

## SUMMER BASEBALL FAQ

**Q: When does registration for Summer baseball open?**

A: Registration for Summer baseball generally opens in late February/early March.

**Q: When does registration for Summer baseball close?**

A: Children in *graded* leagues (7/8 and older) need to be registered before the start of their league's grading in order to be assured a spot in the league. We generally continue accepting registrations until leagues are filled up, but there is no guarantee that spots will be available after grading begins. The grading schedule will be set and posted in mid-March. Children in beginner level leagues (4's, Field F Beginner, and Field F Advanced) have more time to be registered, but even these leagues could fill up at some point, so early registration is encouraged.

**Q: When does the Summer baseball season start and end?**

A: The summer baseball drafts for most leagues (except the 13-15 year old league) are expected to take place in April (roughly April 5-15 timeframe), with younger leagues (tee ball, Field F Beginner, Field F Advanced) tending to draft later in that period. Practices *usually* starting soon after the drafts. The first games generally take place in the late April.

For the youngest leagues (tee ball, Field F Beginner, Field F Advanced), the season usually ends before the 4th of July holiday. For 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12 year olds, for the past several years the regular season has ended in late June, with playoffs continuing into mid-July.

This year, we are making an effort to have the 9/10 and 11/12 playoffs completed before July 4. ***Please recognize that this is not guaranteed.*** Our ability to complete the playoffs in the 9/10 and 11/12 leagues before July 4 will depend on several factors that we cannot predict before registration closes, not the least of which is the weather.

**Note to "experienced" Carrollton baseball families-** We are planning to start the season about a week earlier than we typically have in the past, as this will help with our goal of ending the season in most leagues before July 4. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

**Q: How do I register?**

A: To register, visit our website ([www.carrolltonboosters.org](http://www.carrolltonboosters.org)). A link to the registration site appears under "Helpful Links" on the left side of the home page. Another link to the registration site appears near the top right corner of the home page.

**Q: What is the cost to participate?**

A: The registration fee is \$185 for the first child, and \$160 for each additional child.

Scholarships are available to families with a financial need. Please contact the Registrar for more information.

**Q: What forms of payment are accepted?**

A: You may pay on line by credit card (a \$2 transaction fee applies) or you may choose the option to send a check, but note that your registration is not considered complete until fees are paid. Players who are not fully registered will not drafted onto teams.

**Q: What if circumstances change after I register, and my child no longer will be able to participate. Can I get a refund?**

A: Registration fees are fully refundable up until the registrant has been placed on a team. Afterwards, refunds will only be issued in cases of illness or injury, or with the approval of Carrollton's Board of Directors.

**Q: I registered my child. When can I expect to hear from a coach?**

A: Coaches should contact the players on their teams within a day or two of the draft, which leagues other than the 13-15 year old league will take place in mid-April. This means that if you register your child early in the registration period, you may not hear from a coach for several weeks. If you have not heard from a coach before the last few days of April, please contact the league coordinator for your child's age group, or the Commissioner of Baseball.

The draft for the 13-15 year old league generally takes place in early May, but may take place earlier this year if the pace of registrations permits.

**Q: How will my child's coach get in touch with me?**

A: The primary means of communication Carrollton Boosters uses to get in touch with participants is email. Coaches who plan to use another means to contact parents or guardians, such as group texts or a group messaging app, are asked to announce this to the team in advance and make sure all parents/guardians are set up to use that means of communication.

You will be asked to provide an email address when you register your child to play. We encourage you to provide an email address that you regularly use and monitor to ensure that you will see messages sent by your child's coach.

**Q: When do games take place?**

A: For the younger leagues (tee ball, Field F Beginner, Field F Advanced), teams can generally expect to play one weeknight game each week, and another game on Friday night or Saturday morning/afternoon. This may vary based on number of teams and other factors.

For the 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12 year old leagues, games may take place on any weeknight, usually with each team playing no more than two nights each week. Each team also will likely have a few Saturday morning/early afternoon games. Again, this may vary based on number of teams and other factors, including the need to reschedule games based on weather.

Each team in the 13-15 year old league typically plays two to three weeknight games each week. Please note, however, that we are still working to determine the format for our 13-15 year old league this year.

**Q: When do practices take place?**

A: Practices in the Field F Advanced, 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12 year old leagues may take place on any weekday evening, or weekend mornings or early afternoons. Although practice frequency is left to the coach's reasonable discretion, most teams schedule practices such that the team does not have practices or games on more than three days during any given week.

Teams in the Field F Beginner league may practice on any weekday evening, or weekend mornings or early afternoons, at the coach's reasonable discretion. Field F Beginner teams typically have fewer practices than teams in the older leagues, especially after the first game of the season.

Teams in the 13-15 year old league traditionally have practiced on Sunday morning or early afternoon, but this subject to change based on field availability and other factors.

Tee ball teams traditionally do not hold practices.

**Q: What are the age groups for Summer baseball?**

A: The age groups for Summer baseball are:

4 year old	tee ball	<b>co-ed</b>
Field F Beginner	coach pitch	
Field F Advanced	coach pitch	
7/8 year old	coach pitch	
9/10 year old	kid pitch	
11/12 year old	kid pitch	
13-15 year old	kid pitch	

**Q: What is the general format for each age group for the Summer season?**

A: The 4 year old league is a non-competitive, co-ed tee ball league.

The Field F Beginner league is designed for 5-year old players. It will use the rules for our former 5/6 league, which is a coach pitch format where each player gets several attempts to hit a ball pitched by his or her coach. If the player is unable to put the ball in play after several attempts, he or she then gets to hit off of a tee. The Field F Beginner league is noncompetitive, meaning that score and standings are not kept. Although Field F Beginner will be the default league for 5 year olds, parents who believe their 5 year old is ready for a more advanced league may request that he or she play in the Field F Advanced League.

The Field F Advanced league is intended to help 6-year old players prepare for the competitive leagues (7/8 year old and beyond). The Field F Advanced league is a coach pitch format and will use a modified version of our 7/8 year old league rules that is closer to traditional baseball rules. There may also be playoffs at the end of the season, if scheduling needs permit. Although Field F Advanced will be the default league for 6 year olds, parents may request that their 6 year olds play in the Field F Beginner league.

The 7/8 year old league also uses a coach pitch format, but is a competitive league where score and standings are kept.

The 9/10 and 11/12 are competitive, kid pitch leagues. We are still working on setting the format for our 13-15 year old league, but it will be a competitive, kid-pitch league.

**Q: How do I determine what age group my child will play in?**

A: Players are assigned to an age group based their age as of April 30, 2021.

<u>Date of birth between:</u>	<u>Age group:</u>
5/1/2016 and 4/30/2017	4 year old
5/1/2015 and 4/30/2016	5 year old (Field F Beginner)
5/1/2014 and 4/30/2015	6 year old (Field F Advanced)
5/1/2012 and 4/30/2014	7/8 year old
5/1/2010 and 4/30/2012	9/10 year old
5/1/2008 and 4/30/2010	11/12 year old
5/1/2005 and 4/30/2008	13-15 year old

**Q: My child would like to play on the same team as his friend/cousin/classmate/neighbor. Can they be placed on a team together?**

A: All teams at Carrollton Boosters are selected through a draft process. Therefore, *with the exception of siblings*, we cannot guarantee that your child will be placed on a team with any other registrant.

**Q: I have two children who will play in the same age group this year, but they would like to compete against one another. Do they have to be placed together on the same team?**

A: No, siblings do not have to be placed on the same team, but we will assume that they are to be placed on the same team unless the parent specifically requests otherwise. The best way to make a request that your children not be placed together is by entering a comment during the registration process.

**Q: My child is interested in playing, but I am hesitant to register him because he has little or no baseball experience. Should I go ahead and register him?**

A: We are a recreational league. We welcome and encourage any interested player to participate, regardless of experience level.

**Q: My child is new to baseball and I don't think he's ready to play with other kids his age. Can he play with younger kids?**

A: Unfortunately, we cannot approve requests to "play down" outside of exceptional cases where there is a documented medical or developmental issue.

**Q: My son plays on a non-Carrollton travel baseball team. Is he still eligible to play Summer baseball?**

A: This is permitted so long as the player complies Rule 6 in the Carrollton Baseball Handbook. Rule 6 reads as follows:

Players participating on non-Carrollton Baseball teams may play in Carrollton recreational leagues provided that they do not miss any Carrollton recreational league games due to a scheduling conflict with their non-Carrollton Baseball program or team. Players who do not comply with this rule may be excluded from future Carrollton Boosters sports programs.

Please contact Commissioner of Baseball Justin Lemaire ([jlemaire@stonepigman.com](mailto:jlemaire@stonepigman.com)) if you have any additional questions.

**Q: What is "grading," and when does it take place?**

A: Grading the process by which we evaluate players for purposes of the drafts. All players in the 7/8 year old league and above are required to appear for grading. Several grading sessions will be offered in each league. Players are only required to appear for one grading session, and may pick the session that best works for his or her family's schedule.

More information on grading, and the grading schedule, will be posted as the season approaches.

**Q: Where do the games and practices take place?**

A: Except for the 13-15 league, all games take place at the Riverview Fields, which are located on "the Fly" behind the Audubon Zoo. Games for the 13-15 year old league take place at Avenger Field, immediately next to Children's Hospital.

Most practices take place at Cuccia-Byrnes playground, also known as "Old Carrollton." Some practices may take place the Riverview Fields or Avenger Field, and some coaches may hold practices at "off-site" locations.

**Q: What equipment does my child need to participate in Summer baseball?**

A: Carrollton Boosters will provide a uniform shirt and hat to each participant. Catcher's gear is also provided for use in leagues that have a catcher position.

Every participant will need his or her own baseball glove. Baseball pants and cleats are encouraged, especially for the 7/8 year old league and above, but not necessarily required. Players are also encouraged to bring their own batting helmets, but extra batting helmets are also available at the fields. Many players prefer to have their own bats, but players who do not own a bat generally are able to use a teammate's bat. Any other equipment, such as batting gloves, are purely at the player's discretion.

**Q: What are the rules and restrictions on bats?**

A: Any USSSA or USABat approved bat may be used. The USSSA or USABat stamp must appear on the bat itself. There are no restrictions on barrel size.

**Q: Where can I find the rules for my child's league?**

A: The rules for each age group are available on our website. From the homepage, click on "Our Sports," then "Baseball" and scroll down the baseball page to find links to the rules for each league/age group.