



SPRING BASEBALL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Q. What are the ages for South Cherokee Baseball?

A. The ages for South Cherokee Baseball are 3 through 17. For 4-17 year olds, the playing age for Spring season baseball is based on your child's age on April 30, 2021, not their age today. Example: Your child's birthday is 4-9-2012, he/she would play the Spring 2021 baseball season as a 9 year old. Our registration system will automatically place your child in the correct age group.

For 3-4 year old T-Ball league, the player must be 3 by March 1, 2021.

Q. What are the fees for Spring Baseball?

- A. T-Ball (3-4 Year Olds*) \$115
- Baseball (5-8 Year Olds) \$190
- Baseball (9-12 Year Olds*) \$210
- Baseball (13-17 Year Olds*) \$210

Q. What do my registration fees cover?

A. Registration fees cover expenses such as lights, water, field maintenance, uniforms, umpires, insurance, and general park repair.

Q. Why is there a cost difference between Spring and Fall Baseball?

A. In the Spring, players receive a full uniform. In addition, they typically play more games in the season and have a tournament. In the Spring, SC also provides trophies for the $\frac{3}{4}$ league as well as tournament winners.

Q. Do I have to pay registration fees all at one time?

A. If you register early, you can use our payment plan option. The earlier you register; the more time you will have to pay your fees. If you wait and register two days before deadline, you will still have to have the full balance paid by deadline. All accounts **MUST** be paid in full before a player can attend evaluations or have a uniform ordered. Sorry, we are unable to make any exceptions to this policy.

Q. I already registered but have decided my child is not going to play this season, can I get a refund?

A. You may send us an email request for a refund up until Evaluations. We charge a \$10.00 processing fee for refunds. After Evaluations have taken place, we are unable to refund your registration costs. There are no exceptions.

Q. When does the Spring Season start and end? How many games are played?

A. Spring Baseball starts in the middle of February, and is completed by the middle of May. Number of games played will vary depending on the total teams in each age group, but expect at least 8-10 games minimum. Ages above 5 will also play an end of season tournament.

Q. How much time should I expect to be committing to Spring Baseball?

A. (Ages 5 and up) During Pre-season coaches will have the opportunity to practice 2-3 days a week. During the season, you should expect 1-2 practices per week and 2 games per week. Game days are typically Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Spring, with the other weekdays used for practices and make up games. Weeknight activities do not start before 6:00pm. Saturday games are typically scheduled anywhere from 10:00am – 4:00pm. We do use Sundays for practice slots running anywhere between 1:00pm-7:00pm.

(3-4 T-Ball) During Pre-season coaches will have the opportunity to practice 1-2 days a week.

Q. Where will we practice and play?

A. All practices and T-Ball (3-4) games will be held at South Cherokee Park. During some seasons, we “interleague “with another park. Ages 5-8 may have one game at another location, but the majority of their season will be played at SC. Ages 9 and up may play an interleague season, having 3-5 games at another local park. This is based on the number of teams in these leagues. Our older players always enjoy getting to experience “traveling” to other locations to play ball.

Q. Why can't I know my practice schedule before I sign up?

A. We do not determine practice schedules until after registration is complete, as practice and game scheduling depends on the number of teams in each league. The Head coaches work together to choose practice slots prior to the player drafts.

Q. What does the League provide and what does the parent provide?

A. For Spring Baseball, the league provides uniform jerseys (with names and numbers included), hats, pants, belt, and socks. The player will have to provide baseball glove, shoes, etc. Detailed equipment list can be found on the SC Website.

Q. How are teams formed?

- A. 3-4 age: Players are assigned to teams by The Baseball Director/Assistant Baseball Director. Every effort is made place all players with requested coaches or friends. Teams will consist of between 6-8 players depending on the number of teams. **Friend/coach requests must be noted during registration.**
- A. For ages 5 and above: Head coaches have the option of freezing up to three players; their own and two others. All remaining players, who attend evaluations, are put into a pool and selected by the head coaches, using a draft procedure. All players are selected from the draft pool until there are no more remaining. Any players who do not attend evaluations are blindly added to a team in draft order.

Q. When will we know which team our player is on?

A. The Head Coach will contact you the second week in February with general information and a team practice schedule. Practices will start immediately thereafter.

Q. Can I request a certain coach or to play on a team with a friend? Can I choose my practice nights?

A. When completing registration, there is a space for special requests. If you want to be with a specific coach or a friend, or have a conflict on a certain night, enter the information there. **This is the only place where requests will be seen and noted. We do try to honor requests as we can, but with over 400 players, we are unable to guarantee anything.** The best way to guarantee choice of practice nights, and a friend on your team is to volunteer to coach a team!

Q. Who maintains the baseball facilities and fields at South Cherokee?

A. SC Baseball maintains the park and its facilities privately—we receive no support or funding from the county. All park improvements and general maintenance are provided by our outstanding Volunteers and Board of Directors.

Q. Why do teams at South Cherokee need sponsors?

A. We are completely self-funded, so everything from the power bill to the grass cutting is paid for by our program. We strive to keep our program affordable so that no family has to miss out on playing baseball due to rising costs. We instead count on community sponsors to help support our program. We require each team work together to secure a minimum of \$350.00 in sponsorships. This is intended to be a joint effort between the coach and the families of the players on the team. We are a non-profit, so sponsorships are tax deductible. We also have a large audience in the surrounding communities, so any business will benefit from sponsorship visibility. The Sponsorship form detailing sponsor levels is located on the SC Website.

Q. What extras costs may come up during the season?

A. As a self-funded park, fundraising is a necessity. South Cherokee spirit wear, team and player photos by SMAX, as well as a Sponsor A Player program are some of the programs that we offer. All of these are optional, but of course we encourage you to support South Cherokee.

Often teams will have extras that you may take part in like hat embroidery, team snacks, etc. Each team also plans a team party as well as a coach gift, so this may be another optional expense later in the season. We work hard to monitor expenses and always try to keep our program affordable.

Q. How are coaches selected?

A. Our Board of Directors selects head coaches from the pool of volunteers wanting to coach. They use several factors including: coaching experience, number of years coaching at South Cherokee and prior experience in the league, etc. They must complete an application and a background check and be in Good Standing with the park. In addition to coach training, first season head coaches are offered an experienced coach as a mentor for the season.

Assistant coaches are chosen by head coaches of each team. The assistant coaches can be frozen from a previous season, chosen by *signing up as an asst. coach during registration, or simply step up when a position needs to be filled. All SC Coaches (Head & Assistant) will be required to complete a background check before being issued an SC Coach Jersey. *Signing up does not automatically guarantee a coaching spot.

Q. How can we sign up to volunteer and help the park?

A. South Cherokee, like all Little Leagues throughout the world, is a volunteer non-profit organization whose purpose is to teach our youth the game of baseball while also teaching them life lessons, sportsmanship, and how to be a good citizen. **We are completely a volunteer run organization.** We pride ourselves on being a Baseball family, plan to get involved. We need Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Team Moms, General Volunteers, and much more. If you are interested in being a Head Coach, please contact our Directors of Baseball-Chad Crain and Matt Reid. If you would like to help out in other areas, we send out an email with all the volunteer opportunities, or you can select an area you would like to help with when registering. Let your coach know you are willing to help or contact any board member- we need you!!

We do ask that all of our families' volunteer in at least one capacity during the season. There are both season long opportunities, as well as shorter single day volunteer spots. Many Youth programs ask for a volunteer fee if your family is not willing to volunteer at least once during the season, we simply ask that you be a part of our program and volunteer!

Q. What can I do as a parent to support my child?

A. Parent support during both games and practices is critically important to the success of the League. Be supportive of the team by ensuring your child attends each practice on-time. Be a positive role model during games, whether you are a Coach, Assistant coach, or simply a spectator. Finally, please keep the following in mind:

- Always be positive and enthusiastic.
- Show your child positive reinforcement.
- Observe practices and games to learn proper techniques to practice with your child.
- Encourage your child toward skill improvement and good sportsmanship in every game.
- Teach your child to always play by the rules.
- Teach your child that hard work and an honest effort are often more important than a victory.
- Applaud good plays by your team and by members of the opposing team.
- Let the Coaches do the coaching.
- Let an umpire be the umpire. Recognize that the umpire is the closest to the play and that each umpire will "call them as they see them"

Q. How do I stay up to date on important ALL information?

A. Visit our website at www.southcherokeebaseball.com for the most up to date information. You can also follow us on our Facebook page, southcherokeebaseball for updates.

Q. What if I have a question that isn't covered here?

A. You may contact a member of the South Cherokee Board of Directors (see website for full list of names and numbers). They will be happy to answer any questions you may have. You can also send general questions to our park email: southcherokeebaseball@gmail.com