



# California 4 Little League



April 19, 2016

Volume 25, Issue 7

<http://llcad4.org>

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



## California 4 Little League

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## California 4 Finances

### -April Statement-

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>\$48,348.93</b>
Bank Checks	168.36
February Dinner	220.81
District Pins	1,914.48
Staff Clothing	1,234.51
Storage	814.00
League Dues	4,284.00
Vendor Donation	75.00
League Dues	3,475.00
Tournament Fee	100.00
Tournament Fee	225.00
Umpire Clinic	220.20
Jamboree Expenses	217.98
Jamboree Expenses	374.85
March Dinner	395.22
Jamboree Expenses	142.99
Bank Fee	3.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>50,801.53</b>



## Lewis Cup

### -2016 Standings-

Alameda	755
Albany	1515
Antioch	1490
Clayton Valley	1195
<b>Concord American</b>	<b>1605</b>
Concord Continental	1500
East County	1550
Lafayette	550
Martinez	1405
<b>North Oakland</b>	<b>1605</b>
Pinole Hercules	1570
Pittsburg	970
<b>South Oakland</b>	<b>1605</b>
Richmond	1100
Walnut Creek	1220



## DA's Desk

### -Due Date Items-

The following items are due at the April District 4 Meeting...

- District Dues
- Challenger Jamboree Participation

### -Multiple Participation-

Players may participate in more than one program, including during the International Tournament. However, the provisions of Regulation IV (a) Note2: "If a player repeatedly misses practices and/or games because of participation in another program, the manager may remove the player from the team, subject to the board of directors' approval, for the current season or tournament play. A team in a chartered Little League may not participate as a Little League team in games with or against those of another organization. This means that equipment and uniforms belonging to the local Little League may not be used in non-Little League approved games, and the team may not be identified as a team from a chartered Little League."

**Exception:** A Little League team may participate in games against Non-Little League teams with a "Special Games Application (Non-Little League)" approved by the Region Director. Such games must be hosted by the local Little League and must be played using Little League Rules/Regulations as specified on the Special Games Application.

### -2016 Player Registration/Roster-

Leagues with approved 2016 Safety Plan have already uploaded their regular-season player registration/rosters via the Little League Data Center. Reminder to all leagues to keep this information current.





### -A's Little League Days-

Last Sunday Little Leaguers from all over the bay area were recognized in an on field pregame parade at the Oakland Coliseum. The next and final A's Little League Day for 2016 is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st, before the 105pm scheduled game with visiting Houston Astros.

Contact Kirsten Hilbert, A's group sales representative at 510-563-2373 or khilbert@athletics.com to reserve tickets.



### Headquarters

### -Umpire Registry-



Little League® International's Umpire Registry offers Little League umpires an informative way to stay on top of their game. By joining the Umpire Registry, umpires immediately become part of a unique information network charged with enhancing umpire services for Little League players everywhere.

The cost to join the Umpire Registry is \$25 when registering online and \$30 if registering via standard mail.

Whether you are new to Little League umpiring or a long-time veteran, the Umpire Registry is here to help you become a better volunteer umpire. Included in your membership is:

- a print and digital copy of the Little League Baseball and Softball Rulebooks,
- a print copy of Make The Right Call, the case book of Little League Baseball and Softball
- an official Little League Umpire Registry Membership Card
- a Little League Umpire Registry Certificate
- a Little League Umpire Patch
- a Little League Official Bat Ring
- an Umpire Registry pin
- an Umpire Registry rocker patch
- access to the Little League Umpire Registry website
- 10% discount on Little League Store merchandise when registering online

### -Junior Umpire Registry-

The Junior Umpire membership is a low cost alternative to Umpire Registry membership for youth umpires 17 years of age and younger. For \$10, the Junior Umpire will receive:

- a print copy of the Little League Baseball and Softball Rulebooks
- a print copy of Make The Right Call, the case book of Little League Baseball and Softball
- an official Little League Umpire Registry Membership Card
- a Little League Umpire Registry Certificate
- a Little League Junior Umpire Patch
- a Little League Official Bat Ring

Please note that registration for the Junior Umpire Registry membership is only available online. Additionally, access to the Little League Umpire Registry website and the electronic rulebooks are not included with the Junior Umpire Registry membership.



### ADA Reports

### -Liz Berg, Safety ADA-

Your District Safety Officer is a very happy camper. Liz Berg has verified that all league safety plans have been approved and all league rosters have been received by Headquarters.

Liz would like to remind all leagues to complete their background checks on all volunteers who will have repetitive contact with players.

### -David Preuss, Big Diamond ADA-Senior/Big League Baseball:

East County currently has a Big League Baseball team inter-districting with D57. If any other leagues plan to field a Senior or Big League baseball team starting in May, please contact Dave Preuss.

### -Don Mayjoffo, LLBB ADA-

Leagues are again reminded that interleague play will be playing by the Official Little League Rules and Regulations Manual.

### -Fred Flint, Challenger ADA-

California 4 and Fred Flint would like to thank the following leagues for donating \$8,000 towards the California 4 Challenger Jamboree.....

\$1,500  
Walnut Creek



\$1,000  
Albany -- Concord American -- Martinez Lafayette -- North South Oakland

\$500  
Clayton Valley -- Continental Pinole Hercules

The Jamboree is scheduled for Sunday, 4-24-16, 9am, Heather Farms, in Walnut Creek. Leagues wishing to make financial donations to the Jamboree may send a check to Ted Boet, payable to "California District 4 Little League". Contact Fred if your league is interested in working this year's Jamboree.

### -Carla Moore, Softball ADA- 2016 Important Dates & Events:

April 16th & 17th - Martinez LL defeated East County LL in the annual Queen of the Diamond championship game hosted by Antioch Little League.



April 30th & May 1st - Mid-Season Softball Classic hosted by Pittsburg LL.

June 7th - TOC & All-Star tournament managers meeting, UCCE Office, 75 Santa Barbara Rd, 2nd Fl, Pleasant Hill.

**Equipment** - In games or practices, all teams are to have two **Catcher's Helmets**. A player who is catching balls where a bat is being swung **MUST** wear a **Catcher's Helmet!!!!**

**Batting helmets MAY NOT be modified for use as a catcher's helmet.**

**Big League Softball** - Leagues with players (league age 14-18) interested in playing BLSB should contact Carla Moore. Players must register with their local league and their information forwarded to Carla to determine teams. The BLSB season will take place upon completion of the high school season.

### **-Don Waddell, CA4 UIC-**

I hope that all of you are having a great season so far. We are pretty much through the Spring Breaks and all the leagues are having games at full strength! I trust that the umpires you are putting on the field are helping our players have fun.

The Tournament Season is now less than 2 months away and it will be here before we know it. I like to take this time to remind you how we designed our training for the regular and tournament seasons in hopes to make the TOC and All Star tournaments in District 4 a success by providing qualified umpires for every game.

### **League Participation -**

Based upon the enrollment of the leagues in our tournaments, we expect to have about 65 games in the TOC and 120 games in District 4 All Star tournaments in softball and baseball divisions. In recent years our tournament umpires have agreed about 5 games each, so that means we would need at least 75 different umpires to cover all the games with just 2 umpires. We have done very well at having 25% of our All Star and TOC games covered with 3 umpire crews, which would mean another 10 umpires involved. Bottom line - all participating leagues are required to provide **volunteer** umpires for these tournament games.

Based upon number of teams a league enters in tournaments, your historical ability to provide umpires, and my understanding of your current umpire programs, the suggested "allocation" of the 75 umpire spots to each league is as follows:

- North/South Oakland: 13
- Alameda: 4
- Albany: 4
- Continental: 3
- Concord American: 7
- Clayton Valley: 4
- Pinole Hercules: 5
- Walnut Creek: 7
- Pittsburg: 5
- Lafayette: 5
- East County: 8
- Martinez: 4
- Antioch: 4
- Richmond: 2

These are Target numbers of umpires from each league, not absolutes. If you have more volunteer umpires who are ready and excited to do tournament games, great! But if you have less now is the time to identify others and challenge them with the games needed to get them ready for the tournament.

### **Training -**

Two training clinics are scheduled to prepare umpires for the tournaments:

- Rules and Procedures clinic is Thursday, June 2nd, 7:30-9pm, UC Cooperative Extension office in Pleasant Hill. This meeting is for all umpires who will be working games in the TOC and All Star tournaments. More details to come.
- Tournament Field Mechanics Clinic is Sunday, June 5th, 9am at Pinole Hercules Little League. This clinic will focus on simulated game action drills for both 2 and 3 umpire mechanics. This will be a great opportunity for umpires to meet their counterparts from other leagues who they may be working with during the tournaments.

Get these dates to your umpires now so they can plan to attend. Registration will open May 1.

### **Game Assignments :**

As in recent years, games will be pre-assigned to leagues by the District Umpire Staff. Initial assignments will be made based upon the location of the game, level of play, and our knowledge of the number and capabilities of your umpires. We will do our best to balance the number of games at all levels. You will receive this information by May 30th.

On Thursday, June 2nd, just prior to the Rules Clinic, League UICs will be expected to meet to confirm game assignments and resolve conflicts. This will be the only time to fix the schedules or trade out games, etc.. We will start promptly at 6:30pm. Bring a co-UIC.

Now is the time to identify and confirm your tournament umpires. If we wait until June they will have made other vacation plans. I am hopeful that this season we will identify a larger number of new and developing umpires, including Junior umpires, to bring in to our tournaments. That is the only way we will continue to replenish the ranks and avoid a serious "umpire drought."

**Thanks again for volunteering for Little League!**

**Question of the Month:** Why is a runner who is obstructed by a fielder sometimes awarded a base and other times only returned to their last base?

**Answer:** Rule 7.06

When the obstruction occurs, the umpire shall call or signal "Obstruction".

(a) If a play is being made on the obstructed runner, or if the batter-runner is obstructed before touching 1B, the ball is dead and all runners shall advance without liability to be put out, to the bases they would have reached, in the umpire's judgment, if there had been no obstruction. The obstructed runner shall be awarded at least one base beyond the base last legally touched by such runner, before the obstruction. Any preceding runners forced to advance by the award of bases as the penalty for obstruction shall advance without liability to be put out.

(b) If no play is being made on the obstructed runner, the play shall proceed until no further action is possible. The umpire shall then call "Time" and impose such penalties, if any, as in that umpire's judgment, the runner would have been awarded because of being obstructed, the runner does so at his/her own risk and may be tagged out.



## **"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**



## 2016 Little League® International Region Roundtable Agenda Results

Item 1 (2017 Implementation) – Regulation I(a) and IV(c) – Major, Intermediate (50-70), Junior, Senior, and Big League Baseball and Softball

### Regulation I(a):

(a) The league is the only unit of organization.

1. The Little League (Major) Division is to accommodate participants league ages 9-12.
2. The Minor League Division is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants league ages 7-12.
3. The Tee Ball Division is an extension of the local Little League to accommodate participants league ages 4-7 and may utilize the batting tee or the pitched ball (by a coach). The league may opt to deliver a designated number of pitches to all batters and then utilize the tee if necessary.

**NOTE 1:** 7 year-olds may play in Tee Ball or Minor League depending on the local structure and ability of the players.

**NOTE 2:** Players **may** participate in more than one division. **A local league may allow players to participate in two divisions.**

### Regulation IV(c):

(c) The president of the local league (or District Administrator, if the Big League (**Softball: Senior/Big League**) is administered as a district operation) **MUST** certify and be responsible for the eligibility of each candidate previous to player selection. **NOTE:** At the time of registration, a player must designate whether he or she will try out for baseball, softball, **or both if program options permit. A player may be on two rosters in a local Little League program. However, a player shall not register and participate in more than one local Little League program.**

**Synopsis:** This would provide participants **at these levels of play** the ability to participate in **two** divisions, provided they qualify under Residency/School Attendance Eligibility Requirements, programs, and divisions of play. Player may only be selected to one Tournament team.

**Item 1: Yes - 76.2% | No - 22.9% | Abstain - 0.9%**

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## Item 2 (2016 Implementation) – Regulation I(b) and Tournament Manager and Coaches – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

Officers shall be elected by the Board (i.e. president, one or more vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, safety officer, coaching coordinator, and player agent or agents). The president may manage, coach, or umpire provided he/she does not serve on the Protest Committee. The president of record or anyone who assumes the position or duties of president, on or after January 1 of the current year, **may be eligible to be selected by local league Board of Directors** as tournament team manager or coach **with written approval from their respective District Administrator**. The president will not serve in the capacity of District Administrator. Player Agents shall not manage, coach, or umpire in their respective divisions. Vice presidents may manage, coach, or umpire provided they do not serve on the Protest Committee.

### Managers and Coaches

The president of the league **may serve as manager or coach with written approval from their respective District Administrator**. The District Administrator or District Staff shall not serve as manager or coach.

**Little League:** The manager and coach(es) shall be regular season team managers and/or coaches from the Little League Baseball (Major) Division.

**Synopsis:** This would allow league presidents to be eligible to serve as a tournament team manager or coach for any division of play.

**Item 2: Yes - 86.8% | No - 13.2% | Abstain - 0%**



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**Item 3 (2016 Implementation) – Affects Regulation VI(c), Playing Rule 3.03 and Tournament Rule 10 – Softball Junior, Senior, and Big League**

c) A pitcher remaining in the game, but moving to a different position, can return as a pitcher anytime in the remainder of the game but only once in the same inning as he/she was removed. A pitcher, withdrawn from the game offensively or defensively for a substitute, may not re-enter the game as a pitcher. Exception: See Rule 3.03(c). **Junior/Senior/Big League: A player may be removed as a pitcher, offensively or defensively, and return as pitcher only once per inning provided the return does not violate either the substitution, charged conference, or mandatory play rule(s).**

Synopsis: This would allow players within Junior, Senior, and Big League Softball divisions to be replaced on the pitcher's plate and return to pitch, even if removed from the game, providing they meet the substitution, charged conference and mandatory play rule(s).

**Item 3: Yes - 88.4% | No - 7.5% | Abstain - 4.2%**

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**Item 4 (NOT Implemented) – Affects Rule 1.08**

**1.08** - The league shall furnish players' benches, one each for the home and visiting teams. Such benches should not be less than 25 feet from the base lines. They shall be protected by wire fencing.

**NOTE 1: The on-deck position is not permitted.**

**Intermediate (50-70) Baseball Division:**

**Item 4.1: Yes- 35.2% | No - 63.2% | Abstain - 1.6%**

**Junior League Baseball and Softball:**

**Item 4.2: Yes - 20.7% | No - 76.7% | Abstain - 2.6%**

**Senior League Baseball and Softball:**

**Item 4.3: Yes 17.2% | No - 80.6% | Abstain - 2.3%**

**Big League Baseball and Softball**

**Item 3.4: Yes - 14.2% | No - 83.6% | Abstain - 2.2%**

**Synopsis:** This would restrict the use of an on-deck batter in the teenage divisions.

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**Item 5 (NOT Implemented) – Affects Rule 6.02 and Tournament Rule 3 – All Divisions Baseball and Softball**

**(a) Local League Regular Season Option/Mandatory Tournament:** After entering the batter's box, the batter must remain in the box with at least one foot throughout the at bat.

**Exceptions:** The batter can leave the batter's box:

- 1) On a swing, slap or check swing.
- 2) When forced out of the box by a pitch.
- 3) When the batter attempts a "drag bunt" ("slap" for softball).
- 4) When the catcher does not catch the pitched ball.
- 5) When a play has been attempted.

6) When time has been called.

7) **Baseball:** When the pitcher leaves the dirt area of the pitching mound or takes a position more than five feet from the pitcher's plate after receiving the ball or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.

**Softball:** When the pitcher leaves the eight-foot circle or the catcher leaves the catcher's box.

8) On a three ball count pitch that is a strike that the batter thinks is a ball.

**Penalty:** If the batter leaves the batter's box, delays play and none of the exceptions apply, the umpire shall warn the batter.

After one warning on a batter, the umpire shall call a strike. Any number of strikes can be called on each batter. No pitch has to be thrown and the ball is dead.

**EXCEPTION: Intermediate (50-70)/Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball:** No pitch has to be thrown and ball is live.

**Synopsis:** This would allow a local league to determine if they implement this rule for the Regular Season; however, batters would be mandated to keep at least one foot within the batter's box throughout their at-bat after entering the batter's box during the Little League International Tournament under Tournament Rule 3.

**Item 5: Yes - 63.6% | No - 34.6% | Abstain - 1.7%**

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#### Item 6 (NOT Implemented – Affects Rule 6.06(e) – Baseball Minor and Major League

A batter is out for illegal action when –

(e) he/she fakes a bunt and then takes a full swing.

**Synopsis:** This would eliminate a Minor/Major Baseball Division player from fake bunting and “slap-hitting” the ball.

**Item 6: Yes - 45.8% | No - 54% | Abstain - 0.2%**

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#### Item 7 (2016 Implementation) – Affects Tournament Release of Names – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball

The release of names of players selected for the tournament team shall not be made before June 1, and not until the availability and eligibility of all prospective team members has been established. [The Little League group accident insurance program underwritten by an AIG member company for tournament teams will not go into effect until June 1.

**Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privilege by the Tournament Committee.**

**Synopsis:** This would change the requirement for releasing players selected to the Tournament team solely to June 1.

**Item 7: Yes - 79% | No - 19% | Abstain - 1.9%**

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**Item 8 (2016 Implementation) – Affects Tournament Player Eligibility – Baseball and Softball 9-10, 10-11, and 11-12 Year Old Divisions**

**Player Eligibility**

Players are eligible for Tournament Play, provided they meet the criteria established by the Little League “Residency and School Attendance Player Eligibility Requirement,” “Participation In Other Programs” and the following:

**9-10 Year Old Division** - Any player League Age 8, 9, or 10, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the school season, on a:

1. Little League (Major) Division team, or;
2. Minor League team.

**Item 8.1: Yes - 66.8% | No - 32.8% | Abstain - 0.4%**

**10-11 Year Old Division** - Any player League Age 9, 10, or 11, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games as of June 15, with the exception of the school season, on a:

1. Little League (Major) Division team, or;
2. Minor League team.

**Item 8.2: Yes - 66.4% | No - 32.5% | Abstain - 1.1%**

**Little League (Major) Division** - Any player League Age 10, 11, or 12, with amateur status, who has participated as an eligible player in 60 percent (60%) of the regular season games as of June 15 on a Little League (Major) Division team, with the exception of the school season.

**Item 8.3: Yes - 65.7% | No - 34.3% | Abstain - 0%**

**Synopsis:** This would provide participants three years of eligibility for the 9-10, 10-11 and 11-12 Divisions of the International Tournament. This would also provide local leagues additional flexibility in their player selection.

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**Item 9 (2016 Implementation) – Affects Tournament Team Practice – All Divisions of Baseball and Softball**

Try-outs or practices by tournament teams **shall not be held before June 1**. Tournament team practice may only take place against other teams within the same or contiguous districts in the same division, providing such practice is done out of uniform. [The Little League group accident insurance program underwritten by an AIG member company for tournament teams will not go into effect **until June 1**.]

**Violation of this rule may be cause for revocation of tournament privileges by the Tournament Committee.**

**Synopsis:** This would **change the requirement for tournament team try-outs and practices solely to June 1**.

**Item 9: Yes - 77.5% | No - 20.6% | Abstain - 1.9%**

Item 10 (NOT Implemented) – Affect Regulation IV(a), Regular Season and Tournament – Baseball and Softball Teenage Divisions

In an effort to obtain valuable feedback to determine the future structure of the teenage divisions of the Little League Baseball and Softball program, we are requesting District Administrators to vote on the questions below.

**Baseball**

After reviewing all the amendments submitted regarding the structure of the teenage divisions of baseball at the Regional Roundtables, the only consensus from the feedback is that a restructure is needed and that restructure includes eliminating a teenage baseball division. Do you support eliminating a teenage division of baseball for Regular Season and Tournament?

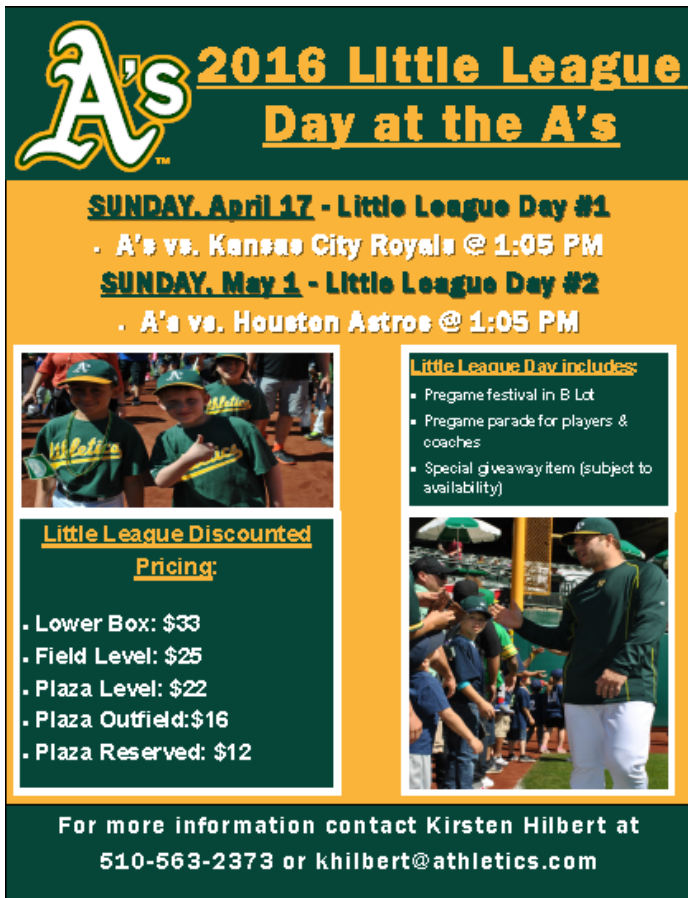
Item 10.1: **Yes - 51.2% | No - 44.2% | Abstain - 4.7%**

**Softball**

After reviewing all the amendments submitted regarding the structure of the teenage divisions of softball at the Regional Roundtables, the only consensus from the feedback is that a restructure is needed and that restructure includes eliminating a teenage softball division. Do you support eliminating a teenage division of softball for Regular Season and Tournament?

Item 10.2: **Yes - 49.6% | No - 43.9% | Abstain - 6.6%**

**Synopsis:** This item would provide feedback to determine if a teenage division of baseball and softball should be eliminated.



**A's 2016 Little League Day at the A's**

**SUNDAY, April 17 - Little League Day #1**  
• A's vs. Kansas City Royals @ 1:05 PM

**SUNDAY, May 1 - Little League Day #2**  
• A's vs. Houston Astros @ 1:05 PM

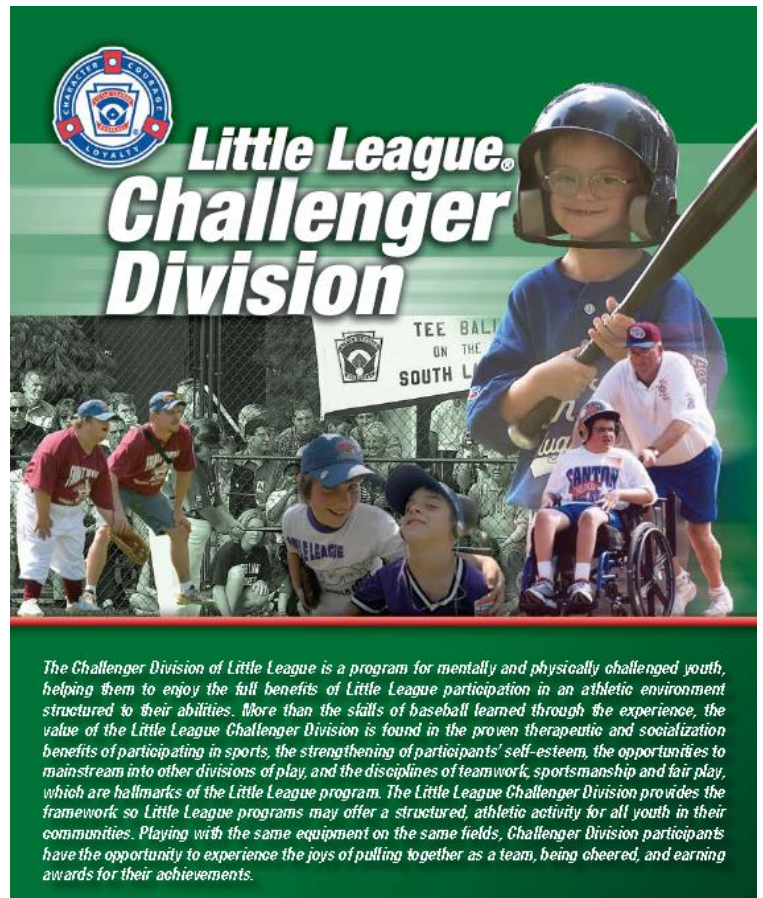
**Little League Day includes:**

- Pregame festival in B Lot
- Pregame parade for players & coaches
- Special giveaway item (subject to availability)

**Little League Discounted Pricing:**

- Lower Box: \$33
- Field Level: \$25
- Plaza Level: \$22
- Plaza Outfield: \$16
- Plaza Reserved: \$12

For more information contact Kirsten Hilbert at 510-563-2373 or [khilbert@athletics.com](mailto:khilbert@athletics.com)



**Little League Challenger Division**

TEE BALL ON THE SOUTH L

*The Challenger Division of Little League is a program for mentally and physically challenged youth, helping them to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities. More than the skills of baseball learned through the experience, the value of the Little League Challenger Division is found in the proven therapeutic and socialization benefits of participating in sports, the strengthening of participants' self-esteem, the opportunities to mainstream into other divisions of play, and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play, which are hallmarks of the Little League program. The Little League Challenger Division provides the framework so Little League programs may offer a structured, athletic activity for all youth in their communities. Playing with the same equipment on the same fields, Challenger Division participants have the opportunity to experience the joys of pulling together as a team, being cheered, and earning awards for their achievements.*