

Hello RHLL Families:

The 2012 Little League season is fast approaching. Online registration is now open at our website at [www.rhll.net](http://www.rhll.net). Details can be found on the site, including a summary of key dates.

Raleigh Hills Little League, or "RHLL," is a non profit affiliated with Little League International chartered in 1957 to provide baseball and softball for kids in our local area. RHLL focuses on offering baseball and softball to children aged 5-12 that live within the attendance areas of BSD elementary schools Raleigh Park, Raleigh Hills, Montclair, McKay, Vose and Greenway. It is open to all children in these areas regardless of where they attend school. Please help us spread the word!

Big picture for the season is that registration begins in December and continues into February. Teams are formed at the AAA and Majors levels in early March. Team formation for T-ball, A and AA is completed by the third week of March. Practices will begin for most levels in the month of March, with teams generally starting practices throughout the month in roughly reverse order of level. Opening Day is April 7<sup>th</sup>!

Here is some additional information:

- 1. Registration is available online this year.** Returning families will not receive registration forms in the mail. **Registration is due by February 15<sup>th</sup>.** After this date, registration will remain open with an additional fee of \$30 until (i) February 19<sup>th</sup>, for AAA and Majors divisions, and (ii) March 1<sup>st</sup>, for AA, A and T-ball levels. Late fees will be waived for T-ball and first time A-ball players.
- 2. Information Session.** There will be an in-person information and registration session from 6-8 pm on January 31<sup>st</sup> at Garden Home Recreation Center. Representatives from the league will be available to answer questions and a THPRD representative will be available to help with financial aid. Please come by if you have questions.
- 3. Coaches & managers.** If you are interested in managing or coaching, please complete the coach registration section of the website and follow all instructions. Both Little League International and THPRD require that background checks be performed. Consider coaching! We always need the help.

As in the past, we will request that all coaches attend a coaching clinic -- see the website for details. The clinics are quite enjoyable, and you will find that managers at all levels of RHLL draw heavily from them. The more you know, the more you can help!

- 4. Other Volunteers.** RHLL is operated by volunteers. As a result, we need lots of them! Volunteer activities range from coaching and board membership, to team positions (like scorekeepers, team parents), to administrative tasks (like scheduling and special events, accounting, website maintenance, equipment). Hopefully, each family can find something they enjoy doing.
- 5. Volunteer Fee.** RHLL asks that all families volunteer at least 6 hours. At registration, you will be asked whether you will be available to volunteer and asked to select a general category in which you can provide assistance. If you prefer to not volunteer, there is an additional fee of \$75 **per family** to cover costs, such as umpire coordination and accounting services. This program is in lieu of the volunteer deposit collected in prior

years. The fee serves the dual purposes of encouraging volunteering and helping pay for services that are not provided by volunteers. Keep in mind, we'd much prefer the volunteers!

- 6. AAA & Majors Evaluations.** Evaluations are for players that want to play AAA or Majors only. If your child is interested in playing AA or below, he or she does not need to tryout. Softball evaluations will be Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>, while baseball evaluations will be the following Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.

For those of you with a player that is interested in moving up to AAA or Majors, the process of trying out is often a concern to many players and families. Maureen Blair, RHLL Player Agent, will send an email to returning players with further details.

AAA and Majors teams continue to be formed by a modified draft process. It is an imperfect system, but it has worked pretty well for years and in recent years we have been quite successful establishing competitive balance, which makes for a much more enjoyable experience for the players. We realize, though, that the system creates uncertainty for players who worry that they won't make it or will not play with their friends or preferred coach. RHLL really wants to get players through to the next level!

RHLL tries to allow players to play at desired levels and follows Little League guidelines that require that 12 year olds play majors, unless parents request otherwise. In some years we succeed at getting all players where they want to be, and in others we do not. This is sometimes for safety and competitive reasons, but it is often simply a question of available roster space, especially at majors. It is the nature of baseball that rosters at AAA and Majors work well with 11 or 12 players, but any other number is difficult.

Hopefully parents can be understanding and supportive of the process and encourage players to give it a go. Once the season gets rolling, it has been our experience that players enjoy great benefits from being introduced to kids at other schools.

- 7. Candy Sale Fundraiser.** We have discontinued the annual fundraising opportunity, which most recently involved candy sales. The program was administratively difficult, and in recent years, the league lost money due to orders that were not paid for or picked up.
- 8. Sponsorships.** We are working on increasing our sponsorships. If you know of people or businesses that may be willing to sponsor our league, please email our sponsorship coordinator Tom Flynn at: [thomas.m.flynn@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.m.flynn@gmail.com). Please also review our sponsor list on the website and be supportive of those businesses!
- 9. Uniforms.** Uniforms are the single biggest expense for the league. Please return the returnable pieces in substantially the condition received. Note: Do NOT bleach the pants. See the Play Levels section of the website for details.

**Questions or concerns?** Please check the website! You can also contact us by mail at Raleigh Hills Little League, PO Box 25762, Portland, Oregon 97298, or email at [raleighhills@gmail.com](mailto:raleighhills@gmail.com).

Thank you for considering RHLL for 2012. We look forward to a great season.

RHLL Board of Directors