

## South Boise Little League Coaches

**Thank you** for being one of the many great people that make our organization run! We operate entirely through the efforts of volunteers. It is through your commitment and effort that South Boise Little League is a safe, enjoyable contribution to our community.



Below you will find expectations, helpful information, and general timelines for our SBLL season(s). A document with specific dates for your calendar is provided separately.

### Expectations

Contribute your time and knowledge to your team and the league to provide an enjoyable experience for the families, the volunteers, and especially the kids. Instill character and sportsmanship in your players. Be a role model showing respect and dignity. Encourage working together, success as an individual and a team, and development in these crucial years.

### Team Structure and Responsibilities

**Head Coach/Assistant Coach** – You are the team managers. Communicate regularly with team parents. Recruit for the other positions below. Coordinate a practice schedule and execute practices. Manage the season for the sake of the kids.

Background Checks: All volunteers interacting with any players are required to complete a background check. Email [background@southboisell.com](mailto:background@southboisell.com). Within a day or two you will receive an email from South Boise Little League with a link to complete this. The link will take you to a site called jdpalatine, where you'll submit your information, including your SSN. You'll get a confirmation email once completed, please forward that to [safety.officer@southboisell.com](mailto:safety.officer@southboisell.com).

Additional Paperwork: Parents must complete these two forms. Coaches please keep them in a binder or folder and have them available for practices and games.

- i. Parent Code of Conduct
- ii. Medical Release form

Uniforms: Parents submit jersey sizes at registration. Minors and above teams will decide your team name and jersey color at the coaches meeting or by assessments at the latest. Uniforms arrive late March. The league provides jerseys and hats. The player is responsible for pants, belt, socks, gloves, cup, and any other protective gear. Coaches will need to let your team know what color items to get.

Team Gear: The league provides gear bags, batting helmets, catcher's gear, scorekeeping book, balls, a few bats, and a first aid kit. You'll pick them up on a designated day. On game day you will need to provide one or two game balls to the umpire. If a player has their own gear, please make sure it meets LL rules. **\*Little League requires that all bats (majors and below) have a USA Baseball logo. Intermediates and above can use USA Baseball or BBCOR bats.** We will have designated days and times to return the gear following the season.

Training: Accidents sometimes happen. It's best to be prepared. The following on-line training is required for coaches, and can be accessed through this link:

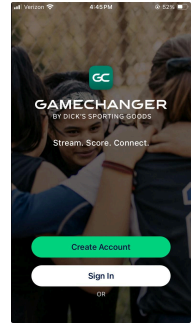
<https://sites.google.com/southboisell.com/sbllvolunteertraining-2024/home>

- Basic First Aid
- Head Up Concussion Training
- Abuse Awareness for Adults
- Diamond Leadership program (highly recommended)

Upon completion of the Training courses, please email your certificates to [safety.officer@southboisell.com](mailto:safety.officer@southboisell.com).

**Game Day Field Prep:** Home team is responsible for dragging the field and chalking the lines. We will try to demonstrate how to do this on Field Clean-up day, but anyone who has done it before can also walk you through it. The equipment needed for field prep is stored on site at each field. **The padlock code for coaches will be given out at the coaches meeting.** Once you have the code please don't share it outside of those who have completed background checks. REMEMBER it is YOUR responsibility to make sure everything is cleaned up and locked up when you leave the fields.

**Scorekeepers/Gamechanger** – A parent or team staff member will keep score and pitch count. The Pitching Affidavit at the end of the game needs to be signed by the plate umpire. The Scorekeeper tracks runs and plays. Separately, there is a worthwhile app called *GameChanger*. The basic app is free, subscriptions are available for a reasonable fee. It's user friendly but requires real time data entry, and a little learner's curve. It is an excellent source for scorekeeping and helpful stats (batting averages, on base percentages, etc.) and allows family members not present to track the game, but the output provided is only as good as the data entered in live time, so familiarizing with this and having a designated GameChanger person is recommended.



**Umpire(s)** – Umpires are also volunteers, required at Minors and above, and critical to the success of the season. Coaches are tasked with recruiting a team parent to volunteer for this role. The Home team provides the plate ump, the away team provides the field ump. Umpire gear is stored in one of the sheds. We recommend having a belt bag, counter, and brush. There are two classes provided by the district that are required: Rules and Mechanics. (Training schedule provided separately). Coaches should attend also, both to better understand the rules and umpire in a pinch. There is no cost to attend. Once the last date of training passes, it will not be provided again until next year.

### **Other important roles**

**Concession Stand volunteers:** We will share a sign-up calendar for both Milwaukee and Liberty Parks for parents who can help. Instructions will be provided. Teens and youth are welcome, with an adult. Duties include light set-up and close down, sales, cooking on the propane grill for food orders, and managing cash.

**Team Parents:** Little League rules require at least one adult in the dugout. You can use players as base coaches, but adults may be best practice. It takes a village. Delegating some of these responsibilities to trustworthy parents is handy. The team parents should have registered as such at registration and be background checked.

### **Batting Cages**

Both Liberty and Milwaukee have batting cages. Adult/Coach supervision is required. Like everything, these require maintenance and upkeep. If the pitching machines aren't functional, the option is coach pitch behind an L-screen. Please don't give combo to players or parents.

### **Little League International Rules**

Download the free App called '2024 Little League Rulebooks'. The search function is not great, but it has all the rules and regulations for softball and baseball. Talk with the other coaches for the highlights applicable to your division.

**Idaho District 2 Interleague Rules** - separate set of rules that are established between leagues in the District. These will be posted to the SBLL website and shared with you when they are finalized for 2024. It may prove helpful to have a printed copy of these when playing with another league.

## **Baseball/Softball Seasons**

**Spring** is the primary season. The next page has a helpful timeline of events and responsibilities for the Spring season. It starts in early March and runs through May. Weather is a factor, come prepared.

Other season options exist, depending on the number of interested players and the availability of coach volunteers. We have seen an increase in interest for additional baseball seasons.

**All Star and Summer ball**, if implemented, Tryouts will be in May, practices will start in June and will run through mid-to late July. It is our most competitive ball and includes try-outs and player selections. Games are all around the Treasure Valley, including some tournaments. If you are interested in participating please let us know.

**Fall Ball**, again enacted through interest of coaches and players, is a more relaxed environment that focuses on repetition and development.

**Gear Return:** Date TBD Following the season there will be a set date and time range to return the gear issued.

**End of season celebrations:** and/or recognitions are coordinated by the coaches or a team parent for individual teams. Team parties are not paid for by the league.

**Trophies:** will be provided by the league for Tee-ball and Rookie level players. Minors and above will play in an end of season tournament and the winners of each division will receive a trophy.

## **Spring Season Timeline**

**Mid February: Registration Closes.** Late registration for Minors and above will only be allowed if we have room on a team and enough coaches. Tee ball and Rookies registration remains open later

**Mid February: Coaches Meeting.** This is vital for all assistant and head coaches, and an excellent source of information for anyone considering volunteering.

**End of February: Softball/Baseball Player Assessments.** All Minors and Majors players will assess at batting, fielding, throwing, and possibly pitching/catching. Coaches have an opportunity to evaluate players and take notes on skills before the draft. A schedule will be provided to the parents and coaches.

**Following Assessments: Team Draft.** Minors and above Coaches get together by division and draft their teams. This is also a good timeframe to coordinate practice days and times with adjacent coaches.

**Team rosters** issued following the Draft (give us a few days) – Player names, uniform sizes, parent contact info, etc. Following this, please email your team parents with important information. Who you are, a little of your background, needs, Team Meeting, practice times and locations, etc.

### **1st week of March:**

- Field Prep Instruction – Coaches will meet and be briefed on how to properly prepare the field before each game.
- Gear Issue – Coaches will also collect their gear for the season at the field.
- Field Clean-up Day - All parents and community members are encouraged to come lend a hand. Many hands make light work.
- Umpire Training Classes begin

### **2nd week of March:** Practices begin.

\* *Team meeting:* Please assemble your team parents and families to meet them face to face and set expectations. You'll share additional information here. Where and when is your discretion, but somewhere in the first week of practice time frame. This is a good place to collect paperwork, and recruit for the other positions listed above if you haven't already. Lower level teams often coordinate a snack schedule.

**First Saturday in April - Opening Day!!** – Fun skills games for all ages, raffle, concession stand officially opens, prizes, and announcements.

Regular Season kicks off in early April. Practices are permitted during the season as time, schedule, and field availability allow. We try to have an Intraleague Playoffs in the final week to determine a SBLL Champion, culminating on or just before the last day of school. We intend to finish all game play before Memorial Day weekend.