

Littleton Youth Sports Baseball "Frequently Asked Question's"

1. What is Littleton Youth Sports baseball?

Unlike recreational baseball programs, all our league baseball is competitive in nature with a focus on player skill development, team concepts, and most importantly, some FUN! Littleton Youth Sports and the Arapahoe Youth League (AYL) offer baseball that is played on dirt fields, as close to the real thing as possible. This is not run around the bases, nobody out baseball, so please be aware that the program is designed for those that want to learn and play real Baseball and that a commitment to the team is essential.

- **Developmental:** This Littleton Youth Sports Baseball program is intended to serve as a means of providing competition and skill development opportunities for its participants. To this end, it is expected that all coaches will provide players with a fair opportunity to participate in all games, which will allow them to further improve their skills.
- **Competitive:** This Littleton Youth Sports Baseball program is designed to teach players, ages 8-14; the fundamental principles of sportsmanship, teamwork, and leadership, within a highly competitive environment. Since coaches (either head or assistant) can have a significant impact on the formation of attitudes and values of players, they are expected to conform to the highest standards of sportsmanship and conduct on the field.

2. Who may participate in Littleton Youth Sports Baseball?

Any child age 6 to 14, excluding high school students.

3. When is registration?

Registration starts around the 1st of January until the 31st of January. There is a space available registration period from February 1st to the 15th, but the fees are raised after January 31st and there is no guarantee on being placed on a team.

4. How many players are on a team?

Team size can vary depending upon the number of kids registering to play. Most teams will have between 11 and 12 players. Any team playing with over 12 kids will require the coach's consent.

- In general, no competitive league team will be required to carry more than eleven (11) players on it's roster, a Developmental team will not be required to carry more than (12) players on it's roster.

5. How is a player assigned to a team?

A Baseball player is assigned to a team based upon age and experience. Returning players who are registered on-time and paid in full will be assigned first. Returning and new Littleton baseball players may request to play with a friend or a particular coach, this can be noted during registration; however, based on many factors, we can not guarantee any placement, but will take it in to consideration. If a preference is not indicated on the registration, placement is based upon experience, school attended and area of residence. Again, Littleton Youth Sports will take note of any special requests; however, we cannot guarantee that the request(s) will be met. Littleton Youth Sports will make every effort to place players according to level of play (like talents playing like talent) to the best of our ability given roster limits, and available teams.

6. Are there tryouts?

Yes, coaches do conduct try outs, which are typically set after the current season, but some do have try outs later and before the season starts. All tryouts are held by the coach(s), Littleton Youth Sports only facilitate the field and equipment; the coaches are in control of choosing players.

7. Why does Baseball registration occur so early?

Littleton Youth Sports is a member of the Arapahoe Youth League (AYL). There are more than 300 teams participating in the AYL baseball program. Each club must know the number of players and teams that will participate in the league by Mid February to allow time for the all volunteer board to plan for the season. This also provides ample time to acquire quality coaches to fill any vacancies.

8. What is the cost to play Littleton Youth Sports Baseball?

The cost for Littleton Baseball can change from year-to-year. The cost to play baseball in 2012 will be \$240 for the Developmental League and \$280 for the Competitive League if registered and paid in full by January 31st. The fee after January 31st increases. Space available registration starts February 1st to the 15th of February. Placement is not guaranteed for registrations submitted after January 31st.

9. What does the registration fee cover?

- Registration
- Practice Field Permits
- Game fields, including set up
- League fees
- Referees
- Insurance
- Coaching and practice equipment
- Littleton baseball operating expenses
- Coaching education

10. What equipment will I have to purchase for my child to play Littleton Baseball?

Each individual player is responsible for his own uniform.

Required Items:

- Jersey
- Pants
- Socks
- Belt
- Hat

Optional items:

- Jacket
- Practice jersey

Please be certain to have your player's uniform fitted by an experienced person. See the link on the Littleton Youth Sports website (www.littletonyouthsports.org) concerning details on where to buy your uniforms.

11. What type of Baseball Equipment should I purchase for my player?

Required Items:

- Baseball Glove
- Batting Helmet

Optional Items:

- Baseball Bat
- Baseball batting gloves
- Protective Equipment (cup) (chest and mouth protection)

12. Where, when and how often is practice?

Littleton Youth Sports acquires access to practice fields through South Suburban and Greenwood Village. Most of the fields are in the Centennial/Littleton area.

The number of practices and the time they are scheduled are determined by the coaches. Littleton Youth Sports offer assigned fields for up to two practices per week up to and including the first game and then continues through the season. Additional practices and other activities may be added at the discretion of the coach(s) and field availability.

13. How many games are played? Where and when are they scheduled?

Please check the web site for specific dates concerning the baseball season. The number of games does differ depending on the league you are in, as does the post season. Also, you will see the dates that games will not be played.

Please take note, during the season, the schedule is subject to change due to conditions beyond the AYL and the Littleton Youth Sports' control, such as weather, umpires and field availability.

14. What if we have a family vacation scheduled during the season?

Baseball requires significant preparation and practice. Vacations during the season are highly discouraged. Depending upon individual team rules, playing time may be impacted by the vacation. You are encouraged to schedule your vacations prior to or after the season or during the times that the league will not have games to avoid playing time impacts.

15. What if my child decides he does not like Baseball and wants to quit. What is the refund policy?

Full refunds will be issued if Littleton Youth Sports is unable to place the registrant on a team. Refunds, less a \$20.00 processing fee will be granted if the player 1) sustains a season ending injury prior to the start of the practice season, or 2) player moves from the territory prior to the start of the practice. In the event the player changes his mind about participating in Baseball prior to the first game, a refund of 75% of the registration fee will be processed. No refunds will be granted after the first game. Please refer to the "Refund Policy" on the Littleton Youth Sports website's homepage.

16. How can I apply for a Scholarship?

Please refer to the Littleton Youth Sports "Scholarship Policy" on our Web Site. Volunteering to the Littleton Youth Sports Baseball program is required for approval of a scholarship.

*Note: Scholarships are not available for any player in Competitive League play unless approved by the baseball coordinators, extreme cases only will be considered.

17. Who can be a coach?

Anyone can register to coach, however coaches takes a lot of time and energy. Coaching is a volunteer position. All candidates will have to register and go through a pre-certification process. The process involves registration, undergoing a background check and completing an interview with the Littleton Youth Sports Baseball delegates plus mandatory training. All Littleton Youth Sports coaches are required to attend a preseason coaches meeting, typically held late February. Baseball teams will be limited to 1 (one) Head Coach and two assistant coaches. Each coach must register as a coach on our website (www.littletonyouthsports.org) or may not have coaching contact with the kids during the season. Parent helpers will be allowed to participate during practices, but may not on the field of play at games. Note, coaches are responsible for any and all coaches and helpers.

18. Coach development?

All coaches must sign off that they have reviewed and completed the following documents/requirements. Failure to do so will result in the loss of practice fields (at the discretion of the Baseball Director)

Background Check – All Coaches and representatives from a team who interact with the players MUST complete a background check (via the Littleton website). Failure to do so will result in suspension of any non compliant coach and may result in suspension of the Head Coach

- (a) Head Coaching Certification – For ages 8 through 13 (all levels), each Head Coach is required to complete the ASEP (American Sport Education Program) certification. Failure to complete the certification before the official season (March 1st) will result in the loss of practice fields and may result in suspension until completion (at the discretion of the Baseball Director).
- (b) Assistant Coaching Certification – Head Coaches are expected to have at least two (2) Assistant Coaches and they must also complete the ASEP certification. Failure to do so will result in suspension of the assistant coach and may result in suspension of the Head Coach (at the discretion of the Baseball Director).

19. Recruiting

Any coach, assistant coach, or any other adult associated with a Littleton team who solicits, in any manner, any player(s) on an existing Littleton team for the purpose of encouraging such player(s) to participate with their team will be suspended from coaching, assistant coaching, or otherwise being associated in any manner with any Littleton team for one (1) calendar year. If an assistant coach, parent, or other adult associated with a Littleton team is found to have violated the forgoing rule, the head coach of the team may also be suspended at the discretion of the Director of Baseball.

- Coach initiated contact – A coach interested in another player on another Littleton team, must contact the Coach of the player that he is interested in before any contact with that player or parents.
- Parent initiated contact – A parent interested in having their child tryout for another team must contact player's current coach to talk to the coach of the targeted team.