



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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2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I need to register for Little League® Baseball?

Registration information includes the child's birthday, uniform size and emergency contact information. You also need **full payment fee** and, to qualify for the lower fee level, **proof of residency/local tax payment** (e.g., address within corporation limits, pay stub, etc.). For a first-time baseball player, the child's **birth certificate** must be shown (e.g., scan and email) even if he/she has participated in Grove City Parks and Recreation (GCPR) programs other than baseball. Complete all fields as fully and accurately as possible as it is used to balance teams. Please share information important for GCPR to know such as allergies, behavior issues and restraining orders on non-custodial parents. Parents and players also are required to review information related to the GCPR code of conduct, youth concussions and sudden cardiac arrest (sign off required).

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

GCPR 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 paying income taxes in these areas receive a discounted rate for youth sports and most other programs. Please note: 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?

All players must be born between May 1, 2004, and Aug. 31, 2016. No exceptions are made. A player must be a minimum of 5 years old on Aug. 31 to participate. Players who turn 18 on or before April 30 are not eligible. A child's birth certificate must be presented in order to register a player for the first time. For ages 3 and 4, GCPR partners with Bally Sports to offer the introductory Little Sluggers T-ball program on Fridays starting in May; visit BallySportsGroup.com for details.

What are the leagues based on age?

The "aging date" for participants is set by Little League International® annually. For 2021, the player's "age" is based upon his/her age as of **Aug. 31, 2021**. A player has an option to select the league for players one year older; i.e., a 10 year old can play "up" in the Major league, but an 11 year old cannot play in the Junior league designated for 13 and 14 year olds. Leagues may be combined or separated based on number of participants.

- T-ball Age 5 Born: Sept. 1, 2015 - Aug. 31, 2016
- Minor 6 Age 6 Born: Sept. 1, 2014 - Aug. 31, 2015
- Minor 7-8 Age 7-8 Born: Sept. 1, 2012 - Aug. 31, 2014
- Minor 9 Age 9 Born: Sept. 1, 2011 - Aug. 31, 2012
- Minor 10 Ages 10 Born: Sept. 1, 2010 - Aug. 31, 2011
- Major Ages 11-12 Born: Sept. 1, 2008 - Aug. 31, 2010
- Junior Ages 13-14 Born: Sept. 1, 2006 - Aug. 31, 2008
- Big Ages 15-17 Born: May 1, 2004 - Aug. 31, 2006

I live outside the Little League® 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; however these players are not eligible to participate on all-star teams representing the city in tournaments. A detailed map of the boundaries is accessible on the Youth Baseball page at GroveCityOhio.gov. *Please do not assume you are within the boundary if your ZIP code is 43123.*

Do you honor player requests?

It is the philosophy of GCPR to treat all persons fairly and equally, including a goal of offering equal recreational baseball experiences for all leagues and teams. Adhering to this philosophy, there are only 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.**

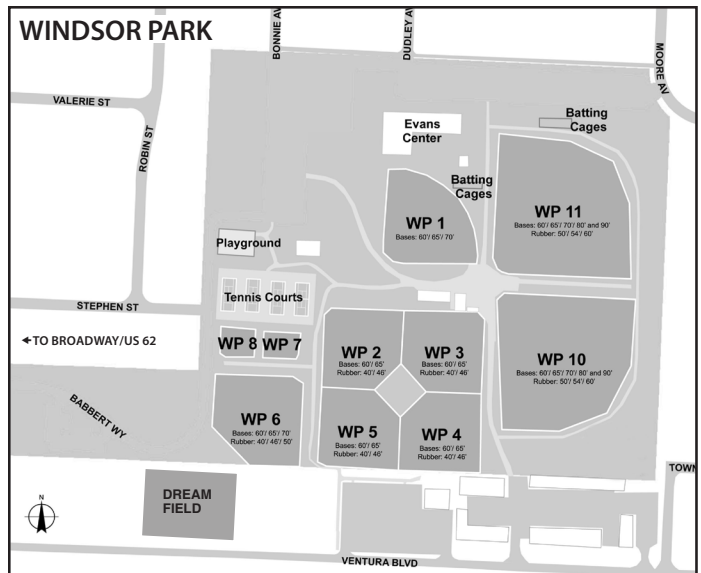
Players not automatically assigned are chosen by coaches during the draft (Minor 7-8, Minor 9, Minor 10, Major, Big and Junior leagues) or are placed on teams by the GCPR (T-ball through Minor 6 leagues). Players who register late or miss observations are assigned to teams as openings arise.

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. **Please be prepared to answer a call from a number you do not recognize or have space available on your voicemail for the coach to leave a message.** Coaches for T-ball through Minor 7-8 receive team rosters Thursday, March 11. The coaches' meetings for the older leagues are Tuesday, March 16. Your child may practice as soon as Monday, March 29.

Where will my child play?

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. Overflow games or practices may be held at Fryer Park, 3899 Orders Road. **Be respectful when parking: do not block driveways, park on private property/in apartment complexes, etc.**



What are observations?

Players participating in Minor 9 through Big leagues should attend observations at Windsor Park, [Saturday, March 13](#). 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 and 10 (ages 9-10): noon
- Major (ages 11-12): 11 a.m.
- Junior (ages 13-14): 10 a.m.
- Big (ages 15-17): 9 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. If field/weather conditions are not suitable for observations, they will be held indoors at the Grove City High School Rec. Center, 4665 Hoover Road.

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. Canceled 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			
Minor 6		Game		Game		
Minor 7-8		Game		Game	Game	Practice or Makeup Game
Minor 9	Game		Game		Game	Practice or Makeup Game
Minor 10	Game		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, March 29](#) through [Thursday, April 29](#) 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 [March 29](#) and are scheduled Monday through Friday evenings and Saturday days. Coaches receive practice schedules at the coaches’ meeting. A special season opening festival is [Friday, April 30](#) and the first games are played on [Saturday, May 1](#). 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 through Big League. All attempts are made to play games, but rainy/inclement weather can prolong the season or result in double-headers.

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 in the early evening, so check again before game time if there is a question. Additional sources of information include [Twitter.com/GroveCityOhio](#) and [Facebook.com/GroveCityOhio](#).

When is photo day?

Information regarding Photo Day will be available in mid-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.** 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) and socks, as well as pants in spring/summer. 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 and socks as well as pants for spring/summer league. Batting helmets, catching equipment and baseballs are provided by GCPR. Players provide their own mitts, batting gloves, USA Baseball-certified 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. Little League® adheres to USA Baseball®'s Bat Standards. There are no exceptions. Approved bats are marked with the USA Baseball® logo. For more information, visit LittleLeague.org/batinfo. Find a list of approved bats at USAbat.com.

****USA Baseball bat standards are in place for all Little League® affiliates. Please review the requirements carefully before buying a bat, especially on clearance, as older bats marked with the Little League®-approved seal may NOT be legal.**



What is the Code of Conduct?

All participants, coaches, officials, parents and other spectators at GCPR programs are required 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 or gestures including racist, religious or sexual slurs; mistreatment of GCPR equipment or property; taunting, humiliating (e.g., "making fun" of players of lesser abilities) or inciting confrontation with players, coaches, umpires/officials or spectators; and drug or alcohol possession or intoxication.

Anyone violating the codes of conduct while attending, coaching, officiating or participating in a sports event is subject to disciplinary action. Below is a basic outline of discipline; GCPR reserves the right adjust discipline on a case-by-case basis. Other actions may be taken based on severity of the violation up to a permanent ban from GCPR 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 one-year suspension from GCPR sporting events.

All participants, officials and spectators are expected to comply with all parks regulations both posted and as detailed in Grove City code, chapter 903.

LITTLE LEAGUE® ALL-STAR TEAMS

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 are selected from players from the Major and Minor 9 and 10 teams. Coaches will nominate potential all-star players from their teams. Those players who are eligible will participate in a tryout evaluated by Grove City Little League® Board Members, who then choose team members. Players must live inside the Little League® boundary to be selected. To be considered, a player must prove eligibility by **Monday, May 17**. To play for an all-star team, a player must participate in a minimum of 60% of his/her team's regular season games before June 14.

How is eligibility established for players for the all-star teams?

To indicate interest and streamline the establishment of eligibility for the all-star teams, any player interested in participating should complete the Little League® Baseball and Softball School Enrollment form and return it to the Parks and Recreation Office by **Monday, May 17**. If the player resides within the boundary, but is home-schooled or attends a school outside of the boundary, a completed Little League® Baseball and Softball Tournament Player Verification form must be submitted with appropriate documents proving residency.

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 GCPR Office in the Kingston Center and online on the Youth Baseball web page. Coaches must be at least 18 years of age and pass a background check. Once approved as a coach and before the player draft, a coach must take online training for coaches through the National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA) at www.nays.org/coaches. 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), as well as training in sudden cardiac arrest per Lyndsay's Law through the Ohio Department of Health.

Do I need any other training?

Grove City is offering a special Coaches' Clinic to help youth volunteer baseball coaches featuring members of the coaching staffs from Grove City and Central Crossing high schools. This clinic is optional, but you are encouraged to attend, especially if new to the role. The clinic is scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon, **Saturday, March 6**, in the gym at the Kingston Center, 3226 Kingston Ave.

What am I required to do as a coach?

Coaches are expected to attend observations and the player draft for their age groups, and to attend a coaches' meeting on the appropriate date (see below). Coaches should serve as positive role models and are responsible for teaching the fundamentals of the game and good sportsmanship to players. They organize their teams including contacting their players after the coaches' meeting, and distribute uniforms and other materials as needed (schedules, forms, photo ordering packets, etc.). They also are responsible for keeping books that record player participation including pitch counts 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 and Minor 6

- Receive team rosters: 6 p.m., **Thursday, March 11**. Teams are selected by GCPR staff.

Coaches for Minor 7-8

- Receive team rosters: 6 p.m., **Thursday, March 11**.

Coaches for Minor 9, Minor 10 and Major leagues

- Observations: **Saturday, March 13**
 - Major: 11 a.m.
 - Minor 9 & 10: noon
- Draft of teams: 6 p.m., **Tuesday, March 16**

Coaches for Junior and Big leagues

- Observations: **Saturday, March 13**
 - Junior: 10 a.m.
 - Big: 9 a.m.
- Draft of teams: 6 p.m., **Tuesday, March 16**

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/coaches. 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 must complete the background check process.** Assistants are not required to complete the NYSCA certification process. Head coaches may choose up to two assistants.

What disqualifies a person from being a coach?

An application is not considered from a person who has any criminal conviction at any time that is deemed to be of such nature as to cause damage to the effectiveness of the City of Grove City. Additionally, a volunteer applicant with criminal convictions is not considered for the following durations:

- **Permanent:** any sexual crime or felony drug or violence conviction
- **10 years:** other felonies and multiple misdemeanor drug or alcohol convictions
- **Seven years:** misdemeanor violence
- **Five years:** misdemeanor potential danger to children or drug or alcohol convictions including OVI

The Grove City Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to reject a coaching applicant for any reason including past violations of the Code of Conduct.

