



Welcome to the Woodstock Little League Challenger 2015 Season!!!!

It is our FOURTH season for Challenger Baseball in Woodstock. We welcome you to what is about to be an amazing journey for you and your Challenger Player. Contained in this information packet is all the information you will need to play ball this spring.

As always, please contact your manager or myself should you have any questions. We are looking forward to an amazing season of Challenger Baseball!

Woodstock Little League Philosophy

The Woodstock Little League (WLL) is a chartered league governed by the published rules and regulations of Little League International of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. As such, the league operates under the guiding principle of developing Character, Courage, and Loyalty.

It is the goal of the Woodstock Little League to make sure *every* player that plays in the league has a successful and *fun* experience learning not only baseball skills but also sportsmanship and teamwork and the rewards that they bring.

The league is focused on ensuring that players at all skill levels have a chance to experience the joys of playing sports.

The Woodstock Little League has separate divisions for different age groups. Each division is governed under guidelines that the league has deemed appropriate for that age group.

Parents and Players should remember that baseball is a competitive sport and that learning the aspects of competition is part of the little league experience.



Challenger League Overview

The Challenger Little League Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable boys and girls with challengers, ages 4-18 if still enrolled in high school, to enjoy the game of baseball along with the millions of children who participate in this sport worldwide. Senior age players are now included in our league.

Teams are set up according to abilities, rather than age, and can include as many as 15-20 players. Challenger games use tee ball, coach pitch, player pitch or a combination of the three.

In a Challenger game, each player gets a chance to bat. The side is retired when the offense has batted through the roster, a pre-determined number of runs have been scored, or when three outs are recorded. Little League recommends Challenger players wear the same uniforms, shoulder patches and safety equipment as other Little League players.

One of the benefits of having a Challenger Division is that it encourages the use of “buddies” for the Challenger player on the field, but whenever possible, encourage the players to bat and make plays themselves. A buddy is always nearby to help when needed.

Parents and teenagers are strongly encouraged to become involved in this uniquely rewarding division of Little League.

Woodstock Little League Challenger Rules

The WLL Challenger Division necessitates variations on regular Little League rules, but also to the philosophy of “conventional” baseball. For the Challenger Division, because of the diversity of our players, we will be using general rules. These rules are set forth for the safety of all involved and should be followed closely by each team.

1. As a condition of service to the League, all Managers and Coaches must annually complete and submit an official “Little League Volunteer Application” which must be approved by the League’s Board of Directors. (I.c)
2. All potential managers and coaches must be approved by the League’s president and Board of Directors. (I.C.)
3. Each team will have a minimum of one team manager and a team coach. One Board approved manager and coach must be in the dugout at all times. (VIII)
4. Each team will consist of no more than 15 players. (VII), (3.a)
5. Players will range in age from 5-18, unless still in high school. (III.C.)
6. Each team will be provided with a group of buddies, hopefully in excess of the number of players. If you have excess buddies, please use them as you see fit. Share them with another team if needed. Use them as base coaches (helmet is required), have them assist players getting ready to bat, etc.
7. No unauthorized adults or children are allowed in the dugouts. (3.5)
8. Each team’s manager will be responsible and held accountable for the actions of any member of their team’s coaching staff, players, buddies, parents and fans.
9. In the Challenger Division, our teams basically remain the same. We may have new players added to teams as players either age out or do not return to the league. Parents may contact the Player Agent or VP of the Challenger League to request team changes.
10. The time limit for a Challenger game is two hours or two innings, whichever comes first. A third inning may be played if time allows and is agreed upon by the managers of each team. (4.10.C), (XII)

11. The defensive team will play the field with all players, along with their buddies. The best attempt should be made to play in “positions” as much as possible, preferably with not more than 6 players and their buddies in the infield. (IV.f),
12. Catcher’s gear is required including mask with protective throat guard. (1.17)
13. The offensive team will supply one coach with a glove to serve as pitcher where appropriate; otherwise the batter will bat from the tee. Allow the batter up to 6 pitches before a tee is brought in to hit. (8. a, b, c)
14. All batters and base runners must wear a helmet, preferably one with a protective face cage when tolerated.
15. There are no balls, strikes or outs. Each batter will advance one base, except for the final batter who will round the bases forcing all base runners home.
16. There is no stealing of any bases allowed.
17. Sliding is not recommended and should be discouraged.
18. Score is not kept.
19. For each offensive inning of play all players present have batted once. The side is retired when each the side has batted through the roster. ((VIII.b.6)
20. The defensive team shall not leave the field until the last batter has crossed home plate.
21. Managers, coaches and buddies are permitted on the field to assist players when needed. (VIII.b.1)
22. In the event of player conflict, either with other players or buddies please advise the League VP as soon as possible so that we may determine the best course of action to be taken.

Woodstock Little League Code of Conduct – General Information

Parent Expectations:

Woodstock Little League asks that every parent respect the following general policies:

Parents are requested to read through the League Handouts before the first scheduled game. If any parent objects to the League's rules and policies, the objections must be discussed with the Vice President responsible for their player's division before the first game.

If a parent objects to a particular manager's policies or actions, that parent should first discuss their objection with the manager. If not satisfied, the parent should then contact the Vice President within one week of a specific incident. If the parent does not address the matter within one week, it suggests that the parent's objection was not strong enough to warrant any League action.

Only parents designated by the manager as coaches may be on the playing field for a game or practice (Official Regulation).

During a game, parents who are not coaches should not confer with the manager unless they see a safety problem or a problem concerning a player's well being. The manager is supervising up to 12 players, and it takes his or her full concentration to remain vigilant concerning safety problems while orchestrating the game. In addition, parents should not detract from a player's concentration on the game, and should NOT provide players with food and beverages during the game.

Parents are encouraged to help watch for safety problems during games and practices, and to help prevent injuries. This request specifically includes watching small children in the stands.

Parents are in a much better position to know the health of their youngster than the manager. If a player has any kind of injury, illness, ache, or pain, is unusually tired, or just does not feel well; the parent must bring it to the manager's attention before the game or practice.

Please be sure that your player is dressed warmly. From May through June, it can become quite chilly late in the day, and every player should have a sweatshirt to wear under the uniform as appropriate. Players should always bring a jacket to the game to wear while on the bench.

Parents are responsible for arranging timely transportation for their children to and from games and practices. Please respect the wishes of the manager with regard to arrival times for both games and practices, and notify the manager ahead of time if the child will be absent or late.

Spectator Conduct: The best baseball games are those where everyone - players and spectators alike - cheers. The League distinguishes, however, between positive encouragement and chants or comments that are intended to distract or deride an opponent. Players and spectators are allowed only to encourage the players, not to distract or deride them.

The umpire has the authority to halt play and, if necessary, to eject players, managers, coaches, or spectators who distract or deride opponents, or engage in other unsportsmanlike activity.

Parents, managers and coaches are expected to set an example of good sportsmanship at all times by positively encouraging players, and not vocally questioning or criticizing umpires' calls or managers' decisions.

Alcoholic Beverages: Woodstock Little League prohibits the consumption of alcoholic beverages on its property, and at its games, regardless of where those games are played.

Smoking: There is no smoking allowed at the Little League Ballparks. Spectators should not smoke near players or other spectators. Managers and Coaches are not permitted to smoke or chew tobacco at any Little League event.

1. Make certain your child is sleeping and eating properly.

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2. Help the coach when asked to do so. You might be needed to raise funds, drive kids to games, keep score, or even be an assistant coach.

Buddy Information

Your Team has been assigned a group of buddies. Your Manager will assign a “Buddy” to each Challenger Player. As a Buddy you will be responsible for playing side by side with your Challenger Player and assist them throughout the game.

Every effort has been made so that the buddies are on a one to one ratio with the players. There may be situations where a team is short buddies. We will do our best to backfill those positions, but there may be circumstances beyond our control where the buddies will have to be paired on a two to one ratio. Thank you for your understanding during these times!

Please be sure to ask the Challenger Player and/or their parents to share any information with you that you feel might be useful in assisting their child. I am sure that they will have questions for you as well, so please answer them as best that you can!

Expectations of Challenger Buddies

BE THERE

Your presence is VERY important! Your player will need you and your Challenger team will need you too! Please do everything possible to attend all games. A schedule, team assignment, and manager contact information will be provided to you at the "Meet and Greet" on April 29th.

BE ON TIME

Plan to arrive 30 minutes before game time. Most games are approximately two hours.

KNOW YOUR PLAYERS

Your role as buddy involves being a cheerleader, friend, coach, and helper. But above all you must be a protector. Be alert at all times to the location of the ball and the base runners so you can do what is necessary to ensure the safety of your athlete, as well as all of the players and buddies.

BRING A GLOVE

Be sure to bring a glove to all games. You will sometimes need to protect your player by deflecting balls that are hit toward the two of you. Your safety is important too! "Buddy Step Forward" means the player batting can hit and we need the buddy to step forward and protect their Challenger player.

ENCOURAGE YOUR PLAYER'S INVOLVEMENT AND INDEPENDENCE

Remember...it is their game! Do everything possible to encourage your player to be involved at his/her level of ability. Focus on what your player is able to do and recognize all possible efforts. We want the players to come out and have FUN! This is something they may never have had the opportunity to be a part of before.

MODEL AN ATTITUDE OF RESPECT AND ACCEPTANCE FOR EACH PLAYER

Encourage and support the development of friendships among players. Some will know each other, but for others everyone and everything will

be new.

BE OPEN

You do not need to be a baseball expert! You only need basic baseball skills; hitting, throwing, swinging a bat and running bases. Sometimes coaches or adults may make suggestions to you about how you can be more helpful to your player. Don't take this as criticism. We are all always learning together. Remember, the only dumb question is the one that goes unasked.

BE CONFIDENT

Come of these players will express themselves easily, for others it is difficult. It may be hard sometimes to know how your player is feeling or if he/she appreciates the help you are trying to provide. All of us, including your player appreciate your patience and your best effort to be helpful, even if it is not expressed. These all may be children with special needs, but they are all individuals like you.

ARRANGE FOR YOUR OWN SUBSTITUTE

You will be provided with a master buddy list for the team that you have been assigned to. If you must miss a game, make sure that your team is covered or please make sure that you arrange for someone to take your place. Make sure that the manager of your Challenger team knows that you will not be attending and who is attending in your place.

INJURIES AT GAMES

Safety of all children on the field is our number 1 priority. If any injury occurs to any of the players or buddies, please make sure that you let the coaches know immediately.



Equipment/Uniform Information

You will be provided with a uniform that consists of a jersey, pants, socks and a hat. You will need to bring your own glove. Please have your player wear this uniform to every game. Cleats are optional.

Catchers are required to wear a mask, helmet, shin guards and a chest protector. The league will provide this equipment. Batters are required to also wear helmets. The league will provide these as well. **It is a Little League rule that helmets and catcher gear are worn during game play.** If your child has sensitivities to wearing these safety guards, please let us know. If you have a bike or batting helmet at home that your child may be more comfortable, please bring it. **Your child's safety is our priority.** Please work with your child to let them know the importance of wearing this safety gear. We will work together to help your child if we need to.

Safety

Safety for all of the boys and girls is our top priority at all Challenger games. The local Fire Department and Emergency medical staff have been made aware of the Woodstock Challenger Program. They understand that these boys and girls have special needs and will respond accordingly in the case of an emergency.

We ask that you make sure that you bring something to drink to games. It is important to stay hydrated to avoid heat exhaustion.

No games will be held when weather or field conditions are not adequate. Games will be stopped in the event of lightning or severe storms. If inclement weather starts before a game, check the Woodstock Little League website home page to see if games for that day have been canceled - www.woodstocklittleleague.org! We will also post updates on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Challenger-Little-League-Woodstock-IL/275670849171246>. You will also be contacted by your manager if a game has been canceled.

A Woodstock Little League Board member will be present at all games. If any questions arise or you are concerned about a safety issue please inform your team manager or contact Rochelle Donahue, EVP Challenger at 815.546.7884.

Background checks are completed on all Managers, Coaches, and Buddies over the age of 18. Only Managers, Coaches and Buddies are permitted on the playing field or in the dugout during games.

Safety balls are used during all of our games.

Each Manager has a first aid kit; there are also expanded kits available in the field boxes in the third base dugout. AEDs are also located at the red box on field #3.

Team Information and Season Schedule

Challenger games will be played at Merryman Fields Field 1 or 2, 1800 Raffel Road, Practice field location is still TBD. Watch your email for location. Practices will be taking place on Thursday evenings at 6:30PM. Game time varies each week. Refer to the schedule for game times and locations. One game will be taking place at our premier Little League Field, Sullivan located in Emricson Park in Woodstock. We are proud to be able to play on this field!

Buddy Meet and Greet is at Creekside Middle School, 3201 Hercules Rd in Woodstock. We will have a brief introductory meeting, gather with your team, get your uniform and have a practice. A buddy ambassador will be on hand to help answer any questions you may have. Please arrive at 1:30PM.

OPENING DAY: Our first game and opening ceremonies is May 3, starting at 1:00PM. I encourage you to be there at 12:30 to throw the ball around with your buddy and get acquainted with the field and surroundings. There will be a cookout immediately following the game at the Woodstock Fire Rescue District. Hotdogs, chips and drinks will be served. Players will be able to meet the firefighters, climb aboard the trucks, tour the station and have their pictures taken.

You will be notified via email or text or phone call from your manager or coach if a game is cancelled due to weather.

Our schedule will be forwarded to you prior to opening day as we are still working on field logistics.

Contact Information

WLL Board Contacts:

Rochelle Donahue, Challenger EVP 815-546-7884
rochelledonahue@comcast.net

Will McKay, Woodstock Little League President, 815-451-9956,
wmckay06@yahoo.com

Electronic:

Woodstock Little League Website: www.woodstocklittleleague.org
Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Challenger-Little-League-Woodstock-IL/275670849171246>
Challenger Website: www.woodstockchallenger.com

Managers:

815-338-2500

CUBS: David Price, dp9565@gmail.com, 847-910-2249

YANKEES: Rich Yelle, richyelle@yahoo.com, 847-343-7021

TIGERS: Cindy Rowe, irishbiker7@yahoo.com, 815-338-1457

SOX: Andy Allaway, andrewallaway@outlook.com, 773-343-5354

EMERGENCY: 911

Woodstock Police Non-Emergency Number: 815-338-2131

Woodstock Fire Non-Emergency Number: 815-338-2621

Centegra – Woodstock Hospital: 3701 Doty Road, Woodstock, IL
60098, 815-338-2500