older players and those with higher skill levels.

Evaluation of players is based on try-out ratings and previous level of play.

Selection of major players will be made through a standard round-robin draft following Little League Baseball, Inc. rules. Aptos Little League currently operates a redraft method for all Majors teams each year.

The Majors teams are drafted first, usually in early February.

AAA, Minors, Farm & Tee Ball

After the Majors teams are finalized, the Player Agent - with input from the League Commissioners - assigns players to teams in AAA, Minors, Farm and Tee Ball in that order. Players are assigned to teams based on try-outs, previous experience, age and to try to balance the talent as equally as possible across all the teams.

Team placement requests - we do try to honor as many requests relating to carpooling, friends, etc. as we can in the lower divisions. Be sure to include team placement requests on your registration form. There are many competing factors that go into creating the teams, so please, list no more than two alternate players your child wants to be placed with. We will try, but cannot guarantee, that your request will be granted. The primary goal is to place every player on a team and in a division where they will learn to love the game and have the most fun.

All divisional and team placement decisions are ultimately the responsibility of the Board of Directors through the Player Agent. Once players have been called by their new managers, only the Board of Directors, through the Player Agent, can approve team roster changes. If there is a permanent opening on a team due to a player injury or resignation, the replacement player will be selected from a list supplied by the division Commissioner, reviewed by the Player Agent and approved by the Board of Directors.

Uniforms

All players in all divisions are supplied with jerseys and caps. The remaining uniform items are optional:

- * Pants
- * Socks
- * Belts
- * Undershirts with sleeves in the colors designated for the child's team

These items are available at various sporting goods dealers who specialize in Little League equipment and uniforms. Players may wear comfortable athletic footwear to games and practices. Rubber-creak baseball shoes are preferred but are not required. NO METAL CLEATS are allowed.

Equipment

With the exception of a fielder's glove, the League provides all equipment to the players. Players may bring their own bats so long as it is a model approved for Little League use (please consult with your player's team Manager regarding current Little League rules for bats).

Note: please mark all of your child's personal equipment clearly with their name and a phone number.

Insurance

Aptos Little League provides secondary insurance in the event of medical or dental emergency. This insurance is secondary to any other insurance that you carry. In the event of injury, the parent and coach should contact the Safety Officer at aptoslittleleague.org or 831-427-8116, who will file the initial injury report with the insurance division of Little League Baseball, Inc.

Player & Spectator Conduct During Games

During games managers, coaches AND players cannot involve themselves with the spectators. Please make sure your child has eaten prior to the game and brings their own water for the game.

Regular Season Play – Majors and AAA Divisions

These divisions incorporate a two-tiered structure to the Little League season:

- * 15-18 game regular season, followed by
- * Double-elimination tournament

The league standings at the end of the regular season determine the seedings used for the tournament.

The Majors and AAA tournament winners represent Aptos Little League in the post-season District 39 Tournament of Champions (TOC's). (See the Post Season Play section later in this handbook.)

Since the regular season only counts towards the tournament seedings, it is generally used to allow players an opportunity to hone their skills and build their confidence. All managers and coaches are encouraged to freely distribute playing time amongst all players during the regular season.

Note: During the regular season, all Majors players play a minimum of 3 defensive innings (9 defensive outs) with at least 1 at bat. During the regular season, all AAA players bat through the order and play a minimum of 3 defensive innings (9 defensive outs). All tournament and post-season play for all ages will revert to standard Little League Baseball, Inc. rules which mandate 2 innings defensively (6 consecutive defensive outs) and at least 1 at bat.

For Minors, Farm and Tee Ball, managers are encouraged to play all the players a maximum number of innings defensively. Because most teams have 12 players, that means a player should only have to sit out one inning defensively during a game. All players in these leagues bat through the order.

Trophies

The League provides trophies for the first, second and third place teams in the Majors and AAA divisions only.

There are no other awards provided by the League.

Traditionally, if parents from a specific team want to provide trophies for the players they take up a collection from all the parents of that team in order to buy trophies. These are usually handed out at the team's end-of-season party. Often a collection is also taken up to provide a thank-you gift for the manager, coach, and team parent. This is completely voluntary on the part of each family.

Managers / Coaches Evaluations

Each year Aptos Little league will solicit feedback from parents regarding the effectiveness of the managers and coaches that season. A form will be mailed to all parents at the end of the season. The Managers' Committee and Board of Directors will review the returned forms.

Player Evaluations

At the conclusion of each Little League season, Aptos Little league will provide a form for the managers and coaches to evaluate the performance of each of the children on his/her team. These evaluations will include skills criteria such as batting, throwing, fielding and attitude. The evaluation will also include the managers' recommendation for future placement in an appropriate division of play. These evaluations, when used in addition to the try-out evaluations, provide valuable input to the prospective managers and coaches during the team selection process the following year.

Post Season Play - All Stars and TOC (Tournament of Champions)

Aptos Little League sends up to six different teams to post-season play. These teams are:

- 8-9 year old All Stars
- 9-10 year old All Stars
- 10-11 year old All Stars
- 11-12 year old All Stars
- Majors Tournament of Champions (1st place team in Majors division tournament)
- AAA Tournament of Champions (1st place team in AAA division tournament)

Participation on any of the All Star or TOC teams requires a time commitment on the part of the families of players selected for the teams. The TOC teams are announced at the end of our local tournaments. Practices begin right away and, depending on how far a team goes in the District 39 TOC tournament, can continue to play through early July. The All Star teams are announced around June 15. The All Star tournaments run throughout July and August depending on how far a team goes. If an 11-12 year-old team is successful in the All Star tournament, the post-season competition can continue into August, culminating in the Little League World Series. Parents and players should understand the commitment to attend regular practices and games for as long as the team "stays alive" in tournament play.

AAA All Stars – Closing Day

At the end of the regular AAA season each team elects six of its own players to represent the team in an exhibition game played during the League's Closing Ceremonies. The players will be placed randomly on four teams. Each team plays two, 3 inning games. The players wear their regular season uniforms for the game but are given an All Star cap that is theirs to keep. This game has proven to be a memorable experience for the children who participate. All AAA managers are invited to co-manage the teams.

Player Discipline

Disciplinary actions are handled on a case by case basis by the league Commissioner, Player Agent and League Executive Board.

Grievances

Grievances will be addressed by the League Executive Board for discussion and then presented to the entire Board if warranted.

Note: Remember, this is your Aptos Little League. If you have concerns or questions regarding the administration and operation of the League, come to the monthly board meetings, become a Board member, participate!

Want to express your concerns? If so, call the Aptos Little league at 831-427-8116 and leave your name, telephone number, message regarding the nature of your call, and the best time to reach you. The message will be referred to the appropriate Board member.



Aptos Little League

P.O. Box 1416 Aptos, CA 95001

(831) 427-8116

www.aptoslittleleague.org