

# 2010 Newsletter

Dunbar Little League



Photo: Jeff Vinnick

## From the President

We had another great season in 2009 at Dunbar Little League with over 600 players and 54 teams. This fine spring tradition was a credit to all the volunteers, coaches, umpires and sponsors... thank you again.

In 2009, the Executive Committee was ably guided by the triumvirate of Michelle Lim, Len Brown, Keith Hamel in the absence of a "President. (Does anyone have any doubts about who had their capable hands on all the buttons?). Unfortunately the fall 2009 AGM has seen these three Uber-volunteers retire from their positions. They cannot be thanked enough for their efforts on our community's behalf. You should do so when you meet them next. Fortunately we know where they live and I will draw them back in as necessary.

The 2010 executive consists of Dave Hemer, John O'Malley, Sarkis Teghararian, Andrew Thornley, Devon Carbol, Julie Prutton, myself and Michelle Lim as Past-Past-President (PPP). I believe this year's Executive will pursue a healthy mix of tradition, continued improvement and success. These executive positions should be turned over at a slow but steady pace so those of you who are interested in contributing your time and efforts should contact us about shadowing one of the executive positions.

There are really two seasons of baseball, the regular season and the tournament season that follows in the summer months. Dunbar LL enjoys great success at running both of these seasons. Congratulations to all that showed so much development as players and individuals. For those of you that continued on in the tournament season and represented Dunbar you did your league proud. These players represented us on the 9/10, 11/12, Ritchie and Henderson Tournament teams. As you likely know both the 9/10 and 11/12 teams won District 1 tournaments to play in the Provincials. It was a true highlight for me to help coach (with Dave Hemer) the 9/10 team into the Provincial final game. Please read the articles in the newsletter on the tournament teams. The players that extended their seasons did so with a lot of hard work and fun for more than a month. They improved their skills and enjoyed very special experiences with their teammates.

Again Little League is a volunteer organization and we are always looking for help in many areas. Please feel free to contact me, or any executive member via e-mail addresses at [www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca).

This year there are some significant changes to some of the divisions that will affect registration. Please read the entire newsletter for all of the key information and especially What's New in 2010. Baseball registration is being accepted now online.

<http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca/registration.html>. Space is limited so please don't wait until the last minute. Last season we had record participation, but also a record waiting list, so please be sure to have your registration in by February 12th. Welcome to the 2010 season at Dunbar Little League, and Let's Play Ball!

Joe McDermott  
DLL President

## Register ONLINE

Regular Registration: **Monday, January 4, 2010 to Feb 12, 2010**

<http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca/registration.html>

## DLL Registration Info Session

**On January 23, 2010 from 1-3pm at the Dunbar Community Centre.  
Volunteers will be available to help you with online registration.**

# 2010 League Divisions

## BLASTBALL

(4-5 year olds, Not in Kindergarten)

Blastball is a fun, basic introduction to T-Ball. In Blastball, kids hit a spongy ball from a stationary tee, run to the base, and stomp on it to make it honk. Teams are smaller, games are shorter, a numbered T-shirt and cap uniform is provided, and everyone has fun! Baseball glove and helmet are not required.

## T-BALL

(Division 1: 5-6 year olds / Division 2: 6-7 year olds)

T-Ball offers players the opportunity to learn, develop and practice fundamental baseball skills at hitting, throwing, fielding and running. The games are held on a small diamond and use a special "soft" official ball. In TBALL 1, the ball is hit from a stationary tee. In TBALL 2, the ball is soft under-hand pitched by coaches. Coaches are allowed on the field and designated parents help by taking turns umpiring. All players are on the field and rotate positions.

The season begins in April and games are played in the early weekday evenings or on weekends at Dunbar Memorial Park 33rd Avenue and Wallace (or rarely Valdez Park (23rd and Balaclava). Team equipment, shirts and baseball caps are provided but players must have their own baseball glove (their own batting helmet is highly encouraged). At least one year of T-ball is mandatory.

## MINOR B

(7-8 year olds)

This is also an instructional division with the emphasis on having fun while learning basic baseball skills. There are usually 13 players per team and a special pitching machine is used for consistency. Games have 5 innings. An inning ends when either three outs have been recorded or 5 runs scored (except the last inning, which has unlimited runs). All players are rotated through the infield and outfield positions, and all players bat through the order.

The season begins in late April and all games are played at the Minor B diamond at Balaclava Park (31st Avenue and Balaclava) in the early evening or on the weekend. There is usually 1 practice and 2 games per week. Team equipment, shirts and caps are provided, but players must have their own baseball glove (their own batting helmet and a protective cup is highly encouraged). There is an organized warm-up session before each game. Parents take turns as scorekeeper. In Minor B, coaches and parents learn that the trained teenage home plate umpire (provided by the league for most games) is always right!

## MINOR A

(Junior Division: 9-10 years old / Senior Division: 10-11, and some 12 year olds)

Minor A is the first division where batters face players pitching with regulation hard baseballs. The emphasis is on development of baseball skills and team play. For safety reasons, all players applying to Minor A must attend the Minor A evaluations. These evaluations are also used to help balance the teams in this division. Balanced teams take precedence over team mate/friend requests. At least one season of Minor B is strongly recommended before playing Minor A. Spaces in Minor A Junior are first offered to 9 and 10 year olds (as of April 30, 2010). The Minor A Senior division includes 10, 11 and some 12 year olds with the 10 year olds having Minor A experience.

Teams will play within each division. Minor A games are 5 innings, and there are limits on the runs per inning, except in the fifth inning, which has unlimited runs. Pitching limits must be adhered to for player protection. There are usually 13 players per team. All players are rotated through the infield and outfield positions and all players bat through the rotation.

The season begins in April and games are played at the Minor A diamond at Dunbar Memorial Park (33rd Avenue and Dunbar) in the early evening or on the weekend. There are usually 2 practices and 2 games per week. Team equipment, caps and socks are provided. The team jersey and a belt require a \$100 refundable uniform deposit. Fitted grey baseball pants (with belt loops) are required and will be available for purchase on evaluation day. Players must have their own baseball glove (their own batting helmet is highly encouraged and a protective cup is mandatory).

## MAJORS

(Some 10-12 year olds)

This is the top competitive division of Little League Baseball and in Dunbar players aged 10-12 years may qualify for selection to a Majors Division team if they have commitment, skill set, and have played a minimum of one year at the Minor A Division level.

**Mandatory parent participation through rotational scorekeeping and concession duty is essential for Majors.**

Players are selected through a draft system and only a limited number of positions are available. Not every player trying out will be drafted. Players who are not drafted must attend the Minor A evaluations to be placed on a Minor A team. No out of boundary players are eligible to be drafted, unless they are grand-fathered as per the official rosters sent to Little League Canada. Once drafted to a team, the player remains on that same team while age eligible for Dunbar Little League.

Games are played at the Majors diamond at Dunbar Memorial Park (33rd Avenue and Highbury). There are usually 2 practices and 2-3 games per week. It is intensive and attendance is expected. A \$100 postdated cheque is required as uniform deposit for the team jersey and belt.

Players who have not previously played on a Majors team and wish to be considered for the Majors draft pool are required to attend both days of the Majors player evaluation session in February and "pre-evaluation" skills sessions in a gym.

For more information regarding Majors, see "Frequently Asked Questions about the Majors Division" on the Dunbar Little League web site [www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca).

## For more information about the Dunbar Little League

Check our web site: [www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca)

Email the registrar: [registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca](mailto:registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca)

## AGE ELIGIBILITY CHART

Little League defines "league age" to be a player's age as of April 30. This means that if you turn 10 on or before April 30, 2010 you are considered a league age 10 year old. If you turn 10 on or after May 1, 2010 you are considered a league age 9 year old. The age chart below will help you choose the right division:

Age April 30	Blastball	T-Ball Division 1	T-Ball Division 2	Minor B	Minor A Junior	Minor A Senior	Majors**
4	4						
5		5					
6			6				
7				7			
8				8			
9					9		
10					10	10	10
11						11	11
12						12**	12

\*\* 12 year olds are first encouraged to try out for Majors but if a player can not commit to the Majors division obligations then they can be considered for Minor A Sr.

Please contact the registrar if you have any questions.

## A Summer To Remember

While the baseball ended on Saturday, June 20th for most of Dunbar Little League's 620 players, it did continue on for the players from four of the summer tournament teams that our neighbourhood league fields every year. Our board would like to congratulate the members of our 9 & 10 and 11 & 12 year old all-star teams, and the Henderson and Ritchie tournament teams for representing DLL so well, and trusts that the positive experiences and memories from being on these teams shall last a life-time.

Of the four DLL tournament teams, the one that enjoyed the most success on the diamond was our 9 & 10 year old team, which is made up of players from our Majors and Minor A divisions. The 2009 edition of this team was particularly young, as only 6 of the players were from our Majors' division, while historically about 10 players have been selected from Majors. Led by Manager Dave Hemer and Coach Joe McDermott, and assisted by Ken Lim, the young DLL squad embarked on many practices and exhibition games to gain as much experience as possible ahead of the District 1 Championships, which started on Canada Day at nearby Carnarvon Park.

As Little Mountain would be hosting the Provincial Championship, and as such had a bye into the BC's, the key was to defeat Jericho and Kerrisdale, which is exactly what our team did, culminating with an exciting 8-2 win over Jericho in the final, attended by many current and alumni DLL families. The young DLL team's play improved with each game at the districts, and the players had wonderful chemistry and skill which were instrumental in their success.

At the BC's, the free-wheeling DLL team shocked many by opening the tournament with a 12-10 win over Hastings. By the conclusion of the round robin the team was 3-2 and had earned a berth into the semi-finals, albeit against a talented and powerful White Rock team. In what may go down as one of the most exciting tournament games ever played by a DLL team, our young team shocked many (except themselves), and defeated White Rock 16-10 in front of a huge DLL crowd. This thrilling victory meant our team would be in the provincial finals against Hastings, who had defeated a talented Little Mountain team to also advance to the championship game.

In that final game, our DLL team gave it all they had, but our hits kept finding the Hastings' fielders' gloves. At game's end it was 11-3 for Hastings who earned their 1st provincial title (and later in the summer their 2nd BC title with the success of their 11 & 12 year old team). While disappointed with the championship game score, our players and coaches should be very proud of what they accomplished in the magical summer of 2009, as are all of us here at Dunbar Little League.

## DLL 9/10 Tournament Team



**Players:** Kyle B., Christopher B., Brennan C., Sandy F., Kyle G., Thomas H., Ryan H., Matthew L., Sean L., Ryan L., Patrick M., Kyle P.

**Coaches:** Dave Hemer, Joe McDermott

## What's New for 2010

We all know the phrase "Success has a price" and the success and popularity of Dunbar Little League will have an impact this year on the structure of our league. The growth of our league has put us in a position where our field space use is at the maximum. We have tried heroically to find a spot for everyone but this has resulted in overly large team rosters or players pushed out of their correct level. The executive, with significant consultation, has made some critical decisions that you need to be aware of for 2010:

- > This year there will be on-line registration. This will greatly facilitate the jobs of player-agents and division coordinators in providing electronic control of registered players and teams. Please see the registration information in the newsletter for details.
- > Two additional divisions will have a registration cap on numbers. The Majors division has been capped at 72 for some time. For 2010, both MINOR A and MINOR B will be capped at 130 players each. This is 10 teams of 13 and the maximum we can handle on our fields. Placement will be on a first come, first serve basis so register online early. This will make our waiting lists longer. Non-grandfathered out-of-boundary players will be accepted after in-boundary registrants are complete.
- > Placement in a division is based on baseball age and not school age. Baseball age is the player's age as of April 30, 2010. This has always been the regulation but needs to be followed because the league is full.
- > Because of the growth of the league, this year (2010) the executive has decided to limit the number of 10 year old draftees to 1 (one) per Majors team provided the draftee is in the top 25% of all players evaluated to be drafted in current years draft. This is an unavoidable consequence of league size.
- > In the Majors division the league has decided to test run "Continuous batting through the order (CBO)" for the first 10 scheduled games. The league will carefully monitor game statistics to gauge the impact on games played.
- > LL has announced the following changes to Pitching Rules for players 14 and under: 1-20 pitches – 0 days of rest; 21-35 – 1 day of rest; 36-50 – 2 days of rest; 51-65 – 3 days of rest; 66 and over – 4 days of rest. The maximum number of pitches remains at 85 for 11-12 and 75 for 9-10 year olds.
- > We will be hiring technical coaches to help coaches structure the early practices in both Minor A and Minor B. Volunteer coaches are certainly expected to be present at their practices where a technical coach is attending. This is a league wide effort to improve player/coach development with the idea of more-skill/more fun.

Please use our website ([www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca)) to get more detailed information on these issues and many others. We are looking forward to seeing you all in the spring and the warm days of Dunbar baseball.

## DLL 11/12 Tournament Team



**Players:** Robert H., Cam M., Cameron B., Jack C., Garde M., Liam H., Alex B., Shane C., Geoffrey E., Jonathan W., Keegan S., Jeffrey R., Jackson T.

**Coaches:** Alan Russell, Max MacDonald, Doug Beers

# Umpiring at Dunbar

By Umpire-in-Chief Ted Lord

Ever wish you could still play Little League baseball? Do you still savour memories of playing ball as a little leaguer – to be on the baseball diamond, kick the dirt, smell the grass? Well, you may be “over the hill” as far as your playing days go, but you are definitely not too old to be on that field! Consider volunteering as a Little League umpire.

Dunbar Little League would be delighted if you would consider becoming an umpire for our Majors, Minor A, and Minor B divisions. Once a week for about two hours is the usual time commitment and we will train you before the season starts at our annual Umpire Clinic to be held in 2010 at the Dunbar Community Centre on Saturday, April 10th, 9:30 a.m. until noon. The room is TBA, just check DLL's site, [www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca) closer to the clinic date.

The rewards are many. If you are still at school, we pay for your umpiring services. If you are an adult, a soft drink and a “burger” or a “dog” awaits you after the game. The biggest reward, however, is being a part of the DLL community.

If you are interested – please contact Ted Lord by phone at 604-224-9219 or email [ted.lord@shaw.ca](mailto:ted.lord@shaw.ca). Thanks for volunteering!

# Life after Dunbar Little League

By Bill Robinson, VCB

This article is addressed to the graduating players and parents that have spent the last several years experiencing a well run League in Dunbar. Vancouver Community Baseball offers a place where players and parents can enjoy the game they have come to know over the past several years.

The Vancouver Community Baseball League's main playing fields are located at Hillcrest Park right beside Nat Bailey Stadium but also have other playing fields located around Vancouver's beautiful neighbourhoods.

The age group that your son/daughter will be involved in is called “Bantam” and will have children from the ages of 13-14 years, and is based on the calendar year. There is also a summer league that takes place after the regular season that starts at the end of June through to the end of July. The other divisions that the League offers after Bantam is the Midget League which is players from 15-18 years and has two separate divisions within this age. I hope this helps you to understand a little more about this league and how easy it is to move up and continue playing baseball after Little League.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year at Vancouver Community Baseball and please check out our web-site @ [www.eteamz.active.com/vcbaseball](http://www.eteamz.active.com/vcbaseball) or if you have any questions feel free to contact me @ [vcbrobinson@telus.net](mailto:vcbrobinson@telus.net).

## Register Online Now!

Regular Registration:

**Monday, January 4, 2010 to Feb 12, 2010**

Late Registration Majors: Feb 12, 2010 to Feb 27, 2010

Late Registration Majors Tryout: Feb 13, 2010 to Feb 19, 2010

Late Registration All Other Divisions: Feb 13, 2010 to Mar 1, 2010

<http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca/registration.html>

# Thank-You Sponsors

By Dave Hemer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our many wonderful sponsors. Their commitment to Dunbar Little League makes many things possible for the children of our community. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated sponsors that have been with us for many years.

We would also like to welcome our new sponsors and thank them for their interest in the league. These sponsors display a tremendous example, especially to the children, of the importance of community involvement. We look forward to another great year at Dunbar and hope to see some of the sponsor representatives around the park cheering on their teams.

## DLL Out of Boundary Policy

Dunbar Little League has reached capacity. As a result, all out of boundary registrants will be placed on a waiting list until boundary registration is completed in late February.

**No out of boundary applicant will be accepted for Majors due to limitation in available spaces.**

Due to our Online Registration, those who register online and are out of boundary will have their credit card processed right away. They will be placed on the waiting list and if a spot can not be found for the player, then a refund will be sent less a processing fee of \$25. If you have question before our in person information session please email the registrar at: [registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca](mailto:registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca).

### JERICO

[info@jerichobaseball.com](mailto:info@jerichobaseball.com)  
[www.jerichobaseball.com](http://www.jerichobaseball.com)

### LITTLE MOUNTAIN

[registrar@littlemountainbaseball.com](mailto:registrar@littlemountainbaseball.com)  
[www.littlemountainbaseball.com](http://www.littlemountainbaseball.com)

### KERRISDALE

[kerrisdalebaseball@gmail.com](mailto:kerrisdalebaseball@gmail.com)  
[www.kerrisdalebaseball.com](http://www.kerrisdalebaseball.com)

### DUNBAR

[registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca](mailto:registrar@dunbarbaseball.ca)  
[www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca)

## DLL Boundaries

**NORTH** 16th Avenue South side

**EAST** West side of Puget Drive, south to 33rd, north side of 33rd to Blenheim, west side of Blenheim to the Fraser River

**SOUTH** Fraser River

**WEST** Camosun Street, including King Edward Place and Musqueam

## Teen Volunteers for DLL

If you have a son or daughter in high school and they need volunteer hours for their CAPP course or other activities (i.e. Duke of Edinburgh award), DLL may be able to offer an opportunity to volunteer right here in our Dunbar neighbourhood. There are a variety of ways that teen-agers can help serve our league, and in so doing make a contribution to an organization that serves 600 local children, and also earn credit for their volunteer work. Opportunities exist in the areas of umpiring, assistant coaching, and in the concession stand.

If your high schooler would be interested in such a program, please have e-mail. Please have them include their name, phone number, area of interest, and name(s) of any sibling who plays in DLL if applicable. At the conclusion of your child's service to DLL, a league official will sign off on the hours so the teen volunteer gets credit for them, but more importantly they will have made a valuable contribution to their community and learned how rewarding volunteering can be.

# Dunbar Little League Need to Know

## 2010 Key Dates

Registration	January 24 - February 12
Player Evaluations	
Majors	February 20 & 21
All Minor A	March 31
Majors' Draft	Sunday, Mar 21
Registration Closes	March 1
AI & AI Coaching Clinics	Late March
DLL Coaching Clinics	April 5 (Minor A & B)
Coaches Meeting	Tuesday, April 6
Majors' Exhibition Starts	April 9 (subject to PB Permit)
Coaches Notify Players	April 7-10 (watch for e-mail)
Umpire Clinic	Saturday, April 10
DLL Work Day	April 10 (9-12 meet @ Majors)
Majors Regular Season Starts	April 13
<b>Opening Day</b>	<b>Saturday, April 17</b>
Photo Day	Saturday, May 8
Stong's Tourney	May 22-24 (Grocers & tba)
Majors' Pancake Breakfast	Saturday, June 5
Minor A All-Star Games	June 5 (Currie Field)
Try-outs for 9/10 & Ritchie teams	June 5
<b>Closing Day</b>	<b>Saturday, June 19</b>
District 1 Tournaments	
9 and 10's	June 29-July 12, Kerrisdale
11 and 12's	July 7-19, LMB
Provincial Tournaments	
9 and 10's	July 17-24
11 and 12's	July 24 - Aug 1, New Westminster
Canadian 11/12 Tournament	Aug 7-14, Ancaster, Ontario
Fred Ritchie 9/10 Tournament	Late July, Hastings Little League

## Minor A Evaluations

All players registered to play in the Minor A Division of Dunbar Little League are required to attend an evaluation session. This player evaluation is mandatory for all Minor A players whether or not they previously attended the Majors' evaluations.

We will evaluate throwing, catching, pitching, running and batting. All players attending the evaluations will be placed on a team in either the Minor A Junior or Minor A Senior divisions unless there is a concern about player safety.

The primary purpose of the evaluations is to help the player agents to balance teams and to ensure that there are capable pitchers on every team. The player evaluation for Minor A will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2010 (venue TBA). We will hold 2 sessions on that day: 4:15 – 5:15 pm and 5:30 – 6:30 pm. -- you will receive an email message in early March letting you know which of the two sessions your child should attend. Players should arrive 10 minutes before their session, and should wear appropriate footwear, a baseball cap and a protective cup. Please bring a batting helmet if they have one.

In the case of severe weather, please check our website ([www.dunbarbaseball.ca](http://www.dunbarbaseball.ca)) to see if the sessions have been postponed. If you have any questions about the Minor A evaluations please contact DLL at ([playerevaluations@dunbarbaseball.ca](mailto:playerevaluations@dunbarbaseball.ca)).

## Majors' Evaluations

**Saturday & Sunday afternoon, February 20-21**

**Location: TBA**

Because of the Olympics, we will need to be flexible with respect to the venue.

**Players MUST attend both days.**

Please look for email and web postings with regards to time and venue.

A makeup day may be required.

All 10, 11 and 12 year olds (age as of April 30, 2010) that are not currently on a Majors' team but who are interested in playing in the Majors' division, are required to attend the evaluation sessions. These sessions are to be held Saturday & Sunday, February 20-21 in the afternoon at a venue to be determined.

Because of the growth of the league and Little League League regulations spaces are very limiting. During the evaluations, players are assessed by 12-15 Majors' coaches in four basic skill areas: Hitting, Pitching, Running and Fielding. Using ratings in these four areas along with written evaluations from last year's Minor A coaches, some players will be drafted onto one of six Majors' teams.

The Majors' division at Dunbar Little League offers a more competitive level of baseball for those players with the necessary level of skill, attitude and commitment. Playing on a Majors' team requires a high level of time commitment as there is at least one practice and 2 to 3 games played each week.

As well, there is mandatory concession, scorekeeping a pitch counting duty for PARENTS on a rotational basis.

Players should wear baseball or track pants, cleats, a baseball cap, and a protective cup. Please bring a batting helmet if you have one. If you have any questions about the evaluations, please contact Dunbar Little League ([playerevaluations@dunbarbaseball.ca](mailto:playerevaluations@dunbarbaseball.ca)). When registering your child, please indicate Majors on the registration form, and your child will automatically be registered for the Majors' evaluations.

Should your child not be drafted, they will be required to attend the Minor A evaluations on Monday, March 31 and will be placed on a Minor A Junior or Senior team. Following the regular season, two All-star teams will be selected for post-season tournament play. The 9/10 year old All-star team will be selected through an evaluation open to both Majors and Minor A players. This team will play games in June and early July, and if successful, will continue playing until mid-July at the Provincial Championships. The 11/12 year old All-star team is selected by the Majors' coaches based on the player's performance during the Majors regular season. This team will play in June and July, and could play into August if the team proceeds to the National Championship.

## DLL Winter Training FOR MAJORS' ELIGIBLE PLAYERS

All Majors' Eligible players in our DLL data-base were e-mailed details about our Winter Training program in early January. While not mandatory, it is highly recommended that players participate in these sessions to prepare for the Majors' evaluations. If you did not receive the Winter Training program details, please visit the Documents section of [dunbarbaseball.ca](http://dunbarbaseball.ca) to get the required information. If you have questions about the program, please contact Doug Beers at [dbeers@progressivefundraising.ca](mailto:dbeers@progressivefundraising.ca)