

# Little League®/Blue Sombrero Frequently Asked Questions



Beginning October 2016, Little League® International officially endorses Blue Sombrero as the recommended League Technology Platform for use by its leagues and districts. Blue Sombrero, is the core technology platform of DICK'S Team Sports HQ and the leading national provider of websites, registration, and league management tools for youth sports organizations.

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**Q: What is a League Technology Platform?**

**A:** A League Technology Platform is a system provided to League organizers to assist in the day-to-day tasks that a volunteer sees when planning and smoothly executing a sports season. Blue Sombrero provides Online Registration, Scheduling, Team Pages, Volunteer Management, and more to ensure that the time a volunteer has can be spent on the sport rather than the paperwork.

## Q: What is a Preferred League Technology Platform Provider?

A: A preferred league technology platform provider is a company that we can reliably endorse to our family of baseball and softball leagues across the country. The preferred status comes after an exhaustive due diligence process to ensure that Blue Sombrero's platform is a great fit for all Little League members.

Leagues can take advantage of features such as:

- **Online Registration** – Both players and volunteers can provide the needed information to participate in your organization
- **Custom League Website** – Blue Sombrero will provide a modern web platform that is custom Little League branded and user friendly for the tech-savvy as well as the beginner.
- **Scheduling Tools** – Allowing the scheduler to generate the needed schedule that will be provided at the league, team, and account levels for both season and end of season play.
- **Payment Collection** – The ability to reduce paperwork by collecting online payment. This ensures that record keeping is updated as payments arrive.
- **Communication Tools** – Bulk email tools for administrators to choose which groups and individuals to communicate with from within the system. Text notifications for on the fly updates. Coaches also get the ability to communicate with their teams and team volunteers through the team pages and mobile app.
- **Team & Volunteer Management** – Rostering players and associated volunteers to the teams they participate in, as well as tracking verified volunteers to ensure that only approved volunteers are used.
- **Reporting** – Access to standard reports and the ability to create and save your own custom reports. This means no more reinventing the wheel each time you need a report.

As Little League's Preferred League Technology Platform Provider, Blue Sombrero will be developing time-saving features not available in any other platform, including:

- **One-Click Roster Uploading** – Brief explanation needed.
- **Boundary Map Integration** – Brief explanation needed.

\*\* Anticipated availability: Fall of 2017.

**Q: Why does Little League endorse Blue Sombrero?**

**A:** Little League Baseball saw a need to provide guidance to our leagues and districts to help them determine which league technology platform providers offered the best quality features and support. Blue Sombrero's easy to use and innovative platform, used by hundreds of Little Leagues today, is also **100% FREE** for every Little League Baseball and Softball League. Not having a recurring technology expense for your website and registration service means more money back into your program for other league projects and needs. DICK'S Team Sports HQ's commitment to customizing certain features to Little League's requirements, ongoing development towards time-saving features for league administrators and offering community sponsorships and equipment donations were other important factors in our endorsement as well.

**Q: How much does it cost to use Blue Sombrero?**

**A:** Zero! Blue Sombrero used to be one of the most expensive sports technology providers, but is now 100% free thanks to DICK'S Sporting Goods. No hidden fees or contracts. If you choose to process online payments through our merchant account, there is a small, standard transaction fee.

**Q: Is my league required to use Blue Sombrero?**

**A:** No. Your league is not required to use Blue Sombrero. However, if you are currently searching for a league technology platform provider, interested in saving money and improving your league operations, or want to ensure you have the very best service for your league needs, then we highly recommend that you start your search by taking a look at DICK'S Team Sports HQ, powered by Blue Sombrero.

**Q: What is the difference between Blue Sombrero, DICK'S Sporting Goods, and DICK'S Team Sports HQ?**

**A:** Blue Sombrero joined the DICK'S Sporting Goods family of companies in 2012. It is the technology platform of DICK'S Team Sports HQ, an all-in-one service that equips youth leagues with everything they need to succeed including online registration, websites, league management tools, uniforms, FanWear, donations, and sponsorships.

**Q: What kind of customer support does Blue Sombrero offer?**

**A:** Blue Sombrero provides free, premium support to all league partners. Assistance is available by phone, email, and our [support site](#). The friendly support team can be reached by phone at (866) 258-3303 from 8AM - 6PM EST, Monday - Thursday and 8AM - 5PM, Friday. The team also provides helpful training videos, an on-screen support widget, and answers email tickets on the weekends!

**Q: Will Blue Sombrero assist me in converting my site over to their platform?**

**A:** We know it can seem challenging to switch providers so we've made it our mission to help get you up to speed quickly and make the transition as seamless as possible. While we will not actually copy and paste over your content, we will provide a dedicated Account Management Team to assist with training and onboarding, questions and best practices, helpful Getting Started tutorials and videos, and much more.

**Q: How can I find out more about Blue Sombrero?**

**A:** Visit <http://bluesombrero.com/littleleague> or call (866) 258-3772 to learn more or to schedule a demo.