



California District 4



March 16, 2021

Volume 30 Issue 4



California 4 Little League

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California D4 Finances

February – March Balance

No Deposits

No Expenses

Balance 36,552.70



Carla Moore – D4 Secretary

Board of Directors Information

Please provide a copy of your league's Board of Directors and their contact information.

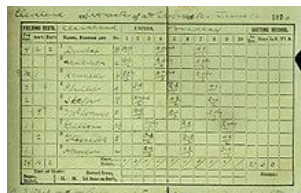
Albany
Lafayette
Pittsburg
Richmond

I will pass this information on to the rest of the District 4 Staff.

Thank you

Post Season Help

I am available to help with Scorekeeping, Announcing and Pitch Count.



**From ADA Challengers,
Stephen Mohammed**

Thank you everyone that sent me prayers and well wishes. I'm home now recuperating from my Stroke. I hope to see you all soon.



From Liz Berg, ADA Safety

**Background Checks!
Medical Release Forms!
COVID Waivers!**

Many of us have found creative ways to get the kids on the field and this week opens up more opportunities for play. This often means more adult helpers to

work with those pods of players. Please be sure that your league has a cleared background check for every adult on the field. Visible volunteer badges are recommended to help league officials quickly identify cleared volunteers and assure the parents that their kids are safe.

Every player, whether assigned to a team or just practicing, must be fully registered and have a completed and signed Medical Release Form. These forms should be at the fields with the players at all times.

Finally, both parents of players and all adult helpers must sign a COVID waiver as well.

Lots of paperwork, but necessary to protect the kids, their families, and your league.



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From Grayson Lawrence,
Volunteer Coordinator

District Volunteer of the Year

As everyone is aware of, Little League is a volunteer organization, from the league board, coaches, umpires and all the way down to team parents. One of the more difficult tasks of running a league is ensuring all jobs are filled through the long Little League season. Finding volunteers who will dedicate their valuable free time to your league is a key responsibility (and hopefully strength) of the board. During the season, certain volunteers in your league will go above and beyond expectations to make a positive impact, whether it be leading a key project, an outstanding coach, or someone who is always available to pinch-hit when you have that last second open slot to fill.

District 4 wants to recognize these individuals. We ask that each league nominate a League Volunteer of the Year in 2021. From the 14 league nominations, the district will choose the District Volunteer of the Year, and that person will be honored at the District 4 Volunteer Dinner in September.

Important: Here is the link to submit your league's [District 4 Volunteer of the Year Nomination](#). Please submit your nomination by May 31st.

Little League Awards Programs

In addition to the District 4 Volunteer of the Year program, Little League also recognizes volunteers through several different awards:

- Volunteer of the Year Award
- Softball Volunteer of the Year

Award

- Challenger Award
- Mom of the Year Award
- Good Sport of the Year Award
- Urban Initiative Volunteer of the Year Award

Your league can nominate volunteers for any or all these awards.

More information can be found at the link [Little League Awards Program](#), including their

[Volunteer and Player Recognition Form](#).

Winners are announced at the Little League World Series in August.



From Jim Rose – Training Coordinator

This March, District 4 will be holding three rules clinics via Zoom on March 17, 24, and 31, from 7-8:30pm. These online clinics replace the in-person clinics that are traditionally held prior to the start of the season. The presentations will include the NEW 2021 rules, general rules instruction, videos that highlight rules, and time for answering questions. These are designed for everyone, including umpires, managers, coaches, parents, players, and league officials. Pre-registration is a must!

There were a number of new rules changes for 2021 and many of them entail local league options. Leagues are encouraged to look over the rule changes and to decide whether they want to institute them or not, and to incorporate them into their local league rules, which should be updated each year.

Rules and Umpire Mechanics Training

Here is a rundown of the online clinics:

For five consecutive Wednesday evenings, beginning March 17, 90 minutes online clinics, 7-8:30pm. They will be a combination of lecture and time for questions and answers.

Rules Clinics:

- March 17th - Session 1 - Rules: Overview, New Rules, Equipment and Safety, Rule 2
- March 24th - Session 2 - Rules 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
- March 31st - Session 3 - Rules 8, 9, Obstruction, and Interference with video examples

Umpire Mechanics Training:

- Session 4 - Umpire Mechanics: Introduction to basic umpire skills and responsibilities, Making Calls as a Base Umpire in a 2 Umpire team on the Small Diamond
- Session 5 - Umpire Mechanics: Plate Umpire Positioning, Calling Strikes and Balls.

Please share with your league volunteers and encourage them to participate. Advance Registration is required, and the Registration link can be found on the District 4 website on the "Umpires" page and on the District 4 Facebook page.

<http://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org/about.html>





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From ADA D4 UIC, Don Waddell

Umpire Recommended Procedures under COVID-19

As we progress ever closer to starting play once again in our leagues, the issue of "what are recommended umpire positioning and mechanics?" becomes a key decision.

Here are our recommendations for you to consider including in your plans for how to umpire the games:

1. Our overall advice is to incorporate safeguards around umpire exposure risks (both to the umpire and from the umpire) into your overall League COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Plan which should be integral to your overall League Safety Plan. Reliance upon guidance from the California Department of Public Health contained in its Youth Sports Guidelines is your best resource.

[Youth Sports Guidelines](#) – Link

2. Your safeguards should require umpires to self-monitor their health prior to coming to the ball field, and not report if feeling ill. Consider having a screening process for the umpires when they arrive with temperature checks and other health checks by a qualified person.

3. Consistent with the State guidelines, umpires should be wearing a mask throughout their time on the field, and of course while they are at your league complex.

4. Umpires should visually inspect the players' equipment prior to the game. Instruct your managers to have the equipment out of the dugout and well organized in such a way that umpires can by sight determine the condition. The

umpire should not touch the equipment unless absolutely necessary to inspect for damage, and then the use of hand sanitizer by the umpire should be required.

5. Plate Meetings with the Managers should be held prior to the start of the game to receive lineups and discuss any game issues. Social distancing should be practiced at this meeting, and face coverings should be worn.

6. The Plate Umpire can position themselves where your league has determined it is both safe and appropriate. Some leagues are opting to place the Plate Umpire behind the pitcher, others are placing them in the traditional position behind the catcher. Note that neither may provide good social distancing, while one may "look" more distanced than the other. However, since umpires should be using face coverings you can satisfy the concerns over closer exposure in either spot.

7. We recommend keeping your umpire mechanics simple and generally consistent with traditional mechanics and duties, regardless of where you position the Plate Umpire. If you have two umpires, keeping them, both involved in managing the entire field is important. Generally, the Plate Umpire should be making all calls on Fly Balls in the outfield, and the Base Umpire should be positioned to be able to make calls on the bases after the ball is hit. The best example to concern yourself with is on a fly ball to the outfield, the Plate Umpire will be focused on Catch/No Catch or Out of Field of Play situations. The Base Umpire can focus on plays on the Batter Runner and other Runners that might result from following plays, including not only Safe/Out, Interference and Obstruction, etc. As well, other things are happening on the field during action such as players coming out dugouts, balls thrown to unexpected bases that result in

out of play situations, injuries, etc. which need to be monitored, even when behind the umpire. Whatever you do, keep in mind that generally you are involving inexperienced umpires who might not do as you script the mechanics, but all the plays need to be covered.

8. Umpire Equipment sharing should be very limited, if at all. You must have a procedure in place, with assigned persons responsible, to sanitize any shared equipment after each game. This includes all of the protective equipment including masks, leg guards, indicators, brushes, etc. You should keep a log in your Umpire Room or Umpire Gear Box that records the sanitizing steps, who performed, when, and what. Consider issuing equipment to those umpires who will be doing several games.



Rule Books

Printed Rule Books are available on the Little League Store in limited quantities. Chartered leagues should have received some as well. We recommend that your participants download the Little League Rule Books app, available for both iOS and Android. The app has a small one-time cost and is updated automatically with rule changes and other information. This season the app also includes all the rule changes for 2021, as well as updated Little League Operating Policies, and the Right Call rules casebook.