

Player Safety

Player safety is the top priority for Southington South Little League and its volunteers. As such, the SSLL Board of Directors has implemented an evaluation process for all players to aid in determining the division (Majors, AAA, AA, A, Tee Ball) that players are best suited for.

The divisions of play for SSLL are as follows:

Tee Ball - Age Range: 4-6

Primary Goals: Have fun, to instruct children in the fundamentals of baseball, and to allow them to experience the value of teamwork.

Key Checkpoints: Player has a basic understanding of how to swing the bat, can make contact with a stationary ball, can field a ground ball rolled towards them and can make a throw in the direction of their target, and have a basic understanding of how to run the bases. Players shall also have an understanding of the safety aspects of baseball.

A (Single A) - Age Range: 5-6

Primary Goals: Have fun, continue to introduce fundamentals of baseball with the addition of hitting a moving baseball, and to experience the value of teamwork.

Key Checkpoints: Player has a basic understanding of how to swing the bat and can make contact with a moving ball tossed softly from a coach. Can field a ground ball rolled towards them, and catch a ball softly thrown to their glove, beginning to develop an understanding of how to run the bases and where to throw the ball when fielding.

AA (Double A or Coach Pitch) - Age Range: 6-8

Primary Goals: Have fun, begin to develop an understanding of offensive and defensive concepts such as making and tracking outs, continue to develop baseball fundamentals such as throwing to a target, catching thrown balls and moving the bat to where a ball is pitched. This league introduces kids pitching towards the 2nd half of the season.

Key Checkpoints: Player is able to focus on the batter when playing defense, can catch a ball thrown to them, and can throw a ball to another player. Players on the older range can pitch and throw strikes from the mound. Hitters move the bat towards and can hit a moving ball, and have a general understanding of the strike zone. Players begin to learn the catcher's position and potentially how to steal. All players develop further knowledge of the basic rules of Little League baseball.

AAA (Triple A or Kid Pitch) - Age Range: 8-11

Primary Goals: Have fun, continue to develop a deeper understanding of offensive and defensive concepts such as making plays, stealing and scoring runs. Begin to keep score and track wins and losses. Begin to teach proper pitching techniques, sliding techniques and base running techniques.

Key Checkpoints: Player is able to focus for the length of the game. They understand the batting order and know the positions in the field. They are able to make routine plays in the field and can make consistent contact with pitched balls from players in their age range. Players should have an understanding of basic baseball concepts such as the strike zone, force outs, tagging runners on non-force outs, and tagging up after a ball is caught. Players will continue to develop the skills needed to safely pitch and catch.

Majors - Age Range: 9-12

Primary Goals: Have fun, continue to emphasize teamwork and competitiveness as teams compete for league and town championships. Continue to work with pitchers on proper pitching mechanics and fielders on more advanced fundamentals such as moving to ground balls, tracking fly balls, and knowing where to throw the ball.

Key Checkpoints: Player is able to focus for the length of the game. They understand the batting order and know the positions on the field. They are able to make routine to advanced plays in the field and can make consistent contact with pitched balls from pitchers in their age range. Players should have an understanding of basic to advanced baseball concepts expanding upon force outs, tagging runners on non-force outs, and tagging up after a ball is caught learned in younger divisions.

The SSL Board of Directors reserves the right to place or move a child to a division based on observed behaviors and/or skill levels within the age ranges specified by Little League International (which may be different from the specified SSL age ranges above) to ensure a safe playing environment for all players.