

The 7th Inning Stretch

LITTLE LEAGUE CANADA



UPDATE:

WINDSOR CENTRAL LITTLE LEAGUER COMES 2ND AT PEPSI PITCH, HIT AND RUN CONTEST



Storm finished 2nd place in Anaheim. Well done Storm, we here at Little League Canada are very proud of you. Below is a link with all the pictures the family took.

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=72182&l=89694caed7&id=1473448080>

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ALL GIRLS T-BALL DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP GETS OFF THE GROUND IN WINDSOR

Ontario District 5, after nine years of trying, finally held their first (of many more to come, hopefully) **all girls T-Ball District Tournament**. Kathy Recchia, Little League Ontario District 5 District Administrator, said "it's only two teams, but

we pulled it off!" This was tournament was last minute, but Kathy hopes that with advance notice, there will be more teams participating next year. "The park was packed which was nice to see. Many of the boys teams were there to

watch too" she said. The final score was very close....31-30 in five full innings. Congratulations to Kathy Recchia and all the volunteers in Little League Ontario District 5!



Remember...If it isn't fun...it isn't Little League!

TEACHING FOR TOMORROW LITTLE LEAGUE EDUCATION PROGRAM

Article by Al Herback, Little League Canada's National Coach

Teaching For Tomorrow LLC— Life Skills



It is hard to believe that it's August! How quickly summer is passing us by, and I'm sure in most areas you had

weather that hampered many games and events. The regular season has come and gone and we are now into all-stars and the completion of the championships.

Before writing the August newsletter, I would like to send along another suggestion sent to me about the 'frozen tag' warm-up. In the July newsletter an alternative for this exciting way of exercising prior to a game was to use traditional exercises. Why? Many times only 6 or 7 players attend a practice which makes it difficult to organize this warm-up. However, Dave in Edmonton never misses the value of 'frozen tag'. With the smaller number of players he makes the exercise area smaller and has only one coach or player 'it'. He said it works exactly the same as if you had 12 players, full area and two to three coaches or players 'it'. That makes great sense – give it a try!

My focus for this newsletter will be to discuss three of the 'life skills' in the program Teaching for Tomorrow: hustle, punctuality and commitment. Along with the baseball skills necessary to play the game, these life skills will be very important in helping to mold the lives of our children for the future. In subsequent newsletters I will focus on three or four others until all fourteen in the Learning the Game and Playing the Game programs have been included. I am hoping that through these articles the information will help you see the value of these 'life skills' as part of this program.

HUSTLE. While watching many games throughout a season which includes not only league games, but also playoffs and all-stars, I see that this is one 'life skill' that can be improved immediately

by simply making a few positive comments. The definition of hustle is to move hurriedly along or work busily and quickly. To hustle is one aspect of any game that all players are capable of achieving. Encourage players to move quickly to their respective positions in the field and to return at the same level of quickness when returning to the dugout to hit. It is always a good idea to hustle in and out of the dugout as a team.

It is also vital for players to run out any ball hit to the infield as their only challenge is to beat the throw to first base. Make a game out of any fly ball hit to the infield or outfield that appears to be an easy out. How far can you get down the baseline or maybe even around first base before the ball may be caught? Many times, players lazily go down the line and if the ball is dropped for an error, they barely get to first base and sometimes are not even successful doing that. Many great plays are made by players who are alert and who hustle. Not only does a team appear fit and ready to play baseball when they constantly hustle, but at times may force the other team into physical or mental mistakes as well. A hustling team is always a winner! I know that coaches have many ways of complimenting players and the following are just a few that I use from time to time. **"Great hustle to the dugout."** **"We appreciate the way you hustle from station to station. Thanks for remembering."** **"Your quickness made the other team make a mistake. Way to go!"** **"Remember kids, hustling will always keep you alert and in the game."**

PUNCTUALITY. With busy schedules, is very difficult for many parents to be punctual in their daily lives, which may become a real challenge for players who rely on one or both parents to get them to games and practices on time. As defined, to be punctual is to be prompt, arriving on time. It is important as a team, as often as possible, to begin on time and together warming up for practices and games. It is very difficult for players who arrive late to join into the flow of a practice. And definitely, they would not be ready mentally or physically to be a starting member of a game if they miss warming up. To be

on time for whatever reason is a very valuable life skill to teach children. Players and people in general rely on those who strive to be on time for a commitment and this is an asset in the future when pride is taken to be prompt and on time. The following are a couple of comments that can be used to encourage players to do their best to start as a team. I know that you will have no problem coming up with many more to have both parents and players work on being punctual. These compliments could be given as a team or to individuals. **"It is nice to see that you are always ready when it is your turn to bat!"** **"Thanks to all of you for being at practice early today. It is great to start on time as a team!"** **"Thank you all for hustling so well during our station changes today and don't forget tomorrow to be ready for our warm-up at 6:00."** **"If any of you need help getting here on time for our game tomorrow, just let me know and I will make arrangements with another family or I can pick you up."**

COMMITMENT. It takes a lot of effort on the part of a family to commit to the expectations of a team or other scheduled events in their hectic lives today. Commitment rates extremely high as a 'life skill' children must learn growing up and preparing for their future. It reminds us of the obligations we have to a team, to school or the workplace. It is important to encourage your players to do their best, be attentive and to work on skills as often as possible away from the regular practices. To honor those obligations are sometimes very difficult, but important. Commitment also teaches responsibility and respect for you, your teammates and coaches. Again, use your imagination when finding compliments for children and their commitment to their team. Here are a few that you may find useful. **"I don't think any of you missed a practice yet. Nice going team!"** **"Thanks for letting us know when you must miss a practice."** **"You're learning so fast. You must be practicing at home!"** **"I understand you didn't have a family ride to practice today. Catching a ride with your friend is a great sign of commit-**

Continued at the top of page 3

ment to the team! Thank you."

As a member of any sport team or other activities that children participate in today, the above life skills will prepare them well for their future. We cannot make it easy for them to opt out of an obligation without an important reason. With continued compliments to the

team or individuals, these skills can become a habit. In baseball/softball, there are many, many opportunities throughout a practice or game where one or all of the above can be used to make the children feel excited to be part of your team! Remember, children as well as adults appreciate compliments. Keep them coming!!!

Be one of Al's Pals. Send along an email with any questions, comments or a story you may have from your experience coaching a team this year. It would be great to hear from you. Contact me by email at al.herback@gmail.com.

HIS LAST LITTLE LEAGUE GAME

This article was sent in courtesy of Little League Mom, Charlotte D'Alessandro, from Little Mountain in Vancouver, B.C.

This is dedicated to all graduating 12-year-old Little Leaguers:

Today, my son played in his last Little League game. I wasn't there. Surgery kept me sidelined at home. But I asked his aunt, uncles and cousins to be there with him. And I was there in spirit.

I wasn't there physically to watch him play, but I could still imagine in my mind what the game was like; it was easy - I drew upon 8 years of memories, of watching him play countless games, from t-ball all the way up to Majors A. I imagined sitting in the stands with the other parents, watching my son step up to the plate, bat in hand, digging his feet in, kicking up a cloud of dirt. I imagined hearing the crack of the bat,

my voice yelling him to, "Go, Lorenzo, go!" I felt the anticipation as I held my breath while he stole home on a pass ball. I heard the ump calling, "Safe!", the crowd cheering, his teammates screaming, "Two out rally...!" I imagined the smell of cut grass and hot dogs grilling. And I imagined my son's smiling face back in the dug-out. I've seen these images before, repeated over and over again since he first stepped up to the tee at 5 years of age. But these images will never grow old, and I'll never forget them. I'll remember him diving for and catching a seemingly impossible fly ball in centre field, and knocking down a hard grounder and throwing the runner out at second. Each passing memory was like a stepping stone towards maturity. I've seen him strikeout many times too. At first, he was a little 6-year-old who used to cry about it, not accepting the outcome. Now, at 12, he just lifts his head, nods and walks confidently back

to the dug-out.

Today, my son, Lorenzo, played in his last Little League game. I wasn't there to watch him, but I watched my son grow up on the baseball field. He'll be moving on to new adventures in pee wee baseball next year, but, having spent his past 8 springs and summers in Little League, it will be hard to say good-bye to the familiar routine and friends he's made. But he's got a pocketful of memories and lessons learned.

If I close my eyes, I can see my son standing in the field, glove ready, willing to take on any ball that comes his way...

The Little League Pledge

I Trust In God
I Love My Country
And Will Respect It's
Laws
I will Play Fair
And Strive To Win
But Win Or Lose
I Will Always
Do My Best

YOU MAKE THE CALL...

Situation #1- With a runner on third, the pitcher starts his/her wind-up. Mid-way through his/her delivery...the batter steps out of the batter's box. The surprised hurler freezes in mid-stride and holds onto the ball. **IS THIS A BALK/ILLEGAL PITCH?**

Answer #1- 6.02(b). The ball is **dead** and **no balk/illegal pitch** shall be called. The batter may not step out after the pitcher starts his/her motion. Start over from "scratch."

Situation #2- Junior/Senior/Big League Baseball/Softball - Runner on first base, one out. Two strikes on the batter. The batter swings and misses...the catcher cannot hold onto the ball. The

batter takes off for first as the runner from first takes off for second. The catcher throws to the second baseman who tags the runner. The batter-runner ends up on first. **HOW MANY OUTS?**

Answer #2- 6.05(b)/7.08(c). There are three outs. The batter was out automatically because first base was occupied with less than two outs. The runner from first was out when tagged for the third out.

Situation #3- In a Little League Baseball Tournament game, James plays defense for three consecutive defensive outs in the top of the first inning. In the bottom of the first inning when James is scheduled to bat, the manager

requests time and substitutes John to bat for James. The opposing manager protests the substitution and the umpire agrees stating that James must bat to meet his mandatory play before being removed for a substitute. **True or False?**

Answer #3- Tournament Rule 10 c. - A starter does not have to meet mandatory play before being removed for a substitute but a substitute must meet the mandatory play requirements before being removed from the lineup.

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS NEEDED

From The Office of Little League Canada

Over the years, many different Little Leagues and Districts in Canada have sponsored children's baseball programs in third world countries, or even in more affluent countries where baseball is either a new sport or the area has been devastated by a natural disaster. Many of these efforts have been ad hoc in nature, dependent upon the interest and access of a local volunteer who travels often to the affected areas.

Here is a story of one local volunteer who is attempting to make this more than a casual arrangement.

Tropical Baseball "Volun-Cheer" Tours

How do you make sure your Little Leaguer enjoys your next family vacation to the tropics?

"Let them play baseball," Kevin Murphy of Boulevard Travel* would tell you.

Mr. Murphy is part of a movement to offer families 'full-bodied' vacations to beach destinations in developing countries. These vacation packages would combine programs allowing vacationing children to play ball with local Little Leaguers, attend local professional games with their families, and be given the opportunity to volunteer with charities working in local slum areas. They would bring baseball to marginalized groups of children who wouldn't normally have access to the game, all while enjoying all-inclusive luxury accommodation at the end of each day.

Mr. Murphy has specialized in both sports team travel packages and volunteer travel packages in the past. This is the first time he's ever been asked to combine the two.

The idea was the brainchild of Todd Enquist, a veteran volunteer aid worker**, and an expert on travel in developing countries. He is also a Baseball Canada certified baseball coach. He calls it, "*Baseball Volun-Cheering*".

Todd recently went on a sample trip with his own ten-year-old son, Riki, to

the beautiful Mexican beach town of Progreso Yucatan.

...the glorious game of baseball itself turned out to be an international language...

On consecutive days of their Mexican baseball adventure, Riki practiced and played with a local Little League club called the Chicxulub Navigantes (Navigators). Riki took batting practice with them one day and played left field the following day in a game against a neighbouring village. Although Riki didn't speak a word of Spanish at the on-set, the glorious game of baseball itself turned out to be an international language.

In the evenings, Todd and Riki attended Yucatan Leones (Lions) games. The Leones are the professional Mexican League team based in nearby Merida. They play out of a twelve thousand seat stadium packed with colourful fans, entertaining and uniquely Mexican sideline diversions, and curious but delicious stadium food. They also play some pretty good ball. The Leones won the Mexican League championship two years earlier and are perennial contenders, so the product on the field was tremendously entertaining for both father and son.

...for the benefit of impoverished children who otherwise could not afford to participate in our great game...

Todd and Riki joined a local food bank official for a tour through the ramshackle neighbourhood they serve and visited with a ten-year-old local boy named Gasbar and his mother.

"They invited us inside and made us feel right at home," recalls Todd, "The boy's mother even gave my son one of the hand-made souvenir shell statues she makes for the vendors in Progreso who sell them to tourists."

After the visit, Todd and the official discussed how future volunteers could participate in the distribution of food hampers or the repair and construction of safe homes for particularly impoverished families. When asked whether slum-kids like Gasbar played baseball,

Todd was told that most of the families could barely afford a decent pair of shoes, let alone a baseball glove.

"I guess the most heart breaking part," said Todd, "Is that the ball diamond is adjacent to the slum. Only two or three blocks away from Gasbar's house."

Capitalizing on his connections with local charities, Todd would like to use his *Baseball Volun-Cheer* model to bring complete team-size sets of donated equipment with him on future *Baseball Volun-Cheer* tours to set-up and equip local baseball programs for the benefit of impoverished children who otherwise could not afford to participate in our great game.

...Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic...

"I believe the *Baseball Volun-Cheer* model will work in a variety of popular Caribbean beach vacation markets and, when I say 'work', I mean work for everybody; not only ensuring its own sustainability by making money for investors, but also helping impoverished children, helping local charities, bringing better coaching to local Little Leaguers, and providing baseball families with a tremendously satisfying, enjoyable, and fulfilling vacation experience like no other," says Todd.

"We need people to step forward," says the plan's visionary. "People who are willing to take a chance, people who want to create something larger than themselves. Someone who is willing to invest in the program's future success."

Todd can be contacted by email: todd@carpenters4cambodia.org
Or through the website: carpenters4cambodia.org

To watch a fun little video of Todd & Riki's baseball adventure go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wp_CYsXo-O

*Boulevard Travel is a major tour and travel company based in Calgary, Alberta; an area that supports a professional Golden League team, a collegiate summer league team and has a flourishing network of leagues for local chil-

dren's baseball as well as state-of-the-art development programs for coaches through Baseball Canada. Few people know that both Alex Rodriguez and Edgar Martinez played in Calgary during the formative years of their careers. **Todd Enquist is the founder and director general of Carpenters4Cambodia

dia a registered Canadian charity that completes one school or orphanage construction project per year in Cambodia (carpenters4cambodia.com) He also serves on the board of another Alberta charity that has built over 40 schools and orphanages around the world and supports countless others

(fortheloveofchildrensociety.org). Todd Enquist is also a Baseball Canada certified coach, taught baseball to kids at home and around the world for several years, and has worked in the travel industry for over twenty years.



Riki at bat for the Navigantes. (The local diamond was pretty rough but some-one still cut the grass and that's all these kids need.)



Yucatan Leones home stadium in Merida. Mexican League ball is a feast for the senses.



Gasbar, Riki & some pals. Sadly, baseball is considered a game for rich kids. And these ain't rich kids.



Typical homes in the slum area where Gasbar lives.



One of the food guys at the game.



The home team needs a big rally.



Riki channelling an ancient Mayan priest-king.



Check out a fun little video of the Baseball Volun-Cheer sample trip at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wp-CYsXo-0>

The Little League Parent / Volunteer Pledge:

I will teach all 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

THE NDG LYNX AT THE QUEBEC JUNIOR LITTLE LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Information provided by James Rankine, VP Admin, NDG Baseball

All photos by Joel Silverstein, check out his website at <http://jpicstudio.com/>

At the Quebec Junior Little League Championships held in Brossard Quebec recently, the NDG Lynx beat Drummondville 16-0 in the final game to advance to the Canadian Championships in Lethbridge, Alberta Aug 6-12.

Coaching staff Carey Ashton, David Goldberg and Jan Sauve-Frankel are going to their 6th Nationals in 7 years.

Head coach Carey Ashton, who suffers from Muscular Dystrophy, coaches from

a wheelchair and is a bit of a celebrity in the NDG area. Before Carey came on board, NDG had never gone to a National tournament in it's 40 year history. Since Carey has coached competitive teams, his practice methodology has been passed down to the other coaches in the NDG organization, and since then NDG has made nine National appearances with three different coaching staffs.

Here are a few web sites to check out concerning the Championship game, coach Carey Ashton, and the NDG web site.

Photo Gallery - Quebec Junior Team - NDG Lynx - Provincial Championship - Brossard, QC
<http://jpicstudio.com/NDGBaseballJuniorLynxProvincials2010/>

Carey Ashton Bio web site:
<http://ndgbaseball.org/careyashton.htm>

Junior Provincial Web site:
http://ndgbaseball.org/provincials_2010/junior_provincials_2010.htm

NDG Baseball Web site (includes web sites of all Quebec Provincials)
<http://ndgbaseball.org/>



Head coach Carey Ashton in pre-game pep-talk with #60 Raffael Zapata



#27 Jake Titleman looks on with umpire as #60 Raffael Zapata attempts to apply tag on Drummondville Dodgers baserunner



NDG Junior Lynx player Alexis Vargas motoring around third base to score during the championship game against Drummondville



Little League Quebec President Serge Seguin congratulates NDG Junior Lynx players after beating Drummondville 16-0 in finals

DROPPED INFIELD FLY... WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IS ANYONE'S GUESS

Article taken from the *Little League International publication "Fairball"*

By Stephen Meyer, *Umpire In Chief, Little League Canada*

If you look up the word "chaos" in a dictionary you will find various definitions. However, one common thread includes disorder or a state of utter confusion.

In the game of baseball, the term chaos is very simple...a dropped infield fly.

Picture this situation.

Bases loaded, none out. Batter hits a high pop up to the area behind the pitcher. The umpires clearly call out "infield fly, batter is out!" The shortstop and second baseman cross their signals, bump, and the ball drops to the ground. All of the fans of the team up to bat start screaming for the batter to run. Of course the batter starts to run toward first base. The runner on first, seeing the batter-runner advancing, starts toward 2nd base. This domino effect continues until you have four runners running around the bases, a ball on the ground, and a lot of people yelling to run, or to tag the runner, or to go back.

The second baseman picks up the ball and races toward second base in an attempt to beat the runner. The fielder touches the base just before the runner slides in. No tag was attempted or made. The base umpire calls the runner safe. Now there has been a run

scored, and there are runners standing on every base.

All of this occurs in about 10 seconds. That is definitely something that I would consider chaotic. I have seen this occur in local league play, as well as at higher levels of tournament play.

So what is an infield fly? Think of the infield fly as a chain. All of the links below must be in place for there to be an infield fly. Remove any of these 'links', and the infield fly is not possible.

- Less than 2 out.
- Runners on 1st and 2nd base or runners at 1st, 2nd, and 3rd base.
- It must be a fair ball.
- The ball must be a fly ball...not a line drive, and it cannot be a bunted ball.
- The ball must be catchable with **ordinary** effort by an infielder.

Remember that when an infield fly situation is possible, the umpires working on the field should signal each other be aware of this potential. This is done before the pitcher delivers the ball. The signal is simply the right hand coming across and touching the left side of the chest. This is a great non-verbal way to communicate to your partner.

Once the ball is hit, the umpires have only a second or two to determine if all of these criteria have been met. If they have, then the umpires should point into the air with their right hand, and declare "infield fly, the batter is out!" This needs to occur when the ball is at its apex, or at its highest point.

As soon as that happens, the batter is out, even if the ball falls to the ground. With the batter out, the force play is removed on all of the other runners on base. Therefore, in order to put any runners out, they must be tagged while off of the base. Simply tagging the base will not do. If the ball is caught, the batter is still out, and runners have to tag up.

So this chaos is really caused when that ball drops to the ground. People, forgetting that the umpires declared the batter out just moments earlier, see the ball touch the ground, and assume that the batter must run. This creates this domino effect of runners running. Because the batter-runner is running to first, a lot of people assume that there is still a force play. This is incorrect. I have seen umpires make two different mistakes in this situation. First, they would incorrectly declare the runner at second base out on the force play, and second, they would allow the batter-runner to remain on first base. It is critical to remember that the batter is out, no matter what happens to the ball, once an infield fly is declared. The intent of the infield fly rule is to **protect** the offense from getting into a double or triple play. It is not meant as a penalty to the batter, nor is it meant as an automatic out for the defense. Remember that even the simplest of plays can create a chaotic event. Understanding the rules and their intent is one way to help to keep chaos out of the equation.

Have a great season.

YOU MAKE THE CALL...AGAIN!

Situation #1- In a Little League Baseball Tournament game, Charles plays the position of catcher for three innings. In the fourth inning Charles takes the mound as the pitcher and pitches the fourth and fifth inning, throwing 35 pitches. In the sixth inning Pete replaces Charles as the pitcher and Charles returns to the position of catcher. The opposing manager protests Charles' move back to catcher but the umpire says the move is legal.
True or False?

Answer- True – Tournament Rule 4 – Regulation VI (a) Exception – Since Charles did not play the position of catcher for four (4) or more innings he was eligible to go in and pitch. Since Charles did not throw 41 or more pitches as a pitcher, he is eligible to return to the position of catcher.

Situation # 2- In a Little League Tournament game, William pitches three (3) innings and throws Fifty-seven (57) pitches. When the fourth inning starts the manager has removed William from

the mound and placed him at the shortstop position. In the sixth inning the manager returns William to the mound to finish the game. The umpire allows this since William did not reach his maximum pitch count total of eighty-five (85) pitches before being removed from the mound.

True or False?

Answer- False – Tournament Rule 4 c. – Pitchers once removed from the mound may not return as a pitcher.

LITTLE LEAGUE CANADA BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL 2010 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Baseball

Major (Little League):

World Series: August 20-29 Williamsport, Pennsylvania
 Canadian Championship: August 7-14 Ancaster, Ontario
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: Winner, Glace Bay LL
 Quebec: Winner, NDG LL
 Ontario: Winner, Windsor South Canadians LL
 Prairies: Winner, Calgary Rocky Mountain LL
 British Columbia: Winner, Little Mountain LL

Junior:

World Series: August 15-21 Taylor, Michigan
 Canadian Championship: August 6-12 Lethbridge, Alberta
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: Winner, Sydney Mines and District LL
 Quebec: Winner, NDG LL
 Ontario: Winner, Orleans LL
 Prairies: Winner, Medicine Hat LL
 British Columbia: Winner, Coquitlam LL

Senior:

World Series: August 15-21 Bangor, Maine
 Canadian Championship: August 7-12 St. John, New Brunswick
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: Host: Saint John LL
 Quebec: Winner, Valleyfield LL
 Ontario: Winner, Cornwall LL
 Prairies: Winner, East Park LL
 British Columbia: Winner, D5 BC

Big League:

World Series: Winner, Puerto Rico
 Canadian Championship: Winner, D1 Cape Breton
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: Winner, D1 Cape Breton
 Quebec: Winner, D2 Valleyfield
 Ontario: Winner, D5 Windsor
 Prairies: Winner, D3 Calgary
 British Columbia: Winner D3, Fraser Valley

Softball

Major (Little League):

World Series: August 12-18 Portland, Oregon
 Canadian Championship: August 5-9 Victoria, BC
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: TBD
 Ontario: TBD
 British Columbia: TBD

Junior:

World Series: August 15-21 Kirkland, Washington
 Canadian Championship: August 7-12 Oyen, Alberta
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: TBD
 Ontario: TBD
 British Columbia: TBD

Senior:

World Series: August 8-14 Lower Sussex, Delaware
 Canadian Championship: None
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: None
 Ontario: None
 British Columbia: None

Big League:

World Series: August 5-11 Kalamazoo, Michigan
 Canadian Championship: None
 Divisionals:
 Atlantic: None
 Ontario: None
 British Columbia: None

If anyone has information that can help to fill in the blanks...dates, District or League hosts, for any of the above, please email me with the details so I can update this page...thestretch@littleleague.ca





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For a membership application form, please contact Little League Canada at Canada@littleleague.org.

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