



# 7th Inning Stretch

June 1, 2005

Volume 1, Number 4

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## This Month's Newsletter

The newsletter continues to grow, and many thanks go out to all from coast to coast who have contributed.

Please take a minute to read a letter from Joe Shea, President of Little League Canada concerning National Little League Week, which can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Also at the end of the newsletter, for all to read, are the Little League codes of conduct for Parents, Players and Coaches.

I am still looking for a coach somewhere in Canada that would be interested in contributing something monthly or bi monthly. If you know someone, or you are that coach, please contact me. All help is appreciated.

Still looking for photos of the kids...this is for two purposes...1<sup>st</sup>, to show the kids in Canada having fun in Little League, and 2<sup>nd</sup>, so I can begin a photo of the month column.

Please remember to try to get anything you can to me by as close to the end of the month as possible, as I put out the new issue on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month.

Thanks for reading every month.

Bob Taunton, [btaunton@littleleague.ca](mailto:btaunton@littleleague.ca)

District Administrator

Ontario Little League District 7

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## League Age Determination To Change

### Little League International Board of Directors Adopts Change in League Age Determination Date

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (May 9, 2005) – The Little League International Board of Directors has accepted a recommendation from USA Baseball to change the league age determination date for its players starting in the 2006 season.

The league age determination date is the age a player has attained as of a specific date, for the purpose of placing the player in

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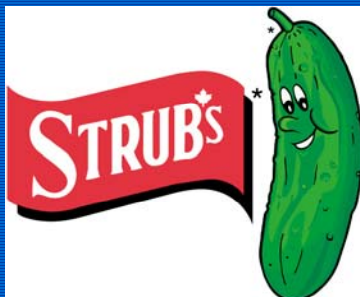
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a particular division. For more than 55 years in Little League, that date was July 31.

Starting in 2006, the date in all division of Little League Baseball will be April 30 of the current year. The date in all divisions of Little League Softball will be Dec. 31 of the previous year.

For example: Under the old regulation, a baseball player who turns 13 in May, June or July of 2006 would have been considered league-age 13 for the entire season. That would be the case, despite the fact that such a player likely would have played most or all of the regular season (which generally ends in June) without having actually reached his or her 13th birthday. Under the new regulation, such a player will have a league age of 12 throughout the 2006 season.

Under the old softball regulation, a player who turns 13 from January through July of 2006 would have been considered league-age 13 for the entire season. Under the new regulation, such a player will have a league age of 12 throughout the 2006 season.

"The changes in the league age determination dates for Little League Baseball and Softball were approved unanimously by the Little League International Board of Directors," said Stephen D. Keener, president and chief executive officer of Little League Baseball and Softball, and a Director of USA Baseball. "More than four years of study went into this decision, along with years of discussions with our senior volunteers at the local level. I congratulate the board on taking this progressive step."

Also, the Little League International Board of Directors approved a change that provides an option for 12-year-olds to "play up" in the Junior Division

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## Award Given To A Little League In Quebec

La Petite Ligue de Brossard, district #4 au Québec et hôtesse du Championnat Canadien (11-12 ans) en 2004, s'est mérité le prix "Solidaction 2004" pour l'ampleur et la qualité de l'événement qu'il a parrainé. Ce prix remis à chaque année à une organisation locale, couronne de façon magistrale le travail de tous les bénévoles. La Petite Ligue étant une grande famille, je suis certain que tous ceux qui ont participé comme joueurs, instructeurs, visiteurs, spectateurs, invités et bénévoles seront fiers d'apprendre cette nouvelle et se réjoiront d'avoir contribué à ce succès.

Brossard Little League, district #4 in Québec, host of the Canadian Little League Championships in 2004, has been chosen the winner of the "2004 Solidaction" trophy for the quality of the event they had put on. The prize is given every year to a local organisation in recognition of the superior work of their volunteers. With Little League being a great family, I'm sure that all the players, coaches, visitors, spectators, guests and volunteers who participated in this success will be happy to hear about it.

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### The Little League Pledge:

I trust in God  
I love my country  
And will respect it's laws  
I will play fair  
And strive to win  
But win or lose  
I will always  
Do my best

### The Little League Parent / Volunteer Pledge:

I will teach all children to play  
fair and do their best  
I will positively support all  
managers, coaches and players  
I will respect the decisions of  
the umpires  
I will praise a good effort  
despite the outcome of the  
game

Salutations  
Serge Séguin, Président  
Petite Ligue Québec Little League

## Ex Little Leaguer Honored



Hard hitting Canadian Jason Bay (centre) of the Pittsburgh Pirates, and a former Little Leaguer from Trail BC, received the Tip O'Neil Trophy from Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame CEO Tom Valcke (left). This award is given to the Canadian major leaguer judged to have excelled in individual achievement and team contribution while adhering to the highest ideals of the game.

## House League Tourny A Success

Riverside Captures Harbour Days Little League Baseball Tourney in Ontario District 7

PRESCOTT – Riverside (Part of the Upper Canada Little League family) came out on top of the first annual Prescott Harbour Days Little League Baseball Tournament (for House League teams) Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Chick Kirkby Baseball Diamond.

Riverside would pull out the tournament title with a 2-1 record by winning a tie-breaker with Brockville.

Brockville finished second with a 2-1 record, followed by Morrisburg (also of the Upper Canada Little League family) with a 1-2 record and Prescott at 1-2.

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It was noted the work of organizers and sponsors (Giant Tiger and Cup After Cup) was key to the event being a success.

Three prizes were awarded at the tournament with Amy DeJong of Riverside winning an Easton bat, Brady Hamilton of Maitland winning a Rawlings glove and ball, and Simon Thomas of Morrisburg winning Ottawa Lynx tickets.

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## Pin Traders...Please Read

My name is Edd Tomczyk, ADA for District 7 in Victoria B.C.. My home League is **Lakehill Little League**. I am a serious collector of Little League pins - over 20,000. I try to get to Williamsport every year, where trading is fantastic. I am always looking to trade with Canadians. If you want to trade or wish to part with your collection, contact me at [pinguy@shaw.ca](mailto:pinguy@shaw.ca) or 250 479-3664. Thank you, Edd

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## 2007 Little League Congress Site Chosen

The 24th Little League International Congress will be held in Houston, Texas, April 13-16, 2007. It will be the first time since 1967 that Houston has hosted the Congress.

A detailed announcement regarding the selection is here:

<http://www.littleleague.org/media/2007congresssite.asp>

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## Photos Of The Kids In Little League Canada

The following photos were kindly sent by a proud Mom of her two boys that play for the White Rock Dodgers and Blue Jays.

If you have photos to send in, please feel free to send them to me at [btaunton@littleleague.ca](mailto:btaunton@littleleague.ca).

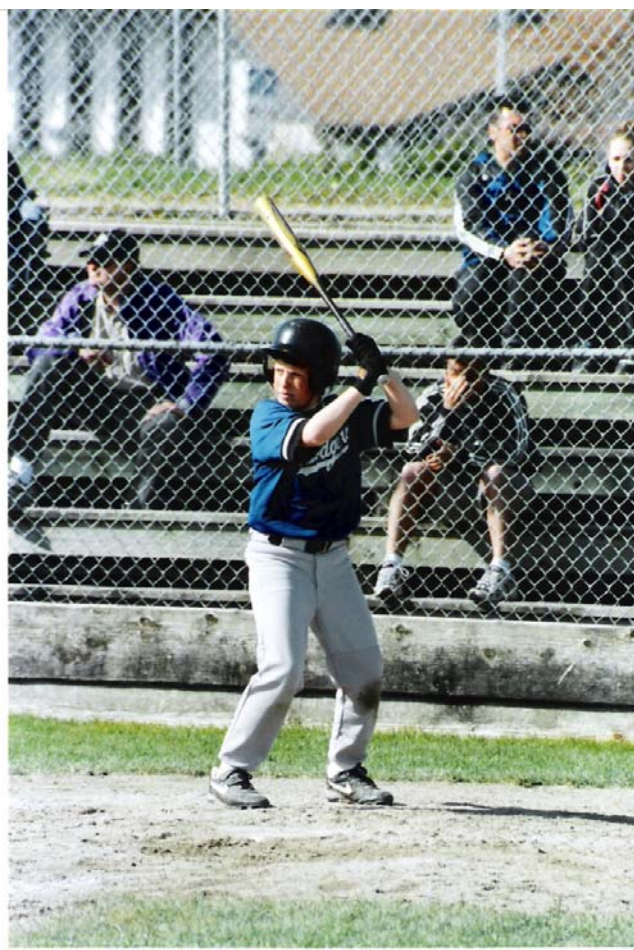


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## Blue's Corner...by Andy O'Brien

Umpires from coast to coast...

### TRUE or FALSE:

The plate umpire (a.k.a.: Umpire-In-Chief) has the full authority to overrule any and all decisions made by the base umpire.

Look at the bottom of the newsletter for the answer!

## UMPIRE TIP OF THE MONTH

The average Little League Umpire works between 4-14 games per week, and often times it can be difficult to avoid strolling over to the concession stand between innings for a refreshing can of your favourite cola. As I mentioned a month ago in the May edition of Blue's Corner, game management is crucial to help speed up your games and make them more exciting to play, watch, and umpire. Many umpires forget the rule governing preparatory pitches between innings (Rule 8.03) – not to exceed 8 preparatory pitches between each inning not to exceed 1 minute. If we enforce this rule, instead of running to the concession stand or talking with other umpires about extraneous matters, we can help speed up our games and make them more exciting.

As a parent, there's nothing worse than sitting in the stands watching the pitcher take 18 preparatory pitches over 5 minutes while the umpire eats popcorn behind the fence (Note: this is an extreme, rare case). If we cut down on between inning "mini-intermissions" the more intense and exciting baseball games can be. After 6 innings,

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you can shave up to 30-45 minutes off your game by enforcing the warm-up rule. By ensuring time between innings does not exceed a minute, we can ensure a complete baseball game prior to time curfews.

**Do you have a suggestion for a topic? If so, please email Andy O'Brien at [andrewobrien@rogers.com](mailto:andrewobrien@rogers.com) with the subject "Blue's Corner Idea."**

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## Marthe's Reminders

1) **NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE WEEK:** The week of June 12 to June 18<sup>th</sup> 2005 has been officially designated National Little League Week. A tradition that began in 1959 serves to acknowledge the dedication of the thousands of volunteers who give freely of their time to provide a healthy and wholesome family-oriented activity for the children of their community.

National Little League Week is an excellent opportunity to celebrate your League programs and acknowledge the efforts of your players, sponsors, officials and volunteers.

For anyone interested in participating or would like to help organize a special event to coincide with National LL week, please contact your League president or league official and volunteer your services.

2) All Canadian tournament information packages will be shipped to Little League districts in Canada the week of June 1<sup>st</sup>.

3) I would like to remind leagues across Canada that team rosters must be submitted to Canadian Headquarters no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. All team adjustments must be finalized prior to this date.

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## Brain Teasers

When one base runner passes another while circling the bases, which runner is called out?

Answer at the end of the newsletter.

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## Little League Canadian Championships

Major Division – Timmins, Ontario

Check out the website for host League, Laronde Little League at [www.larondelittleleague.com](http://www.larondelittleleague.com), and click on "accommodations". The accommodations Director is Sylvie Whissel. All reservations for the headquarters hotel should be booked through her.

We have a block of 75 rooms, so please book as soon as possible.

Our committee is working hard to make this year's tournament a memorable one for the kids and the Little League Volunteers from

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across the country.

We hope to see you in Timmins...The city with a heart of GOLD!

Marc St.Pierre  
District Administrator  
Ontario District 4

## 2005 Little League Tournament Schedules

**LITTLE LEAGUE** Canadian Championship: Timmins, ON Aug 6 - 13  
World Series: Williamsport, Penn, Aug 19 - 28

**JUNIOR LEAGUE** Canadian Championship: Glace Bay, NS Aug 4 - 11  
World Series: Taylor, Michigan, Aug 14 - 20

**SENIOR LEAGUE** Canadian Championship: Ottawa (Nepean), ON  
Aug 4 - 11  
World Series: Bangor, Maine, Aug 14 - 20

**BIG LEAGUE** Canadian Championship: Regina, SK, July 19 - 26  
World Series: Easley, South Carolina, July 30 - Aug 6

**LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL** Canadian Championship: Windsor ON,  
Aug 7 -  
World Series: Portland, Oregon, Aug 11 - 19

**JUNIOR SOFTBALL** Canadian Championship: Victoria, BC,  
World Series: Kirkland, Washington, Aug 15 - 21

**SENIOR SOFTBALL** Canadian Championship: Victoria, BC,  
World Series: Lower Sussex, Delaware, Aug 15 - 21

**BIG LEAGUE SOFTBALL** Canadian Championship: Windsor, ON  
Aug 9 - 14  
World Series: Kalamazoo, Michigan, Aug 16 - 21

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## Little League Codes Of Conduct

### Parents Code of Conduct

Little League in Canada has developed Codes of Conduct to aid coaches, parents, and volunteers to achieve the program's goal, and to assist the players to become well rounded, valuable and productive people, not only in sports, but in life.


- 1- I will never force my child to play. I will encourage them to participate in athletics.
- 2- I will remember that my child is playing for his / her enjoyment,

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- 
- not mine.
- 3- I will encourage playing by the rules, even when others are not.
  - 4- I don't want the coach to single out my child for criticism in front of others. So, I will not raise my concerns about the coach in front of others. I will speak to the coach privately and with best intentions.
  - 5- The bleachers are for positive things. I will applaud good plays from either team, and I will never yell at any player for making a mistake.
  - 6- I will encourage my child to improve his or her skills.
  - 7- I will encourage my child to try all positions, and I will help him or her understand that all the players deserve to try all positions. If all nine positions were not important, they wouldn't be part of the game.
  - 8- I recognize that batting is the toughest of all talents to master.
  - 9- I will practice with my child away from the park. I understand that this game is a difficult one to learn to do well, and the coach simply cannot do it all.
  - 10- I will offer my help to the coach, and to the team.
  - 11- I promise to eat ice cream if the team wins. I promise to eat ice cream if the team loses. Treating those impostors the same is the greatest lesson you can teach your child.
  - 12- If I have never umpired a game, I understand that I have no right to criticize. If I have umpired a game, I already understand why I have no right to criticize from the bleachers, or the dugout.
  - 13- I will smile when my child wants to leave the park early.

### **Player's Code of Conduct**

Little League in Canada has developed Codes of Conduct to aid coaches, parents, and volunteers to achieve the program's goals, and to assist the players to become well-rounded, valuable and productive people, not only in sports, but also in life.

- 1- Play for Fun. If it isn't fun, it isn't Little League.
- 2- Respect your coaches and umpires. Treat them the same way you want to be treated.
- 3- Be a good sport. Be fair. Play by the rules.
- 4- Improve your skills. Help your teammates to get better.
- 5- Never give up.
- 6- Be willing to try every position. You never know which one will be the most fun.
- 7- Don't be selfish. Your teammates deserve the same chances as you.
- 8- Be on time.
- 9- Remember the Little League Pledge.

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## Coaching Code of Conduct

The relationship between a coach and the League's athlete is a special one. Coaches play a very critical role in the development of players, both athletically and personally. Coaches must recognize and respect the authority they hold, and must be very careful not to abuse it.

The values and goals of the Little League program are channeled through the coaches. Therefore, how an athlete regards his or her time in Little League is dependent on the behavior of the coach.

Little League in Canada has developed Codes of Conduct to aid coaches, parents, and volunteers to achieve the program's goals, and to assist the players to become well rounded, valuable and productive people, not only in sports, but in life.

Each coach is asked to read and sign this Code, as a commitment to excellence in coaching in the Little League program in Canada.

- 1- Being a coach means being reasonable. Players develop at different rates.
- 2- Teach your players to play by the rules, just as you play by the rules.
- 3- Be constructive in your criticism, followed always by praise for things done right.
- 4- Give every player the same chance. Little League is not about the elite player, it's about getting everyone involved as a part of a team.
- 5- Treat the umpire the way you expect your players to treat you. With Respect.
- 6- Striving to win is not a sin. Striving to win every time, at all costs, means your players are not getting enough different opportunities. Everyone should play both infield and outfield.
- 7- Give your voice a rest when the game is on. Use it only to encourage, and discuss the mistakes quietly after the game.
- 8- Have fun. You are a volunteer coach, in a volunteer organization, and if it isn't fun, it isn't Little League.
- 9- If you win, have ice cream. If you lose, have ice cream. If you treat winning and losing the same, you will teach your team a much more valuable lesson.
- 10- The center of attention should be the players-not the adults. A coach cannot accomplish anything if the players aren't there.

***If it isn't fun, it isn't Little League.***

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## Recognition Of Little League Volunteers

Do you have volunteers in your organization who have reached a milestone? 5 Years service, 10 years, or any great things that someone has done for your organization. Let us know, and we'll make sure all of Canada is aware of the great volunteers in this country.

**True or False Answer from Blue's Corner: False.**

**Answer to Brain Teaser:** Rule 7.08 (h) states that any runner is out when he / she passes a preceding runner before such runner is out.

In other words, the runner who passes is out.

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## "National Little League Week"

June 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2005

It is with great pleasure that I extend warmest greetings and congratulations to all Little League members and volunteers on the occasion of "National Little League Week", June 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2005, marking the 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Little League in Canada.

At its core, the purpose of Little League is to provide a safe, fun, wholesome combination of recreation and competition through regular season play among local teams. For those players whose skills are more advanced, the Little League International Tournament allows Canadian Little Leaguers to participate in the largest sports tournament in the world, with more than 40,000 games played each summer on the road to the various World Series tournaments.

Little League leaves no one out – it has a Challenger Division for physically and mentally challenged players, giving every child from 5 to 19 a chance to be a Little Leaguer.

"National Little League Week" provides all with the best opportunity to celebrate this Little League experience and honor our many dedicated volunteers, participants and community supporters, and acknowledge the contribution Little League has made to enrich the lives of so many Canadians.

Please accept my best wishes for every success in meeting the challenges of the future.

Warmest regards

Joe Shea  
President  
Little League Baseball Canada