



California 4 Little League



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Little League - Intermediate League - Junior League - Senior League - Big League - Challenger Division



California 4 Little League

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California 4 Finances

-February Statement-

Balance Forward	\$11,385.52
Deposit	\$1,000.00
Challenger Deposit	\$2,000.00
Vendor Deposit	\$250.00
League Dues	\$19,007.00
Bank Fees	\$3.00
TOC Pins	\$2170.80
March Dinner	\$192.36
Softball Pins	\$371.52
Wilson Trophy (Credit)	\$922.72
Balance Ending	\$31,827.56



Challenger Division

-Jamboree Fundraising -

The 2013 California 4 Challenger Jamboree is scheduled for Sunday, April 28th at Heather Farms in Walnut Creek. Kinder's BBQ and Mountain Mikes Pizzeria have recently hosted several dates and have donated a portion of their sales to support the Challenger Jamboree. **The Old Spaghetti Factory**, 1955 Mt Diablo Street, Concord has scheduled three nights, April 16th thru 18th (5pm to 8pm) to support the Challenger Jamboree.

Before placing your order please mention you are helping with the California District 4 Challenger Fundraiser and would like a portion of your bill to benefit the Jamboree.....and please pass this information on to your family and friends.

Local Little Leagues are encouraged to support this year's Challenger Jamboree with a check donation payable to "California District 4" and sent to Ted Boet.



Oakland A's

-Little League Day-

The A's have scheduled Sunday, 4-28 and Sunday, 6-2 as their two Little League Days for 2013. April 28th tickets includes a 1pm game hosting the Baltimore Orioles, pregame festival, pregame parade for uniformed players & coaches, and special invite to a pregame Chalk Talk event for groups of 100+. Former Major Leaguer Gregg Jefferies will lead the chalk talk demonstrating hitting and base running drills for players and coaches. The 100+ groups will receive special wrist bands for entry to Chalk Talk. April 28th tickets are sold out except for Field Infield and Plaza Level.

The June 2nd tickets includes a 1pm game hosting the Chicago White Sox, pregame festival, and a pregame parade for uniformed players & coaches. June 2nd tickets for all levels are available.

Contact Josh Feinberg, (510-563-2205 or email jfeinberg@oaklandathletics.com) for tickets and additional information. Purchase tickets early for choice seating. Special rates for groups of 25+.

Little Leaguers are reminded to wear their team uniforms (with Official Little League Patch) to the game.



San Francisco Giants

-Little League Day-

The Giants have two Little League Days at AT&T Park for 2013. Sunday, April 21st hosting the Padres and Sunday, May 12th hosting the Braves. Both dates are completely **SOLD OUT**.

Little Leaguers are reminded to wear their team uniforms (with Official Little League Patch) to the game.



District 4 News

-April Due Date Items-

- Tournament Participation Forms
- Payment of League Dues
- 2d & 4h Waivers

-All-Star Announcement-

International All-Stars Teams may be announced on Saturday, 6-8-13.

-Summer Baseball Classic-

1st Annual District 4 11-12 Years Old Summer Baseball Classic (SBC) is scheduled to start on Friday, 7-12-13 and ending with the championship game on Saturday, 7-20-13. This will be an eight team pool play tournament with each team guaranteed 4 games. A player must have been registered with Headquarters on a regular season team to be eligible for the SBC. Participating teams will be determined by the first eight teams to pay in full. Minimum of 12 players and a maximum of 15 players per team. Entry fee is \$100 per team/league.

-Condolences-

California District 4 sends condolences to the Bigham family of Walnut Creek. Susan Bigham a dedicated volunteer for many community service groups in Walnut Creek passed on March 4, 2013. Susan was a member of Walnut Creek Little League and a long time volunteer manager and coach.....one of those community minded parents who did everything for her family and those around her.



Cal Baseball

-Little League Day-

UC Berkeley has designated their final home game for the 2013 season as District 4 Little League Day. Cal Baseball will host Stanford at this anticipated sell out game. 6th grade and under players in their team uniforms will participate in the All-Star High 5 Fan Tunnel and "run the bases". Tickets are \$5 each and the last day to purchase tickets is Tuesday, 4-30-13. Contact David Kao at 510-642-2679 or email at dkao@berkeley.edu for additional information.



The Third Team

-C4UA Training Meetings-

These 2nd Wednesday of the month meetings are opened to parents, players, league officials, managers, coaches, etc. All are welcome to attend and learn about Little League rules & regulations. Legends Restaurant, Diablo Creek Golf Course, 4050 Port Chicago Highway, Concord.

The April Training Meeting was attended mainly by members of the C4UA Training Staff. Their attendance allowed them to share what they personally observed as umpires in a game and as spectators. Their reports shows that there have been numerous attempts by team members to ignore or circumvent rules and regulations in games. The following were some points that were brought up at the meeting.

Catcher Position -- Adults are still trying to play the position of the catcher during infield warm ups. The catcher must be a player with proper protective equipment.

Throat Guards -- Some managers are still under the impression that hockey style catcher helmets do not require a throat guard. All catcher helmets requires a "swinging" throat guard properly attached to the mask regardless of the length of the throat extension that is part of the construction of the mask.

No Adult In The Dugout -- If a team has only one adult at a game that adult must remain in the dugout to supervise the team. The one adult may not be a base coach and supervise his/her dugout even in the coacher's box closes to the team dugout.

Too Many Adults In The Dugout -- A team may only have the one manager and two coaches listed on the official team roster on the field and in their dugout. Extra adult coaches may not rotate in during the game. Parents are wandering in and out of dugouts.

Bat Swinging In The Dugout -- Players are not allowed to swing a bat in their dugout. Intermediate Division and above are permitted an on deck batter.

Jewelry --

Not allowed for players. This includes stud earrings for freshly pierced ears. Covering earrings with tape is not acceptable.

Lineup Cards --

Must be completely filled out and include player's first and last names, jersey numbers, and field positions.

Equipment Check --

Umpires are not inspecting team equipment.

Catcher's Equipment --

Many catchers are using protective equipment that are either too large or too small.

Paid Umpires -- Concerns about paid association umpires not aware of Little League rules and regulations.

-Tournament Mechanics Clinic-

The Annual Tournament Mechanics Clinic has proven to be a very valuable training aid in preparing volunteer umpires for Tournament of Champions and International All-Star Tournaments in District 4. The 2013 TMC is scheduled for Sunday, **6-2-13**, 9am - 4pm. At this time we do not anticipate any cost for this event. Continental Little League has again volunteered to host this year's TMC at their complex. Lunch provided.

-C4UA LCU Assignment Meeting-

Tentative date for the League Chief Umpire Assignment Meeting is Monday, **6-3-13**. Each league must be represented at this very important post season tournament assignment meeting. It is highly recommended for League Chief Umpires to attend and to bring an assistant to help make assignment decisions. Please contact Don Waddell if your league would like to host this meeting. Need a meeting room with tables and chairs for approximately 30.

-Tournament Rules Meeting-

2013 Tournament Rules and game management will be the main topics as we prepare for post season tournaments.. Tentative date is Thursday, **6-6-13**. Please contact Don Waddell if your league would like to host this meeting. Need a meeting room with chairs for approximately 75.



Intermediate (50/70) Baseball

-Questions & Answers-

Q - What league ages are eligible to participate in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division?

A - League age 11 through 13.

Q - Will players be permitted to play in the Little League Major Division and the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division at the same time during the Regular Season?

A - Yes, players are permitted to play in both divisions at the same time during the Regular Season.

Q - For those leagues that do not have enough players to field an entire team or to have a competitive division, will Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division teams be held to the same boundary restrictions currently in place?

A - Yes, Regulation II will still apply. Local leagues may apply for Interleague play or Combined Teams under circumstances.

Q - For a local league with a minimal amount of players, is a draft still required, or could players be assigned to teams?

A - A draft is required if more than one team is formed.

Q - What types of bats and balls will be used in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division?

A - The Junior Baseball bat Rule 1.10 will apply. Senior League level baseballs should be used during the regular season and will be required during tournament play.

Q - What will be the mound height be and how can I get information on converting a field?

A - The height of the mound shall be 8 inches as outlined in Rule 1.07. The pitcher's plate shall be 24" x 6".



Q - What are the pitching and catching restrictions for the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division? Additionally, how do you address a player pitching in multiple divisions?

A - Players will follow pitching restrictions as defined by age as outlined in Regulation VI, whether or not the player participates in two divisions, i.e., the pitcher's record "follows" the pitcher from one division to the next. Additionally, players must adhere to the catching restrictions also outlined in Regulation VI.

Q - What is the roster size for the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division?

A - May not have less than 12 players and no more than 15 players.

Q - What are the substitution rules? Can a continuous batting order be used in this division?

A - The Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division does not mandate a continuous batting order; however, the local league has the option of using a continuous batting order.

Q - What is a regulation game in this division?

A - A game consist of 7 innings and becomes regulation after 5 innings.

Q - Can the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division be chartered at the District level?

A - No. However, a league may apply for Interleague Play or Combined Teams.

Q - Can an Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division program restrict the pitching of players who are participating in multiple divisions?

A - Yes, with written approval from their respective region office.

Q - Can my league use the Little League Major Division Bat rules if we structure the age to only allow 11 and 12 year olds to participate in the Intermediate (50/70) Baseball Division?

A - No. Junior Baseball bat Rule 1.10 applies.



Subway News

-2013 Buddy Badge Pin-

Subway restaurants, the world's largest submarine sandwich chain and official sponsor of Little League Baseball and Softball, is once again supporting the Little League Challenger Division through the 2014 Buddy Badge design program as part of its efforts to encourage children and their families to eat healthy and lead active lives.



Last year, the design for the 2013 badge was based on the artwork provided by Me Novak of Grosse Pointe Park, MI.

The pin design represents the concept of the "buddy system," one of the building blocks of the Challenger Division. A Challenger Division "Buddy" is a person, either an adult or Little League age player, who assists the Challenger player on the field during games.

The limited-edition 2013 Buddy Badge can be purchased for four dollars; with 50 percent from each purchase being donated to the two Challenger Division teams traveling to this summer's Little League Baseball World Series in Williamsport, PA. Subway also has donated \$2,500 to each Challenger team traveling to the LLWS this year to help offset travel expenses. Information and details about the 2014 Buddy badge contest will be forthcoming on the Subway Facebook page.



Western Region News

-Challenger Jamboree-

California 57 has scheduled their 9th Annual Western Region Challenger Jamboree for Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-26, 2013, Dublin Sports Park, Dublin. Teams must be registered by April 15th, 2013. \$250 per team entry fee. For more information visit: <http://challengerjamboree.ca>

"LITTLE LEAGUE PLEDGE"

**I trust in God
I love my country
And will respect its laws
I will play fair
And strive to win
But win or lose
I will always do my best**

The "Little League Pledge," written in 1954 by Peter J. McGovern, a late president of Little League, was introduced to players everywhere in February 1955 when it was included in the Little League Magazine.

The text has remained unchanged in the 59 years since then. It appears on the backs of Little League Rule Books and is prominently displayed in the Hall of Excellence in the Peter J. McGovern Little League Museum in Williamsport, Pa.

The pledge was drafted after Mr. McGovern became aware that local Little League programs were reciting the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance before games. Mr. McGovern wanted to give all leagues (not just those in the United States) a pledge reflecting some of the sentiments of the Pledge of Allegiance, minus the references to the United States, while adding the elements of sportsmanship and the desire to excel.

Mr. McGovern intended for "I trust in God" to reflect the statement "In God We Trust" on U.S. coinage and currency, as well as the statement including a preference to God in the Pledge of Allegiance (which was added at about the same time the Little League Pledge was created).

The text of the Little League Pledge was sent on February 22, 1955 to U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

President Eisenhower, a strong supporter of Little League, responded, "Thank you for sending me the inspiring and fine pledge that, I understand will now be repeated at the start of the little League Baseball games. I am always glad to hear the plans and activities of Little League."

Mr. McGovern, who was intensely patriotic, often exhorted volunteers to vote, have faith in the American system and to support the U.S. Armed Forces. Therefore, it was no surprise that the Little League Board of Directors settled on Flag Day, June 14, 1957, as Little League National Foundation Day. Since then, National Little League Week has been observed during the week of Flag Day.

On Foundation Day, regular season Little League games were to include ceremonies celebrating Little League. Mid-game collections -- "passing the hat" were a tradition by then -- would result in that day's donations being forwarded to Little League's headquarters.

In recent years, National Little League Week is observed with an Open House at the Peter J. McGovern Little League Museum.

Little League programs sometimes choose to recite the Little League Pledge at the start of the season, and some recite it before every game. Some local leagues may choose to play or sing the National Anthem of the country in which the game is played. Others may add a prayer to their ceremonies.

It is up to the elected members of the local Little League Board of Directors to determine whether or not they will recite the Little League Pledge, sing a National Anthem, or even whether or not to say a prayer.

Little League Baseball and Softball is a private organization. It is not a government organization, and thus is not bound by the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights with regard to the First Amendment's prohibition against the state establishing an "official" religion. Consequently, if any pledge is recited before games or distributed in literature by member leagues, or if a prayer is recited before games, or if the National Anthem is played, it is not an infringement of anyone's rights under the U.S. Constitution.

Rather, it is an expression of those rights, in a private, non-governmental setting. This is not mitigated by the fact that some local Little Leagues benefit from the use of public facilities, as do many children's organizations, church groups, service clubs and other organizations that often do have specific requirements regarding religion or professions of belief.

As such, local Little Leagues must decide for themselves: whether or not to recite the pledge; whether or not to play the National Anthem; whether or not to recite a prayer before games (and, if so, whether that prayer will be Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, etc.). Little League will not dictate these matters to its local Little Leagues.

The only criteria involved in applying to participate as a Little Leaguer are: The participant's age (must be appropriate for the specific division of Little League), and residence of the parent or court-appointed guardian (must be within the league's boundaries).

