



January 16, 2024

California District 4

Volume 33 Issue 4



California 4 Little League

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California D4 Finances

September Balance

Beginning Balance \$36,944.88

League Dues: PHLL,CALL,ALL **10,252.00**

Donation to West Region for **100.00**

Roundtables

October Dinner **979.04**

Volunteer Dinner **1,835.17**

DA Travel Fund **100.00**

Bank Fee **3.00**

Website **59.99**

Volunteer Awards **840.30**

Roundtable Registration **564.30**

Ending Balance 42,715.08



From ADA, Geoff Shiu

League Presidents...

Make sure your League Insurance is in effect for 2024 to ensure volunteers, players, and membership are covered for all Little League events as you start the new season.

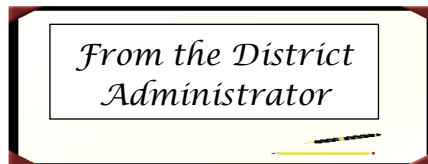
Managers/Coaches/Umpires are appointed by You... the President... for the Board of Directors to approve each season.

Previous appointment approvals are only valid for that season and terminate at the completion of that season.

Record all appointment approvals in Board meeting minutes.

Suggest all presidents have a League Chief Umpire as a voting member of their Board of Directors!

Suggest all presidents to monitor board positions to ensure there is not a majority of voting managers and coaches on the board.



2024 Lewis Cup Award

Alameda 800

Pinole Hercules 800

Clayton Valley 700

Concord American 600

Lafayette 600

Martinez 600

Richmond 600

Walnut Creek 600

East County 500

North Oakland/South Oakland 500

Albany 400

Pittsburg 300



**From ADA Challengers,
Stephen Mohammed**

Welcome to our 2024 season, I'm looking forward to another season of Challenger Baseball. Our first meeting is set for Tuesday, January 23rd by Zoom, if you don't have a VP of your Challenger division would you please attend the meeting. If you have a new VP, would you please send their information to Carla Moore and to me. Our Jamboree is set for Sunday, April 28th, at Heather Farms. I'd like to thank Andy Ratchford, Skip Tague and Colby Powell of Lafayette Little League for getting us a \$1000.00 donation for our Jamboree.



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From ADA D4 UIC, Don Waddell

Umpire Mechanics Clinic Set for February 25th

Our umpire mechanics clinic is scheduled for February 25th at Pinole Hercules LL fields. This clinic is now an official West Region Outreach Clinic as we have partnered with the Region Umpire staff to enhance the training opportunity. Details on how to register are on the flyer which is attached to this newsletter.

Final Call for Providing Assistance at Your League Basic Umpire Clinic

If your league wants to run a Basic Umpire Clinic for your volunteers but you are not sure how to get it organized we can help. The District 4 Staff will help you design the proper clinic, provide some training equipment if needed, and help staff your clinic with instructors. This clinic is typically the introduction to umpiring on the 60-foot diamond for your new volunteer umpires. The clinic is to be run inside your league to meet the needs of your umpires. If interested, you need to contact Candido Anicete now as dates are filling up.

Reminder on Umpire Approval and Use of Paid Umpires

All umpires who provide repetitive service to your league must be appointed by the League President and approved by the Board of Directors by vote at a board meeting. The process must include the individual completing a volunteer application and approval procedure, including the needed criminal background checks performed. Approval is not transferable League to League, so make sure those umpires from other leagues are approved. Umpires assigned from an non-Little League organized association, even if paid, must also go

rough the approval process. Do not rely upon the assignor telling you he performed the background check. We recommend you have a written contract with the assignor, laying out game rate, payment methods, etc. If you choose to hire umpires, this is a business relationship and should be handled as such. If you are paying umpires, we suggest your Board address issues related to employment, taxation and insurance, consistent California law regarding classification of youth sports officials as independent contractors and/or employees. If an individual who performs umpire duties is under control of the League which dictates and provides uniforms, location and time of work, specific training on local conditions, and is subject to suspension by the Board, they may be considered an employee. While youth sports officials may be exempt from workman's compensation, being an employee subjects the league to wage schedule concerns such as allowable hours, overtime, work permits for youth, etc. Also, IRS Rules might require tax withholding and other payments. Even if deemed to be Independent Contractors you may have 1099 payment reporting requirements if you pay an assignor or directly to an umpire. We recommend your Board get advice from your league CPA or others. Remember that Little League accident and general liability insurance is for volunteers, not for employees.

How to Find More Adult Volunteer Umpires

Leagues often struggle with finding enough umpires to make for quality games during the season. To meet your needs for the developmental levels of play, look to asking your parents and other adults to get trained as an umpire and help out. Remember that at the Minor Baseball and Softball levels much of the duties of the umpire are ensuring safety during the game, judging plays and

applying rules for fairness, and encouraging players as they learn the game. Some ideas on how to identify and recruit more adult volunteer umpires:

- Promote being an umpire as one of the key volunteer service roles in your league, right up there with coaching, scorekeeping, field preparation, etc. Recognize the time spent as an umpire when rewarding your volunteers.
- Make it an expectation that each team provide two volunteer adults who will umpire at least 4 games during the season. Make it clear that they will not umpire their own child's game so they can always be there to watch. If every team uses this approach, you can cover almost half the umpire needs for the season.
- Once identified, quickly get those umpires trained. Hold your training clinic before the start of games, or send them to the District Umpire Clinic.
- Provide a basic uniform of shirt and cap to be worn as an umpire.
- Have a leader in your league keep track of how many of your trained adults are actually signed up to work games. Too often we get volunteers trained but they never work a game.
- Pair up adults and youth umpires in a game. Let the experienced youth do the plate umpire role, but remind the adult umpire they are responsible adults in the game.
- Have the League Chief Umpire observe the adult umpires and provide feedback.
- Thank them for volunteering for a role that most adults do not want to do. Recognition events like dinners are a great way to show thanks. Having them out on the field at your closing ceremony is another good way to visibly thank your umpires.





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**From Jim Rose – Training Coordinator
and Asst. UIC Softball**

Every year, District 4 holds a series of rules clinics for our umpires, managers, coaches, and staff. These clinics are highly recommended and will prepare one for the coming 2024 Little League season. The clinics are PowerPoint presentations with video examples to highlight rules.

Basic Rules Clinic #1:

Thursday, February 8, 7-8:15pm via Zoom.
Covers New 2024 Rules, Regulations and Rules 1 and 2—Safety, Mandatory Play, Decorum, Equipment, and Definitions.

Basic Rules Clinic #2:

Thursday, February 15, 7-8:15pm via Zoom
Covers Rules 2-7—Definitions, Beginning and Ending the Game, Batters and Runners.

Basic Rules Clinic #3:

Thursday, February 22, 7-8:15pm via Zoom.
Covers Base Awards, and Obstruction and Interference.

Basic Rules Clinic #4:

Thursday, February 29, 7-8:15pm via Zoom.
Covers Rules 8 and 9—The Pitcher and Umpire, and Review of District 4 Minor and Major Divisions Baseball Interleague Rules.

Teenage Baseball Clinic:

February 21, 7-8:30pm via Zoom.
Covers rules specific to Intermediate and Junior Divisions in baseball and District 4 Interleague rules.

Softball Rules Clinic:

February 26, 6:30-8:30, UC Extension Office, 2380 Bisso Lane, Concord.

Covers rules specific to softball, such as equipment, pitching, the circle, double first base, and District 4 Interleague rules.

The four, Basic Rules Clinics and the Teenage Baseball clinic require pre-registration. Go to the home page for District 4 for the link:

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

Softball Rules Clinic requires no registration; just show up.

In addition, if a League wants a separate Zoom or in-person clinic for their coaches and managers (for example, game management, interleague rules, common safety issues, etc.), please contact Jim Rose at jrose001@aol.com or call (925) 348-0734.



**From ADA Big Diamond Baseball,
Grayson Lawrence**

Here are some pre-season key dates:

2/15/24 7pm (Thu):

50/70 and Juniors Scheduling Meeting

Location: UC Extension,
[2380 Bisso Lane, Concord](#)

Attendees: Managers for each team, or a rep who can schedule games on behalf

2/21/24 7pm (Wed):

Teenage Baseball Rules Clinic

Location: Zoom meeting
Please register at this link:
[Teenage Baseball Rules Clinic](#)

Attendees: At least 1 manager/coach from each teenage baseball team in the District



Little League



From ADA LL Baseball, Geoff Shiu

Welcome League Presidents to 2024.

Hope all have recovered from the busy holidays and eager for another successful season.

At this time you may have a general idea the number of teams for your Little League Baseball Major and Minor Divisions.

Please keep me updated on your status of teams... and if you wish to participate in CA4 LLB Interleague Programs.

Please also forward me contact information (email & cell#) for your Baseball VP and LLB division player agents.

A CA4 LLB Interleague Organizational and Scheduling Meeting is planned for Tuesday, 7pm, February 13th, UC Office, 2380 Bisso Lane, Concord for leagues interested in CA4 Interleague Programs. Liz Berg, CA4 Interleague Scheduler, will be in attendance.

Leagues interested in Interleague **must** attend and have regular season open dates available for scheduling games.

Each league... please have at least **two** league representatives attend this meeting.



WEST REGION UMPIRE OUTREACH CLINIC 2024

California District 4 Outreach Clinic

When:

Sunday, February 25 -
8:30am - 5:00pm
(8:30 check in, lunch provided)

Where:

Pinole Hercules Little
League fields,
Ellerhorst Elementary
School
3501 Pinole Valley Road
Pinole, CA 94564

What:

This Clinic will cover:

- Concepts and Philosophy of the Little League Umpire
- Field Mechanics and Positioning
- Plate Mechanics
- Timing and Communication
- Game Management and Handling Conflicts

This is an active on-field clinic using a 60-foot Little League field.

Clinic Registration:

<https://CAD4OutreachClinic.eventbrite.com>

Cost: District 4 students – No Charge*

Non- District 4 students - \$25

**D4 students are eligible for reduced fee, contact your League UIC for Promo Code. You must register!*

Number of Students is limited to 60

You Must Preregister for this Clinic – No Walk ups!

For Questions, contact:

Don Waddell,
llcad4uic@gmail.com
CA D4 Umpire in Chief





Little League International

2024 International Tournament Calendar

For Little League® program's planning purposes only. Actual tournament dates are set for the host.
District Administrators should contact their Region office for any modifications.

Little League Softball®

CENTRAL	EAST	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WEST
District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27
Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3
State: 7/4–7/18	State: 7/4–7/18	State: 7/4–7/18	State: 7/4–7/18	State: 7/4–7/18
Region: 7/21–7/26	Region: 7/21–7/26	Region: 7/21–7/26	Region: 7/22–7/25	Region: 7/20–7/26
World Series: 8/4–8/11	World Series: 8/4–8/11	World Series: 8/4–8/11	World Series: 8/4–8/11	World Series: 8/4–8/11
	Mid-Atlantic Region New England Region	Southeast Region North Carolina Region		Northwest Region West Region

Little League Baseball®

CENTRAL	EAST	SOUTHEAST	SOUTHWEST	WEST
District: 6/21–7/11	District: 6/21–7/11	District: 6/21–7/11	District: 6/21–7/11	District: 6/21–7/11
Section: 7/11–7/17	Section: 7/11–7/17	Section: 7/11–7/17	Section: 7/11–7/17	Section: 7/11–7/17
State: 7/18–8/1	State: 7/18–8/1	State: 7/18–7/30	State: 7/18–7/30	State: 7/18–8/1
Region: 8/2–8/9	Region: 8/3–8/9	Region: 8/1–8/7	Region: 8/1–8/6	Region: 8/2–8/8
World Series: 8/14–8/25	World Series: 8/14–8/25	World Series: 8/14–8/25	World Series: 8/14–8/25	World Series: 8/14–8/25
Great Lakes Region Midwest Region	Metro Region Mid-Atlantic Region New England Region			Mountain Region Northwest Region West Region

Teenage Divisions

INT. 50/70	JUNIOR BASEBALL	JUNIOR SOFTBALL	SENIOR BASEBALL	SENIOR SOFTBALL
District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27	District: 6/14–6/27
Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3	Section: 6/28–7/3
State: 7/4–7/17	State: 7/4–7/19	State: 7/4–7/17	State: 7/4–7/17	State: 7/4–7/17
Region: 7/18–7/25	Region: 7/20–7/27	Region: 7/18–7/24	Region: 7/18–7/23	Region: 7/18–7/26
World Series: 7/28–8/4	World Series: 8/4–8/11	World Series: 7/28–8/3	World Series: 7/27–8/3	World Series: 7/29–8/4

8-10-Year-Old and 9-11-Year-Old **Baseball** and **Softball** District, Section, and State Tournament dates:

District: 6/14–6/27 | Section: 6/28–7/3 | State: 7/4–7/17