

FALL BALL PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (updated August 2019)

1. What is Fall Ball?

The Nevada City Little League (NCLL) Fall Ball Program is an exciting opportunity for kids to continue their baseball development in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere. The program generally runs from early September through mid-November. Practices may be once or twice per week and are generally held at Pioneer Park. Kids in our older divisions (AA and above) also play one game each week against fall ball teams from other District 11 teams in Nevada and Placer Counties.

2. What divisions are available?

Teams are generally dependent on the group of kids that sign up for fall ball. Generally speaking, we will group kids into separate categories including Juniors, 50/70, Majors, AAA, AA, Farm, and Tee Ball Divisions. However, based on sign-ups we may combine teams and divisions as necessary to best support the program. Detailed information about our various divisions can be found on our website at <http://nevadacitybaseball.com>. Generally speaking, the division breakdown goes something like this:

- Juniors Division (13-14 year olds)
- 50/70 Division (12-13 year olds)
- Major Division (10-12 year olds)
- AAA Division (9-10 year olds)
- AA Division (7-9 year olds)
- Farm Division (6-8 year olds)
- Tee Ball Division (4-6 year old)

3. What age is my child considered for Fall Ball?

An age chart is available on our NCLL Little League download page, available at <http://nevadacitybaseball.com/downloads>. For the purposes of Fall Ball, your child's age for the spring 2019 program is applicable for the fall ball program. For example, if your child was considered "league age 10" this past spring, they are considered that same league age for fall.

4. What division should my child play in?

Generally speaking, we recommend that your child play in the division they hope to play in 2020. For example, if your child played in the AAA division in 2019 and hopes to play in the majors division in 2020, we recommend that they sign up for the majors division (if age eligible). The level of fall ball competition is not quite as competitive as it is during the spring season. This – plus the increased focus on skill development – creates a wonderful opportunity for kids considering playing in a higher division for 2020.

5. How much does Fall Ball cost?

NCLL Fall Ball fees are \$50. Our fees are about 50% less than all other District 11 fall ball little league programs in District 11. There are a number of reasons we can keep our fees low for Fall Ball. First, the league does not provide umpires. Games are self-umpired by coaches, managers, or parents, which greatly reduces our program costs. In addition, we do not provide pictures or hats as part of your fee. We will provide a fall ball jersey and team equipment (bats, helmets, etc.). This approach really helps keep costs down and provide an

incredible opportunity for our youth. When compared to other youth sports like football, basketball, and soccer, NCLL Little League Fall Ball provide incredible value for kids interested in trying baseball for the first time or continuing their skills development in a stress free and supportive atmosphere.

6. What is the general commitment for Fall Ball?

Practices are typically once or twice per week depending on weather and manager availability. It's not unusual for practices to be twice per week during the early fall and change to one per week once the weather gets a bit colder and more unpredictable. Older division teams (AA and above) typically will also play one game per week. In the past games have been on Sunday afternoons or evenings. About half of the games will be scheduled at Pioneer Park, with the other half at sites throughout Nevada and Placer Counties. Other potential locations may include Grass Valley, Penn Valley, Bear River, Auburn, Colfax, and Penryn. Based on interest, your individual coach may also reach out to other leagues and schedule practice games. Weather can greatly affect fall ball, and on an average year anywhere from 10-50% of the games could get rained out. Fall Ball games are not typically rescheduled, although managers are welcome to coordinate with other managers to reschedule games if there is mutual interest. Younger divisions (Farm and Tee Ball) do not have games, although it is not uncommon for coaches in these divisions to schedule fun practice games during practice days to give kids an opportunity to play baseball in a game-type setting.

7. What is a 50/70 Division?

NCLL is considering the creation of a new 50/70 division in 2020. In the lower divisions (majors and below), kids play baseball with a 46-foot distance between the pitcher's mound and home plate and 60-foot distance between each base. In the Juniors Division, this distance expands to the adult regulations of 60 feet and 90 feet respectively. The 50/70 division is an opportunity for kids aged 12 and 13 to transition to the adult distances by playing in a division with a 50-foot distance between the pitcher's mound and home plate and 70-foot distance between each base. While 50/70 may be new for NCLL, the division was created many years ago by Little League International to provide opportunities for kids who may not be physically developed to play on an adult-sized baseball field. Games in the 50/70 division would be played on the lower fields at Pioneer Park.

8. What is the likelihood of a 50/70 or Juniors Division for Fall Ball?

We honestly won't know until sign-ups are completed. We hope that the new division sparks interest in kids interested in moving to the next division but intimidated by the longer distances associated with an adult field. However, we've also found in recent years that interest in fall ball from older kids and teenagers has not been enough to create a team. If you sign up for fall ball in these or other divisions and we end up not having enough kids to support a team, you will receive a full refund.

9. When is Fall Ball registration?

Fall Ball registration is open now and will run until September 10th. Practices can begin as early as September 3rd, with games starting in mid-September. To sign up for our Fall Ball program, please visit <http://nevadacitybaseball.com/current-programs>.

10. Are there tryouts?

There are no tryouts associated with Fall Ball. We assign kids based on age, experience, and skill.

11. What if I have more questions about Fall Ball?

Please feel free to email the Fall Ball Coordinator at fallball@nevadacitybaseball.com.