



**Aptos Little League
Parent Handbook 2009**

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 www.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 of Aptos Little League 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.

To achieve this objective Aptos Little League will provide a supervised program under the Rules and Regulations of Little League Baseball, Incorporated. All Directors, Officers and Members shall bear in mind that the attainment of exceptional athletic skill or the winning of games is secondary, and the molding of future citizens is of prime importance.

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. For a map of league boundaries see our website www.aptoslittleleague.org.

Help Wanted

Aptos Little League operates as a volunteer, 501 (c) (03) non-profit organization. Our revenues come primarily from Little League registration, team and sign sponsorships, donations and various fundraisers. We have significant costs in our field use fees, insurance, equipment, uniforms, capital improvements and ongoing field maintenance. 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.

- * Coaching
- * Team Parents
- * Scorekeeping
- * Umpiring
- * Recycling
- * Snack Shack
- * Landscaping
- * Painting
- * Carpentry
- * Electrical
- * Special events: Opening Day & Closing Day
- * Fundraising

League Calendar

Though Little League baseball season starts in mid-March, Board meetings and game preparation continue throughout the year, beginning in September. For the most up-to-date information regarding game schedules, important events, coaches training and more see our website www.aptoslittleleague.org.

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 7:00 p.m. at Aptos Junior High School, Room 31. 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 as a general guideline by age and playing abilities into six divisions of play:

MAJORS — **Advanced** Player Pitch – 12 and 11 year old players

AAA — Player Pitch – 11 and 10 year old players

AA — Player/Coach Pitch — Some 10, mostly 9 and 8 year old players

A — Coach/Player Pitch — Mostly 8 and some 7 year olds (who have two years playing experience)

FARM — Coach Pitch — 7 and 6 year old players (who have completed Tee Ball)

TEE BALL — All 5 and 6 year olds (who are first year players)

Try-Outs

Try-outs are required for all players ages 8 through 12 (player's age as of April 30, 2009). Try-outs are for player evaluation purposes only, all kids will be placed on teams.

The Majors division uses a draft method creating new teams each year. For any 12 year olds who do not wish to play in the Majors division, please note on your registration form that you do not wish to play in the Majors division. All returning Majors players must try-out. It is Aptos Little League policy that if a player declines to move up to a Majors division team via the draft or when a vacancy occurs in the Majors division, it will result in forfeiture of eligibility for the Majors division for the current season, and may be subject to further restrictions by the local league. However, the board of directors reserves the right to waive this policy if warranted.

All other Minors divisions (AAA, AA, A, Farm) teams will be assigned players by the Player Agent with the assistance of division Commissioners with the goal of creating balanced teams in terms of talent, coaches, sponsors and volunteers.

Players will try-out together by age group: 12 year olds, 11 year olds, 10 year olds, 9 year olds, 8 year olds. For Try-Out schedule for dates, times see our website www.aptoslittleleague.org.

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

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 safety@aptoslittleleague.org or 831-427-8116, and file an Accident Notification Form with the insurance division of Little League Baseball, Inc. within 24 hours. Accident Notification Forms can be downloaded and printed out from our website www.aptoslittleleague.org.

Player & Spectator Conduct During Games

By Little League rule managers, coaches AND players cannot interact with the spectators during games. Aptos Little League has a strict Code of Conduct for all volunteers, players and parents. The Code of Conduct is available on our website www.aptoslittleleague.org. The Board of Directors will review all infractions of the Code of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or frequency, the board may assess additional disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the league.

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 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.)

During the regular season 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 AA, A, 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 division tournaments 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 to evaluate the performance of each of the children on his/her team. These evaluations will include skills criteria such as batting, throwing, fielding, attendance 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 multiple teams to District 39 post-season play. These teams include:

- 11-12 year old All Stars
- 10-11 year old All Stars
- 9-10 year old All Stars
- 8-9 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 has six of its players 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 division 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. Board member email contacts can be found on our website www.aptoslittleleague.org.



Aptos Little League

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