



Madison Little League

COACHES INFORMATION & SAFETY MEETING
2026

Safety Meeting



Paul Delacruz
Vice President

All microphones are muted
We will take questions at the end of the meeting

You can always address questions to your Divisional Commissioner or
madisonjlittleleague@gmail.com

Meeting slides and recording will be posted on the MLL website
<https://madisonll.teamsnapsites.com/league-safety-meeting/>

Agenda



Coach Certification

Uniforms & Equipment

On-Field Safety

Weather and Lightning

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League Communications

Pitching Regulations

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Coach Certification

<https://madisonll.teamsnapsites.com/coaches-reqs/>



Managers and Assistant Coaches must be certified

- Online Volunteer Form, where you must upload:
 - Government-issued photo ID
 - NAYS Member ID card with an expiration date of 6/13/2026 or later (8/31/2026 for summer tournament)
 - Abuse Awareness Course Completion certificate dated after Nov 1, 2025 (must retake every year)
- Background check authorization (separate email from JDP / Little League)

On field/in dugout at games, a maximum of the Manager plus:

- 2 Assistant Coaches for Majors and Juniors
- 3 Assistant Coaches for Tee Ball, Farm, AA, AAA
- Managers and one Coach must be 18 years old -- other coaches must be at least 16 years old
- One certified adult (18+) manager or coach must always be in the dugout or bench area

Practices

- As many coaches as you like, but all must be certified
- Links to content from Little League U and USA Baseball are available on our website:
<https://madisonll.teamsnapsites.com/practice-tools/>

Uniforms & Equipment



Uniforms will be distributed by Alfred's Sports Shop to Managers in late March, dates TBA

Team Equipment Bags

- Pickup date to be announced
- Team equipment bags have 2-3 bats, batting helmets and a full set of catcher's gear
- You will also receive baseballs
- Players are welcome to use their own equipment that complies with LL regulations

Allowed Bats <https://madisonll.teamsnapsites.com/bat-regs/>

- Juniors: BBCOR or USABat certified bats are allowed
- Majors, AAA, AA and Farm: only USABat certified bats are allowed
- Tee-Ball: USABat Tee Ball bats only



On-field Safety



Players

- Players must remain in the dugout or bench area when not on the field -- do not let players wander off into the stands to visit with parents and friends
 - >> *Set this expectation early with players and parents, especially in the younger divisions*
- There is no on-deck bat swinging in Majors and below
 - >> *The batter is the only one who should ever have a bat in hand -- please enforce this*

Dugouts

- Spectators (siblings, parents, friends) are not permitted in dugouts at any time
- One certified adult (18+) coach must always be in the dugout or bench area
- Food is not permitted in the dugouts
- Throw out all trash at the end of every practice and game

On-field Safety



Catchers

- Players warming up pitchers must wear a catcher's helmet, a catcher's mitt and a protective cup
- Coaches are permitted to warm up pitchers both on and off the field
- Any catcher providing his own equipment must have a helmet with the dangling-type throat protector
- Please check straps on chest protectors and shin guards for proper adjustment



On-field Safety



First Aid

- The home team is responsible for the first aid kit
- The kit must be at the field, in or near the home team dugout -- do not leave it in the closet
- If the kit needs supplies, inform your Divisional Commissioner

Reporting Injuries

- Call 911 for potentially serious injuries (e.g., possible fractures, severe lacerations, hits to the head, loss of consciousness)
- Use the Injury Report Form on the MLL website to report injuries requiring medical attention: <https://madisonll.teamsnapsites.com/forms/>

On-field Safety



Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness

- AEDs are located at every field -- the instructions are automated once you open the case
- You are strongly encouraged to take the free “Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Sports” training on the NAYS website: <https://www.nays.org/sudden-cardiac-arrest-training>

Concussion Awareness

- Anytime a player is hit in the head, remove him/her from play and notify parents
- Monitor the player’s condition, and do not let the player return to the game if exhibiting any concussion symptoms such as headache, dizziness, blurry vision, nausea or vomiting
- You are strongly encouraged to take the free “Concussion Awareness” training on the NAYS website: <https://www.nays.org/concussion-training>

>> If a player ever loses consciousness, even for a moment, call 911 <<

Weather and Lightning



When an adult umpire is present (Majors, Juniors)

- The umpire has sole authority when to suspend a game due to weather, darkness, or unsafe field conditions, and when or if to resume the game
- Please do not question the umpire's decision -- if you feel an umpire has suspended a game unnecessarily, report that to your Divisional Commissioner so we can address

For the younger divisions (Tee Ball, Farm, AA, AAA)

- Use the WeatherBug app, select Madison Public Safety complex as your weather station, and enable notifications to receive lightning alerts
- The game or practice must be suspended, and all players and coaches must take shelter, when lightning is ***within 10 miles***
- On-field activity cannot resume until 30 minutes have passed since the last lightning strike ***within 10 miles***
- In case of rain only, the game should be suspended if field conditions become unsafe -- pay particular attention to the stability of the pitcher's landing area and the batter's boxes

Heat Advisories



Borough of Madison Recreation Dept Policy

- If the National Weather Service issues a Heat Advisory for our area, all fields will be closed from 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm, automatically rendering any use during that timeframe unauthorized by the Borough.
- Because of the 5:00 pm end time, this generally only affects Little League when heat advisories are issued for Saturdays.
- However: do not begin pre-game warmups before 5:00 pm on weekdays when a heat advisory is in effect.

Rulebooks



Official Rulebook

- Anyone can download the searchable *Little League Rulebook* app from Apple App Store or Google Play Store -- the app is free and automatically updates each year



Local Rulebooks

- Please download the divisional local rulebook from the MLL website <https://madisonll.teamsnapsites.com/local-rulebooks/>
- Local rulebooks are currently undergoing review and may be (slightly) revised before the start of the season
- If you are coaching in a different division from last season, please be sure to read the local rulebook for your current division

**>> Local Rulebooks are not a substitute
for reading and knowing the official LL Rules <<**

Rules Updates for 2026



Equipment: Thumb protectors are permitted. Products such as, but not limited to, choke-knobs and choke-up assists are considered alterations to the bat and are not permitted.

Clothing: Arm sleeves of any type may be worn by pitchers without being covered by an undershirt, provided the sleeve is a solid color and not white or gray.

Courtesy Runner: If using courtesy runners for both the pitcher and the catcher, the runner scheduled to bat soonest in the batting order (i.e. the player who made the first out of the inning) is placed at the base closest to scoring.

League Communications



SportsConnect

- The registration, scheduling system for all chartered Little Leagues
- Also where you signed up to volunteer as a coach
- League-level emails are sent from this system

GameChanger

- The mobile app front end to SportsConnect
- Managers (only)
 - Setup a GameChanger account with the SAME EMAIL ADDRESS you used to register as a MLL volunteer
 - Click the + sign in upper-right to add a team, then choose *Import from SportsConnect*
 - You will get your roster and schedule and can email or message families
- All others (Asst Coaches and parents) will see their player's team when they login to GameChanger with the same email address used to register (once setup by the Manager)

Pitching Regulations



- Pitching regulations vary by League Age
 - Local rulebooks explain maximum pitches allowed per day and required rest periods for each age
 - Some divisions have players with different rules because of varying League Ages in the division
- Check the player's birthdate and the [League Age Chart](#) to confirm the player's League Age -- do not ask the player because his actual age and League Age may differ
- Managers are responsible for understanding and adhering to all pitching regulations
- Use of an ineligible pitcher is grounds for protest at the Majors and Juniors levels
- The home team reports the score and pitch counts for all pitchers on both teams after every game (according the method established by your Commissioner)

Schedules



Practices

- Managers coordinate with Divisional Commissioners on field and cage availability
- Some Commissioners may publish a schedule of field and cage assignments
- Managers enter their own practices in GameChanger

Games

- Games for most divisions begin on Monday, April 6
- Schedules are entered into SportsConnect by MLL and feed automatically to GameChanger
 - Tee Ball plays 10 games on Saturday mornings at Dodge Field starting April 12
 - Farm plays 12-14 games (approx. 2x / week); all other divisions play 14-15 games (2-3x / week)
- Playoffs typically begin after Memorial Day -- the season will end no later than June 18
- Rainouts are rescheduled automatically by the Divisional Commissioner
- Majors and Juniors: adult umpires are scheduled and paid for by MLL
- AAA and AA: cadet umpires are scheduled and paid for by MLL - tips are permitted

Sportsmanship



Always treat umpires and each other with respect and restraint

- Do not argue calls or pitches
- If there is a legitimate misunderstanding about the rules, discuss it calmly and quietly in a private conference -- do not carry on a discussion from the dugout or base coach's box
- Remember, the umpire has the final say on the field
- ***Note that in AAA and AA, the umpires are teen-aged MLL and HS ballplayers***

Spectators

- Managers are responsible for policing the behavior of fans -- this includes parents of players
- If a parent argues with the umpire, or is otherwise disruptive to the game, remind them of their agreement with the [Sport Parent Code of Conduct](#) (which they signed at registration)
- The umpire is empowered to ask any spectator to leave the game site and can suspend play until they comply

Q & A

madisonjlittleleague@gmail.com



Q: Do I need to complete coach certification forms and background check again if I was a coach last year?

A: Yes. MLL needs to conduct checks each year, and we cannot use background checks done by other sports.

Q: How do we report scores and pitch counts?

A: Your Commissioner will advise for your Division (often a group chat)

Q: How do you handle rest days for those players that pitch on other baseball teams?

A: Managers should be asking about players' other pitching outings and considering that when scheduling pitchers. Coordination between MLL coaches and travel coaches is encouraged.

Thank you!



Thank you for volunteering your time and skills.

Madison Little League Baseball
does not happen without you!