Little League Softball®

- Founded in 1974
- Offered for girls ages 4-16
- Age determination date of January 1
- Currently over 360,000 girls participate in Little League Softball - in over 25 countries worldwide
Little League Softball: Divisions of Play

- **Tee Ball** 4-7
- **Minors** 7-12  
  *Option for 5- and 6-year-olds*
- **Majors** 9-12
- **Juniors** 12-14
- **Seniors** 13-16

Players league age 12 and above may participate in two divisions. See Regulation I(a).
What will it cost to affiliate with Little League®?

- $10/team
- Average of about $6/player (Charter fees and insurance cost included)
- $200/team tournament fee
- $1/mile tournament travel reimbursement for the State level and beyond.
Insurance

**Required**
- Accident Insurance for players and volunteers
- General Liability Insurance includes D&O and cyber coverage

**Optional**
- Crime insurance
Benefits of Little League Softball®

- More than 15 games televised on ESPN’s family of networks including every Softball World Series Championship
- Little League International provides travel to and from the different Little League Softball World Series tournaments for all US and international regional championship teams.
- Access to the only true international youth softball tournament
- League Resource Guide - marketing, insurance, and operation resources
- Free online training for softball managers, coaches, umpires, local league BOD and parents – LittleLeagueU.org
• Additional educational resources and material provided by Positive Coaching Alliance
• Access for players to Softball Days at colleges and universities
• Coaches Clinics with Michele Smith, Jen Schroeder, CCSU, and Mark Cooke
• ONE Softball Partnership
• Grow the Game Grants
The Little League International Tournament

- Three Softball World Series tournaments: Little League, Junior, and Senior League
- In all seven divisions, more than 30,000 games are played in less than two months to determine seven World Champions
- More than 15 softball games televised on the ESPN Family of Networks
- Entry fee of $200 per team is for ENTIRE tournament, up to and including the World Series
- Leagues advancing to the State level and beyond are reimbursed at a rate of $1 per mile for one roundtrip
Little League University
Coaches Resources

- Free to all chartered leagues
- Updated regularly and features videos, text-based articles as well as the latest Little League news
- Content specific for softball, describing skills, helpful drills and suggestions on how to structure practice
- Instructors include Heather Tarr, Jen Schroeder and Lisa Dodd
- Tee Ball Program

LittleLeagueU.org
Tee Ball Full Practice Plan: Week 2

Practice (2): When the kids are done by the end of today.

The players should be able to throw overhand, stopping with opposite foot and swaying side to side.

Materials and Equipment:
- 12 baseballs
- 25 baseball bats
- 10 batting cages
- 10 glove bags
- 5 large white cones
- 10 large inflatable balls

Practice Plan:

1. Practice.

2. Practice.

3. Practice.

4. Practice.

5. Practice.

6. Practice.

Practice Drills:

- Fielding: Have players practice fielding ground balls and pop-ups.
- Throwing: Have players practice throwing overhand and sidearm.
- Batting: Have players practice batting from the right side of the plate.
-Baseball Running: Have players practice running the bases.

Notes:

- Wear proper baseball attire.
- Practice for 1 hour each day.
- Teamwork is key.
- Encourage good sportsmanship.
Little League University
Umpire Resources

- Free to all chartered leagues
- Updated regularly
- Features both video and text based articles as well as the latest Little League news
- Content specific areas for baseball and softball; plate and base umpires; and 60’ and 90’ diamonds

[LittleLeagueU.org]
Partnership with Softball Excellence

www.LittleLeague.org/SE

Partnership provides Little League® approved content to coaches and parents for a discount

- Seven online seminars covering 11 game aspects
- Coaching Courses for all levels
- Online Instructional photo and video tutorial with downloadable notes
Little League Softball Days

Over 35 colleges and universities across the country hosted Little League Softball Days.

Grow the Game Grants - Softball

Introduced in 2015, Little League’s Grow the Game Grant Program provides assistance to chartered Little League Softball programs working to further the mission of Little League in their community. Grants of up to $20,000 are available and can be used towards:

- Coach Education
- Player Training and Instruction
- Capital Projects (facility updates improvements)
- Marketing Campaigns
- Starting/Adding a Softball Program
- And more...

To learn more, visit LittleLeague.org/GrowtheGame.
Little League Softball
Special Games

- Allows Little League programs an easier approach to organize weekend tournaments during the Regular Season, Second Season, and Fall Ball.
- Additional flexibility in rules for participation, pitching, games in a day, and team composition to increase the attractiveness and competitive level.
- Games played may count towards Tournament eligibility for Junior and Senior League divisions.
- Complete details of special games options are available online at [Expanded Special Games Guidelines](Expanded%20Special%20Games%20Guidelines).
Recent Softball Changes

The following changes were recently revised in the past few years:

- Regulation IV – allow 12-year-olds to participate in Majors and Juniors;
- Pitching Distance change from 40’ to 43’ for Junior and Senior League Softball (aligns with NCAA and ISF);
- Bat BPF to 1.20;
- Metal cleats option for upper divisions;
- Definition of a bunt (aligns with NCAA);
- Allowing a runner to steal at the release of the pitch in the Major Division;
- Allowing the batter to run on a dropped 3rd strike at the Major Division;
- Allowing tournament teams to participate in special games after tournament teams are announced;
- Penalty for use of an illegal bat
Softball Changes cont.

- Relaxed pitching regulations –
  - **Minor/Majors**: 12 innings in a day; 6 innings or less, no rest required.
  - **Junior/Senior League**: No restrictions
- Relaxed games in a day:
  - **Minor/Majors**: Two doubleheaders in a 7-day period
  - **Junior/Senior League**: Up to 3 games in a day.
Little League® Graduates

A few Little League Softball graduates through the years:

- **Crystal Bustos**: USA Softball Team (Canyon Country LL)
- **Sue Enquist**: Former Head Coach at UCLA
- **Cat Osterman**: USA Olympian (Bear Creek LL)
- **Heather Tarr**: Head Coach at the University of Washington
- **Angela Tincher**: VA Tech; No hitter against US Team (Clifton Forge LL)

**Jackie Traina** – University of Alabama and 2012 WCWS Champions (Naples LL)

**Gatorade National Players of the Year**

- Carly Hoover (SC), Alexis Bower (PA), Pauline Tufi (AK)
- Sarah Ing (Washington DC), Carolyn Szymanski (DE)
Steps for Starting a Softball Program

If you are interested in starting a Little League Softball program, here are the next steps:

1. Discuss offering Little League Softball with your local Little League board. The first step to starting a softball program is to discuss the addition of the program with the board. The board should appoint a softball committee to head up the effort. The committee should include at least one board member, and may include other members of the league or members of the community interested in starting a Little League Softball program. Some members that you may choose to include on the committee include your local high school softball coach, or other members of the community involved with softball. This committee will oversee items such as promotion of the softball program, identifying potential managers and coaches, securing softball fields, recruiting players, etc. Note: When securing fields, a softball program may use either a traditional softball field or an existing baseball field.

2. Let your District Administrator know that you are planning to offer Little League Softball — Your District Administrator will be able to let you know what other leagues in the district are currently offering softball and what opportunities may exist for interleague play or combined teams. Additionally, your District Administrator may be able to put you in touch with other softball contacts in the district that may be able to help you in starting your own program.

3. Begin promoting your softball program and gauge interest in the community — When you first begin promoting your Little League Softball program, consider promoting the program for all ages 4-12. Based on the interest at each age level, you can determine which levels of play your league will offer. You may choose to have girls interested in participating complete an interest form, similar to a registration form. This will allow your league

Promoting and Operating a Successful Softball Program

1. Structuring the Board

Little League would recommend adding at least two positions to the local league board when starting or operating a softball program: a Softball Vice President and a Softball Player Agent.

Softball Vice President

Appointing a Softball Vice President to oversee operations is an important task for any league managing a softball program. One of the primary goals of this position is to promote the program within the local softball community. The Softball Vice President acts as a liaison between the league board and those involved in the softball program.
Chartering
Little League Softball®

Methods of Chartering

• Addition to an existing charter
• Addition to an existing charter with modified boundaries
• Softball Only Charter
Addition to an Existing Charter

- Softball can be chartered by simply listing softball teams on your league’s charter application
- Charter fees and insurance rates are the same as those for baseball
- Most appropriate when the same board is running both baseball and softball programs in a community
Addition to an Existing Charter w/ Modified Boundaries

- Chartered by listing softball teams on the league’s charter application
- Charter fees and insurance rates are the same as those for baseball
- The league may request to operate with expanded boundaries for the softball program only to draw more girls to the program
Addition to an Existing Charter w/ Modified Boundaries (cont’d)

• Modified boundaries may include unchartered areas or areas chartered by another league not offering softball

• If an area in a modified boundary is chartered by another league, that league must give up rights to operate softball in that area

• All modified softball boundaries must be submitted as a waiver request and approved by the Charter Committee
Softball Only Charter

• A softball league can be chartered as a separate entity from a baseball league in a community.

• This option is best when the softball program is operated by a separate board or when there is a group of individuals who would like to focus only on softball operations.
Softball Only Charter (cont’d)

To charter a softball only league:

1. Complete and submit a charter application
2. Complete and submit a Little League constitution
3. Complete and submit a boundary map signed by the District Administrator, the League President, and the League Presidents of any baseball leagues whose boundaries the softball only league encompasses
Softball Only Charter (cont’d)

• All baseball leagues whose boundaries the softball only league overlaps must submit a letter giving up their rights to charter softball

• All softball only charters must be approved by the Charter Committee
New League Incentive Package

As a newly chartered Little League Program, you will receive the following:

• 50 Additional Rule Books for your first season (in addition to the 1 per team you will already receive)
• 50% off your league’s Little League uniform patch order for your first season
• Your league’s charter fees will be waived in full for your second year of affiliation
For more information, visit
LittleLeagueSoftball.org
Facebook.com/LittleLeagueSoftball

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