



Massapequa International Little League

Baseball Division Structure and Player Requirements

(Note: There have been no changes to our Softball Divisions)

Due to the multiple age cutoff changes initiated by Little League worldwide over the past few years, Massapequa International Little League has moved to restructure baseball divisions to allow kids with equivalent skill levels to play together and develop at the same pace. As a parent in our league with a child **LL Age 5 thru 8 yrs old**, you will be asked to place your child in the proper division so that he/she will not be “overwhelmed” or “under challenged”. Children **LL Age 9 thru 16 yrs old** will be placed in divisions based on LL Age, available roster positions and Manager Draft selections.

***Division Placement** - Parents of children LL Age 5 thru 8 yrs old will be asked to place their child in the division which best fits his/her playing skills. Please review the following division descriptions (by LL Age Group) that pertain to your child. Should you need assistance or clarification, please contact the League Player Agent (contact information can be found at www.MassapequaInternationalLL.com under “About Us – Board Members”)

VERY IMPORTANT: It is extremely important that you select the division for your child based on his/her **SKILL LEVEL**. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and on the surface seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal skill level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short lived interest in playing baseball.**



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4/5 Year Old Baseball - Tee Ball

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. This division is structured to be an Introduction to Baseball. Players will learn the basics of baseball. Hitting the soft safety ball off of a tee and running to first base. Fielders will learn to field the ball and throw to first base. All Little League age 4 yr old players will play in this division.

VERY IMPORTANT: It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her **SKILL LEVEL**. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and on the surface seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short lived interest in playing baseball.**

Batting:

- Players will learn where to stand and how to hold a bat
- Players will learn to keep their eye on the ball and put ball in play
- Players will learn to step and swing

Running:

- Players will learn to run to 1st base after hitting ball
- Players will learn how to run through 1st base and stop at other bases
- Players will learn to run to 2nd base, 3rd base and finally touching home plate and scoring a run when next player hits the ball – baseball is played one base at a time
- Players will learn when to run and when not to run

Fielding:

- Players will learn the positions on the field
- Players will learn to stay in proper position on the field
- Players will learn the proper “Ready or Set” position
- Players will learn how to catch a ball – glove positioning
- Players will learn how to properly throw a ball
- Players will learn to field a ball and throw to 1st base



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5/6 Year Old Baseball - Tee Ball

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Players will be playing tee ball using a soft safety ball and transition to Coach Pitch mid-season as ability allows. **ALL 6 yr olds playing for the 1st time in Massapequa International Little League MUST play in this division** and will **not** be eligible for 6/7 Coach Pitch Division. All 6 yr old players are required to play one year of Williamsport sanctioned Tee Ball as per Little League Williamsport Rules.

VERY IMPORTANT: It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her **SKILL LEVEL**. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and on the surface seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short lived interest in playing baseball.**

PLAYER REQUIREMENTS – **Players must meet the following requirements:**

Batting:

- Players must know where to stand and how to hold a bat
- Players must know to keep their eye on the ball and be able to hit ball off of a Tee
- Players must know how to step and swing

Running:

- Players must know to run to 1st base after hitting ball
- Players must know to run through 1st base and stop at other bases
- Players must know to run to 2nd base, 3rd base and finally touching home plate and scoring a run when next player hits the ball – game is played one base at a time
- Players must know when to run and when not to run

Fielding:

- Players must know all the positions on the field
- Players must know to stay in proper position on the field
- Players must know how to stand in the field – “Ready or Set “ position
- Players must know not to block bases or obstruct runners
- Players must know how to catch a ball – glove positioning
- Players must know how to properly throw a ball
- Players must know to field a ball and throw to 1st base



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6/7 Year Old Baseball - Coach Pitch

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Players will play games with coach pitching using a soft safety ball. **ALL 6 yr olds playing for the 1st time in Massapequa International Little League MUST play in the 5/6 yr old Tee Ball Division** and will not be eligible for 6/7 Coach Pitch Division. All 6 yr old players are required to play one year of Williamsport sanctioned Tee Ball as per Little League Williamsport Rules.

VERY IMPORTANT: It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her **SKILL LEVEL**. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and on the surface seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short lived interest in playing baseball.**

PLAYER REQUIREMENTS – **Players must meet the following requirements:**

Batting:

- Players must know how to properly grip the bat – understand proper hand placement
- Players must know to swing level – not chopping at the ball
- Players must know where to stand in the batter's box when addressing a pitched ball

Running:

- Players must know when to stop at 1st base and when to advance to 2nd base on a hit
- Players must know how to take a proper base running stance, one foot on the base, one foot toward next base
- Players must know to run when ground ball is hit (on a force play) and understand to get back to base when a fly ball is caught

Fielding:

- Players must know all the positions on the field and be able to go to a position when instructed by a coach
- Players must know that only one player fields the ball
- Players must know that outs can be made at bases other than 1st base
- Players must know how and when to back up another player in the field
- Players must know how to properly get their body in front of and stop the ball

Throwing:

- Player must know proper grip of ball
- Players must know how to plant their feet properly, step and throw overhand



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7/8 Year Old Baseball - Introduction to Player Pitch

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Players will start the season playing games with Coach pitch / Pitching Machine with transition into players pitching and players catching. This is an introduction to “real” baseball. This is the last year using a soft safety ball.

VERY IMPORTANT: It is **extremely important** that you select the division for your child based on his/her **SKILL LEVEL**. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and on the surface seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short lived interest in playing baseball.**

PLAYER REQUIREMENTS – **Players must meet the following requirements:**

Batting:

- Players must know how to hit a pitched ball
- Players must understand the strike zone (balls and strikes)
- Players must understand strike outs and walks
- Players must understand that you don't get to run the bases when you are called out

Running:

- Players must know how to properly round a base
- Players must know when to run through a base and when to stop
- Players must know to run bases properly and follow base coach instructions
- Players must understand when and how to tag up on a caught fly ball

Fielding:

- Players must understand “force out” and “tag out” rules at all bases
- Players must know how and when to get the lead runner
- Players must know what to do with the ball depending on number of outs and runners on base (situations)
- Players must know how and when to back up another player in the field and do so with minimum coach instruction
- Players must know how to throw and catch a ball properly



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8/9 Year Old Farms Baseball – 1st Year of Competitive Baseball

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. This is the first year of “competitive” baseball and will be a Manager Draft division (parents of 8 yr olds can request to play in this division, but there are no guarantees they will be drafted). The number of 8 yr olds drafted into the Farms will be based on Manager perceived skill level, pre-season evaluation(s) and number of roster spots available as per registration numbers. 8 yr old players not drafted into the Farms Division will play in the Rookies Division.

Games will be played with a regulation hard ball. Players pitch, catch, steal bases, and play “live ball” rules. Other than a few “fair play” rules, baseball is played as per the Little League Rule Book. Wins and losses will be tracked, standings will be recorded, there will be playoffs and for the 1st time, teams will play for a championship.

VERY IMPORTANT: It is **extremely important** that you request the division for your child based on his/her **SKILL LEVEL**. Although placing your child with friends is very tempting and on the surface seems like the best solution, it is imperative that your child play with kids of equal **skill** level. **Placing your child in a division which does not meet his/her skill level is a certain path to a very short lived interest in playing baseball.**

PLAYER REQUIREMENTS – Players must meet the following requirements:

Batting:

- Players must be able to differentiate balls from strikes and not shy away from a pitched ball
- Players must know the proper way to protect themselves and move out of the way of an errant pitch
- Players must be able to time their swing to the pitch speed
- Players must understand how to reach 1st base
- Players must know how to properly bunt a pitched ball

Running:

- Players must know how and when to run to 1st base, how to break down after crossing 1st base and how to round a base
- Players must know how to anticipate a play in the field and take an extra base
- Players must know how and when to slide at a base
- Players must understand all the rules of the game
- Players must understand the safety aspects of the game including slide, avoid contact or give yourself up

Fielding:

- Catchers must know how to properly provide a target, throw the ball back to the pitcher timely and accurately and throw to 2nd base on a steal attempt

- Pitchers must know the basics of pitching, including balance and squaring the shoulders to the target
- Players must know where to go for the easiest out
- Players must know how to properly run a relay on balls hit to outfield (cutoffs)
- First baseman must know to move around the 1st base bag (proper footwork)
- Players must know how to throw a ball accurately and catch a ball properly



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Minors Division Baseball - 9/10/11/12 Yr Old

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 60 ft diamond. The Minors division is the next level of play after the Farms Division. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook. This is a Manager Draft Division (parents of 9 yr olds can request to play in this division, but there are no guarantees they will be drafted). 12 yr olds that opt out of the Majors Division can also play in this division. The number of 9 yr olds drafted into the Minors will be based on Manager perceived skill level and number of roster spots available as per registration numbers. 10 and 11 yr old players not drafted into the Majors Division will play in the Minors Division.

Majors Division Baseball – 10/11/12 Yr Old

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 60 ft diamond. The Majors Division is the next level of play after the Minors division. This is a Manager Draft Division, Managers will draft 10, 11 and 12 yr old players in a competitive division (all 12 yr old players will automatically be drafted into this division unless specially requested to play in Minors Division). Parents can request that their 10 yr old be drafted into this division, but there are no guarantees. 10 and 11 year old players will be drafted based on the Managers perceived skill level of players and number of roster spots available as per registration numbers. Players who played as 10 yr olds in the Majors the prior year will automatically be placed in the Majors draft the following year. The number of 10 yr olds drafted into the Majors will be based on perceived skill level and number of roster spots available as per registration numbers and number of teams in the division. No team in the Majors Division can draft more than two 10 yr old players (subject to change with Board Approval). Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook.

Intermediate Division Baseball – 12/13 Yr Old

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 50/70 ft diamond (50 ft pitching mound/70 ft bases), the Intermediate Division is a Division open to all Little League age 12 and 13 yr old players. Players in the Intermediate Division will play their primary games in the Majors (12 yr olds) and Juniors (13 yr olds). The Intermediate Division is “additional” baseball offered at no additional charge. Games and practices are scheduled on Sundays so that they do not interfere with primary team

schedules. Players will learn the fundamentals of pitching from the stretch position with runners on base and proper technique for leading and stealing. The Intermediate Division is an introduction to “real” baseball as played by professionals. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook.



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Juniors Division Baseball – 13/14 Yr Old

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 90 ft diamond. The Juniors division is the next level of play after the Majors (60 ft diamond) and Intermediate (50/70 diamond) divisions. This is a continuation of learning the fundamentals and proper play on a 90 ft diamond. Players play “real” baseball on a professional size field. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook.

Seniors Division Baseball– 14/15/16 Yr Old

Description – Boys and Girls are permitted to play in this division. Baseball is played on a 90 ft diamond. The Seniors division is the next level of play after the Juniors Division. This division is played with primarily 15 and 16 yr old players with the potential to draft 14 yr old players when necessary to round out teams due to registration numbers. Players play “real” baseball on a professional size field. Other than a few “fair play” rules, rules are played as per Little League Rulebook.