

Experience true baseball



Ted Williams League
P.O. Box 1127
Pembroke, MA 02359
781.293.2700
tedwilliamsleague.com
Headquarters in Hanson, Mass.

Contact: Michael Farley
617.733.6702
tedwilliamsleague@yahoo.com

TED WILLIAMS LEAGUE FACT SHEET

- A nonprofit youth and adult baseball league founded in 1997 by Steve Ferroli. The league was established in agreement with former Boston Red Sox great and hall-of-famer Ted Williams, who named Steve the number one teacher of Ted's world-famous hitting theory. The idea was conceived during Steve's 10-year study driven by his college background in physical education, and his passion for baseball and teaching children. Steve concluded that several youth field and equipment dimensions were not in scale and must be changed. Together, Steve and Ted felt obligated to respond. The result is the Ted Williams League, an innovative league promoting player development, safety, and appropriate challenge without the politics associated with traditional formats.
- Players are assigned to divisions and teams by ability rather than the customary age-based draft, resulting in balanced teams and more competitive games.
- Three home plate sizes along with baseline and pitching distances not found in other leagues combine to create an appropriate challenge resulting in more hitting and playmaking on fields suited to each division's skill level. Home plates properly sized for the shorter arms and bats in the younger divisions have resulted in 48 percent less hit batsmen. Pitchers alleviate arm strain by focusing on control. The standard plate is used in the league's highest division.
- No cases of Little League elbow (LLE), a common overuse injury associated with other league formats. Younger divisions have smaller baseballs sized and weighted for young arms. Pitchers throw from a flat surface instead of a mound until they reach the league's highest division. Curveballs are subject to the shave rule, meaning that players are generally prohibited from throwing curveballs until old enough to shave.

- No player sits for more than one inning at a time. Players rotate onto the field and play a different position after each at-bat in the younger divisions. Exceptions are pitcher, catcher, and first base, which all have a skill level requirement. Higher divisions use a platoon system.
- All players on a team hit from a locked batting lineup that continues from where it ended the previous game, resulting in a fairly equal number of at-bats for each player.
- For all teams, playoffs followed by a league tournament that replaces the traditional all-star system and the politics often associated with it.
- A speed-up rule to help balance playing opportunity in one-sided games.
- Rules that give the batter the choice to continue an at-bat for a chance to hit instead of accepting a walk or hit-by-pitch.
- Floating coaching system that emphasizes fundamentals over winning.
- Offers six divisions based on skill level for children 5 years old and up. Historically, 80 percent of all players end up in the skill division associated with their average age group. Players participate in a two-hour evaluation before being assigned to a team. Teams in each division play 10 games (two games per week) with playoffs during an April through June schedule.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Average Age</u>
Rookie/Splinter	5-6
Kid	7-8
Thumper	9-10
A	11-13
AA2	14-15
AA	16 and up

- Coaches, umpires, and scorekeepers are certified by division standards and compensated for their services.
- Strict rules against all types of poor sportsmanship exhibited by players, officials, coaches, and fans.