

## Transition Baseball FAQs

1. **Who is eligible?** All 12 and 13 year old players (as of April 30, 2010) are eligible for the program
2. **Do I have to play Transition Baseball if I am 12 or 13?** NO, 12 year olds may choose to play in a lower division and 13s may choose to play Juniors baseball
3. **Is this league designed to be for more competitive players, like a travel team?** **NO**, this league is simply designed to provide a larger field and introduction to the rules of Juniors baseball much like Majors has rule differences from AAA. The league is not meant to be a league for “select” 12 and 13 year olds.
4. **Can my son still try out for districts all stars if he plays transition league?** Yes, 12 year olds will still be eligible for the 11-12 districts baseball and 13 year olds will be eligible for the 13-14 Juniors districts team.
5. **What is the difference between Majors and Transition?** The major differences are the size of the field and the rules of the game. In transition, players will be allowed to lead and steal while the pitcher has the ball and during the delivery of the pitch. Leagues below this level require base runners to stay on the base until the pitch has crossed the front of the plate. Transition also allows for headfirst slides and for batters to attempt to advance to first base on a dropped third strike.
6. **What is the difference between Transition and Juniors?** Field size and ages (12-13 for transition and 13-15 for juniors) are the only differences between these two leagues.
7. **Where will Transition Games be played?** Plans call for Field 5 at Salmon Brook Park to be modified to allow for the new field size (as well as the Little League field size) so all games will be played there. It is possible that a second field could also be modified if deemed necessary.
8. **Why would a 13 year old want to play transition?** Every family will make its own decision for its own reasons but this league is designed to ease the kids into a larger field. Historically, many 13 year olds have struggled with the leap from a Little League sized field to a traditional baseball field. Not only do the base paths become 50% longer (from 60 to 90 feet) but the width of the field expands greatly as a result. Families may also not be ready for the travel Juniors does for games in Bloomfield and possibly Burlington.

Field Size	Distance <sup>1st</sup> to <sup>3rd</sup> or Home to <sup>2nd</sup>
Little League Field	85
Transition Field	99
Juniors Field	128

9. **Why would a 12 year old want to play transition?** Again, every family will make its own choice for its own reasons but the league is designed to offer 12 year olds the opportunity to learn new rules while playing on a field that is larger. Players may choose to use this transition field for one year and move to juniors at 13 or take advantage of 2 years on the intermediate field to improve their skills and allow their bodies to physically catch up with their peers and the 14 and 15 year olds who play in Juniors. See table above.

- 10. How many teams will be in the Transition League?** Who will they play against? This is a difficult question to answer now as we must all wait to see how many kids sign up for the league. Looking at the children who played last year, it is anticipated that a four (4) team league will be possible without much problem. In one scenario, the league will play amongst its 3-4 teams and possibly East Granby, which is considering fielding a transition team. If the league has only two teams, then a different system would likely be employed in which 12 year olds would play on a regular Majors team and be given the option to play on a transition team with 12s and 13s, which would play a doubleheader each week under transition rules. Likewise, 13 year olds would be assigned to juniors team and be given the option to play a doubleheader with their transition team. It is our hope that we will get four teams as the numbers show that if just half of the 12 and 13 year olds from last year sign up for transition we will have enough for 4 teams.
- 11. If my son signs up for the Transition league is he guaranteed a spot?** All interested 13 year olds will be guaranteed a spot on the league. 12 year olds will be assessed and placed in the league if league officials decide there is no safety risk in their inclusion. The only other way a 12 year would be placed in another league is if the league must do so to ensure teams are of a workable size. Rosters of 11-12 are ideal, once they get much bigger kids' playing time dramatically decreases and smaller rosters put teams at risk of not having enough players for a game.
- 12. How will Assessments work?** Interested 12 and 13 year olds will be asked to come to a separate assessment on 2/28. After that assessment players will be asked to reaffirm their interest in the league so officials can begin determining how many teams will be possible. If a 12 year old decides he would rather play majors he can do so as will a 13 year old be allowed to play juniors. Make up assessments for those not available 2/28 will be held 3/7. Contact us if you can't make either date.
- 13. Why can't 11 year olds play transition league?** Little League International has designed this league solely for 12 and 13 year olds and will not allow any league to admit 11 year olds, regardless of any factors.
- 14. What will happen to Majors?** This is also a difficult question to answer now as it depends on the number of kids who sign up for the transition league. If we have 3-4 teams, transition will likely function as its own league and Majors will draw its teams from the 12 year olds who opted not to play transition baseball, 11 year olds and 10 year olds. If we have 2 teams in transition, then Majors teams may feature kids who play both Majors and transition. Based on last year's numbers, there are more than fifty (50) 11 year olds this year, enough to ensure that Majors will be a robust league with or without all the 12 year old players. If transition is a separate league, many of those 11 year olds will play Majors, if there is not then it is possible many of those 11 year olds will be in AAA this year. Again, it is impossible to say until we see what the numbers are and what the assessments look like.
- 15. What will happen to Juniors?** As noted above, it is hard to say until numbers come in but looking at probabilities based on last year's numbers it seems we will have 3-4 juniors teams regardless of the transition league's makeup. Juniors also play other towns, including East Granby and Bloomfield. Options are being explored to expand this league to also play against Burlington. Note juniors do have AWAY games.