

The 7th Inning Stretch

L I T T L E L E A G U E B A S E B A L L C A N A D A



SPALDING AND DUDLEY TO SUPPLY THE OFFICIAL BALLS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

By Communications Division
SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa.
January 25, 2011

Little League Baseball and Softball will use a Spalding baseball and a Dudley softball at its respective World Series after reaching a multi-year agreement with the parent company, Russell Brands.

Spalding will supply the "Official Baseball of the Little League World Series" while the Bowling Green, Ky.-based company also manufactures the Dudley softball - "The Official Softball of the Little League World Series." The ball that will be used in each of the four World Series softball and baseball divisions will be determined at a later date.

"We are pleased to partner with one of the most recognizable names in athletic equipment to supply our baseballs and softballs for our International Tournament," Stephen D. Keener, President and Chief Executive Officer of Little League Baseball and Softball, said. "Our relationship with Russell Brands not only provides instant credibility using the best product on the market, but as Little League sponsors they are assisting us in keeping our fees as low as possible so all children may participate."

The balls supplied by Spalding and Dudley also will be used at the regional level of Little League Baseball and Softball International Tournament.

"Spalding's heritage began with baseball more than 130 years ago and we are excited to partner with the premier youth sports organization in the

world as the official baseball and softball of the Little League World Series," Gary Barfield, Executive Vice President of Russell Brands, said. "Little League's decision to expand on its 40-year relationship with Russell Brands signifies the importance of performance, authenticity and Spalding's positioning as a manufacturer of products that are 'True to the Game'."

Little League Baseball and Softball is the world's largest organized youth sports program, with more than 2.5 million players and 1 million adult volunteers in every U.S. state and scores of other countries.



DUDLEY

SPALDING



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Teaching For Tomorrow : Little League Education Program	2
Register Today For The Worldwide Challenger Jamboree	3
The Winning Coach: Attitude And Education Is Everything	4
Want To Improve Your Double-Goal Coaching? Play Ball!	5
You Make The Call...	5
2011 Tournament Schedule (Updated)	6



NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE WEEK JUNE 5 -11, 2011



Remember...If it isn't fun...it isn't Little League!

TEACHING FOR TOMORROW LITTLE LEAGUE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Article by Al Herback, Little League Baseball
Canada's National Coach

Teaching For Tomorrow Creating A Positive Experience

Coaching baseball is a topic that has been written about for nearly a century. Effective coaching techniques and desired outcomes are written about all of the time. When I read a book on coaching or listen to a successful coach speak on baseball, I'm always excited about learning the techniques they use to achieve the desired outcome of building a great experience for kids.

How do we create a positive experience? There are many components that need to be skillfully put together in order to create the most positive experience possible. As our Teaching for Tomorrow program reiterates many times, when working with players in the 4 through 12 year old levels, you can never be too positive. There is no room for a negative approach to coaching young kids. A coach's organization, motivation, communication, discipline, trust, respect and caring are all at the core of a positive experience. All of these components need to be handled in an age appropriate fashion and with a little planning, you can create a positive experience for everyone involved at every level.

There are really four components to keep in mind when deciding what your philosophy will be. In order of importance within the Teaching for Tomorrow program, safety, fun, skill development and winning are the keys to success.

How do you approach the game? Everyone involved, coaches, players and parents need to understand that it is the approach to the game and not the outcome that counts. For many coaches, the outcome is the most important. Their attitude and demeanor hinge upon the wins and losses, even at the younger levels. It is something that everyone needs to come to terms with regardless of what your priorities are. Coaches judge themselves and they feel that everyone around them is judging them as a coach based on their ability to win games. Here's where everything falls apart as a coach. This is why some kids get short changed in their experience with baseball. Playing time no longer becomes fair and many players never get to play other positions and learn to play the game appropriately. The question then becomes - how can you build everyone's confidence and still be competitive? The answer is coaching the approach. When you focus on the approach of the game, everything turns around. The kids, coaches and parents will all start having fun, your practices become high energy, fun filled learning sessions. And most importantly, player confidence will soar!

We all know that the game of baseball is full of failure, especially ages 12 and under, and when we focus on the outcome of a game, failure can truly harm the team. Focusing on the approach and the outcome allows you to accept the failure and to deal with it in a manner that allows you to build your team's confidence as well as their ability to succeed. In explaining the approach, tell the kids that when you concentrate on learning the fundamentals and doing your very best in every drill, the chance of winning games increases. Coaches should organize a practice for a purpose and all players should participate with a purpose. Teach the children that there are ways to improve their success rate in baseball. As each child's athletic ability is different, their individual work ethic and consistent approach to practice is the most important. Players of all ages must continually practice good mechanics whether at the diamond or at home with mom or dad. Dealing with failure, building confidence and teaching the proper mechanics help to make a great coach.

The Learning the Game program for ages 4 through 6 is the ideal program for children to enjoy the fruits of a good practice. Through the station work out-

Continued on page 3...



**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

Continued from page 2...

lined for each of the six practices, players will have many opportunities to throw for distance, accuracy and control, run bases and swing the bat countless times. With your pre-practice setup of the stations, the movement from station to station will be quick and smooth. Children will be in a safe, fun, skill development situation. Through this unique program, coaches will be developing the proper approach to building the progression necessary for children to learn the game through constant repetition of the proper mechanics.

The Playing the Game program offers many opportunities to have fun-filled and competitive practices. All the information you will need to have a successful season is within the covers of the manual along with your personal talent, dedication and commitment to the overall program. Remember that the

talent level of your players is what it is - nothing more and nothing less. One of our main goals is to work towards reaching the true potential in each child as well as the team.

And finally, just a thought or two concerning assistant coaches. Assistant coaches in youth baseball may have little training. In some cases, you can expect to take anyone that will help. Give each assistant coach some tools to work with - a Teaching for Tomorrow manual for your particular age group. The manual will give them an opportunity, if they are not familiar with the fundamentals of the game, to become effective coaches. Try and keep them involved by giving them a chance to give input after each practice and game which again allows for a more active role. Ask them if they would be interested in running a practice or a given activity within the practice. Allow an opportunity for any assistants to take on the responsibility of a base coach.

These are just some of the active roles of your assistants and please continue to tell them how much you appreciate their efforts!

The Teaching for Tomorrow program is ready for the 2011 season!! Be prepared for the new ball season and there is no better way than to attend one of the many upcoming clinics. There will be 17 certification sessions for managers and coaches throughout Canada. Find out if your city or district will be hosting one this year. Your commitment to attend a clinic will be invaluable for your preparation to meet the challenges of our children on the ball diamond. You can also visit the [Little League Canada](http://www.LittleLeagueCanada.com) website to find the locations and dates of the clinics being offered in Canada. As I will be the instructor for all clinics, it would be great to meet and work for you. If you need any other information, you can get in touch with me by phone at 403-273-4656 (MST) or e-mail me at al.herback@gmail.com.

REGISTER TODAY FOR THE WORLDWIDE CHALLENGER JAMBOREE!

From Sam Ranck, Director Of The Challenger Division, Little League International

Registration information is now available for the sixth annual Little League Worldwide Challenger Jamboree, to be held May 6-8 in Norfolk, Va.

This year's Jamboree will once again include games, tours, picnics, a dance and other special events.

More than 100 teams from across the

United States, as well as several other countries, are expected to participate.

We would like to extend an invitation to your Challenger League to attend this year's jamboree.

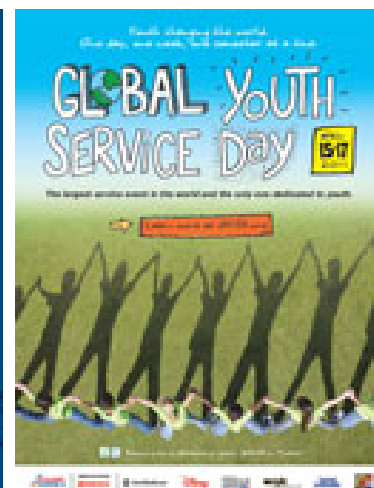
All the information that you need to register, including special hotel rates and travel assistance, can be found in this year's registration packet online at <http://www.eteamz.com/Challenger/Handouts/#1856752>.

Thank you for your continued support of the Challenger Division and your community. We hope to see you in Norfolk this May!

For more information about other upcoming jamborees, visit us online at www.LittleLeagueChallenger.org or www.Facebook.com/LittleLeagueChallenger.



International Year of Volunteers
10th anniversary
2011



Click on any of the above to be redirected to the appropriate website for more information.

THE WINNING COACH: ATTITUDE AND EDUCATION IS EVERYTHING

Taken From The Little League international Publication "The Coach's Box"

Article written by Keith Madison, National Baseball Director, SCORE International

Since I have spent most of my adult life as a coach, I am from the school of thought that we should teach young baseball players that winning is important. Yet, there are many different ways to win.

Of course, we can win by scoring more runs than the other team....we all enjoy winning in this way! We can also win by teaching our players to work hard to reach realistic goals, exude class and sportsmanship and treat teammates, coaches and umpires with respect. We can teach them that winning on the playing field starts with having "winning" practices leading up to the game and giving your best in every situation.

We will most likely never win all of our games and we may never coach a future Major League Baseball player, but we can teach our players how to be winners and how to be "major league people" both on and off the field.

Here are ways to be a winning coach:

Possess knowledge: You don't have to know everything about the game, but if you have chosen to coach a team each player deserves to have a coach who tries to increase his knowledge of the game by reading books and watching DVDs on how to be an effective coach. You should attend coaching clinics or watch a "professional" high school or college coach run a practice. You will earn respect from your players and the other volunteers helping you if you continue to increase your knowledge of the game. Knowledge is power.

Care: John Wooden, the legendary UCLA basketball coach, was the first person I ever heard say, "Players don't care how much you know until they know how

much you care." Take time to talk to each player, on occasion, individually. Make it a habit to ask one player to show up at practice 15 or 20 minutes early each practice for some "one-on-one" time fielding grounders, hitting, catching fly balls or working on a specific aspect of their game that may need some extra work. This will let the player know that you care about him as both a player and as a person. Also, it will help the team. Some players respond better in an individual setting as opposed to a group setting. You will get to know each player in an entirely different way by spending just a little extra time. You could be a "difference maker" in the life of the players on your team. Knowledge is extremely important, but caring is even more important.

Lead: Players look to the coach as the ultimate leader. If a leader emerges among the team, that is a bonus. But, never forget, you are the real leader. The players' attitude, language, body language, effort, execution and the way they carry themselves is a reflection of the leader/coach of the team. If you ever hear a negative statement from a coach such as, "I can't believe how poorly these guys played today," you can rest assured that the coach, in most cases, did not prepare his team during practice. Our teams and the players on our teams will never be perfect, but they can grow and develop both skill and character with positive leadership from the coach.

Communicate: Never assume that a player understands baseball terminology. When my youngest son was about five years old, I was tossing the ball to him and trying to teach him how to hit. He was small and the bat was a little too heavy for him, so I asked him to "choke up." He looked at me with just a hint of confusion and continued to grip the bat at the end near the knob. So, once again I said "choke up." After the third time of telling him to choke up, he finally dropped the bat and placed both hands around his throat! I assumed

that he knew what "choking up" meant. During preseason practice, start with the basic fundamentals and make sure that each player knows the baseball "lingo" that you will be using during the course of the season. Communicate clearly and positively during practice drills. Also, communicate precisely what you expect from the team in terms of effort, attitude, sportsmanship and respect for teammates, coaches, umpires, opponents and the game itself. Communicate with the parents, as well, to let them know of league rules, team policies, expectations, practice times and game schedules.

Practice What You Preach: You are the leader. If you want your players to show respect, then the coach should show respect. If you want your players to avoid negative body language, then you -as a coach, should exude positive body language. If you want your players to avoid profanity, then the coach should never use profanity. If you want each player to have a positive attitude, then the coach should have a positive attitude.

Teach and inspire: Several years ago, I was leading the baseball segment of a Camp in North Carolina. There were middle school and high school athletes from all over the nation in attendance. The camp was located on top of a mountain; so, we had to take a bus to the bottom of the mountain to conduct the baseball camp at a city recreational field. On the second day of the camp, I decide to ride in the back of the bus to become better acquainted with some of the players. I started with two excellent players from a nearby state. I asked them questions such as, "which high school do you play for and how did your team do last season?" When I asked, "Where do you attend high school?" and "How do you like your coach?" one of the players said, "I hate that guy!" I was shocked and was speechless for a moment. Finally, I ask him, "Why do you think you hate him?" He replied, "every time I make a mistake or ask a ques-

tion, he puts me down or makes fun of the question I asked. He constantly berates me in front of my teammates. When I leave high school, I never want to see that guy again." Your teaching methods should encourage, teach and inspire ball players to learn more about and love the game of baseball. Leave a legacy of positive memories and a lasting love for the game of baseball with the players you coach.

Have passion. If you love kids and have a passion for the game, you will succeed. You may not win the league championship every year, but you will have success. Young people are smart. They know when you are going through the motions at practice, the same as you know when the players' hearts aren't in it. Take a few minutes to plan an effective, fast paced practice. Re-

cruit two or three assistant coaches to help with practice, so that you can have two or three drills going on at the same time during practice. Keep the drill stations short (15-20 minutes). We live in a "remote control" society. If the drills are too lengthy, players will mentally "switch channels." Be creative and keep each drill educational, competitive and fun. You will be able to express your passion for the game and make practice fun by planning ahead in order to keep your athletes focused on learning and improving. Ideally, you want your practice to end with your players begging for more. The only way that you can transfer your passion for the game to the players you coach is to make practice upbeat and fast-paced with very little standing around.

Remember, you don't coach baseball,

you coach baseball players. You have a position of influence, take advantage of it to teach players not only how to better play the game, but to be better students, teammates and citizens.

I do not remember my first grade teacher's name, but I remember everything about my Little League coach and the many things he taught me; I still have a relationship with him almost 50 years later.

If you miss out on the relationship part of coaching, you have missed out. Billy Graham once said that coaches are the most influential people in America today. If that is true, we need to use this influence to help each individual on the team. Our communities will become better places to live. Now that is winning!

WANT TO IMPROVE YOUR DOUBLE- GOAL COACHING? PLAY BALL!

Taken From The Little League international Publication "The Coach's Box"

Article written by David Jacobson, Positive Coaching Alliance

Before you start coaching in the upcoming Little League season, why not take this advice from an umpire: Play ball!

Seriously, if it's been awhile since you played baseball or softball, get out there. Pull together a pick-up game among coaches in your league. The benefits to you as Little League Double-Goal Coaches® are many:

- If you are like many of us middle-aged Little League coaches, you can use the

exercise.

- Once on the field, you are reminded how difficult the sport can be. We are all greater in our memories than we were in reality, and in retrospect, hitting, fielding and throwing seem such simple skills. But they are not, especially for the young players in our charge. Playing a little ball will quickly remind you of that, thus improving your patience with players who struggle to acquire new skills.

- If, while playing, you exhibit some lack of skill, coordination, or mental faculty, you may remember how embarrassing that can feel. Then, when the Little League season starts, mindful of how vulnerable players are after making a

mistake, you will use a mistake ritual, such as a physical gesture to "flush" the mistake or the "no-sweat" wiping of the brow.

- You will feel the joy of actually playing...the running, jumping, thinking, camaraderie and satisfaction of a struggle well-faced that make baseball and softball so fun. And you will want to give the same to *all* of your players this season.

For more ideas on getting the most out of your players while teaching life lessons, take the Little League Double-Goal Coach® Course at <http://shopping.positivecoach.org/Little-League-DGC>

YOU MAKE THE CALL...

Situation #1 - Runner on first base...the batter hits a single into right field. The runner advances to third but misses second base on his/her way. The second baseman takes the throw from the right fielder and kicks the second base bag in disgust. **IS THE RUNNER STANDING ON THIRD OUT FOR MISSING THE BASE?**

Answer #1. 2.00/7.10. This is an appeal play. Appeals must be made by verbal request or in an unmistakable manner. The runner is NOT out at this time.

Situation #2 - The batter hits a short fly ball to center field. The second baseman and centerfielder converge on the pop-up. At the last second...the in-

fielder lunges for the ball and deflects it into the umpire. The alert centerfielder catches the ball before it touches the ground. **IS THIS AN OUT?**

Answer #2. 2.00 CATCH. This is not a legal catch since the ball touched the umpire. The ball is alive and in play.

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL CANADA 2011 BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

Baseball

Major (Little League):

World Series: Williamsport, Pennsylvania, August 18-28
Canadian Championship: North Vancouver, BC, August 6-13

Divisionals:

Atlantic: Cape Breton, NS
Quebec: Montreal, QC
Ontario: Brockville, ON
Prairies: Calgary, AB, D3 Foothills LL, July 23-30
British Columbia: Victoria, BC

Junior:

World Series: Taylor, Michigan, August 14-20
Canadian Championship: Lethbridge, AB, August 4-10

Divisionals:

Atlantic: Cape Breton, NS
Quebec: Montreal, QC
Ontario: Oakville, ON
Prairies: Calgary, AB, D8 Fish Creek LL, July 19-25
British Columbia: District 3

Senior:

World Series: Bangor, Maine, August 14-20
Canadian Championship: Rouyn-Noranda, QC, August 4-10

Divisionals:

Atlantic: Cape Breton, NS
Quebec: Montreal, QC
Ontario: Windsor, ON
Prairies: Regina, SK, D1, July 19-25
British Columbia: District 3

Big League:

World Series: Easley, South Carolina, July 27-August 3
Canadian Championship: Cape Breton, NS, July 19-24

Divisionals:

Atlantic: Cape Breton, NS
Quebec: Montreal, QC
Ontario: Ottawa, ON, D2 Kanata LL
Prairies: Lethbridge, AB, D1, July 14-17
British Columbia: Vancouver, BC

Softball

Major (Little League):

World Series: Portland, Oregon, August 11-17
Canadian Championship: Windsor, ON, August 4-9

Divisionals:

Ontario: TBD
Prairies: TBD
British Columbia: TBD

Junior:

World Series: Kirkland, Washington, August 7-13
Canadian Championship: Windsor, ON, August 6-11

Divisionals:

Ontario: TBD
Prairies: TBD

Senior:

World Series: Lower Sussex, Delaware, August 7-13
Canadian Championship: Windsor, ON, July 31- August 2
Divisionals: TBD

Big League:

World Series: Kalamazoo, Michigan, August 4-10
Canadian Championship: Mississauga, ON (TBD)
Divisionals: TBD

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 out-
come of the game

If anyone has information that can help to fill in the blanks...dates, District or League hosts, for any of the above, please email me with the details so I can update this page...thestretch@littleleague.ca

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APRIL 10-16, 2011

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Become an Alumni Member and support Little League in your community and across the Country.

The Little League Baseball Canada Foundation's goal is "to ensure that all children in Canada have the chance to participate in Little League regardless of their abilities, either physical or financial". For an annual membership of \$10.00 or three year membership of \$25.00, as an Alumni member you will have the opportunity to have input into the growth and direction of Little League and its programs.

For a membership application form, please contact Little League Baseball Canada at Canada@littleleague.org.

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Canadian Little League Championship August 6-14,
2011, in District 5, North Vancouver, BC.

www.vancouver2011.ca

The tournament committee would like to announce that The Holiday Inn in North Vancouver has been selected as the Host Hotel for the 2011 Canadian Little League Championships!

Please click [HERE](#) to reserve your room online today!

If the "Group Code" box is empty on the reservation page, please enter "Lit" to obtain the proper rate for your stay.



TEACHING FOR TOMORROW 2011 CLINICS

MANAGER/COACH CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Any manager/coach attending either the Learning the Game session or the Playing the Game session of the Teaching for Tomorrow clinic program will be awarded a **Level I Technical** certificate. If both sessions are attended by a participant, both certificates will be given. The 'Certificate of Commitment' signifies the importance of the coaches who are not only enhancing their own personal training for the game but also benefiting the players they will be teaching throughout the season. We are aware that some will be unable to attend but their dedication to our children is greatly appreciated as well.

How does it work? There will be clinics scheduled in almost every District in Canada that is affiliated with Little League. These locations will be available on the LLBC website as well as at the local level. Dates, times, and locations will be listed and, in most cases, there will not be any pre-registration. As has been the case in past years you will be notified of the clinic in your area and the registration time for the session you wish to attend. At the conclusion of the clinic, each participant will receive a sheet explaining the procedure as follows: Go to the LLBC website, locate the section 'Certificate', fill in the necessary information on your name, address, date, and the location of the clinic you attended and click submit. As the list of participants from all clinics will be sent to National Headquarters in Ottawa, your name will appear on the clinic you attended and the certificates will be mailed out immediately. Why certificates? Little League Baseball Canada wishes to issue these to extend an extra thank you to participants of the clinics and a personal reward for giving freely of their time, energy, and valuable expertise. There will be two issued - one for possible framing and one wallet size.

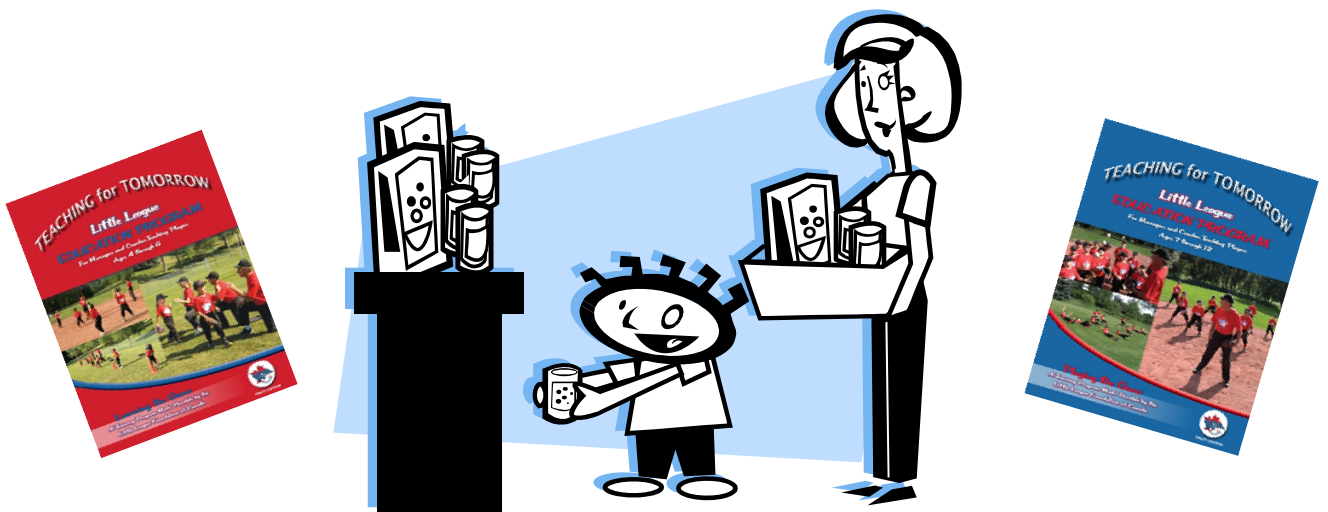
Note: Attendance at a clinic will be necessary to be eligible for certification. There will be no online program.

Feel free to send myself or LLBC any thoughts or suggestions on these exciting new initiatives. You may contact me at al.herback@gmail.com or 403-273-4656.



“TEACHING FOR TOMORROW” CLINIC FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Children throughout Canada involved in Little League baseball are extremely fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers to help them enjoy this exciting game. With Little League Baseball Canada’s new initiative called the ‘Food Bank Donations’, these volunteers are embarking on a new community commitment. The Food Bank for many families throughout Canada is the lifeline for their daily meals. It seems that more and more people are seeking assistance from their local Food Bank.



The Food Bank initiative will be a chance for managers, coaches and interested parties attending the clinic to show their appreciation for the cost free clinics by bringing a donation. Whatever is collected from each session will be boxed and delivered to the local Food Bank. These will be direct donations to your area for those in need day-to-day. With all the hardships that many face today, what better way can we work as a ‘team’ to help alleviate some of the strain families endure?



CHALLENGER



The **Little League Challenger Division**, started in 1989, is a Division of Little League that provides boys and girls with mental and physical challenges the opportunity to play baseball and softball in the Little League program. Starting a Challenger Division in your league can be done with just a handful of players and is a great way to expand your league's reach in the community for the upcoming season. Starting a Challenger Division allows your league to:

- Reach more children in your community
- Offer Little Leaguers more opportunities to become involved in the community by acting as Challenger Buddies
- Increase community and volunteer involvement in your league through reaching more families

There is plenty of time to start a Challenger Division in your community for the 2011 season. For more information on what it takes to bring the Challenger Division to your community, follow the links below

- [Request More Information About Starting a Challenger Division](#)
- [View a Presentation About The Challenger Division](#)
- [View Guidelines for Operating a Successful Challenger Division](#)

For additional information, visit us online at www.LittleLeagueChallenger.org or at [www.Facebook.com/LittleLeagueChallenger](https://www.facebook.com/LittleLeagueChallenger).

FIFTY/SEVENTY

50/70

FIFTY/SEVENTY

Little League expands 50/70 program

50/70 is a division of play that provides a bridge between the standard Little League Baseball field and a conventional baseball field. In 2011, Little League will once again offer a pilot program that will allow this option for local leagues.

Some of the features of a 50/70 program include:

- Open bases where players can lead off
- Pitching distance is increased to 50 feet and base paths to 70 feet

There is still plenty of time to sign your league up for the Little League 50/70 program in the 2011 season. For more information about the program and how your league can participate, follow the links below:

- [50/70 Pilot Program for players league age 12-13](#)
- [50/70 Pilot Program for players league age 11-12](#)
- [Register your league for the 50/70 program](#)
- [Additional information on the Little League 50/70 Pilot Program](#)

