



**Challenger Division** is a separate division of Little League designed to enable boys and girls with physical and intellectual disabilities to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation, in an athletic environment structured to their abilities.

**More than the skills of baseball** learned through the experience, the value of the Little League Challenger Division is found in the **proven therapeutic and socialization benefits** of participating in sports; the **strengthening of participants' self-esteem**; the **opportunities to mainstream into other divisions of play** and the disciplines of **teamwork, sportsmanship, and fair play**, which are hallmarks of the Little League program.

The Little League Challenger Division provides the framework, so Little League programs may offer a structured athletic activity for all youth in their communities. Playing with the same equipment on the same fields, Challenger Division participants can experience the joys of pulling together as a team, being cheered, and earning awards for their achievements.

#### **Who is eligible for the Challenger & Senior Challenger Division Baseball?**

The Challenger Division offers boys and girls with physical and intellectual disabilities, ages 5 to 18, or up to age 22 if still enrolled in high school, the opportunity to participate in an organized game of baseball. The most fundamental goal of the Challenger Division is to give everyone a chance to play. You do not have to be a Shrewsbury resident to participate. Senior Challenger Division accommodates players age 15 and above (*no maximum age*).

#### **How much does it cost to operate a Challenger Division?**

The cost for your child to participate is FREE. To run the Challenger Division, we are always looking for local support. If you know anyone interested in sponsoring a team, please contact **Chip Collins at 508- 284-4003** or email [shrewsburychallenger@gmail.com](mailto:shrewsburychallenger@gmail.com)

#### **The Special Rules of the Challenger Division**

Level of play based on the player's size, age, and skill level are recommended where numbers allow. Every player on the roster is in the batting order and shall play defensively for the entire game. The side is retired when the offense has batted through the roster. No score will be kept during games. Challenger Division players wear the same uniforms and safety equipment as other Little Leaguers.

#### **How do I sign my child up for the Challenger Division?**

Registration is open on <https://shrewsburylittleleaguema.com/>.

#### **Tentative Schedule**

Starting in late April, practices will be Tuesdays at the Upper Dean Park Softball Field, and games will be on Saturdays. Schedules will be created based on enrollment/number of teams and children participating.