



# WEST MADISON LITTLE LEAGUE Spring/Summer Season 2020

Please visit [wmll.org](http://wmll.org) for additional information or to register a player

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## ABOUT WMLL

West Madison Little League, a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization with a 60+ year history, is dedicated to providing structured youth baseball and softball programs in a supportive environment with first-class playing fields and a family-friendly ballpark. Our mission is to ensure that all our players, regardless of their skill level, have fun, improve their skills, and learn about sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership and doing one's best. WMLL offers spring/summer and fall seasons of play and proudly includes scholarship support for players whose families need financial assistance and a fall Challenger Baseball League for players with physical and mental disabilities among our core programs.

## AGE DIVISIONS & "LITTLE LEAGUE AGE" DETERMINATION

While WMLL's standard practice is to assign players into leagues based upon their **LITTLE LEAGUE AGE** (which for baseball is the player's age as of August 31, 2020 and for softball is the player's age as of December 31, 2019), some leagues may also consider parental requests, player skill level and the number of registrants.

### Baseball

- **Rookie League** = LL ages 7-8
- **Minor League** = LL ages 9-10
- **Major League** = LL ages 11-12
- **Junior League** = LL ages 13-14 (*unless in HS*)
- **Senior League** = LL ages 15-16 (*& 14's in HS*)

### Softball

- **Rookie League** = LL ages 7-8
- **Minor League** = LL ages 9-10
- **Major League** = LL ages 11-12
- **Junior League** = LL ages 13-14
- **Senior League** = LL ages 15-17 (*any player in HS is eligible*)

## SKILLS SESSION + NO-CUT DRAFT = BALANCED TEAMS

WMLL places a high-priority on creating balanced teams and competitive leagues. To do this, WMLL utilizes a Skills Session and No-Cut Player Draft to establish teams.

- **March 15 Skills Session:** The mandatory skills session for all players Little League aged 7-12 is a critical step in the process of assembling balanced teams. At the skills session, which is held in the Memorial High School Field House, players rotate through fielding and throwing, hitting, and pitching drill stations. This allows coaches to evaluate the relative skills of all players in a given league prior to the player draft.
- **No-Cut Player Draft:** The player drafts in mid-late March create balance by distributing more skilled and less skilled players evenly across all teams. Everyone registered by March 4 will be drafted – no one is cut.
- **Team Formation:** Soon after the draft, usually by April 1, coaches email the players on their team to introduce themselves, notify the players of their team name, and provide information on team meetings and practices.

## BASEBALL GAMES & PRACTICES

- **Fields:** All games are played on the WMLL diamonds at 701 Forward Drive. The only exception is in cases of extreme number of rainouts, where games may be played at alternative fields.
- **Practices:** Practices usually begin in April as weather permits. A team's practice schedule and the location of their practices are determined by that team's coach.
- **Season Start & End:** Minor, Major and Junior League play begins with an Opening Weekend on April 18 & 19. The Rookie League season starts on their May 9 & 10 Opening Weekend, while Senior League games begin on May 24. Each league concludes play with a league tournament that takes place in the late June through mid-July range.
- **Schedule:** The regular season typically consists of 16-18 games played on both weekdays and weekends. All baseball leagues, except the Senior League, utilize alternate weekend scheduling – typically playing games on both Saturday and Sunday during their "ON" weekends and on Friday and Monday bracketing their "OFF" weekend.
  - Rookie, Major & Junior League baseball "ON" weekends: Apr 25/26, May 9/10, May 23/24, Jun 6/7, Jun 20/21, Jun 27/28 is a special "ON" weekend for Major & Junior League baseball (WMLL League Playoffs)
  - Minor League baseball "ON" weekends: Apr 18/19, May 2/3, May 16/17, May 30/31, Jun 13/14, Jun 27/28

## SOFTBALL GAMES & PRACTICES

- **Fields:** Minor and Major League games are played on the WMLL diamonds at 701 Forward Drive and the Jefferson Middle School softball diamonds at 101 S Gammon Road. Junior and Senior League games are played on the Jefferson Middle School softball diamonds and other area diamonds.
- **Practices:** Practices usually begin in April as weather permits. A team's practice schedule and the location of their practices are determined by that team's coach.
- **Season Start & End:** The Rookie, Minor and Major League seasons begin with Opening Weekend on May 16-17 and run until mid-July, concluding with league tournaments. The Junior and Senior League seasons begin at a later date (usually after the high school season has ended) and also end with a league tournament.
- **Schedule:** The Minor and Major League regular seasons typically consist of ~14 games with teams usually playing one weekday and one weekend game each week. WMLL's Junior and Senior League teams play in a regional league. The Junior league team normally plays one weekday double-header each week for ~8 weeks, while the Senior League team typically plays one weekday game each week for 6-8 weeks.

## BASEBALL & SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT TEAMS

WMLL forms and partially sponsors a number of tournament "all-star" teams each year.

- **Teams:** For baseball, WMLL typically fields one U8, two U9 and U14 teams, three U10, U11 and U12 teams and one U13 and U16 team, while for softball, WMLL typically fields one U10 and U12 team.
- **Tournaments:** Each team plays in a number of area tournaments, including Little League district tournaments for designated baseball teams.

## ELIGIBILITY

- **Baseball:** Boys and girls Little League aged 7 to 16 who live or attend school in the Madison West, Madison Memorial or Middleton-Cross Plains high school attendance areas are eligible to play 2020 spring/summer season baseball at WMLL.
- **Softball:** Girls Little League aged 7 to 17 are eligible to play 2020 spring/summer season softball at WMLL. No residency or school requirements exist for softball.

## REGISTRATION

**Fees & Discounts:** WMLL's standard fee for the 2020 spring/summer season is \$290 for all baseball leagues, \$225 for most softball leagues and \$165 for Senior League softball. *The difference in fees is due to the fact that the baseball season includes more games and the baseball fee includes prepayment for the post-game snack program (\$2 snack per game).*

- **Early Bird Discount:** Early registrations completed by February 2 receive a \$20 discount.
- **Multi Player Discount:** After two children from the same family have registered, each additional child from that family receives a \$50 discount.
- **Scholarships:** Parents of children eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches may apply for a scholarship during the registration process. Scholarships cover a portion of the registration fee, but still require a minimum payment of \$75 for baseball and \$50 for softball. WMLL reserves the right to verify eligibility with your school principal.

**Registration Process & Deadlines:** WMLL utilizes an online registration system available at [www.wmll.org/register](http://www.wmll.org/register). After completing the registration form, the registration fee must be paid via a credit card, debit card or e-check.

- **February 2:** Last day to receive a \$20 early bird registration discount
- **March 1:** Last day to register a player with the guarantee of a roster spot on a team
- **March 2:** Start of late registration period with \$20 additional fee. WMLL will attempt to accommodate everyone, but late registrants can be placed on a team only if space is available. *Each league has a separate maximum capacity. Once leagues are full, late registrants may choose to be placed on a waiting list in the order their registrations were received (for a \$5 non-refundable processing fee).*

**Special Placement Requests:** WMLL is unable to honor requests to place players on the same team, except as follows.

- **Siblings:** Siblings playing in the same league will be placed on the same team unless their parents request that they be placed on different teams when registering.
- **"Buddy System" for Rookie League baseball & softball:** In WMLL's Rookie Leagues, a pair of friends can request that they be placed on the same team using WMLL's buddy system. For this to happen, the two halves of the "buddy" pair must identify one another as their one "buddy" on their individual registration applications. While WMLL will make every attempt to pair buddies on the same team, placement is not guaranteed.