



SOMERS LITTLE LEAGUE

Coach's & Safety Meeting

March 31, 2021



- I. Introductions
- II. Board of Directors
- III. Safety Training – Steve Hawkins
- IV. Little League International Updates
- V. Key Dates
- VI. Equipment & Uniforms
- VII. T-Ball Overview
- VIII. Rookie Ball Overview
- IX. Minors AA Overview
- X. Minors AAA Overview
- XI. Majors Overview
- XII. Field Maintenance
- XIII. Inclement Weather
- XIV. Working With Parents & Umpires Guide
- XV. Working With Kids Guide
- XVI. Golf Discount Card Fundraiser
- XVII. Annual Fundraiser Golf Tournament
- XVIII. Snack Shack Volunteer Process
- XIX. Field Coordination
- XX. Communications
- XXI. Tournament Baseball Program – The Somers Storm



President	Joe Radziewicz	Joseph.Radziewicz@sbdinc.com
Vice President	Marty Piscottano	mpiscottano@gmail.com
Secretary	Daren Damboragian	ddambo@cox.net
Treasurer	Joe Cardinale	joe.cardinale@hrpassociates.com
T-Ball Rep	Jason Westbrook	jasonawestbrook@gmail.com
Rookie Ball Rep	Peter Settevendemie	settevendemiep@gmail.com
Player Agent	Drew Kukucka	drew.kukucka@gmail.com
Field Maintenance Coordinator	Mike Hevey	heveyclan2010@aim.com
Player/Coach Development	Patrick Burns	patrickburns@cox.net
Tournament Director	Jeff Moody	kondor378@gmail.com
Field Coordinator	Nick Balestriere	nicholasbalestriere@hotmail.com
Uniform & Equipment Rep	Ryan White	ryanswhite@cox.net
Umpire Coordinator	OPEN	
Safety Officer	Steve Hawkins	srhawkins25@gmail.com
Communications Director	Lenny Mason	lmason5313@gmail.com
Fundraising Coordinator	Aaron Benoit	Aaron.benoit@gmail.com
Uniform Coordinator	Ryan White	ryanswhite@cox.net
Snack Shack Coordinator	OPEN	



SOMERS LITTLE LEAGUE

Safety Training

Steve Hawkins

(Refer To Separate Presentation)



6.08(a) – Allows a defensive team to “intentionally walk” a batter at any time during the at-bat in the Minor and Major Divisions of Baseball.

Regulation 1(g) provides guidelines for participation in non-Little League programs specifically surrounding the use of Little League funds, AIG Group Insurance For Little League, and their interactions with non-Little League programs.

Regulation IV(i), Rule 2.00 and Tournament Rule 9 – Revises mandatory play to require a player to run the bases after one at-bat, if they reach base, until they are retired, score, or the inning or the game ends. During the International Tournament, a player removed prior to meeting this requirement will be an Improper substitute.

Regulation IX(a) & Tournament Player Eligibility – Permits Special Games to count towards team’s Regular Season schedule and player’s Tournament participation.

2.00, 3.04 & 7.14 - For the Regular Season, allows a local league to implement a courtesy runner for the pitcher and/or catcher of record when there are two (2) outs during the Regular Season.

Tournament Player Eligibility – Allows players to be eligible for selection to a Tournament team based on age, not division of play during the Regular Season.



Tournament Team Practice – Revises the date when leagues may hold tournament try-outs and when tournament teams may hold practices to be May 15.

Tournament Player Eligibility – Permits a player to be selected to a second tournament team once their tournament team is eliminated from the Little League International Tournament, assuming the player meets the requirements as outlined and be selected to a tournament team.

You can purchase the rulebook app at the following link: <https://www.littleleague.org/playing-rules/little-league-rulebook-app/>



Item	Date	Location
Opening Day Ceremonies	Saturday April 17	Town Hall Fields
Discount Card Fundraiser Kickoff	Saturday April 17	Town Hall Fields
MLB Run, Hit & Pitch Contest	Sunday May 2	Town Hall Fields
Family Picnic	Sunday June 13	K of C Pavilion – Somers
Golf Tournament	Sunday August 29	Cedar Knob Golf Course



1. If You Need Equipment, Contact Ryan White, ryanswhite@cox.net
2. Keep Track Of Equipment If You Give It Out To A Player
3. You Will Be Required To Sign Out & Sign In Equipment
4. You Are In Charge Of Picking Up & Distributing Uniforms
5. Youth Pants Can Be Purchased In The Snack Shack For \$5



Goals

- Introduce The Kids To The Basics Of Baseball
- First Experience With Coaches/Teammates
- Listening/Following Instructions
- Fun, Fun, Fun

Guidelines

- 1 60 Minute Practice & 1 60 Minute Game On Saturday
- Use the LL T-Ball Guide To Help With Practices
- Avoid **NOT** Using The Tee
- Ensure All Kids Have Helmets On When Hitting & Running Bases
- Everyone Bats
- No Outs – Every Hitter Runs The Bases
- No Stealing
- Last Hitter Hits “A Homerun” & All Runners Score
- No Scorekeeping



Goals

- Kids Expand Development Of Skills From T-Ball
- Learn Baseball Is Lots Of Fun
- Celebrate Individual Successes
- Begin To Understand Importance Of Team
- Kids/Coaches/Parents Do Not Care About Winning Or The Score

Guidelines

- 1 60 Minute Practice & 1 60 Minute Game On Saturday
- Use the LL Coach Pitch Guide To Help With Practices
- Coaches Pitch From The Knee At The Front End Of The Pitchers Mound
- Everyone Bats, But Incorporate Outs
- Batter Gets 6 Swinging Strikes, After That The Batter Uses The Tee / No Strikeouts
- No Stealing
- Use Two Bucket System – One Coach Pitching, One Coach/Volunteer Catching
- No Scorekeeping



Goals

- Kids Greatly Improve Baseball Skills
- Celebrate Individual & Team Successes
- Kids/Coaches/Parents Put Winning & Losing Into Perspective

Guidelines

- 2 75-90 Minute Practices, 1 Games Per Week On Saturday Mornings.
- Machine Pitch During Games To Start Season. Kids To Pitch During Practices. Assess Kids Pitching In Games Near End Of The Year
- Little League Green Rule Book In Effect with Emphasis On The Following:
 - All Players Should Wear A Cup
 - 6 Inning Game
 - No Steals To Start Season
 - No Head First Slides, Automatic Out
 - Play Stops When Ball Is Returned To The Pitcher Who Must Stand On The Pitching Mound Rubber
 - Continuous Batting Order
 - No Slash Bunting
 - No Drop 3rd Strike Rule
 - Umpire Will Be Provided
 - LL Pitch Counts Are In Effect. 8 Year-olds & Below Allowed 50 Pitches Per Game
 - Pitchers Cannot Play The Catcher Position After Pitching
 - If Playing Another Town, Make Sure To Discuss Rules With Other Coach At Home Plate As Some Town's Have Different Rules



Goals

- Kids Greatly Improve Baseball Skills
- Celebrate Individual & Team Successes
- Kids/Coaches/Parents Put Winning & Losing Into Perspective

Guidelines

- 90 Minute Practice, 2 Games Per Week
- Little League Green Rule Book Is In Effect With Emphasis On The Following:
 - Two Steals Per Inning/Unlimited Pass Balls
 - Allowed To Steal Home
 - LL Pitch Counts Are In Effect & Rest Days Must Be Taken In Account (See Last page)
 - Pitchers Cannot Play The Catcher Position After Pitching
 - 6 Inning Game
 - Play Stops When Ball Is Returned To The Pitcher Who Must Stand On The Pitching Mound Rubber
 - Continuous Batting Order
 - Infield Fly Rule Is In Effect
 - No Slash Bunting
 - Catcher Cannot Pitch If Catches More Than 3 Innings. Pitcher May Play The Position Of Catcher If They Pitch Less Than 40 Pitches
 - No Drop 3rd Strike Rule
 - No Leading. Once The Ball Crosses The Plate, Runners May Leave The Base. Once The Catcher Is In The Catcher's Box & The Pitcher Has The Ball Secured With His Foot Touching The Rubber Runners Must Be On The Base
 - Umpire Will Be Provided
 - Discuss Rules At Home Plate With The Other Team's Coach As Some Towns Have Different Rules
 - All Players Must Wear A Cup



Goals

- Kids Master Baseball Skills
- Celebrate Individual & Team Successes
- Kids/Coaches/Parents Put Winning & Losing Into Perspective

Guidelines

- 90 Minute Practice, 2 Games Per Week
- Little League Green Rule Book Is In Effect With Emphasis On The Following:
 - Unlimited Steals
 - Allowed To Steal Home
 - LL Pitch Counts Are In Effect & Rest Days Must Be Taken In Account (See Attached Word Document)
 - Pitchers Cannot Play The Catcher Position After Pitching
 - 6 Inning Game
 - Play Stops When Ball Is Returned To The Pitcher Who Must Stand On The Pitching Mound Rubber
 - Continuous Batting Order
 - Infield Fly Rule Is In Effect
 - No Slash Bunting
 - Catcher Cannot Pitch If Catches More Than 3 Innings. Pitcher May Play The Position Of Catcher If They Pitch Less Than 40 Pitches
 - Drop 3rd Strike Rule Is In Effect
 - No Leading. Once The Ball Crosses The Plate, Runners May Leave The Base. Once The Catcher Is In The Catcher's Box & The Pitcher Has The Ball Secured With His Foot Touching The Rubber Runners Must Be On The Base
 - Umpire Will Be Provided
 - Discuss Rules At Home Plate With The Other Team's Coach As Some Towns Have Different Rules
 - All Players Must Wear A Cup



1. The Town DPW Will Line Fields Monday-Friday
2. Coaches Are Responsible For Lining Fields/Other Field Preparation On the Weekend. Work With League Rep & Other Coaches To Get Done!
3. **Quick Dry Is No Longer Allowed = Zero Tolerance Policy**
4. Ensure Dugouts Are Clean After Each Use!
5. Majors, Minors & 50/70 Field Have Mound Covers – Make Sure Covered When Done Using The Field.
6. We Use An Electrical Outlet Behind The Mound On The Major & Minors field. Ensure The Outlet Is Covered When Not In Use. The Outlet Is Turned On With A Switch On The Third Base Side Dugout. Ensure Such Switch Is Turned Off & Outlet Covered When Done Using.



Thunder & Lightning

- Check Weather Prior To Going To Field
- If Chance Of Bad Weather, Appoint A Volunteer To Monitor (IPhone)
- “If You Hear It, Clear It; If You See It, Flee It”
- Lightning Can Strike From 10 Miles Away
- Find Enclosed Shelters Or Cars – Dugouts Are **NOT** Safe
- Must Wait At Least 30 Minutes After The Storm Is Over To Assess Playing Again

Rainout Policy

- Fields Inspected Prior To 3pm
- Games Not Canceled By 4pm Will Try To Be Played
- Saturday Games Will Be Determined By 8:30am
- Make Sure We Can Contact You. That Is Your Responsibility.



Communication – It's Your Most Important Assignment

A. They Are Kids, Not Adults!

- Use Language They Understand
- Be Creative! Use Games & Contests
- Keep Them Interested
- Be The Main Cheerleader – Lots Of High Fives & Knuckles

B. “Grab A Knee”

- Gather A Circle To Get Their Attention
- Can Use Somers Elementary Attention Technique: “1, 2, 3 Eyes On Me”
- Develop Consistent Team Discipline
- Okay To Be Loud But Don't Yell
- One Kid At A Time
- Call Player By Their Name
- Get Down To His Or Her Level
- Talk In A Quiet Voice
- Show Player What To Do
- Use Oreo Method For Constructive Criticism. (Sandwich Constructive Feedback Between Positive Feedback)
- Patience, Patience, Patience!!!



Working With Parents

- Hold Team Meetings
- Set Expectations (Player & Parent)
- Lead Your Parents By Setting A Great Example
- How To Deal With Challenging Parents – LISTEN!!

Working With Umpires

- Treat All Umpires With Respect
- Manager/Coach Is Only Person Who Should Talk With The Umpire
- Don't Question Judgment Calls
- Learn How To Ask Umps About Calls
- Control Your Parents!! IT IS PART OF YOUR JOB

If Problems Arise

- Even The Best Parents Lose 10-20 IQ Pts When Watching Their Kid Play
- Call Your Board League Rep, President Or Any Board Member For Support
- Keeping Good Stats & Documentation Of The Situation Always Helps



Being The Manager – Put It All Together

A. Plan Effective Practices

- Always Have A Plan But Be Flexible
- First Practice Is Huge – It Sets The Tone For Discipline/Involvement
- Work In Small Groups
- End Practice With A Bang!

B. Game Day

- Have Line Up Prepared
- Line Up Philosophy/Strategy
- Teach Carefully During A Game
- End Game With A Pep Talk & Game Ball Award

C. Know Your Stuff

- Learn The Rules
- Use Online Resources
 - www.somersll.com, Coach's Corner
 - <https://www.littleleague.org/university/>
- Reach Out To Veteran Coaches And/Or Board Members

D. Be Emotionally Stable

- Put Aside Your Ego
- Relax About Players' Mistakes
- We Don't Want Jekyll & Hyde Coaches
- Enjoy The Experience

E. Lead The Team

- Care About All Kids On Team
- Come Prepared To Practices/Games
- Practice Outstanding Sportsmanship



Being The Manager – Put It All Together

A. Plan Effective Practices

- Always Have A Plan But Be Flexible
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The Golf Card Discount Fundraiser Is Coordinated By Aaron Benoit,
aaron.benoit@gmail.com or Cell #: (959) 282-9676

NFP Sports will be our vendor for 2021

\$20 Discount cards for Golf Courses in Western MA and Northern, CT

- Kick off April 17th 2021 - Opening Day
- On-line profile sales by athletes name set up by NFP Sports (with parental permission)
- Coaches to e-mail parents with provided e-mail template
- 2 week check in for progress on sales - May 1st 2021 and every 2 weeks after that.
- Card fundraiser for athletes will end prior to picnic on Sunday June 13th 2021



Annual Golf Tournament

Somers LL Annual Golf Tournament

When: Sunday August 29, 2021

Where: Cedar Knob Golf Course

We need volunteers to help secure players, hole sponsors, raffle prizes & to help the day of the tournament. If you can help in any ways, please email Joe Radziewicz at

joseph.Radziewicz@sbdinc.com



Our Snack Shack Has Been An Instrumental Aspect Of The Little League Experience

- The Kids Love Going To The Snack Shack & Eating a Dog Or Candy With Their Buddies After A Game
- Families Love To Hang Out
- It Generates Funds For The League

We Are Asking Every Family To Donate 2 Hours of Volunteer Time At The Snack Shack Per Season.

We Are Requesting Each Team To Appoint A “Team Mom/Dad” To Coordinate The Volunteer Time.

We Are Looking For A Board Member To Coordinate The Staffing Of the Snack Shack



All Somers Field Use Including Batting Cages, Practices and Games Need To Be Requested Through Our League Mailbox somersllfields@gmail.com. You Will Get a Confirmation Back Of Field Availability For Your Use.

We Have Four Main Fields We Will Use This Season: Town Hall Majors Field, Town Hall Minors Field, Town Hall T-Ball Field, Field Road Field #5 (50/70).

A Weekly Field Use Schedule Will Be Posted Online Via Google Sheets, With The Link Sent To All Coaches

The Mailbox Is Run By Somers Field Coordinator - Nick Balestriere – Contact At: nicholasbalestriere@hotmail.com - Should You Have Any Issues Or Questions



Communications

All Somers Little League Communications Is Coordinated By Lenny Mason,
lmason5313@gmail.com

We Leverage The Following Communication Mediums:

- www.somerslittleleague.org
- Facebook
- Email

Reach Out To Lenny Mason If You Would Like To Be Added To The Somers Little League E-Mail List.



Our Tournament Baseball Program, Which Is For The More Competitive Player, Is Coordinated By Marty Piscottano, mpiscottano@gmail.com

- Open To All Ages 7-12
- Weekly Sunday practice (With Additional Practices Leading Up To Tournaments)
- Intended For More Focused Players Who Want To Ascend To The Next Level As A Baseball Player
- Bring The Experience Of AAU Level Competition To Players At A Fraction Of The Cost
- League Will Cover Up To 50% Of Registration Fees For All Approved Tournaments (Capped at \$500 Per Tourney)

Reach Out To Marty Piscottano If You Would Like More Information About The Somers Storm Program!