



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Registering in the Majors Division of Dunbar Little League (DLL)



- You can also check out [www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca) for more information.
- If after reading this entire document you have more questions, then please e-mail the DLL Registrar at: [registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca](mailto:registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca)

### 1. How are DLL's Minor A & Majors divisions different?

Minor A is the equivalent of the House League, where players of all skill levels are welcome. Majors is the equivalent of Gold level soccer, where players are selected based on their skill level, motivation, and commitment to play baseball. All kids who are old enough to play are guaranteed a position in Minor A, provided there are no concerns about their safety, but only a limited number of kids play in the Majors.

### 2. How much of a time commitment is Majors for the players?

The Majors division requires **tremendous player & parental commitment** to baseball. The season goes from mid April to mid June, with about 25 games per regular season, plus additional playoff games. Teams practice twice a week, and have two or three games per week. In comparison, the Minor A division teams usually have one practice and one or two games per week, with about 13 games per regular season, plus additional playoff games. Concession & scoring duty are also mandatory for Majors' parents on a rotational basis all season.

### 3. At what age can kids play in the Majors?

Players can try out for Majors as 10, 11, or 12-year-olds (as of April 30 of the current season). The Minor A divisions have kids

ranging in age from 9 to 12 years old (streamed into Junior division: 9-10 year olds, and Senior Division: 11-12 year olds).

### 4. How many kids play in the Majors?

To keep the level of play competitive, the Majors division is limited to 6 teams of 12 players each, so there are 72 kids in the Majors each year.

### 5. Does everyone get to play in the Majors division?

The Major division demands a higher level of skill and commitment from players, and there are a limited number of positions available. Therefore, not all players who attend the player evaluation will be drafted to a Majors team.

### 6. Why would my child choose to play in Minor A rather than Majors?

In Minor A, the focus is on development of skills, so that all players have the opportunity to play at all the positions (assuming a basic safety/skill level), and there is a commitment to fair distribution of playing time for all players. In Majors, there is a greater competitive focus, so that players may not play all positions, and there may be unequal distribution of playing time based on skill level (although all Majors players are required to play 3 innings of a 6 inning game, yet it does not guarantee infield positions).

Therefore, Minor A is sometimes a better choice for developing players (particularly the younger players) because of increased playing time and rotation of the positions.

**7. How do kids get selected for Majors?**

Players wishing to be considered for the Majors must attend a player evaluation session, usually held on a weekend in mid February. Players **must** attend **both** the Saturday and Sunday session. During these player evaluations, the Majors coaches evaluate the players on fielding, catching, throwing, hitting and pitching. The evaluations are then tabulated and averaged, and this information is used by the coaches in drafting players to each Majors team. The teams draft in reverse order of standing from the previous season, with each team selecting one player in turn until all the available Majors positions are filled.

**8. How many kids get drafted each year?**

Because the previously drafted 10 and 11 year old players stay on the same team, the number of positions available for draft is equal to the number of 12 year old players who graduate, plus any eligible players who do not re-register the next season. There are usually about 35 draft positions per year.

**9. My child did not perform his/her best at the player evaluation. Does that mean that she/he won't be selected in the draft?**

Not necessarily. The player evaluation is not the only factor used in the draft. The coaches also have the ratings and narrative comments about the kids from their previous year's coach (usually from Minor A), and they may have seen the players in previous years.

**10. What if we are out of town during the weekend of the Player Evaluation?**

For players who are unavoidably unable to attend the Player Evaluation, an alternate make-up session is scheduled. To attend the make-up session, the Player Agent/Registrar must be notified in advance. Note that **ONLY** unavoidable absences can be rescheduled...this does not usually include other conflicting activities, such as piano lessons or skiing.

**11. Do players need to attend the player evaluation every year?**

If a player is not drafted, she/he can attend the Player Evaluation next year, if they are still within the age limits for Majors. Once a player is drafted to a Majors team, they stay on that team until they graduate as 12-year-olds and do not need to attend another player evaluation. For example, a player drafted as a 10-year-old will play on the team for 3 years, a drafted 11-year-old for 2 years, and a player drafted as a 12-year-old will play for one year.

**12. My child is 12 this year. Does he/she have the same chance of being drafted as a 10-year old?**

There is a Little League (LL) requirement that all 12 year olds who meet the required skill set be drafted, which is based on the average scores of the six Majors teams doing the evaluations. This ensures that each year a number of 12 year old players will be selected in the draft. Also by LL rule, there can be no more than eight 12 year olds per team, so this does leave room for the 10 and 11 year olds to be drafted. It should be noted that each of the six Majors teams may only draft one 10 year old player in the draft, so only six 10 year olds will be drafted.

**13. When will we find out if my child was selected for the Majors?**

The Majors draft usually occurs in early March. Once the draft is completed, the drafted players will be posted on the DLL site . The date of this notification will be announced at the Player Evaluation session.

**14. What happens if my child is not selected for the Majors?**

Kids can have a rewarding experience, competitive play, and just plain fun in either the Majors or Minor A divisions. Players who are not selected for the Majors division are encouraged to play in the Minor A and are automatically assigned to a Minor A team. To help balance the Minor A teams, we do require that any player not drafted to Majors attend the Minor A evaluations.

**15. How do I become a coach in the Majors?**

Coaching in the Majors division requires a significant time and skill commitment. In general, Majors division coaches have previous baseball coaching experience and at least a Level 1 coaching certificate from Baseball BC. SLL also has a policy stating that a parent not be appointed as a coach on a team until the player draft is completed, to ensure that the draft remains as impartial as possible. Several coaches in the Majors division do not have children in the League. The President of Dunbar Little League, in consultation with the Majors division Coordinator, appoints coaches based on interest, background, experience, and needs of the League. If you are interested in coaching, please contact the Dunbar Little League President for more information.

**16. How else can I help out in Majors/Minor A?**

Dunbar Little League is run entirely by volunteers, and we need all parents to help out either on the team or with the league. We especially need coaches and assistant coaches in the Minor A divisions. DLL does not offer the option to pay in lieu of service, and there are a variety of ways to volunteer.

**17. I'm a player. How can I improve my chances at the Player Evaluation?**

Dunbar Little League offers pre Evaluation skills sessions to all players who plan to attend the Majors Player Evaluation, scheduled a couple of weeks prior to the Player Evaluation. Look for notices on the DLL site which is: [www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca)

You can also start warming up and throwing the ball with your friends or parents a week or two before the Player Evaluation. At the Player Evaluation, make sure that you arrive early so that you have a chance to warm up properly. A trusted glove, cleats & cap also help. During the sessions the coaches are watching all the time...they will be less impressed if kids are fooling around or not paying attention. Make sure that you show hustle. Coaches are always impressed by effort!

**18. Are there any other differences between Majors and Minor A?**

11 & 12 year old players selected for the DLL District Tournament Team are required to have played in Majors (while for the 9/10 team they may be from Minor A). There is a Minor A Jr & Sr All-Star game in June that occurs on the same day as the Majors' Only Pancake Breakfast & Skills Day as Majors has no formal all-star game.

**19. I'm a parent. How can I support my child through the process?**

As above, you can start warming up your child by throwing a week or two before the Player Evaluation, and by warming them up on the day of the Player Evaluation. You can also help them understand that not all kids will be selected to Majors, but that they can also have a great time in the Minor A divisions. Dunbar Little League has made a commitment to make Minor A a rewarding division for all kids, regardless of ability. This commitment includes coaches' clinics for Minor A coaches, updated equipment and field improvements.

**20. What happens after my child has finished Majors or Minor A at age 12?**

Players older than 12 years (as of April 30) may play in the Vancouver Community Baseball League (VCB) in the Bantam division. More information may be found at: [www.vancouverbaseball.com](http://www.vancouverbaseball.com). Every year, Dunbar Little League will pass along information about VCB to our graduating players as DLL very much wants its graduates to continue playing the wonderful game of baseball.

**21. After reading this or talking to a DLL official, I am not sure that Majors is the right division for my child, but I have already registered them. What do I do?**

Majors is not for all players or families, and that is why we have spent significant time & resources on our Minor A division. If you would rather your child play in Minor A, but have already registered for Majors, you must notify the DLL Registrar by e-mail (using [registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca](mailto:registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca)) of your decision **before the draft** occurs. If your child is a baseball 12, there will be a form that must be signed as per LL rules which our Registrar will detail.

**22. I have more questions which are not addressed here. Who do I contact?**

All of our Board Members have their e-mails listed in the Contacts section of the DLL site for just this reason. This is an important family decision, so do not base it on speculation or hearsay.

- Thank you for taking the time to read this document, and we trust that regardless of what division your child plays in at DLL, they will have a very memorable & rewarding experience in our wonderful league that has served our neighbourhood for over 50 years.