



# **FAR NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE PARENT/PLAYER HANDBOOK**

**2011 SEASON**

**FAR NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE**

P.O. Box 232446

Anchorage, Alaska 99523-2246

Phone: 907-563-7922

Website: [www.farnorthll.org](http://www.farnorthll.org)

Last Updated 4-09-11

## TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Purpose of the Handbook.....	3
League Overview.....	3
League Boundaries.....	3
Field Location.....	3
Calendar of Events.....	3
Registration.....	4
Fees.....	4
Evaluations.....	5
Team Assignments.....	5
Field Clean Up Day.....	5
Opening Ceremonies.....	5
Little League Playing Season.....	5
Division Descriptions/League Age.....	6
Equipment and Uniforms.....	7
Volunteering/How to Get Involved.....	7
Volunteer Background Check.....	9
Concession Stand “Snack Shack”.....	9
Fundraising.....	9
Sponsorship.....	9
Rules.....	10
Code of Conduct.....	10
Communication.....	10
Board of Directors.....	11
League Boundary Map.....	12



## **WELCOME TO FAR NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE!**

We are pleased your child has chosen to participate in baseball or softball. Through Little League, your child will learn how to play baseball/softball and will experience the benefits and joys of belonging to a team. You are encouraged to be involved in Little League as we work together to help your player develop skills and lifelong lessons.

### **PARENT/PLAYER HANDBOOK PURPOSE:**

The Purpose of this handbook is to familiarize both players and parents with the operation and organization of the Far North Little League program. We encourage you to use this handbook as a reference throughout the season to answer questions you may have. However, should you desire additional information, please contact your Team Manager, Player Agent, or league President. Most issues should be handled in this order.

### **FAR NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE OVERVIEW:**

Far North Little League is a non-profit organization that was first incorporated in 1981. The entire program is supervised and administered by adult volunteers. Approximately 350 area youth, ages 5 through 14, will participate in the program during the season. The operating budget for the Little League is approximately \$67,000. The funds necessary to operate the program come from parent contributions, player registration, sponsor contributions, concession sales and fund raising. Our little league program is chartered by the National Little League organization which is run out of Williamsport, Pennsylvania. There is a district level little league organization, Alaska District 1, which oversees the leagues in our area. A Far North Little League Board of Directors is elected to maintain and operate our league. The board is responsible for carrying out the little league program guidelines, and managing all parts of pre-season, regular season and post-season activities necessary to run a smooth program for the players and families.

### **LEAGUE BOUNDARIES:**

There are 7 Little Leagues in the Municipality of Anchorage. League boundaries were established according to Little League District organizational policy to allow youth within the same geographic area to play in one league and to equalize the number of players within each league. Each player is required to participate in the league that serves the areas of his or her permanent and legal residence which is the address where the player's legal guardian resides. A league boundary map is attached at the end of this document.

### **FIELD LOCATION:**

The Far North Little League playing fields are located on Elmore Road at Coventry Drive in the Abbott Loop Community Park. While most games are held at these fields, some teams may be scheduled to play games or "interleague" with other Little League organizations at alternate area fields.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

DATE	DAY	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME	NOTES
Feb-March, 2011	Varies	Winter Skill Building Clinics	TBD	TBD	
March 20, 2011	Sun	Registration	The Dome – 6501 Changepoint Dr.	4-6 pm	
March 27, 2011	Sun	Registration	The Dome – 6501 Changepoint Dr.	4-6 pm	
April 10, 2011	Sun	Mandatory Evaluations (Ages 9-14 only)	South High School	10 am-6 pm	Check FNLL website for your players time
April 12, 2011	Tues	Make Up Evaluations (Ages 9-14 only)	The Dome	8-9:30 pm	
April 20, 2011	Wed	Coaches Meeting	TBA	TBA	
April 30, 2011	Sat	Field Clean Up Day (all players and parents)	Far North Fields	TBA	Dependent on status of snow melt
May 14, 2011	Sat	Opening Ceremonies (all players)	Far North Fields	TBA	
TBD	TBD	Team Picture Week	Far North Fields	TBD	
June 15, 2011	Wed	All-Star Tryouts* (Ages 9-14 only)	Far North Fields	TBD	
July 2011	Varies	All-Star Tournaments* (Ages 9-14 only)	TBD	TBD	TBD by District 1
August-September, 2011	Varies	Fall Ball	Far North Fields	TBD	Check FNLL website for announcements
Nov-Dec 2011	Varies	Winter Skill Building Clinics	TBD	TBD	

\*FNLL May Elect Not to Participate in Little League All-Star Tournaments

### Registration:

Families may register players on line at [www.farnorthll.org](http://www.farnorthll.org) (preferred method), at one of the above walk in registration days, or register late at evaluations.

Players ages 9-14 must be registered prior to mandatory evaluations. Players ages 5-8 should register prior to April 15. Registrations received after that date may result in the player(s) being placed on a waiting list. An additional \$25 late registration fee may be required for those registering after the required dates.

### 2011 Fees (Baseball and Softball)

T-Ball and Coach Pitch Registration	\$100
Minor A and Majors Registration	\$150
Juniors Registration	\$165
Field Maintenance Fee	\$ 25 (required for all players)
Family Membership	\$ 5 (optional, required for volunteers, one per family)

Discounts: A \$350 family maximum registration fee applies. Additionally, a \$50 sibling discount applies when a family has two or more players each with registration fees of \$150 or greater.

Scholarships: Every child should have the opportunity to play baseball or softball. Scholarships are available based on need. Contact the league President to apply.

Other costs to expect: Optional end of season participation trophy and party to be determined by individual teams. Some personal equipment costs depending on level of play (see equipment/uniforms).

**Evaluations:**

EVALUATIONS ARE MANDATORY for every player with a league age of 9-14. This includes both baseball and softball players participating in Minor A, Majors, and Juniors. The only exception to the evaluation rule is that 5, 6, & 7 year olds do not attend evaluations. Any other exceptions must be approved by the Player Agent in advance of the evaluations.

Evaluations are for the purpose of providing balanced teams throughout the league. Players will display their skills or potential skills in fielding, throwing and hitting. Managers and coaches of the appropriate age divisions will attend to observe and evaluate the players. This assessment is used by the Team Managers to make player selection to fill the teams and for the draft.

Players are required to wear non-marking gym shoes and bring their own baseball/softball gloves to evaluations. All other equipment will be furnished by the Little League. Look for the time your player should attend on the website at [www.farnorthll.org](http://www.farnorthll.org) prior to the evaluation day.

**Team Assignments:**

Players are assigned to teams based on evaluations for Minor A, Majors, and Juniors. Coach Pitch and T-Ball parents may request a specific team for carpooling and other reasons when they register their player. We will do our best to accommodate the requests within reason. Teams are typically assigned by the second to third week of April. Managers/Coaches will contact players and parents following team assignments.

**Field Clean Up Day:**

Field Clean Up Day is held in April as soon as weather permits. Players and their families assist in raking the fields, prepping the baselines, and other light maintenance tasks as needed. This is an excellent opportunity for players to gain an appreciation for working as a team and to take pride in our premier fields. A schedule will be sent out by e-mail and will be posted on the website as to what day and time your family should attend.

**Opening Ceremonies:**

All players and families are invited to attend the Far North Little League Opening Day Ceremonies. This is an awesome event where teams, coaches, and individual players have the opportunity to be announced and receive their league pin from the league President. Teams line up on the field, the colors are presented, the national anthem is sung, and the first pitch is thrown. The day also involves a tasty barbeque and a wonderful carnival for children under 9 years old.

**Little League Playing Season:**

Season play consists of the following categories: Pre-season practice, Regular season play and practice, Post Season Tournaments, and an optional Fall Ball season.

**Pre-Season Practice** – Your child's Team Manager will conduct practices during the days following team assignments and prior to the start of regular season play. Each Manager will have a practice schedule and you should assist your child in maintaining regular attendance. Practices typically begin the third or fourth week in April depending on weather.

**Regular Season Play and Practice** – During the regular season (May through June depending on weather), each team will usually play two games each week. In addition, practices will be scheduled during the week at the discretion of the Manager.

**Post Season Tournaments** – The Minor A division may participate in a post season tournament at the end of the regular season. This tournament, if held, typically consists of one additional week of play.

**All-Star Tournaments** – Far North Little League may participate in the Little League All-Star tournaments starting in July. A minimum of four teams may participate including the following ages: 9/10 team, 10/11 team, 11/12 team, and 13/14 team. If the league participates, the players will be chosen at All-Star tryouts or by the Managers. The All-Star teams will be announced no sooner than June 15. All-Star tournament schedules vary by age group and are determined by Little League District 1 Administration.

**Optional Fall Ball Season** – Far North Little League provides players the opportunity to continue to play ball after the regular season and tournaments end. Fall Ball is an optional program separate from regular season play and generally takes place during August and September. Play is primarily instructional and consists of organized clinics and games.

**Optional Winter Skill Building Clinics** - The league holds winter skills and conditioning clinics where players learn mechanics in fielding, base running, position playing, and hitting to gear up for the regular season. Each player participates one night per week. Two sessions are generally held including a November-December session and a January-March session. Schedules are subject to change based on Anchorage School District gym availability. Players must be registered with the league to participate. Cost is generally \$15 per session. The fee covers gym rental costs.

## **DIVISIONS DESCRIPTIONS/LEAGUE AGE:**

The division that each player plays in is determined by the age of the player on April 30 of this year for baseball and December 31 of last year for softball. This is referred to as the “league age” of the player. All players must play on their assigned team and in the correct division based on league age.

### **Junior League Baseball**

The junior level is for players ages 13-14. This level plays on a regulation size field with 90 ft bases and 60' 6" pitching rubber on the big field. Junior division is a stepping stone to high school play. Game days vary.

### **Little League Baseball "Majors"**

Major level baseball is for players ages 9-12 that have mastered basic skills and are ready to play in a more competitive environment. This division is predominantly 11 and 12 year olds with a few 10 year olds and select 9 year olds. Games are typically played on Mondays and Wednesdays with a few Fridays.

### **Minor A Baseball "Minors"**

Minor A baseball is for players ages 9-11. Players in this division play real baseball with modified rules. Players hit from real pitchers. Pitchers throw to catchers and umpires call strikes and balls. Score is kept in this division but score is not important. Learning the game through proper play is emphasized. Games are typically played on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a few Fridays.

### **Coaches Pitch Baseball**

Coach Pitch is for ages 7-8. Six year olds that have played at least one year of T-Ball are also eligible for this division. Players hit a moving ball from a pitching machine. They develop hand eye coordination and continue learning proper fielding and throwing through practice and games. Games are typically played on Mondays and Wednesdays with a few Fridays.

### **T-Ball Baseball**

T-Ball is for players ages 5-6 who are new to baseball. Players learn the basics of hitting off a tee, throwing and catching in a fun and supportive environment. Sixty minute games are typically played on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

### **Little League Softball "Majors"**

Major level softball is for girls between the ages of 9-12. It is a division for players who have mastered basic skills and are ready to play in a more competitive environment. Major teams generally have 11 and 12 year olds with some 10 year olds and select 9 year olds.

### **Minor A Softball "Minors"**

Minor A softball is for players ages 9-11. Players in this division play real softball where skills come together for the first time. Players will hit from a real pitcher, pitchers throw to catchers, and umpires call strikes just like the big leaguers do. Score is kept in this league but score is not important. Learning through proper play is emphasized.

## **EQUIPMENT AND UNIFORMS:**

Far North Little League provides all players with a team uniform including a baseball hat and jersey. Parents are responsible for providing the following items:

**Baseball/Softball Pants, Socks and Belt** to match the team (optional for T-ball and Coach Pitch). Players are not allowed to wear shorts in games or practices for safety reasons.

**Cleats** (optional for T-ball and Coach Pitch). Cleats enable your child to have sufficient traction when batting, running and fielding. Buy rubber cleats only. Metal spikes are only allowed in the Junior division.

**Gloves.** Player gloves should not be bought to grow into. The best way to learn the fundamentals of fielding is by wearing a glove that fits well.

**Cups/Pelvic Protectors.** Cups must be worn by all male players at every game and practice. T-ball and Minor B are exempt from this requirement although they are recommended. All players in all divisions must be wearing a cup/pelvic protector in order to play catcher.

**Bats and Game Balls** are provided by the league. Players may use their own bats. However, parents should consult with the Team Manager for Little League bat standard requirements.

## **VOLUNTEERS:**

Since Little League is run completely by volunteers, parents of the players must all step up and take a role in running the league. Everyone must volunteer in some capacity during the season in one of the following roles: manager, coach, umpire, snack shack assistance, team parent, field maintenance, scorekeeping, tournament assistance, etc. Please offer your assistance and help out when you are asked. With everyone's dedication to the players, we will maintain a high-quality little league program. Job descriptions are shown below.

### **Membership**

Any person sincerely interested in active participation with Far North Little League may apply to become a Regular Member upon payment of the annual \$5 family membership dues. Only Regular Members in good standing are eligible to vote at General Membership Meetings. All Officers, Board Members, Committee Members, Managers, Coaches, Official Team Parent, Volunteer Umpires and other elected or appointed officials must be active Regular Members in good standing.

### **Manager/Coach**

Any parent/person wishing to manage a team or assist in coaching should be sure to fill out a Manager/Coaches application. The league is looking for managers and coaches with experience in baseball or softball and teaching skills. It is not imperative that you were a great ball player sometime in your life but you must be able to teach good character and baseball skills to the players. A pre-season coaching meeting and completion of an on-line coaching tutorial provided by the league is mandatory for all managers and coaches. All coaching equipment is provided by the league with the exception of practice balls.

### **Umpire**

Far North Little League is always in need of incredible men and women to experience the game from the best view...as an umpire. This position is for both new and returning volunteers. The league provides training and support for umpires and a website dedicated to communication and signing up for games at [farnorthll.org](http://farnorthll.org). Umpires are needed for Minor A, Major, and Junior level play.

### **Team Parent**

Every team must have a Team Parent. This person is invaluable to the Team Manager and all the parents and players of the team. Team Parents organize all team functions such as snack schedules, parties and team volunteer responsibilities. They may assist the Manager/Coach with communicating practices and other information to players and parents. The Team Parent is responsible to make sure the concession stand is manned by the parents of the players on their team when it is that teams turn.

### **Field Maintenance**

A lot of volunteer time is required to prepare and keep the fields in good playing condition. This may include setting out/picking up garbage cans with bag liners, filling holes with dirt (especially around pitching mounds and batter/catcher areas, lining fields, and mowing.

### **Snack Shack**

The concession stand is a great opportunity for the league to raise much needed revenue to operate the league. A lot of volunteers are needed to staff the concession stand. Please volunteer as much time as possible during games. Every team is provided a schedule and assigned a time when that team is responsible to work in the concession stand. A board member will be available to open/close, answer questions and show volunteers the operations.

### **Scorekeeper**

The League needs official scorers to keep official score books. Every Minor A, Major, and Junior team is required to provide an official scorer to maintain the official score book when they are home team.

### **Opening Day Ceremonies Volunteers**

Opening Day is an exciting and busy day for everyone. Lots of volunteers are needed to make the festivities to come together and make the day special for the players and spectators. It is one full day, so if your time is normally limited please consider volunteering.

### **Tournament Volunteers**

Each year Far North Little League will have the opportunity to host tournaments at the end of the regular season. Successful field preparation and management of tournament affairs requires dependable volunteers willing to help with duties required to make the tournaments successful.

### **Announcer (All-Star Tournaments Only)**

All-Star games are announced from the announcer/scorekeeper booth. Each player will get to hear their name announced as they come up to bat. The announcer also notes stats at the end of each inning (runs, hits, left on base) and typically keeps pitch count.

### **VOLUNTEER BACKGROUND CHECK:**

Little League Baseball and Softball requires background checks on volunteers interacting with the players. Volunteers must submit a current year volunteer application which can be found on the Far North website. Forms must be submitted to the league President prior to interacting with the players. Any information received will be kept confidential.

### **CONCESSION STAND “SNACK SHACK”:**

The concession stand at Far North Little League, called the Snack Shack, is run solely by parent volunteers to provide drinks and food for players and fans. It is one of the main sources of revenue for the league and is open during scheduled games. The Snack Shack offers sports drinks, soft drinks, coffee, and hot coco as well as hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, nachos, pretzels with cheese, Frito pies, chips, sunflower seeds, candy and other delicious treats. Please support our league by purchasing items at the Snack Shack whenever possible. Parents can buy their team a post-game drink and snack at a discounted price. This is a fun and convenient way to provide snacks when it is your turn. Inquire at the snack shack for more details. Teams will be assigned days to work in the concession stand. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the league volunteer coordinator.

### **FUND RAISING:**

Fund raising is a necessary part of Little League. It is very important to the success and continued quality of the program. Fundraising enables us to keep registration fees down and defray general operating expenses. Each player is required to participate in fund raising events. There are no exceptions. We attempt every year to present to the members a fund raising activity that is simple and fun. Everyone's cooperation and help in making this event a great success is needed and appreciated. Information on this year's fund raising program will be forwarded to the team parents as soon as possible.

### **SPONSORSHIP:**

Sponsorship is a great way for individuals and businesses to show their support for encouraging character building and healthy living for youth in our community. The league accepts monetary donations as well as equipment donations (a "wish list" of needed equipment is provided by the league). Sponsorship forms and the "wish list" are located on the website under "forms". All sponsors are recognized on the website. Depending on the sponsorship amount, they may also be recognized on an electronic banner on the website and/or an outfield banner.

Please contact businesses and individuals you know that may consider sponsorship. Parents may encourage their employers, friends that own businesses, or successful entrepreneurs to donate.

Far North Little League is a non-profit organization. Our tax ID number is 22-2501484.

## **LEAGUE RULES:**

Most of the league rules are established by Little League headquarters in Williamsport, Pennsylvania and are detailed in the Official Regulations and Playing Rules. Far North Little League also has local supplemental rules for T-Ball, Coach Pitch, and Minor A divisions which address specific needs of our league and are posted on the league website. Additionally, Alaska District 1 has supplemental rules for inter-league play including tournament rules.

Please note there is NO SMOKING, DRINKING ALCOHOL, OR PETS ALLOWED at the Far North Little League complex.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT:**

**For Parents:** Parents (and their families and spectators) are required to be positive role models for their children and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event. Parents shall not encourage any behaviors that may endanger the health and well being of the athletes. Parents are expected to teach their children to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. Parents shall praise players for competing fairly and trying hard and never ridicule or yell at their child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a game. Respecting the officials/coaches and their authority during games and never questioning, discussing, ridiculing/demeaning in the stands or confronting coaches at the game field is required of all parents and spectators. Discussions should occur at an agreed to time and place. Violating these requirements may cause the parent to be asked to leave the sports complex and be suspended from future games. The parent code of conduct is emphasized in the Little League Parent Pledge below.

### **Little League Parent Pledge**

I will teach my children to play fair and do their best  
I will positively support all managers, coaches and players  
I will respect the decisions of the umpires  
I will praise a good effort despite the outcome of the game

**For Players:** Far North Little League emphasizes good sportsmanship and trying your best. Players should approach the game with a positive attitude and treat their teammates, coaches, and officials with respect. Ridiculing or taunting other players (on the player's team or another team) is not acceptable. Players are reminded that baseball is a team sport, and teammates are to be supported at all times, win or lose. The player code of conduct is symbolized by the Little League Pledge below.

### **Little League Player Pledge**

I trust in God  
I love my country  
And will respect its laws  
I will play fair  
And strive to win  
But win or lose  
I will always do my best

## **COMMUNICATION:**

Good communication is extremely important to the success of our league. We want to make sure you have all the information you need for a smooth, fun and successful season. Your Team Manager will be a key source of information.

In addition, the FNLL website is [www.farnorthll.org](http://www.farnorthll.org) and the phone line is 563-7922. The website and phone recording are updated regularly with important information during the season. Your Manager, Coach and Team Parent will also be a great source of information. The league sends out notifications of upcoming events and opportunities through e-mail. Please notify us if your e-mail changes so that you can continue to receive this important information.

Questions about the Far North Little League program are probably best answered by the Team Manager. If you need further information, please talk to the appropriate Member of the Board of Directors. Board members are always willing to listen to you and help make your child's experience in Little League the best that it can be. You can usually find one of us at the fields during the season. A list of members is included below.

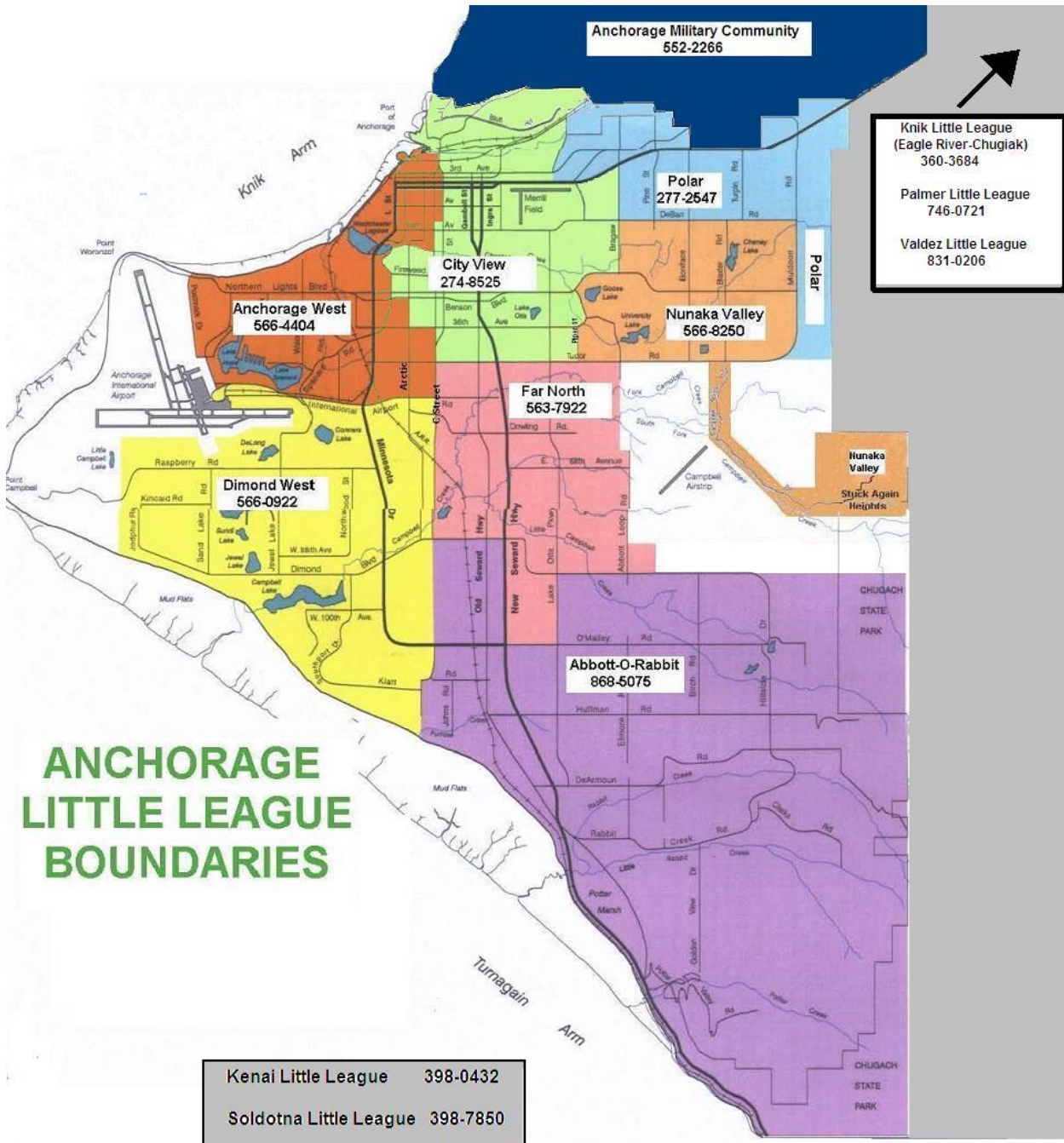
## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

The current structure of the board allows for 15 directors with each having an area of responsibility and 10 additional directors as members at large. The Executive Board consists of the President, VP of Baseball, VP of Softball, Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, and Player Agent. Official league business can be conducted with an executive board quorum but all board members are expected to attend each meeting. Meetings are generally held monthly with some special meetings.

### **2009 FAR NORTH LITTLE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>	<b>PHONE</b>
Steve Forrest	President	<a href="mailto:slforrest@gmail.com">slforrest@gmail.com</a>	351-2547
Mike Fetko	Vice President of Baseball	<a href="mailto:mikefetkojr@yahoo.com">mikefetkojr@yahoo.com</a>	830-4456
Sophie Bethke	Vice President of Softball	<a href="mailto:gardenpixie@aol.com">gardenpixie@aol.com</a>	
Elaine Scarborough	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:escarborough@acsalaska.net">escarborough@acsalaska.net</a>	522-3552
Denise Duff	Secretary	<a href="mailto:deniseduff4@yahoo.com">deniseduff4@yahoo.com</a>	349-3645
Jeff Johnson	Safety Officer	<a href="mailto:johnsonj@akrr.com">johnsonj@akrr.com</a>	562-5922
Margaret Hale	Player Agent	<a href="mailto:snowdawgs@gci.net">snowdawgs@gci.net</a>	344-0424
Open	Umpire in Chief		
Jeff Wasson	Information Officer	<a href="mailto:jeff@jwasson.net">jeff@jwasson.net</a>	362-0873
Valerie Johnson	Fundraising Coordinator	<a href="mailto:vmjohnson@gci.net">vmjohnson@gci.net</a>	632-0866
Jack Yandell	Equipment Coordinator	<a href="mailto:jcmm@gci.net">jcmm@gci.net</a>	344-5143
Deanna McCreary	Snack Shack Coordinator	<a href="mailto:deanna_mccreary@yahoo.com">deanna_mccreary@yahoo.com</a>	360-9530
DeeAnn Fetko	Registration Coordinator	<a href="mailto:deeannfetko@yahoo.com">deeannfetko@yahoo.com</a>	349-6618
Open	Field Maintenance Coordinator		
Open	Volunteer Coordinator		
Open	Coaching Coordinator		
George Dameron	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:99tazz@gmail.com">99tazz@gmail.com</a>	223-8071
Jamie Dameron	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:7340@gmail.com">7340@gmail.com</a>	268-1439
Tom Cupp	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:tscpp@alaska.net">tscpp@alaska.net</a>	562-2877
Mark Helgeson	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:mark.beth@alaska.com">mark.beth@alaska.com</a>	348-7222
O.B. McCreary	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:deannaandob@yahoo.com">deannaandob@yahoo.com</a>	522-5679
Stuart Laidlaw	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:slaidlaw@insulfoam.com">slaidlaw@insulfoam.com</a>	952-0719
Ted McGovern	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:tedjenmcgovern@acsalaska.net">tedjenmcgovern@acsalaska.net</a>	336-0207
Mike Webster	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:mswebster@gci.net">mswebster@gci.net</a>	349-8809
John Libal	Member at Large	<a href="mailto:jlibal@northwest.ca">jlibal@northwest.ca</a>	344-1135

We look forward to a great season of skill building and fun for everyone. We thank our sponsors, parents, and the many volunteers for their help in making Far North Little League a great organization!



# ANCHORAGE LITTLE LEAGUE BOUNDARIES

