



2018

Dear New Little League Player and Family:

On behalf of our Board of Directors, welcome to West Madison Little League (WMLL). Remember, that all baseball and softball registrants age 12 and younger should attend the skills evaluation session at the Memorial High School Fieldhouse, Saturday, March 17. The specific times are dependant on age and the full schedule (tentative) is included on the attached FAQ's page. Check the WMLL website in late February to confirm times. **Please bring a copy of your child's birth certificate to the skills evaluation session.**

Over a period of 59+ years, WMLL has been teaching baseball and softball skills, team work, and sportsmanship, and has helped thousands of Madison's children form lasting memories and friendships. This year, WMLL will organize the play of upwards of 1500 children playing over 750 games in 15 separate leagues, including our spring/summer and fall ball seasons. The organization will maintain three baseball fields, operate concessions, and oversee a budget of over \$400,000.

WMLL strives to form teams of equal strength in each league and to treat all players equally and fairly. We are firmly committed to providing a positive and enjoyable experience for ALL participants. Youth sports can teach wonderful life lessons. We also realize that with competitive youth sports, sometimes come frustrations and occasional conflicts. WMLL has a structure and communications system in place designed to minimize these issues and to facilitate communication. We want to hear from you if you have questions, suggestions, concerns, or comments.

The organization also believes it is very important that all members understand the structure, customs, and procedures followed by WMLL. The 2018 Registration Packet, downloadable from our website, includes much of the basic information you will require. A great deal of information is also available on the League's website, [www.wml.org](http://www.wml.org). Near the beginning of the season, you will receive schedules, a Parent Handbook and local rules (both via the website), and rosters for all the teams in your league. This letter's attachment is also intended to provide basic information for families new to WMLL. Should you have any questions prior to or during the season, please don't hesitate to visit with your team's coaches, parent team rep, myself or any member of our volunteer Board of Directors. We all hope you have a great experience at West Madison Little League. *Play Ball!!!!*

Sincerely,

*Tom Heneghan*

Tom Heneghan  
WMLL Board President

## FAQ's for New WMLL Families --- 2018 Season

**What is the Skills Session schedule?** (*Memorial High School Field House, Saturday, March 17*)

### **Baseball:**

3:45p 8 yr olds, last name A-L  
4:15p 8 yr olds, M-Z  
4:45p 7 yr olds, A-Z  
5:15p 10 yr olds, A-L  
5:30p 11 yr olds, A-L  
5:45p 10 yr olds, M-Z  
6:05p 11 yr olds, M-Z  
6:30p 9 yr olds, A-L  
6:45p 12 yr olds, A-L  
7:15p 9 yr olds, M-Z  
7:30p 12 yr olds, M-Z

### **Girls' Softball:**

3:45p 7 - 8 yr olds, A-Z  
4:05p 9 - 10 yr olds, A-Z  
4:30p 11 - 12 yr olds, A-Z

**NOTE: Please arrive on time for your scheduled session and register at the check-in table. This will allow you plenty of time to register and get ready for your session. You may leave after you complete your drills**

***Note: your player will be contacted by the coach of the team to which he/she is drafted within a day of the draft. Drafts are scheduled for March 19-22, except Senior Lg baseball, which is in early May***

**What is the purpose of the skills session?** The skills session allows coaches to judge the relative talents and skills of each player. As such, it is an important part of the process of assembling balanced teams via a draft, as explained below.

**How are teams chosen?** Teams are assembled via a "draft." The draft order is determined by lot and then reverses after each round. Each team selects one player in each round of the draft until all registered players are selected. The "draft" is designed to create teams with an even distribution of more skilled and less skilled players, and in that way create balanced leagues. Rookie Lg (if offered) and Minor Lg girls' softball players may request to be placed on a team with ONE "buddy" (both girls must indicate each other on their registration forms). The team's coach will call you the night of or the day after the draft to let you know which team your player has been drafted by.

**How are coaches chosen?** All coaches are volunteers and before each season, WMLL seeks out and selects, based on experience and other qualifications, a head coach for each team. Once chosen, each head coach may select, subject to Board of Directors approval, one assistant coach. The children of the head and assistant coach are automatically on the team, and are appropriately placed in the draft based on skill level by the League Coordinator for that age level. After the teams are drafted, the head coach may select another assistant from among the parents of the team's players. Also from the team parents, the head coach will recruit a "Team Rep," a parent who will assist with team administrative matters and generally act as a communications conduit between families and coaches.

**How is WMLL governed?** WMLL is a membership organization. All parents of registered players and recognized volunteers are defined as members. The annual membership meeting, held in October, is the highest decision making authority. Day to day administration of the league is the responsibility of a part-time Executive Director who reports to a 15-member Board of Directors. Board terms are three years and five Board members are elected at each annual meeting. The Board meets monthly, with the time and place of all Board meetings posted on our website, [www.wmll.org](http://www.wmll.org). All members are welcome to attend. Names and contact information for Board members and officers is available on the website under the "ABOUT WMLL" tab.

**What are the appropriate channels of communication for questions or concerns?** Communication within each team is very important. Coaches are encouraged to have a pre-season parents meeting and to always keep communication channels open. The Team Rep is an important part of this process. For issues that cannot be resolved within the team, or on general League matters, any member should feel free to contact our Executive Director or any Board member or officer at any time. One Board member is designated as the "League Coordinator" for each baseball and softball league. In most instances, a member with a concern, needing information, or wishing to provide input should start by communicating with the League Coordinator for their league. A description of leagues and names and contact information for League Coordinators is on the website and is included in the registration packet.

**Are members required to do fundraising?** There is no required fundraising. None-the-less, members should be aware of the importance of outside fundraising, since registration fees provide only part of the income necessary to operate the league. Members are encouraged to participate in voluntary efforts, such as WMLL's annual "Night at the Mallards" or "Little Lg Night at the Brewers" and to step forward if they are aware of an area business or organization that may be a potential sponsor (team, field sign, etc) or donor. Members are also strongly encouraged to support the WMLL Concession stand. The WMLL Concession stand is a very integral part of the league's operation and generates the income necessary to pay all our umpires, concessions staff and our groundskeeping staff. Your support of the concession stand is vitally important and very much appreciated.

Welcome to WMLL and enjoy the 2018 season!!!