



# California District 4

February 20, 2020

Volume 29 Issue 5



## California 4 Little League

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## California D4 Finances

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>23,900.84</b>
World Series Ad	1000.00
DA Travel Fund	100.00
Western Region Hospitality	1000.00
Roundtable Rooms, Transportation, Dinner	4266.63
January Dinner	468.18
D4 Storage	1230.00
Staff Clothing	717.75
Junior Umpire Shirts	515.58
Pin Sales	303.41
League Dues (Lafayette, PHLL)	7006.00
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>21,912.11</b>



## 2020 Lewis Cup Award

Martinez	2090
Concord American	2003
Walnut Creek	1985
Concord Continental	1828
East County	1815
Clayton Valley	1760
NOLL/SOLL	1730
Pinole-Hercules	1687
Alameda	1678
Albany	1316
Pittsburg	1251
Lafayette	1206
Antioch	1074
Richmond	856



**From ADA Training Coordinator,  
Jim Rose**

District 4 training staff ran eight rules clinics during February and March, each lasting around two hours, which reached hundreds of umpires, coaches, and managers. In addition to a rules clinic for teenage baseball and one for all divisions of softball, we held six baseball clinics at individual leagues, which included Oakland, Martinez, Albany, Alameda, Pinole-Hercules, and Concord Continental. I want to extend a special thank you to Ed Newbegin who co-taught the softball clinic and ran the Alameda clinic. We were able to tailor the clinics to the divisions each league wanted, such as minors and majors only, or minors through juniors. We also incorporated into the clinics interleague and local rules. Next year we plan to follow this format and hopefully expand the number of leagues who invite us to teach this clinic.



**From ADA Volunteer Coordinator,  
Grayson Lawrence**

### District Volunteer of the Year Award

The District Volunteer of the Year Award was instituted to honor individuals who give selflessly of their time and efforts for the benefits of the children in our communities. These individuals have contributed a spirited and dedicated commitment to the ideals and goals of the Little League program.

Each league in District 4 can submit one nominee for this award, which is typically the league's Volunteer of the Year. To submit your nomination, please go to this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/200270451939150>



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**From ADA Safety Officer,  
Liz Berg**

**Hmmm...Safety, safety,  
what to say about safety?**

Please stay home and stay safe. If ordinances allow, check and secure your fields to ensure that they are free from unwanted visitors both 2-legged and 4-legged. Remind your coaches that practices should not be held and that the sooner we all knock this virus out of the park, the sooner we all get to play baseball again. Be healthy.

### **Junior Umpires and Background Checks**

Per Little League: We usually go by the rule of if an individual can apply for a job in their state then a background check can be completed. If they fall under that age, let's just say they are 14 and would like to Junior umpire, then a volunteer application is still required but they do not need to provide a Social Security number. Anyone under the age of 18 still must have parental consent.



**From ADA 50/70/Junior/Senior  
Baseball, Marco Rosen**

### **Intermediate/Juniors/Senior Baseball**

When we resume interleague play, we will continue on dates as they come up. I will be evaluating the schedule and be in close communication with DA Ted Boet in regard to any instructions needed coming from Headquarters or the Western Region. I do not have any answers at this time to see if any of the missed games will need to be made up.

Once I have more information I will pass it along.

As of today's, email from LL International suspending play until Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, we have decided it is in our best interest to cancel the B1 King of Clubs Tournament.

### **SENIOR BASEBALL**

Now is this time to get with your league representatives and figure out what is needed for Senior Baseball. I would like to hear from each league as to how many teams they might have. Please email me directly so I can start to plan a scheduling meeting. Please remember each senior team is REQUIRED to play 10 game schedule in order to qualify for All-Stars!!!



**From ADA Little League Baseball,  
Steve Harris**

It looks like we don't have enough interest within the District to participate in the new Little League Travel Ball program... this is unfortunate because this program is specifically meant to help leagues provide a higher-level of competition for players that are contemplating leaving Little League and joining a travel team; and I think most of us have seen a fair amount of players leave our respective leagues to seek more competition outside of Little League. I'd like to give this new program another chance, so I'd like to propose we try this new program during the Fall Ball season. This will give us time to plan accordingly, poll our parents/players to assess interest, and provide some structured games during a Fall Ball season centered on practice and development. Please let me know if this something that might be of interest to you and your leagues.



**From ADA D4 UIC, Don Waddell**

### **Little League Umpire Registry Available to Support Continued Development**

Encourage your volunteer umpires to continue developing their knowledge and skills while the season is on hold by joining the Little League Umpire Registry. This is the online home for all Little League umpires and contains an extensive library of rule interpretations, umpire mechanic training videos, access to publications, and links to equipment. Registering is free and easy. Access the Registry at <https://www.littleleagueumpire.org/>.

### **District 4 Umpire Mechanics Materials Ready for Use**

The District 4 Umpire Staff has prepared several Umpire Mechanics guides that cover the basic mechanics for 2 umpire crews on a 60 foot and 90-foot field. Also available are advanced guides for 3 and 4 umpires crews on the small and large diamonds. These are simplified materials that take the Little League detailed manuals and condense them into easily understood methods for your league umpires. Ready to use in a "virtual clinic" online or to share for individual use. Contact Don Waddell if your league is interested in having these Mechanics guides.

### **Planning Ahead for the International Tournament**

As all of us are hopeful the International Tournament will be held this summer, it is not too early to identify your tournament umpires. Each participating league will be expected to provide umpires for the tournaments. Adult volunteer umpires are an essential part of the tournament, as games must have at least one adult umpire. Youth



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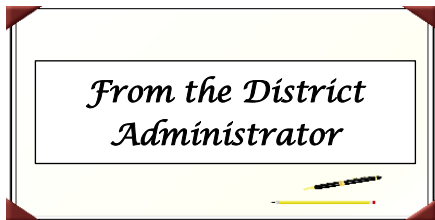
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umpires, if qualified, are encouraged to participate when accompanied by an adults.

### Demand for Umpire Equipment and Uniforms

As no games are being played in nearly every part of the United States at all levels from professional to youth baseball, immediate demand for umpire equipment and uniforms is minimal. Encourage your umpires to consider buying their gear now as many suppliers are holding online sales. If games start to be played again, demand will surge and we might see shortages, especially on apparel much of which comes from suppliers based in Asia.



### Coronavirus Update Information Sites

In an effort to keep all of our leagues with up to the minute information regarding the current conditions of the virus outbreak here are several websites to consider.

#### Contra Costa County

<https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/>

#### Alameda County

<http://www.acphd.org/2019-ncov.aspx>

#### Center for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

#### California Department of Health

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/ncov2019.aspx>

### Little League

<https://littleleague.org/player-Safety/coronavirus-update/>

### D4 League Shutdowns

Below is a list of all leagues following the current shutdown date of May 11<sup>th</sup> recommended by LL headquarters.

I will be sending an update to Headquarters on our current situation.

Thanks for your efforts in these trying times.

#### League

- Alameda
- Albany
- Antioch
- Clayton Valley
- Concord American
- Continental
- East County
- Lafayette
- Martinez
- North/South Oakland
- Pinole Hercules
- Pittsburg
- Richmond
- Walnut Creek

### Interleague Play

A reminder that if your league is involved in Interleague or Interdistrict play you must go onto the data center and complete or begin the appropriate form.

From your home screen click on the manage forms tab. If there are forms to finish it will show you the number waiting for you to complete.

If another league has started a form for their and your league, simply click on the confirm/reject participation button.

If a new form is needed between your league and another simply press the add

new form button at the top of the page. Specify at what level of play is requested and the other leagues you need to play with during the season. Once generated these forms will display for all leagues selected as well as will be seen by the District Administrator.

The following leagues are known to be playing Interleague/Interdistrict in 2020:

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Walnut Creek     | East County     |
| Antioch          | Martinez        |
| Richmond         | Pinole Hercules |
| Pittsburg        | Clayton Valley  |
| Concord American | Continental     |
| Albany           | NOLL/SOLL       |

### Suspended Until Registration Numbers

While all leagues have successfully entered enough players to qualify their ASAP plan, it should be pointed out that every league should make attempts to be sure and include all players in their league. If each team has an average of 12 players then each league should have 12 times the number of teams for a total of players registered with headquarters. Likewise, each league should register their managers and coaches into the registration data. If each team has 3 adults associated with a particular team then 3 times the number of teams would be a correct number of registered adults in the system.

The following league have exceeded registered players for their leagues:

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alameda        | Antioch         |
| Clayton Valley | Pinole Hercules |
| Pittsburg      |                 |

The following leagues have exceeded registered managers/coaches for their leagues:

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Alameda      | East County |
| Walnut Creek |             |

### Background Checks

Although LL has suggested that for each team a league should have 6 checks performed, California District 4 has instituted that that number will be 4 for the 2020 season. In order for your league to qualify or the tournament of champions each league must conduct the



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appropriate number of checks.

### The following leagues have completed 100% for the 2020 season:

Continental	Martinez
Pinole Hercules	Walnut Creek

### The following leagues have completed 75% to 95 %:

Alameda	Antioch
Clayton Valley	Concord American
East County	

### The following leagues have completed 25% to 74%:

Albany	Lafayette
Richmond	

### The following leagues have performed 0%

NOLL/SOLL	Pittsburg
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Please take this down time from our current situation and perform the needed checks for your leagues.

## Tournament Forms

The tournament forms that are due may be emailed to me. If you would prefer, they may be mailed to me at:

5147 Noakes Ct.  
Antioch, 94531

These forms, as well as your District Dues will be due by the end of the month.

## California District 4 Challenger Jamboree

Here are the current guidelines from the Center for Disease Control:

### Guidance as of 3/15/2020

Large events and mass gatherings can contribute to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States via travelers who attend these events and introduce the virus to new communities. Examples of large

events and mass gatherings include conferences, festivals, parades, concerts, sporting events, weddings, and other types of assemblies. These events can be planned not only by organizations and communities but also by individuals.

Therefore, CDC, in accordance with its guidance for large events and mass gatherings, recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers (whether groups or individuals) cancel postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States.

Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing. When feasible, organizers could modify events to be virtual.

This recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning, or businesses. This recommendation is made in an attempt to reduce introduction of the virus into new communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities already affected by the virus. This recommendation is not intended to supersede the advice of local public health officials.

With the above in mind, it is with great sadness that the 2020 Challenger Jamboree has been cancelled. We must make extra efforts to limit the opportunity for infection among our most vulnerable athletes. While there we be much sadness throughout our Challenger community, California District 4 will return our favorite event of the year to the 2021 calendar. Like the Phoenix, we will rise from the ashes to put together an even bigger and better event next year.

Please stay safe!

## FAQs

### How should our league handle our registration fees?

It is our sincere hope that we can find ways to bring everyone back to the Little League fields this season, whether that's later this spring or throughout the summer. We will be providing guidance on how leagues can operate a modified season that could extend into the summer months in flexible fashion for participants. Little League regular season activities can extend throughout the summer and fall. We know that many leagues have already ordered equipment, jerseys, and other associated items for the season. As this situation develops, we would encourage leagues/districts to take this time during the temporary suspension to continue to review league finances, both income and expenses, to determine how much could be allocated to non-refundable expenses, equipment loss, or refunds. Leagues should also assess if any of these non-refundable expenses may be for items that could be used in the future. Issuing refunds or applying registration fees to future seasons should be evaluated as part of the leagues overall budget review. As always, we encourage leagues to be transparent with their finances and explain these expenses to their families.

### What if my school or municipality is suspending activities past May 11?

Little League International strongly advises that local programs follow the guidance of their local authorities, evaluating school district closures, and local health department recommendations before resuming season play. Little League will be considerate of the missed game play opportunities as we establish an interim policy for tournament eligibility for the 2020 tournament season. It is our hope to alleviate any concerns of the impact of



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the situation on the tournament season and that your league and its families can focus on the health and well-being of your community at this time.

We encourage you to stay in touch with Little League and share any additional feedback or questions from your local communities by emailing:

[SeasonUpdate@LittleLeague.org](mailto:SeasonUpdate@LittleLeague.org).

## **How is this going to impact the Little League International Tournament and eligibility?**

Currently, Little League International is working through all possible scenarios for the 2020 Little League International Tournament and tournament eligibility for our leagues and players in our various divisions of play.

## **What should league and district leaders tell parents and fellow volunteers about what our league is doing to protect against the coronavirus?**

We encourage leagues to be honest and upfront with their families, volunteers, sponsors, supporters, and fans. Clearly communicating the actions your leagues are taking, when activities are currently planned to resume, and other best practices is important. We would encourage you to also direct them to the resources available at

[LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus](http://LittleLeague.org/Coronavirus).

It's important to keep your website up to date with your league's latest information, as well as share updates via email and social media.

## **Is the league and/or team manager legally responsible for communicating information to its members about any confirmed cases of coronavirus in the league (players, parents, volunteers)?**

Decisions regarding the management of the local league and the associated communications to the members should be governed by your local league Constitution. In most instances it will be the local league Board of Directors and Officers should decide how and what to communicate with the membership.

## **If a (player or volunteer) in my league is diagnosed with coronavirus, will he/she need a doctor's written permission to return to our league?**

As with any injury or illness, it is a best practice that a player or volunteer be cleared by a medical professional to participate in Little League activities.