



## Union Little League

*Serving our community since 1960!*

### November 2021 Newsletter

Hello Union Little League families,

It is fall of 2021 and we are at the end of our fall baseball season. Fall ball is a great opportunity for players to get more playing time in a more relaxed baseball environment. In general, players will play in their normal division or play up a division if they want to test the waters. Games are played with other little leagues in the area and the score isn't kept. This is about getting the kids on the field for one game per week and one practice per week knowing there are other fall sports/activities that need to be juggled. If you want more information about fall ball, please reach out to our Fall Ball Director Adam Fogle ([fallball@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com](mailto:fallball@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com)) or come by and watch some games on the weekend and talk with someone sporting the ULL logo clothes. The [league calendar](#) has information for this weekend's event and other key dates will be posted.

This Saturday, November 6 we have a full day of baseball from 9AM to - 2PM. Our ULL AAA fall ball teams play at 9AM on the AAA field, ULL AA teams face off at noon on the AAA field, and ULL Majors fall ball teams play at noon on the Majors field. The snack shack will be open with a very minimal menu (Burgers & Dogs) from 11-3. Please come out and watch to cheer on the Union Little League Majors, AAA, and AA fall ball teams. This is a great opportunity to come out and see many families and introduce new families to the league and help to grow our local league.

We are also gearing up to start registration for our spring baseball season. Registration will start mid November, followed by address verification night in December, evaluation day in early January, and first practices starting in February. The season will officially kick off in early March 2022 with Opening Day and our first games. Visit the [ULL website](#) for the latest information.

Union Little League elected a new Board of Directors this past month. All ULL families were invited to participate in our Annual General Meeting held at the end of September. During this meeting, we reviewed the state of Union Little League and discussed who would like to join the Board of Directors. Those interested volunteers met again in mid-October to elect our officers and to start the planning for the 2022 season. Our new board members are listed out by position on the [ULL website](#). Please reach out to any board members for questions you may have about your player or Union Little League.

## Recent Division Changes

The ULL Board recently voted to streamline all divisions. In order to keep games fun and interesting, many leagues have gone to 4 divisions. We will have the following four divisions: Majors (Ages 10,11,12), Minors (Ages 8,9,10), Farm (Ages 6,7,8), and Tball (Ages 4,5,6). This restructuring allows the most flexibility for players to play at the appropriate level, depending on their skill level. For example, more advanced 8-year olds can try out for Minors, whereas, beginner 8-year olds can opt to play in the Farm Division. This change will also maximize the number of teams in each division providing more teams to compete against throughout the season.

## League Communication

Union Little League will host an information night to answer questions about little league baseball. This will be a short presentation to review the goals behind little league, key dates and requirements, and Q&A. More information will be sent out to provide meeting links and times.

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) to stay informed of happenings in the league and to help share and support our league

## Who is Union Little League?

Union Little League is a non-profit, volunteer run organization that provides an opportunity for all boys and girls to play baseball if their birthday is after September 1, 2009 for the 2022 season and they live in the Union School District. The official Little League age calendar is [here](#). The Board of Directors consists of parents and supporters of the little league that volunteer for positions to run the organization. The board positions include President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Player Agent, Coaching Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Chief of Umpires, Scheduler, Facility Operations, Equipment Manager, Uniform Coordinator, Snack Shack, Fundraising, etc. It truly takes an entire community to run the organization and requires way more than the 15 people on the ULL board of directors. That is where the league needs help from parents to spread the word to have kids play in the league, help to run the operations such as managing, coaching, team coordination, umpiring, fund raising, website management, snack shack, and maintaining the facility to help keep the facility looking great by maintaining the fields, sprinklers, paint, weeds, grass, and general upkeep. It is called Union Little League as any resident living in the Union School District can participate to play in the league, but the district itself is not affiliated directly with the league. ULL leases the playing fields and practice fields from the district and we maintain the grounds ourselves as volunteers or with league funds. We greatly appreciate the support from our community to volunteer time and to help fundraise to cover these costs and keep the league looking and working great.

## Fundraising - Holly Child

Hi ULL Families! I am Holly Child and am the Fundraising Chair for the 2022 season. My family has been part of the league for over five years and we have really enjoyed being part of the ULL community. As you may have guessed, the COVID disruption took a toll on a lot of youth sports leagues fiscally and ULL was no exception. This year we are hoping to support a number of much needed facility improvement projects so every

volunteer hour and donation to the league is greatly appreciated! If you would like to be on the fundraising committee and/or help sell banners - we would love to have you! Just email me at: [fundraising@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com](mailto:fundraising@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com)

Field Advertising Banners: If you have a business or know of a business who would like to purchase advertising banners or other sponsorships at the fields - check out the information located [here](#).

Volunteers for Spring Family Fun Day: We are putting together a committee that will start in early Jan 2022 to plan and/or run the Spring Family Fun Day. Family Fun day involves a Hit, Run, Pitch competition for the kids, games, raffle, food and more! Each year we have such a great time with our baseball families. This is the league's largest fundraising event and we need your help to make it a success! Just email me if you are interested.

Corporate Donations: Many companies will match your donations to the league and many have a double your donation during certain times of the year. Did you also know that some companies will even pay for the time you donate to the league?!?! Click on the link below to see if your company is one of the one's that will donate as much as \$25/hr for the time you spend volunteering for our league and/or to see if your company will match your donation: [Double the Donation](#)

### **Field Projects - Tony Palma**

We had a great opportunity beginning last spring to address many outstanding field work projects and dial in some key improvements in irrigation, proper field dimensioning, and maintenance. We have acquired new field conditioning equipment, created annual maintenance plans, and set the course for future projects that will bring our little league facilities to the next level. This work has been the result of countless volunteer hours from many of our parents and community and as we move into the off season we will continue to need help preparing our fields for the spring. Please look for emails about upcoming work days, we've got a lot of great things planned for this off-season and we can't do it without you! If you have project ideas or want to offer up help with your time or equipment, please contact me at [facilities@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com](mailto:facilities@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com)

### **Volunteering - Rob Bernard**

Hello everyone....my name is Rob Bernard, and I will be your ULL Volunteer Coordinator for the 2022 season. My family has been a part of Union Little League for the past 7 years. I have a son who will be playing Majors this year, and both he and I are very excited about this coming spring season. I look forward to working with the new Board and with our great ULL families to help make this next season one of the best ever.

We all know that it's the ULL families that make the league work!.....In the coming weeks, as we begin to register players and families, I will have lots of information for you about how you can get involved and do your part to ensure a great baseball experience for every kid! Until then, if you have questions or suggestions, please feel free to email me at [volunteers@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com](mailto:volunteers@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com).

## **Safety Update - Brent Tollenaar**

I am Brent Tollenaar, and I will be the new Safety Coordinator for the upcoming 2022 Spring Season. It will be my job to ensure that ULL will adhere to all Little League Baseball rules, safety guidelines and requirements for our players, as well as following all current Covid-19 Guidelines to help keep the families of ULL safe. Yours and your child's safety is of the utmost importance to ULL. All Managers, Coaches, Team Volunteers, ULL staff will all be required to pass background checks and be certified in Concussion training. Look for updates and requirements to be sent out prior to the start of the 2022 season. Any concerns or questions, please e-mail me @ [safety@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com](mailto:safety@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com).

## **Coaches Corner - Jon Oshidari**

For those considering Managing or Coaching a team at any level, please mark down your interest when registering your child for the Spring 2022 season or contact me at [coaching@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com](mailto:coaching@unionlittleleaguebaseball.com). If you are new to managing or coaching baseball, I plan to provide some general guidance for practice plans and organization to help get you going. We will also be coordinating the Positive Coaching Alliance session again this season and encourage all coaches and managers to attend. We want to foster a competitive environment where fair play and sportsmanship are paramount.

## **Conclusion**

We appreciate your time to read all the information we have provided. We promise to keep things shorter moving forward and appreciate your feedback any time on how you feel we can improve Union Little League.

Thank you!

- Union Little League