

# LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### Why are Continental & Walnut Creek LL combining?

Little League Softball divisions tend to be smaller than the baseball divisions. This means that teams must travel to neighboring leagues in order to have enough teams to play. By combining neighboring softball divisions and mixing girls from both CLL & WCLL onto teams, our Little Leagues will minimize, if not eliminate the need to travel.

There are *several* benefits to a combined softball division:

- ◆ **A bigger league means less travel, or possibly NO travel to other fields!** Games will be played at local fields (see field locations below), with possible travel to near-by Clayton! The bigger our softball division, the less we'll have to travel, so **REGISTER NOW! *There is no reason to wait to register!*** Registration is less if you register before January 1<sup>st</sup>!
- ◆ **Prime field locations!** Although not finalized yet, the board is targeting the girls practicing and playing at Northgate High, Castle Rock Park, and the brand new fields at Bancroft Elementary! All just minutes away! If we do not have enough teams to form a full division, we will most likely only travel to Clayton for inter-league play.

### How did the first combined season go?

It was VERY successful! Last season's parent survey showed an overwhelmingly "positive experience for my daughter!" We had 10 full teams - 2 Major teams, 4 Minor teams, and 4 Mini Minor teams! And we're anticipating an even-bigger division in 2010!

### What does "fast-pitch" mean? It sounds dangerous!

Fast-pitch means that girls pitch the ball straight over home plate. The pitch is not lobbed - it does not bounce on or behind the plate, like in slow-pitch softball. The girls pitch it as hard as a 9 to 12 year-old girl can pitch - it is not excessively fast at this age group.

### When does the season start/end?

Practices begin early February, games begin early March, and the season ends early June (with the option of Tournament of Champions and All Star games until early July).

### How often do they play?

Practices and games are typically twice or three times a week, one or two on a weeknight and one on a Saturday.

### How are teams chosen? Can my daughter play with her buddy?

1. All players will be evaluated at "Tryouts" (nobody is ever "cut" - everybody plays!)
2. The Major division managers get together at "Draft Night" and each take turns choosing 12 players, one by one, until each has a full team of 12 players.
3. The Minor managers meet and draft players from the remaining player list.
4. Those players left over will play Mini Minors, and managers will choose teams based on buddy lists, school, and player's ability.

All managers (Major thru Mini Minor) are aware of any buddy requests at the Draft, and do their best to have at least one buddy or school mate on their team for each player.

### What is the difference among the divisions?

**Mini Minors**—this is generally a division for 7 & 8 year olds, and 6 year olds who have played before, although skill level will be determined at tryout evaluations. (10+ may not play Mini Minors.) This division plays with an 11" Safe-T-Soft softball and is coach-pitch. During the first half of the season, teams bat through the line-up to end the inning. 2nd half, 3 outs or batting through the line-up ends the inning. No score is kept.

**Minors**—generally a division for 9-11 year olds (skill level determined at tryouts. No 12 year olds in Minors.) It is played with an 11" hard softball. First half of the season is kid-pitch with a coach pitching after four balls. 2nd half is all kid-pitch. Score is kept, and there is a championship tournament for the 1st place team.

**Majors**—generally for 10-12 year olds (again, skill level determined at tryouts. 8 year olds & under may not play Majors.) It is played with a 12" hard softball. Kid-pitch the entire season. Score is kept, and there is a championship tournament for the 1st place team.

\*\*\*Responses subject to change as the new season is formed.