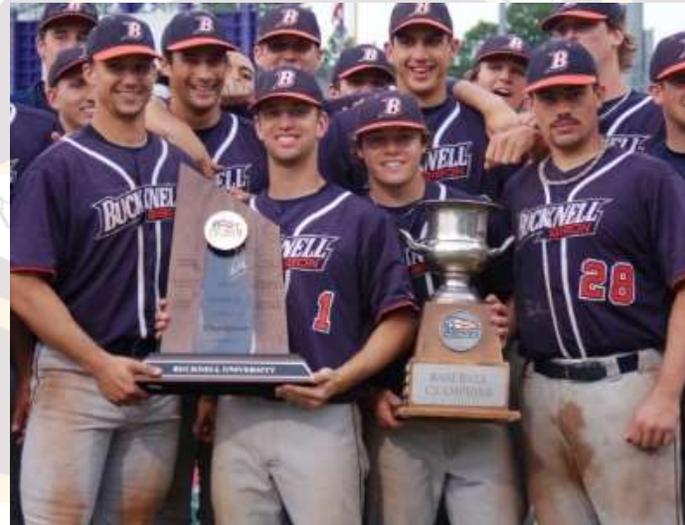
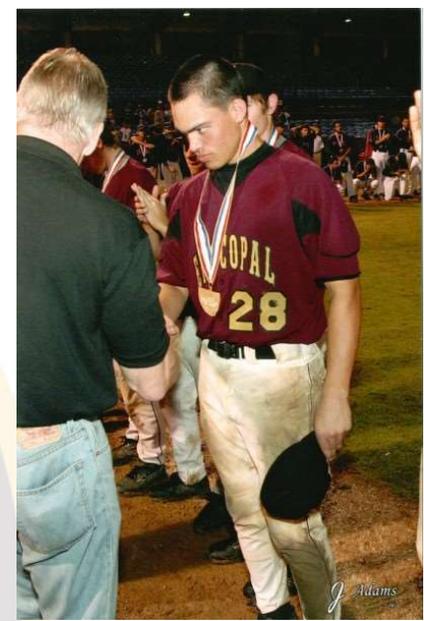




# Little League Softball Coaches Meeting

February 26, 2026



# Approach

- Teach kids how to handle failure/losing
- Teach kids how to handle winning
- Foster environment that kids WANT to be there
- The kid you coach today will be a totally different athlete at 14-18 years old.



# Approach

*The sign of a great Little League coach won't be found in trophies or wins, but rather the number of kids who sign up to play again the next year... that means their coach created an environment that made the game fun for those kids.*

*- Darren Fenster*

# Math

| Division                      | 2025        | 2026        |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Rookie Ball                   | 55          | 22          |
| Baseball Tee Ball             | 123         | 135         |
| Baseball Coach Pitch          | 108         | 118         |
| Baseball Advanced Coach Pitch | 103         | 104         |
| Baseball Single-A             | 133         | 92          |
| Baseball AA                   | 99          | 113         |
| Baseball AAA                  | 80          | 102         |
| Baseball Majors               | 84          | 79          |
| Softball Tee Ball             | 57          | 65          |
| Softball Coach Pitch          | 75          | 75          |
| Softball Advanced Coach Pitch | 0           | 43          |
| Softball Minors               | 65          | 46          |
| Softball Majors               | 60          | 58          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b>1042</b> | <b>1052</b> |

# Administration

- ZPS Background Check
  - Only needed if you have not coached at Zeeland Rec in 25-26
- Concussion Certification
  - Only if you have not coached for Zeeland Rec in school year 2023-2026
- JDP Background Check (email coming later in March)
- Instructions to complete these will be emailed out

# Team Sideline



Brandon L

Home Registration Youth Sports Coach Information Officials/Game-Day Staff Resources About Us Sign Up for Text Alerts

# ZR ZEELAND RECREATION

Welcome to Zeeland Recreation  
Check back for important updates!

|   |   |  |  |   |  |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>8:00 AM<br>6th Grade Boys<br>B6 ZE 3 - Warriors vs<br>HPS - Lakewood<br>Con...<br>BB ZC Gym 1 | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:00 AM<br>5th Grade Girls<br>G5 2 vs West Ottawa<br>1<br>BB Creek Main 1 | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:00 AM<br>5th Grade Girls<br>Hamilton vs G5 3<br>Ham HS 1 | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:00 AM<br>5th Grade Girls<br>HC - Paint A Pot vs<br>West Ottawa 2<br>Holland West | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:00 AM<br>6th Grade Girls<br>Fennville vs G6 2<br>CAC #1 | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:00 AM<br>6th Grade Girls<br>Hamilton 2 vs HC -<br>SuFISHient Sp...<br>Ham HS 2 | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:00 AM<br>6th Grade Girls<br>HPS - Mi Favorita vs<br>Saugatuck<br>Black River | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:30 AM<br>3rd/4th Boys<br>B347 - Hot Shots vs<br>B3418<br>BB Adams Gym | <b>SATURDAY 2/21</b><br>9:30 AM<br>3rd/4th Boys<br>B341 - Hot Pickles vs<br>B344 - Cinderella<br>Men<br>BB Lincoln Gym |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|

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# ZEELAND RECREATION

# Team Sideline

- Rosters
- Schedules
- Communication
- Enter scores
- See umpers
- Mobile App



# Team Formation

- For 2026 Season, ZLL plans to put together all teams
- Team Formation Practice information still essential in this
- Coach evaluators needed – coaches can evaluate OR help run drills
  - Would prefer ZLL Members be freed up to do evaluating
- Process for requesting a player for your team will be sent in later email
  - Request is for friends and family, NOT the best player in the league
  - Depending on situation, there is a chance request can't be granted

# Team Formation Practice

- Come at your Division time(s)
  - Feel free to help any other divisions you want
- Get evaluation sheet if you want to score players
- Coaches that want to help run drills will be split at stations
- Each player will get a hitting and fielding score
- Players that pitch will get a pitcher score
- Evaluations used for forming evenly skilled teams

| <b>Division</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Check In</b> | <b>Start</b> | <b>Finish</b> |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Minors Softball | 3/7/2026    | 8:00            | 8:30         | 10:30         |
| Majors Softball | 3/7/2026    | 10:00           | 10:30        | 12:30         |

A (Group 1) Field

| #  | Notes | #  | Fielding Score (1-10) | #  | Notes | #  | Pitching Score (1-10) |
|----|-------|----|-----------------------|----|-------|----|-----------------------|
| 1  |       | 1  |                       | 1  |       | 1  |                       |
| 2  |       | 2  |                       | 2  |       | 2  |                       |
| 3  |       | 3  |                       | 3  |       | 3  |                       |
| 4  |       | 4  |                       | 4  |       | 4  |                       |
| 5  |       | 5  |                       | 5  |       | 5  |                       |
| 6  |       | 6  |                       | 6  |       | 6  |                       |
| 7  |       | 7  |                       | 7  |       | 7  |                       |
| 8  |       | 8  |                       | 8  |       | 8  |                       |
| 9  |       | 9  |                       | 9  |       | 9  |                       |
| 10 |       | 10 |                       | 10 |       | 10 |                       |
| 11 |       | 11 |                       | 11 |       | 11 |                       |
| 12 |       | 12 |                       | 12 |       | 12 |                       |
| 13 |       | 13 |                       | 13 |       | 13 |                       |
| 14 |       | 14 |                       | 14 |       | 14 |                       |
| 15 |       | 15 |                       | 15 |       | 15 |                       |
| 16 |       | 16 |                       | 16 |       | 16 |                       |
| 17 |       | 17 |                       | 17 |       | 17 |                       |
| 18 |       | 18 |                       | 18 |       | 18 |                       |
| 19 |       | 19 |                       | 19 |       | 19 |                       |
| 20 |       | 20 |                       | 20 |       | 20 |                       |
| 21 |       | 21 |                       | 21 |       | 21 |                       |
| 22 |       | 22 |                       | 22 |       | 22 |                       |

**A (Group 1) Hitting**

| <b>#</b>  | <b>Notes</b> | <b>#</b>  | <b>Score<br/>(1-10)</b> |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| <b>1</b>  |              | <b>1</b>  |                         |
| <b>2</b>  |              | <b>2</b>  |                         |
| <b>3</b>  |              | <b>3</b>  |                         |
| <b>4</b>  |              | <b>4</b>  |                         |
| <b>5</b>  |              | <b>5</b>  |                         |
| <b>6</b>  |              | <b>6</b>  |                         |
| <b>7</b>  |              | <b>7</b>  |                         |
| <b>8</b>  |              | <b>8</b>  |                         |
| <b>9</b>  |              | <b>9</b>  |                         |
| <b>10</b> |              | <b>10</b> |                         |
| <b>11</b> |              | <b>11</b> |                         |
| <b>12</b> |              | <b>12</b> |                         |
| <b>13</b> |              | <b>13</b> |                         |
| <b>14</b> |              | <b>14</b> |                         |
| <b>15</b> |              | <b>15</b> |                         |
| <b>16</b> |              | <b>16</b> |                         |
| <b>17</b> |              | <b>17</b> |                         |
| <b>18</b> |              | <b>18</b> |                         |
| <b>19</b> |              | <b>19</b> |                         |
| <b>20</b> |              | <b>20</b> |                         |
| <b>21</b> |              | <b>21</b> |                         |
| <b>22</b> |              | <b>22</b> |                         |

# Team Formation Practice

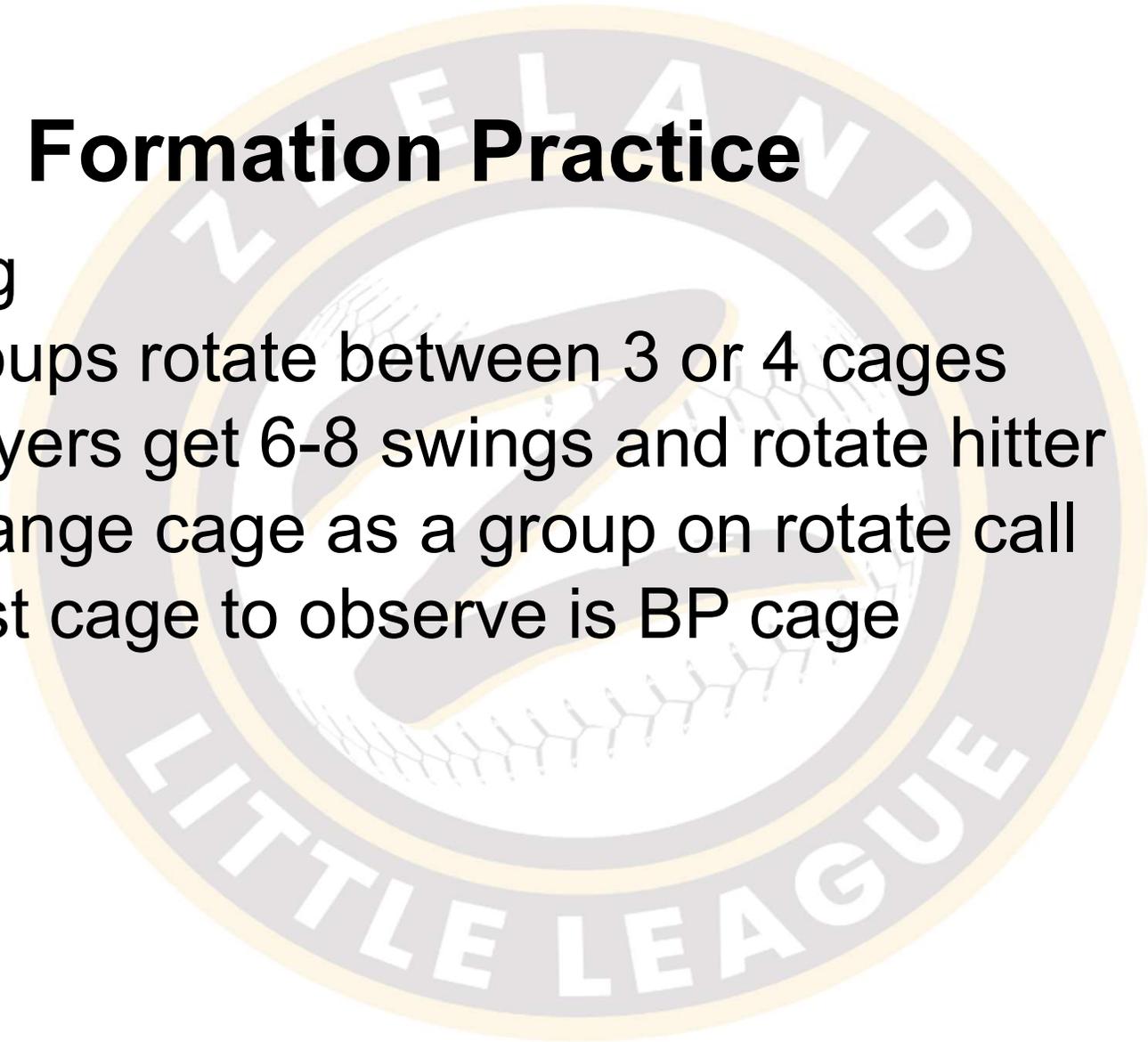
- Players get a bib number as they check in
  - ZLL = White
  - HLL = Orange
  - WOLL = Blue
- Put gear around outside of field fence
- Come onto field with NO gear
- Roll Call
- Break kids into groups

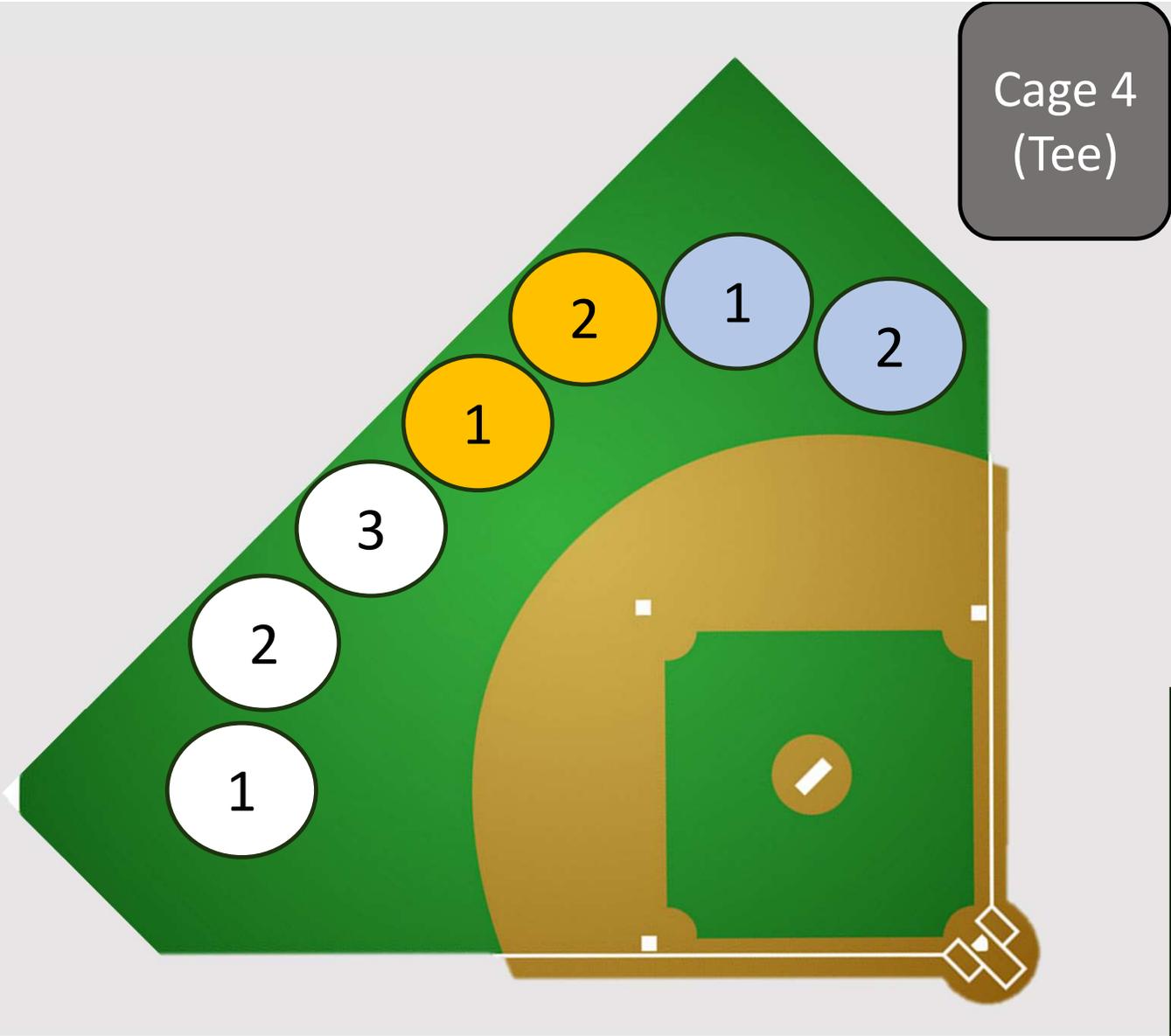
# Team Formation Practice

- Fielding
  - Players at SS, 3B, and 2B if needed
  - Ground balls – plays at first
  - Continue through line until rotate is called
- Pitching
  - 3 rubbers in LF
  - Players stay in their group and rotate through 1 pitch at a time
  - Non-pitchers can do fly balls in RF if someone is available

# Team Formation Practice

- Hitting
  - Groups rotate between 3 or 4 cages
  - Players get 6-8 swings and rotate hitter
  - Change cage as a group on rotate call
  - Best cage to observe is BP cage





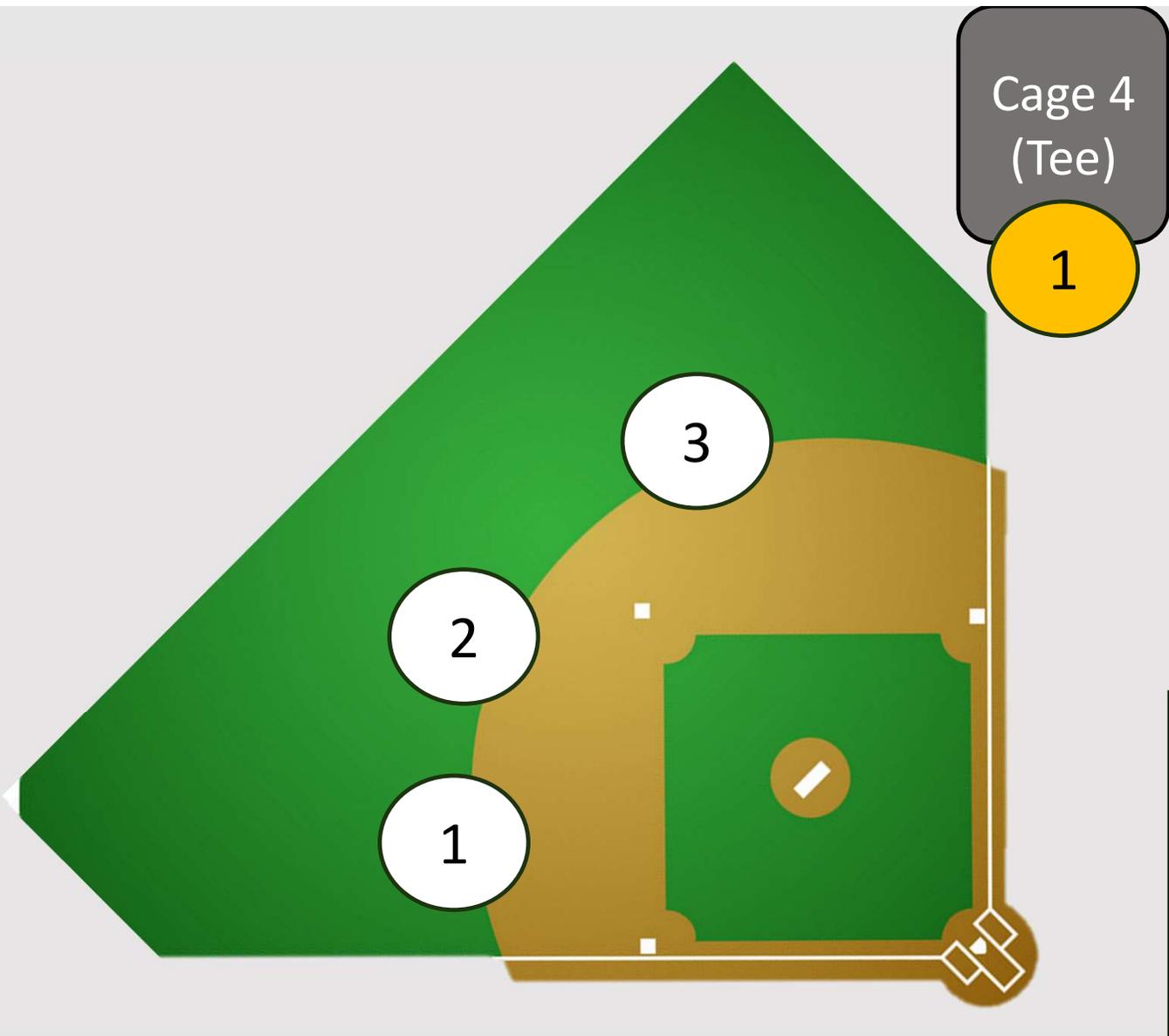
Cage 4  
(Tee)

Cage 1 (Tee)

Cage 2 (Soft Toss)

Cage 3 (BP)

BASKETBALL COURT



2 Cage 1 (Tee)

1 Cage 2 (Soft Toss)

2 Cage 3 (BP)

BASKETBALL COURT

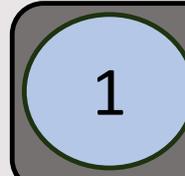
# PITCHING



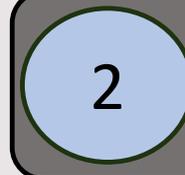
Cage 4  
(Tee)



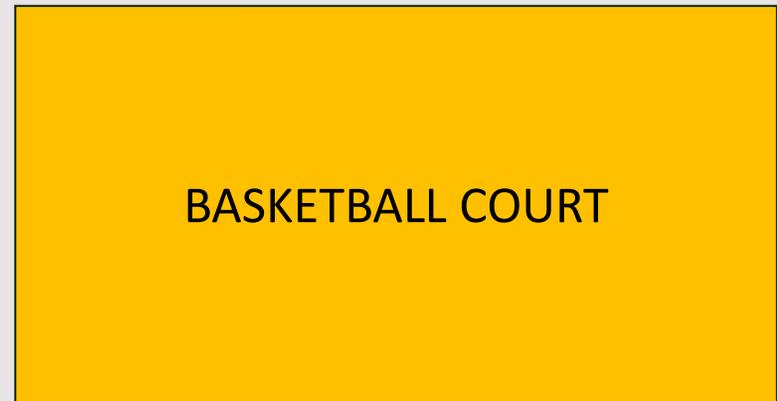
Cage 1 (Tee)



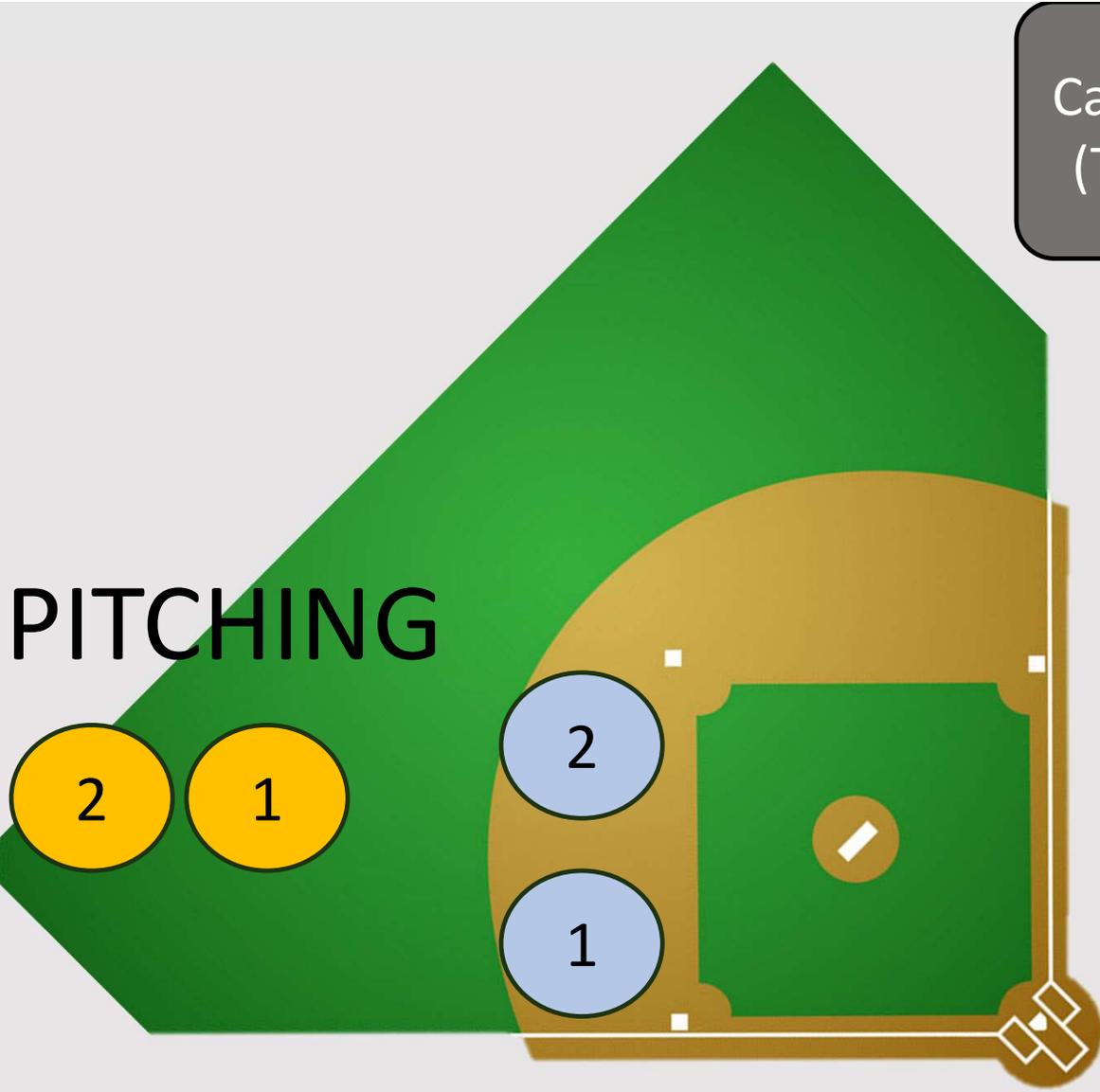
Cage 2 (Soft Toss)



Cage 3 (BP)



# PITCHING



Cage 4  
(Tee)

1

Cage 1 (Tee)

2

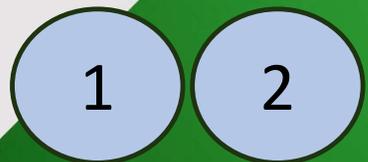
Cage 2 (Soft Toss)

3

Cage 3 (BP)

BASKETBALL COURT

# PITCHING



Cage 4  
(Tee)



Cage 1 (Tee)



Cage 2 (Soft Toss)



Cage 3 (BP)



# Zeeland Schedule

| Time                  | 3B             | SS             | 2B             |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 00:05-00:15           | WARM UP        |                |                |
| 00:15-00:25           | Z1             | Z2             | Z3             |
| 00:25-00:35           | Z2             | Z3             | Z1             |
| 00:35-00:45           | Z3             | Z1             | Z2             |
|                       | <b>Pitch 1</b> | <b>Pitch 2</b> | <b>Pitch 3</b> |
| 00:45-01:00           | Z1             | Z2             | Z3             |
| <b>ROTATE TO CAGE</b> |                |                |                |
| TIME                  | Cage 1         | Cage 2         | Cage 3         |
| 1:05-1:20             | Z1             | Z2             | Z3             |
| 1:20-1:35             | Z2             | Z3             | Z1             |
| 1:35-1:50             | Z3             | Z1             | Z2             |

# HLL and WOLL Schedule

| Time                   | Cage 1  | Cage 2 | Cage 3  | Cage 4  |
|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| 00:05-00:17            | WO1     | WO2    | HL1     | HL2     |
| 00:17-00:29            | HL2     | WO1    | WO2     | HL1     |
| 00:29-00:41            | HL1     | HL2    | WO1     | WO2     |
| 00:41-00:53            | WO2     | HL1    | HL2     | WO1     |
| <b>ROTATE TO FIELD</b> |         |        |         |         |
| Time                   | 3B      | SS     | Pitch 1 | Pitch 2 |
| 01:05-01:15            | WARM UP |        |         |         |
| 01:15-01:25            | WO1     | WO2    | HL1     | HL2     |
| 01:25-01:35            | WO2     | WO1    | HL1     | HL2     |
| 01:35-01:45            | HL1     | HL2    | WO1     | WO2     |
| 01:45-01:55            | HL2     | HL1    | WO1     | WO2     |

# Team Formation

- Email is sent once roster is uploaded into TS
  - I will also email coaches to let you know
- Next step, EMAIL YOUR TEAM
  - I will send a “template email” for you to fill in blanks
- Give them your contact info and preferred contact method
- Verify family contact info
- Ask to give you a heads up on dates they know they will miss
- Set up a snack/drink sign up (or assign a “team parent”)

**ALL TEAMS ON SITE BY MARCH 13**

# Equipment

- Each team will get a bucket of practice balls
- Game Balls will come from UMPS
  - They are in the shed, but please let umps bring out
- Used game balls should be split between teams and added to practice bucket after games
- Fields will have less practice balls available

# Equipment

- Each team gets an equipment bag
  - Catchers gear and helmets
  - Fielders masks coming separate
- If you need different sizes, switch out gear from shed or let me know
- Bats, tees, screens - stay in shed/locker
- Shed/Field combos TBD

# Safety

- ZLL Site -> Coaches -> Safety
- First aid kits at each field
- Incident report to Zeeland Rec



# Uniforms

- Uniform pickup will be at Zeeland Rec in early April
  - Will send email when ready (4/13)
- I will email coaches a roster with sizes
- Names on Shirts?
  - ZLL cannot afford to put names on shirts
  - Multiple companies can do it, just reach out
  - Usually about \$5 per shirt

# Rules

- Equal Playing Time



# Rules

## Equal Playing Time

The information below does NOT pertain to the position of pitcher. More information on pitchers is in the next section.

- All players are in the lineup and hit in every game
- The lineup should be different each game such that players are in a different spots in the lineup throughout the season
  - Coach Pitch and Tee Ball teams change their lineup each inning
- Each player must play a minimum of one inning in an infield position each game
- All players should be on the bench for an inning before any player is on the bench for a second inning
  - The exception to this rule is for a player that is pitching multiple innings, he/she must spend an inning on the bench when done pitching if every other player on the team has already spent an inning on the bench
- Zeeland Little League provides templates for coaches to pre-plan their lineups and field positions for each game in order to fulfill these requirements

# Rules

## Pitchers and Equal Playing Time

The pitcher is an important position in Little League. The pitcher controls the pace and action of a game. An inexperienced pitcher that is unable to throw strikes can cause a detriment to all players in the game. Although walks are part of the game, excessive walks can lessen the experience for everyone.

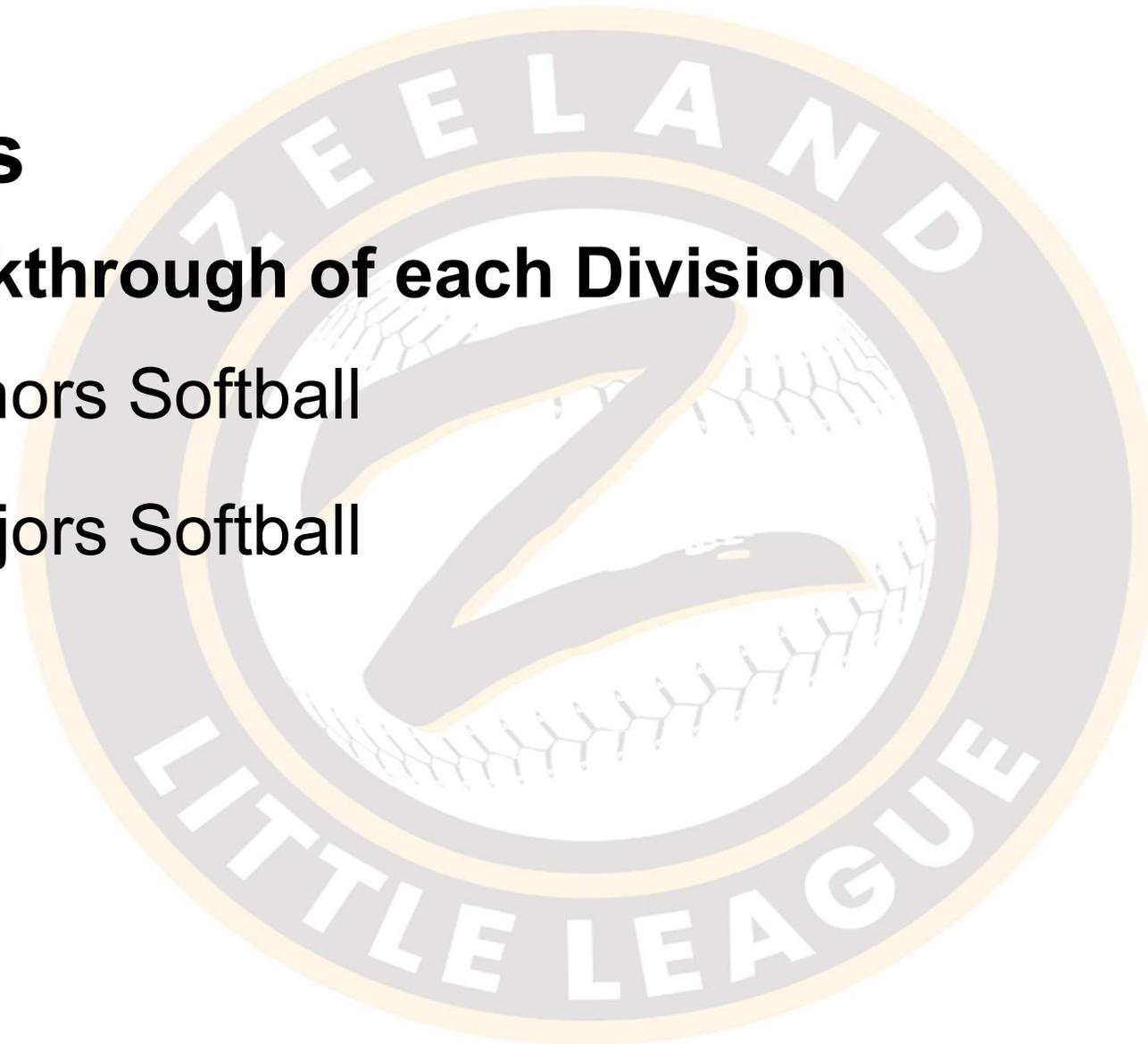
- All pitchers must abide by the pitch count rules set forth by Little League
- The amount of innings pitched through a season will NOT be equal amongst every player on the team that wants to pitch
- Coaches may, and are encouraged to, give more pitching opportunities to players that show more consistency in throwing strikes
- If a pitcher is struggling to throw strikes, coaches may replace the pitcher at their own discretion.
  - We recommend coaches make a change at pitcher after 4 walks in an inning especially for an inexperienced pitcher
- Pitchers that perform better in games will pitch more often than pitchers who are less consistent.

Experience in pitching in games is important for player development, but it cannot be the only time a player that wants to pitch is working on pitching. Players are encouraged to work on pitching at practice and at home.

# Rules

## Walkthrough of each Division

- Minors Softball
- Majors Softball



# Unwritten Rules

- NO intentional walks
- Calling off the dogs
- Manipulating Time

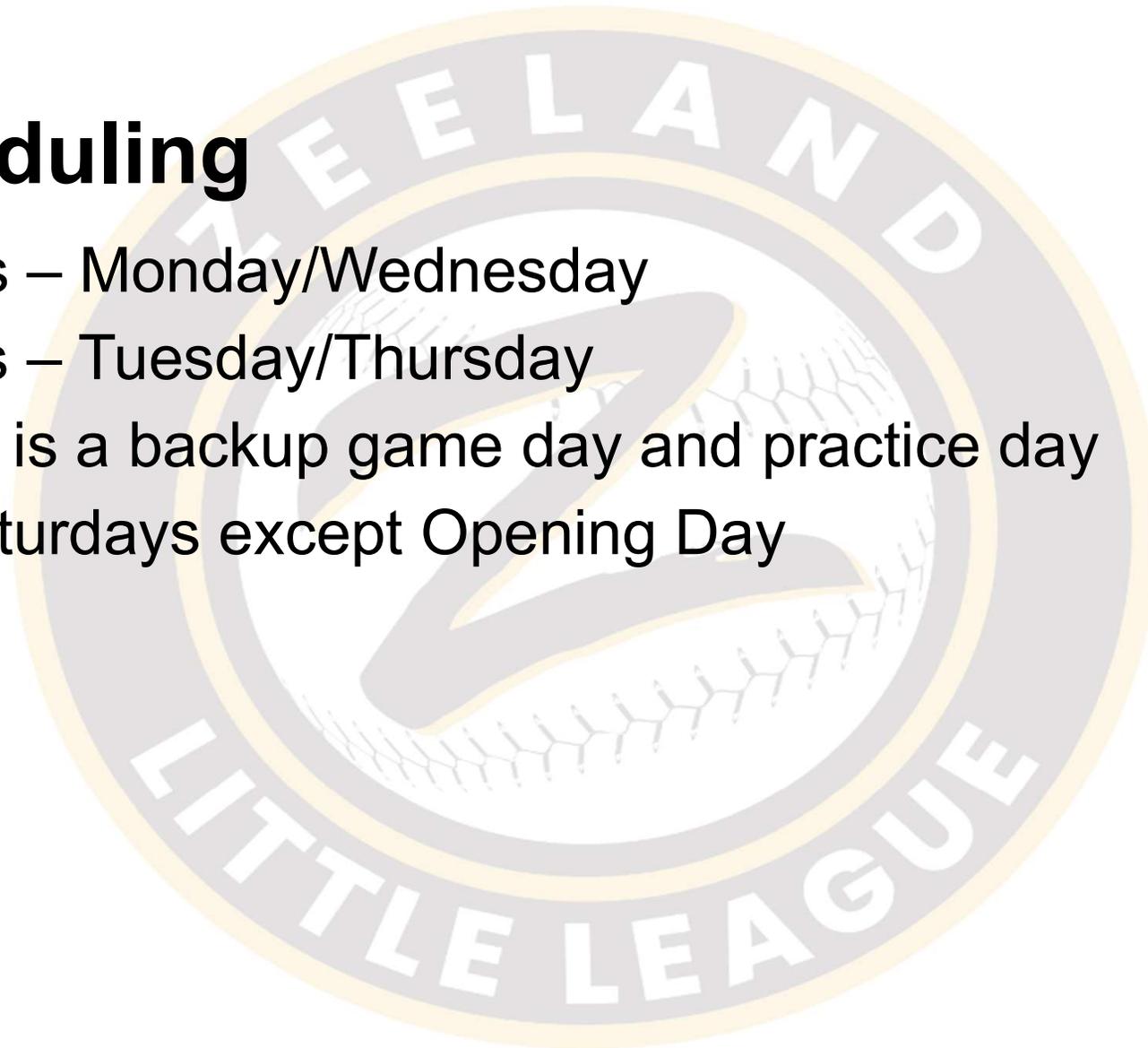


# Weather Policy

- ***TRY*** to make decisions by 5:00PM
- Final decision will come from either Brett, Mandee, or Brandon via email and app
- If something comes up mid-game = DELAY
  - Be smart and use your best judgement
  - Mid-Practice = you can delay or cancel
  - If you get message from us to cancel, SHUT IT DOWN!
- There is such a thing as too hot

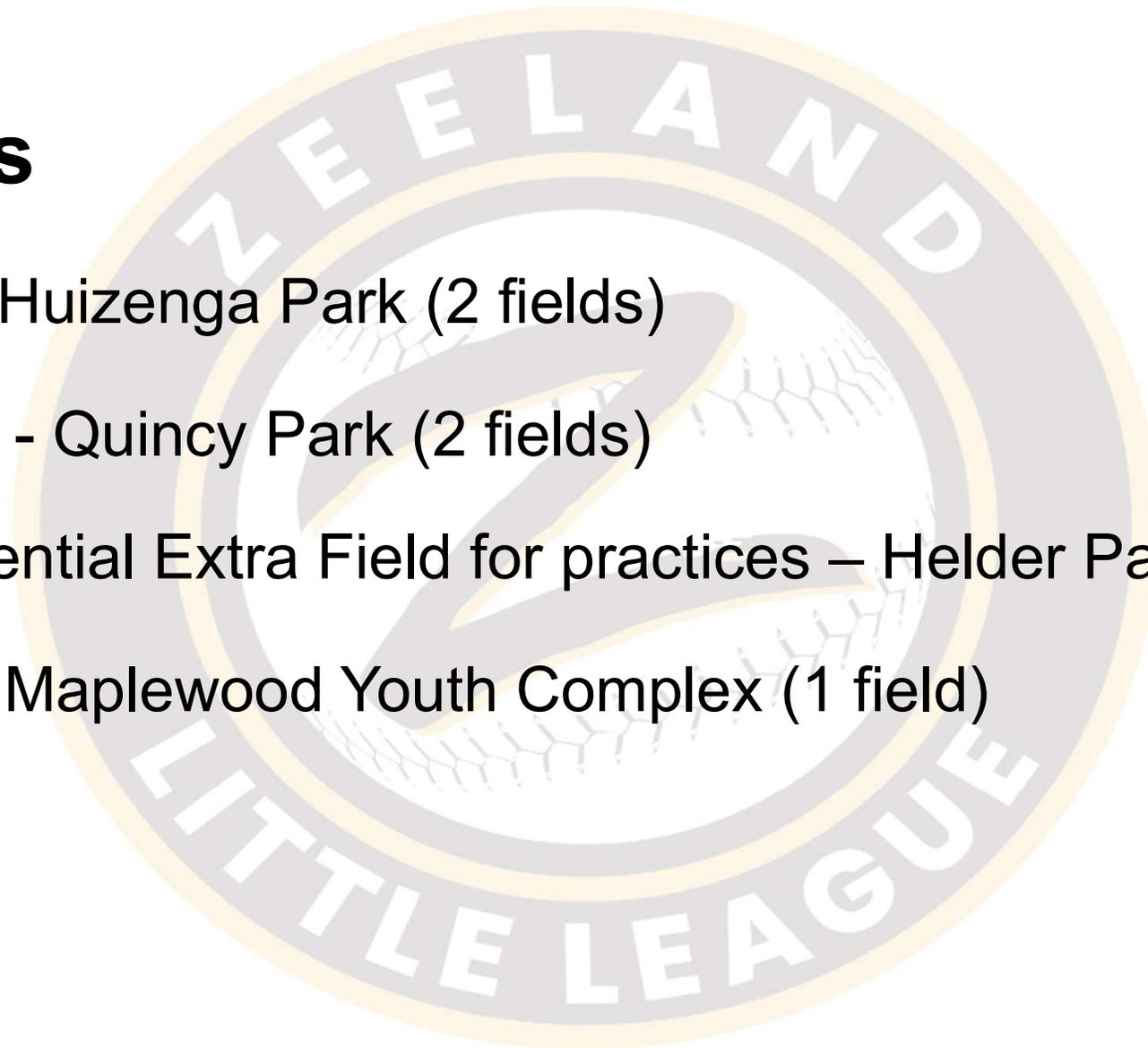
# Scheduling

- Minors – Monday/Wednesday
- Majors – Tuesday/Thursday
- Friday is a backup game day and practice day
- No Saturdays except Opening Day



# Fields

- ZLL – Huizenga Park (2 fields)
- WOLL - Quincy Park (2 fields)
  - Potential Extra Field for practices – Helder Park (2 fields)
- HLL – Maplewood Youth Complex (1 field)



# Huizenga Park (ZLL)



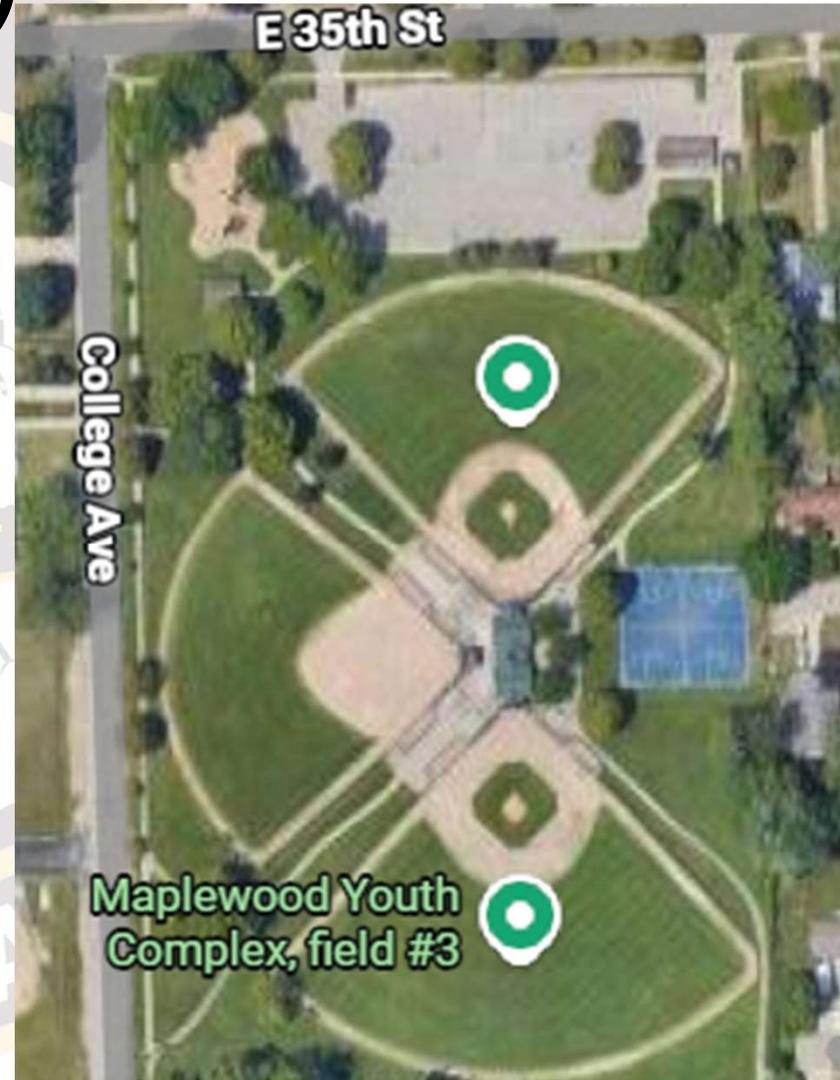
**Legion**

**Ray Shcaap**

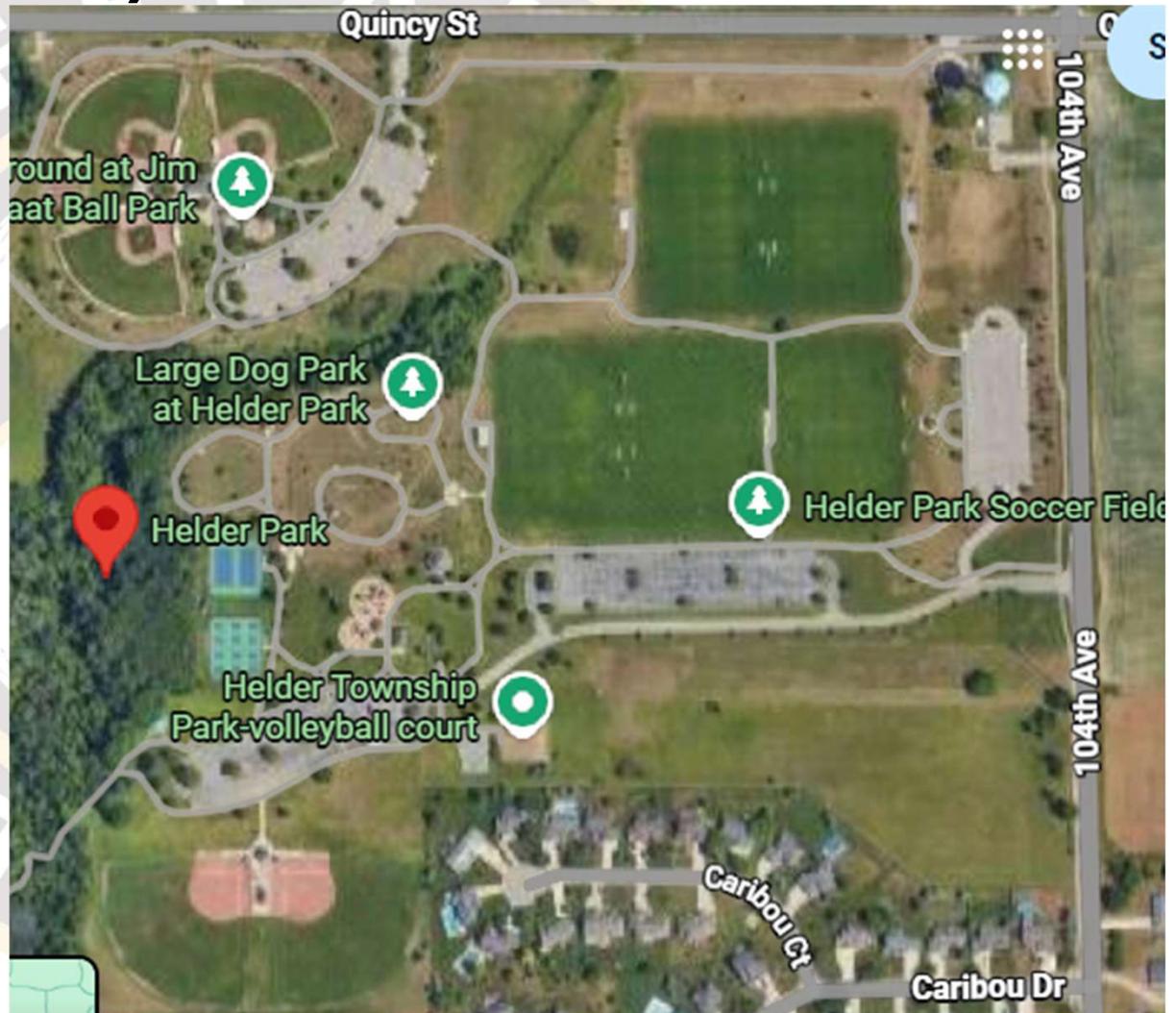
# Quincy Park (WOLL)



# Maplewood Complex (HLL)



# Helder Park (WOLL)

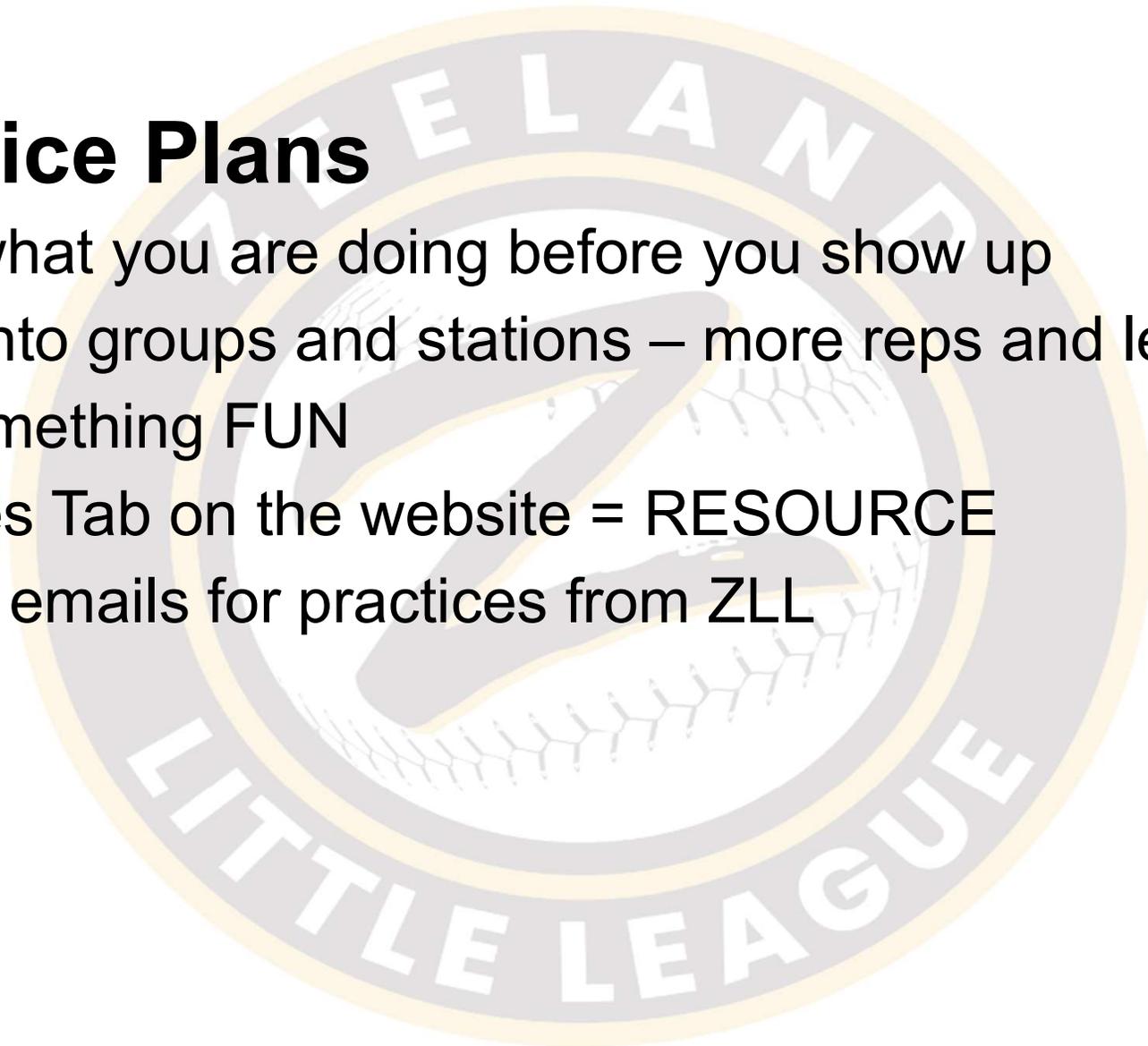


# Practices

- ZLL - Practices are built into schedule
- Start March 23
  - Spring Break week – scheduled but cancel if needed
- Practice may be scheduled with another team
  - If location is FIELD - team starts on field for 45 minutes
  - If location is CAGE - team starts in cage for 45 minutes
  - Switch halfway
  - Talk with other coaches and adjust if you want
  - Option - Mix in a scrimmage

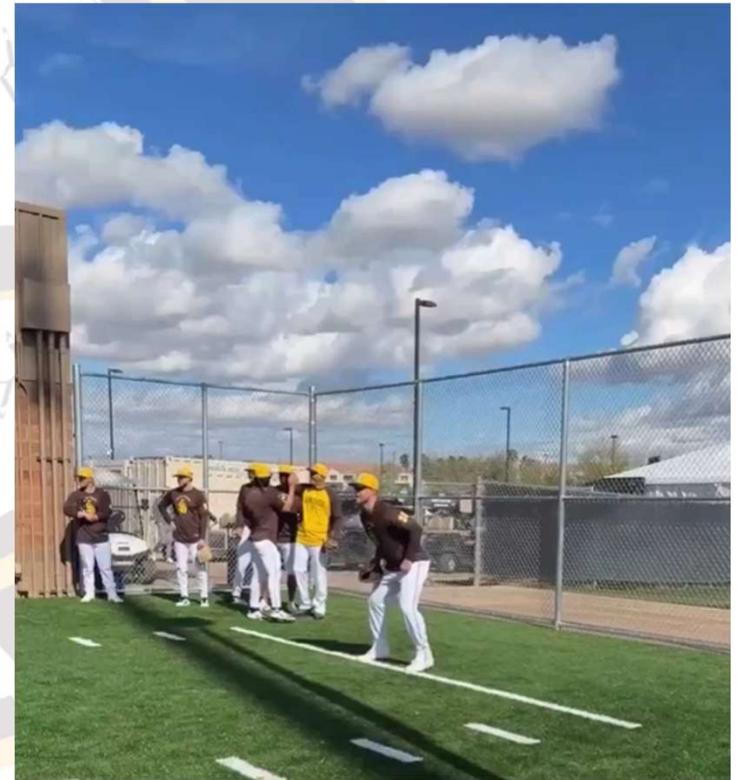
# Practice Plans

- Know what you are doing before you show up
- Break into groups and stations – more reps and less waiting
- Add something FUN
- Coaches Tab on the website = RESOURCE
- Weekly emails for practices from ZLL



# Practice Recommendations

- First practices – keep it light and get to know the players
- Light pitching work
- Incentives and competitions  
keep kids engaged
- Less talk, more action



## **ZLL - Adding Practices**

- You can request additional Practices
  - We may cancel your practice in order to schedule a makeup game
- Instructions will be emailed and on the TS site
- Start with your “Home Fields”
- If nothing available, contact me and I can give you options
- Saturday afternoons are almost always open

# Multi-View

Select Date

|                 | 10:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 02:00 PM | 04:00 PM | 06:00 PM                  | 08:00 PM | 10:00 PM |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Adams Ele.      |          |          |          |          | Practice: H& Practice: Li |          |          |
| CAGE - Request  |          |          |          |          | Practice: Astros          |          |          |
| CAGE Legion     |          |          |          |          | Practice: Peppers         |          |          |
| CAGE Macatawa   |          |          |          |          | Practice: Rays            |          |          |
| CAGE Ray Schaap |          |          |          |          | Practice: Bandits         |          |          |
| CAGE Sara Lee   |          |          |          |          | Practice: Mets            |          |          |
| Drenthe Park    |          |          |          |          | Practice: Ja Practice: St |          |          |
| Lawrence Street |          |          |          |          | Practice: H&              |          |          |

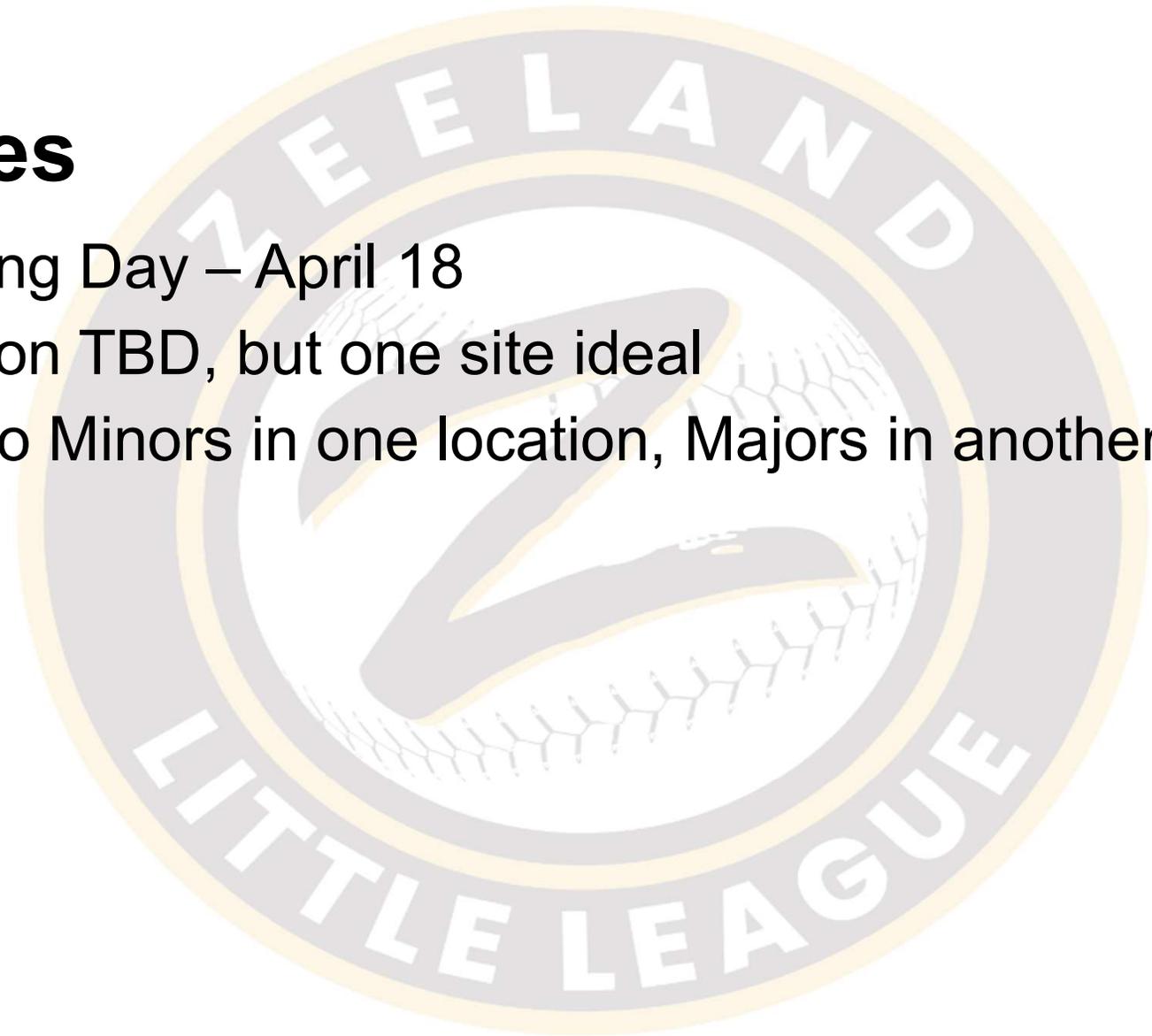
Double-click an orange block to view details

White space is "open"

Orange space is "used".

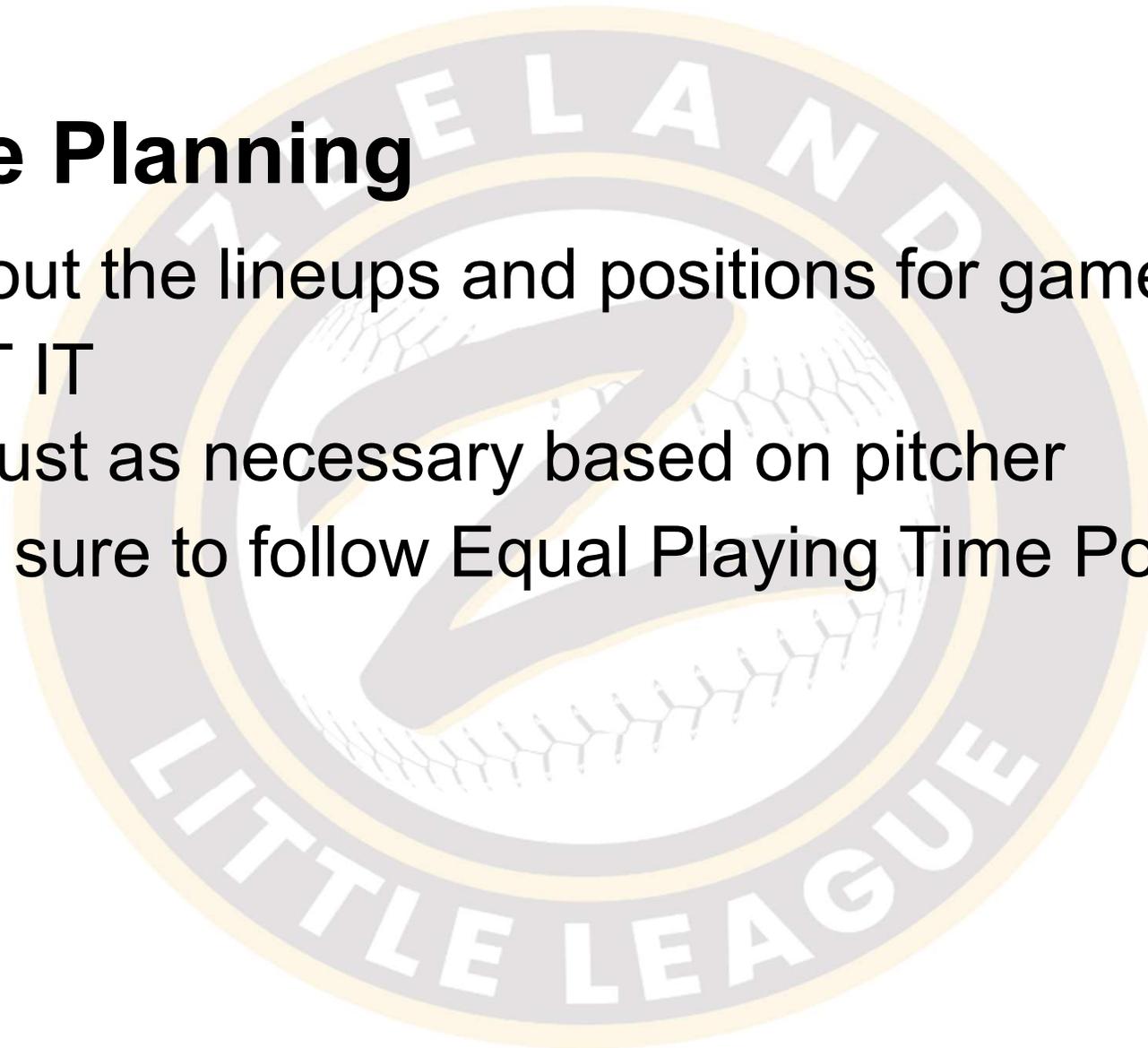
# Games

- Opening Day – April 18
- Location TBD, but one site ideal
- May do Minors in one location, Majors in another



# Game Planning

- Plan out the lineups and positions for game
- POST IT
  - Adjust as necessary based on pitcher
- Make sure to follow Equal Playing Time Policy



TEAM: \_\_\_\_\_

**ZLL Positional Chart**

|    | Player Name | Inning |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|-------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|    |             | 1      | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 4  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 7  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9  |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 10 |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11 |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12 |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 13 |             |        |   |   |   |   |   |   |

*Positions:*

|    |     |     |       |
|----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1B | 2B  | SS  | 3B    |
| LF | LCF | RCF | CF    |
| RF | C   | P   | Bench |



TEAM: \_\_\_\_\_

### ZLL Positional Chart

|    | Player Name | Inning |       |       |       |       |   |
|----|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
|    |             | 1      | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6 |
| 1  | Palmer      | RF     | CF    | 2B    | 2B    | CF    |   |
| 2  | Ellie       | C      | C     | SS    | P     | P     |   |
| 3  | Cassie      | 1B     | 1B    | CF    | 1B    | 1B    |   |
| 4  | Oaklie      | SS     | 3B    | 1B    | 3B    | 3B    |   |
| 5  | Natalie     | P      | 2B    | C     | C     | C     |   |
| 6  | Aleah       | CF     | SS    | Bench | SS    | SS    |   |
| 7  | Ava         | Bench  | P     | P     | LF    | 2B    |   |
| 8  | Ayla        | LF     | LF    | 3B    | Bench | LF    |   |
| 9  | Parker      | 3B     | Bench | LF    | CF    | RF    |   |
| 10 | Clara       | 2B     | RF    | RF    | RF    | Bench |   |



Positions:

|    |     |     |       |
|----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1B | 2B  | SS  | 3B    |
| LF | LCF | RCF | CF    |
| RF | C   | P   | Bench |





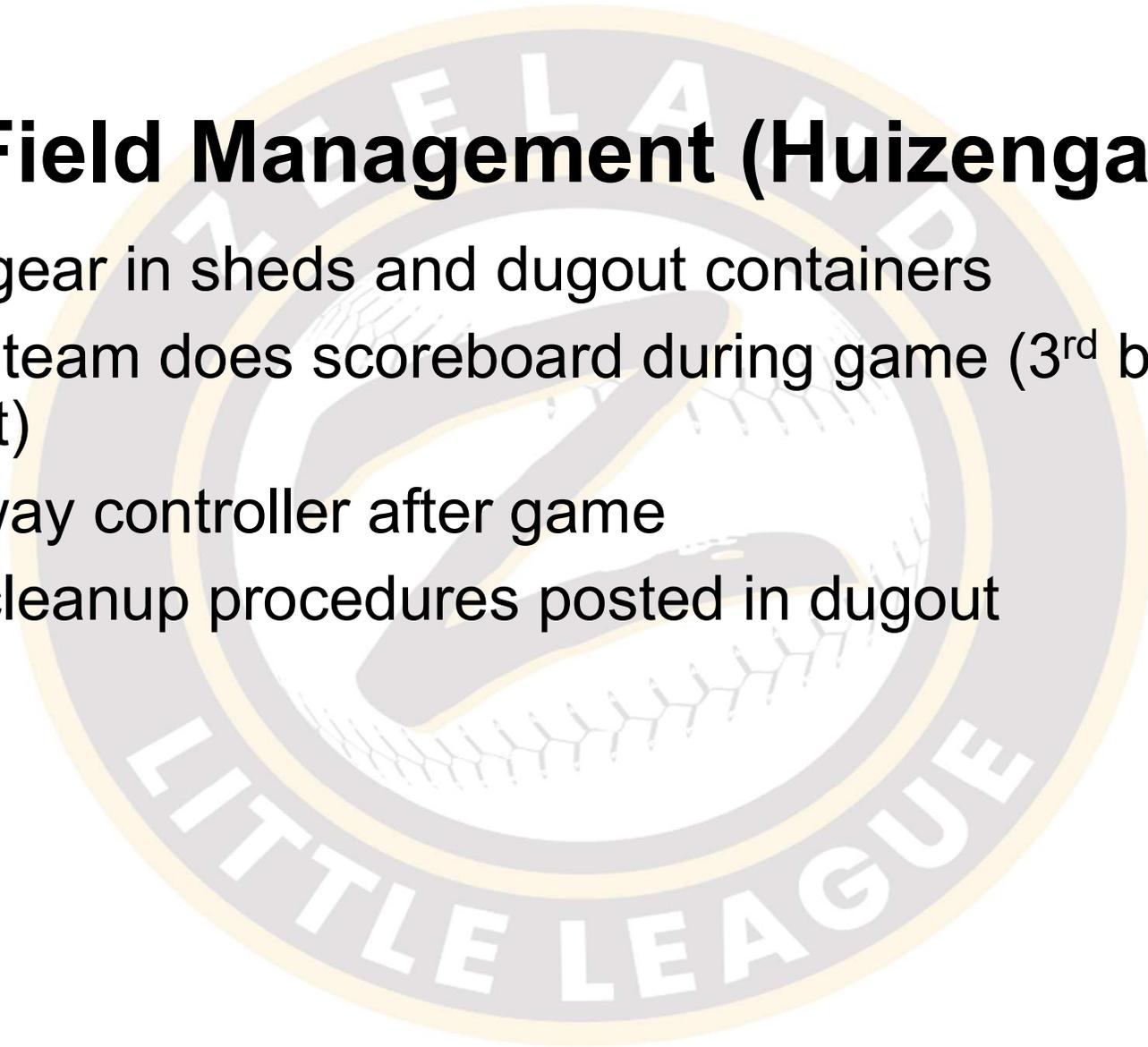
# Pitcher Planning

- 5 run limit in first 3 innings
- No pitch count...
  - Girls still get tired/injured
- Suggest 2 inning max to start
- Build up through season



# ZLL Field Management (Huizenga)

- Extra gear in sheds and dugout containers
- Home team does scoreboard during game (3<sup>rd</sup> base dugout)
- Put away controller after game
- Field cleanup procedures posted in dugout

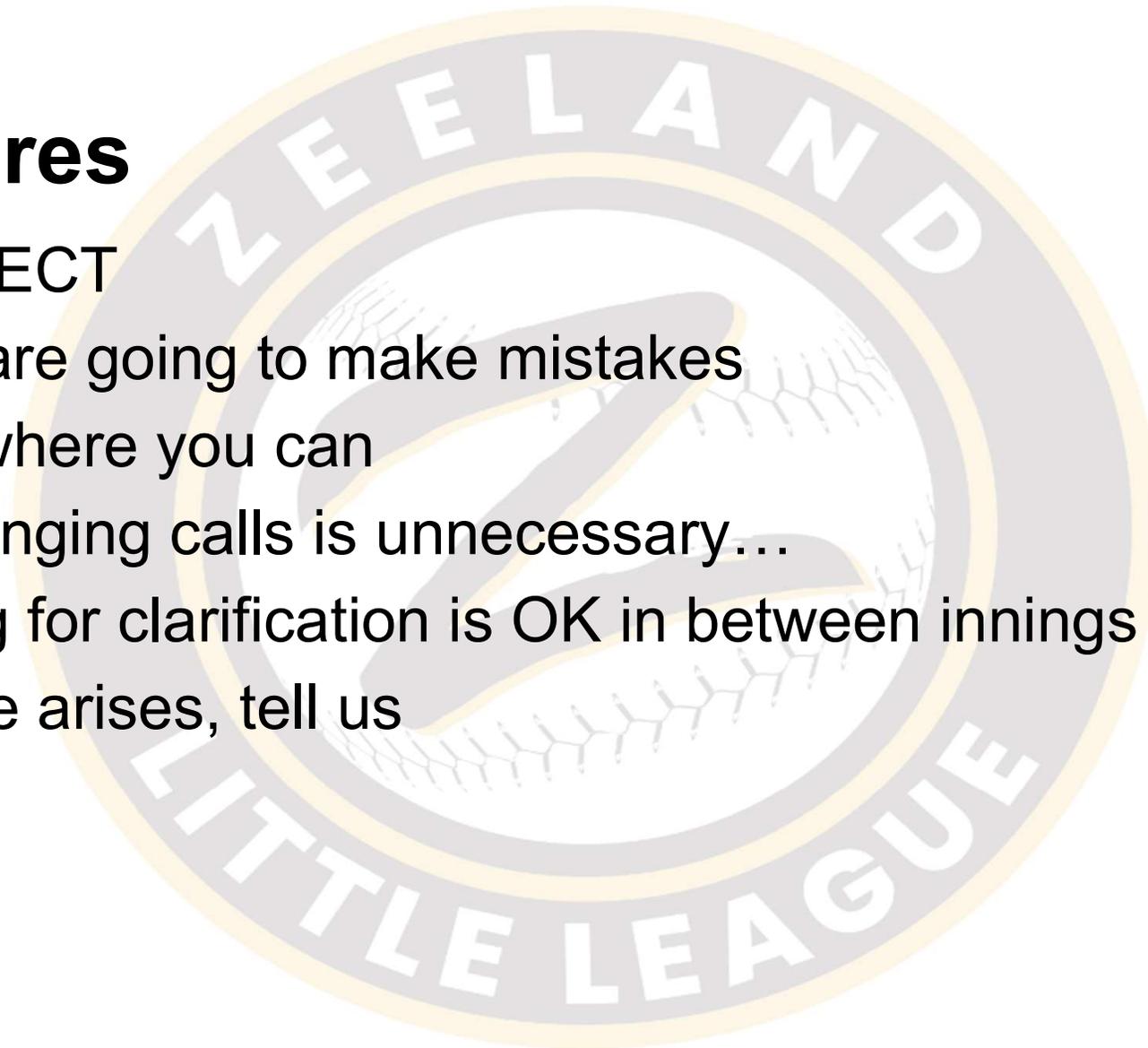


# Subs

- Short on players? Get a sub
  - You can play a game with 8 (we do NOT want forfeits)
  - Sub cannot pitch
- View Sub List under TEAMS tab on website
- Find a player in an equal or lower division not playing
- Start at top of list and work down!
- Reach out if you need help.
- **REPORT SUBS** to Brandon
  - That way we can move player to bottom of list

# Umpires

- RESPECT
- They are going to make mistakes
- Help where you can
- Challenging calls is unnecessary...
- Asking for clarification is OK in between innings
- If issue arises, tell us



# ZLL Umpires

- If no-show...
  - Check for POOL UMP
  - Check other fields...if they have 2 get 1 for you
  - Call Brandon
- If we know you will have 1 or 0 ump before game, we will let you know
- You can also see who is umpiring on the schedule!
- **Please report any umpire no-show**

# ZLL Gentex Games

- For Majors and Minors
- Players vote for teammates to represent their team
  - I will email a voting form in May with a deadline
- Teams are formed like a traditional MLB All Star Game
- Games are scheduled in early June (day/time TBD)
- Allowing coaches to use more discretion for last pick

# Post Season Games

- End of season tournament
- Same rules as regular season
- Bracket will be posted and sent out with seeding



# ZLL All-Stars

- Tryouts to be announced
  - 12U, 11U, 10U
- All coaches invited (encouraged) to attend and evaluate
- Use what you saw during season and at tryout to rank players
- Rankings are put together and create All-Star team
- Manager Applications by May 1

# Extra Coaches

- OK to ask parents to help at practice and games as long as ZLL Coach is present
- If someone else wants to help be a COACH, they must sign up on the coaching form
- Should never have a situation that someone is running a practice or game and NOT a signed up ZLL Coach



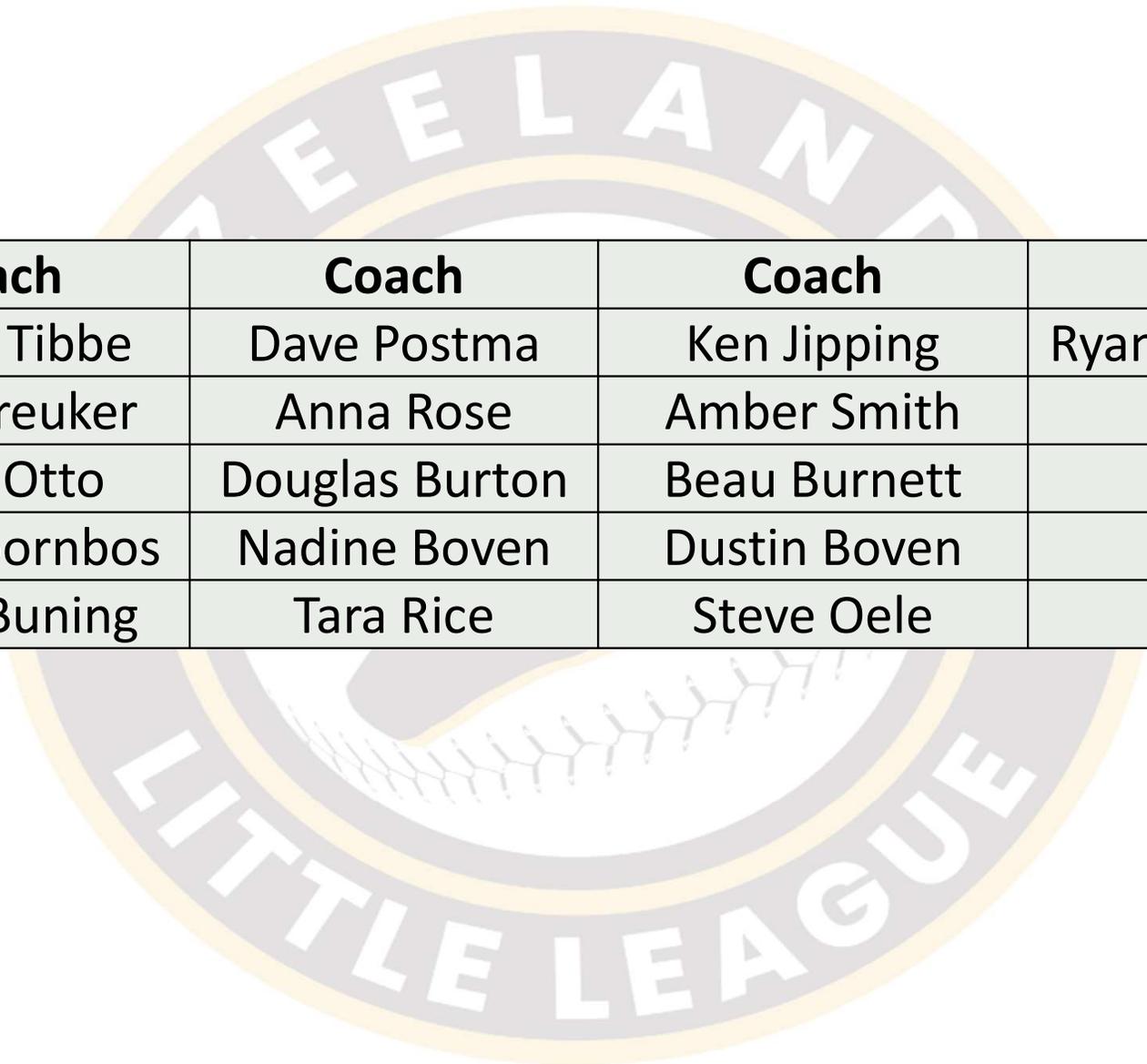
**THE TEAMS  
(as of now)**

# Minors



| Team | Coach            | Coach           | Coach           |
|------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1    | Jeff Thompson    | Josh Lamer      | Adam Locker     |
| 2    | Lance DeJonge    | Tim Holstege    |                 |
| 3    | Matt VanderHulst | Jonathan Torres | Drew Bowman     |
| 4    | Trevor Jordan    | Melvin Eledge   | Hayden McAndrew |

# Majors



| Team | Coach         | Coach          | Coach        | Coach             |
|------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1    | Randy Tibbe   | Dave Postma    | Ken Jipping  | Ryan Golembiewski |
| 2    | Amy Breuker   | Anna Rose      | Amber Smith  |                   |
| 3    | Ryan Otto     | Douglas Burton | Beau Burnett |                   |
| 4    | Alan Doornbos | Nadine Boven   | Dustin Boven | Adrea Hill        |
| 5    | Kevin Buning  | Tara Rice      | Steve Oele   |                   |

# THANK YOU

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Questions?

