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## Guide to Operating a Little League® Second Season: Summer and Fall Ball Programs

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### Purpose/Overview

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Little League's second season gives leagues a great opportunity to lengthen their season and provide additional training and development opportunities to players of all ages. A second season program may be operated any time after the conclusion of the regular season and continue into early winter. Leagues may choose to run several additional programs: summer ball, fall ball, etc.

Several goals should be common to any league operating a second season program. These include:

- Provide additional playing opportunities to any interested players in the league regardless of ability
- Recruit new players, volunteers and sponsors to the Little League program
- Introduce new divisions of play within the league
- Provide an additional opportunity for players to transition to the next level to help retain more players
- Provide additional training and development opportunities for all players in the league

### Benefits of Operating a Second Season

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- ◆ Provides an opportunity to recruit more players and volunteers
  - Reach out to players who participate in other sports in the Spring (lacrosse, soccer, etc.)
  - Reach out to players who participate in competing baseball or softball programs
  - Reach out to parents and others associated with the league to get them involved in a small volunteer role during the second season (one day in the concession stand, assist in prepping the field before one game, coaching, etc.)
- ◆ Provide additional playing opportunities for players involved in the league
  - Presents an opportunity for interested players to continue playing during the summer and fall months when weather may be more conducive to playing baseball and softball
- ◆ Provides the league with opportunities to introduce and test new divisions of play
  - Players may participate in second season programs at the league age that they will attain for the following season
  - Leagues can offer players the opportunity to "play up" an age and see if there is interest in participating in a new division of play (Intermediate, Junior, Senior, etc.)
  - If there is interest, leagues can use a second season program to do a soft rollout and build interest for a new division of play to be offered the following season
- ◆ Provides players an additional opportunity to transition to the next level of play by providing the opportunity to participate at the league age that they will attain for the next spring season or to remain at their existing level of play to gain additional experience
- ◆ Provides leagues the opportunity to host league-wide clinics that focus on various skill areas
- ◆ Provides the opportunity to hold early registrations for the following spring at the end of the second season program

### Operating Options

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1. Operate a second season as an extension of the regular season
  - Regular season teams remain intact
  - The league continues operating in the same fashion that it did during the regular season
  - Interleague play or combined teams do not have to be resubmitted
  - Provides additional playing opportunities for everyone in the league
2. Operate an in-house second season
  - Interested players in the league sign up at the conclusion of the regular season
  - New teams may be drafted for the second season

- New managers and coaches may be appointed for the second season
  - Games are played entirely in-house
3. Operate a second season using interleague play
    - Interested players in the league sign up at the conclusion of the regular season
    - New teams may be drafted for the second season
    - New managers and coaches may be appointed for the second season
    - Games are played with other Little Leagues using interleague play
  4. Operate a second season using combined teams
    - Interested players sign up in their own league at the conclusion of the regular season
    - If a league does not have enough players to field a team at a given level of play, they may combine with other leagues to form teams using the Combined Teams form. (There is not a limit to the number of leagues that can combine since tournament play is not offered during Second Season play.)
    - Interleague play may be used to set up games
  5. Operate a district wide second season
    - The District Administrator and District Staff in conjunction with the league presidents determine the levels of play to be offered during the second season
    - Each league conducts registration for interested participants in their league
    - The District Administrator works with leagues to complete any combined team forms as needed for leagues that do not have enough interest at a given level of play
    - The District Administrator/District Staff work with the leagues to set up a schedule and oversee play

## Ways to use the Second Season to Grow Your League

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There are a number of ways that your league can use the second season to increase participation within your program. These include:

- Conducting an early registration for the following Spring season at the conclusion of the second season – consider offering an early registration discount to players who register at this time
- Transitioning players to the next level, leading to increased player retention
- Registering players who participate in other sports and activities in the spring to introduce them to baseball or softball
- Expanding your league's offerings by introducing new divisions of play to determine if there is interest in adding them permanently (Softball, Teenage Baseball, etc.)

## FAQ

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### What does it cost to operate a Little League second season?

There is no additional cost for charter fees or insurance to operate a second season, if you have the same or fewer number of teams participating as participated in the spring season. If you have more teams participating in the second season, the league only needs to pay charter and insurance fees for those additional teams.

### Do Little League rules and regulations apply to a second season?

Yes. Little League rules and regulations must be followed when operating a second season.

### Can players transition to the next division of play during a second season?

Yes. Players may elect to play “up” at the league age they will attain for the following spring season.

### How are managers and coaches selected for second season teams?

Managers and coaches are appointed by the president and approved by the board.

### Can new teams be formed for second season play?

Yes. A league may form new teams out of interested participants for second season play. A league may also elect to keep its regular season teams intact if there is enough interest to do so.