



Big Leagues Spring 2021

Dilworth Big League Mission:

Welcome to the Big Leagues at Dilworth, which provide youth between the ages of 13 and 18 an opportunity to continue playing baseball on larger and full-sized fields with their friends in a fun, competitive, and structured environment. This spring we are also planning for a new “Challenge-like” team at the Juniors level!

Big Leagues Overview:

Dilworth will be offering three or four divisions for players 13 through 18 years old. In all divisions we will play teams from across the district (e.g., CoulOak, MARA, Steele Creek, etc.) and will need to travel to these locations for our away games. For the three Little League-based divisions, coaches from each division will choose an All Stars team at the end of the season to represent Dilworth Little League. Here is an overview of the divisions.

Intermediate Division

Our entry level division is called “Intermediate” and is designed to help bridge the gap between the Majors division and the Juniors division. Intermediate is perfect for the 13s that are less experienced (i.e., did not play challenge baseball in the majors, have not played much baseball, or that just want to gradually step up to the full-sized baseball field). These players will benefit from additional instruction and development in order to successfully transition to the bigger field. Dilworth’s Intermediate team will play home games at Freedom Park on the Chick Evans Field (Field 1) and away games at locations across the district (e.g., CoulOak, MARA, Steele Creek, etc.). Practices will be at Freedom Park, Sedgfield, and/or Southview. Since this is a new division for Dilworth, I have provided a list of frequently asked questions as an appendix to this flyer (see below).



Juniors/Seniors Divisions

Dilworth’s Junior and Senior divisions are for players that are serious about baseball and team sports and want to continue to play baseball without the commitment/costs of travel baseball.

For the players in the Juniors division, this will be their first opportunity to play on a regulation size baseball field. As they learn to adjust, the game speeds up; however, this division is really about transitioning to the big field.

The players in the Seniors division typically come up through the Juniors program. Some players will be playing for their high school team, and the baseball at this level is much more competitive. The expectation is that players in this division have been playing baseball for a long time.

Practices for both Juniors and Seniors will be at Sedgfield or Southview.



Big Leagues Spring 2021

Babe Ruth – 18U

This spring we will be offering players 18 and under the opportunity to play Babe Ruth baseball through Dilworth. Unfortunately, Little League baseball stops at age 16. Last fall, our 18U team had a very successful season under Coach Hawes, finishing second in the western NC tournament. I am continuing to work with the leaders of Babe Ruth baseball to develop the structure for this division within our normal district. The details of which organizations will be participating this spring season are still in process, but I am fairly certain that Couloak, Lake Norman, Dilworth, and Weddington will have teams. Steele Creek, MARA, and Mint Hill have also expressed interest. The response that I have received so far is encouraging, but I would still like to get more teams involved. Babe Ruth is planning an 18U season very similar to the other division described above. The start dates and number of games is still being determined, but we are hoping to maximize the number of games played while the school baseball teams are in a holding pattern. Those players that register will get updates as frequently as I can get them from Babe Ruth. Practices will be primarily at Southview and Sedgfield.



Juniors Challenge Opportunity

This is exciting news! Leagues from across our District are putting together a “Challenge-like” division to give selected players the opportunity to play additional games across the District. The Juniors commissioner for MPTLL (Bo Coggins) is organizing this division, and more information will be provided once it becomes available. During the season, games for the Challenge teams will likely be on Sundays – possibly double-headers. The games will be played at regular Juniors fields, including Sedgfield. The rules will be the same as regular Junior Little League rules. This is an exciting opportunity to elevate the level of competition for Juniors-aged players.

Below is a snapshot of each of the Divisions (*note: all dates in the table below are tentative*):

Divisions	Intermediate	Juniors	Seniors	18U
Age (see below)	13s	13-14	15-16	16-18
Player Evaluations and Tryouts	March 13-14	March 13-14	March 13-14	March 13-14
Team Size	11-13 per team	12-14 per team	12-14 per team	12-14 per team
Practices Start	Week of Mar. 15			
Season Start	March 27	March 27	March 27	March 27
End of Season Tourney	June 19-25	June 26-July2	June 19-25	TBD
Home Field (dimensions)	Freedom 1 50'/70'	Sedgfield 60'/90'	Sedgfield 60'/90'	Southview 60'/90'
Registration Deadline	March 11	March 11	March 11	March 11

Typically all teams will practice 2-3 times per week before the season starts and then 1-2 times per week once the games start.



Big Leagues Spring 2021



Player Evaluations/Tryouts:

All players that are Little League ages 13 and 14 (see age chart below) will go through evaluations/tryouts on March 13th or 14th. The purpose of these evaluations is to allow coaches to draft teams and determine which division players should be assigned. The Juniors coaches will select their team using a draft method. Players that are 14 years old will be assigned to a Juniors team. Players that are 13 will be assigned to play Intermediate and/or Juniors. Players that are 15 years old and older will also go through evaluations on March 13th or 14th.

Depending on the numbers at each level, there may be players that are asked to consider being “dual-rostered”. For example, if the 18U team is short a few players, a 16 year old could be rostered on the Seniors team and the 18U team. Likewise a 13 year old could be rostered on an Intermediate team and a Juniors team.

Uniforms:



In the Big Leagues, we like our players to look good! At this age however, one of the biggest challenges with uniforms is determining the proper pant size, and in the past, many parents were exchanging pants trying to find a pair that fit properly. As a result, we are asking parents to purchase game pants for their players. Please get all white or white with navy blue piping down the side and preferably elastic bottom or knickers style. Dilworth will provide the players with a hat, jersey, belt, and socks.

Game Details:

In the Big Leagues, we play seven (7) inning games with a mandatory “mercy” rule (15 runs after 4 innings or 10 runs after 5 innings). For the Little League divisions, pitching count rules are applicable. In the spring of 2018, Little League adopted the USA bat standards. The following link will provide you more information on the new standards and which bat is right for your son - <http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm>. While not required, we encourage our players to use no more than a drop-5 bat (although larger drops are accepted). We do have a few team bats that are USA Baseball approved and drop-3. BBCOR (drop-3) bats are acceptable in Juniors and are required in Seniors.



Big Leagues Spring 2021

Age Determination:

This spring all Leagues are using the 2021 Little League Age Chart (Intermediate, Juniors, and Seniors) – the chart to the right should help you determine your son’s Baseball Age. The 18U division will use Babe Ruth’s 2021 Age Chart.

2021 Little League® Age Chart FOR BASEBALL DIVISION ONLY

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	13
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	14
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	15
2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2005	2004	2004	2004	2004	16

To play in the **Intermediate League** this spring season your son will need to be born between: **September 1, 2007 and August 31, 2008.**

NOTE: This age chart is for BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY, and only for 2021.

To play in the **Junior League** this spring season your son will need to be born between: **September 1, 2006 and August 31, 2008.**

To play in the **Senior League** this spring season your son will need to be born between: **September 1, 2004 and August 31, 2006.**

To play on the **Babe Ruth 18U team** this spring season your son will need to be born between: **January 1, 2002 and April 30, 2005.**



The Big League Fields:

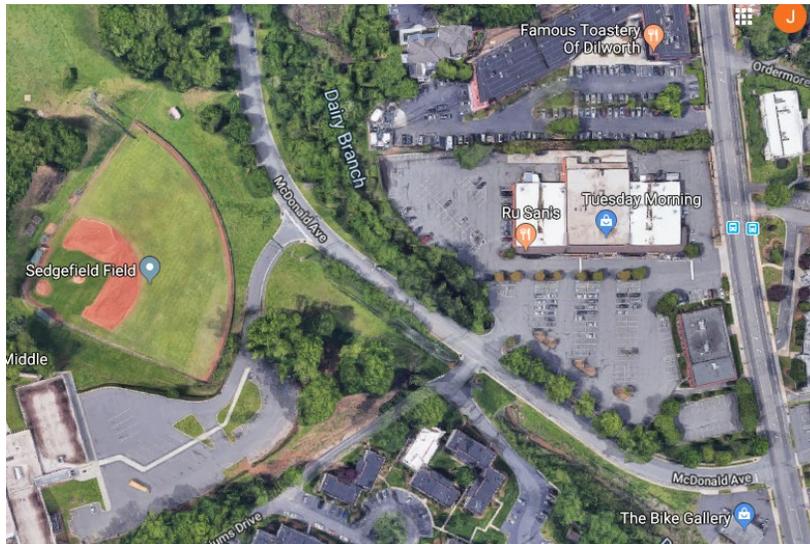
The Chick Evans Field at Freedom Park (Field #1)

If you have played at Dilworth in the past, you certainly know this field! Chick Evans is a legend in Dilworth Little League and his field (Field 1) at Freedom Park is easily converted into a 50/70 field perfectly suitable for Intermediate play. Yes, the fence is a little short for most Intermediate fields, but it will be fun to see how many home runs are hit!

Sedgefield Middle School (Home of Dilworth’s Junior and Senior League):

Most of you already know where Sedgefield is located. The baseball field, also known as the “Sedge” is accessed from McDonald Ave. Hopefully, the map below helps you find us!

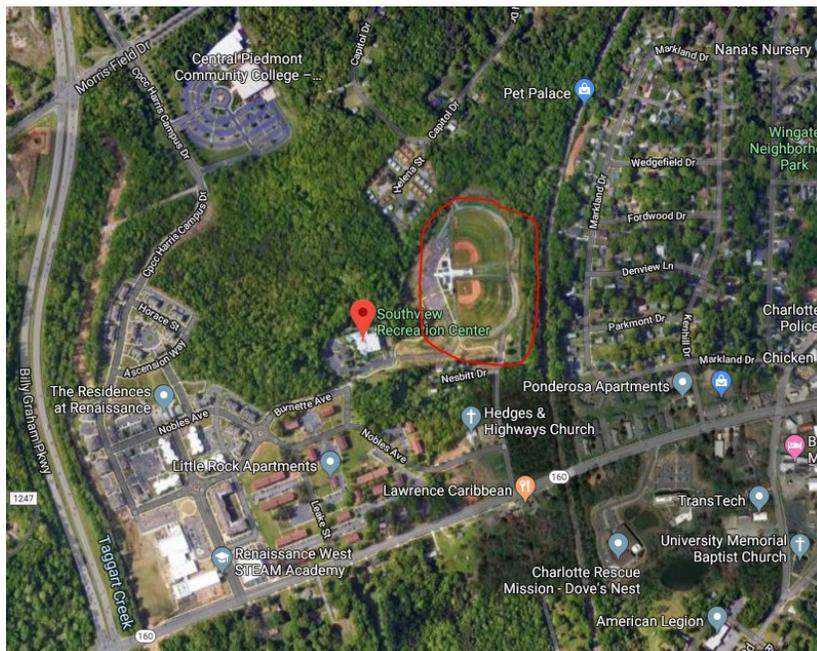
Overhead of the Sedge



Southview (Fields 1 and 2) – 1720 Vilma Street, Charlotte, NC 28208

While these fields are a little further out, they are really nice. These fields will be the home field for our 18U team and will serve as practice fields for all of our Big League teams. The map below shows where these fields are located.

Overhead of Southview



Questions:

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dilworth Little League's Big Leagues Commissioner – Jay Brietz at 704-996-4655 (cell) or (jaybrietz@gmail.com).



Big Leagues Spring 2021

Intermediate Division – Frequently Asked Questions

- Q1 What is the overall purpose of the Intermediate division and what is driving the need for another division?
- A1 At Dilworth, we strive to do what is best for our players and what will set them up for the most success. A few years ago, Little League changed the birthdate age cutoff, resulting in smaller, younger kids moving up to the big field. After watching several seasons of these smaller kids trying to throw the ball across the big diamond, we felt using the Intermediate division as a development league for the Junior League would really help some of our 13s prepare and successfully transition to the Juniors. This division is not for everyone though. For example, if your son is playing for the middle school baseball team in the spring, the Intermediate division is probably not for this player. However, we are excited about the possibilities this division can offer some of our younger, less experienced players.
- Q2 What are the ages of players eligible to play Intermediate League?
- A2 For Dilworth, players must be baseball age 13 – for the 2021 spring season, that means that the player must have a birthdate between September 1, 2007 and August 31, 2008. Other associations across the District could have younger players, but the trend has been to set this division aside for the 13 year olds, which is what Dilworth has elected to do.
- Q3 Can players be dual rostered in Intermediate?
- A3 Yes. Dilworth may look to dual roster a few players on both Intermediate team and a Juniors team. These players would likely be players that could help pitch and catch for the Intermediate team, but have limited opportunities to play those positions for the Juniors.
- Q4 Does the Intermediate division have a separate Tournament of Champions team and All-Stars team?
- A4 The Intermediate division does not play in the Tournament of Champions, but it does have an All Stars team. One of the most exciting aspects of the Intermediate team is that it will give some players that would likely not make the Junior League All Stars team, the opportunity to play post-season baseball for the Intermediate team! For players that are dual rostered (see Q3/A3 above), those players would only be eligible to play on one All Stars team.
- Q5 How do we sign-up/request to play in the Intermediate division versus the Juniors division?
- A5 Certainly, you can request to play in the Intermediate division. However, the plan is for all baseball age 13 and 14 year old players to go through an evaluation process. We plan to conduct evaluations in March. Based on evaluations, the coaches will group players in the following categories: 14s must be selected for a Juniors team, 13s that will be selected for a Juniors team, 13s that would benefit from being dual-rostered, and 13s that would benefit from the smaller, less intimidating field.