

Upper Tonka Little League

2007 Information Booklet



Upper Tonka Little League
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www.utll.org

Information Booklet Upper Tonka Little League

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Introduction

Welcome to the Upper Tonka Little League! The Upper Tonka Little League is a completely volunteer-driven organization with is intended to provide the kids in the community the opportunity to learn and enjoy the fantastic games of baseball and softball. The league continues to grow and have provided baseball and softball opportunities for more kids than ever before!

We have prepared this information booklet to provide new families as well as returning participants with information and an understanding of what makes the league function. Please look over the information, and provide comments so that we can improve on the booklet for next year.

Our Little League seeks to provide a community and volunteer-driven program to promote the growth and development of our players. Our Little League works to promote a fun, fair, and safe environment that maximizes participation and improves players' skills while developing sportsmanship, teamwork, and self-confidence.

Areas Served by Upper Tonka Little League

The Upper Tonka Little League provides baseball and softball opportunities for children in Mound, Minnetrista, Spring Park, Orono, Watertown and St. Bonifacius. Upper Tonka Little League is currently getting its boundaries certified by the National Little League organization. The area served by Upper Tonka Little League is anticipated to be bounded on the west by Highway 25 and County Road 16, on the north by Highway 12, on the south by Highway 7 and on the east by a line that connects Highway 41 with the City of Long Lake. A map illustrating the proposed boundaries of the Upper Tonka Little League is included as Figure 1.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct for parents/guardians/sponsors of participants in the Upper Tonka Little League includes the following principles:

- 1) We agree that it is a privilege, not a right, for our child to play baseball or softball in the Upper Tonka Little League.
- 2) We agree that sportsmanship and fair play are essential to all sports.
- 3) We agree that because children learn by example, parents and coaches need to exemplify the highest level of sportsmanship and fair play.
- 4) We agree that this is a game for the children.
- 5) We recognize that no one is perfect, and we will refrain from vocal criticism or undue influence of the umpires.
- 6) We agree that cheering should be directed in a positive manner for all participants, and should never be at the expense of a missed play.
- 7) We agree that it is in no one's best interest to voice criticism of the coach or players. Any constructive suggestions for the coach will be made off the field with only adults present.
- 8) We agree that we will abide by the Upper Tonka Little League rule of a one game suspension if any of these rules are violated.

General Schedule of Activities

What can I expect to happen throughout the season?

February

A newsletter is mailed out towards the end of January. It includes important information such as registration and clinic dates, plus much more.

Registration begins at the end of January via our on-line registration system.

March

Player Clinics for 9 to 12 year olds. This is a chance to learn new skills and get in some early practice time.

Coaches' clinic: anyone considering becoming a coach or assistant coach is strongly encouraged to attend.

9-12 year olds: * Tryouts and draft for Majors, Minors, and Girls Softball
Results will be posted on the Website and/or at Wolner Field.

* Practices begin immediately after Draft.

April

Player Clinics for 5 to 8 year olds. This is a chance to learn new skills and get in some early practice time.

5-8 year olds: * Coaches and board members divide participants into teams.
Each coach will contact their team families to introduce themselves and give practice times.

May

All Ages: * A "Clean Up Day" will be scheduled to open the concession stand, put up batting cages and get the fields ready for play.
All families are asked to help.

9-12 year olds: * Opening Day is on a Saturday early in May.
Games are scheduled at various times throughout the day.

* Season games are scheduled on weekday evenings.
* Team Pictures are scheduled.

5-8 year olds: * Practices begin early in May. Days and times vary for each Team.

* Opening day is on a Saturday late in May.
Games are scheduled at various times throughout the day.

* Uniforms – coaches will distribute uniforms by Opening Day.

Program Overview (softball and baseball)

Softball

Upper Tonka Little League offers the opportunity for girls' ages 7-12 years old to participate in organized softball leagues. Softball participants may have participated in 5-8 year old baseball leagues but this may be the girl's first exposure to organized softball or baseball. Seven to 9 year old participants play in the Girl's Softball Minor League and 9 to 12 year olds play in the Girls Softball Major League. The location for games are split between Wolner Field (the Upper Tonka Little League) and the Shirley Hills Softball Fields.

Baseball

5 and 6 Year-Old Baseball

For most children, this is their first baseball experience. Emphasis is on development of the basic skills of throwing, catching, running and hitting. A basic understanding of the rules of baseball will be taught. The rules are designed to allow each player the opportunity to play a variety of positions along with the development of batting skills. Players at this age will use soft-coated balls for the entire season. All players play every inning in the field with the extra players positioned in the outfield. All participants will bat in a continuous order. Players at this level all hit off a T-ball stand. The use of the T-ball stand provides for a faster paced game, more opportunities for each participant, as well as more successes at bat. Teamwork and good sportsmanship is established as a fundamental aspect of baseball. No emphasis is placed on winning games. A successful season is one where participants begin to learn the skills of the game, have fun, and are interested in signing up for next year.

7 and 8 Year-Olds

Many of the players in this league have played T-Ball before and are ready to understand the rules of baseball and to concentrate on their skills in throwing, catching, running and hitting. Pitching machines will be used at this level. The rules are designed to allow each player the opportunity to play a variety of positions. All players play every inning in the field with the extra players positioned in the outfield. All participants will bat in a continuous order. Sportsmanship is an important part of the learning process. No emphasis is placed on winning games. Instruction is emphasized on throwing, catching and hitting. 8 year-olds may try out for the 9 year-old league, an 8 year old will move up as needed to fill an open position on a 9 year old team.

9 Year-Olds (Minor B)

This league continues to emphasize the basic skills of throwing, catching, running bases and hitting. All players bat in continuous order and will be rotated, playing infield and outfield each game (2 innings minimum and outfield 2 innings minimum). A 9 player-fielding lineup is used with the extra players rotating on the bench for a maximum of one inning per game. While game scores and team standings are kept, skill development and sportsmanship are the primary emphasis. Pitching machines will be used during the first half of the year. At this level, we will provide instruction on the proper mechanics of pitching. Players will be pitching during the second half of the season.

Minors 10, 11 and 12

The Minor League is for 10, 11 and 12 year-old players who have not been drafted by a Major League team. Players bat in continuous order. This league continues the development of “real” baseball, with players pitching, and with a regular nine-player defensive line-up. A Minor B League is for participants with less developed skills and the Minor A League is for participants with more developed skills. Base stealing is allowed. Good sportsmanship, as well as competition, is emphasized. Teams will be grouped in such a way as to create equal balance throughout the league. Baseball instruction is encouraged to continue the development of each and every ballplayer.

Majors 10, 11 and 12

The Major League is a highly competitive league. All players (except returning Major League players) are required to try out for a team. Every player who has reached the age of 10 (as of April 30) is eligible to tryout for a spot on the Major League team. Each Major League team is comprised of eleven to thirteen players, with no more than seven 12 year-olds and the remainder 10 and 11 year-olds.

The head coach determines each participant’s playing time and position on a Major League team. Post-season tournaments are played at various levels, including the state and regional level, and can lead up to the Little League World Series. Baseball instruction is encouraged to continue the baseball development of each and every ballplayer.

Player Clinics

Upper Tonka Little League attempts to coordinate player clinics in late winter before outside conditions allow for baseball. The clinics are staffed by a number of coaches/parents and may include softball and baseball coaches from local high schools. Upper Tonka Little League typically holds the player clinics inside the Mound Westonka High School gymnasium and the intent is to provide a fun time for kids to start practicing some baseball and softball skills! The clinics are free and open to the community and are intended to provide age-appropriate instruction for either learning or dusting off those baseball or softball skills in preparation for the upcoming season. Kids will get a chance to use indoor batting cages, improve fielding skills, throwing or pitching fundamentals, etc.

Registration Age (Birthday Cutoff)

A child must be 5 years old by April 30, 2007 and must not be older than 12 years old as of May 1, 2007 to be eligible to participate in the Upper Tonka Little League program. To be eligible to play baseball this year, their child’s birth date must be between May 1, 1994 and April 30, 2002. To be eligible to play softball this year, your child’s birthdate must be between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1994.

As required by the National Little League organization, first time participants in the Upper Tonka Little League must mail a birth certificate to P.O. Box 53, Mound, MN 55364 after registering online. Upper Tonka Little League does not keep a copy of the birth certificate but simply confirms the age of all participants. After the initial registration, a copy of the birth certificate is not needed for future registrations.

Fees

Fees for participating in Upper Tonka Little League programs remain unchanged from last year. Fees for the Baseball Instructional Leagues (ages 5-8) are \$80, which goes towards the following items:

\$19	Uniforms
\$2	Insurance
\$6	Little League Registration
\$19	Equipment
\$15	UTLL Operations
\$19	Maintenance

Fees for Baseball Minor and Major Leagues (ages 9-12) and for softball (ages 9-12) are \$100, which covers the following items:

\$19.50	Uniforms
\$2	Insurance
\$6	Little League Registration
\$17	Equipment
\$15	UTLL Operations
\$19	Maintenance
\$21.50	Tournaments and Umpires

Uniforms – Socks, Jersey and Cap (or visor)

Equipment – Tees, Trophies and Balls, Bats, Catchers gear, etc. must be regularly replaced because of safety, wear and tear.

UTLL Operations – Mailings, printing of forms, background checks, electricity, water, rental of facilities for registration, tryouts, etc.

Maintenance – Repairs (scoreboard, fences, concession equipment), Purchases (lawn mowers, freezers, etc.)

Umpires and Tournaments – Minors and Majors use paid umpires. Also UTLL pays the entry fees for UTLL teams to participate in tournaments against other towns.

UTLL is very conscious of the fees charged for children to participate in the baseball and softball programs. As an all-volunteer group, with the exception of paying umpires, the Board works very hard to watch how each dollar is spent. The fees for participating in UTLL have not changed in a number of years.

If you find yourself unable to pay, the league may be able to pay for a limited number of entry fees. See a Board member for further information.

Overview of League Rules

Listed below is a general overview of how the rules change as a participant advances through the Little League program. It is understood that Little League progresses from a non-competitive instructional environment and gradually introduces more involved aspects of baseball and softball while progressing to a competitive environment. The rules overview listed below is by no means a summary of all rules but is intended to illustrate how the game is advanced as a participant progresses through the league.

The National Little League publishes a rulebook each year that contains a complete listing of the rules. The Upper Tonka Little League purchases copies of the rulebook that are provided to each head coach. Copies of the National Little League rulebook are available at the National Little League website for purchase by the general public.

Summary of Baseball Rules Upper Tonka Little League

This is intended as an overview of the rules that vary amongst the various divisions that make up the Upper Tonka Little League.

Issue	Little League Divisions				
	5 & 6 Year Old Instructional League	7 & 8 Year Old Instructional League	Minor B League	Minor A League	Major League
Age of Participants	5 - 6 year old	7 - 8 year old	9 year old	10 -12 year old	10 -12 year old
Degree of Competitiveness	Non-competitive	→	Competition introduced	More competitive	Most competitive
Keeping Score	No emphasis on winning (no score kept)	→	Win/loss records kept	→	→
Method of Pitching	T-Ball stand used	Pitching Machine used. After 5 pitches, T-ball stand is used.	Pitching machine used in 1 st half of season, players pitch 2 nd half of season	Players pitch	→
Fielding	Entire team plays in the field each inning	→	A 9 person lineup is used, extra players rotate on bench	→	→
Base Stealing	No base stealing	→	→	Base stealing allowed (except home)	→
Selecting Players for Teams	No tryouts, approximate equal representation of ages on each team	→	Teams arranged based upon results of tryouts.	→	→
Batting & Runs Scored	Entire team bats each inning	5 run maximum per inning	→	→	No restriction on the number of runs scored per inning
Calls Made During the Game	Coaches in the field call the game	→	Umpires present and call the game	→	→

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Issue	Little League Divisions				
	5 & 6 Year Old Instructional League	7 & 8 Year Old Instructional League	Minor B League	Minor A League	Major League
Coaches on the field	Coaches positioned in the field during the game		Coaches not allowed on the field (unless timeout called from the umpire)		
Fielding Positions	Players rotated in the field each inning, with equal number of innings spent between infield and outfield		Players begin to concentrate on a limited number of positions, but all players must play at least two innings of infield and two innings of outfield each game.		Players are positioned by coach based upon ability. No rotation is required but coaches are encouraged to provide both infield and outfield opportunities for each player.
Strikeouts	No strikeouts allowed		Strikeouts are allowed.		
Walks	No walks allowed		Walks allowed		
Bunting	Bunting not allowed		Bunting allowed		
Thrown bats	Batter throwing bat receives 1 warning, called out on next offense		Batter called out if throwing bat, no warning.		

Volunteer Expectations/Parental Involvement

Upper Tonka Little League is a completely volunteer-based organization. As such, it is understood that the parents/guardians/sponsors of each child help contribute to all the tasks that are necessary to provide opportunities for the kids in our community to play baseball and softball.

Volunteering could involve helping in one of three general areas; 1. Team Volunteering, 2. Game Volunteering and 3. League Volunteering.

Team Volunteering - Each team requires a Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and a Team Coordinator. The more adults helping on the field during practices, the more opportunities to teach the game and less time the kids have to wait to get instruction or take their turn at a skill. Assistant coaches don't need a detailed knowledge of baseball or softball, as the head coach will provide instruction to the assistant coaches. The Team Coordinator helps with conveying information to parents on coordinating snacks, assigning parents to the Game Volunteering positions below, updating team page website, team pictures, and arranging volunteers for the small jobs associated with each game.

Game Volunteering – Each team (Home team and Visiting team) has small jobs to be done as part of each game. These jobs include:

Home Team

- Provide two concession workers for each game. No children under 16 are allowed in the 1st floor of the concession building.
- Cleanout items from the dugout (trash and forgotten items such as hats, gloves, etc.)
- Parents with the home team are responsible for cleaning garbage from their dugout and bleacher area after each game. Also, if trash can is full, it needs to be emptied in the dumpster.

Visiting Team

- Provide two workers to rake the field after each game. Rakes are located in the green equipment building. This allows each team to start their game on a "fresh" field and helps prevent low areas from developing at home plate, around bases, and at the pitchers mound, which are then prone to collect water.
- Provide one adult to sit in the announcing area for each field in the second floor of the buildings behind the field 1 and 2 backstops. No children are allowed unaccompanied in the announcing area. The adult should see that the announcing area is picked up of trash after each game.
- Parents with the visiting team are responsible for cleaning garbage from their dugout and bleacher area after each game. Also, if trash can is full, it needs to be emptied in the dumpster.

Each team is responsible for cleaning out items from their dugout (trash and forgotten items such as hats, gloves, etc.) after each game. Also, parents are asked to empty the large garbage cans which are located around the Wolner Field complex into the dumpster located next to the batting cages as they notice the garbage cans filling up.

League Volunteering

Advertising Coordinator

- Contact existing sponsors and solicit new sponsors as needed for teams and advertising signs for outfields and other advertising (revenue generating) opportunities.
- Coordinate the yearly installation and removal of advertising signs with the help of other volunteers.

Coaching Coordinators

- Coordinate the assignment of coaches for teams.
- Schedule and coordinate winter clinics to convey consistent fundamentals and methods to the coaches for teaching skills to the kids.
- Coordinate coach's pre and post-season meetings to maintain consistency and improve league.
- Resolve discrepancies amongst coaches.
- Monitor quality of coaches and appropriate behavior between coaches, participants, umpires, parents, etc.
- Oversee the picking of teams for instructional league.

Communications Coordinator

- Create short statements for publication in local papers regarding Little League events such as sign-up, tryouts, elections, player & coaches' clinics, yearly newsletter, and other Little League news.

Concessions Coordinator

- Coordinate the ordering of concession supplies, help with staffing to open and close on a daily basis, etc.
- Oversee the regular maintenance of concession equipment.
- Coordinate the winterizing of concession facility.
- Provide training for the concession workers.

Donations

- Help to identify and advertise opportunities for individual or business donations, etc.
- Coordinate the acknowledgement of donations.

Equipment Coordinator – Board Position

- Inventory equipment
- Determine necessary equipment purchases
- Coordinate ordering equipment
- Distribute equipment to coaches and collect at season end.

Field Manager

- Coordinate the maintenance of the Little League facilities including grass cutting, weed control, building maintenance.
- Oversee and winterize water sprinkler system.
- Coordinate the maintenance of field equipment (i.e. lawn mowers, etc.)

Photography Coordinator

- Solicit bids from photographers for Little League team pictures.
- Coordinate the logistics of the team-photographing event.
- Coordinate the distribution of the team plaque to the team sponsors.

Player Agent – Board Position

- Coordinate and oversee the player tryouts.
- Oversee the movement of players between teams.

Player Clinics

- Coordinate the planning and content of the players clinics (including Twins Clinic).

Recycling Coordinator

- Develop and coordinate the recycling of materials generated by the Little League facilities, primarily cardboard and plastic bottles.

Registration Coordinator

- Coordinate renting a facility and staffing the player registration process in late winter/early spring.

Safety Officer – Board Position

- Review and submit the Upper Tonka Little League Safety Plan to Little League on an annual basis.
- Coordinate a first aid training event for coaches.
- Coordinate the development of first aid kits for each team and the Wolner Field facility.
- Weekly visit to the Wolner field facilities (during the season) to look for safety conditions that require correction.
- Coordinate background checks for required Little League positions.

Scheduling

- Schedule all league games.
- Coordinate practice field assignments

Softball Coordinator

- Act as liaison with the Board to meet the needs of the softball program.
- Work with the softball representatives from the other communities to schedule games and/or tournaments which the Upper Tonka Little League participates with.

Team Coordinator

- Meet with all team coordinators at beginning of each season to distribute information the board would like parents to have.

Tournament Coordinator

- Coordinate the selection of players and teams for tournaments.
- Coordinate the logistics of Upper Tonka teams participating in tournaments.
- Attend Little League coordination meetings for tournaments.
- Coordinate the completion of the necessary records for participating in tournaments, including birth certificates, mapping of player locations, etc.

Umpire Coordinator

- Recruiting of umpires.
- Coordinate Umpire training clinic
- Schedule umpires.
- Provide quality control of umpires.

Uniform Coordinator

- Order uniforms, hats, socks and pants as necessary.
- Coordinate distribution of uniforms.
- Coordinate return of reusable uniforms (all-star uniforms)

Volunteer Coordinator

- Coordinate recruitment of volunteers as part of player registration process.
- Help staff various Little League tasks through volunteer pool.

Other Baseball & Softball Options

While Upper Tonka Little League has no affiliation with the groups listed below, contact information is provided to inform families of opportunities available in the community.

Westonka Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) administered by the Westonka School District may provide t-Ball opportunities for children under the age of five. Contact Joel Dahl, the ECFE Recreational Coordinator at (952) 491-8047 for additional information.

White Hawks Youth Baseball Association provides baseball opportunities for those looking to continue playing baseball after Little League (which ends at age 12). White Hawk Baseball is available for those children aged 13-15. For more information on White Hawk Baseball, contact Mr. Loren Davis at (952) 472-1262.

Westonka Youth Softball Association provides girls softball opportunities. Contact Theresa Brink at (952) 472-0377, Steve Sandler (763) 577-4201 or their website www.moundfastpitch.org for more information.

American Legion Baseball provides summer baseball opportunities for boys 16 and up. Contact Kenny Horner at (952) 472-2523 for more information.

Westonka School District provides baseball and softball opportunities during the school year for those children within the Westonka School district boundaries. High school age children interested in participating can contact the Westonka School District for more information.

Baseball & Softball Facilities

All baseball and home softball games are played at beautiful Wolner Field located in downtown Mound at 2345 Cypress Lane. The field is located about 1 block south of County Road 15, approximately ¼ mile east of the intersection of County Road 110 and County Road 15. The fields are located immediately in front of the Mound City Hall facilities and directly behind the Super America Store on County Road 15. A map, which illustrates the location of the Wolner field complex, is included as Figure 2.

The Wolner Field complex consists of two fields, each with bleacher facilities. On-site parking is available immediately adjacent to the fields and additional on-street parking is also available. Each field is equipped with an electronic scoreboard and game announcing is done from the building that sits behind home plate at each field.

Concessions are offered at each game that includes candy, beverages, hot dogs, hot nachos, popcorn, and ice cream products. On-site bathrooms are also available along with newly refurbished batting cages that are available for team use.

Due to the large number of participants in the Upper Tonka Little League baseball and softball programs, you are likely to see practices taking place at any and all available locations in the area! Your coach will identify the location of the field used for practices. Upper Tonka Little League has made arrangements to utilize all City of Mound ball fields as well as Thor Thompson Park located in the City of Spring Park. We are also working with the City of Minnetrista to encourage the creation of a ball field(s) that could be used by the Upper Tonka Little League. A map that illustrates the location of all City of Mound parks is included as Figure 3.

Safety

The Upper Tonka Little League is committed to providing a safe environment for the kids in our community to learn the great games of baseball and softball. As required by the National Little League charter and the Upper Tonka Little League insurance, all Board members and all head coaches will undergo a yearly background check. General first aid supplies (i.e. ice packs, band aids, etc.) are available at the Wolner Field concession building and a telephone is located at the concession building in case on-site medical assistance is needed.

Each year, The Upper Tonka Board is searching for a parent with a first aid background that would be willing to give a brief first aid training session for the coaches. Remember, the Upper Tonka Little League is entirely run by volunteers that are interested in providing a quality opportunity for the kids in our community to play ball. If you have some first aid background, this would be a great way to contribute a small amount of time to make the league even better. Contact a Board Member if you would be willing to help out!

Coaching

Each coach, just like everyone else involved in Upper Tonka Little League, are members of our community that have volunteered their time to teach baseball and softball to our kids. There are certain attributes that are necessary to be a good coach and role model for the kids. Coaches must be positive, nurturing, and caring nature and be willing to work with kids of various abilities.

If winning is your most important goal, coaching would not be a good match with the objectives of Little League.

Coaches need not be seasoned ball players with years of baseball “under their belt”. Upper Tonka Little League provides a mandatory coaches meeting to discuss the objectives that each of the Little League divisions is striving for, to make sure that all coaches are on the same page, and are willing to follow the guidelines established by the league. The league continues to improve on the coaches’ binder provided to each coach that offers suggestions and outlines from everything to how to organize a practice, to how to teach the individual skills that all are part of playing baseball and softball.

We are fortunate to have a great group of people acting as head coaches and assistant coaches. As per National Little League rules, the Board reserves the right to screen coaches to ensure that volunteers are selected to best match the objectives of Little League. We always welcome feedback on coaches (both positive and negative) to help us provide the best environment for kids to learn the game. A criminal background check is performed for each coach and assistants each year they participate.

If you are interested in helping coach, please contact the Coaching Coordinator Board Member.

Players being selected for a team

5-8 Year Olds - Participants that are ages 5-8 are placed on teams without a tryout being done to determine their skill level. The leagues for 5-8 year old are instructional leagues, are non-competitive, and a tryout is thought to be a bit intimidating for this age group. Teams formed with 5-8 year old try to accommodate request to play with friends, etc. if stated on the registration form.

8 Year Olds - As per National Little League rules, an 8-year-old baseball or softball participant can choose to tryout to be considered by coaches for selection into the Minor B Baseball or Minors Softball leagues as the numbers allow. This will change every year based on registration.

Tryouts are conducted for baseball and softball players ages 9-12. The tryout is a tool used by the league to attempt to create teams as evenly matched as possible. The tryout consists of a variety of baseball/softball drills (i.e. fielding ground balls and fly balls, hitting, throwing, etc.) to evaluate the ability level of all 9-12 year old participants. With the goal of creating evenly matched teams, the league cannot accommodate requests for 9-12 year old participants to play with a certain coach, other players, etc.

9 Year Olds – 9-year-old boys and girls participate in the Minor B Baseball League or girls can choose to participate in the Girls Softball Minor League.

10-12 Year Olds Baseball – Baseball participants are selected by coaches based on ability for either the Minor A Baseball League or the Majors Baseball League. If selected for the Major Baseball League as a 10 or 11 year old, the participant would return to that same team until the age of 12.

10-Year-Old Softball – 10 year old girls are selected by coaches for the Minor Softball League based upon the results of tryouts.

11-12 Year Old Softball – 11 & 12 year old girls are selected by coaches for the Major Softball League based upon the results of tryouts. If selected for the Major Softball League as a 10 year old, the participant would return to that same team until the age of 12.

Uniforms/Equipment (what's provided)

Each participant receives a numbered baseball or softball jersey, baseball socks and hat. Each item matches the teams color scheme. Softball participants receive a visor in lieu of a hat. Each participant needs to provide his or her own baseball/softball glove. The league provides bats, baseballs/softballs and any required catching equipment.

Each participant is encouraged to provide a pair of white baseball/softball pants that are available at sporting goods stores. In addition, Upper Tonka Little League encourages all male participants to wear a protective athletic cup. Participants can choose to wear rubber bottom "spikes" or "cleats" or gym shoes. No metal spikes are allowed.

Rain out Information

The Upper Tonka Little League places a message on its' telephone answering machine in the event that a game(s) have been cancelled due to weather. Please call (952) 472-8855 to check. In addition, rain out messages will also be placed on the website (utll.org).

Lost and Found

A lost and found box is located in the stairway between the first and second floor of the concession building at Wolner Field. If you find an item, please turn it in at the concession building for placement in the Lost and Found Box.

Trophies

The Upper Tonka Little League will provide trophies, or medals to all participants for the 2007 season.

Tournaments

The Upper Tonka Little League provides a number of opportunities to participate in post season or tournament play.

For the participants in our instructional leagues (ages 5-8), in keeping with the non-competitive environment, the Upper Tonka Little League coordinates a year-ending festival. This provides an opportunity for those teams interested to end the season with a group of games, after which many teams choose to have a year-ending picnic at the field or nearby park.

Minor B Baseball League – For the Minor B baseball league, the Upper Tonka Little League arranges an intact team year-ending in-house tournament held at Wolner field.

Major Baseball League (Intact Team) - The Upper Tonka Little League also pays the entry fees for the Major League Baseball Little League tournaments (team intact) where Upper Tonka teams would compete against their peers from other area Little Leagues. This National Little League sponsored tournament is referred to as the Majors Classic Tournaments and sets the first place UTLL Major League team against the first place Major League team from other communities. The tournaments also provide opportunities for the UTLL second, third and fourth place teams to compete against similarly ranked teams from other communities. Tournament games are held at locations within the Minneapolis metropolitan area.

Major Baseball League (All Star Team) - The Upper Tonka Little League participates in an all-star tournament team in which the most talented of the Upper Tonka Major League compete against all-star teams from other communities. While the regular season focus is on player development and everyone plays a significant percentage of each game, the approach to the All Star team is different. A greater emphasis is placed on winning and playing time will not be as equitable as during the regular season. Higher skilled players will play more as decided by the All Star head coach. Players are nominated to the All Star team by each Major League coach ranking the top 12 players in the Major Baseball League, with each coach designating the top player with a 12, the next best player receives an 11, 10 and so on.

Scores from the Head Coaches are tallied and the top 12-point getters are asked to participate. Participants can be 11 or 12 years old. Prior to being selected to the All-Star team, a player and his parents/guardian/sponsors should evaluate the player's availability. If a player has prior commitments that will keep them from attending games and/or practices, the player should exclude himself or herself from All-Star consideration. Winners from this tournament progress will advance toward the National Little League World Series. UTLL pays the entry fee and provides hats to each participant. All-star jerseys are provided to each participant on the team and must be returned back to UTLL at the end of the tournament.

10 Year Old Baseball All Star Team - National Little league sponsors a 10 year old all-star baseball tournament. Coaches vote on the best 10 year olds from the Majors and Minor A leagues. Similar to the all-star team described above, the top vote getters are asked to participate. UTLL pays the entry fee and provides hats to each participant. All-star jerseys are provided to each participant on the team and must be returned at the end of the tournament.

11 Year Old Baseball All Star Team – National Little league sponsors an 11 year old all-star baseball tournament. After the Major Baseball League all-star team is chosen, coaches vote on the best remaining 11 year olds from either the Major league or the Minor A league. Similar to the all-star team described above, the top vote getters are asked to participate. UTLL pays the entry fee and provides hats to each participant. All-star jerseys are provided to each participant on the team and must be returned at the end of the tournament.

Minor and Major Softball League (Intact Team) – Intact team tournaments will be coordinated to have the first place UTLL Minor Softball league compete against the first place Minor League Chanhassen Little league team and so on for all UTLL Softball Minor and Major league teams.

Major Softball League (All Star Team) – UTLL sponsors a team of all-stars that will compete in a statewide major league softball tournament. Participants are chosen in the same manner as described above for the Major Baseball League.

Sponsors

There are many opportunities for businesses to show their support of the Upper Tonka Little League.

Team Sponsors – Team sponsors have an Upper Tonka Little League baseball or softball team named for them, and the name and/or logo for the team sponsor is on each jersey. Each team sponsor also receives a team photo on a plaque; many of which are displayed in the local businesses in our communities.

2004 Team Sponsors

Field Signs – Outfield signs are another opportunity to show support for the Upper Tonka Little League. Field signs are kept in place for the entire season.

2004 Field Signs

We are grateful for the generous support of those who sponsor the Upper Tonka Little League. We ask that you patronize those organizations if possible, or simply acknowledge their support with a Thank You whenever you can.

If you are interested in any of the sponsorship opportunities available, please contact any of the Upper Tonka Little League Board members for additional information.

Donations

The league has also benefited from many donations that might go unnoticed. Recent donation examples include both the purchase and installation of new outdoor speakers for announcing games, a slushy machine for the concession stands, a grounds keeping machine to maintain the fields, and a financial donation for improving the condition of the practice fields used by the Little League.

The Board always has ideas for donations that would improve the league. Contact a Board member if you or your business was interested in making a donation to the Upper Tonka Little League.

2006 Board of Directors

Listed below are the 2006 Board Members for the Upper Tonka Little League. The league is always looking for people willing to give a bit of time to help improve the baseball and softball opportunities provided to the children in our community. Please contact any of the board members if you would like to help.

President:

Deb Bennyhoff 612-964-1400 Deb@utll.org

Treasurer:

Martine Hewitt 952-472-6708 Martine@utll.org

Secretary:

Darcy Arone 612-961-2929 darcy@utll.org

Coaching Coordinator:

Matt Troyak 952-472-2959 matt@utll.org

Softball Coordinator:

Linda Wharram 952-472-5096 linda@utll.org

Equipment Manager & Safety Officer:

Ed Treat 612-619-6197 ed@utll.org

Player Agent:

Dick Kunz 952-472-4213 (Home) Dick@utll.org
612-720-7006 (Cell)

Communications:

Andrea Nelson 952-472-2114 (Home) Andrea@utll.org
612-940-5163 (Cell)

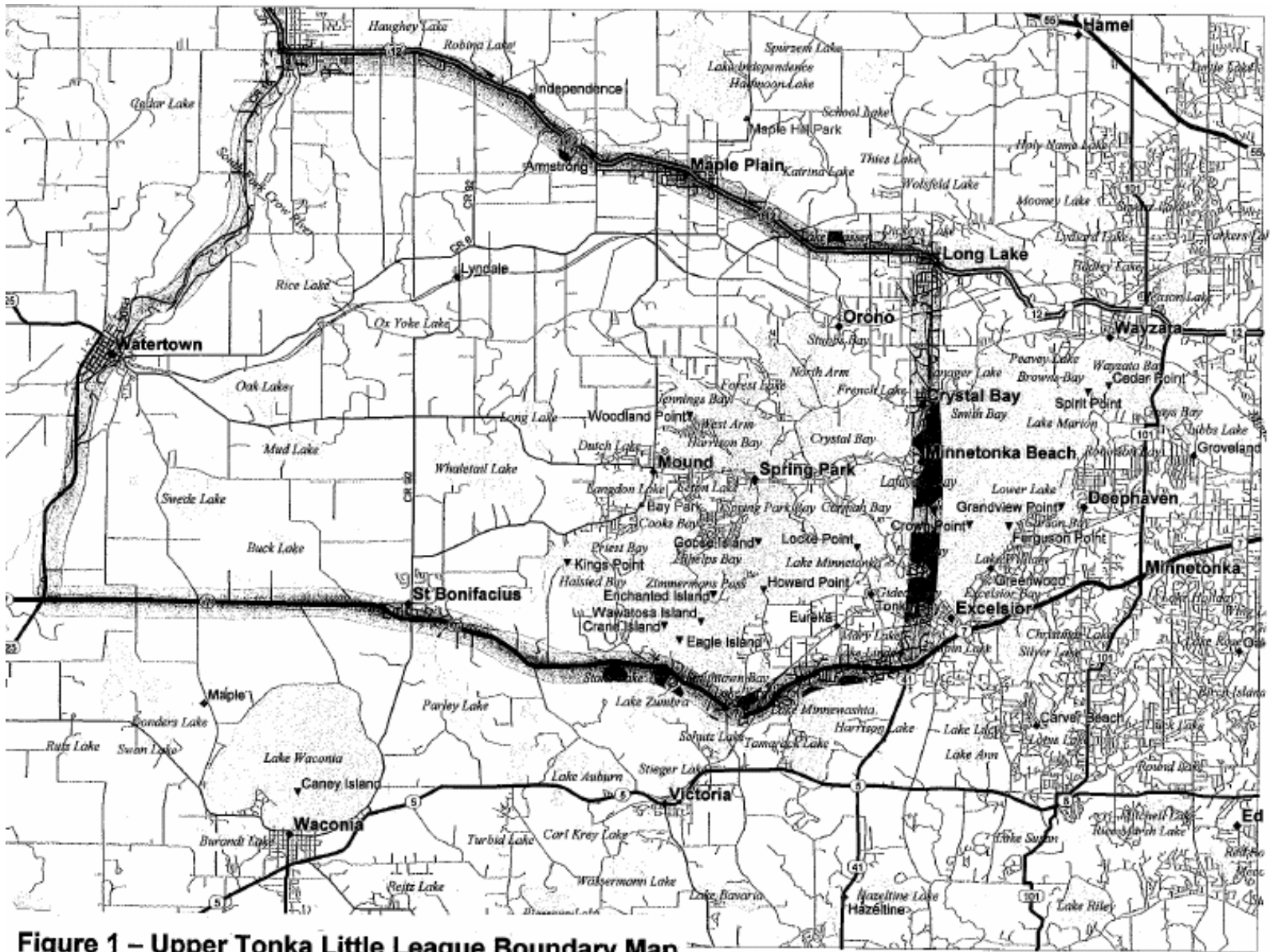


Figure 1 – Upper Tonka Little League Boundary Map

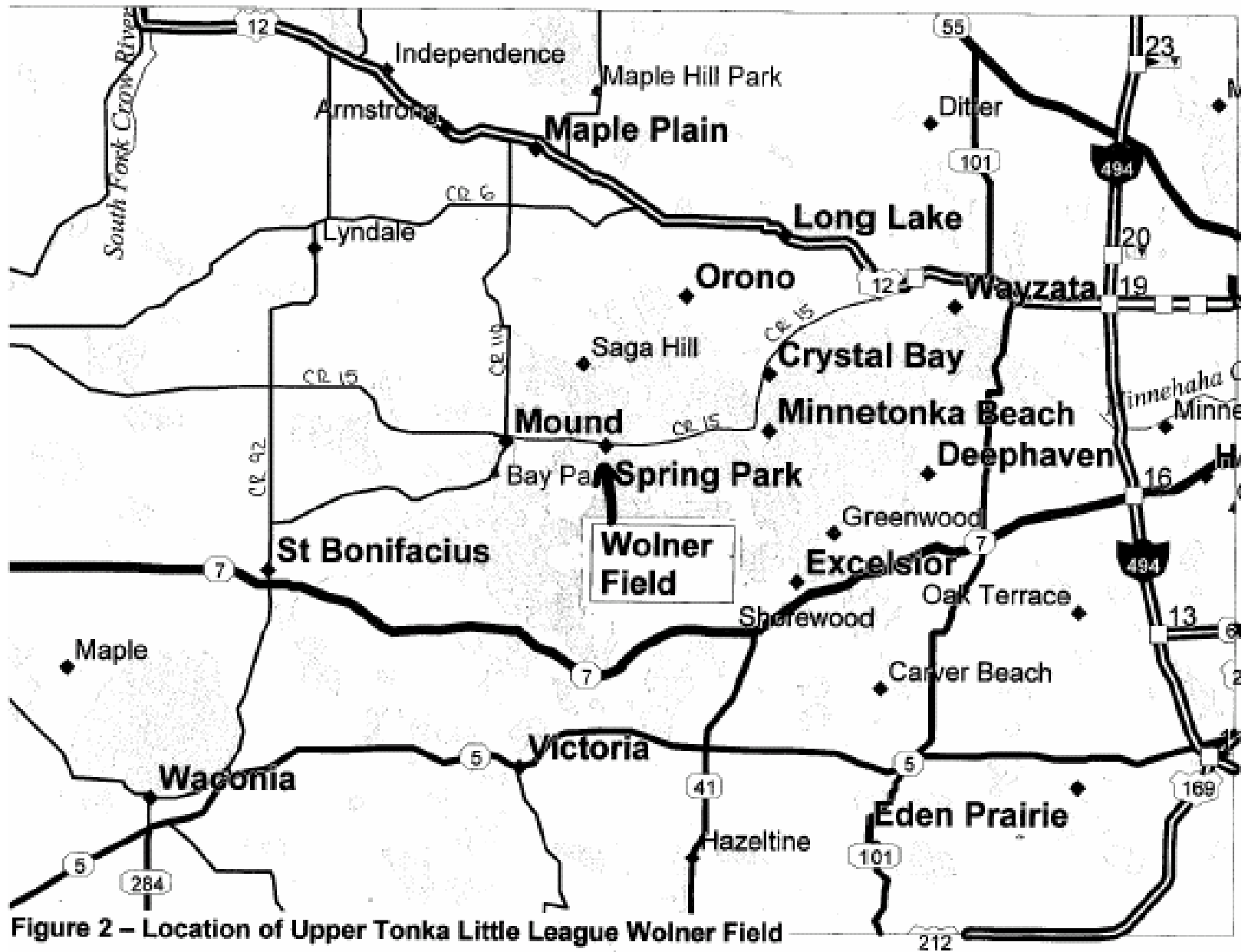


Figure 2 – Location of Upper Tonka Little League Wolner Field

