



Family Info Night

2024 Season

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KNLL 2023-2024 Board of Directors



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Cody Rossen

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Tom Holl

Player Agent of Baseball

Josh King

Umpire-in-Chief Baseball

Dan Hoffman

Softball

VP of Softball

Adam Hughes

Player Agent of Softball

Courtney Klein

Umpire-in-Chief Softball

Chris Dwyer

Administration

League Information Officer (IT)

Kevin Brown

Parent Liaison

Griffin Gillespie

Communications

Baseball - Emily Holl

Softball - Corrie Zemann-Dolan

Operations

Equipment Manager

Gino Sega

Fields Manager

Brandon Eggers

Scheduler

Matt Jaeger

Open Positions

Director of Quickball

Director of Fundraising & Sponsorships

Registrar

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Key Dates

2/4 - Baseball Evaluations

2/11 - Softball Evaluations

2/21 - Managers & Coaches Meetings

3/1 - Practices Start

3/14 - Umpire Trainings

3/16 - Little League Day @ JHS

3/17 - Community Day @ Big Finn Hill Baseball Fields

3/24 - Quickball Meet & Greet

4/27 - Picture Day

5/12 - Little League Day @ Mariners

5/18 - 2024 Fan Fest

A young girl with blonde hair, wearing a red softball jersey with "Kinkland NATIONAL" and "Hairdos of the culture" printed on it, and a black helmet with a silver face mask, is running on a grassy field. In the background, there is a chain-link fence and spectators sitting on bleachers. The image is partially overlaid by a red and yellow diagonal graphic on the right side.

Agenda

- A Message from the President
- Program Overviews
 - Softball
 - Baseball
 - Quickball
- Coach Readiness
- Umpire Update
- Volunteer Testimonial
- Family Involvement
- Open Question and Answer

Kelli Beauregard League President



About Kelli



- Jackson (7) is 2nd grader at Thoreau
 - Will be in 2nd year of AA baseball
- 3rd year volunteering with KNLL
- Coached Tee Ball in 2022
- Joined BOD as Director of Outreach
 - Helped develop sponsorship program, introduce fundraising efforts, planned Fan Fest 2022 and 2023

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Little League Mission



Little League believes in the power of youth baseball and softball to teach life lessons that build stronger individuals and communities.

One Team. One Little League.



More information at: littleleague.org

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What We Do



- Teach Life lessons through the instruction and competition of Baseball and Softball
- Develop skills
- Encourage a passion for the sport
- Motivate players to return each year and grow with us
- Cultivate future leaders
- Build a supportive community



KNLL Expectations and Agreements



- KNLL is community-based recreation for kids.
- Little League is intended to be FUN for everyone!
- As a KNLL community, we all must agree to uphold those expectations.
 - Managers/Coaches
 - Umpires
 - Parents/Family members



Softball

Courtney Klein and Adam Hughes



Adam Hughes — VP of Softball

- Volunteer with KNLL for 5+ years
- We have two girls in KNLL (2023 division)
 - Holly (Coast) (Manager)
 - Hannah (A) (Managed Amy Hughes 😊)
- Joined KNLL Board June 2023
- Managed for 5 years at every SB level except Majors
- Goals for KNLL Softball 2024



Courtney Klein — Player Agent, Softball

- Coach/Volunteer with KNLL for 5+ years
- Two kids in KNLL (2023 division)
 - Chloe (Coast) (Coach)
 - Jensen (A) (Coached by Adam Klein)
- Joined KNLL Board June 2023
- Played KNLL Softball herself back in the day!



KNLL Softball History



- League has always focused on fun for the kids while providing them with softball and life skills through sport.
- Part of Division 9, which sent team to Little League World Series 2 years ago (Issaquah)
- Junior World Series hosted in Kirkland with D9 winner getting automatic spot - Kirkland played in World Series last year. **GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**
- Kirkland hosting D9 Majors and Juniors district all-star tournaments this year in June - **GREAT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**
- If your daughter is interested in All Stars and is age 9 or above, please keep your summer plans flexible! All Stars is a great experience for the girls.



Softball – How We Differ From Baseball



- **Pitching –**
 - Girls Fastpitch is tough on volunteer/parent coaches to teach since it is so specialized
 - Motion itself is much easier on the joints so no pitch counts (just inning limits).
 - League is aiming to focus this year on developing pitching skills for beginners so girls are starting with right fundamentals (rather than having coaches like me just randomly search YouTube videos on how to softball Pitch).
- Softball's bright yellow **ball size** changes as you move up levels in league.
- No **pitcher's mound**, instead a "circle."
- **Face masks** widely used in the infield.



Upcoming Softball Events



- **February 11th** Evaluations (INDOORS!!!)
- Around **February 16th** Team assignments Communicated (except for Quickball).
- **February 21st** Manager / Coaches Meeting
- **March 1st** Practices can Start
- **March 3rd** Softball Coaching Clinics
- **March 6th** First Indoor Practice Day at Natural Ballplayer (all teams)
- **March/April** - Softball University Pitching and Catching Clinics – *set up and subsidized by KNLL*
- **March 14th** - Umpire Training- join the fun club!

NOTE:

KALL Pitching and Skills Clinics still have openings:

2/11 – Pitching – 10 am to 11 am

Same day as KNLL Evaluations

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Baseball

Tom Holl and Josh King



Tom Holl – VP of Baseball

- Volunteer with KNLL for 4 years
- We have two boys in KNLL
 - Leo (Majors)
 - Edward (AAA) (Dad will likely manage)
- Joined KNLL Board in 2021
- Coached or managed each season for both boys
- Family Affair – Emily is also on the board and active volunteer!



Why KNLL?



- Friendships and Teamwork
- Building Community
- Teaching life skills – communication, collaboration, leadership, etc.
- Increasing confidence and self-esteem
- Training and resources for everyone involved (players, coaches, umps)



Important Changes



- Quick Ball is replacing T-Ball
- Rapid Baseball is replacing coach/kid pitch for A/AA levels
- Improving connectivity – GameChanger integration, field cameras



Baseball Divisions



- Quick Ball (formerly T-Ball) - age 4-6, never played
- A (Rapid Baseball) – age 7, or 5/6 if player has prior experience
- AA (Rapid Baseball) - age 7-8
- AAA (player pitch)- age 9-10
- Coast - age 10-11
- Majors - age 11-12
- Intermediate - age 13
- Juniors - age 13-14
- Seniors - age 15-16



Baseball Evaluations: AAA, Coast, & Majors Divisions



- First step in team formation: Evaluations!
- Evals required for all players AAA and above (not Intermediates)
- Skills assessment for division placement only (every child can play)
- **Natural Ballplayer on Sunday, February 4, 2023, 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
- All prospective managers and coaches MUST volunteer on Evaluation Day (and it's a lot of fun)



Team Formation AAA, Coast, & Majors Divisions



- New teams created from scratch every year
- Player Agent and VP of Baseball conduct serpentine draft based on Evaluation results (per LL and KNLL Local Rules)
- Coaches draw numbers to determine their teams
- Siblings traded to same team for comparable player
- No friend, coach, or childcare requests



Why is the team formation process important?



- LL International requires team drafts for AAA and above
- Commitment to a fair process
- Building balanced teams creates a better player experience
- Forming new teams each year builds community and strengthens relationships



Team Formation Quickball, A, AA



- New teams created from scratch every year.
- VP and Player Agent of Baseball form teams based on school (per LL and KNLL Local Rules).
- Friend, coach, or childcare requests honored if possible



Exception Requests



- If you feel your child should play at a level above or below their age or grade
- Fill out Exception Request Form prior to Evaluations (during registration) or contact the Baseball Player Agent
- PLEASE NOTE: requests are granted when:
 - The player's skill matches the new Division, AND...
 - There is room on a team roster within that Division



All Stars



- Upper Levels (8/9/10; 9/10/11, Majors)
- Rosters typically limited to 12 players
- Significant time commitment in June and July (5-6 days per week)
- Consider family vacations and plan accordingly
- Registering for All Stars does not guarantee a spot on a team
- Teams formed/communicated in mid-May



Volunteers



- League cannot function without them. **We need you!**
- Needs – managers, coaches, umpires, evaluations, Snack Shack, etc.
- Commitment to continued training and support opportunities



Upcoming Events



- Evaluations – February 4, 8:30-11:30am
- Teams announced – February 16
- Manager Meeting – February 21 – TBD, register to volunteer ASAP!
- Practices begin – Week of March 1



Quickball

Cody Rossen



Cody Rossen



- Volunteer with KNLL for 5+ years
- I have two boys in KNLL (2023 division)
 - Max, 10 (Coast)
 - Cruz, 7 (AA)
- Joined KNLL Board April 2023
 - Currently serving as Coaching Coordinator
- Managed for 5 years at every BB level except Majors
 - Selected to Manage the 2023 BB 8/9/10 All-Star team



Quickball is co-ed and builds a bridge to upper-level baseball and softball by teaching the basic fundamentals in a fun format!



**CURRENT SITUATION:
TEE BALL**

Players bored, standing around or building sandcastles

Players not getting enough reps to develop and improve skills

1-2 at bats per game and little action in the field

Coaches unsure how to run a practice or game



**SOLUTION:
QUICKBALL**

Fun interactive format keep players engaged

"Enjoyable fundamentals" teach baseball skills

Several at bats throughout game play

Coach training and curriculum to set the coaches up for success



4-6U SKILLS LEAGUE!

- ◆ Terrific Diamond Program for Entry Level Players!
- ◆ Progressive Practice/Game Structure
- ◆ Games are Fast-paced and FUN!
- ◆ Emphasis on Teamwork
- ◆ No Boring Drills



"QUICK BASEBALL & SOFTBALL" **A GREAT WAY TO LEARN ON THE DIAMOND!**

"Where's first base? What's a double? What's the right way to throw a ball or field a grounder?"

Welcome to entry-level baseball! Those questions and many, many more are asked each season by anxious youngsters who are taking the field for the very first time.

As a parent, you watch nervously, hoping your child will "get it" before the season begins. But more than anything, you just want them to enjoy the sport and thrive, not to be bored or intimidated.

PRACTICES AND GAMES FOCUS ON BUILDING SKILLS AND HAVING FUN

Welcome to EL1 Quickball 4-6U!

Focusing on instruction in a fun, inclusive way, Quickball teaches baseball basics in a stress-free environment. Players of all skill levels learn and grow. Each child contributes, is physically active and learns about the value of teamwork.



WHAT EL1 QUICKBALL 4-6U TEACHES

FUNDAMENTALS

"Enjoyable fundamentals." That is the easiest way to describe Quickball 4-6U, an exciting new youth sports program created for children who are just beginning to explore the games of baseball and softball.

Each time a player steps onto the field, he or she will learn about the game and then play a game. Skills stations focus on the proper way to execute all essential diamond skills!

HUSTLE!

Quickball literally turns our pastime into fasttime! Up-tempo skills stations and high-speed game action increase player movement and keep everyone on their toes. Each batter learns the correct way to hustle out a single, double, triple and home run.

Fielders stay active by rotating positions and handling specific fielding assignments. Team success - on offense and defense - revolves around the hustle!

ACTIVE TEAMWORK

With today's kids getting involved in sports programs earlier than ever, it's easy for them to become bored and uninterested when practices and games are slow and stagnant. Quickball 4-6U solves that problem through the use of revolutionary concepts such as rapid rotation, two way scoring and timed stations that introduce something new each week. These concepts teach the game in a whole new way.

FUN!

There is no reason to participate in a youth sports program if you're not having fun. In Quickball, fun is the top priority.

Kids of all skill levels contribute and the focus of each game is enjoyment - for the players and their parents!

Quickball Timeline



- Manager Training 3/9 @ LWHS
 - A second Manager Training will be scheduled in early April
- Family Meet & Greet 3/24 (location TBD)
- First Games 4/24
 - No games on Easter and LWSD Spring Break
- Season Ends early June





RapidBaseball©

The Rapid Format

- **Pitching machine**
- **10 minute half innings**
- **Every 3 outs bases are cleared**
- **3 pitches max per batter**
- **Pitching development in the RapidBullpen. 2 Players simultaneously throw a 24 pitch structured bullpen each half inning.**

***RapidBaseball Level 2 (AA) rules shown**





RapidBaseball©

Timeline



- Manager Training 2/29 @ Natural Ballplayer
 - Manager led traditional practices begin 3/1
 - First games the weekend of 3/23
 - Softball Demo @ FanFest
 - Season Ends early June
-
- Note: Testing in Baseball this spring. Softball is monitoring and considering for 2025

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Coach Coordinator

Cody Rossen



Vision for 2024



- **Goal:** Grow the love of baseball & softball through development of skills to ensure every single player has a great experience
- To achieve this, we need to provide access to new resources for both the players and the coaches
 - Coaching Resources
 - Recruit: Managers & Coaches who will deliver on fun and development. Work with VPs and Player Agents to find a great lead for each team
 - Train the Trainers: Equip all coaches at all levels to level up. Leverage Coach Handbook on KNLL website
 - Expectations of Manager and Coaches clear
 - Player Resources
 - Participate in Coaches Clinics to learn new drills and areas to focus for development
 - Batting cage time at NBP for all teams



Manager Training Plan



	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL
QUICKBALL	Mgr Training 3/9 @ LWHS Curriculum included	
A	Mgr Training 2/29 Curriculum included	Coach Clinic March 3 rd 10:00a
AA	Mgr Training 2/29 Curriculum included	
AAA	Coach Clinic March 2 nd 10:00a	Coach Clinic March 3 rd 10:00a
COAST	Coach Clinic March 2 nd 12:00p	Coach Clinic March 3 rd 12:00p
MAJORS	Coach Clinic March 2 nd 2:00p	Coach Clinic March 3 rd 2:00p



Manager & Coach Expectations



- Provide a great experience for the players and families
- Complete background check and online training course
- Attend all Coaches Meetings and Clinics
- Clear communication



Manager Timeline



1. Register to Volunteer on KNLL website
2. Complete LL Training
3. Participate in Evaluations
4. Connect with VP and Player Agent to secure roster and select coaching staff
5. Participate in Coaches Clinics for respective levels
6. Have a great season!

Reach out to Coaches Coordinator with any support needed

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Umpire Program

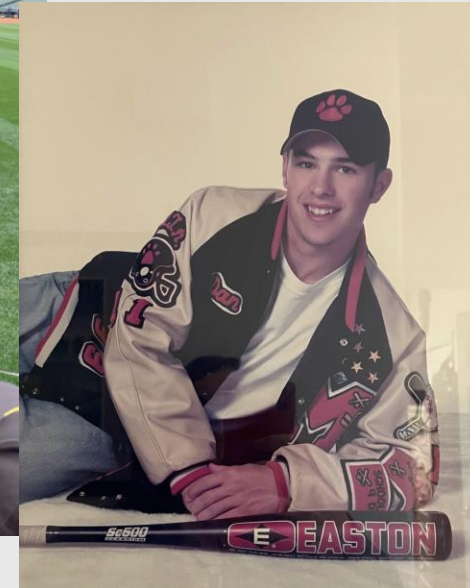
Dan Hoffman



About Dan



- 2nd year volunteering for KNLL
- Step-dad to Jackson B.
- Played tee ball to professional level
- Passion for animals and woodworking



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Umping: It Takes a Village



- KNLL is 100% volunteer operated.
- Umpires are among the most important volunteers.
- Without umpires, games can't be played.



Barriers to Recruiting Umpires



- Traditionally a negative connotation of umpires:
 - Harsh
 - Unfriendly
 - Scapegoats
- Unattainable knowledge/skill to be an umpire.
- Pressure to be perfect.



Shifting the Culture



- Parent/spectator conduct sets a good example
- Coaches & umpires work as a team – not opponents.
- Umpires take educator vs. authoritarian approach.
- Little League is meant to be a fun, safe experience.
- Volunteers needed to ensure a great experience for all.
- Appreciation! Umpires are crucial volunteers doing their best.
- Training and ongoing support for umpires.



Volunteer Testimonials

Corrie Zemmann-Dolan





Parent Liaison

Griffin Gillespie



Griffin Gillespie

- Been part of KNLL Board as Parent Liaison since 2021
- Why Kirkland National Little League?
 - We have an amazing community
 - All about the kids and seeing them have fun.
- Two Kids
 - Wake, Age 10 (4th Grade)
 - Kerris, Age 7 (2nd Grade)
 - Thoreau Elementary



Family Involvement



- KNLL IS 100% volunteer-run.
- It takes a village to run a Little League: We need you!
- Managers, coaches, umpires, score keepers, Snack Shack, special events, and more!
- Fans!



Parent Liaison Role



- Mediator between the team and managers/coaches, other parents, and Board.
- Answers questions regarding registration.
- Assists with player scholarships, gear, transportation, and translation services.
- Responds to any parent question/concern and facilitates communication with appropriate KNLL representatives.



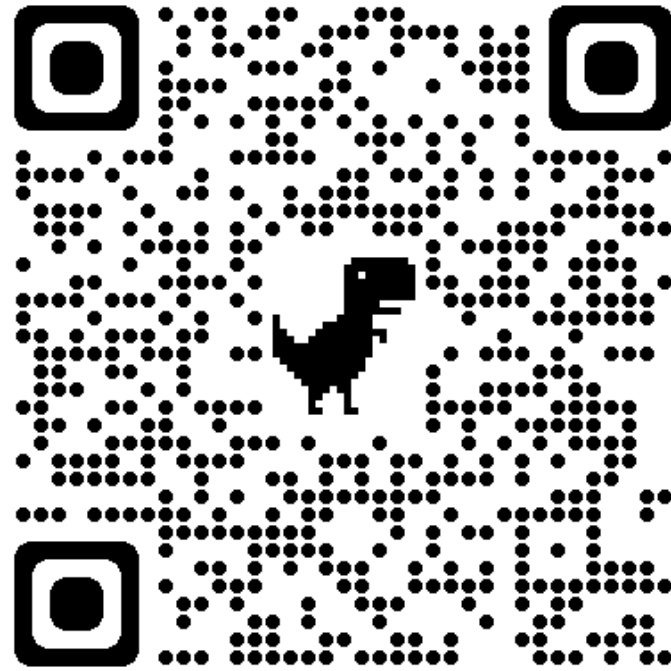


We Need Your Help!

- Open Board Roles
- Open Volunteer Roles
- Coaching Support



Register Here!



Thank you!

