



California District 4

September 19, 2023

Volume 33 Issue 1



California 4 Little League

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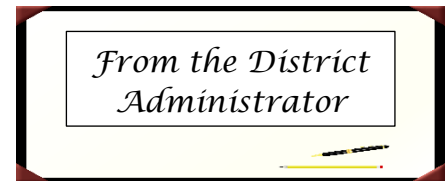


California D4 Finances

May - September Balance

Beginning Balance	\$56,077.61
Verification Supplies	151.20
Printer Ink <small>(TOC and All Star Brackets)</small>	123.77
Challenger Donations <small>(Oakland & Walnut Creek)</small>	2000.00
Wally's for Jamboree	2831.22
March Dinner	558.57
Claude McPhee Plaque	92.44
West Region Pins	2380.17
8-10 Pins	644.69
Pin Sales	559.41
June Bank Fee	6.00
Donation for Don Goodman	200.00
Printing – Line up Cards	573.56
May Dinner	971.07
West Region Tournament Supplies	15.35
West Region Tournament Meeting Refreshments	101.47
West Region Donations	3600.00
West Region Tournament Compensation from LL HQ	5000.00
Verification Day Meals For D4 Staff	567.40
2024 Roundtable Hotel	1792.17
West Region Tournament Badges & Lanyards	726.31
West Region Tournament Banners	229.44
July Bank Fee	3.00
West Region Tournament Gate, Raffle, Snack Bar – paid by Credit Card	4021.11
August Bank Fee	3.00
West Region Tournament T-Shirt Sales	1177.00
West Region Tournament 50/50 Sales	1145.00
West Region Tournament Gate Sales	4625.00
West Region Tournament Printing of Brackets	24.10

West Region Tournament Hospitality	4614.86
West Region Tournament Expenses	11186.79
West Region Tournament Meeting Room	250.00
Thank you, gifts to West Region San Bernardino	300.00
DA Travel – (Softball West Region)	989.43
DA Travel – (Baseball West Region)	1046.27
Zoom Renewal	299.80
Storage for D4 Supplies September	318.68
DA Travel – (BB LL World Series)	1976.67
Ending Balance	45,227.70



Little League Softball turns 50!

Little League softball celebrates 50 years in the 2024 season. To celebrate the occasion Little League has created a new Girls with Game 50th logo.

Watch for more announcements and celebrations for the 50th year of Little League Softball throughout 2024.

If your league has a softball program, make it a point to let your members know that Little League is proud of its softball history. Take every opportunity to expand your program. For those that wish, you can have a separate tee ball program just for them. During this past season we only had 6 softball tee ball teams in the District. Most of this is due to the fact that most leagues find it easier to combine the boys and girls to play all as part of the baseball tee ball program. You may find you may get more girls to join the league if you have a girl only program.



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Congratulations to the 2023 District 4 TOC Winners

AA Baseball	Walnut Creek
AAA Baseball	Lafayette
Major Baseball	Alameda
50/70 Baseball	Alameda
Junior Baseball	North Oakland/South Oakland
Minor Softball	East County
Major Softball	Walnut Creek
Senior Softball	East County

Congratulations to the 2023 District 4 All Star Champions

8-10 Baseball	Lafayette
8-10 Future BB	Lafayette
9-11 Baseball	Lafayette
9-11 Future BB	Alameda
Little League Baseball	Alameda
50/70 Baseball	Alameda
Junior Baseball	North Oakland/South Oakland
Senior Baseball	North Oakland/South Oakland
8-10 Softball	East County
9-11 Softball	Richmond
Little League Softball	East County
Junior Softball	Walnut Creek
Senior Softball	East County

Lafayette 9-11 Baseball captured the Section 1 tournament and advanced to the Northern California Championships where they placed 3rd.

North Oakland/South Oakland Senior Baseball competed in the West Region Tournament and placed 2nd losing the championship game to Hawaii.

Bouncing Back

All leagues were devastated by the pandemic of 2020. In the year (2021) following Covid the District saw a loss of 26% of the players from the year prior to the outbreak. Our local leagues saw a drop-off of between 13% and 42%. The District in 2019 had over 7000 children participating in Little League. The year after Covid the number was down to 5000.

2022 saw an uptick of 18% across the District and in 2023 the District saw an additional increase of 7%. By the end of this past season, we have seen numbers rise to 6500 players.

The District's high water mark over the past 16 seasons was 2016 when we had over 7500 players participating.

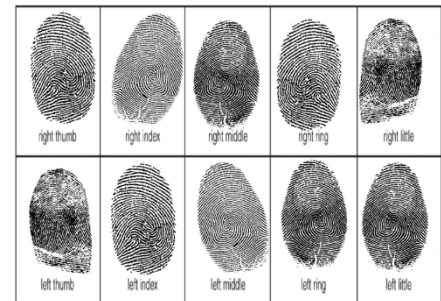
If the District can see a 7% growth this coming season, we can come close to recuperating all of the losses due to Covid.

Reach out to all of your local schools and fellow youth organizations to spread the word about your programs. Consider adding a program you currently do not offer. There is a great opportunity to add a Senior Baseball program in 2024. Senior players DO NOT need to participate in a regular season. This allows a Junior Varsity team from one of your local schools to enter our postseason tournament. The winner of our postseason tournament automatically advances to the Western Region Tournament. The runner up of the District Tournament would advance to the section tournament with a chance to continue their march to the Western Region Tournament.

Also, look to expand your tee ball programs. There are no more enthusiastic parents than those of these young athletes. They also tend to be some of the best volunteers. Another great aspect of tee ball is that there is no

need for umpires, games are generally an hour long, and everyone goes home happy (provided the snacks are not forgotten).

Finally, if you do not have a Challenger program you are missing out on some of the most joyous kids to play all of sport.



Is your league ready for AB 506?

On January 1, 2024 all youth sports organizations in the state of California must begin compliance with AB 506. This law was originally set to go into effect in 2022, but due to overwhelming demand on the California Department of Justice the implementation was delayed until this coming January. The law mandates that all volunteers within your league have their fingerprints taken and have their background checks performed.

Do not put your league at financial risk for failing to comply with the new law. All board members in a given league could be held personally liable for any future lawsuit brought against a league and an individual who is accused and convicted of a sexual offense.

Perform due diligence and have your league and all volunteers take care of this responsibility.

For more information in regard to AB 506 please refer to the 2024 District 4 training manual. (pg. 96)



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A letter from Pat Wilson to all local leagues.

In an effort to keep local league/district informed about any major changes that will affect our overall Little League® operations, we wanted to provide an update relating to our long-standing relationship with AIG Insurance for our local league insurance program.

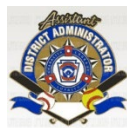
After receiving notice from AIG earlier this summer, we were advised that they will not be renewing some of our insurance policies for the 2024 term (1/1/2024 effective dates). At this time, the policies being non-renewed are the following: League General Liability (GL), District General Liability, and League Crime. However, AIG will continue to provide Accident Insurance Coverage and Directors & Officers (D&O) policies for the local leagues under our existing program. As a reminder, your current insurance policies through Little League's insurance program are in effect through December 31, 2023.

Since receiving this news, we have been working diligently to fill these gaps with other insurance carriers. It is our goal for a seamless transition to another carrier so that most importantly, our local leagues are not affected and are

able to utilize the best insurance program to support their Little League program at an affordable cost.

Your league will be receiving a notice of non-renewal letter from AIG in the near future relating to these policies. You do not need to take any action once you receive that notice. As soon as a new insurance carrier is in place, you will receive information from us on how to proceed to enroll in insurance coverage for the 2024 season, and we are committed to communicating with you throughout this process, including any potential implications to chartering for the 2024 season and the ASAP program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact [Little League Support](#).



From ADA, Geoff Shiu

Thank You for an exciting 2023 season and welcome to the 2024 Season.

Imagine how strong your league would be if there were more informed volunteers to run your various programs.

I'm asking all leagues to "Double Up" this season.

We can start by inviting another volunteer to accompany a league officer or director when performing a duty or attending a meeting. This will help ensure more than one person will receive important information and there will be more leaders to share new information with the membership. The more members informed... the stronger the league.



From Jim Rose – Training Coordinator and Asst. UIC Softball

As we begin year of Little League, know that training in rules is already scheduled for all divisions of baseball and softball. These Rules Trainings are designed especially for umpires, managers, and coaches. Please let your League UICs and all managers and coaches know of these opportunities. And, as in the past, they will be recorded and made available on the California District 4 Little League YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@CAD4>.

This coming season we will be running a four-part Basic Rules Clinics designed specifically for rules basic to Little League baseball and softball, with a focus on Minor and Major Division Baseball. Those will be presented from 7-8:30pm on Zoom on four, successive Thursdays: February 8, 15, 22, and 29, 2024. District 4 will also put on an in-person Softball Rules Clinic for umpires, managers, and coaches, on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:30pm at the UC Extension Office. One more Rules Clinic will cover Teenage Baseball and will be on Zoom at 7pm on Wednesday, February 21, 2024



Presidents, please e-mail your league's 2024 Board of Directors to me at:

Sewcarla2@gmail.com.

I will forward them to the District 4 Staff.



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From ADA D4 UIC, Don Waddell

"Fall Ball for Blues" Monthly umpire online meetings happening

In each month this Fall the District 4 Staff Umpires will be hosting an online umpire meeting we are calling "Fall Ball for Blues". Zoom meetings, lasting about 90 minutes and are open to all umpires and any other interested League volunteers. Topics for the sessions will include updates on Little League Umpire training programs and interviews with guest umpires from around the Western Region. The highlight of these meetings will be a video review of plays from the recently completed Little League Baseball and Softball World Series with emphasis on Little League rule interpretations and proper umpire mechanics. We want these monthly meetings to be a way for your league volunteer umpires to stay connected throughout the Fall and be ready for action as the season starts early next year. Our first Fall Ball for Blues is Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. Advance registration is required and can be done via the link on the District 4 Umpire Training webpage: [Fall Ball for Blues Registration](#)

Thank You for Tournament Umpire Support

All of our Future Stars, TOC and All Star teams owe a big Thank You to all of the leagues in District 4 that provided umpires for the Tournament of Champions and All Star tournaments. All 12 of our active District 4 leagues provided some 86

individual umpires, covering some 505 umpire spots! This is a 15% increase from participation in 2022! This great turnout provided quality umpiring for every game which made for a smoothly run tournament. In addition, these 86 District 4 umpires were excited to be part of the action and continue their volunteer service to Little League.

The following umpires need to be recognized for their individual contributions during the tournament season:

Jim Rose, Martinez LL 35 games
 Norm Downing Pittsburg LL 28 games
 Matt Avery Pinole Hercules LL 27 games
 Ed Newbegin Walnut Creek LL 26 games
 Eric Howard Martinez LL 22 games
 Laura Peterson Albany LL 21 games

In addition, we need to recognize several outstanding youth umpires who were very active:

Miles Palafax, Walnut Creek LL 6 games
 Caleb Narin Alameda LL 5 games
 Kyker Christensen Walnut Creek LL 5 games



Little League Challenger



From ADA Challengers, Stephen Mohammed

Welcome to our 2023-2024 season, I'm looking forward to another great year of Challenger Baseball. Can you please get Carla and myself your VP of Challenger contact info. See you soon!



ADA LL Baseball, Geoff Shiu

League Presidents... looking forward to another successful Little League Baseball Interleague Season.

Having leaders in participating leagues well informed is vital.

Please forward me contact information for the league officers responsible for Little League Baseball in your league.

Complete Name...

Email Address...

Cell Number...



From ADA Big Diamond Baseball, Grayson Lawrence

I am the returning as the Big Diamond ADA for the upcoming 2023-24 season. Big Diamond, also known as Teenage Baseball, comprises three Little League divisions:

- Intermediate (AKA 50/70): ages 11-13
- Junior League: ages 12-14
- Senior League: ages 13-16

At this point, please provide me the Big Diamond contact(s) for your league so we can begin to coordinate and organize the upcoming season at the district level. Please provide these contacts by the October D4 board meeting. If your league is not planning on offering teenage baseball or combining with another league, please let me know also.

I look forward to a great season!