

Baseball Australia Little League Invitational Tournament

The tournament previously known as the Div II Little League National Championships has undergone a review by Baseball Australia.

Baseball Australia will rebrand this event to be named the Little League Invitational Tournament. The intent is to avoid placing such an emphasis on winning, instead participation, creating opportunities and to support successful implementation of Little League at the club and association level. Therefore, teams will not win their way through to this National level event, instead charters will be invited to participate based on a set of criteria related to the implementation of charter development strategies.

The criteria will be assessed by the Baseball QLD Game Development Manager with support from a new Little League working group, yet to be established.

The applicable criteria will be:

- QLD Charters who enter a team in the Div II or Div III Little League State Titles (no Div I charter teams are eligible). Need to nominate interest when registering a team for the QLD Championships (Invitational). (Assessment weight = 1)
- Any QLD Charter new to Little League will have a greater importance for attendance. New charters will be classified as a newly formed charter and in the first year of operation (Assessment weight = 3)
- Any QLD Charter that has not attended a Little League National Championship to date. This refers specifically to charters that have never attended LLD2 - Division 1 attendees aren't considered to be part of this criteria (Assessment weight = 2).
- The QLD Charter with the most year-on-year membership growth in League age 9 – 12 year-old players registered on the database at the time of the assessment. This refers to data and growth collected from the previous and then current year (Assessment weight = 1).
- Team roster utilises the maximum roster size (Assessment weight = 3), minimum roster size (Assessment weight = 1)
- Potential for future inclusion in assessment - Umpires allocate points (not for their own allocated team) at the end of the Championships based on sportsmanship, behaviours, conduct from all players and coaches (Assessment weight = 3 points, 2 points, 1 point)

The QLD Charters assessed with the highest score ratings will be invited to participate, Queensland currently have received two invitations to the Little League Invitational Tournament for 2025.

Baseball Australia determines the number of teams allocated to each state annually. This allocation is subject to change based on criteria set by Baseball Australia.

The BQ Game Development Manager will oversee the outlined criteria and invite regions based on their merit against these criteria via email. Initially, an expression of interest will be sent to regions to confirm their interest and availability. This will be followed by a formal letter of acceptance, which regions must sign and return to Baseball Queensland for documentation purposes.

Regions may submit applications and express interest outside of these invitations by providing a case based on the outlined criteria. These submissions will be considered; however, selection for the National Program will primarily depend on how regions are evaluated against the criteria.

If a region declines to participate, the next highest-ranked region, based on the criteria and weighting scores, will receive an invitation. In the case of discrepancies or tied scores, the final decision will rest with the Little League working group and BQ Game Development Manager.