



LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL®
WORLD SERIES BOOKLET

WELCOME TO GREENVILLE

Dear Little League Softball® Champions:

Congratulations on qualifying for the 2021 Little League Softball® World Series Championship! We are excited to welcome you and other Little League Softball champions to Greenville, North Carolina, and Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park for the 2021 Little League Softball World Series Tournament. More than 6,000 teams participate in the Little League® International Tournament with very few experiencing and reaching this level.

We have prepared a wealth of information to assist you as a participant in the 2021 Little League Softball World Series Tournament. Please review the contents of this booklet. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us after reviewing the provided information.

The next page outlines the tasks that require your **IMMEDIATE ATTENTION**. We need a few items to be submitted within **48 hours** of qualifying for the World Series tournament. Please review with your coaching staff, League President, and/or league Board of Directors. The team's coaching staff and League President will receive an email from the Little League International Office, after we speak to the team manager over the phone, that will provide instructions and links to begin submitting the information online. The online submissions do not have to be completed by the team manager, although he/she is responsible for ensuring the information is submitted and accurate.

There are also physical and digital forms that need to be submitted for each player by their parent/legal guardian prior to the team's arrival meeting. Digital forms can be accessed at <https://llwsportal.org>. Parent Guides have been provided (one for each player's family) that you can share with your team parents.

ALL members of the team (manager, up to two coaches, players, and team advocate) will be present upon arrival for testing, badging, and a hotel/tournament meeting. All team managers and umpires MUST attend the mandatory Manager/Umpire meeting on Tuesday, August 10. A coach MUST stay with the team at the hotel to supervise the players.

We have prepared information to assist you as a participant in the 2021 World Series. Please review the contents of this booklet and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

With your support and cooperation, the 2021 Little League Softball World Series will be a most enjoyable and rewarding experience for all participants.

We wish you the best of luck throughout the tournament. Once again, congratulations and see you soon!

WORLD SERIES COMMITTEE

Committee

Demiko Ervin | World Series Director | dervin@LittleLeague.org

Brian Weingartz | World Series Commissioner

Ann Weingartz | World Series Committee

Ashley Weingartz | World Series Committee

Mark Phillips | World Series Committee

LuAnne Phillips | World Series Committee

Ann Marie Rogers | World Series Committee

Scott Rogers | World Series Committee

Kevin Fisher | World Series Committee



Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park

1055 South Elm Street | Greenville, NC 27836

TEAM INFORMATION SUBMISSION

To allow us to properly prepare for your team's arrival and the World Series Tournament, **we require the following information to be reviewed and completed within 48 hours of receiving the packet. Failure to complete these items ASAP and within 48 hours can greatly hinder the tournament preparations.** The coaching staff and League President will receive an email from Little League International with instructions and a link to start submitting the information.

If you DID NOT speak to a World Series committee or staff member by phone after your Region Tournament, please call Demiko immediately at 570-326-1921 ext. 2245 to report your victory. Leave a message if the call is after hours.

Teams have already submitted the team roster, with preferred names, ages, and playing info. We will need the player rooming assignments, which will be submitted on the appropriate form to Demiko. Each player on the team must be assigned to a room. This online form submission does not have to be completed by the team manager, although he/she is responsible for ensuring the information is submitted and accurate.

Player Eligibility Documentation Upload

Player Eligibility Documentation was uploaded for the Region Tournament. A member of the Little League Softball World Series Committee or Staff will connect with a team manager if any additional supporting documentation is needed for the team or any player(s).

PLAYER FORMS

Each player will need to have various digital forms completed by her parent/legal guardian prior to the team's arrival August 8 or 9. The digital forms will be a Youngs Physical Therapy & Sports Performance waiver for treatment and an ECU Campus & Recreation waiver form to be completed by the parent/guardian with the player.

COACHING STAFF FORMS

Separately from the forms that need to be completed for the players, additional forms need to be completed by the coaching staff prior the team's arrival on August 8 or 9.

Forms 1-3 can be accessed at <https://llwsportal.org>.

- 1. Youngs Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Treatment waiver**
- 2. ECU Campus & Recreation waiver**
- 3. World Series Tournament Manager's Agreement Completed by Team Manager and League President**
- 4. Team Rooming List (Physical form)**

Each manager and coach must also complete the **SafeSport Abuse Awareness for Adults Training Course**. If not previously completed, the coaching staff can access the course for adults at LittleLeague.org/SafeSport. The course lasts about 40 minutes and is free. You will need to provide (ideally by email) your completion certificate after completing the course (or if you have already completed the course).

FEMALE ADVOCATE

Teams will appoint a Female Player Advocate for the Little League Softball World Series to serve as a liaison between parents and players. Those individuals will be provided housing, meals, and transportation to/from games, practices, and activities, but will not be permitted in the dugout during games. All Female Player Advocates must have an approved background check through JDP. Little League strongly recommends the individuals be fully vaccinated. Female Player Advocates will assist with various team functions including communication, COVID-19 testing, player health, etc. Additionally, they must wear a face covering at all times and social distance when interacting with families outside of the team pod.

STALLINGS STADIUM AT ELM STREET PARK

When the bright lights of ESPN shine on Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park for the first time in August 2021, Greenville will showcase the crown jewel of its city parks on an international stage for the first time in its 71 years of existence. However, what might not be readily apparent to the casual viewer is that Elm Street Park, and later Stallings Stadium, had humble beginnings as an ordinary local Little League field.

After a generous donation of land by the Blount Family in 1951, Elm Street Park was built on a plot of land nestled in between a hill and the Green Mill Run and surrounded by beautiful pine trees. In 1999, the historic floodwaters of Hurricane Floyd put the playing field under four feet of water. That was when Chris “Butter” Ball, a former Greenville Little Leaguer® turned professional grounds keeper, stepped in to have materials and labor donated to refurbish the playing surface. Chris Ball is leading the volunteer ground crew for the 2021 Little League Softball World Series.

A local family of past Greenville Little Leaguers, the Stallings Family, donated the funds to build what is now known as “Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park”. The stadium was first used on June 22, 2012. Stallings Stadium contains a full service press box which will host the ESPN booth and volunteer staff during the Little League Softball World Series. Each of the 234 stadium seats are “stadium style” chairback seats which are designed for the maximum amount of spectator comfort. In addition to Stallings Stadium, Elm Street Park features about 200 bleacher seats in right field, two right field viewing decks (The Joey Overby Memorial Deck and Jarman Family Viewing Deck), as well as a right field picnic area.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

There are two distinct segments to the Little League Softball World Series. This method gives every team the opportunity to play four qualifying games. Once a segment is completed, games played previously have no bearing on the next segment, with the exception of rules and regulations regarding rest periods for pitchers.

In the **first segment**, the Pool Play Round, the 10 teams are divided into two pools of five teams each, named after softball icons Jennie Finch and Jessica Mendoza. Each team in the pools will play the other four teams in their pools once. The four teams with the best records in each pool (a total of eight teams) will advance to the next round. If the four teams cannot be determined using records in Pool Play (won-lost records), a tie-breaker system has been established.

1. If there is a tie between two teams (two teams with identical records), the tie-breaker is the score of the game played between the two teams (head-to-head result).
2. If there is a three-way tie, and no clear winner can be determined based on head-to-head competition, then ...

The total number of runs given up in all pool play games played by that team, divided by 6 innings per game. This provides the Runs-Allowed Ratio. The Runs-Allowed Ratio is used to advance ALL teams after it is determined that head-to-head cannot be used.

If, after computing the Runs-Allowed Ratio using results of all pool play games played by the teams involved in the tie: one team has the lowest Runs-Allowed Ratio, that team advances. After one team has advanced using the Runs-Allowed Ratio, each subsequent team needed to advance is determined by the Runs-Allowed Ratio until all teams are determined and seeded.

Two or more teams remain tied with the same runs-Allowed Ratio, and the Tiebreaker Procedures cannot be used (because no team defeated each of the other teams in the tie each time they played, or because no team has defeated all of the other teams involved in the tie in every one of the pool play games played between those teams, or because the teams involved in the tie did not play one another an equal number of times during pool play), then the Runs-Allowed Ratio must be recomputed using statistics only from the pool play games played between the teams involved in the tie. The results are used to advance ONE team, and any other ties must revert to the Runs-Allowed Ratio using all remaining teams.

Once the eight teams to advance are seeded in the next round, final scores and won-lost records in pool play are completely disregarded. However, pitching records and required rest periods for pitchers are maintained throughout the World Series.

The **second segment** is an eight-team, single-elimination format, in which teams from one pool plays teams from the other pool and seeding will be based on their Pool Play record. The winners of the games advance to the World Championship Game.

PRE-TOURNAMENT

TEAM TRAVEL TO GREENVILLE | AUGUST 8 & 9

Little League International has secured travel arrangements for all teams participating in the World Series. Your Region Director or Little League International will provide you with travel arrangement information.

It is very difficult to coordinate with the airlines regarding changes to airports and schedules. It might be impossible to change a flight if a team desires. Little League will do its best to accommodate teams; however, the airline industry is informing us that if changes are made to a schedule, there will be a \$200 per person penalty plus any additional costs as the result of the change. Therefore, it might be necessary to return a team to the region tournament site or make other arrangements to get them to the closest airport serviced by the airlines we are utilizing. Of course, space availability is the key issue. All travel arrangements will be coordinated through each team's Manager.

It is then critical that the Manager communicate this information to the players, parents, or guardians. If any changes are requested, the Manager must put the request in writing to the Tournament Director.

EQUIPMENT & NATIONAL SPONSOR SUPPORT | AUGUST 9 & 10

Little League Official Sponsors provide funding that is critical to the year-round operations of the Little League International program and the Little League Softball World Series. From time to time, Little League facilitates sponsors to interact with teams, managers, coaches, and volunteers. These situations are carefully planned and organized by Little League International staff. As a guide, please review the following:

- Equipment Distribution: Sponsors such as adidas, Easton, A.D. Starr/DICK'S Sporting Goods, and New Era Cap provide a number of essential equipment items for the tournament. Distribution of these items is pre-arranged and your team will be assigned a specific time and location for this distribution. No other equipment manufacturers are allowed to contact you or provide items to you during your time in Greenville. There are no exchanges on personal equipment. Should you be approached by a representative of any corporate entity for purposes contrary to these guidelines, please contact Tournament Staff so steps may be taken to eliminate the intrusion.
- Equipment distribution will be on Monday, August 9, and Tuesday, August 10. Each team will be assigned a time to receive equipment. Teams will receive the following items:
 - adidas - uniform, cleats, wristbands, and other apparel
 - A.D. Starr - softballs for practice (2 dzn)
 - Easton - team catcher's gear, bats, helmets, and batting gloves
 - New Era Cap - on-field visors and headbands for games
- We will work with teams to get sizes and preferences as soon as possible to avoid delays in distributing equipment. Teams and players may keep all equipment.
- Additional apparel and gear may be distributed at pre-arranged times to all teams. Those opportunities will be communicated directly to team managers and coaches.
- A special, grab-and-go style dinner for all players and coaches hosted by Chick-fil-a will be held on Tuesday, August 10. Additional information will be shared closer to the event.

INDIVIDUAL & TEAM PHOTOS | AUGUST 9 & 10

Players, along with the manager and two coaches, will go through individual and team picture sessions on Monday, August 9, and Tuesday, August 10. The session includes individual and team photos to be taken by the Little League Softball World Series official photographer. Little League International will work to communicate directly with the teams and their families about opportunities to obtain photos from the Little League Softball World Series closer to the start of the event. "Players must be in full uniform with the apparel/equipment provided to them for photos. The coaching staff should wear khaki-style shorts or slacks of a single, solid color and the provided World Series polo and hat.

Individual pictures will be taken at the Greenville Convention Center. Weather permitting, the team pictures will take place at Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park. Your team will be assigned a specific time based on team arrival and scheduling. Only team members are permitted on the field during picture sessions.

The Stadium Gift Shop will be open during the team photo sessions to allow everyone to get an exclusive first-look at and ability to purchase exclusive Tournament merchandise.

COACH & UMPIRE BRIEFING | AUGUST 10 - 7 P.M.

The Little League Softball World Series Tournament Briefing will begin at **7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 10**, at the **Greenville Convention Center Emerald Room** located at **303 Greenville Blvd. SW, Greenville, NC 27834**. Attendance is **MANDATORY for all managers and coaches from participating World Series teams**. The Briefing will last approximately two hours in length. The Briefing is open only to managers and coaches. A coach or appointed female advocate must be with their respective team during the briefing.

During the Briefing, Tournament format, policies, rules, and more will be covered in detail by World Series Committee, Little League staff, and the Tournament UIC. A coin flip for home/away will be conducted for each teams' first four games. World Series lineup cards will also be provided at the meeting.

OPTIONAL TEAM PRACTICES | AUGUST 9-18

Teams may practice for 90 minutes on the practice fields located at Evans Park - 625 West Arlington Blvd., Greenville, N.C. Two fields are available and a team may sign-up for one field per time slot. Teams must schedule their practice by 5 p.m. the night prior. The ECU bus will provide transportation to and from the practice facility. Whiffle balls can be checked-out from the Information Room at the Holiday Inn.

Teams may also use the large field space behind the hotel and Greenville Convention Center on a first come, first serve basis.

At NO TIME shall any individual who is not a player, manager, or coach on the team affidavit or the female advocate, participate in any manner, including entering the field or cages during practice and batting cage sessions. Coaches and female advocates may NOT warm up pitchers. Catcher must wear facemasks with a dangling throat guard when warming up pitchers and catching infield practice.

Failure to adhere to practice and batting cage policies may result in loss of slots. Leagues/teams are not covered by insurance if they practice at other locations than those assigned.

TOURNAMENT TEAM ACCOMMODATIONS & SERVICE

TEAM HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

Each team will be housed by Little League at the **Holiday Inn** located at 203 SW Greenville Blvd., Greenville, NC, 27834, regardless of a team's hometown. Little League will cover a team's room and tax expenses. Any other expenses incurred by a team will be the league's or team's responsibility. Housing is available starting on the day the team is transported to Greenville through the morning after the team's elimination (ex: final game is Wednesday, so you can checkout Thursday morning).

All team members listed on the eligibility affidavit, will be housed. For a team that has 12 or less players, it will be provided with three player rooms. A team that has 13 or more players will be provided with four player rooms. Players may NOT stay with their parents/guardians. Player rooms will NOT include any chaperones. The manager will decide the rooming assignments for players.

The coaching staff will be provided two rooms to use at the Holiday Inn. The rooms can be divided amongst the coaching staff as it wishes, but all members of the staff must stay in the rooms. Every team will appoint a "Female Advocate" to travel and stay with the team. The "Female Advocate" may be provided a separate room and is expected to stay with and help the team.

At NO TIME, shall individuals outside of the players, manager, and coaches listed on the team affidavit, and Female Advocate (if necessary), use the provided rooms. Violation of any rules regarding housing may result in additional expenses or up to loss of rooms. Parents, family members, and others are responsible for their own housing and rooms may not be available at the Holiday Inn. Many of the notable hotels are in the same vicinity of these hotels.

Each team/league is required to place a \$250 security deposit via credit card upon check-in at the Holiday Inn. The deposit, along with the team manager registering with the Holiday Inn is required prior to any rooms being available for the team [players, coaching staff, and Female Advocate rooms].

Housing/Hotel Rules

Each team and individual utilizing rooms provided by Little League are to adhere to the following rules along with any other rules in place by the hotel. Failure to adhere to these rules may result in additional expenses or loss of rooms.

- Players are to be in their rooms at all times when at the hotel, outside of the team meal windows.
- The coaching staff will be responsible for the actions of the players while at the hotel.
- No horseplay or running of any kind throughout the building.
- Must be respectful to other guests, including other teams, at hotel at all times.
- Noise complaints, damages, or other issues may result in reduction or loss of security deposit as determined by Little League or the hotel.
- No individuals outside of the players shall utilize the assigned rooms.
- The use or possession of tobacco products and alcohol in the rooms is strictly prohibited.
- Rooms should be kept respectable and at no time shall there be destruction of property.

TEAM LAUNDRY

The Little League Softball World Series Committee has coordinated with UNX Industries to provide laundry services for the coaches, managers, and teams. All official player uniform pieces, as well as coach/manager polos, will be washed after games. Personal items are not included in the service.

Additional information on the laundry schedule, drop-off, and pick-up will be provided at the Coach/Umpire meeting.

TEAM TRANSPORTATION

As part of the COVID-19 mitigation plan, teams will be transported on trolleys and buses provided by Little League and the City of Greenville. ECU Buses will be used for all transportation to/from practice fields and ECU activities. City of Greenville trolleys will transport all teams from the hotel to Elm Street and back for all team games.

Teams will travel as one and will be the only team on the bus/trolley (in most cases). All transportation will be scheduled and trolleys and ECU buses will typically drop off and pick-up in the same spot. Trolleys and buses will not make unscheduled stops and will not be used for any purposes, outside of those scheduled by Little League and the World Series Committee and Staff.

TEAM MEALS

Beginning on the first day of arrival through the final day of play, lunch and dinner will be provided for teams that are still participating in the Tournament. Managers, two coaches, players, and female advocate (if necessary) are the only ones permitted from the teams to enter the meal area. Meals will be served between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. (unless noted differently), daily in the Greenville Convention Center Gallery Rooms. Teams will be provided a meal schedule and each team will use a separate Gallery Room.

Each team **MUST** provide notice to World Series staff by 1 p.m. the day prior if it will **NOT** eat the scheduled meal. Failure to provide notice may result in charges incurred by the league.

Breakfast is provided by the hotel each morning in The Glenn and is included in the expenses covered by Little League. Team breakfast schedules will be provided and COVID testing will be conducted in the Glenn prior to eating.

If a player, coach, or manager has dietary or allergy restrictions, please provide such notice prior to arrival for the Tournament, and World Series Committee staff will do its best to accommodate a player, manager, or coach. If restrictions cannot be avoided, we will notify the team.

TEAM STADIUM TICKETS

Admission into Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park will be limited to the "Team Pass" holders from the teams playing at the time and the limited "Friends and Family" (issued by Little League International) pass holders. Each of the 10 participating teams will receive 99 team passes to be distributed to their families, friends, and community members. The stadiums will be cleared at the end of each game to provide the next teams' pass holders the opportunity to enter the stadiums.

Additional spectators, families of non-playing teams, and other members of the community are permitted to watch the games from any of the public access areas outside of the stadium around the outfield fences, however space will be extremely limited.

TEAM TRAINER & FIRST AID

Each team will have access to licensed sports trainers for any injuries or treatments that may be needed. Youngs Physical Therapy & Sports Performance are located behind the third base dugout and in the Drew Steele Center. Should a team member require medical attention for any manner, they should seek out the personnel on site.

General public first aid is located at the cooling tent in the upper parking lot between the stadium and tennis courts for any individual needing assistance or attention.

DOTCOM THERAPY

DotCom Therapy is here to support the mental health and wellbeing of players at the Little League Softball World Series. Little League understands that players might be feeling a range of emotions due to tournament play and being away from home, and have ensured that a DotCom Therapist is here to help players with a variety of challenges.

Adults involved in the tournament, including coaches and volunteers, may refer a player they identify as a player of concern for consultation, but therapy sessions can only be scheduled through account created by parent/guardian.

2021 LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL® WORLD SERIES

GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA | AUGUST 11-18

JENNIE FINCH POOL TEAMS			
	MISSOURI	Central A - Daniel Boone LL Columbus, Mo.	
	NEW YORK	East A - South Otagawa LL Orangeburg, N.Y.	
	VIRGINIA	Southwest A - Chesterfield LL Chesterfield, Va.	
	TEXAS	Southwest B - Robinson LL Robinson, Texas	
	ARIZONA	West B - Cactus Football LL Cave Creek, Ariz.	



JESSICA MENDOZA POOL TEAMS			
	OKLAHOMA	Southwest A - Green Country LL Muskogee, Okla.	
	NEVADA	West A - Sunnyside South LL Las Vegas, Nev.	
	NEW JERSEY	East B - Robbinsville LL Robbinsville, N.J.	
	INDIANA	Central B - Zionsville LL Zionsville, Ind.	
	NORTH CAROLINA	Southwest B - Fowles LL Salisbury, N.C.	

POOL PLAY - DAY 1

GAME 1
 VIRGINIA vs MISSOURI
 Wednesday 8/11 @ 10 AM | ESPN+

GAME 2
 OKLAHOMA vs NEW JERSEY
 Wednesday 8/11 @ 1 PM | ESPN+

GAME 3
 NORTH CAROLINA vs INDIANA
 Wednesday 8/11 @ 4 PM | ESPN+

GAME 4
 ARIZONA vs NEW YORK
 Wednesday 8/11 @ 7 PM | ESPN+

BYES: TEXAS, NEVADA

POOL PLAY - DAY 2

GAME 5
 OKLAHOMA vs NORTH CAROLINA
 Thursday 8/12 @ 10 AM | ESPN+

GAME 6
 VIRGINIA vs ARIZONA
 Thursday 8/12 @ 1 PM | ESPN+

GAME 7
 NEVADA vs NEW JERSEY
 Thursday 8/12 @ 4 PM | ESPN+

GAME 8
 MISSOURI vs TEXAS
 Thursday 8/12 @ 7 PM | ESPN+

BYES: NEW YORK, INDIANA

POOL PLAY - DAY 3

GAME 9
 NEVADA vs INDIANA
 Friday 8/13 @ 10 AM | ESPN+

GAME 10
 NEW YORK vs TEXAS
 Friday 8/13 @ 1 PM | ESPN+

GAME 11
 MISSOURI vs ARIZONA
 Friday 8/13 @ 4 PM | ESPN+

GAME 12
 NORTH CAROLINA vs NEW JERSEY
 Friday 8/13 @ 7 PM | ESPN+

BYES: VIRGINIA, OKLAHOMA

POOL PLAY - DAY 4

GAME 13
 NEW YORK vs MISSOURI
 Saturday 8/14 @ 10 AM | ESPN+

GAME 14
 INDIANA vs NEW JERSEY
 Saturday 8/14 @ 1 PM | ESPN+

GAME 15
 TEXAS vs VIRGINIA
 Saturday 8/14 @ 4 PM | ESPN+

GAME 16
 NEVADA vs OKLAHOMA
 Saturday 8/14 @ 7 PM | ESPN+

BYES: ARIZONA, NORTH CAROLINA

POOL PLAY - DAY 5

GAME 17
 ARIZONA vs TEXAS
 Sunday 8/15 @ 10 AM | ESPN+

GAME 18
 NORTH CAROLINA vs NEVADA
 Sunday 8/15 @ 1 PM | ESPN+

GAME 19
 INDIANA vs OKLAHOMA
 Sunday 8/15 @ 4 PM | ESPN+

GAME 20
 NEW YORK vs VIRGINIA
 Sunday 8/15 @ 7 PM | ESPN+

BYES: MISSOURI, NEW JERSEY

ELIMINATION BRACKET

GAME 21
 QUARTERFINAL 1
 3rd PLACE MENDOZA vs 2nd PLACE FINCH
 Monday 8/16 @ 10 AM | ESPN

GAME 22
 QUARTERFINAL 2
 4th PLACE FINCH vs 1st PLACE MENDOZA
 Monday 8/16 @ 1 PM | ESPN

GAME 25
 SEMI-FINAL 1
 W21 vs W22
 Tuesday 8/17 @ 4 PM | ESPN

GAME 28
 LLWS CHAMPIONSHIP
 W25 vs W26
 Wednesday 8/18 @ 5 PM | ESPN

GAME 27
 CONSOLATION GAME - WEDNESDAY 8/18 @ 1 PM

GAME 26
 SEMI-FINAL 2
 W23 vs W24
 Tuesday 8/17 @ 7 PM | ESPN

GAME 23
 QUARTERFINAL 3
 3rd PLACE FINCH vs 2nd PLACE MENDOZA
 Monday 8/16 @ 4 PM | ESPN

GAME 24
 QUARTERFINAL 4
 4th PLACE MENDOZA vs 1st PLACE FINCH
 Monday 8/16 @ 7 PM | ESPN

TEAM PLAYER PARTIES | AUGUST 13 & 14

The Greenville-Pitt County Sports Commission is excited to coordinate player parties for all the participating teams 5 p.m. -10 p.m. on Friday, August 13, and Saturday, August 14. Each night will host five World Series teams for an evening of local food, fun activities, and a movie in the Hilton Ballrooms.

Players, the coaching staff, and female advocate are required to attend and dress is casual for all team members. Players must wear their mask and will be properly socially distanced once inside the ballroom.

ON-FIELD EQUIPMENT USE

The official sponsors of Little League® have supplied almost everything players need at the Little League Softball World Series. We ask that consideration be given to using the equipment provided to the extent it does not interfere with a player's comfort or ability.

Team visors and headbands are provided by New Era Cap and uniforms and cleats by adidas. We hope players will enjoy wearing these items.

If undershirts, wristbands, and any protective/injury wraps (e.g. wrist guards, knee brace) are worn that are of any brand other than adidas, Easton, or another approved, official sponsor, that they be worn so that the label (logo) does not appear. Little League will cover logos as needed.

Gatorade and water are provided in the dugouts. Please be sure that you and your players use the provided Gatorade cups at all times.

No other cups, water bottles, or items should appear in the dugout.

- **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:** Similarly, players will receive a pair of batting gloves to match the uniforms from Easton. However, players are not required to wear these gloves.
- Special circumstances always arise, and we'll work with you to make sure the players' experience is not affected negatively by these guidelines.

UNIFORMS

Each player will receive an Official World Series uniform that consists of:

- One jerseys
- One pair of softball pants
- One pair of socks
- One belt
- One matching on-field team visor and one headband
- One jacket
- Base layer shirts
- One pair of cleats
- Sleeve
- Wristbands and one pair of batting gloves
- One backpack

Each manager and coach are provided the following:

- One adidas World Series golf shirt
- One team cap
- One pair of adidas coaching shoes

Each team manager and coaches are to wear khaki-style shorts or slacks of a solid color with their polo shirt and team hat during games. Athletic pants, shorts, and jeans of any color are not permitted.

DECORUM

The actions of all players, managers, coaches, umpires, family members, fans, volunteers, and Little League International staff members are expected to be above reproach. Above all, win or lose, good sportsmanship is to be exhibited at all times. Misconduct, whether in the hotels, in the meal room, on the field, etc., could result in the manager, coach, player, or entire team being disqualified from further participation in the Little League International Tournament, by action of the Tournament Committee.

The umpires invited from around the U.S. to work the games are volunteers. Although the umpires have been through a rigorous selection process, and have been chosen for their proficiency and experience, they are fallible.

Close plays are a part of softball. Should a close call not go your team's way, please remember your reaction to an umpire's call. We trust that the impression you leave on the tournament will be a good one, regardless of the outcome of the games. Unruly behavior by anyone at the Little League Softball World Series will not be tolerated.

Players, managers, and coaches are to refrain from interacting with individuals outside of the playing field during a game. This does not refrain spectators from cheering for teams and players. Stealing signs in any form is not permitted.

SOCIAL MEDIA USE

Social media use during the Tournament by players, managers, and coaches is to be limited in use and it should only be used to express positive messages about the team. Additionally, it is not to be used to display negative messages toward players, managers, coaches, volunteers (including umpires), the Tournament, or Little League International. Social media accounts may be monitored for any inappropriate activity, and may be subject to review of the Little League International Tournament Committee, which may lead to disciplinary action. Teams should not distribute or post any photos or video of player-only restricted areas or private settings.

ESPN FAMILY OF NETWORKS

Each game of the Little League Softball World Series Pool Play will be streamed on ESPN+. Single elimination games will be broadcast on ESPN television platforms including ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNU, and ESPNNews. This will not change the tournament and its operations but will be an exciting time for all the tournament participants, parents/guardians, and fans.

ESPN+ is an exclusive streaming service through the ESPN app, available on various devices, including phones, tablets, and streaming devices. The service is subscription-based, but a 7-day free trial is available. You can learn more about ESPN+ by visiting [plus.ESPN.com](https://plus.espn.com). Neither Little League International nor ESPN will distribute DVDs or other copies of any broadcast Little League game. Highlights, game recaps, and more from every game can be found at LittleLeague.org, and full games typically are archived on WatchESPN for a period of time following the conclusion of the tournament. You are encouraged to personally DVR or otherwise record full games for personal use only!

With games being carried on ESPN family of networks, it will affect innings breaks and when teams enter the field to start the game. Staff and umpires will communicate to the teams regarding these additional facets of the game as they are available.

No individual may provide live video streams of games at Elm Street Park. Any individual streaming games will be asked to stop and may be removed from the complex.

REPLAY REVIEW

The use of instant replay for review of plays will be available during the Little League Softball World Series. Coaching staffs will be briefed about the use of replay and challenges during the mandatory Tournament Briefing.

TEAM PAPERWORK

At the team's arrival meeting, the team will submit its Tournament Eligibility Affidavit with supporting documents (as outlined below) to World Series Committee staff. The original affidavit and supporting documentation will stay with the Tournament Director for the duration of the World Series Tournament.

- **Tournament Team Eligibility Affidavit**
- **All supporting residency/school documentation with player verification forms for players**
- **Eligibility waivers for any player otherwise ineligible**
- **Any additional waivers or forms concerning the eligibility of your team and/or players**
- **Map of the boundaries of your league with players properly plotted and required signatures**
- **Signed World Series Tournament Manager's Agreement by Manager and League President**
- **Any additional waivers or forms concerning the eligibility of your team and/or players**

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

TEAM PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEDIA

Little League personnel will guide each team, in uniform, through a pre-World Series information gathering process that includes:

- A brief orientation on media procedures at the Little League Softball World Series.
- Team and individual photographs of every player and coach.
- Brief biographical information on every player (e.g. proper spelling of name, uniform number, hitting position, and defensive positions).
- A brief interview with production personnel from ESPN and/or Little League Softball video team.
- Video recording and photos by ESPN Electronic News Gathering (ENG) and Little League Crews.

In addition, managers and coaches may be asked to comment briefly on team strengths, significant accomplishments, and key players to watch. No media will be allowed to have contact with the teams during any part of this process. The photographs, video, stories, and information gathered by Little League will be provided to the media, scoreboard operators, editors, official scorekeepers, ESPN personnel, and on Little League websites, and in publications, when all the information is compiled. Therefore, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT NO CHANGES – INCLUDING UNIFORM NUMBERS – OCCUR AFTER TEAMS HAVE COMPLETED THEIR TURN THROUGH THIS PROCESS. And it is equally important that teams pay close attention to the spelling of names, uniform numbers, and other biographical information while it is being gathered. At the appointed time, each team will be scheduled for the individual and team photo areas. Players should be in uniform. Additional photos will be taken during the process. Throughout this part of the process, players will be asked to verify the spelling of their names and their uniform number. The team will also meet with ESPN for additional information gathering and interviews. The entire process moves very quickly, so it is very important for team members to pay attention to the directions given and react accordingly. During this time, and throughout the World Series, Little League International staff may also ask for opportunities to collect stories and information for Little League communications vehicles.

MEDIA GUIDELINES - MANAGERS, COACHES, AND UMPIRES

Many journalists cover the Little League Softball World Series. For the 2021 Softball World Series, on-site media will be limited to local media outlets and digital media conferences.

- Participants may speak to journalists.
 - The manager, a coach, or member of the Little League Media Relations Staff must accompany the participant and the journalist.
 - After a game, we may ask participants to come into the Elm Street Center, where a press conference will be conducted under the supervision of the Little League International Communications Staff.
 - Participants should speak with honesty to journalists.
 - Participants at the World Series should have fun!
-

One-on-One Player Interviews:

Members of the media wishing to conduct one-on-one interviews with players must first obtain the consent of the team manager or coach who must be present throughout the interview. All accredited personnel will have Little League-issued media credentials. (No one-on-one interviews with players are permitted until one hour after the end of the game in which a player participates.)

Post-Game Media Briefings:

Approximately 10 minutes after each game, members of the media are invited to a post-game media briefing. The Little League International Communications Staff will escort team managers and/or coaches (and a limited number of players, if applicable) to the Media Interview Area in the Elm Street Center. Parents do not have access to the postgame. (Note: Players from the losing team will not be included in this briefing. They may be interviewed separately, but only one hour after the game. See "One-on-One Player Interviews.") Requests will be forwarded to the coach or manager of the player. Any coach, manager, or player may decline the interview.

Distribution of Promotional Items or Other Literature:

It is Little League policy that no organization, group, company, etc., is permitted to sell or distribute leaflets, placards, posters, promotional material, or any other items at the Little League World Series tournaments without the expressed permission from Little League Baseball, Incorporated.

Other Interviews:

Kevin Fountain, Director of Media Relations (kfountain@LittleLeague.org; 570-295-7728), is available during the Little League Softball World Series to answer any inquiries the media might have regarding Little League rules, regulations, policies, and principles, as well as specific inquiries regarding the Little League Softball World Series. Please direct all such inquiries to him.

Microphones:

Remember that the managers (and possibly a coach or umpire) may have LIVE MICROPHONES on them, and ANYTHING they say during the game may be heard on national television. (Please note: It is not mandatory that a manager or coach wear a microphone.) Microphones will also be in the bases and elsewhere. Cameras are in place throughout the stadium, and may be focused on you or a player, at any time, anywhere – including in the dugout. It is important that ALL people involved in every game know this. We fully expect that everyone involved will conduct themselves properly, and with grace. We at Little League International always receive telephone calls after the TV games in which the public either praises or chastises the people involved because of their actions on camera. How you act and what you say during these games will reflect the public's perception of the community and nation you are representing. We hope all the World Series games win praise.

LITTLE LEAGUE COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL MEDIA EFFORTS

The Little League Communications department will also be conducting video, in-person interviews, and photos with teams throughout the World Series for our website and other communications vehicles. We greatly appreciate your support in these efforts and sharing important information about your team, families, and community to assist in these efforts.

These efforts are to enhance Little League's coverage of the Little League Softball World Series through features, videos, and articles. Those stories and official news updates will be featured on a variety of Little League's web platforms (LittleLeague.org) and official social media accounts (Facebook.com/LittleLeague, Twitter.com/LittleLeague, Instagram.com/LittleLeague). The official hashtag for the entire Little League International Tournament is #LLWS.

AT THE STADIUM

DUGOUTS & PLAYING FIELD

The stadium features sunken dugouts. Each dugout has helmet and bat racks and player bags should be hung on the back wall.

Any player needing to use the restroom shall go in groups of at least two and players and coaches shall wear masks.

Each team's dugout will have one cooler of ice water and one cooler of Gatorade. Teams will be provided Gatorade cups for each game. Gatorade towels will be provided to each team. Teams are NOT permitted to bring coolers or such into the dugout or onto the complex.

Sunflower seeds, spitting, etc. are prohibited in the dugout and on the field at all times. Teams need to clean out dugouts prior to exiting after each game.

Local league officials or any other individuals are not permitted in the dugout, playing field, and other restricted areas at ANY TIME.

When the ball is live, all player participants, managers, and coaches must be in the dugout with all players behind the dugout's screened area and on the dugout concrete. Managers and coaches may not be on the steps or landing spot, in any manner during live play. An adult manager or coach must be in the dugout at all times when players are occupying it. At no time will managers or coaches be permitted to handle equipment. Players must retrieve all equipment.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

We hope, along with you, that we will not experience any type of inclement weather throughout the Tournament. However, should we encounter weather that will impact activities, we are prepared.

We take lightning safety serious and should lightning be detected by the World Series Committee within **10 miles** from Elm Street Park, it will require a stoppage in activities. This includes game action, pre-game warm-up, and practice. Play will resume 30 minutes after the last lightning strike within 10 miles.

In conjunction with the umpires and Tournament Director, play may be stopped because of rain. This includes stopping prior to rain falling to protect the field and the players.

Should severe weather threaten the complex, the World Series Committee may move players, managers, and coaches to the Drew Steele Center, across Elm Street, to wait out the weather. If players are NOT moved from the stadium during inclement weather stoppages, ALL members of the team SHALL stay within the dugout at ALL times.

Tournament staff will do its best to communicate to managers of severe weather either during delays or approaching weather. The Committee will also do its best to update managers of schedule delays due to inclement weather. Unless specifically informed, teams are expected to be ready to play at the scheduled start time.

PRE-GAME PROTOCOL

Each game will follow along with a pre-game protocol schedule. Teams may be provided with a pre-game schedule or have it communicated by a World Series Committee staff member or volunteer.

Teams must be prepared to enter the playing field either 45 minutes before the scheduled first pitch or within 10 minutes of the final out of the previous game. Teams will be released by a volunteer or it will be announced on the public address system when they may enter the field for all games. Team must enter and exit the field as directed based on Home and Away designation.

Teams will be permitted to loosen-up in the outfield before each game. Once team full field warm-ups begin, the opposing team shall not be on the playing field. The home team will begin its allotted field time approximately 45 minutes before scheduled first pitch (or once the grounds crew completes its preparations). The visiting team will follow. Each team will be allotted a up to of ten minutes.

Teams will return to their dugouts once their allotted field time expires for team introductions (time permitting). Each team will line-up on the first and third base lines as introduced. The reserves will be announced first, following by the starting line-up and coaching staff. Players and coaches are not permitted to shake hands with umpires or the opposing team during introductions.

Following introductions, the National Anthem will be played and the Little League Pledge and Parent/Volunteer Pledge will be recited. A player (or players) will be asked to recite the Little League Pledge and a member of the coaching staff may asked to recite the Parent/Volunteer Pledge. Additional pre-game activities may be included and teams may be informed in advance.

Following introductions, players will retreat to their respective dugouts and one person from each coaching staff will meet with the umpire crew at home plate. Copies of the line-up will be needed during the meeting for the umpire and opponent.

A copy of the team's line-up needs to be presented to the press box at least one hour before schedule game. All substitutions will be handled through the phone located on the backstop padding.

Sample Pre-Game Schedule

1.45 min. prior	Teams Arrive
1.25 min. prior	Cages/Field
44 min. prior	Home Field Time
34 min. prior	Visitor Field Time
24 min. prior	Dress Infield
17 min. prior	Team Intros.
12 min. prior	National Anthem & Little League Pledges
7 min. prior	Plate Meeting
2 min. prior	Home Team Takes Field
Game time	First Pitch

STADIUM GROUND RULES

The following areas are discussed specifically. Any area not specifically covered will be handled in accordance with the rule book. All awards will be made in accordance with the rule book for any ball or fielder entering an out-of-play area.

Equipment

Equipment will be examined by Tournament umpires before each game and it shall be outside the dugout for inspection. All helmets, bats, and catcher's equipment brought onto the field must be available for inspection. A team's equipment must in compliance with Little League Rules and Regulations. Any equipment found to not be proper during the Tournament will be held by World Series staff until the team's exit from the Tournament.

Backstop Padding/Fencing/Netting

- A batted ball that touches the backstop padding/fencing/netting is a foul ball and cannot be caught for the purposes of a catch.
- A thrown or pitched ball that touches the backstop padding/fencing and returns to the field of play remains in play.
- A thrown or pitched ball that touches the slanted part of the backstop netting shall be deemed out-of-play.
- A thrown or pitched ball that becomes lodged under the backstop padding shall be deemed out-of-play.
- A thrown or pitched ball that comes to rest on top of the backstop wall and/or padding shall remain in play.
- A thrown or pitched ball that penetrates or lodges in any opening in the fencing/netting shall be deemed out-of-play.

Dugouts, Steps/Openings

- Managers, coaches or players will not sit in the opening to the dugout at any time. Both feet must remain on the concrete floor/steps of dugout at all times unless entering or exiting the dugout.
- No player is allowed in the opening of the dugout unless entering or exiting the dugout.
- A thrown ball that touches the dugout facing/fencing/sides/concrete lip and returns to the field of play shall remain in play.
- A thrown ball that penetrates the opening of the dugout including a ball that lands on the ledge of this opening shall be deemed out-of-play.
- A thrown ball that touches the dugout roofing shall be deemed out-of-play.

Foul/Flag Poles

- All foul/flag poles are positioned on the outside of the playing field.
- Any batted ball striking one of these poles in flight shall be deemed a home run.

Outfield Fencing/Banners

- Any ball that becomes lodged in/under the outfield fencing or banners attached to the outfield fencing shall be deemed out-of-play.

Scoreboard/Netting

- Any batted ball striking the scoreboard/netting shall be deemed a home run.

Media/Camera Areas

- Whether or not these designated areas are occupied or not occupied; any ball that enters these areas shall be deemed out of play.
- Any ball that passes over a media/camera area in flight untouched shall be considered to have remained in flight.
- Any cameras or microphones attached on fencing/railings shall be treated as part of the fencing/railings.
- Robotic cameras attached to the facing of the backstop screen are considered part of the screen. A batted ball striking the backstop camera shall be deemed out-of-play. A thrown ball striking the backstop camera and returning to the field of play shall remain in play.
- A ball that touches a camera located in the camera wells, including any part of the camera protruding into the field of play shall be deemed out-of-play.

Bullpens

- May be used as necessary during the game for warming-up pitchers only.

Making a Play

- A fielder may reach into any out-of-play area for the purposes of making a catch.
- In order to make a legal catch the fielder must have one or both feet over the playing surface and neither foot touching inside the dugout or other out-of-play area.



ABOUT GREENVILLE

Greenville, is located in the heart of Eastern North Carolina, about 90 minutes east of Raleigh and 90 minutes west of the Atlantic coast. This bustling city will serve as an excellent host to some of the world’s best Little League Softball players.

Greenville is the home to the East Carolina University (ECU) Pirates. ECU has an enrollment of just over 28,000 students. East Carolina athletic teams compete in the American Athletic Conference. ECU’s 1,000 seat ECU Softball Stadium, 50,000 seat Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (football), 8,000 seat Williams Arena @ Mingos Coliseum (basketball and volleyball), and 5,000 seat Clark-Leclair Stadium (baseball) are all within a 10 minute walk of Elm Street Park. Greenville is North Carolina’s eleventh largest city and is home to Vidant Medical Center which is the state’s fifth largest hospital.

STADIUM FACTS

<u>Dimensions</u>	
Left Field	200 ft.
Left Center Field	200 ft.
Center Field	200 ft.
Right Center Field	200 ft.
Right Field	200 ft.
Home Plate to Backstop	20 ft.
Outfield Fence Height	4 ft.

<u>Grass</u>	
Outfield	Common Bermuda
Behind Home Plate	Tifway 419

<u>Capacity</u>	
Seating Bowl	234
Outfield	800

Weather

Average July and August temperature: High 89 F (32 C) / Low 70 F (21 C)
As with many southern locations, summer can produce a warm, humid climate in Greenville.

Tip: Gnats are very common and annoying. We treat for gnats but it is also good to be prepared to fight them off. (Dryer sheets work, we are told.)

Time Zone

Greenville, NC is located in EST

Hotels

Hampton Inn 305 SW Greenville Blvd. Greenville, NC 27834 252-355-7400	Hilton – Greenville 207 SW Greenville Blvd. Greenville, NC 27834 252-355-5055
Holiday Inn 203 SW Greenville Blvd. Greenville, NC 27834 252-355-8300	Holiday Inn Express 909 Moyer Blvd. Greenville, NC 27834 252-754-8300

Helpful Links:

LittleLeague.org	VisitGreenvilleNC.com
LLSWS.org	GreenvilleNC.gov







LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL® WORLD SERIES • GREENVILLE, NC
Stallings Stadium at Elm Street Park • 1055 S. Elm Street • Greenville, NC 27858
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