

DILWORTH LITTLE LEAGUE

MACHINE PITCH INFORMATION

The primary objective of the Machine Pitch Division is to provide instruction to continue players' growth and development in the fundamental skills of baseball skills; to teach good sportsmanship; and to encourage players' enjoyment and continued participation in the sport.

AGE:

Please visit the [Little League Age Calculator](#) to determine your child's league age. Dilworth Machine Pitch is for *league* age 7, 8, and a limited number of 9-year olds (as appropriate). 6s may not play at this level.

ABILITY & EXPERIENCE:

The Machine Pitch Division is generally for players with previous organized baseball experience. League age 7s should have played as a 6-year old and learned the basic skills to play at this level. Younger, beginning league age 9s may also consider playing in the Machine Pitch Division.

PLAYER EVALUATIONS:

There is a basic player evaluation process for the Machine Pitch Division, which is used by the Division Commissioner for the purpose of promoting parity across teams. Players of all skill levels are welcome.

TEAM SELECTION & REQUESTS:

Teams are set by the Machine Pitch Commissioner. There are typically 11-12 players per team. Team rosters are balanced by age and, where possible, baseball ability. Player and coach requests will be considered on a limited basis, where doing so does not impact roster parity.

SCHEDULE:

Teams are formed and communicated in early March (spring season) and early September (fall season). The spring season finishes prior to Memorial Day and the fall season ends around Halloween.

PRACTICES & GAMES:

There are two practices per week prior to the start of the regular season. There is one practice per week once the regular season games begin. Generally, each team has one weeknight game and one game on Saturday. Practices are generally held at Freedom Park, Revolution Park, and Veterans Park. Games are held at Freedom Park.

GAME DETAILS:

A mechanical pitching machine is used to pitch to the hitter. Coaches operate the machine when their team is batting, and an umpire makes calls and keeps pitch count. Players will get a maximum of 5 pitches, and will be called out after three swinging strikes. Ten players play in the field each inning. Innings end after 3 outs or until the batting team scores 5 runs. Games are limited to 5 innings or 90 minutes, whichever comes first.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

Your child must have a baseball glove, and male players should have a protective cup. However, we highly recommend purchasing cleats as well as a second pair of pants for your child. Each player is given a team uniform before the first game of the season, which includes a jersey, pants, hat and socks. Your team coach has bats and helmets that your child can use during practice/games.

According to Little League Rules, USABat Standard bats must be used in this division. All bats must have a USABat sticker indicating compliance with the standard. Visit this website (<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm>) for a resource page which has the most updated bat information and here (<https://usabat.com>) for a list of approved bats.

COACHING:

Dilworth Little League depends on parent coaching volunteers for our Tee Ball through Minors leagues. We conduct a Coaches Clinic prior to the start of the season to review rules and expectations. League resources, including our Division Commissioner and Player Development Coordinator, are available to coaches throughout the season. With enough volunteers, each team should have at least two assistant coaches. Please consider signing up to help coach. It's a great way to get involved, meet new people, and help us make Little League a great experience for your child.

POSTSEASON PLAY:

There is a single-elimination tournament immediately following the conclusion of the spring regular season. The championship game will be part of Championship Saturday, played the day of Closing Ceremonies in early June. There is no postseason play in the fall.

QUESTIONS, CONCERNS & COMMENTS:

Please contact the Division Commissioner at machinepitchaa@dilworthll.org.