



AYBS FAQ Sheet

I registered my child. When will I find out what team he/she is on?

Teams are not created until after the registration period has ended and coaches have been assigned. For AAA and Majors divisions, AYBS holds a draft to create balanced teams. For A, AA and T-Ball, the coaches meet and work together to create balanced teams. We try to have all teams created by April 1.

Can I request my child to play with his friends?

We will consider personal requests cannot guarantee that all requests will be satisfied. The likelihood of personal requests being honored decreases as the player advances in divisions as our goal is to create balanced teams.

Where will my child's games be played?

Historically games have followed the following model but this is subject to change based on field availability.

- AAA and Majors Baseball games are played at Gryncel Field.
- A and AA Baseball are played at the Mindess School, front and back fields.
- T-Ball games will be played at the Mindess School on the front field.
- Softball plays all of its minor league (grades K-2) games behind the Warren School on Fruit St.
- Softball grades 3-8 home games are played behind the Warren School or at Stone Park, while away games will be played in surrounding towns.

When will games be played?

Historically games have followed the following schedule but this is subject to change based on field availability.

- T-Ball games are mid-week (typically Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings) and Saturday mornings.

- A and AA teams have games throughout the week and again on Saturday and/or Sunday afternoons.
- AAA and Majors Baseball play games every night of the week and on Saturdays. Most teams will have 1 weeknight game per week and 1 on the weekend.
- Senior Baseball plays home games at Stone Park or the Middle School on weeknights.
- K & AA softball teams play one game on a weeknight and another on Saturday mornings.
- AAA softball teams play one or two games during the week and practice or play a game on the weekend.
- Majors softball teams play games every Tuesday & Thursday evening and practice on the weekend.
- Seniors softball teams play games every Monday & Wednesday evening and practice on the weekend.

I volunteered to be a coach during the registration process. When will I hear if I have been chosen?

Coaching assignments are not made until after the registration period closes. Once we determine how many teams we have at each level, we decide who will get coaching positions. For some levels, the AYBS Board conducts interviews and approves all head coaches. The interview process gives the Board the opportunity to put names with faces and to talk about what the season will look like, provide potential head coaches the playing rules and other documents, and to lay out our expectations for coaches. If there are more volunteers than open head coach positions you may be asked to be an assistant rather than head coach. The Board approves all coaching nominees, but assistants are selected by the head coaches. All approved coaches will need a current CORI on file.

What does my child need to start the season?

AYBS provides players with game uniform shirts and hats. Each player should bring a water bottle and their own glove. Cleats are strongly recommended. AYBS provides batting helmets, however you may choose to buy your own helmet and bat. If you choose to buy a bat for your child, make sure it has been approved for use by Little League or has an ASA seal for softball. Please check the following link for more information on buying the proper glove and baseball bats:

- <https://www.baseballmonkey.com/baseball-softball-glove-buying-guide>
- <http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm>

What safety issues do players need to conform with?

Players are not allowed to wear any jewelry. It is not acceptable to tape over earrings. All levels of baseball require a helmet with cage, except Senior Baseball. T-Ball, K and AA softball do not require cages.

No Dogs Allowed

NO DOGS ALLOWED on Ashland school or town property. Please leave your dogs at home!

My child is more advanced than the other players in his age group. Can he play up?

AYBS provides recreational opportunities for players of all levels. *Instruction, development & inclusion* are the leagues primary goals. When an older age group needs players to round out a roster moving younger players up be considered. Evaluations for 6 year-old baseball players will be scheduled to assess if it is in the best interest of the player to have them play above their age group. Evaluations for 8 and 10 year olds in baseball will be held in March, if necessary.

Why can't my child play with his/her friends?

AYBS follows Little League age guidelines for baseball. A player's age as of August 30 determines which division he/she can play in during that season.

Softball follows the guidelines of the Tri-Valley softball league in the spring. The player's school grade is used to determine which division to play in for that season.

In the Summer, softball uses ASA guidelines which are based on the child's age on January 1.

What opportunities for Baseball & Softball does AYBS offer in the summer?

AYBS offers numerous opportunities for summer baseball for all ages and abilities:

- **SANDLOT Baseball:** For 6-10 year olds, we offer the Sandlot program which allows players to continue to develop basic baseball skills in a fun environment. The Sandlot program runs from July-mid-August.
- **SPARKLER:** For 8 year old players, AYBS hosts the Sparkler Tournament. This is an 8-town competitive tournament held at Gryncel field in June and July. Players are chosen for participation by the coaches based on in-season ability and tryouts held in May.
- **TONDORF:** The Tondorf Tournament is an All-Star Tournament held in Medway in June/July which includes 8 local towns. This is a highly competitive baseball tournament for Ashland's top players in the 9, 10, 11 and 12 year-old age groups. Tryouts are held in May to determine the teams.

- **SIZZLER:** The Sizzler Tournament is an All-Star Tournament held in Hopkinton in June/July. This is a competitive tournament against numerous other local towns. Ashland has teams made up of 9, 10, 11 and 12 year old age groups, if we have enough players at each age group. Tryouts are held in May to determine the teams.
- **Framingham League:** For 7-12 year olds. Framingham has invited Ashland to participate in its summer league that has three age categories, 7-8, 9-10, and 11-12. The 7-8 age group is an instructional league, similar to our AA program where players get practice pitching with assistance from coaches. There are no umpires in the 7-8 age group. The 9-10 and 11-12 league is player pitch, with umpires and is run similar to our AAA/majors programs. All three age groups are open to all talent levels and provide the opportunity for players to continue to develop basic baseball skills in a fun environment. Games are held on weeknights only (there are no weekend games), played on Framingham fields and runs from July through mid-August.
- **SANDLOT SOFTBALL:** For 6-10 year olds, we offer the Sandlot program which allows players to continue to develop basic softball skills in a fun environment. The Sandlot program runs from July through mid-August.
- **TWIN VALLEY SOFTBALL:** AYBS enrolls a number of teams in the Twin Valley league which is a consortium of towns throughout Metrowest and Central Mass. Teams are created based on age level and players' skill sets.

What is ASA?

Amateur Softball Association - [ASA Code](#)