

Glastonbury Little League Baseball

Frequently Asked Questions

About Glastonbury Little League

How is the GLL mission “WhereEverybody Plays” applied in how we play our games?

GLL is focused on cultivating an inclusive environment where players of all ages and abilities are given an opportunity to play. As such, we have set rules that balance playing time - including that no player may play more than one inning more than another player. Additionally, we implement practices such as rotating the batting order for each game, and ensuring every player plays the infield each game. We do not want our coaches or teams to lose sight of the importance of developing all players and providing opportunities for everyone to learn, grow, and contribute to their team.

Does GLL offer financial assistance to help cover registration or equipment cost? Who do we contact if more information is needed?

Yes. GLL has a financial assistance program for those families that qualify and can supply equipment where required. Please contact the GLL President Bill Longo at bill.longo@glastonburylittleleague.org to discuss financial assistance

My child goes to school in Glastonbury but we reside in another town. Is my child still eligible to pay Glastonbury Little League?

Yes. Residency for purposes of playing GLL is determined by either your resident address or the school you attend (i.e a Glastonbury school). As such, children residing in other towns but attending Glastonbury Public Schools are eligible to play GLL. Outside of those two criteria, a waiver would be needed.

I have a daughter. Can she play baseball or does she have to play softball?

Yes. Female athletes have the option to play in either the baseball or softball divisions of their age groups.

Do you need any support from parents?

Absolutely! We are a volunteer organization and we need the help and support of many to keep the league running smoothly. Our number one need is volunteer coaches at all division levels, but we also are looking for volunteers to help at events such as Photo Day, sign-in at try outs and Sunday Sandlot, running the scoreboard, distributing uniforms, and so much more. If you are interested in coaching, register online using the baseball coach registration link. For

volunteering to help at our GLL events, please contact Bill Longo at bill.longo@glastonburylittleleague.org

Can I help at a practice or game if I am not a rostered coach?

No. While we want parents to volunteer as coaches, it is critical that any parents coaching on the field at a practice or game are officially registered as a coach through our system, and put on the roster. This is necessary for the protection of the players (through coach background checks), as well as the protection of the coach, who is covered by our liability and medical insurance coverage.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

If you have questions about team specifics, the coaches of your team are always a great place to start. Members of the GLL Board of Directors are also available to discuss any questions or concerns. For broader questions, please contact the commissioner of your respective division.

Work Opportunities

My child is interested in becoming an umpire. What is the application process and who should I contact?

People ages 13 and older can register to umpire on the GLL website during the Spring and Fall registration process. Training is provided so previous experience is not required. More information will follow once registered. For questions regarding umpiring, please contact Dan Staino at dan.staino@glastonburylittleleague.org.

My child is interested in working the concession stand. What is the application process and who should I contact?

GLL provides opportunities to work in the concessions stands at Ross and Butler Fields. If your child is interested in this opportunity, please contact Ashley Lindsey at ashley.lindsey@glastonburylittleleague.org.

Divisions

How do I know which division to register for?

Other than the Challenger Division, registrations are based on player age according to Little League determination. The age determination for a Little League baseball player is the actual age of the player on August 31 of the current year. [Baseball Age Determinations](#)

The GLL Baseball divisions are as follows:

Division	Baseball Ages
Rookies	4-6 years old
Tees	7-8* years old
Minors	9-10* years old
Majors	10-12 years old
Juniors	13-16 years old

**Baseball 6 year olds may play in the Tee Division at the discretion of parents and league.*

**Baseball 8 year olds may play in the Minors Division at the discretion of parents and league.*

**Baseball 10 year olds may tryout for the Majors Division.*

The Challenger Division accommodates players ages 4 to 18; or up to age 22 if still enrolled in school.

My child's baseball age qualifies them for two divisions. How do I determine which I should register for?

There are certain years where a player has an option to continue in their current division or move up. When determining what is best to do parents/guardians should consider their players ability/experience, what the child's preference is, where they will feel most comfortable, and what they need developmentally. If you are uncertain, please do not hesitate to reach out to our divisional baseball commissioners to discuss further.

Can my child play "up" a level based on ability?

Yes. During the spring season, our Little League divisions allow players at the top of their age range the option to play up. At each level there is an "overlap" age group where parents/guardians have the option to keep their child in their existing division or move them up to the next level.

Specifically, the following Little League ages have the opportunity for a player to play up:

- Rookies to Tees: at baseball age 6, a Rookies player can opt to join the Tees Division or remain in Rookies for one more season
- Tees to Minors*: at baseball age 8, a Tee player can opt to join the Minors Division or remain in Tees for one more season
- Minors to Majors: at baseball age 10, a Minors player can opt to join the Majors Division or remain in Minors for one more season. Players are not allowed to move to Majors until they are baseball age 10.

GLL does not offer an option for the older age of Majors (LL age 12) to move up to Juniors given the significant differences in the leagues including the change in the size of the diamond.

**In addition to the more typical allowances above, if you believe that given their physical ability and emotional maturity your 7 year old is ready to play Minors, there is a tryout process to move up to Minors earlier. Please reach out to the Minors Commissioner to discuss if you believe this is necessary for your child.*

How are teams determined at each level?

Rookies, Tees, and Minors: Team rosters are built by GLL and the division commissioner in order to result in balanced teams. GLL does try its best to honor player requests for specific coaches or teammates, though in some circumstances we are not always able to do so.

Majors and Juniors: Team rosters in these divisions are built via a draft. Prior to the draft, there is an assessment day to give coaches and independent evaluators an opportunity to see all players hit, field and throw. This data helps to ensure teams are reasonably balanced.

Can I move my player to another team after the rosters are assigned?

Generally we are not able to accommodate requests to move players after the rosters are assigned. For Majors and Juniors, a draft is used to assign players to teams and moving players around would impact the overall draft balance. For the Rookies, Tees and Minors Divisions teams are built factoring in many variables including player and coaching requests. Moving one player may result in multiple players being impacted. If you have a specific concern or question about your team assignment, please reach out to the respective division commissioner to discuss.

My child cannot play on a certain day of the week due to a conflict with another activity. Can GLL accommodate them by putting them on a team that does not play that day?

Unfortunately, no. The way our schedule is set up, teams do not play on a set night during the week. As such weekday games could vary across the days of the week, which makes us unable to logistically accommodate these requests.

Why do we use players as the first and third base coaches as opposed to the adult managers and coaches?

At GLL, one of our main values is to remember that this league is for the players. Allowing players to coach bases provides more opportunities for them to learn the game and hone their decision making skills on the basepath. It is also a way to continue to keep kids engaged and focused on the game. Note that some of the softball leagues that play other towns may have different rules when playing out of Glastonbury.

My child is playing their last year of Little League this season but wants to keep playing baseball. What do we do next?

After the GLL Majors Division, players can play in the GLL Juniors Division. Juniors is designed for 13 to 16 year old players who do not play on the GHS team. Juniors games are played at the 90 ft diamond fields, "Heroes Field" at Riverfront Park, Smith MS and GHS. The Juniors Division runs during the spring Little League season, March through early June.

I'm confused. What is the difference between Juniors, Glastonbury Amateur Baseball (GAB) and American Legion Baseball?

The Juniors Division of Glastonbury Little League is still part of the GLL organization. Glastonbury Amateur Baseball (GAB) however, is a separate 90 ft (full sized) diamond program for players who have completed their 12 year old Little League year through the collegiate level. It is a competitive travel program that plays after the GLL Juniors season has ended, from mid-June to early August. GAB fields teams at the 13u, 15u, 17u, 19u and collegiate levels in the American Legion Baseball League, the Tobacco Valley Baseball League, and the CT Collegiate Baseball League.

Juniors is open all age eligible players through the GLL registration process, while GAB teams are formed via try outs. Participation in both Juniors and GAB is highly recommended for players looking to continue their baseball journey after their 12 year old season.

GAB also offers a Fall Ball program for who have completed their 12 year old Little League year, through age 19.

If you have further questions, please reach out to Brian Suriner at brian.suriner@glastonburylittleleague.org

Challenger Division

What is the Challenger Division?

The Challenger Division is GLL's adaptive baseball program for players with physical and intellectual challenges. Flexibility and adaptability are key in this division. All players play every inning with guidance from coaches as well as Buddies, who are peers that assist Challenger athletes in skills such as hitting, base running and defense as needed. If you have questions about the Challenger program, please email krisann.race@glastonburylittleleague.org.

How often does the Challenger team meet?

Practices are held once a week prior to the season start (weather and ground conditions permitting), then 1-2 games per week are played beginning in mid April through early June.

Where does the Challenger team play their games?

Home games are played at one of the accessible little league fields in Glastonbury, and away games are played at accessible Little League fields in neighboring towns.

How long do Challenger games last?

Games typically consist of 1-2 innings, lasting about one hour.

What is a Challenger Buddy and how do I sign my child up to become one?

Buddies are similar aged peers who assist Challenger athletes in the areas of batting, base running and defense, but only as needed. No baseball knowledge is required. We ask that Buddies make a commitment to attend 75% of the games and practices. To register as a Buddy, please... If you have questions about becoming a Buddy, please email krisann.race@glastonburylittleleague.org.

Spring Season

When does the Glastonbury Little League season begin and end?

Teams begin practicing the last week of March (weather permitting) with games typically beginning the third week of April. The season continues through the second weekend of June to coincide with the end of the school year. For Majors teams, the regular season games end the first weekend in June and are followed by a week-long playoff tournament.

How many GLL events can I expect per week?

While it can vary by level, beginning in March teams usually have one to two practices per week. Once game play begins in April, each team will play two games per week, one weeknight and one weekend. At the Majors and Juniors levels, in order to consolidate the season to account for playoffs, there are usually two weeks in the season where the team will play three games in a week. Once games begin, additional practices and batting cage sessions are available at the discretion of the coach.

Fall Season

What programs does GLL offer in the Fall?

During the Fall season, GLL offers a few different programs.

Sunday Sandlot (Players ages 6-8)

Sunday Sandlot is a drop in, free, co-ed program held every Sunday afternoon at the Butler Fields. Sandlot consists of a half hour of skills training, followed by a scrimmage,

during which a pitching machine is used providing ample opportunities for hitting and fielding practice.

Fall Ball (Current 9 to 11 years olds who will be baseball age 10-12 the following season)

Team play on Saturdays and Sundays at the Butler fields with one practice per week assigned to each team.

Challenger Fall Ball

The GLL Challenger Division offers a 6-week skills clinic where players work on basic baseball skills like hitting, catching, throwing and baserunning.

More information regarding fall opportunities and registration will come out during the summer.

My player turns 9 on 9/1 (or slightly after). Can he play fall baseball?

No, unfortunately they do not meet the age requirement for Fall Ball. The age restrictions help ensure that Fall Ball continues to remain competitive for the older kids in the age range. Your child is still eligible to play ball each week at Sunday Sandlot.

Summer Season

Are there any opportunities for my child to play baseball in the summer?

We do offer several options for baseball majors players to play in the summer. These opportunities are tryout based. Tryouts are typically held at the end of May/early June.

District 7 All Stars

Each summer, GLL fields one or two District 7 All Star Teams at each Majors level (10u, 11u, 12u). For the age groups that field two teams (number of teams is based on interest in that age group), players are split into "Nationals", players from the Nayaug and Hopewell school districts, and "Americans", players from the Buttonball, Hebron Avenue and Naubuc school districts. This program begins mid-June and usually continues through early-mid July (end date depends on tournament play). These teams usually practice daily, with two games per week (home and away).

Travel Stars

This division provides more flexibility for vacations and other commitments than the District All Stars. GLL offers two Travel Start teams; a 9/10 year old team and a 11/12 year old team. This program begins mid-June and usually continues through early August. Games are held twice per week (home and away), with a couple of practices each week at the discretion of the coach.

What is the commitment for the summer teams?

District 7 All Stars

A 6-7 day per week commitment that begins after the conclusion of the GLL spring season. Once the GLL season ends, teams begin practicing for District 7 pool play which begins in mid-June. A full commitment to these teams is required. Extended vacations during the All Star season are difficult given the very condensed timing of the season. Exceptions may be made for one-off life events (ex. weddings, graduations) but missing games and practices is highly discouraged. Season end time is typically mid-July, but teams may continue on in state/regional tournament play.

Travel Stars

Allows for more flexibility for vacations and other commitments. This program begins mid-June, and usually continues through early August. Games are held twice per week, with a couple of practices each week at the discretion of the coach.

How are summer teams selected?

In order to play on a GLL summer travel team, players must have attended, with complete availability*, a minimum of 75% of all regular season GLL games they were eligible to play. A complete game means that a player was there for the entire game, not leaving early or arriving late, and there were no restrictions placed on ability to play positions such as pitcher or catcher due to playing in another league. Missed games for religious requirements, significant family events, or injury/illness are excused for purposes of determining eligibility.

District 7 All Star and Travel Star teams are selected via a tryout process. Try out dates are announced in the spring and involve a series of assessments of hitting, fielding and throwing. Separate try outs are held for each age group. Typically, tryouts are open to all Majors players, though in years with a larger number of players, tryouts may be by invite only. In limited circumstances, select players from the Minors division (baseball age 9 or 10) are invited to try out based on their performance over the season and team roster needs. Try outs are conducted by independent evaluators in order to ensure fairness and eliminate bias.

Tryouts at each age group are combined for both District All Star and Travel Stars teams and players are allocated to the appropriate team. After tryouts, rosters are sent out to each team. We generally are not able to accommodate requests to switch teams after that point.

**available for the entire game and able to play all positions*

Why doesn't GLL form one All Star team per age group like many other towns?

We are proud to be one of the only towns in the state to offer two district teams at each age division (player interest permitting). We have a strong baseball program in Glastonbury and we firmly believe that it is beneficial to open the opportunity to play in the summer to as many players as possible. This continues to build our baseball community and provides the opportunity for an additional 36 players to play baseball in the summer while still fielding competitive teams.

Equipment

What equipment does my child need to play?

Players need a bat (must be USA certified for Minors and Majors), glove, baseball pants, and helmet (optional for the Tee Leagues). Cleats are recommended but sneakers are permitted. It is recommended that boys wear a cup at all times while playing, however this is required when they are playing the position of catcher.

GLL will supply uniform hats, shirts, catcher's gear and baseballs. If purchasing equipment is a hardship, please email bill.longo@glastonburylittleleague.org.

What size bat should my child get?

Proper bat size depends a bit on the child, and will vary by their age and size. One test that a player can do is hold the bat horizontal in their non-dominant hand when their arm is extended straight out from their shoulder. If they are not able to hold the bat comfortably for a bit, then the bat may be too heavy. Bat charts with recommended sizes based on height, weight and age are available online.

Our Baseball players are required to have a USA certified bat. Please see criteria below:

Baseball Bat Chart	
Minors & Majors	USA Baseball marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum *Approved Tee Ball bats may be used in coach pitch/machine pitch divisions only with the use of approved tee balls.
Intermediate (50/70) & Junior	USA Baseball marking or BBCOR marking 2 5/8" barrel maximum
Senior	ALL bats must be BBCOR

Note: It is not necessary to spend a lot of money on a bat at this age as players will quickly outgrow them.

I have baseball equipment that my family can no longer use. Can I donate it to GLL?

Yes. GLL accepts donations of outgrown equipment that is still in good playing condition. To donate items, please reach out to Bill Longo at bill.longo@glastonburylittleleague.org