



Building a brighter future through baseball and softball

Eric Wahlback
Parks and Recreation Director
Town of Belleair

October 9, 2013

Dear Eric,

I want to thank you and your staff from the town of Belleair for stepping forward and helping out with the issue of with children wishing to play baseball with Clearwater Little League. I hope the following information is helpful and allows for further discussions on what will benefit the children of Belleair.

A little history on Clearwater Little League (CLL). Clearwater Little League will be celebrating our 60th anniversary in February of 2014. CLL was established as a league in 1953, but had our first baseball player draft and season in Clearwater starting in the spring of 1954. The draft included players from the town of Belleair and surrounding area. As the area of Clearwater/Belleair grew in population CLL was split up into Smaller Leagues that continued to play at our 714 North Saturn way field location. There was Clearwater American, Clearwater National and sometimes Clearwater Central. Once the Countryside area started to grow out, a new league was established with the kids from the North area of Clearwater forming a new League called Countryside. Part of Clearwater Nationals kids were moved to Countryside and some others were sent to Safety Harbor.

The one constant boundary was the Town of Belleair and the kids from Clearwater Beach who would continue to play for Clearwater American Little League. Several years back (Some time in 98 or 99) the name was changed to just Clearwater Little League and the boundaries were set by District 12 and Little league International as they are now.

To understand the boundaries you need to look at Population. Clearwater Little League has a population of 18,985 according to little league international. This includes the Town of Belleair, parts of the City of Clearwater, unincorporated areas of Clearwater and Clearwater Beach. Please see boundary map attached.



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As most of Clearwater Little Leagues areas are built out, we do not see the boundaries for Clearwater Little League changing for the next 30 years.

Each Little League is responsible for drawing its own boundary map every year and having them approved by District 12 and Little League International for tournament play (see Attachment on Residency requirements). As the boundaries populations have been fixed by little league for all the surrounding leagues (Largo, West Pinellas, Dunedin, Safety Harbor and Clearwater) I do not see Clearwater Little League losing any children from the Town of Belleair to any other Leagues for the next 30 years.

1. Please see all attached district 12 boundary maps for your review.
2. As stated above the local leagues creates its boundaries based on population, our (CLL) population is set and should not change for the next 30 years. We will continue to keep the Town of Belleair within our boundary for next 30 years. There is no fear in losing your children's ability to play at Sid Lickton Sport Complex.
3. The numbers for Children playing at CLL just from the Town of Belleair for the last 5 years. Note the numbers presented here only reflect children who signed up at CLL using their Belleair address as their residency location. It has been suggested that some parents who have multiple properties use their Clearwater address as the location they register their children rather than their residency address in Belleair. CLL does its best to insure due diligence in insuring the players register at their home address, but with bills and proofs of ownership within the leagues boundaries it is sometimes hard to catch those who fudge the system, by having Grandma/Grandpa, Aunts/Uncle and other friends sign their children up to play.

With the newer requirements put forth by the city of Clearwater on Rec Cards, this issue may go away as the City will begin billing back parents who use others to get a valid City Rec Card.

- 2009 Spring and Fall Players 89
- 2010 Spring and Fall Players 57
- 2011 Spring and Fall Players 55
- 2012 Spring and Fall Players 35
- 2013 Spring and Fall Players 20



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As you can see the number of Children has gone down each year due to the Rec Card elevation in price. Fall 2012 and Spring and Fall 2013 have seen a larger drop off due to field closer at Sid Lickton for renovations and travel to Countryside for practices.

If we can solve the Rec Card issue we plan on having larges amounts of players from the Town of Belleair participate in our 2014 and beyond seasons.

I hope this information helps, let me know if I can assist you any further in the future.

John J. Murphy

John J. Murphy
President
Clearwater Little League