

VALLEY CENTER LITTLE LEAGUE

CHALLENGER DIVISION

The Little League Challenger Division was established in 1989 as a separate division of Little League to enable boys and girls with physical and mental challenges, (ages 4-18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school), to enjoy the game of baseball along with the millions of other children who participate in this sport worldwide. Today, more than 30,000 children participate in more than 900 Challenger Divisions worldwide.

In addition to learning the game of baseball, the value of the Little League Challenger Division is found in the proven socialization benefits of participating in sports; the strengthening of participants' self-esteem; and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play.

Challenger teams will play with the same uniforms and equipment on the same fields as other Valley Center Little League divisions. Participants have the opportunity to experience the joys of pulling together as a team, being cheered, and earning awards for their achievements. Teams are set up according to abilities, rather than age. Challenger games can be played as tee ball games, coach pitch, player pitch, or a combination of the three.

Valley Center Little League is launching its first ever Challenger Division for Spring 2018. We want Little League baseball to be available to all the youth in Valley Center and Pauma Valley. During a game, each player gets a chance to bat. The side is retired when the offense has batted through the roster, or when a pre-determined number of runs have been scored, or when three outs are recorded. Little League recommends that no score be kept but instead all players are cheered for their participation and are encouraged to do their best.

Challenger Division players will be invited to participate in Valley Center Little League's Opening Ceremonies, which is our annual community event. Our Opening Ceremonies are usually scheduled for the first weekend in March. There is also a Closing Ceremony which will take place at the beginning of June. There will be a schedule of weekly practices and games will be scheduled once players feel comfortable with the rules of the game.

One of the benefits of having a Challenger Division is that it encourages the use of "buddies" for the Challenger players. The buddies assist the Challenger

players on the field, but whenever possible, encourage the players to bat and make plays themselves. However, the buddy is always nearby to help when needed. VCLL players from the Major's division or older and other older kids who have experience with baseball or softball will become buddies to those in the Challenger Division. This experience is also uniquely rewarding for the buddies.

To register for the Challenger Division, please click on the below link. The registration fee is \$50. This fee covers field use, insurance, uniform shirt and hat, a team photo, and trophy.

If you have any questions about the Challenger Division, please contact VCLL Vice President and Challenger Director, Lance Klem at: (949) 278-0337 or lance.klem@gmail.com.