



GROVE CITY LITTLE LEAGUE® BASEBALL

THE CITY OF GROVE CITY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

614-277-3050 • Rain Line: 614-277-3060 • GroveCityOhio.gov • 3226 Kingston Ave., Grove City, OH 43123
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What must I bring to register for Little League® Baseball?

You will fill out a player registration form, so be prepared to provide child's birthday, uniform size and emergency contact information. You also need **proof of residency** (e.g., current utility bill, pay stub, bank statement, etc.) and **full payment fee**. For a first-time baseball player, bring the child's **birth certificate**, even if the child has participated in Grove City Parks and Recreation programs other than baseball. The registration form must be **signed by a legal guardian**.

Why are there two fee levels - "resident" and "non-resident"?

The Grove City Parks and Recreation Department and its programs receive financial support from property and income taxes collected within the City of Grove City and unincorporated areas of Jackson Township. In consideration of this, people living and working in these areas receive a discounted rate for youth sports and most other programs. Please note: a Grove City mailing address/ZIP code 43123, does NOT guarantee you live within corporation limits. If unsure, check your address at the Franklin County Auditors website: parcel numbers starting with 040 are in Grove City, 160 in Jackson Township and 161 in Urbancrest.

How old does my child need to be to participate?

A player must be a minimum of 5 years old on Aug. 31 to participate. Players who turn 18 before April 30 are not eligible. No exceptions are made. A child's birth certificate must be presented in order to register a player for the first time. A player has an option to select the league for players one year older, i.e. an 8 year old can play "up" in the Minor 9-10 league, but a 9 year old cannot play in the Major league designated for 11 and 12 year olds.

What are the age-based leagues?

The "aging date" for participants is set by Little League International® annually. For 2016, the player's "age" is based upon his/her age as of Aug. 31, 2016 for those born Sept. 1, 2005 or after. For players born Aug. 31, 2005 or earlier, the player's "age" is based upon his/her age on April 30, 2016.

- T-ball Age 5 Born: Sept. 1, 2010 - Aug. 31, 2011
- Minor 6 Age 6 Born: Sept. 1, 2009 - Aug. 31, 2010
- Minor 7-8 Age 7-8 Born: Sept. 1, 2007 - Aug. 31, 2009
- Minor 9-10 Ages 9-10 Born: May 1, 2005 - Aug. 31, 2007
- Major Ages 11-12 Born: May 1, 2003 - April 30, 2005
- Junior Ages 13-14 Born: May 1, 2001 - April 30, 2003
- Big Ages 15-17 Born: May 1, 1998 - April 30, 2001

I live outside the boundary. Can my child still play baseball in the Grove City program?

Children outside of the boundary are eligible to play in the Grove City Little League® Baseball League, but their application information has to be approved by the national Little League® organization. Players outside the boundary are not eligible to participate in any all-star teams representing the city in tournaments. A detailed map of the boundaries is accessible from the Youth Baseball page at www.GroveCityOhio.gov. *Please do not assume you are within the boundary if your ZIP code is 43123.*

How do I complete the Little League® waiver process?

Once registrants are identified as living outside the boundary, Grove City Parks and Recreation will collect pertinent information and send it through the appropriate channels. Parents should not contact Little League® directly.

Do you honor player requests?

It is the philosophy of the Grove City Parks and Recreation Department to treat all persons fairly and equally, including offering equal recreational baseball experiences for all leagues and teams. Adhering to this philosophy, there are three situations in which players may be automatically assigned to a team: (1) the head coach's child, (2) two assistant coaches' children and (3) the respective sponsor's child. Siblings playing in the same league will be placed together. **No other participant requests are accepted.**

Players not automatically assigned are chosen by coaches during the draft (Minor 9-10, Major, Big and Junior leagues) or are placed on teams by the Grove City Parks and Recreation Department (T-ball through Minor 7-8 leagues). Players who register late or miss observations are assigned to teams as openings arise.

How do I know which team my child is on?

The head coach of your child's team will call soon after that league's coaches' meeting. Coaches for T-ball through Minor 7-8 receive team rosters Wednesday, March 16. The coaches' meetings for the older leagues are Tuesday, March 22 and Wednesday, March 23. Your child may practice as soon as Monday, April 4.

Where will my child play?

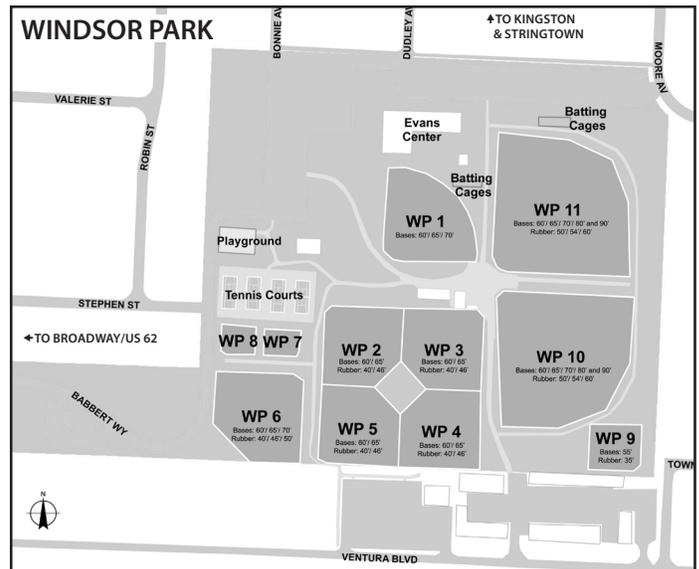
All Grove City Little League® Baseball games are played at the baseball complex at Windsor Park, 4408 Broadway/4330 Dudley Ave. Parking is accessible from the north from Bonnie, Dudley or Moore avenues; west from Babbert Way via Broadway; and south on Ventura Boulevard. **Be respectful when parking: do not block driveways, park on private property/in apartment complexes, etc.**

What are observations?

Players age 9 and older should attend the observation at Windsor Park on Saturday, March 19. Children of coaches and assistant coaches are not required to attend. Coaches and officials evaluate each child's baseball skill level. **No player is denied participation in the youth baseball program based on skill level.** The information is used during the coaches' meetings to select team members. Players should wear athletic clothing, bring a baseball mitt and be ready to practice pitching, throwing and fielding at the time designated for his/her league:

- Minor 9-10 (9-10): 12:45-1:45 p.m.
- Major (11-12): 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Junior (13-14): 10:15-11:15 a.m.
- Big (15-17): 9-10 a.m.

Cancellations are noted on the Weather Update Hotline at 614-277-3060, press 4-1 for the status of the Windsor Park fields.



What days will my child play?

Teams generally play **two games per week** on assigned days; if three days are shown for a league, each team will play on two of those three days. Makeup games are rescheduled for Saturdays. Practice and game days are subject to change based on the number of teams in each league, but are expected to follow this schedule:

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
T-ball	Game		Game		Game	
Minor 6		Game		Game	Game	
Minor 7-8	Game		Game		Game	Practice or Makeup Game
Minor 9-10	Game		Game			Practice or Makeup Game
Major		Game		Game		Practice or Makeup Game
Junior		Game		Game		Practice or Makeup Game
Big	Game		Game			Practice or Makeup Game

When will my child have practice?

Teams practice Monday, April 4 through Friday, May 6 on days corresponding to their game days. After Opening Day, T-ball and Minor 6 teams no longer practice; all other leagues practice on Saturdays, unless a makeup game is scheduled. Canceled practices are not rescheduled. Practice and game days are subject to change based on the number of teams in each league.

When does the season start and end?

Practices start the week of April 4 and are scheduled Monday through Saturday on various nights. Coaches receive practice schedules at the coaches' meeting. Opening Day is Saturday, May 7. The season length varies by league: generally ending in mid-to late-June for T-ball through Minor 7-8 and by July 1 for Minor 9-10 through Big League. All attempts are made to play games, but rainy/inclement weather can prolong the season or double-headers may be scheduled.

How do I know if a game/practice is canceled?

Cancellation information is recorded on the Weather Update/Information Line. Call 614-277-3060 then press 4-1 for Windsor Park's status. The message is updated at 4 p.m. on weekdays when conditions are questionable, 7 a.m. on weekends. The decision is made based on the current field conditions. Weather can change rapidly and storms often arise after this time, so check again before game time if there is a question. Additional sources of information include Twitter.com/GroveCityOhio and Facebook.com/GroveCityOhio.

How do I know which team my child is on?

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When is photo day?

Information regarding Photo Day will be available in early April.

Is it possible to exchange uniforms for a different size?

Uniforms are ordered immediately following the draft. Due to the time-sensitive nature of uniform ordering, exchanges cannot be honored (i.e. no team changes). **Please double check the size in order to be correct; there is sample clothing at registration.** If unsure, order the larger size. Uniforms consist of a Grove City baseball shirt, Minor League or Major League Baseball cap (depending on the league), socks and pants (spring/summer only). Sponsor names are placed on the back of each shirt. If the customer orders the wrong size, a new shirt can be ordered at the customer's expense, but this can take up to two weeks.

What equipment does my child need to play baseball?

Players receive a cap, uniform shirt, socks and pants (spring/summer only). Batting helmets, catching equipment and baseballs are provided by Parks and Recreation. Players provide their own mitts, batting gloves, bats and shoes (no cleats with metal spikes).

What size bat should I buy for my child?

Guidelines are established to ensure the safety of all participants. For more information including a list of unapproved bats, visit the Little League® bat resource page at www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm.

What is the Code of Conduct?

All participants, coaches, parents and spectators at Grove City Parks and Recreation programs are subject to comply with codes of conduct fostering the physical, social and emotional development of players and respect for all players, coaches, officials and spectators. Violations include use of abusive/profane language; mistreatment of Parks and Recreation equipment or property; taunting, humiliating or inciting confrontation with players, coaches, umpires/officials or spectators; and drug or alcohol possession or intoxication.

Anyone violating the code of conduct while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a sports event is subject to disciplinary action. Below is a basic outline of discipline. Other actions may be taken based on severity of the violation up to a permanent ban from Parks and Recreation programs.

- **1st offense:** verbal warning issued by the Sports Supervisor.
- **2nd offense:** one-game suspension issued by the Sports Supervisor.
- **3rd offense:** season-long suspension issued by the Sports Supervisor.

Zero Tolerance Policy: Grove City Parks and Recreation has adopted a zero tolerance policy for fighting, unauthorized entering of the field of play and other threatening behavior. Any player, coach, parent or other spectator who violates this policy is subject to immediate expulsion and a year suspension from Parks and Recreation sporting events.

How are the all-star teams chosen?

Affiliation with Little League Baseball® grants Grove City the ability to send representative all-star teams to participate in Little League® tournaments. All-star teams will be selected from players from the Major and Minor 9-10 teams. Players must live inside the Little League® boundary to be selected. To be eligible for an all-star team, a player must participate in a minimum of 60% of his/her team's regular season games before June 15.

COACHES

How do I become a coach?

If you would like to participate as a coach in our program, fill out a volunteer coach application available in the Grove City Parks and Recreation Office in City Hall and online on the Youth Baseball page. Coaches are subject to a background check. Once approved as a coach and before the player draft, you must take online training for coaches through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) at www.nays.org/Coaches/Nysca_Online.cfm. Youth coaches in Ohio also must complete a concussion education program, available via free online programs from the National Federation of State High School Associations and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Heads Up Concussion in Youth Sports).

What am I required to do as a coach?

Coaches are expected to attend both observations and the player draft for their age groups, and to attend a coaches' meeting on the appropriate date (see below). Coaches are responsible for teaching the fundamentals of the game and sportsmanship to players. They organize their teams including calling their players after the coaches' meeting, and distribute uniforms and other materials as needed (schedules, photo ordering packets, etc.). They also are responsible for keeping books recording player participation and game scores.

When are the mandatory coaches' meetings?

Head coaches are required to attend meetings corresponding to the league(s) in which they are coaching as well as player observations, if appropriate.

- Coaches for T-ball, Minor 6 and Minor 7-8 meet at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 16 in City Hall to receive their team rosters. Teams are selected by Grove City Parks and Recreation staff.
- Coaches for Minor 9-10 and Major leagues attend observations at Windsor Park from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (Major) or 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. (Minor 9-10), Saturday, March 19. They meet at 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 23 in City Hall to draft their teams.
- Coaches for Junior and Big leagues attend observations at Windsor Park from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. (Junior) or 8 to 9 a.m. (Big), Saturday, March 19. They meet at 6 p.m., Tuesday, March 22 in City Hall to draft their teams.

Are coaches required to be NYSCA certified?

Yes! All head coaches are required to be certified through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA), which provides volunteer coaches an online website to earn certification at home. The initial certification fee is \$25. **Coaches who bring in a receipt or membership card to the Parks and Recreation office are issued a credit in that amount as reimbursement.** Visit www.nays.org/nyscaonlineclinics. In order to pick up uniforms, head coaches must show proof of certification.

I want to be an assistant coach. Are my requirements different?

Any adult who helps on the field is considered an assistant coach. All assistant coaches on the field must complete the background check process. Assistants are not required to complete the NYSCA certification process. Head coaches may choose up to two assistants.