

BIG LEAGUE BASEBALL CHANGES

Attention all Big League age players (17,18,19 & 20yrs).

As some of you may have heard earlier this year, the Big League division is no longer available through Little League International. This decision came from the board of directors for Little League International and unfortunately, came as a surprise to all involved with LL in Calgary. District 3 was not contacted prior to the vote nor was any other districts.

As you know we are committed to providing a safe and fun opportunity for all kids to continue their love of the game, therefore all the District 3 associations got together and forged the following option.

Why did this change occur?

We have been given very little information as to why LLI decided to remove this division from its roster, however the decision is final.

What can I do now to play Big League?

We have been in contact with Baseball Alberta Association which runs all levels of baseball from top level to community ball. All presidents from District 3 were part of a meeting with Baseball Alberta and they presented an opportunity for community baseball in Calgary to take on the age group known as Big League for District 3. Baseball Alberta has very little to do with baseball in the Calgary area in terms of community ball, however they are very active North through Red Deer and Edmonton and District 3 voted to accept their offer.

What does that mean for CLL players?

Fortunately for all involved, this changes very little. You can still register with CLL and our registrar will then transfer your registration to the Baseball Alberta registrar so you are registered with them. CLL will run tryouts and create teams as usual and we will practice and play at the same diamonds and against the same teams played against before. We will supply umpires and use our own uniforms. The big difference is that Baseball Alberta will cover the insurance for all players and create the schedule and they will also look at some weekend out of town games for a chance to play other teams. If we choose, we also can play in their end of year tournament and they will add us to the schedule.

To ensure we are not associated with LLI, the age group will be known as -“**Calgary North Baseball League**”.

What is different with Baseball Alberta?

There are a few things that differ from Baseball Alberta but most of the rules are the same as LLI. Baseball Alberta has agreed to let us continue to run our league as we have in the past with a couple of exceptions.

1. Baseball Alberta is strict on the age determination for players. They run on a calendar year chart (Jan 1 – Dec 31) so this will affect a few players as they do not accept 20yr old players at all however, we will be able to register these players with District 3 this year under a new division. For example if you are 19yrs and on Dec 31, 2017 you turn 20yrs old you are considered 20yrs old for the whole year.
2. Teams that play in the provincial playoffs (if we choose to attend) can only field a total of 2 – 19yr old players.
3. Baseball Alberta charges a fee to play; however CLL will cover their fees. You only need to pay for CLL registration.

NEW AMENDMENT TO LEAGUE

The league has decided to create a JUNIOR MENS division. The reason for the new division is this. It will allow all 19yr- 20yr old players the chance to play regular season in house exhibition only games with the CNBL Big League age division of 17-18 yr. olds. This change will hopefully create stronger teams for all divisions and allow for more play for all. The junior men's team will be a combined team (if necessary) from all associations in District 3. This new division will be wood bat only. We feel that by combining we have a greater chance of creating a strong and competitive team that would be able to travel outside district to play other associations such as Medicine Hat, Lethbridge or Red Deer if the opportunity arises. By having the big league age group now at 17 & 18 only, there will be no conflicts for provincial play, however if a 19yr old feels they should play in the 17-18 division, this option is still available to them with the above rules still applying.

As this is new territory for all involved, we do expect some growing pains, however we are confident in the future of baseball for the Calgary North Baseball League and now Junior Men's division. There will be more information to come as we finalize the detail

We hope you will continue to play ball with us as we are always excited to have kids on the diamond, however if you decided to try baseball outside this new league, we have attached a couple of other sites for your information and please contact those organizations directly for information on their programs.

Sincerely,

Chris Bentley
President
Centennial Little League