

PREPARING YOUR PLAYER FOR LITTLE LEAGUE EVALUATIONS (Major and Minor Divisions)

So, you've signed your kid up for Little League Major or Minor Divisions ...now what?

TRYOUTS! ASSESSMENTS! EVALUATIONS!

This handout will walk you through the player evaluations (also known as tryouts or assessments) process, including what to wear, what to bring, and what your player should expect on baseball assessments day!

When are Little League Tryouts?

Mountain View Little League tryouts are held in January. Our player evaluation schedule is posted on the [mvll.org](https://www.mvll.org) website in January before the first tryout is held. Tryouts are held at Mountain View's Shoreline Athletic Fields (2450 Garcia Ave). Players trying out for Majors and Minors are evaluated on two dates. MVLL no longer holds Farm tryouts.

All players interested in playing in the Major and Minor Divisions must attend a tryout. Participation in tryout session is required (<https://www.littleleague.org/university/articles/what-are-little-league-tryouts/>).

Why does my young player need to “try out?”

Don't be intimidated by the word tryouts. Tryouts (or assessments or player evaluations) allow the league to spread the level of talent around. Coaches attend their division's draft event to choose players for their teams. MVLL holds the draft session soon after tryouts.

No player will be cut, and ALL PLAYERS WILL HAVE A TEAM TO PLAY ON. In some cases, the Division Director and Coaches may agree that, for safety concerns, a player would benefit from playing in a division level that may not be their first choice. This is common for a player with little player-pitch experience. The goal is for players to have a positive baseball experience.

This may mean playing down a level to build their confidence and overall skill level. It is the Little League policy to place players on evenly skilled teams in order to create diverse, competitive teams. Creating diverse teams also allows players to have the opportunity to make friends from other schools.

What skills are assessed during the tryouts?

Players will be evaluated in each of the following areas:

1. Batting
2. Fielding Ground Balls ("grounders")
3. Fielding Fly Balls (pop-ups in the outfield)
4. Throwing and Pitching
5. Running

How can I prepare my player for the baseball evaluations?

1 - PRACTICE WITH THEM -- It is a good idea to knock the dust off the old baseball glove a little sooner rather than later, such as when you're in the car on the way to evaluations. Baseball is a difficult game, and practicing repetitive motions is the key! We recommend MVLL Families sign up for "Big Al's Backyard Workout Program." Instructions are at the end of this handout.

2 - ENCOURAGE THEM -- Assure them that they will make it on a team, regardless of their performance at evaluations. Many players like to attend both tryout sessions, using the first as practice.

Encourage them to HAVE FUN!!!!

3 - SET EXPECTATIONS

- Although tryouts typically lasts 60-75 minutes, each child gets very little time to show what they can do. For example, each child will likely only field about 3-5 fly balls and 3-5 grounders.
- Let them know what activities to expect (see "Evaluation" below). Encourage your child to always be focused and pay attention to the group directions, so they know what's coming next. Coaches will be watching for players who can take direction and focus on the activity.

What to Wear to Tryouts

Tryouts will be held rain or shine! Have your player wear:

- Comfy/Warm Athletic Clothes – clothes that they can move in (baseball pants are preferred, but not required)
- Cleats or athletic shoes (no metal cleats)
- Cup – only for boys
- Baseball Cap – to block the sun

What to Bring to Tryouts

- Glove
- Helmet (we will have helmets for the players to use when batting)
- Baseball Bat bearing the USA Baseball logo (we will have bats for the players to use)



What is the Evaluation Process?

1. Check-In: Your child will receive a name tag to attach to their sweatshirt or shirt so they are identifiable to the coaches and tryout facilitator.
2. Wait: They will wait for the prior group to finish. Meanwhile, players will be called out to a side field to warm up and play catch with their peers as they wait for their group to start. Parents/Guardians are asked to NOT participate in any part of tryouts, however, they can warm-up their player before their group tryout starts.
3. Evaluation: The tryouts are facilitated by our Player Agent and designated tryout facilitators. Tryouts are held in small groups and every player will rotate through each activity as a group.

The coaches observe tryouts, rank players based on the activities (batting, outfielding/pop flies, infielding/grounders, throwing/pitching, catching and running).

These observations lead to conversations of which division is the best fit for your player's skill set.

After tryouts, the next steps...

BEING ASSIGNED TO A LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

No player attending a tryout will be cut, and ALL PLAYERS WILL HAVE A TEAM TO PLAY ON.

In some cases, the division directors and coaches may agree that, for safety concerns, a player would benefit from playing in a different division level. You will receive an email from the Player Agent notifying you that your child has been recommended to play in an alternate division. This may be common for a player with little player-pitch experience. The goal is for player's to have a positive baseball experience. This may mean playing in an alternate division to build their confidence and overall skill level.

Teams are formed using a player draft within two weeks of the last tryout session. After team rosters are set, the league can create the season's game schedule. But before the schedule can be created, the city notifies us of the field use permits we will receive. Permits are valid beginning March 1. Teams are announced in February, about 10 days before Opening Day. Team managers will contact their team families and have game and practice scheduling information to share at that time. A team meeting to start out the season may be scheduled to get you the information you need.

Still have questions about the process? Contact our Player Agent at agent@mvll.org.

Thank you and see you out on the diamond!

- Mountain View Little League

How to Sign Up for Big Al's Backyard Workout Program

Mountain View Little League purchases **Big Al's Backyard Workout Program** for the Parents, Managers, and Coaches of our league every year. This is a no-cost benefit to our MVLL families.

Two of the training modules in the "**Backyard Workout Program**" are for parents and players (plus there are two others for coaches): Parent 4-8 and Parent 9-12. To activate your own Parent online membership, start by completing MVLL's verification step at <https://mvll.info/wp/get-offer>. Complete the get-offer form to receive the league's membership code then use it to register onto the Big Al training website bigalbaseball.com. When registering, be sure to confirm there are no charges listed.