



GROVE CITY LITTLE LEAGUE® BASEBALL

THE CITY OF GROVE CITY PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

614-277-3050 • Weather Line: 614-277-3060 • GroveCityOhio.gov • 3226 Kingston Ave., Grove City, OH 43123
facebook.com/GroveCityParks • twitter.com/GroveCityOhio • instagram.com/GroveCityParks



2021 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I need to register for youth 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.

Do you provide refunds?

A request for refund must be made in writing. Refunds are granted at the discretion of the Director of Parks and Recreation. In general, a registrant may receive a full refund if requested before uniforms are ordered, and a refund minus the cost of the uniform if requested before games begin, but after uniforms are ordered. No refunds are granted once games begin.

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; 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.

For fall, Minor 9 teams will use Level 5 baseballs and pitch from 40 feet. Faceshields are strongly encouraged for pitchers.

- 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

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 for Minor 9, Major (10-12), Big and Junior leagues; or placed on teams by GCPR staff for T-ball through Minor 7-8 leagues. Late registrants 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 **Tuesday, July 13.** The coaches' meetings for the older leagues are **Thursday, July 15.** Practice starts the week of July 26.

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.	Location
T-ball	Game		Game				Windsor
Minor 6		Game		Game			Windsor
Minor 7-8		Game		Game		Game	Fryer
Minor 9		Game		Game		Game	Windsor
Minor 10	Game		Game			Game	Windsor
Major	Game		Game			Game	Windsor
Junior		Game		Game		Game	Windsor
Big	Game		Game			Game	Windsor

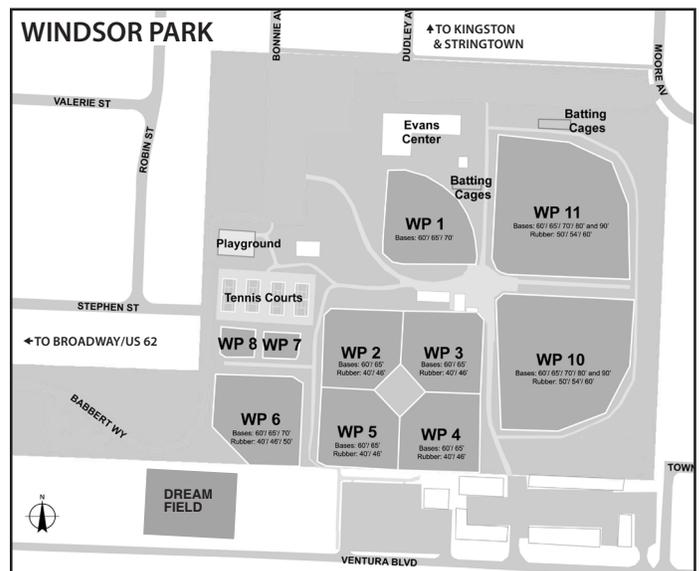
Where will my child play?

Most games and practices are played at the baseball complex at Windsor Park, 4408 Broadway/4330 Dudley Ave. Minor 7-8 practice and play games at Fryer Park, 3899 Orders Road.

Be respectful when parking: do not block driveways, park on private property or in apartment complexes, where there is no street parking (i.e., along Ventura Boulevard), etc. Parking lots are accessible from the north from Bonnie, Dudley or Moore avenues; west from Babbert Way via Broadway; and south on Ventura Boulevard.

When will my child practice?

Teams practice **July 26 through Aug. 12** 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 July 26 and are scheduled Monday through Thursday evenings and Saturday days. Coaches receive practice schedules at the coaches' meeting. The first games are played **Saturday, Aug. 14.** All leagues play a 10-game season. Minor 9 through Big leagues have playoff following the regular season. 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 Line. Call 614-277-3060 then press 4-1 for Windsor Park's status. The message is updated by 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](https://twitter.com/GroveCityOhio) and [Facebook.com/GroveCityParks](https://facebook.com/GroveCityParks).

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 (e.g., 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. 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 in the fall. 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). Players are welcome to use their own helmets and catching equipment.

What size bat should I buy for my child?

Guidelines are established to ensure the safety of all participants. GCPR and Little League® adhere 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.

Please review USA Baseball bat standards and requirements carefully before purchasing 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.

COACHES

How do I become a coach?

To participate as a coach in our program, complete 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.

What am I required to do as a coach?

Coaches are expected to attend the 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, etc.). They also are responsible for keeping books that record player participation including pitch counts and game scores.

Be prepared to follow the philosophy of the league to provide a positive experience where children of a range of athletic abilities stay active while learning baseball skills and sportsmanship including dealing with adversity (e.g., umpire mistakes).

When are the mandatory coaches' meetings?

Head coaches are required to attend meetings corresponding to the league(s) in which they are coaching. **Meetings are at the Evans Center, 4330 Dudley Ave.**

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| • T-ball and Minor 6: | Tuesday, July 13 at 6 p.m. | Coach receives team roster selected by GCPR staff. |
| • Minor 7-8: | Tuesday, July 13 at 6 p.m. | Coach receives team roster selected by GCPR staff. |
| • Minor 9: | Thursday, July 15 at 6 p.m. | Coach drafts players. |
| • Major (10-12): | Thursday, July 15 at 6 p.m. | Coach drafts players. |
| • Junior (13-14): | Thursday, July 15 at 6 p.m. | Coach drafts players. |
| • Big leagues (15-17): | Thursday, July 15 at 6 p.m. | Coach drafts players. |

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 a 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.