



**LITTLE LEAGUE®
BASEBALL
AND
SOFTBALL**



**YEAR
IN
REVIEW**



2018-19

LITTLE LEAGUE® INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the Fiscal Year 2018-19

OFFICERS

Hugh E. Tanner – Chairman

Steven P. Johnson – Vice Chairman

Stephen D. Keener - President and Chief Executive Officer

Liz DiLullo Brown – Senior Vice President and
Chief Marketing Officer

Karl Eckweiler – Senior Vice President and
Chief Legal Officer

David B. Houseknecht - Senior Vice President of
Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Patrick W. Wilson - Senior Vice President and Chief
Program Operations Officer

Daniel P. Kirby - Vice President of Risk Management

Melissa Singer - Vice President and Treasurer

Lance W. Van Auken - Vice President and
World of Little League® Museum Executive Director

Joseph W. Losch - Corporate Secretary

MEMBERS

John Boyd - London, England

Pete Cacheiro – Chino, Calif.

Corinne G.L. Chow - Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Janice Christensen – Meridian, Idaho

Jenice Condie – San Jose, Calif.

Chris Drury – Rye, N.Y.

Davie Jane Gilmour, Ph.D. - Williamsport, Pa.

Antonio J. Gonzalez - Cayey, Puerto Rico

Timothy Hughes - Williamsport, Pa.

Dennis Lewin - Cave Creek, Ariz.

Ken Liesegang – Livonia, N.Y.

Jon D. Litner – Westport, Conn.

Dr. Daniel Lueders – Pittsburgh, Pa.

Jonathan Mariner – Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Michael Mussina - Montoursville, Pa.

JoJo Rinebold – Zionsville, Ind.

Roy Romaya – Jakarta, Indonesia

Dwayne Tuggle - Amherst, Va.

Shannon Walker - Newark, Ohio

Travis L. Young, Sr. - Warren, Ark.



LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL®, INCORPORATED

is a nonprofit organization dedicated

“To promote, develop, supervise, and voluntarily assist in all lawful ways
the interests of those who will participate.”

Little League® was founded in 1939; incorporated January 8, 1950, and was granted Federal Incorporation July 16, 1964, by unanimous Act of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as Public Law 88-378, 88th Congress H.R. 9234, and amended December 26, 1974 Public Law 93-551, 93rd Congress, H.R. 8864.

Little League is the largest organized youth sports program in the world. In Fiscal Year 2018-19, approximately 2 million youth ages 4 to 16 in more than 80 countries and territorial possessions participate in the divisions of Little League Baseball and Softball.

“The Board of Directors shall be the governing board of the corporation and shall be responsible for the general policies and program of the corporation.”

Public Law 88-378

88th Congress, H.R. 9234 Sec. 7(c)

LITTLE LEAGUE® INTERNATIONAL



HUGH E. TANNER

Little League International Board of Directors Chairman



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Eighty years. Eighty years of lifelong memories made on Little League® fields. Eighty years of volunteers coming together to support the children in their communities. Eighty years of innovation, expansion, change, and excitement. When the first Little League game was played in Williamsport in 1939, founder Carl Stotz had no idea what his small-town Little League experiment would become, but that joy and opportunity he and his fellow volunteers provided to those children has grown around the world.

As we reflect on the 80th Anniversary of the founding of Little League, it's the work we have done to enhance the future of the program that is most exciting. Throughout this report, you'll see the accomplishments of our players, communities, volunteers, and all those at Little League International. We welcomed 256 new leagues into our program, 17 of which are from our new agreement with the Cuban Baseball Federation, which brought nearly 550 baseball teams into the Little League fold. One of those, Havana Little League, won the first-ever Cuba Little League Baseball® Tournament, advancing to the semifinals of the Caribbean Region tournament in July.

We continue to provide our volunteers and families with first-rate resources to make the Little League experience meaningful for everyone – launching a new webinar series, providing grants directly to our local leagues, and enhancing our digital offerings. In addition, we established a new campaign to celebrate the Girls with Game throughout the Little League program.

The hard work and dedication that children, volunteers, and families pour into their local Little League programs are displayed for millions to see through our continued partnership with ESPN. This year, that relationship reached even higher heights as, for the first time ever, every game from all seven of our World Series tournaments joined the Little League Baseball and Softball U.S. Regional Tournaments in being broadcasted on the ESPN family of networks. A total of 345 games. That excitement will continue to grow, as we work to expand the Little League Baseball World Series to 20 teams and the Little League Softball World Series to 12 teams in 2021, while also significantly improving our facilities at the Little League International complex.

These accomplishments belong to each of us. From the Little League International Board of Directors to the local concession stand workers. From the 1,075 Little Leaguers who played in one of our World Series tournaments to the countless others who got their first hit. Last year, we talked about challenges we face and the need to adapt to these obstacles. On behalf of the entire Little League International Board of Directors, I am proud of the work we have done this year to begin embracing that change, meeting those challenges, and setting our sites on the future of this great organization.

To all the families, volunteers, players, communities, and supporters, we cannot thank you enough for a successful 80th season of Little League.

Sincerely,

Hugh E. Tanner
Little League International Board of Directors Chairman

Table of Contents

Growing the Game 4-10

Developing Youth Baseball Throughout Cuba	4-5
Grow the Game Grants Benefit Local Leagues	6-7
Official Sponsors Show Local League Support	8
Pitch in for Softball Supports Local Leagues in Caribbean	9
Urban Initiative Jamborees Breaking New Grounds	10
Challenger Jamborees Show Continued Support in 2019	10

MLB and Little League® 11-14

Little Leaguers® Show Support at International Games	11
MLB Clubs Show Support with "Little League Days"	11
MLB and Little League® Joint Sponsorship Agreement	11
Year Three of MLB Little League® Classic	12-13
Celebrating the 2019 National Baseball Hall of Fame Class	14

Little League® World Series 15-21

Virtual Home Run Derby Brings Second Year Success	15
Little League® Internship Program Continues to Grow	15
Record ESPN Coverage in 2019	16
2019 Little League World Series Championship Recaps	17-19
Little League Challenger Division® Exhibition Game Highlight	19
Little League Expansion Set for 2021	20

Partner Support 22-23

adidas Makes Immediate Impact in Year One	22
T-Mobile Steps up to the Plate in First Year of Partnership	22
Welcome to the Family Fun Zone	23

Communications/Technology 24-27

Girls with Game Campaign Opens New Doors	24-25
Social Media Growth Continues in 2019	26
Year Two of Beyond the Fences Gives Unique Look	26
LittleLeague.org Website Development Continues	26
Increased Technology Helps Local Leagues	27

Awards 28-29

Hall of Excellence Enshrinees: Austin Dillon and Heather Tarr	28
Local League Awards Presented in 2019	29
Parents of the Year	29
Hartman Little League Friendship Award Winner	29

World of Little League® Museum 28-29

The Road to Little League® Exhibit	30
Awards Display	30

Safety Initiatives 30-31

A Safety Awareness Program (ASAP)	30
JDP's First Year as Background Check Provider	31

In Memoriam 32

(From Left to Right) Carlos Pagan, Little League Latin America Region Director; Antonio Castro, Global Ambassador of Baseball; Stephen D. Keener, Little League International President and CEO; Higinio Valez, Cuban Baseball Federation President; Hugh E. Tanner, Little League International Board of Directors Chairman; Pete Cacheiro, Little League International Board Member.



Baseball Commissioner Robert D. Manfred (left) and Stephen D. Keener, Little League President and CEO, visit Cuba for the historic game between the Tampa Rays and the Cuban National Team in 2016.

"I have been able to see first-hand the passion for baseball throughout Cuba, where so many children love and play the game. I've also seen the opportunity where we can help enhance the baseball experience for these children, where equipment and resources could help bring the countless, lifelong benefits of Little League participation to even more children," said Stephen D. Keener, Little League President and CEO. "While working with the Cuban Baseball Federation, we learned how closely our two organizations are already aligned, and we share the goal of enhancing the baseball experience for the children of Cuba. We are pleased to welcome Cuba into the Little League family and are looking forward to working with the Cuban Baseball Federation to further develop the game and provide a great Little League experience for as many Cuban children as possible."

With the agreement, Little League International will continue to work with the CBF and provide support for tournament-related travel, volunteer education and outreach, field renovation and development, and equipment. In addition, Little League International will work with the CBF in the immediate future on bringing their youth programs fully into the Little League International program and identifying opportunities to enhance the youth baseball experience in Cuba.

DEVELOPING YOUTH BASEBALL THROUGHOUT CUBA

A historic moment came this past March as Little League® International announced that the Cuban Baseball Federation (CBF) has aligned its youth baseball program for children 4 to 12 years old with Little League Baseball®. The partnership brings Little League to the CBF's approximately 170 local baseball programs with continued efforts to develop opportunities for youth throughout Cuba, where children can learn valuable life lessons through Little League. In their first year with the program, Havana Little League was crowned the first ever Little League champion of Cuba, representing the country at the Caribbean Region tournament where they finished with an impressive 5-2 record after falling in the semifinals against the eventual Little League Baseball World Series International Champion, Pabao Little League, of Willemstad, Curaçao.



I have been able to see first-hand the passion for baseball throughout Cuba, where so many children love and play the game. I've also seen the opportunity where we can help enhance the baseball experience for these children, where equipment and resources could help bring the countless, lifelong benefits of Little League participation to even more children.

Stephen D. Keener
Little League President and CEO





LEAGUE IMPROVEMENTS – DE MOTTE LITTLE LEAGUE

De Motte (Ind.) Little League received a grant to upgrade their league’s facilities and keep their players safer this year. Together with members of the community, the league built three new sturdy and safe dugouts for its’ youngest divisions of baseball and softball. Their Grow the Game Grant also helped them to replace their scoreboards with new ones. After the season finishes, they will continue to work on additional new dugouts for the older age divisions.

GROW THE GAME GRANTS BENEFIT LOCAL LEAGUES

Each year, Little League® International looks for ways to provide financial support to local leagues who are working to enhance Little League opportunities in their community through the Grow the Game Grant Program, and this year, was able to continue to share that support with leagues from all over.

“Since its launch in 2015, the Little League Grow the Game Grant Program has been able to provide local Little League programs with the opportunity to offer more accessibility, better equipment and resources, and other assistance they may not have ever had before,” said Stephen D. Keener, Little League President and CEO. “We are thrilled to have been able to help out so many leagues again this year and encourage all of our local leagues in need to apply for this great opportunity.”

Grants within this program are available for general league enhancement, enhancement/development of the Little League Challenger Division® program, enhancement/development of the Little League Softball® program, and to leagues enrolled in the Little League Urban Initiative. To date, Little League International has awarded approximately 250 grants totaling more than \$4 million since the Grow the Game Grant Program was established in 2015.



URBAN INITIATIVE – MEMPHIS LITTLE LEAGUE

Memphis, Tennessee, is probably not the first place anyone thinks of when they think of baseball. But Memphis Little League is on a mission to change that. Thanks to a 2018 Grow the Game Grant they are well on their way. With their grant, the league added vital fencing to keep players safer. They also were able to add ice machines, and a field striper among other things to really elevate the level of play their Little Leaguers are enjoying. And thanks to the work of their community, baseball is growing in Memphis.



CHALLENGER – ANTIGONISH LITTLE LEAGUE

Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, has always had an inclusive baseball philosophy. Now, thanks in part to a \$20,000 Grow the Game Grant, the facilities match the philosophy. Antigonish Challenger Little League built a brand-new field from the ground up starting at the end of 2018. The accessible field gives the community a new inclusive place for players to continue to grow their confidence and love of the game. The new field doesn’t just have four bases and dugouts though, it includes bleachers, a canopy, and of course, wheelchair accessible dugouts.

SOFTBALL – BELFRY AREA LITTLE LEAGUE

After years of feeling like a second fiddle, the girls of Belfry Area Little League’s Softball program had their moment thanks to a Grow the Game Grant. This 2018 grant completely transformed their softball field. Prior to the grant the playing surface would flood easily causing safety concerns. Now, not only is the all-new infield beautiful and sturdy but there are new dugouts and a new equipment shed all made from sturdy materials.

OFFICIAL SPONSORS SHOW LOCAL LEAGUE SUPPORT

Along with the support of the Little League® Grow the Game Grant Program, Little League International's Official Sponsors have continued to step to the plate to show their support at the local league level.



With more than a million dollars of support given out to local Little League programs this past year, the Honda Little League Grant Program has now donated more than 1.6 million dollars to leagues in need over the past 20 years. From help with improving playing fields and purchasing new equipment to rebuilding local Little League programs devastated by natural disasters, Honda has continued to step up to the plate to support local Little League programs.



In 2017, the DICK's Sporting Goods Foundation announced an official partnership with Little League® International. In tandem with the partnership came a five-year, \$500,000 commitment to Little League Baseball and Softball, providing uniforms, improvements to facilities, and equipment to local leagues. As part of that support, DICK's Sporting Goods presented two local Little League programs from Washington, D.C., Mamie Johnson Little League and Banneker City Little League, with a surprise donation as part of Sports Matter Monday during this year's Little League Baseball® World Series on Monday, August 19.



PITCH IN FOR SOFTBALL SUPPORTS LOCAL LEAGUES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Last fall, Pitch In For Softball, the newest brand of longtime Little League partner Pitch In For Baseball, worked with Little League International to provide 33 softball teams in the U.S. Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, and St. Maarten with new and gently-used softball kits to help recover from the devastating hurricanes in 2017. Along with a team equipment bag, the softball kits included gloves, catcher's gear, helmets, bats, and additional protective equipment as well as enough padded shirts and sliding shorts for each child. This is just one project that, since first teaming up in 2005, Pitch In For Baseball and Softball (PIFBS) has supported to benefit local Little League Baseball and Softball programs by providing equipment and other important resources.



The first official sponsor as part of the new Joint Sponsorship Agreement with Major League Baseball, T-Mobile stepped to the plate in a big way in their first year as the official wireless sponsor of Little League Baseball and Softball, finding numerous ways to support local Little League programs around the world. To learn more about the impact they had, turn to page 22.





URBAN INITIATIVE JAMBOREES BREAKING NEW GROUNDS

This year, the Little League® Urban Initiative Jamborees took to new heights with the first ever East Region Softball Jamboree in Washington, D.C., on May 17-19, bringing Little Leaguers® from all over the area together for a weekend of fun that included a trip to see the Washington Nationals. In addition to that event, the Southeast Region Jamboree on May 3-5 marked the first time that teams from Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina had the opportunity to come together for a weekend jamboree. Including those two first-time events, there was a total of seven Little League Urban Initiative Jamborees held in 2019 across the United States to participate in a weekend of fun games, instruction, and other special events.



CHALLENGER JAMBOREES SHOW CONTINUED SUPPORT IN 2019

This year, hundreds of Little Leaguers® with physical and intellectual challenges received a unique opportunity to participate in one of 12 Little League Challenger Division® Jamborees, a volunteer-hosted event that provides players the experience of a tournament atmosphere. From Opening Ceremony festivities to a variety of fun and games available to participants, each of the Little League Challenger Division Jamborees provide a unique experience for players, coaches, buddies, and volunteers. Highlighting this year's jamborees was the 13th annual West Region Challenger Fun Days in San Bernardino, California, which is free for all participants thanks to the support of Gatorade and Stater Bros.

LITTLE LEAGUERS® SHOW SUPPORT AT MLB INTERNATIONAL GAMES

Major League Baseball continued to expand its reach during the 2019 season with a trio of big league action at international locations in Japan, London, and Mexico, and Little Leaguers® in each of those communities were able to be there right alongside the pros. The MLB season kicked off with the 2019 Japan Opening Series, welcoming Little Leaguers from across the country to join the celebration with the A's and Mariners, where Japanese Little Leaguers got to meet Japanese baseball legend Ichiro Suzuki. In Mexico, along with a pair of Spring Training games in March, MLB also hosted two sets of regular-season matchups in April and May as part of the 2019 Monterrey Mexico Series which brought together children from across Mexico for six total days of exciting professional baseball action and MLB PLAY BALL activities. Rounding out the international schedule was the historic MLB London Series in June, marking the first regular season MLB game played in Europe, which saw tremendous support from Little Leaguers in London and all around the world.



LITTLE LEAGUE® DAYS GIVE LOCAL LITTLE LEAGUERS OPPORTUNITY TO WATCH MLB GAMES

This past year, Little Leaguers around the United States once again had the unique opportunity to experience a Major League Baseball game at a ballpark near them through the "Little League® Days" program. This year, 26 of the 30 Major League Baseball clubs opened their ballparks to local youth baseball and softball players to provide memorable opportunities and experiences the players will carry with them for a lifetime. While each club's Little League Days are unique, many provided discounted tickets for Little Leaguers, the opportunity to use tickets as fundraisers, and even provided the Little Leaguers the opportunity for a special on-field experience.



MLB AND LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM UP WITH JOINT SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT

This past March, the relationship between Little League and Major League Baseball continued to evolve with the announcement of a Joint Sponsorship Agreement as Major League Baseball and Little League International will now collaboratively oversee Little League Baseball and Softball's official sponsor program. Under the agreement, MLB will oversee the management of sponsorship agreements for all non-endemic partnerships, while Little League will continue to oversee the sponsorship relationships with all endemic, baseball- and softball-specific agreements. Through this unique partnership, MLB will bring Little League appeal to a wider audience, driving participation in the program and further endorsing Little League as the preeminent leader in youth baseball and softball.





YEAR THREE OF MLB™ LITTLE LEAGUE® CLASSIC CREATES MEMORIES WITH PIRATES AND CUBS

On Sunday, August 18, the Pittsburgh Pirates returned to Williamsport for the third rendition of the MLB™ Little League® Classic with the Chicago Cubs after coming in 2017 for the inaugural event against the St. Louis Cardinals. As part of this year's memorable event, players from both MLB teams had the chance to meet and mingle with the World Series players throughout the Little League International Complex including the unique chance to participate in special pregame ceremonies on the field.

From playing video games and ping-pong in the Grove with members of the Australia and Northwest Region teams, to hanging out in the stands to watch some Little League Baseball® World Series action, the day was filled with excitement as the Major Leaguers and Little Leaguers® had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to spend the afternoon hanging out together.

Along with the MLB players, the MLB Little League Classic umpire crew also visited the Little League Complex during the day to interact with the Little League players while MLB Little League Classic crew chief, Alan Porter, had the opportunity to work the bases during the first two innings of the game between the West Region and Mid-Atlantic Region at Lamade Stadium.



2020 PREVIEW

It was also announced this summer that the Boston Red Sox and the Baltimore Orioles will play in the fourth iteration of the "MLB Little League Classic presented by GEICO" in 2020. The game, which will take place on Sunday, August 23, 2020 and serve as a home game for the Orioles, will air nationally that evening on ESPN's "Sunday Night Baseball" and ESPN Radio at 7 p.m. (ET).

It was very exciting to be able to meet the players in person and talk to them. I'm never going to forget that experience. It makes me feel like I can be one of them too. In the future, if I work hard like they did, I can be playing out here one day."

Justin Lee
Southeast Region Player



Photo credit: MLB Photos



HAROLD BAINES

Photo credit: MLB Photos



ROY HALLADAY



EDGAR MARTINEZ

Photo credit: MLB Photos

Photo credit: MLB Photos



MARIANO RIVERA

MIKE MUSSINA LEADS 2019 NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS OF FIVE LITTLE LEAGUERS®

This summer, history was made in Cooperstown as Montoursville-native and Little League® International Board of Directors member, Mike Mussina, and his fellow Little League Hall of Excellence enshrinee and New York Yankees teammate, Mariano Rivera, joined three other Little League graduates as the 2019 National Baseball Hall of Fame Class inductees:

Mike Mussina (Montoursville (Pa.) Little League)

Harold Baines* (Home Run Baker Little League; St. Michaels, Md.)

*Member of the Today's Game Era Ballot induction

Roy Halladay (Cherry Creek Little League; Aurora, Colo.)

Edgar Martinez (Dorado (Puerto Rico) Little League)

Mariano Rivera (Barrio Colon Little League; La Chorrera, Panama)

Photo credit: MLB Photos



MIKE MUSSINA

As part of the celebration, Little League International also hosted a send-off party for Mr. Mussina, who has been instrumental throughout his career in shaping the future of the Little League program during his time as a member of the Little League International Board of Directors.



MLB VIRTUAL HOME RUN DERBY RETURNS FOR SECOND YEAR SUCCESS

For the second straight year, Little League players from each of the 16 participating teams in the 2019 Little League Baseball World Series competed in a Home Run Derby Virtual Reality video game tournament, hosted and broadcasted by Major League Baseball in partnership with Little League International and ESPN on Wednesday, August 14. In addition to the scheduled competition for the Little Leaguers, fans visiting the Little League Baseball World Series were given the opportunity to step into the same Home Run Derby VR video experience used during the Home Run Derby VR Little League Challenge.



LITTLE LEAGUE® TEAMS UP WITH SYRACUSE AND PENN STATE UNIVERSITIES ON WORLD SERIES INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

This summer, in addition to the summer-long internships provided, Little League International teamed up with Syracuse University and Penn State University on a University Partnership to provide college interns to support the marketing and communication efforts surrounding the Little League World Series. With positions available as video highlight editors, feature writers, on-field camera operators, a sponsorship activation position, and a photographer, the two Universities were able to provide high-quality interns to allow the World Series to operate at a high level for a two- to six-week period. In addition to all their responsibilities as interns, the group was also tasked with a group project that showcased the work they accomplished during their time in Williamsport.



RECORD LITTLE LEAGUE® COVERAGE BY ESPN IN 2019

This summer, history was made as every game in each of the seven divisions of the Little League® World Series was covered live on ESPN networks and streaming services for the first time ever. A total of 345 Little League Baseball and Softball World Series and Regional tournament games were aired live over the course of the summer (up from 231 games televised in 2018), with 263 airing exclusively on ESPN+, the direct-to-consumer sports streaming service.

For the first time in 2019, all the entirety of the Junior League Baseball World Series, Junior League Softball World Series, Senior League Baseball World Series, Senior League Softball World Series, and the Little League Baseball Intermediate (50/70) Division World Series was aired live across ESPN, ESPN+, ESPN2, or ABC. In addition, for the second consecutive year, every game of the Little League Baseball® and Little League Softball® United States Regionals was aired live as well. In addition to the expanded coverage, ESPN also debuted the first-ever "Kidcast" programing on Wednesday, August 21, which featured two 16-year-olds offering commentary in the broadcast booth and two 15-year-old sideline reporters, and 2014 Little League Baseball World Series standout Mo'ne Davis. The broadcast saw 280,000 viewers in its debut covering the game between the West Region and the Southeast Region.



LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL® WORLD SERIES

Eastbank Little League (River Ridge, La.) took home the 2019 LLBWS Championship with an 8-0 victory over Pabao LL (Willemstad, Curaçao).

Asia-Pacific: Chung Nam (B) LL (South Chungcheong, South Korea)

Australia: Cronulla LL (Sydney, NSW)

Canada: Coquitlam (B.C.) LL

Caribbean: Pabao LL (Willemstad, Curaçao)

Europe and Africa: Emilia Romagna LL (Bologna, Italy)

Great Lakes: Bowling Green (Ky.) Eastern LL

Japan: Chofu LL (Chofu City, Tokyo)

Latin America: Cacique Mara LL (Maracaibo, Venezuela)

Mexico: Epitacio "Mala" Torres LL (Guadalupe, Nuevo León)

Mid-Atlantic: Elmora Youth LL (Elizabeth, N.J.)

Midwest: Coon Rapids (Minn.) Andover American LL

New England: Barrington (R.I.) LL

Northwest: Sprague LL (Salem, Ore.)

Southeast: Loudoun South LL (South Riding, Va.)

Southwest: Eastbank LL (River Ridge, La.)

West: Central East Maui LL (Wailuku, Hawaii)



LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL® WORLD SERIES

Rowan Little League (Salisbury, N.C.) took home the 2019 LLSWS Championship with a 4-1 victory over Eastbank Little League (River Ridge, La.).

Asia-Pacific: Negros Occidental LL (Bacolod City, Philippines)

Canada: Hampton LL (Victoria, B.C.)

Central: Central Iowa LL (Polk City, Iowa)

East: South LL (South Williamsport, Pa.)

Europe and Africa: Lombardia LL (Milano, Italy)

Host: Willow Creek LL (Portland, Ore.)

Latin America: Olmeca LL (Mexico City, Mexico)

Southeast: Rowan LL (Salisbury, N.C.)

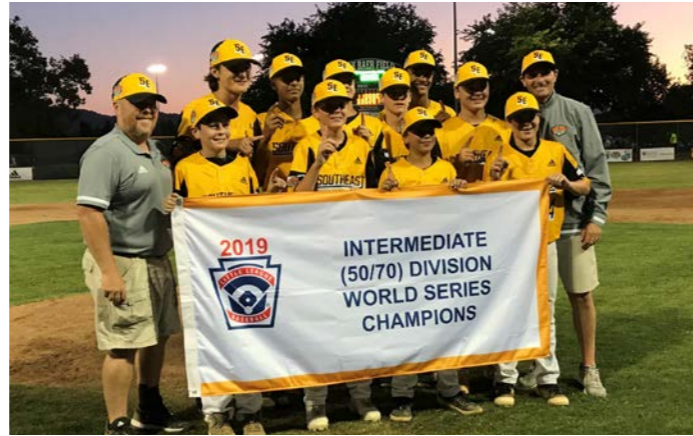
Southwest: Eastbank LL (River Ridge, La.)

West: Honolulu (Hawaii) LL

INTERMEDIATE (50/70) BASEBALL DIVISION WORLD SERIES

McCalla (Ala.) Little League claimed the 2019 Championship title with a 9-5 victory over Matamoros (Mexico) Little League.

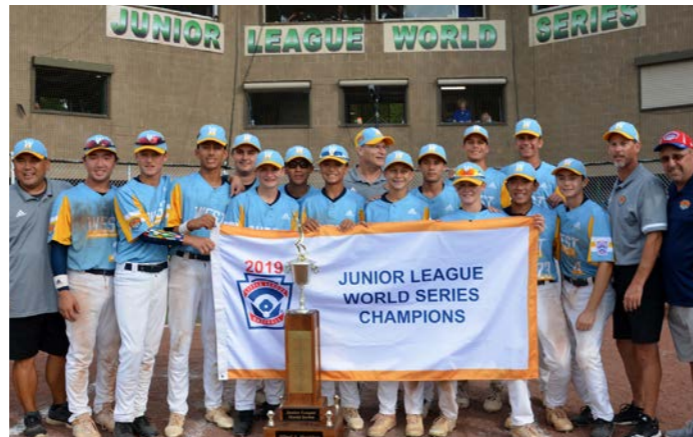
- Asia-Pacific:** East Seoul (South Korea) A LL
Australia: Perth (Western Australia) Metro North LL
Canada: Lethbridge (Alberta) LL
Central: Highlander Youth Recreation LL (Georgetown, Ind.)
East: Nutley (N.J.) American/East LLs
Europe and Africa: South Czech Republic LL (Brno, Czech Republic)
Host: Livermore/Granada (Calif.) LL
Latin America: Radames Lopez LL (Guayama, P.R.)
Mexico: Matamoros (Mexico) LL
Southeast: McCalla (Ala.) LL
Southwest: Noon Optimist LL (Roswell, N.M.)
West: Petaluma (Calif.) American LL



JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Golden Hill Little League (Fullerton, Calif.) won the 2019 JLBWS Championship with an 8-3 victory over Radames Lopez Little League (Guayama, P.R.).

- Asia-Pacific:** Shing-Ming Junior LL (Taoyuan City, Chinese Taipei)
Australia: Perth (Western Australia) Metro North LL
Canada: Medicine Hat (Alberta) LL
Central: Johnston (Iowa) LL
East: Berlin (Md.) LL
Europe and Africa: Emilia Romagna LL (Bologna, Italy)
Host: Taylor (Mich.) Combined LL
Latin America: Guadalupe Treviño Kelly LL (Reynosa, Mexico)
Puerto Rico: Radames Lopez LL (Guayama, P.R.)
Southeast: Viera/Suntree LL (Melbourne, Fla.)
Southwest: Tulsa (Okla.) National LL
West: Golden Hill LL (Fullerton, Calif.)



SENIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Central East Maui Little League (Wailuku, Hawaii) took home the 2019 SLBWS Championship with an 11-0 (6 inn.) victory over Liga Pariba LL (Willemstad, Curaçao).

- Asia-Pacific:** Auckland (New Zealand) Baseball Association LL
Australia: Swan Hills LL (Perth, Western Australia)
Canada: Diamond Baseball LL (Mirabel, Quebec)
Caribbean: Liga Pariba (Willemstad, Curaçao)
Central: West Madison (Wis.) National LL
East: Naamans LL (Wilmington, Del.)
Europe and Africa: Emilia Romagna LL (Bologna, Italy)
Host: Easley/Wren LLs (Easley/Piedmont, S.C.)
Latin America: Chitre LL (Herrera, Panama)
Southeast: Central Accomack LL (Onancock, Va.)
Southwest: West University LL (Houston, Texas)
West: Central East Maui LL (Wailuku, Hawaii)



JUNIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES

Tampa Bay/Interbay (Fla.) Little Leagues claimed the 2019 JLSWS with a 7-6 victory over Columbus (Texas) Little League.

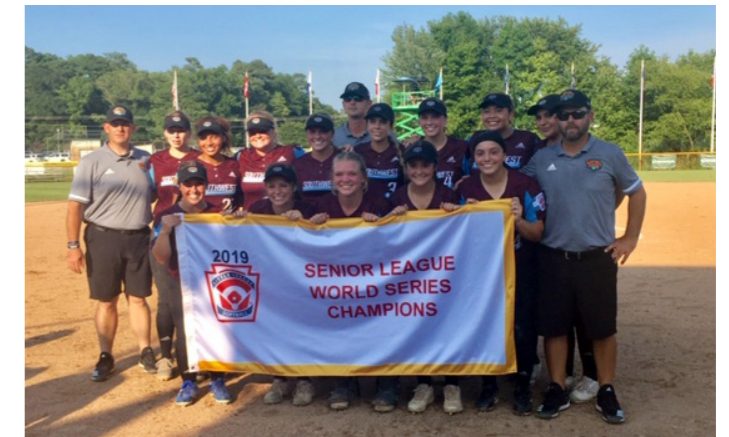
- Asia-Pacific:** Bulacan LL (Norzagaray, Philippines)
Canada: Elnora (Alberta) Eagles Softball LL
Central: Canfield/Poland (Ohio) Community LLs
East: Haverstraw/Nanuet (N.Y.) LLs
Europe-Africa: Lombardia LL (Milano, Italy)
Host: Eastlake LL (Sammamish, Wash.)
Latin America: Soraida Juliana LL (Willemstad, Curaçao)
Southeast: Tampa Bay/Interbay (Fla.) LLs
Southwest: Columbus (Texas) LL
West: Four Peaks Softball LL (Mesa, Ariz.)



SENIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES

Texas District 9 Little League (Waco, Texas) won the 2019 SLSWS title with a 7-5 victory over the Host Team, Delaware District III Little League.

- Asia-Pacific:** Bulacan LL (San Miguel, Philippines)
Canada: Hampton LL (Victoria, B.C.)
Central: Michigan District 9 LL (Grand Rapids, Mich.)
East: Levittown (Pa.) United LL
Europe and Africa: Southwest Thunder LL (Rotterdam/The Hague, Netherlands)
Host: Delaware District 3 LL (Sussex County, Del.)
Latin America: Softball Femenino de Coamo (P.R.) LL
Southeast: PAL LL (Florence, S.C.)
Southwest: Texas District 9 LL (Waco, Texas)
West: Burbank (Calif.) LL



LITTLE LEAGUE CHALLENGER DIVISION® EXHIBITION GAME

This year, Massachusetts District 12 Challenger Little League and Peterborough (Ontario) Challenger Baseball League were featured in the 2019 Little League Challenger Division® Exhibition Game during the Little League Baseball® World Series.

Originally launched in 2007 as the Malden West Little League Challenger Program by Marie Shea, the Massachusetts District 12 Challenger Little League now provides opportunities to children with physical and intellectual challenges throughout the entire district. Most importantly, the league has been able to make the program free to all its participants through the help of local sponsors, including the generous support of the Boston Red Sox through the work of the Red Sox Foundation.

Established in May 2016, the Peterborough Challenger Baseball League provides opportunities to more than 100 players in two divisions of play throughout the city of Peterborough. In addition to the support the league provides, Peterborough Challenger Baseball League works with the Toronto Blue Jays through the Jays Care Foundation to provide a welcoming space for children to grow, learn, and build relationships throughout the community. Thanks to the help of local sponsors, the league provided jerseys and pants to each of its players participating in the program.





LITTLE LEAGUE® ANNOUNCES WORLD SERIES EXPANSION FOR 2021

To provide the World Series experience to more children around the world, the Little League® International Board of Directors approved expanding the number of teams at the Little League Baseball® World Series to 20 and Little League Softball® World Series to 12, starting in 2021. Set to launch in coordination with the celebration of the 75th Little League Baseball World Series, the new expansion will allow for two additional teams from the United States and two additional international teams to participate in the Little League Baseball World Series as well as two additional teams to compete at the Little League Softball World Series.

On the baseball side, the United States field will establish two new regions with the Metro Region and the Mountain Region, effectively dividing the East and West Regions, respectively, into three sub-regions at the Little League Baseball division. A three-year rotation for direct entry into the Little League Baseball World Series will be established between Cuba, Puerto Rico, and Panama with two teams earning an automatic bid to the tournament each year and the remaining team competing through its respective regional tournament. The order for that rotation will be determined at the annual Little League Baseball World Series Luncheon held in June 2020.

On the softball side, the current Little League Softball World Series East Region will be divided into the Mid-Atlantic and New England Regions, and the current West Region will be divided into the Northwest and West Regions.

As part of the expansion, a series of facilities improvements to the Little League International Complex in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania, including the addition of dormitories, as well as improved infirmary and laundry facilities, was approved to accommodate the additional teams. Enhancements to the fan experience through improved parking, restrooms, gift shop, and other areas are also planned. The overall project to enhance facilities is estimated to cost \$15 million. To finance the facility improvements and expansion, Little League will utilize reserved funds to ensure there is no financial impact to local Little League programs.

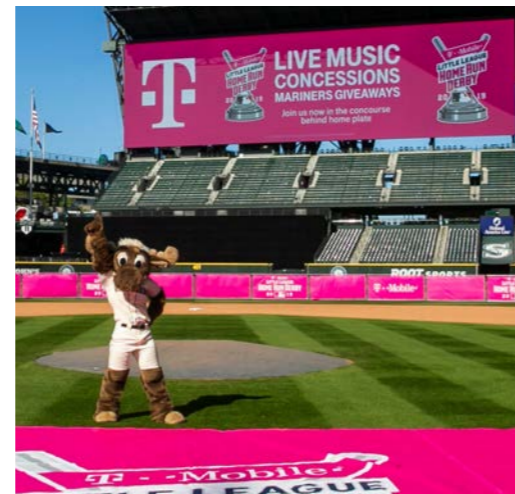
For more information on the decision to expand, including Frequently Asked Questions for local leagues and families, visit LittleLeague.org/2021.





ADIDAS MAKES IMMEDIATE IMPACT AS NEW UNIFORM PROVIDER

In their first year as the official uniform, footwear, and coaches apparel supplier for the Little League® World Series, adidas immediately looked to find a way to make an impact with local Little Leaguers® around the world. From working with Major League Baseball players and other influencers to share the new uniforms on social media to creating an exciting player's lounge at both the Little League Baseball® and Little League Softball® World Series, adidas brought an excitement and flare to the Little League brand in 2019.



T-MOBILE STEPS TO THE PLATE IN FIRST YEAR OF PARTNERSHIP

In addition to pledging \$100,000 to support three local leagues in Puerto Rico rebuilding from the recent hurricanes, T-Mobile stepped to the plate in a big way in year one of their partnership, launching the first ever T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby to provide local leagues with a new and exciting opportunity. In addition to those unique opportunities, T-Mobile also ensured that the \$1 million raised from both the MLB Home Run Derby and the T-Mobile Little League Home Run Derby Championship would be given to Little League to help make the program more accessible to kids around the world.



MERCHANDISE

Earlier this year, Little League International improved the retail layout and expanded the product line at the *World of Little League® Museum and Official Store*. This change enhanced the guest experience for both museum and store patrons by streamlining traffic flow at the entrance.



FAMILY FUN ZONE PROVIDES UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES

As it does every August during the Little League Baseball® World Series, the Family Fun Zone once again provided visitors with unique, family-friendly interaction with the official sponsors of Little League® Baseball and Softball. This year, some of the exciting opportunities that the Family Fun Zone provided included Virtual Reality games, customized pins, special guest appearances, exciting giveaways, and more.

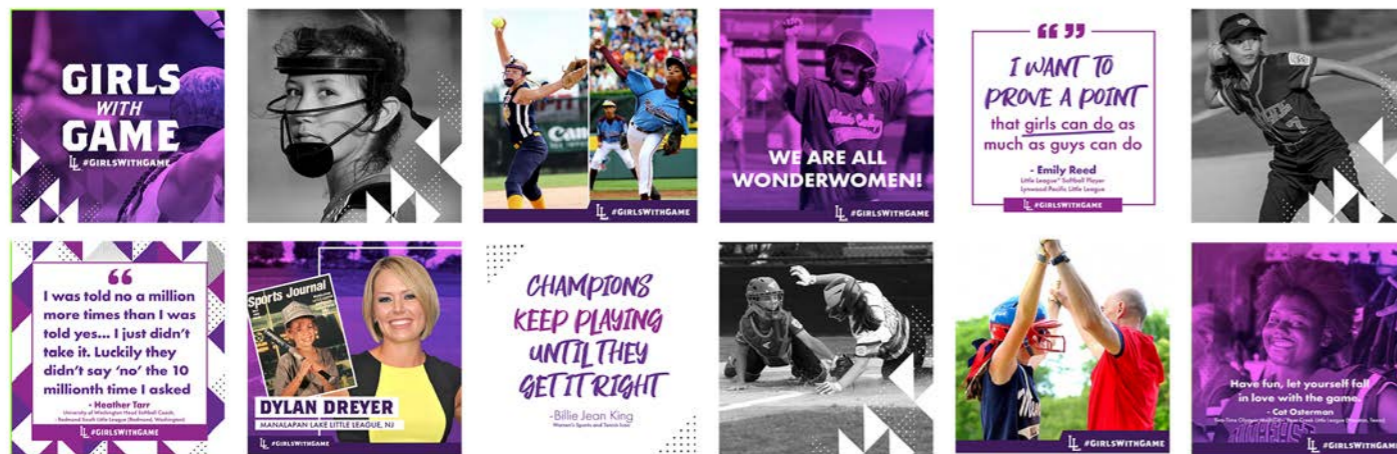


GIRLS WITH GAME

LittleLeague.org/GirlswithGame

In celebration of National Women's History Month in March, and February's National Girls and Women in Sports Day, Little League® Baseball and Softball launched a campaign to honor all the girls and women who have made the program what it is today.

From written stories and feature videos to inspiring quotes and photos across all its digital media platforms, Little League Baseball and Softball's #GirlsWithGame Campaign celebrates the memorable moments, exciting events, and inspiring individuals throughout the Little League program.



Inspiring Feature stories and quotes by notable Little League® Alumni including:

- Sue Enquist
- Dylan Dreyer
- Jennie Finch
- Sydney Leroux
- Jessica Mendoza
- Cat Osterman
- Heather Tarr
- Krissy Wendell
- + More!



PORTLAND, OR

This summer, in celebration of the launch of the Girls with Game campaign, Little League International went out to the Little League Softball World Series in Portland, Oregon, to create a number of feature videos highlighting the inspiring women in our softball program. All those videos, as well as additional features from this summer, can be found at LittleLeague.org/Videos.



Little League Softball® is important to me because it has changed my life forever and I will always get to come back and say that I came to the Little League World Series and was a part of that great experience that a lot of girls wish they could have.

Bailey Nelson,
Southwest Region Player



SOCIAL MEDIA SEES CONTINUED GROWTH

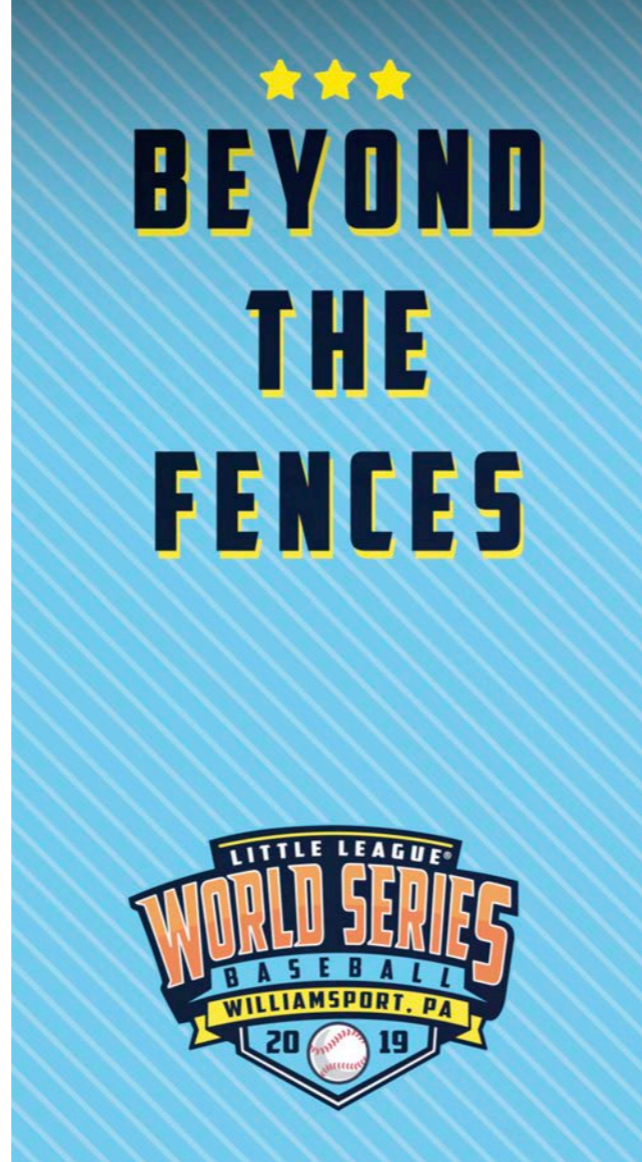
Little League’s official social media platforms continued to shine in 2019 with significant growth on both Instagram and Facebook. During the 2019 Little League® World Series, Facebook (195%) and Instagram (38%) led an overall increase in social reach, with the top Facebook post reaching more than 36 million users and being viewed over 12 million times.

YEAR TWO OF BEYOND THE FENCES SHARES UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE

For the second straight year, Little League International provided a behind-the-scenes look at the Little League World Series with the “Beyond the Fences” video series. From entertaining off-the-field games and interactions between the players and umpires to first-person documentation of what it’s like to be a part of the iconic event, Beyond the Fences gave fans a unique opportunity to see into what it’s like to experience the World Series.

WEBSITE

In 2019, LittleLeague.org continued its overall website growth and development by hosting and operating all seven Divisional World Series websites under one domain. This ensured greater flexibility to share content across multiple websites, provided a consistent look and feel for each page, allowed for easy integration of video highlights, and increased exposure and prominence to each Divisional World Series Tournament. Most notably, LittleLeague.org exceed its yearly pageview goal (of 28 million) by 10%, as it finished the year with 31.2 million pageviews, saw a dramatic rise in mobile users (70%), and remarkably, eclipsed one million pageviews in a day on Sunday, August 18.



INCREASED TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL LEAGUE RESOURCES

In 2019, Little League® International continued to develop additional resources to help parents and local league volunteers provide an unforgettable Little League experience to children all over the world.

DATA CENTER

The most important tool for local league officials, the Little League Data Center has continued to evolve to provide volunteers with all the necessary information and forms in one location. From inputting registration information and managing boundary maps to finding all the resources necessary for tournament enrollment, the Little League Data Center has evolved to assist volunteers in their day-to-day operation of their league.

LOCAL LEAGUE TECHNOLOGY

In addition to the support provided through the Data Center, Little League continues to work with Blue Sombrero (now Sports Connect) to provide additional support to local leagues and districts with the opportunity to create free, custom websites. As part of that relationships, continued integrations with the Little League Data Center help provide more efficient solutions to local league volunteers in communities everywhere.

WEBINARS

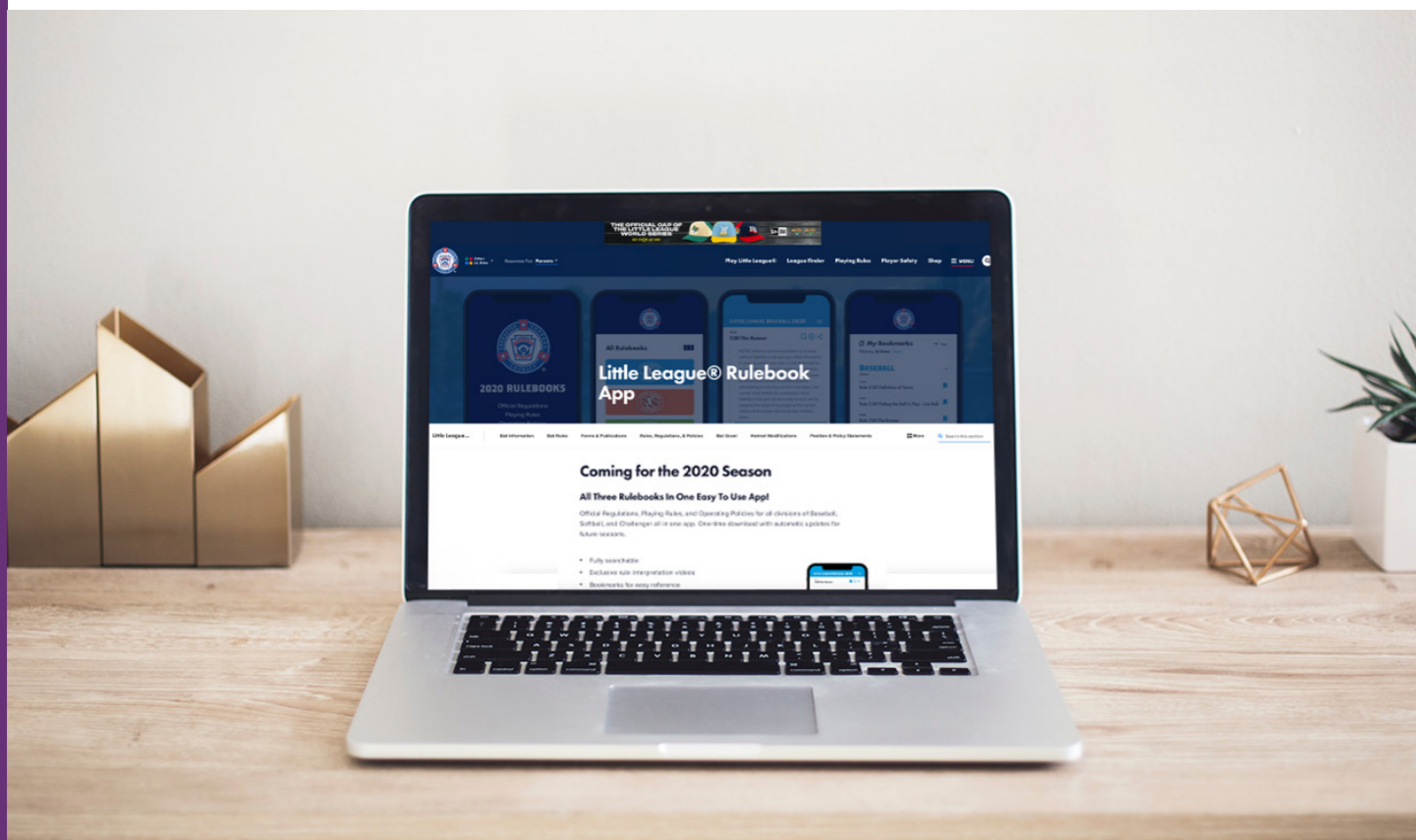
Along with the traditional educational content provided throughout the year, Little League International hosted an online, educational webinar series to assist local leagues and District staff with timely information and resources.

DRILLS

To help new coaches and parents learn the basic fundamentals of the game of baseball and softball, Little League also worked to create new skills and drills videos in 2019 that are available on Little League University.

UMPIRE REGISTRY

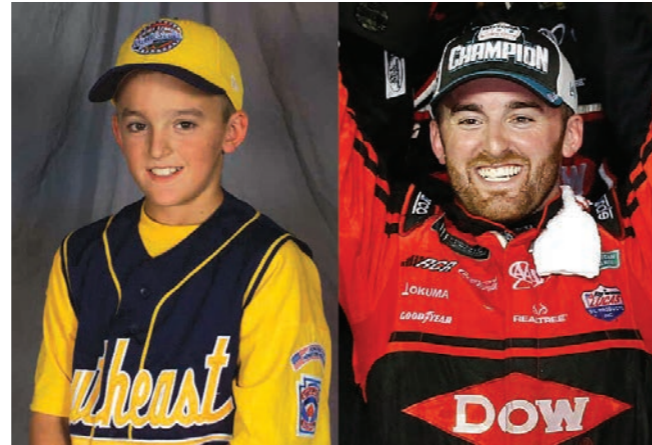
In 2019, Little League redeveloped the Umpire Registry, a place where Little League’s volunteer umpires have access to an assortment of training materials, including live webinars, a specially-discounted “umpire bundle” of materials from the Little League store, and other items.



LITTLE LEAGUE HALL OF EXCELLENCE



Photo Credit: HHP/RCR



AUSTIN DILLON (NASCAR DRIVER)

While to many it may seem like an individual sport, it takes a lot of teamwork to be a successful NASCAR driver. It's important to work together with your pit crew and teammates in order to see success on the track. For 2018 Daytona 500 champion, Austin Dillon, that teamwork was instilled with him at a young age during his time on the baseball field playing for Southwest Forsyth County (N.C.) Little League.

In the summer of 2002, Mr. Dillon and his teammates from North Carolina made the run of a lifetime as they went on to become one of 16 teams to make it to Williamsport and compete in the Little League Baseball® World Series. For his dedication to the values of Little League®, and for his outstanding service as a role model within the community, Little League International was honored to announce Austin Dillon as a 2019 Little League Hall of Excellence Enshrinee.



HEATHER TARR (UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SOFTBALL HEAD COACH)

For University of Washington Head Coach Heather Tarr, spending time at the Little League field has helped lead to her to an incredible career as a collegiate player, professional player, and now a top NCAA Division I head coach. Throughout her childhood, Little League was always an important part of the Tarr family household, with both of her brothers playing in the same league, while her father stepped in to help out as a volunteer coach for Heather's team. Little did she know, Ms. Tarr would also be playing alongside the future of her family as well, playing her Major Division season on the same team as her soon-to-be brother-in-law, Jeff D'Amico, with her eventual father-in-law, Tom D'Amico, as the team's manager.

A native of Redmond, Washington, Ms. Tarr has gone on to become the winningest coach of any sport in University of Washington history with a 636-244-1 record over her 15 seasons. Ms. Tarr led the Huskies to a national championship in 2009, the program's first, and has coached more than 25 All-Americans, including two-time USA Softball Player of the Year Danielle Lawrie, also a Little League graduate. Because of her dedication to the game of baseball and softball, and for demonstrating the values instilled within the Little League program, Little League International was honored to enshrine Mrs. Tarr into the Little League Hall of Excellence in 2019.

LOCAL LITTLE LEAGUE® AWARD WINNERS:

Volunteer of the Year
Howard Dickson (California District 12)

Howard and Gail Paster Urban Initiative Volunteer of the Year
Carolyn Taggart (Belvedere Little League – Decatur, Ga.)

Mom of the Year
Katie Kilar (Boulder City (Nev.) Little League)

Good Sport of the Year
John Griffin III (Montesano (Wash.) Little League)

Challenger Division Volunteer of the Year
Mary Lou Davis (Indiana District 14 Challenger Division)

Softball Volunteer of the Year
Andrew Bergman (Yough Little League – Smithton, Pa.)

Jack Losch Little League Baseball World Series Team Sportsmanship Award
Cacique Mara Little League (Maracaibo, Venezuela)

MIKE AND GRETCHEN PISCOTTY NAMED GEORGE AND BARBARA BUSH LITTLE LEAGUE PARENTS OF THE YEAR

For Mike Piscotty, father of Oakland Athletics' outfielder Stephen Piscotty, and his late-wife, Gretchen, the decision to get Stephen and his two brothers, Nick and Austin, involved in Little League was an easy one because of the kids' love for baseball. For the two parents, it was even more important to find a way to get involved with their sons as volunteers of the program and helped the family grow closer together as all three boys played in the program from Tee Ball through their 12-year-old playing days.

Volunteering became an important role in the Piscotty family during their time in both Livermore (Calif.) American Little League and Pleasanton (Calif.) American Little League where the boys played growing up, and because of their time, dedication, and values displayed during their time with Little League, Mr. and Mrs. Piscotty were named the recipients of the 2019 George and Barbara Bush Little League Parents of the Year Award.



PAUL GRAZIANO NAMED W. HOWARD HARTMAN LITTLE LEAGUE FRIENDSHIP AWARD WINNER

Celebrating his 40th Little League Baseball® World Series this summer, longtime Little League® volunteer and dedicated Little League Baseball World Series Press Box announcer, Paul Graziano, had one more honor to his collection as the 2019 W. Howard Hartman Little League Friendship Award recipient. A committed Little League volunteer throughout the year in his home state of New Jersey, Mr. Graziano is most well-known for his role in press row of Howard J. Lamade Stadium where he serves as the official press box announcer for the Little League Baseball World Series each summer, sharing lineup changes, substitutions, and official announcements to members of the media.





THE ROAD TO THE LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES EXHIBIT

The *World of Little League® Museum and Official Store* added a brand-new exhibit to the beginning of the Fourth Inning that shares with visitors an inside look at the Road to the Little League® World Series. Featuring the same racecar that was used by Dugout at the East Region Tournament, the exhibit displays photos from every stage of the Little League International Tournament across the ceiling, leading them straight into the World Series display in the Fifth Inning. In addition to the new physical display, the exhibit also starts with a new feature video that documents the full scope of the Little League International Tournament and what it takes for a local league to be a part of it.

NEW AWARDS DISPLAY HIGHLIGHTS LITTLE LEAGUE'S TOP ACHIEVERS

Rounding out the end of the tour at the *World of Little League® Museum* is a new digital display that highlights all of the Little League® Award Winners over the years, as well as other volunteer achievements and each of the members of the Little League International Board of Directors. Along with the incorporation of videos and photos, the new display allows visitors to take an interactive look at all of the great volunteers who have helped to make the Little League program what it has become today.



ASAP PROGRAM REACHES RECORD PARTICIPATION

In 2019, local Little League® programs throughout the United States participated in the A Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) at a record rate with 94% participation.

2019 ASAP Regional Winners:

Central Region – Blaine Area Little League (Minnesota)

East Region – Hamilton Township Recreation Baseball Association Little League (New Jersey)

Southeast Region – West Boynton Little League (Florida)

Southwest Region – Brazos Little League (Texas)

West Region (National Winner) – Concord American Little League (California)



SAFESPORT TRAINING BOLSTERS CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAM

This year, Little League International strengthened its Child Protection Program with the addition of resources and training centered around the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and SafeSport Authorization Act of 2017, better known as “SafeSport” (LittleLeague.org/SafeSport). Along with providing local leagues and volunteers with those resources and communicating to them the requirements they must adhere to, Little League International required each of its employees to complete the Abuse Awareness training provided by USA Baseball and SafeSport.



JDP CHECKS

Now in its second full year using J.D. Palatine for its National Background Check Services, Little League International saw a record number of background checks processed in 2019 with 348,000. In addition to all the communications done directly to local leagues, volunteers were also provided with a variety of important resources, tutorials, and FAQs on the Little League website to make the background check process smooth this year.

IN MEMORIAM

David Murphy

Former Texas District 2 Assistant Administrator, LLBWS Umpire
October 2018

Betty Pulis

Latin America Region Secretary
October 2018

Annie Plankenhorn

Wife of longtime LLBWS team Host Fred Plankenhorn
November 2018

Beverly Hale

Retired Little League® Staffer and Corporate Secretary
November 2018

President George H.W. Bush

Longtime Little League Supporter
November 2018

Charlie Niles, Jr.

Former Ohio District 9 Administrator
December 2018

Bob Stearns

Former Massachusetts District 7 Administrator
December 2018

Joe McMillan

Illinois District 10 Administrator
February 2019

Peter Vardakas

PA 22 Assistant District Administrator; more than 50 years of LL service
March 2019

James B. Wasson

Former West Virginia 6 District Administrator
April 2019

Mary McCoy

Longtime Local League volunteer
April 2019

Dr. Michael K. Smith

Former Little League Volunteer of the Year
April 2019

James Wasson Jr.

Former West Virginia District 6 Administrator
April 2019

Derrick Archer

Texas 2 District Administrator
May 2019

Louis Baity

Member of the 1947 Maynard (LL) Midgets World Series Championship team
June 2019

Mike Cook

2016 Little League Baseball® World Series Umpire
July 2019

Nick Solowey

District Administrator and Senior League World Series Umpire
July 2019

David Hinaman

Player on 1939 Jumbo Pretzel team
August 2019

Al Haynes

LLBWS umpire, West Region Tournament volunteer
August 2019

Chace Numata

Junior League Baseball World Series Champion
September 2019

Joe Griffith

Little League Volunteer killed by mass shooter, Odessa, Texas
September 2019

Gia Kemoklidze

Founder Little League in European Republic of Georgia
September 2019

Little League® thanks its sponsors and partners who supported our 2019 efforts



President George H.W. Bush and his wife, the late Barbara Bush, were Little League parents in Texas during their children's early years. And, over the course of 60 years, President Bush was an ardent supporter of Little League International.

"For decades, Little League International has been honored to call President George H.W. Bush, and his entire family, friends of our organization. Whether it was during his days as a Little League coach in Midland, Texas, or supporting Little League International's efforts at the highest level during his term in the White House, President Bush and Little League had many opportunities to cross paths. For that, we are eternally grateful. On behalf of the entire Little League International family, I extend our utmost condolences to the Bush family, as we all remember the legacy of President Bush."

Stephen D. Keener
Little League President and CEO

Partners



2018-19 LITTLE LEAGUE® YEAR IN REVIEW



LittleLeague.org