



# The Strike Zone

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www.sclittleleague.com

Fall/Winter 2010

## Message from the President

Hello San Clemente Little League families and friends. It's hard to believe but as our somewhat of a dreary summer has turned into a wet fall and now winter, it is time to turn our attention to the spring little league season of 2011.

Our two walk-in registration dates were very successful. Thank you to all of you who registered your child to play baseball in 2011.

I would ask you all to join me in thanking our board members who volunteered last year to serve on your SCLL Board of Directors. Please extend your gratitude to Kristi Allard, Tom Scarlata, Darryl Anderson, Justin Brown, Rex Cratty and Steve Cullen for countless hours of service to our league as they exit our Board. I would also like to thank our new "rookie" board members for "stepping up to the plate" and joining the board this year: Tom Bienert, Courtney Duplanty, Patty Kraatz, Roger Maffia, and Ron Mehrens. Our returning and new board members are dedicated to providing a

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## Are You Our Next Volunteer?

Living in the city with "The World's Greatest Climate," it proves to be difficult at times to pull people away from the beaches, the parks, the trails and the massive variety of recreational activities that are only an arms reach away. As a league, we are blessed with the number of volunteer managers, coaches, umpires, board members, team moms, snack bar workers, field prep helpers, and so on. We will have about 800 games next year and each game will have at least two managers, four coaches, one to two umpires, one to two snack bar attendants, two team moms, and at least (hopefully) two to four field prep workers. And each game is accompanied by a batting practice and at least one field practice! It can seem like a daunting task but it is all done with volunteers like us. Our children practice and play up to six hours or more each week of their approximately twenty week long season. The league couldn't operate at our current registration fees without the ten of thousands of hours all of our volunteers put in each season.

We continue to solicit your input as to our volunteers so the league can continue to improve and be successful. For example, when selecting managers, we have a "Manager Selection Committee" to aid the league's president in choosing the team managers. However, given the number of persons who volunteer to be managers, we have more of a "Beg a Parent to be a Manager Committee!" Although being a manager may seem too much to take on, who better to teach our children than their parent? The league and the district put on various teaching clinics to help all of us become better managers and coaches, such as the "Big AI" clinic for both lower and upper divisions. Every parent who would like to attend is encouraged to do so. In addition, SCLL has a clinic run by Former Dodger Coach Mark Cresse and two clinics run by SCHS head baseball coach, Dave Gellatly. All of these clinics are sponsored by the league and are offered at no cost to you. Once the dates are set for these clinics, they will be posted on the web site. Our Training and Development Director, John Van Dixhorn, is implementing other training resources to aid all of us.

quality, safe, fun and positive experience, not only for our little leaguers but for their families as well. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with your concerns, suggestions or praise! Our board list with e-mail links is posted on our website.

The new ball fields at La Pata/Vista Hermosa are only a year away. The league should be able to utilize them for the spring 2012 season and possibly for the fall 2011 season. Through player registration fees and team sponsorships, we have reserving funds for the past five years and we are well-positioned to fully equip the fields, snack bar and batting cages with all the necessary items needed to run effective and safe practices, games and snack bar.

In closing, I would like to thank all of our volunteers that have tirelessly devoted their time to the advancement of San Clemente Little League. Also, we would not be able to make the numerous improvements to our facilities without the generous donations from our sponsors. Your past and future donations are greatly appreciated.

See you on the baseball fields and Go SCLL!

*Sam Masotto*

## Did You Know?

San Clemente Little League is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest little league in the world!!!!

In addition, when a parent volunteers to manage/coach your child, they shouldn't also have to umpire and/or prep the field. Each team is made up of twelve families and if we all volunteer in some capacity, no one person or family should be burdened with all of the duties. We have plenty of resources ready to help you be an umpire or aid with field preparation and maintenance or run the snack bar.

Therefore, we urge you to volunteer to help in any way you can. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions.

*Sam Masotto*

## Calling All Umpires!!

You're.....In!

Here's your opportunity to be involved with little league that doesn't involve a coaches bag or a rake and you get the best view of the game.

Every game requires an umpire and it's a lot easier than you think. We train, mentor and provide all the gear you need. You don't even have to dress up like a bumble bee!

Come out and give it a try, learn a little more about America's game and support one of the largest little leagues in the country.

Every team from AA, AAA minor, AAA, Majors and Juniors will have responsibility to provide umpires this year.

In addition to the parents, we will be running our JUMPer program for individuals league age 11 and over (you don't have to be in little league to be a JUMPer).

See you on the field!

For more information contact Jeff Kurtzer, Umpire in Chief, if you're interested in helping cover our 2011 season or if you have questions;  
[jkurtzer@yahoo.com](mailto:jkurtzer@yahoo.com).

## The Man in the Arena

The next time your player steps on the field and is playing in front of a large crowd of people, consider this excerpt from Theodor Roosevelt's "Man in the Area" speech. Truly words to live by...

*"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat"*

## Thank You Team Moms!!

San Clemente Little League is an all volunteer organization. Everyone from the President to Team Mom gives up their time for the pure joy of bringing fun and life long memories to all of the players. Team Moms are some of the hardest working volunteers in our league and often underappreciated. They can't do it all and with 12 families to a team she has at least 20 adults to help her with anything she needs. With so much help at her disposal this season will be the best season to date! Thank you Team Moms! Without your time our Managers would not be able to devote so much time to the players. Without your help the families would not know where and when games/practices/events were taking place. Without your help Little League would not work. And without Little League we would not have a place for our sluggers to grow character, learn team values, how to be team players or have a chance to fall in love with an American favorite! Baseball! **Go SCLL!!!**

*"A baseball game is simply a nervous breakdown divided into nine innings. "*  
~Earl Wilson

## Divisions of Play

SCLL is structured into different divisions of play. Our divisions start with T-Ball and go all the way through Juniors. The division in which your child will participate will depend upon his/her League Age. SCLL only guarantees that a player will participate in the division that is appropriate to his/her League Age as outlined below. Each division is an important step in a child's progression as a baseball player. League Age is the age your child will be on April 30, 2011.

The lower division teams consist of T-Ball, Rookie (coach pitch) and Single A (machine pitch). Players are placed on their teams by the Player Agent. If your child will be a lower division player and you are interested in him/her playing for a particular manager or with a specific friend, please make note of this request on the Player Application. The Player Agent will try to honor those requests when possible. Our upper divisions consist of AA, AAA Minor, AAA, Majors and Juniors. All upper division teams are "kid pitch" and are formed by a draft.

The following outlines our divisions and the general age-ranges for each division. Please refer to SCLL's Division of Play link on our website and our Local Rules for more details about each division.

T-Ball	League Age 5
Rookie (coach pitch)	League Age 6
Single A	League Age 7
AA	League Age 8 and 9
AAA Minor	League Age 9 and 10
AAA	League Age 10 and 11
Majors	League Age 11 and 12
Juniors	League Age 13 and 14

Requests to "play up" (i.e. play in a division higher than his/her League Age regularly allows) may be addressed to the Player Agent. However, such requests cannot often be granted. The fact that a child was allowed to play up last season does not necessarily mean he/she will be granted the same accommodation this season. Such requests are considered on a case-by-case and a year-by-year basis, and the outcome is largely dependent upon SCLL's registration numbers for that particular season.

## Important Dates

November 6, 2010	Walk-In Registration
November 18, 2010	Walk-In Registration
January 8 & 9, 2011	AA – Majors Tryouts
January 16, 2011	Junior – Senior Tryouts
February 26, 2011	Opening Day
March 20, 2011	Picture Day
April 2 – 11, 2011	Easter Week / Spring Break
June 4, 2011	Closing Day

Please check [www.sclittleleague.com](http://www.sclittleleague.com) for more details as the above events draw near.

### He's Just a Boy

He stands at the plate with heart beating fast.  
The bases are loaded.  
The die has been cast.

Mom and Dad cannot help him.  
He stands all alone.  
A hit at this moment will send his team home.

The ball nears the plate, he swings and misses!  
There's a groan from the crowd  
with some boos and hisses.

A thoughtless voice cries out  
"Strike out the bum!"  
Tears fill his eyes. The game is no longer fun.

Remember, he's just a boy who stands all alone,  
so open your heart and give him a break.  
For it's moments like this a man you can make.

Keep this in mind when you hear someone forget.  
- Anonymous

## Sponsorship

### SPONSORSHIP SUSTAINS OUR LITTLE LEAGUE

Thank you to all of our sponsors for your help in making the 2010 season a success. San Clemente Little League is a non-profit, volunteer run organization that relies on player fees, sponsorship and fundraising to operate. The valuable support of our sponsors helps provide our youth with a fantastic opportunity to play recreational baseball and create memories for a lifetime.

Annual financial support provides the following: Baseballs, team gear, catching gear, pitching machines, batting cages, batting tees, drop down and breakaway bases, line chalk, umpire gear, first aid kits, sliding pads, fields to play and practice on, lights, field maintenance equipment and more! San Clemente Little League needs your continued support; please sign up to be a sponsor for the 2011 season.

Sponsoring a team provides you with an opportunity for community involvement; you are directly impacting hundreds of families and over 1100 youth in San Clemente. Team sponsors have their name embroidered on a team's cap, a company or personal banner placed at Vista Bahia - Waterman field, a sponsorship plaque with the team's photo, a sponsor listing in the SCLL newsletter and a year-long listing on the SCLL web site.

Please renew or become a sponsor for the 2011 season. It is a fantastic and vital way to be involved with San Clemente Little League. All sponsorship is tax deductible.

#### HOME RUN SPONSORSHIP

\$350 - Sponsors one team

#### DIAMOND SPONSORSHIP

\$1,000 - Sponsors multiple teams

#### Sponsorship Director:

Dean Zibas (949) 361-7733 email: Zibas@Cox.Net

**LITTLE LEAGUE FAMILIES - PLEASE  
SUPPORT OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS !!**

# 2010 - 2011 San Clemente Little League

## Board of Directors

[Sam Masotto](#)

*President*

[Wendy McGreevy](#)

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