



California District 4

February 17, 2026

Volume 35 Issue 5



California 4 Little League

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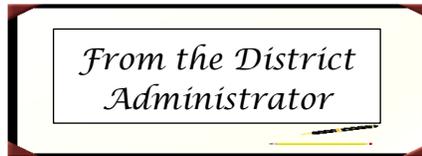
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California D4 Finances

October - January Balance

Beginning Balance	\$60,346.44
Congress Travel for Staff	3600.00
Lewis Cup Awards: Martinez	1,000.00
Lewis Cup Awards: Pinole Hercules	500.00
Lewis Cup Awards: Alameda	250.00
January Dinner	36.66
West DA Travel Fund	100.00
Ending Balance	\$ 54,859.78



2026 Lewis Cup Award

Martinez	1542
Richmond	1532
North Oakland/South Oakland	1332
Concord American	1331
Pinole Hercules	1253
Walnut Creek	1188
Alameda	1050
East County	1024
Berkeley Albany	980
Pittsburg National	973
Clayton Valley	931
Lafayette	834



Action Required:

Data Center Updates & Boundary Checks

To All League Presidents:

Please ensure you are checking the **Data Center** regularly. Many leagues currently have outstanding forms that require immediate completion—particularly those regarding **Combined Team Play**.

As a reminder:

- Out-of-Boundary Requests:**
All requests must be submitted through the Data Center.
- Registration Audits:**
It is never too early to review your registration data. Please verify that all players reside within your established league boundaries.
- Tournament Eligibility:**
Any player found to be out of boundary without an approved waiver is **NOT eligible** for All-Star tournament play.

Accuracy now prevents heartbreak during the post-season. If you have questions regarding a specific player's eligibility, please address them as soon as possible.

Important:

Upcoming Deadlines for the March Meeting

As we approach our March meeting, please remember that the following items are due:

- 2026 League Dues**
- Tournament Team Requests**
(for post-season play)
- Tournament Hosting Requests**

Submit Early

We encourage you to submit these in advance to help us streamline the process.

- Email Requests:**



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Please send Tournament Team and Hosting requests to llcad4da@gmail.com.

• **Mail Checks:**

Dues should be made payable to **CA D4** and mailed to:

Ted Boet 5147 Noakes Ct. Antioch, CA 94531

News from the Field:

Our Trip to Indianapolis

Last week, the District staff traveled to **Indianapolis**, where we gathered vital information regarding the future of **Little League**. This trip provided us with key insights into upcoming changes, safety standards, and the roadmap for the seasons ahead.

With that in mind, we will provide a **full report** and presentation during our next in-person meeting in **March**. We look forward to sharing our "Indy story" and discussing how these updates will benefit our local leagues.

The Most Important Play Happens Off the Field

In Little League, the most critical play isn't made on the diamond—it's made in the front office. Mandatory background checks for volunteers are our primary line of defense in ensuring a safe environment for our young athletes.

It is more important than ever that we take this process seriously. In California alone, over 1,000 new lawsuits have been filed against school districts and counties in the last year, many involving coaches, counselors, and volunteers. Several youth programs have reached record-breaking settlements recently—some exceeding

\$10 million. These cases serve as a "bellwether" for youth sports; they demonstrate that California juries are increasingly holding organizations liable for the actions of their volunteers.

The Impact of SB 848 A new law (SB 848), set to go into full effect in July 2026, is already driving a wave of preventative litigation. Law firms are targeting youth organizations that have failed to update their screening protocols to meet these higher safety standards. For a California Little League board, a one-time background check is no longer enough to meet the legal "standard of care." Without rigorous vetting and training protocols, a league is effectively defenseless in a civil lawsuit.

Protecting Our Future Parents trust us to keep their children safe. We cannot let our guard down because the process feels "too hard." We must do it because it is the right thing to do. Do not let your league become a harbor for individuals who put children at risk.

Need Assistance? If you need help with your screening process, please reach out to District Safety Officer **Michele Vierra** for guidance.

It is always better to go above and beyond with background checks—including Live Scan—than to face a devastating lawsuit. Remember, we are here for the children. We must do whatever is necessary to protect them and their futures.



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

Key Dates: Here are some key upcoming dates. Please share with those in your league that need to attend.

50/70 and Juniors Scheduling Meeting

- Date: 2/19/26 (Thu) at 7:00pm
- Location: UC Extension, [2380 Bisso Lane, Concord](#)
- Attendees: Managers for each team, or a rep who can schedule games on behalf

Teenage Baseball Rules Clinic

- Date: 2/24/26 (Tue) at 7:00pm
- Location: Zoom meeting. [Sign up link](#), as pre-registration is required
- **Attendees:** At least 1 manager/coach from each teenage baseball team in the District

Reminders for the upcoming 50/70 and Juniors season:

- The [D4 Teenage Baseball Page](#) will be updated with links to schedules, contacts, and interleague rules.
- Games are played under the official Little League rules as indicated in the 2026 Little League Baseball Rules and Regulations and District 4 Interleague rules. No individual league's "local" rules will apply and no "manager agreements" will be allowed to change or modify these rules.
- Games between teams from different districts require approval from Little League (games between D4 leagues do not require approval). If your team has these types of games, please submit your inter-district requests through the



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Little League Data Center website.

- The home team is responsible for providing two umpires for each game, one of which needs to be at least 18 years of age. Strongly encourage volunteer umpires.
- Ensure your teenage baseball fields have break-away bases. We typically see this issue when teenage baseball teams are playing at high schools.
- Have fun!



**From ADA Safety Officer,
Michele Vierra**

Thank you to all leagues that have completed their SAFE to Play Overviews for the 2026 season.

There are a couple leagues who have started and not completed, and one league who hasn't even started yet. If you need help with it or have any questions, please reach out to me (email and phone are on the front page), I am happy to walk you through it.

When doing your SAFE plans, please make sure to fill out the field surveys completely! The Post Season Directors use them to find fields for post season play. You can go back into your SAFE plan and make changes/updates to the fields if needed.

Remember that every Volunteer that is with children must complete a background

check. Minimum to be completed is 4 Volunteers per team. Some leagues have not even started, please make sure to complete ASAP.

Along with Background Checks is the training that needs to be completed by Managers and Coaches. Abuse Awareness, Safety Awareness, First Aid Awareness and Diamond Leader.



**From Post Season Director,
Don Waddell**

As leagues get your fields ready for start of games, please keep in mind the needs we have for tournament fields. Of course you will address all the items found during Facility Surveys, but don't forget plans for bleachers, new Flag Poles, Outfield Fencing and Scoreboards. As we went around looking at your fields, we found many locations with Damaged Backstop Fences and Boards which are a Safety Hazard and worn-out Home Plates. If you are planning to use the Double Safety Base on the 1st, remember that not all base anchors systems are the same. Your double base should not swivel or move once installed - if it does you need to install the proper anchor. Look at Rogers Bases setup, the only LL licensed safety bases.

Have a great Opening Day!



**From ADA LL Baseball,
Liz Berg**

The scheduling meeting for interleague play for the Little League Baseball divisions will be on Thursday, February 19th at 7pm. Please have a representative for each division come. Be prepared with dates, times, and fields to be used.



**From ADA Challengers,
Stephen Mohammed**

Hello Everyone,

1. We need your **Team Rosters** as soon as possible.
2. Please send me the kids shirt sizes (Check the size tag on the shirt they are wearing) so that we can order the Challenger Jamboree shirts.
3. We're asking the leagues to Donate funds to help with our 25th Anniversary of the Challenger Jamboree.

Thank you



**From ADA Little League Softball,
Phil Raines**

Softball Rules Meeting

Monday, February 23rd, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Location: 2380 Bisso Ln, Concord

If you have any questions, please send me a Text: 925.270.9905



From ADA D4 UIC & Training Coordinator, Jim Rose

Umpire Mechanics Clinics

We will be holding our one-day, District 4 Umpire Mechanics Clinic at Ellerhorst Elementary School in Pinole on Sunday, February 22 for adult and youth umpires. The clinic is now filled, but there is a waitlist. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/district-4-umpire-clinic-for-youth-and-adults-february-22-2026-registration-1979199925255?aff=oddtcreator>. District 4 will also be participating in the one-day, Section One Little League Outreach Clinic in Benicia on March 15. Register for that clinic at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/little-league-outreach-umpire-clinic-benicia-ca-tickets-1979130770411?aff=oddtcreator>

District 4 Umpire Training Staff conducted a mechanics clinic for 95 Walnut Creek umpires on February 1. We will also be running clinics for Lafayette on February 21, Berkeley-Albany, Richmond, and NOLL/SOLL on February 28, and Concord American on March 1.

Coaches Clinics

Two Leagues, Walnut Creek and Richmond have, or will have, District 4 put on Manager and Coach clinics. These clinics are designed to prepare the coaches and managers for what to expect during games and to acquaint them with interleague rules and expectations.

District 4 Rules Clinics

Two of the four Zoom Basic Rules Clinics have been held with a total attendance of over 185. The clinics cover basic rules for all divisions of baseball and softball. The first two were recorded and can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/@CAD4>. The final two will on Wednesday, February 18 and 25, 7-8:30pm. Registration is required and can be found at: <https://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org/about>

District 4 is also running a Zoom Teenage Baseball Rules Clinic. It will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 7-8:30. Register at: <https://www.californiadistrict4littleleague.org/about>

We also will be running an in-person Softball Rules Clinic for managers, coaches and umpires on Monday, February 24, 6:30-8:30, UC Extension Office, 2380 Bisso Ln., Concord. No registration is required

2026 Interleague Rules

District 4 Interleague rules for all softball divisions and 60-foot and teenage baseball divisions for 2026 are now posted on the District 4 website.

The 2026 Season

Hopefully, all the Leagues have now established how their games will be umpired during the coming regular season. Interleague schedules are being drawn up, regular season games are getting scheduled, and all of these will need umpires. Please contact me if you want to discuss strategies for filling these games.

Also, many Leagues will be using youth umpires. Two things to remember if this is part of your umpiring strategy. First, many Interleague games require either adults or youth who are at least sixteen-years old. Interleague Teenage baseball and Small Diamond baseball each requires at least one adult on a game. Senior Softball Interleague requires two adults, Interleague Major Softball contains a preference for adult umpires or youth sixteen-years or older, and Interleague Minor Softball contains a preference for anyone sixteen-years or older. Second, if there are only youth used on a game, there must be an adult Game Coordinator (Rule 9.03(d)) for that particular game and field. It also cannot be someone working the game in a different capacity, such as a scorekeeper, coach, or snack shack worker. For a YouTube video produced by District 4 on the role and responsibilities of the Game Coordinator, see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJJzPZqSHul>.