



Big Leagues

Fall 2023



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 full-sized fields with their friends in a fun, competitive, and structured environment.

Big Leagues Overview:

Dilworth will be offering three divisions for these teen-age players this fall. 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. At the end of the fall season there is a tournament with many of the teams in our District to give the players a chance to get some tournament experience. At the end of spring season, Dilworth coaches will select an All-

Stars team for each division to compete in a District 3 tournament (and hopefully the states/regional tournaments). The fall season is a great opportunity for the players moving up from the small, little league fields to get used to playing on a regulation sized field. Here is an overview of the divisions.

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 (13- and 14-year-old players), 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 the first step in transitioning to the big field. The past two spring seasons concluded with our Juniors All-Stars team winning the District 3 title and competing in state juniors tournament in Marion, NC!

The players in the Seniors division typically come up through the Juniors program or join us after trying travel programs. 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. This past spring our Seniors All-Stars team won the District 3 and North Carolina banners and competed in the Southeast Regional tournament in Safety Harbor, FL!





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Babe Ruth – 18u

This fall we will be offering players 18 and under (or born in 2005 or later) the opportunity to play Babe Ruth baseball through Dilworth. In the 2021 and 2022 spring seasons, Dilworth had two 18u teams and our 18u All Stars team competed in the Southeast Regional tournament in Virginia. The details of which organizations will be participating this fall are still in process, but I suspect that Lake Norman, Dilworth, MARA, Pineville, Weddington, and Steele Creek will have teams. CoulOak may have a team as well. Babe Ruth is planning an 18u season very similar to the other divisions described above.

Challenge Opportunity

Leagues from across our District have expanded the “Challenge-like” division this fall 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 within Dilworth, Greg Yin leads our program. Historically, this has been just for the Juniors, but we are exploring opening it up to Seniors as well. Note, to be eligible for Dilworth’s team, players must be registered and playing for Dilworth’s Juniors/Seniors. During the season, games for the Challenge teams will likely be on Sundays – possibly double-headers. The games will be played at regular Juniors/Seniors fields, including Sedgfield. The rules will be the same as regular Junior/Senior Little League rules. This is an exciting opportunity to elevate the level of competition for Juniors/Seniors-aged players.



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

| Divisions | Juniors | Seniors | 18u |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Age (see below) | 13-14 | 15-16 | 16-18 |
| Player Evaluations and Tryouts | August 26 | August 26 | August 26 |
| Team Size | 12-14 per team | 12-14 per team | 14-18 per team |
| Practices Start | Week of Sept. 5 th | Week of Sept. 5 th | Week of Sept. 5 th |
| Season/Games Start | Week of Sept. 18 th | Week of Sept. 18 th | Week of Sept. 18 th |
| End of Season Tourney | Nov. 3-5 | Nov. 3-5 | Nov. 3-5 |
| Home Field | Sedgfield/AGMS | Sedgfield/AGMS | Sedgfield/Southview |
| Registration Deadline | August 25 | August 25 | August 25 |

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.



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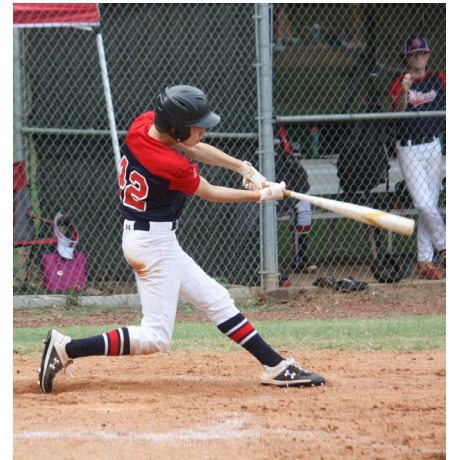
Player Evaluations/Tryouts:

All players that are Little League ages 13 and 16 (see age chart below) will go through evaluations on August 26th. The purpose of these evaluations is to allow coaches to balance the Dilworth teams in each division.

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.

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). Pitching count rules are applicable in all divisions (but vary depending on age). For Juniors, Little League adopted the USA bat standards, which are further described in the following link - <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). BBCOR (drop-3) bats are acceptable in Juniors and are required in Seniors and 18U.

Age Determination:

This fall all Leagues are using the 2024 Little League Age Chart (Juniors and Seniors) – the chart below should help you determine your son’s Baseball Age. The 18u division will use Babe Ruth’s 2024 Age Chart.



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To play in the **Junior League** this fall season your son will need to be born between:
September 1, 2009 and August 31, 2011.

To play in the **Senior League** this fall season your son will need to be born between:
September 1, 2007 and August 31, 2009.

To play on the **Babe Ruth 18U team** this fall season your son will need to be born between:
January 1, 2005 and April 30, 2008.

2024 Little League® Age Chart



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 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 13 |
| 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 14 |
| 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 15 |
| 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2007 | 2007 | 2007 | 2007 | 16 |

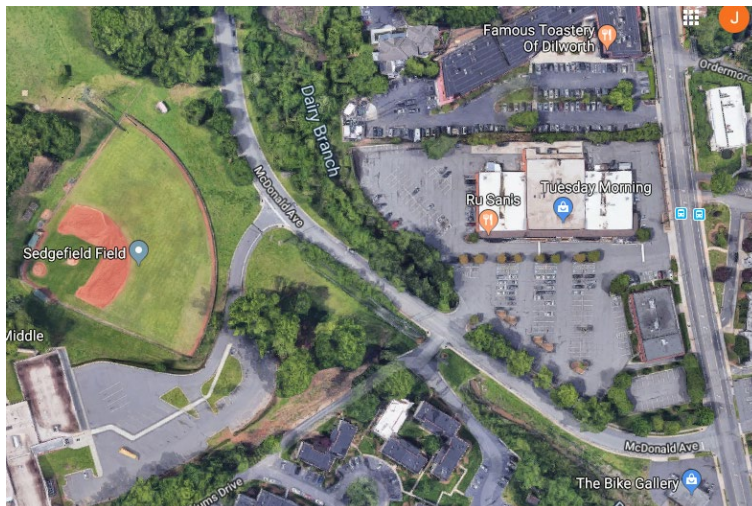


The Big League Fields:

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





Overhead of Map of AG Middle School

An aerial photograph showing Alexander Graham Middle School, a large building with a flat roof and a central tower. To the right of the school is a large, oval-shaped athletic field with a green grassy area and a reddish-brown running track. Further to the right is a baseball field with a green infield and a brown outfield. The school is surrounded by trees and a parking lot. The image is labeled with 'Alexander Graham Middle' and 'Runnymede Ln'.

Overhead of Southview

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).