

East Tonka Little League 8A League Description

January 22, 2007



The 8A League emphasizes the basic skills of throwing, catching, base running, and hitting. Ten players play defensively at a time and all players bat in continuous order. While team standings are kept, skill development, sportsmanship, and fun are the primary objectives. 8A uses a medium-soft ball. Pitching machines will be used for games. Little League Baseball, Inc., headquartered in Williamsport, PA, publishes a handbook titled "Official Regulations and Playing Rules" which East Tonka Little League abides by. ETLT supplements or reinforces Little League rules with the following local rules:

Total score and standings are not kept. A higher priority is placed on playing with friends, neighbors and school associations.

Teams are built based on 3 priorities (in order):

1. Elementary schools attended by the players.
2. Up to 2 friends/neighbors provided on registration form.
3. Disseminating volunteered coaches

- We try to put no fewer than 4 players from a specific school on a team
- When players from a specific school need to be split into teams it will be done as equitably as possible.

For example if there were 14 players from Clear Springs we would not form a team that large. 7 players would be placed on two teams, or they would be split 4/5/5 on three teams.

At the end of the 8A season coaches will be asked to provide player evaluations so the following year the 9AA League Director will have a tool to evaluate talent and balancing the talent on future teams.

ETLL TEAM SELECTION GUIDELINES

A legacy that has endured at Bennett Park and ETLL is the importance of community and neighborhood and letting kids play with their friends. The ETLL team selection policy prioritizes this legacy, particularly at younger ages. It makes it fun for kids, and their families, and helps create carpooling opportunities to practice fields and games. However, several other priorities challenge this approach and need to be balanced:

Smaller Team size – keeping teams small to minimize the players who have to sit out for more of the game

No “Orphan” Players – If teams are formed from a single school, and a team reaches capacity, the next player gets left out by being placed on a different team.

Spreading the Talent – The ideal ETLL league is one with all teams playing close to .500 ball. No team would go undefeated nor lose all of their games. As leagues become more competitive with increasing age, fairness means finding ways to spread the talent around.

The League Director is primarily responsible for building teams and is the first place to go for questions about the process. Problems may be appealed to the Vice President for Players.

Coach Selection Guidelines

Each season we will go through a process to identify a head coach for each team in the league. Head coaches who have coached effectively at the lower levels and consistently received good year-end-reviews will be included in the coaching pool for the next year. Prior to selecting the new Head Coaches, each League Director will review the coach registration information and interview potential coaches. This will include a review of the expectations of each league. The interview will include a discuss with each head coach candidate about their fit with the league objectives, and their approach to developing players as the level of play becomes more advanced.

ETLL MISSION AND VALUES:

Mission

Provide a great baseball experience for children at every ability and experience level.

Values

As officials, coaches and parents we strive to:

- Put **safety** above everything
- Keep it **fun** – these are our children and it's just a game
- Develop the baseball **skills** of every child
- Instill **respect** for the game including teammates, opponents, umpires and coaches
- Encourage **involvement** of everyone who wants to play, coach or support the kids

Our Measure of Success:

Kids are enthusiastic to come back and play next year.

EAST TONKA LITTLE LEAGUE CODE OF CONDUCT:

Little League Baseball is constructed to be a safe, fun and competitive experience for youngsters. The program fulfills the promise of these objectives as long as participants at all levels and ages: players, umpires, fans and coaches alike, practice good sportsmanship toward each one another at all times. Positive reinforcement for players, teams, etc. is encouraged and always welcome.

Little League is not a place to express negativism toward anyone. Displays of unsportsmanlike conduct, such as abusive language by **any** participant detract from the quality of the experience of Little League for everyone. Poor sportsmanship is unwanted, unwelcome, unappreciated and will not be tolerated around Little League activities.

Once a game has begun; the umpires rule that game, **RIGHT OR WRONG**. There are published procedures for protesting rules interpretations, but subjective calls may not be questioned. Please limit the expression of any dissatisfaction with the umpiring to a call to the Director of Umpires following the game.