



Welcome Packet

Spring/Summer 2024



baseball@epyal.com

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Welcome

On behalf of the East Pennsboro Youth Athletic League (EPYAL) Baseball Committee we extend a warm welcome to the 2024 Spring baseball season! The EPYAL strives to continue the rich tradition of East Pennsboro baseball by providing our baseball families with a high-quality program and rewarding experience. We are proud to be chartered with Little League, which believes in the power of youth baseball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities. It's our mission to create an inclusive and safe environment for the children in our community, where they can have fun while learning the fundamentals of baseball and the basic principles of sports: courage, perseverance, respect, loyalty, sportsmanship, and teamwork.

Whether you're a veteran with the league or a new EPYAL baseball family, we believe you will find valuable content within this resource that details what to expect throughout the season.

I've registered my child, now what?

At the conclusion of the registration period, the EPYAL Baseball Committee will work with the commissioners and managers (head coaches) at each age division to balance team rosters and order uniforms. You will be contacted by the head coach of your child's team in early March. Practices are set to begin the week of March 13 (weather permitting). Games will begin the week of April 10 and continue through the first week of June.

How are teams assigned?

Preseason evaluations help us balance talent among our teams in each division (except for Tee Ball, which is exempt). Players are expected to participate in evaluations if they are:

- new to the EPYAL program (except for Tee Ball)
- Pony players, including both Jr. Pony/Coach Pitch and Sr. Pony/Player Pitch
- transitioning to a new division; beginning with Pony, again at Minors, and through Majors
- requesting to play in a division higher than the default division based on their age

Coaches, commissioners, and the program directors will be present at evaluations, assessing the players' capabilities. All divisions will have a player draft—with the exception of Tee Ball and Jr. Pony—which helps equitably distribute the talent and experience levels among the teams. Our goal at every level is to have balanced teams. For this reason—at the Pony division and beyond—we can only accommodate requests to be matched with a specific coach(es) and/or player(s) if there is a compelling justification, as determined by the board of directors.



What comes with my child's uniform?

Every player will receive a matching team hat and shirt (jersey) provided by the league. Players in Tee Ball will also receive a pair of white baseball pants and matching athletic socks along with their hat and jersey. Players in all other divisions are required to provide their own white baseball pants, a pair of black or color-coordinated athletic socks (crew length or longer), and a black or color-coordinated athletic belt if preferred.

Jersey sizes are selected by a parent/guardian during the registration process. If the league does not provide a jersey size that matches the size chosen by the parent/guardian, we will provide a reprint at the correct size with no cost to the family of the child. If the provided jersey matches the size chosen by the parent/guardian at registration, but it does not fit to their preference, the family will need to pay for the reprinted jersey at the newly requested size. For reprints, we will do our best to match the team jersey, but supply chain challenges may prevent us from ensuring a perfect match. Number preference is considered but not guaranteed.

What equipment will my child need?

Every player must have their own baseball glove for their non-dominant hand (the glove goes on the hand opposite of the one they use to throw, write, etc.). Cleats/spikes are highly recommended for players beyond tee ball; sneakers can be slippery on wet grass and dry infield dirt. Cleats intended for other sports (soccer, football, etc.) are acceptable, but metal cleats are not allowed. A bat and batting helmet are recommended, but a team bat and team helmets will be available for your child to use.

Bat Requirements

Baseball bats must meet the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) required by Little League, designated by a USA BASEBALL emblem between the bat's handle/grip and the taper towards the barrel. All wood bats are allowed and are not required to carry the USABat emblem.

Tee ball bats are only approved for use with soft, low compression tee balls, and cannot be used with conventional hard baseballs. Due to this Little League rule, tee ball bats are only allowed in our Tee Ball and Jr. Pony/Coach Pitch divisions, and cannot be used in our Sr. Pony/Player Pitch and above.

[Complete list of requirements and resources.](#)

Donated Equipment

The EPYAL accepts donations of new and lightly used equipment, such as gloves, bats, helmets, and used cleats and baseball pants that are still in good shape. This equipment is available to families in our program based on need. If your child has outgrown items, please consider donating them to the league.

Please [email \[emailbaseball@epyal.com\]\(mailto:emailbaseball@epyal.com\)](mailto:emailbaseball@epyal.com) for more information.



Divisions

Most players will be assigned to a division based on their age. Little League defines a player's age as their age on August 31 of the current year. The [Little League Age Calculator](#) is a tool that may help you if you're unsure about a "Little League age." When your child was registered they were automatically added to the default division for their age (details below).

Exceptions (requests to move up or down)

A parent/guardian can request a move to a different division by emailing the directors at baseball@epyal.com with a brief explanation of why they believe a move is best for the child. All requests will be considered, but not all requests will be approved. Decisions will be made by the EPYAL Little League President, program directors, and commissioners of the divisions based on several factors including (but not limited to) roster sizes, competitive balance, and the player's skill level.

Tee Ball *Ages 4-5, or 6 without prior experience (DOB September 1, 2018 – April 30, 2020)*

There is a greater emphasis on fun than fundamentals in Tee Ball. First- and some second-year ballplayers will learn the basics of throwing and fielding, running the bases, stance to hit, and swinging a bat. Everyone in the lineup bats each inning and defenders are encouraged to field the ball and throw towards first base, but outs are not recorded.

Junior Pony/Coach Pitch *Ages 6-7 (DOB September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2018)*

This instructional division is intended for players ages 6-7 who have had at least one previous season of experience in Tee Ball. A strict batting lineup, balls, strikes, outs, runs, and positional responsibilities are introduced. Players will learn the concept of the strike zone while hitting a pitched ball from a coach. There are several unique rules in place to encourage play that balances the fun of hitting and scoring runs with some protection from the consequences of common and frequent mistakes made on defense.

Senior Pony/Player Pitch *Ages 7-8 (DOB September 1, 2015 – August 31, 2016)*

Sr. Pony is a hybrid division that emphasizes instructional elements while introducing competitive play. This division is intended for players ages 7-8 who have had at least one previous season of experience in our Jr. Pony division. Players will pitch to each other exclusively (there's no coach pitching), scores will be kept, and more advanced defensive and baserunning concepts—such as stolen bases—will be introduced. Some unique rules exist to ensure balanced play.

Minors *Ages 9-10 (DOB September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2015)*

In this division, instruction and competition are weighted nearly equally. Most of the unique rules no longer apply. Players are expected to possess all the foundational skills taught in the instructional divisions and be capable of throwing and catching with a high rate of success. Teamwork and strategy are introduced, positional responsibilities are well-defined, and runners frequently attempt to advance bases, including stealing home.

Majors *Ages 11-12 (DOB September 1, 2011 – August 31, 2013)*

This is a competitive division. Leading is not allowed, but baserunners are taught to exploit defensive mistakes, including frequent steals of home on passed balls and wild pitches. Pitchers throw hard and use different pitch types with success. Most players have settled into primary positions on defense and are working to develop more advanced techniques and refine their situational awareness. The dropped 3rd strike rule is in effect.

Intermediate *Age 13 (DOB September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011)*

The final season of Little League baseball, this division is for 13-year-olds and the basepaths are 70-ft with a mound distance of 50-ft. Baserunners may lead and steal at any time.

Teeners *Age 14-18 (DOB May 1, 2005 – August 31, 2010)*

Teeners is no longer part of Little League. These divisions participate in the Greater West Shore Teener League and use the same rules as high school baseball with 90-ft basepaths and a mound distance of 60-ft 6-inches.



Why do I have to volunteer/provide volunteer checks?

The EPYAL is operated 100% by volunteers. Without volunteers our organization would not exist. EPYAL Board members, program directors, division commissioners, concessions coordinators, field maintenance, and coaches are not compensated for the countless hours they invest in our league. However, their investment ensures a better experience for the children and families of our community.

Volunteer checks serve as collateral to ensure that we have enough volunteers to operate throughout the season. Please consider making your own investment into our league and community; above and beyond the two mandatory service periods, you can help in simple ways like picking up and throwing away litter when you encounter it on our complex or emptying a full trash can into the municipal waste dumpster beyond the centerfield fence of Sheaffer Field 2. These actions only take a couple of minutes, but they make a big impact on our program.

What does the registration fee cover?

The registration fee covers many things, including but not limited to uniforms, baseballs, team equipment (batting helmets, bats, etc.), umpire fees, field maintenance, property maintenance and utilities, and Little League chartering and liability insurance, etc.

Why am I required to participate in the R&K fundraiser?

Simply put, the R&K sub sale allows us to offer registration costs at lower rates. Without the fundraiser, rates would have to increase significantly. Some families may choose to pay an optional buyout fee instead of participating in the fundraiser.

Donations and sponsorships

Financial support from donors and sponsors cover the gap between the league's actual expenses and the revenue generated through registration, the R&K fundraiser, and concessions. As a self-funded, nonprofit that benefits the children and families in our community, we rely on local businesses to support our league. In turn, we encourage our families to support those businesses.

Are you friends with a business owner who is interested in supporting the East Pennsboro community? Is there a restaurant your family visits regularly; a salon you've gone to for years; a mechanic, realtor, or general contractor you recommend to your neighbors? Please ask them to consider a donation to EPYAL Baseball. A sponsorship letter and form can be found on **page 7 and 8 of this document**.

What if my child requires special considerations?

Once you learn who your child's head coach is, and before practices begin, please make them aware of any factors that will help your child—and the other players and coaches in the league—have the safest, most enjoyable experience. Examples include:

- Your child communicates or learns in a unique way.
- Your child has a medical condition like asthma which may require an inhaler, or they have a severe allergy and an EpiPen must always be nearby.
- Your child is receiving professional care for a mental health condition, like ADHD or a mood disorder.

Please provide the head coach with communication strategies that have worked in the past and have a plan in place in case those don't work. Also, please understand that the coach will rely on a caregiver to be present at all times. This caregiver is responsible for aiding in the efforts to communicate, teach, and guide your child appropriately.

The league will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the needs of each child, while remaining committed to the pursuit of a safe, healthy, and enjoyable environment for all players, coaches, and families involved with the league.



Tournament Team Selection

At the end of our regular season—near the beginning of June—the league will invite a small group of players to join tournament teams (aka “all-star” teams) to continue playing and represent the EPYAL against other tournament teams from our Little League PA District 6 and beyond.

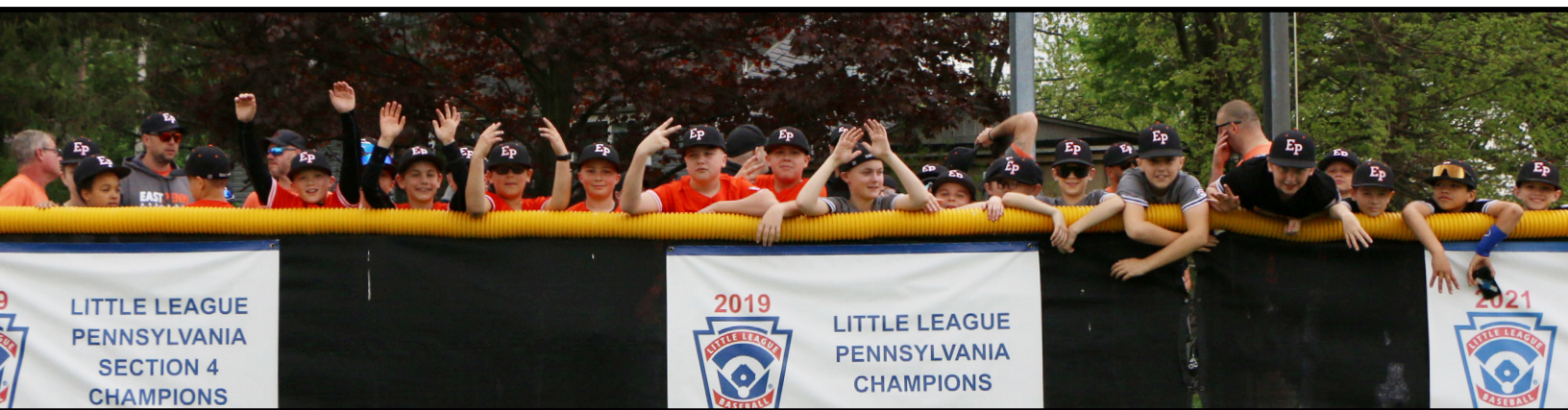
Teams and player eligibility are based on a player’s “Little League age.” Typically, the EPYAL will form teams for 8U (eight and under), 10U, and 12U tournaments. In most instances, players will be invited to play on the “age appropriate” tournament team which may differ from the division they played in the Spring regular season. Example: a 10-year-old that “played up” in Majors during the regular season vs. mostly 11-12-year-olds is eligible to play on the 10U tournament team and will likely be asked to join a team comprised of 9-10-year-olds that mostly played in Minors during the Spring season.

The Little League President, program directors, division commissioners, and managers at each respective age level will collectively assemble teams and rosters of players they believe will give our organization the best opportunity to achieve success. Qualities displayed throughout the regular season—including talent/ability and attitude/sportsmanship—along with positional depth and player availability will be considered.

Availability to participate in tournaments is a huge factor that is considered when choosing the tournament teams. If you think your child might be selected to join an EPYAL tournament team, and you would like for them to participate, we encourage you to “save the dates” for practices early-June to mid-July, and most importantly for tournament play that extends into late-July and sometimes early-August.

Tournament team costs

While there is not an additional registration cost to join an EPYAL tournament team, it does require investments of time and travel expenses for each family throughout the tournament season. Frequent trips to locations like Lancaster and Lebanon are likely, and possibly further if a team progresses to state and regional tournaments. These distant locations may necessitate lodging at a hotel and meal costs for multiple nights, paid for by the families on the team. Please weigh these expenses as you consider whether or not your family will participate in the optional tournament teams.



Parent responsibility

Remember...

- It’s just a game. For fun!
- Coaches are volunteers, and they are doing their best.
- Everyone has a single role during a game: player, spectator, official, coach.

Be...

- On time, to the best of your ability.
- Positive, encouraging, and supportive of the whole team.
- A good example, always abiding by the [EPYAL Code of Conduct](#).



November 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

We are seeking donations for our East Pennsboro Youth Athletic League (EPYAL) 2024 Spring baseball season. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

EPYAL was established in 1946 and is operated as a non-profit corporation under the Laws of Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as ordered by the Court of Cumberland County. EPYAL has conducted programs in baseball since 1946, basketball since 1990, cheerleading since 1950, football since 1950, softball since 1970 and flag football since 2009. We serve over 1,000 youth in our programs annually.

EPYAL is a 501(c) (3) approved organization under the US Department of Internal Revenue. Any contribution to EPYAL is tax deductible. The EPYAL Employee Identification Number (EIN) is 23-2057159, and our PA Department of State Registration Number is 30043.

There are many ways to donate, including sponsoring a team, purchasing a banner, or simply making a monetary donation. The donation form is attached for your convenience. A completed form, along with payment to EPYAL, can be mailed to Co-Director Joseph Johns at 39 Charisma Drive, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Donations can only be honored once payment is received. **All team sponsorships are on a first come first serve basis and must be submitted no later than February 17, 2024.**

Please reach out if you have any questions on your donation options. Thank you for your consideration of a donation to EPYAL.

Sincerely,

EPYAL Baseball Committee

Email: baseball@epyal.com



November 2023

On behalf of East Pennsboro Little League Baseball, we are reaching out to you to consider being a sponsor to our organization. We are a 501(c)(3) organization, and our EIN Number is 23-2057159. We cannot do it alone and we greatly appreciate your support.

We offer multiple opportunities for potential sponsors.

For a \$250 donation, your company's name will be displayed throughout the entire baseball season on a 5 by 3 foot banner that is affixed to the outfield fencing. Please provide a high resolution logo to baseball@epyal.com.

For a \$400 donation, your company's name is printed on the back of a team's game shirt. You also will receive a team picture plaque that can be proudly displayed in your business.

For a \$550 donation, your company's name will be displayed throughout the entire baseball season on a 5 by 3 foot banner that is affixed to the outfield fencing *and* your company's name will be printed on the back of the team's game shirt. Please provide a high resolution logo to baseball@epyal.com.

For a donation starting at \$25, we will list you as a sponsor on our sponsor list, which includes team and banner sponsors, posted by our concession stand.

Please note that all team sponsorships are on a first-come first-serve basis and must be submitted no later than February 17, 2024. Your sponsorship checks, along with this form, should be mailed to EPYAL Baseball Co-Director Joseph Johns at 39 Charisma Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011. Donations can only be honored once payment is received. If you are interested in additional opportunities to support EPYAL Baseball or have any additional questions, please contact baseball@epyal.com.

Thank you,

EPYAL Baseball Committee
Email: baseball@epyal.com

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Player Name (if applicable) _____

Banner Sponsor _____ Team Sponsor _____ Both _____ Donation _____

Checks should be made payable to: EPYAL