

# LMLL Challenger Baseball Program



**Register now.**

**Registration is required for players & buddies prior to being allowed to play or volunteer. The 2019 season will begin with our indoor 'Spring Training' Games on Sundays (March 24 & 31) & our first outdoor game at South Ardmore Park Field B on Sunday April 7! Please complete your registration now at [www.lmll.org](http://www.lmll.org) You will be contacted with game day details as we draw closer to early March.**

The Challenger Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable individuals with intellectual & developmental challenges to enjoy the game of baseball along with

the millions of others who participate in this sport worldwide. Today, more than 30,000 people participate in more than 900 Challenger Divisions worldwide.

Challenger is held in the spring at South Ardmore Park, Sundays, from approximately 3:00pm to 5:45pm. We divide our Challenger teams & consecutive games by age, with players 4-14 years of age playing in the Minors league, & players 15 years old & older (now with no age limit beginning this season) playing in the Majors league. A game will run for approximately one hour. A large plastic whiffle ball & plastic bat is used. Some players elect to use a glove although it's not necessary. No score is maintained, all players on each team get to bat & advance the bases. All players bat without "outs" & after each player is up & moves through the bases, the players all "come home", the side is retired & the teams then switch batting & fielding.

This a very rewarding experience for all who participate. Emphasis is placed on having fun, participating at whatever physical level is achievable, meeting new friends, being outdoors, etc. Patience on the part of volunteer "Buddies" is guaranteed. Games conclude with a food & beverage snack sponsored by parents each week on a rotating basis.

We recruit "Buddies" - student volunteers from middle school & high school to help the players. Knowledge of baseball is not necessary. Buddies help facilitate the player's involvement in the game by helping with catching a fly ball or fielding a "groundner", assisting with a throw, keeping the player engaged on the field, assisting the player with batting skills, etc. Some players with wheel chairs need to be pushed around the bases, while other players need direction & assistance with base running. We try to match players to Buddies based on gender, size & age. As Buddies often cannot make every game, they are not always assigned to the same player although this is the ideal situation. Buddies are generally contacted in February in preparation for the upcoming season.

Play is open to Lower Merion & Narberth residents. There is no registration fee for Challenger Division & T Shirts & Hats are provided at no charge. Feel free to join us for a game or two if you are not sure this will work out for the longer term. We are happy to have any interested players participate in the hope they enjoy the experience & want to continue although there is no obligation to do so. Registration is required for players & buddies prior to being allowed to play or volunteer. The 2019 season will begin Sunday March 24th. Please complete your registration now at <http://lmll.org/Page.asp?n=25670&org=LMLL.ORG> You will be contacted with game day details as we draw closer to the season.