Is your league looking to add a Little League Softball® component? We've got everything you need to offer a program for everyone in your community and here’s how to get started in the right direction!

1. **Assess Your League and Your Community** – The first step to adding a softball program to your local Little League® is to discuss the addition of the program with your league’s Board of Directors. The board should appoint a softball committee to head up the effort. The committee should consist of at least one board member and may include other members of the league or the community interested in starting a Little League Softball® program. Some constituents the league may choose to include on the committee include your local high school or middle school softball coach, area collegiate coach or assistant, past softball player, or other members in the community involved with softball or female activities. This committee will oversee items such as promotion of the softball program, identifying potential managers and coaches, securing softball fields, recruiting players, etc.

   *Note: When securing fields, a softball program may use either a traditional softball field or may use an existing baseball field.*

2. **Connect with Your District Administrator** – Your District Administrator will be able to let you know what other leagues in the district are currently offering softball, the ages they offer, and what opportunities may exist for interleague play, combined teams, or expanded league boundary. Additionally, your District Administrator may be able to put you in touch with softball contacts in the district that may be able to help you with starting the program – appropriate equipment, equipment sizing, facility space, coach training resources, player instruction, etc.

3. **Begin promoting your softball program and gauge interest in the community** – When you first begin promoting your Little League Softball program, consider promoting the program for all ages 4-16. Based on the interest at each age level, you can determine which levels of play your league will offer. You may choose to have girls interested in participating complete an interest form, similar to a registration form. This will allow your league to easily contact these individuals during registration. Keep in mind that even if your league does not have enough girls sign up at a particular age level to field a team, your league may be able to work with a neighboring league to field a team via combined teams. We have a variety of resources to help your local league promote your program, including:
   - Numerous Marketing Resources Downloads
   - Softball Promotions & Publications
   - Digital Content to Share on Social Media
   - Raising League Community Awareness

4. **Evaluate Who’s in Your League** – Your league may already have a number of girls in the program! Assess your league and determine how many girls are currently registered. It may be as simple as placing existing girls interested in softball within appropriate softball divisions and marketing for additional players. Ask existing families to encourage friends to register.
   a. **Tee Ball** – Start the softball divisions from the league’s youngest age division and allow the program to grow each year. If your league offers Tee Ball, create a Tee Ball Softball division or form teams of girls in Tee Ball Baseball. This allows players to learn softball from the youngest age, encourages players to participate with friends who will advance together in future age divisions, and involves their parents from the start.
   b. **Teenage Divisions** – If the league is thinking about starting with Junior or Senior League Softball, work with the local high schools in the area and explain how we can provide a second season, tournament opportunities, and fall instruction for their players.
5. **Expand Your Board Appoint** – We recommend appointing at least a Softball Vice President and a Softball Player Agent to your Board. These two board positions should be created prior to registration. The Softball Vice President should act as the primary softball representative on the board and the Softball Player Agent should oversee registrations and the draft for softball. As the program grows, the league should consider mirroring the baseball structure for softball.

6. **Hold Registration for the Program** – Have your league hold its softball registration in conjunction with its baseball registration. This will expose families that participate in your league’s baseball program to your newly formed softball program. Be sure to contact any girls who have completed an interest form and coordinate with your local schools, community programs, parks department, etc., to promote.

7. **Charter your Softball Program** – Once registrations are complete, check your league’s charter and ensure the league has chartered the proper number of teams in each softball division. If changes or combined teams are necessary, simply update the appropriate information on the [Little League Data Center](https://www.littleleague.org).

8. **Set up a Softball Schedule** – Your league may choose to play regular season games entirely in-house, via interleague play, Special Game tournaments, or a combination. Your District Administrator will be able to assist in setting up an interleague play schedule against other Little League Softball teams. Leagues can easily complete interleague documentation on the [Little League Data Center](https://www.littleleague.org).

9. **Make it a Success** – Make it a season the players and parents will never forget! Whether providing training to first-time coaches, celebrating [Girls With Game](https://www.littleleague.org) with us every March and throughout the entire year, taking the teams to a [Little League Softball Day](https://www.littleleague.org), organizing [Sandlot Fun Day](https://www.littleleague.org) free play, or coordinating Special Game Tournaments throughout the year, utilize all Little League Softball has to offer to make your program a success. Encourage feedback from parents to ensure that next season is even better!

If you have any questions, contact Sara Thompson, Little League Director of Softball Development, at 570-326-1921 or sthompson@LittleLeague.org.