



North Lake Little League 2020 -2021 FAQs

Q: I have concerns about my child playing baseball due to COVID-19. What kind of restrictions are in place for the upcoming season?

A: North Lake Little League considers the safety of our players, their families, volunteers, and spectators to be of the utmost importance. The league is committed to following the state's guidelines for safe play in 2021. Prior to the start of the season, our league guidelines on safe play will be shared with all North Lake families. Guidelines may include small-group practices, use of masks and other appropriate safety equipment, elimination of shared equipment, and limited fans in attendance at games and practices. These topics will also be discussed in depth at our annual parent orientation meetings prior to the start of the season.

Q: Will the 2021 season start on time?

A: At this time, North Lake Little League is planning for our traditional late Winter / early Spring start to the 2021 season for most divisions. We are strongly considering a later start (late April / early May) for some of our younger divisions – including T-Ball. If it becomes necessary to push the start back due to state COVID-19 restrictions, we will clearly communicate that to the families of NLLL.

Q: When will registration for the 2021 season open?

A: Due to the uncertainty surrounding the state's guidance on COVID-19 play restrictions, North Lake Little League has decided to delay registration from its original November 1st date. For the 2021 season, we expect to open registration for all divisions on December 1st.

Q: I'm a bit nervous about paying for my child's registration. What are my options?

A: We understand the concern in paying for the upcoming season without any guarantee of playing. With that in mind, *NLLL is allowing players to register for the 2021 season without making any initial payment at the time of registration.* Full payment would be required as the season arrives and before your child is placed on a team. Of course, if you'd rather make a full payment at the time of registration, that option continues to exist.

Our motivation is two-fold. One, we want to provide our families as much financial flexibility as we can going into the season. Two, we want to encourage families to register so that we can begin to plan for

teams, fields, and equipment. It's important that we find out how many players we will have at each division in 2021.

Q: What if this season is cancelled? Will I receive a full refund if no games are played?

A: The difficult truth is that NLLL is required to make payments for certain expenses in preparation of the upcoming season. This includes annual Little League charter fees and insurance premiums. Once those payments are made, it becomes financially difficult for the league to ensure full refunds. In response to the threat of another lost season, the league is committed to minimizing our upfront costs in order to ensure maximum refunds should that become necessary. Once practices begin, however, the league begins to accrue significant costs (primarily field rentals) that impact refunds.

Q: I didn't receive as large of a refund as I expected last season. Why?

A: While many of our teams held few practices, the league encountered a number of substantial expenses to start the season. Charter fees, insurance, hard goods (like baseballs and other equipment), batting practice at North Shore Complex, and field rentals for early season practices required a large portion of our fees. Consider also that NLLL's primary fundraiser – Family Fun Day – was not held in 2020.

Q: What kind of financial assistance is available for families in need?

A: Thanks to Little League International and T-Mobile, families may apply for a financial grant for the upcoming 2021 season (details here: <https://www.littleleague.org/call-up-grant-program>). North Lake Little League thinks that all children should have an opportunity to play baseball / softball and also provides financial assistance to those in need. Contact our league president – Mandie Neher – for more details.

Q: Will my child be permitted to play at the division they would have played at last season?

A: North Lake Little League is encouraging families to register their children for the division that is age-appropriate for the upcoming 2021 season. While this means that some players may skip a division, nearly all the players at that division will be doing so as well. Coaches will be mindful of this when providing practice instruction. For older divisions, players will be assessed during the player placement process to ensure they are playing at the correct skill and safety level. For safe play concerns at younger divisions, families may request a safety assessment during the registration process. For information on which division your child should register for, refer to the divisions of play and age tables on our website.

Baseball Divisions of Play: <https://www.northlakell.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2519720>

Baseball Age Table: <https://www.northlakell.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2519721>

Softball Divisions of Play: <https://www.northlakell.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2519722>

Softball Age Table: <https://www.northlakell.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2140346>

Q: My child was 12 last season and missed out on their opportunity to play Majors baseball / softball. Will they be allowed to waiver down into Majors for the 2021 season?

A: Per Little League International, no adjustments will be made to age restrictions for the 2021 season. While that's disappointing for some families, our league – unlike some others in the state – provide opportunities for older players to participate in Little League. We offer Intermediate baseball (ages 11-13), Juniors baseball (13-14), and Juniors softball (13-14) divisions. These divisions are growing in popularity and are great opportunities to keep playing recreational-level sports.

Q: Will there be winter training as in previous years?

A: Unfortunately, no. The uncertainty of the upcoming season makes winter training a risky financial event. We hope to have this popular training return for the 2022 season.

Q: Will there be player assessments for Majors and Minors Baseball / Softball this season?

A: Yes. What those assessments will look like is TBD. North Lake Little League will adhere to state guidance in reference to COVID-19, meaning that our process may look very different this season. Details will be shared with families as the date (tentatively early February) approaches. We are requesting that all 10+ year old players (both baseball and softball) attend player assessments this season to ensure proper placement.

Q: What happens if Northshore School District Fields are unavailable?

A: While the unavailability of school fields would be a concern, the league should still have access to non-NSD fields such as Bastyr, Moorlands, Forsgren, and Logan, and other non-NSD field options. In the scenario where NSD fields are not available, the season could be somewhat modified. If that happens, league expenses could decrease slightly, allowing us to pass those savings onto NLLL families. Those savings would depend on the total number of registrants and if we are able to secure alternate fields.

Q: What are the next steps I need to take?

A: Once registration opens, please register your child for the upcoming season at <https://www.northlakell.org>. No payment is required at the time of registration and it helps us plan for the upcoming season.

Q: I have other questions about the upcoming season. How to do I contact someone from the league?

A: Email addresses for the league's board members can be found under "About Us" on our website at <https://www.northlakell.org>.