More information on Evaluations and Frequently asked questions…

**When and where are Evaluations?**

Evals will be held on February 10 at North Rockford Middle School. Baseball will start at 3pm, softball will start at 4pm.

**Does my child really need to attend?**

Kid pitch teams are 100% drafted. Evaluations let us know where your child falls within his/her age group. This allows our coaches to draft balanced, competitive teams!  New in 2024: ONLY Players NEW to RLL or NEW TO PLAYER PITCH DIVISIONS need to attend! We will need many volunteers to run this event. If you’re interested, please contact Cindy at rockfordllbaseballplayeragent@gmail.com. Are you coaching a kid pitch team? This is a great opportunity to volunteer and scout the talent you’ll be drafting!

**What if we cannot make Evals? Is there a make-up date?**

We know families are busy and have a life outside of playing ball. If you cannot make evaluations because of other plans, you’re going to be out of town, another sport, whatever…it’s not the end of the world! Unfortunately, there will not be a make-up date. It’s very costly for RLL to rent the school gym and it also takes a lot of time and effort for our volunteer board to put together and run. Players that do not attend evaluations will be a “hat pick” at draft night. Their name will literally be drawn for team selection.

**What happens at Evaluations?**

Your child will get signed in and will proceed to the warm-up area for 5-10 minutes. We’ll be running everyone through in groups of 15 max. We anticipate it taking no more than 40 minutes to sign in and run through all 5 stations. Players should bring a glove. Bats and helmets will be available for use, or a player can bring their own equipment. NO CLEATS, tennis shoes only, please! Each player will be assessed on their skills so we can rank them within their age group for division drafts.

Players will be evaluated at 5 different stations:
Infield
Outfield
Hitting
Pitching
Running

**How long will it take for my child to finish his/her evaluation from start to finish?**

Please plan on 1 hour.

**When can we sign up for an evaluation slot?**

We expect to have a signup available via signup genius the night of February 3. The link will be posted on Rockfordll.com and sent in an email. When signing up for a slot…….

·        *Each child* will need their *own time slot*. Please leave your child's name in the comment box upon signup!

·        *Try to signup within your child's age group*. We understand everyone has a busy Saturday and this may not be possible! If you have more than one child attending Evaluations, they can sign up for the same time frame. No need to come back twice...unless you want to.

**How are coach’s kids drafted?**

Coach’s kids will be ranked and drafted in the order they would have been selected based on collective evaluations from the previous season. If we don't have any numbers for the player, they will be assigned a first round pick.

**What do we need to bring to Evals?**

Bring a glove and water bottle. Your child can use their own helmet and bat, or RLL will have some available for use. Tennis shoes only, no cleats!

**Do you need volunteers?**

We will be looking for MANY volunteers to make this event a success. If you are a coach this season, this is a great opportunity to help us and scout players at the same time (wink, wink)!

**When does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ begin?**

November 2023

14-Board Meeting

December

1-Registration Opens

12-Board Meeting

January 2024

9-Board Meeting, Walk up Signups

22-Early Bird Registration ENDS ALL GROUPS

February

*6- Registration closes CP-MAJ*

10-Assessments (only players moving from CP to PP and players new to RLL)

13-Board Meeting, Walk up Signups (TB, JR, SR)

March

8-10- Open fields for the season

12 - Board Meeting

*12- Registration closes Tball, JR, SR*

16 - Coaches Clinic of non-drafted leagues/Safety Meeting

18 - Practices begin (CP-Majors)

April

1– 5 SPRING BREAK (Practice optional)

8 - T ball, Juniors Practices Begin

9 - Board Meeting

13 - Field clean up – fields assigned by division/team

14 - Field clean up (make up day)

22 - Games Begin (CP-Majors)

29- T ball Games Begin

May

14 - Board Meeting

19 - All-Star Tryouts

25-27 No Games Memorial Day Weekend

June

1-Season ends (no week pause)

\*\*\*Majors, Jrs D9 Tourney usually 3rd week of June, but could be moved up to the first full week of June!

11 - Board Meeting

All-Star Schedule is released by District 9. Once dates are published, we will post for our families. A good rule of thumb for planning to participate in All-Stars: keep your schedule clear of vacations, camps or commitments from June 5 - July 31 (and possibly beyond if your team continues winning). Keep the July 4 holiday open, too!

**What nights are practices and games?**

The practice schedule for most divisions will come out mid to late March (tee ball and juniors schedules typically come out a week later).  Teams will have one weeknight (M-Th) and one Saturday practice.  Practices run until games begin; once games begin, there are no further scheduled practices.  Games for tee ball, coach pitch, and player pitch (minors) consist of one weeknight (M-Th) and one Saturday game.  The weeknight game could vary from week to week.  AAA baseball will play Tuesday/Friday. Majors baseball will play Monday/Thursday. Majors softball and Juniors divisions are interleagued with other nearby Little Leagues and do not have set schedules, however, weekend games are unusual.

**Can I request specific days of the week for practices or games or teammates?**Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee a specific day for practices or games.  Practice days will be consistent each week for your child's team, but game days can vary week to week. For all divisions, we do not take teammate requests. In a league of 800 kids, our very few volunteers just do not have the time to facilitate requests. We do, however, consider pairing kids together in cases of extenuating circumstances. This will be determined on a case-by-case basis. We CAN pair kids together when their parents coach together!

**What equipment does my child need?**
Your child will need to have his or her own ball glove, baseball/softball pants (traditionally white, black or grey), rubber soled cleats (Intermediates and above can wear metal cleats), batting gloves (if desired), and an equipment bag/backpack (if desired).  Rockford Little League will provide jerseys and hats for baseball players and jerseys and visors for softball players.  There will also be team helmets, bats, and catching equipment although players are welcome to bring their own if preferred. Softball players: infielders must wear face masks. We strongly encourage outfielders to wear masks, but it is not required.

**Do I really need to submit a birth certificate?**Yes! We are required to verify the age of each player. This only needs to be done ONCE in a player’s RLL career! Birth certificates are removed after verification. You may also show a copy of a birth certificate at Walk Up Sign-ups or make other arrangements by emailing rockfordlittleleague@gmail.com.

**Can my child play a division other than what Sports Connect automatically pulls up for my player?**

T-ball ages 4-6

Baseball:

Coach Pitch: ages 6-8

AA Minors: ages 8-10

AAA Minors: age 11, roster filled with drafted players

Majors: age 12, roster filled with drafted players

Juniors: ages 13-14

Seniors: ages 15-16

Softball:

Tball: ages 4-6

Coach Pitch: ages 6-8

Minors: ages 8-10

Majors: ages 11-12

Juniors: ages 13-14

Seniors: ages 15-16

There are some age overlaps which allow you to decide whether your child should play up or down a division based on ability and family needs. If age allows, we require one season of T-ball before your child advances to the coach pitch division. We follow Little League International's age chart to determine age. Email us with any questions!

Junior SB and BB seasons begin after the 78ers season ends. Seniors SB and BB seasons begin after the high school seasons end. Seniors SB signups will be done through District 9, not RLL. Email us with any questions!

**How is Little League age determined?**

Use this link for baseball/tball age chart [2024 Baseball Age Chart (littleleague.org)](https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/2023-baseball-age-chart/)

Use this link for softball age chart [2024 Softball Age Chart (littleleague.org)](https://www.littleleague.org/downloads/2023-softball-age-chart/)

**When does registration close?**

Registration closes for everyone *except*  Tball, Juniors, and Seniors on February 6, and we'll take late registrations until our rosters are full.

Registration closes on March 12 for Tball, Juniors, and Seniors with late registrations continuing until rosters are full.

\*\*\*Early bird registration saves you $10 per player!\*\*\*

Practice Cancellations/Weather Policy:

*All practice cancellations will come from your coach. RLL will only call off practices if use could cause damage to the field.*

**RLL Weather Policy:** We will not play if the temperature at practice or game time is below 40\* or the Heat Index is above 110\*. We will check field conditions at 4pm on weekdays and 8am on Saturdays.  If fields are *not* playable, we will send communication out via email and Facebook by 4:30pm on weekdays and 8am on Saturdays. For games: we will make a judgement call on any incoming inclement weather and communicate that as well.  We may attempt to play in light rain, but not thunderstorms. If there is lightning in the area, play will stop for 30 minutes and all players must return to their parents vehicles during this time. Play cannot continue until 30 minutes after the last lightning strike.  In the event of lightning, we will review the weather forecast and determine if play can continue. Please note that even if games cancel at Rockford, teams playing away games may still be playing. RLL will communicate with other leagues and pass along that information to our families via email and facebook!

GAMES CANCELATIONS WILL BE MADE BY ROCKFORD LITTLE LEAGUE, ONLY!

**We have decided not to play RLL, can I get a refund?**

No.

No refunds are given once you have signed your player up. We pre-pay for many things such as our Little League Charter, equipment, insurance, web site work, fields, etc..., and it’s just too much work having to re-organize a team and update all the necessary league attributes. Our volunteer board asks that you make sure your players are certain that they really want to play before you register.

Any questions can be directed to rockfordlittleleague@gmail.com