

# Verona Little League Parent info session



# Introductions

## Mike Holland

League President

First year as president

2<sup>nd</sup> year on the board

Son, Jack plays in Minors, his fourth season in VLL



# Parent Info Session

## Agenda

- League Overview
- Registration / Assessments
- League Divisions
- Coaches Selection / Player Drafts
- Equipment Provided and Needed
- Season Schedule
- Volunteer Opportunities
- League Communication
- Tournament Teams
- Important Dates
- Questions



# League Overview

- ❑ Chartered with Little League International
- ❑ Little League International provides league with liability insurance
- ❑ Follow LL International rules and bylaws
- ❑ VLL is governed by a board and multiple volunteers
- ❑ Board meetings are posted on the website and always open to parents/volunteers

# Registration and Assessments

- ❑ Registration opens 2/1 and is open through 2/29. After 2/29 there will be a \$25 late fee and no guarantee of a spot on a team
- ❑ Division of Play- Rookies, Minors, Majors, Intermediate and Juniors (more to follow on description of divisions)
- ❑ Cost for play- \$300 for all divisions – this includes a \$25.00 concession voucher that will be handed out with jerseys at the beginning of the season
- ❑ Payment – can be made via credit card online
- ❑ Financial assistance available

# Registration and Assessments

- ☐ Rookies Clinic – March 4 & 6 @ Savannah Oaks Middle School 6-7pm
- ☐ Assessments will be held Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at Savannah Oaks Middle School
- ☐ All levels will assess – Rookies, Minors, Majors\* & Intermediate\*
- ☐ Juniors and those who played Juniors last year do not assess
- ☐ Help your child register at arrival, then wait in car or outside gym in commons area – No parents will be allowed in gym during assessments
- ☐ Your child's specific assessment time will be emailed the week before
- ☐ Takes approx 45-60 minutes to complete
- ☐ THIS IS NOT A TRYOUT! We use this process to gauge skills and it allows VLL to keep teams balanced and competitive
- ☐ Players should make every attempt to attend.
- ☐ Rookies level players participate in 3 stations, all others do 4 stations

\*Majors & Intermediate Tournament Team kids will NOT assess

# League Divisions

## DIVISION STRUCTURE AND GRADE GUIDELINES

(based on players grade for the 2023-2024 school year)

### League:

|               |                                   |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rookies:      | Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders |
| Minors:       | 3rd and 4th graders               |
| Majors:       | 5th graders                       |
| Intermediate: | 6th graders                       |
| Juniors:      | 7th, 8th, and 9th graders         |

Kindergartners are welcome to signup for our Rookies division. If after assessments, your child is given the green light to play in our league then we also ask that a parent be willing to support or coach with the coaching staff of their respective team as part of your child's participation.

# League Divisions

## LEAGUE DESCRIPTIONS:

**Rookies** – An introductory league for beginning players that uses a pitching machine and compressed safety ball. The focus is for kids to have fun and learn the fundamentals of the game. Ten fielders are allowed, and players will rotate to different positions in the field and in the batting order.

**Minors** – Players will experience live pitching (kid pitch) with continued emphasis on fundamentals and learning the game. Coaches will introduce baseball strategies with nine players in the field and limited stealing of bases allowed. Players will continue to play multiple positions and rotate through the batting order.

**Majors** - This division is the highest level of baseball on LL regulation field-60ft bases and 46ft pitching mound. Stealing all bases will be allowed with stronger emphasis on strategy.

**Intermediates** - Intermediate players will play with 70-foot bases and a 50-foot pitching mound. Players will be able to lead off and begin the adjustment to playing on a larger field.

**Juniors Division – Current 7th through 9th Graders** – This division introduces players to a regulation size High School/Major League Baseball field (60-foot, 6-inch mound and 90-foot bases) and uses all the rules of the game.



# League Divisions cont.

- ❑ In most cases, it is in the best interest of players to play in the standard LL age appropriate division. We may refuse special placement requests for safety, competitive balance and/or LL compliance reasons.
- ❑ If your player is currently rostered on a VLL tournament team, please refer to your child's head coach with league placement guidance.
- ❑ If you want to discuss special placement in a league above or below your child's grade based league, please email your child's name and special request to our league registrar at [vllregistrar@gmail.com](mailto:vllregistrar@gmail.com)
- ❑ We do not currently have a program for players born after September 1, 2018. Those with birth dates after this date are considered too young for LL baseball and should consider playing with Verona Rec department

# Coaches Selection and Player Drafts

- ☐ Must complete online application
- ☐ League will conduct a background check
- ☐ Rookies will have four coaches and most other divisions will have three if we have numbers to support
- ☐ Mandatory Coaches meeting in person or via zoom March 14th at 7:00pm
- ☐ Player Draft will take place March 19 & 20
- ☐ Coaches will contact players soon after the draft and indicate when first practices will occur

# Equipment

- ☐ Hat & Jersey are included in the registration fee
- ☐ You will need a pair of GRAY baseball pants
- ☐ Glove, Cleats, Batting helmet
- ☐ Cleats - safety for footing on the dirt
- ☐ We do have some equipment available for loan if needed
- ☐ If you want to donate baseball items, please let us know; we will be collecting on assessment day

# Bat Rules for 2024

- ☐ Little League adopted the new USA Baseball Bat standard for 2018
- ☐ ALL BATS must have the USA Baseball logo to be legal
- ☐ Any bat from 2017 and earlier will not be legal for use this season
- ☐ Visit the website bat section for more information

# Season Schedule

- ☐ Practices start early April with first games the first week of May.
- ☐ Opening Day – Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>
- ☐ During season, teams will play 1-2 games per week unless there are rainouts (There could be some rookies games scheduled Saturday mornings or Sunday nights)
- ☐ Trying to open up more weekends to allow breaks and more family time
- ☐ There will be an end of the season tournament and by adding more scheduling flexibility, the tourney will run into late July (no games around July 4<sup>th</sup>).
- ☐ Schedule will be completed by Draft night so coaches will have that information when notified of your team

# Season Schedule

- ❑ Due to field availability, rain outs and reschedules, we can't guarantee that you'll always play on a specific night, but in general we try to schedule:
  - ❑ Rookies - Typically 2 games a week: Monday's, Wednesday's or Friday's.  
\*\*There could be a couple Saturday morning or Sunday early evening games
  - ❑ Minors – typically 1 to 2 games per week: Tuesday and Thursday
  - ❑ Majors – typically 1 to 2 games per week: Tuesday and Thursday
  - ❑ Intermediates – typically 1 to 2 games per week: Monday and Wednesday
  - ❑ Juniors – Capital Lakes Junior League (CLJL): TBD
- ❑ Game times vary, but will start at 5pm or later on a weeknight.

# VLL Parent Code of Conduct

We, Verona Little League, have implemented the following Parent Code of Conduct for the important message it holds about the proper role of parents in supporting their child in sports. Parents should read, understand and sign this form prior to their children participating in our league. **MUST BE SIGNED TO COMPLETE REGISTRATION**

I hereby pledge to provide positive support and encouragement to all players, umpires, coaches and other parents in the Verona Little League.

- I will let the coaches coach, let the umpires ump, and let the players play
- I will remember that children participate to have fun, and that the game is for youth, not adults
- I will respect coaching decisions regarding playing time, position, and placement, and will refrain from coaching any player during games
- I will promote good sportsmanship by respecting opposing fans, players, and coaches
- I will respect the umpires and their authority during games. I recognize that Verona Little League hires its own older players to be umpires, and they are learning their role as much as my child is learning his/hers
- I will inform any of my guests attending games of the appropriate conduct as set forth in this code

# Volunteer Opportunities

- ☐ All families are required to complete four (4) hours of volunteering per player (maximum of 8 hours per family) during the VLL regular season. More hours may be required for players participating in extended or tournament season
- ☐ \$200 “Buy-Out” fee to not perform volunteer hours
- ☐ Anyone who does not fulfill hours will be INVOICED in August for \$200
- ☐ Always looking for board volunteers
- ☐ Concessions
- ☐ Coaching and assistant coaching
- ☐ Team Parent
- ☐ Complex Clean-up Days (pre & post season)
- ☐ Equipment Cleaning



# League Communication

- ❑ Website: veronalittleleague.org
- ❑ League wide emails-check your social, promotional, spam folders
- ❑ Team parent/coaches will email important information
- ❑ Facebook, Instagram
- ❑ Weather updates along with details regarding game play, field availability for practices, etc will either be emailed to you by your coaches. Plus, you typically find these updates on the VLL website, facebook and instagram.
- ❑ Feel free to contact Mike at [vllpresident@gmail.com](mailto:vllpresident@gmail.com) or 773-663-6362
- ❑ **Coaches will be your main source of contact. They all have access to SportsEngine as a communication tool.**

# Tournament Teams

- ❑ VLL does sponsor opportunities for players wanting more baseball competition to try out for tournament teams
- ❑ This is a try-out process that occurs late July
- ❑ If interested in playing, please let us or the coaches know

# Important Dates

February 27<sup>th</sup> Virtual Parent Meeting

February 29<sup>th</sup> - Last Day to Register

March 4 & 6 – Rookies Clinic @ Savannah Oaks – 6-7pm

March 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> - Dicks Sporting Goods League Days

March 10<sup>th</sup> - Assessment Day

March 14<sup>th</sup> - Coaches Meeting

March 19 & 20 – League Drafts

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Opening Day / Play Ball!

July 15<sup>th</sup> - Family Fun Night

July 22-24<sup>th</sup> – Tournament Team tryouts

July 28<sup>th</sup> – Brewers Day Game @ American Family Field



Questions?