

Junior League World Series championship game to start at 4 p.m. August 21

The championship game of the Junior League World Series will take place at 4 p.m. Saturday, August 21 – one hour earlier than usual.

The time change coincides with the television schedule, which will see the world championship game broadcast live on ESPN2.

In recent years, an ESPN crew has taped the annual final game at Taylor's Heritage Park for "future broadcast." Often, the game was played on a weekday up to two weeks after the actual game.

Last year, the game was broadcast live on ESPNU, which has a far limited reach compared to ESPN or ESPN2. The game also was rebroadcast later in August.

This year's championship game originally was announced as having a 2 p.m. start to accommodate ESPN. And now the game has moved to 4 p.m. with a live broadcast that could reach as many as 85 percent of U.S. cable TV subscribers, plus an international audience.

World Series Director Greg Bzura explained that ESPNU has standard contracts intended for college and some senior high school-age events. The Junior League World Series players are 13 and 14 – too young for the network.

"The exposure will be so much better on ESPN2," Bzura said. "But there will be no replay. The 4 p.m. starting time was necessary to juggle everything that happens that weekend."

Scheduled to do play by play on the broadcast is Al Pawlowski. The analyst will be Eduardo Perez.

Of course, those attending the championship game have a great chance to be on television. Admission to the Junior League World Series is just \$5 a carload per day – or \$10 for the entire week. Both prices include parking.