



## Tyngsboro Youth Baseball Frequently Asked Questions

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## League Info

### Q: Who runs Tyngsboro Youth Baseball (TYBA)?

A: TYBA is run by a Board of Directors which is made up exclusively of volunteers. These volunteers work year-round to promote player development and enhance the game of baseball for the youth of Tyngsboro. Those interested in joining the Board may submit his/her name (in writing or by e-mail) to the TYBA Board of Directors no later than August 15<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

### Q: What are the goals of the recreational leagues (spring)?

A: Spring baseball is intended to be fun and educational for all players of all abilities. Every player should have opportunities to play and develop their skills in these situations where winning is secondary. Our key goal is to have the kids want to play again next year.

## Registration

### Q: How are teams chosen?

A: After regular registration is closed, a list of available players from each league is provided to the league director. For T-ball and Farm leagues, the league director works with league coaches to create balanced teams that will help foster a learning and fun environment. For Minors through Babe Ruth, a draft is held with coaches choosing from the available players to make their teams.

### Q: I registered my child. When do I know what team he/she is on?

A: Once the teams have been selected, the coach for each team is responsible for contacting the parents of everyone on their team directly based on the contact info provided during registration.

### Q: I would like to have my child play for a particular coach or with a particular friend?

A: You may request a particular coach or to have your child play on a team with one of his friends via comments on your registration form. While this is taken into consideration when teams are chosen, there are other factors that go into the process, which may prevent the request from being honored. Youth sports are a good opportunity for your child to experience different coaches and friends.

### Q: Can my child play in an age group above their own age group? (Playing up)

A: While TYBA believes in “age appropriate” recreational athletics, we understand that there may be certain circumstances that necessitate special consideration. If a player’s birthdate is between May 1<sup>st</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup>, the player’s parent/guardian may submit a request to their current division Director or the TYBA Board of Directors for consideration of a waiver to move up one year. Details can be found in the “[Player Age Waivers](#)” document on the TYBA website.

### Q: Can my child play in an age group below their own age group? (Playing down)

A: No. TYBA does not allow players to play down.

## Season Info

### Q: When does the season start?

A: The start of the season is affected greatly by the weather. Once the fields have been determined to be playable by the Recreation Department and maintenance on the fields is complete (Field Clean-up Day), then practices and games can begin. Typically, Opening Day is in late April.

**Q: When does the season end?**

A: All games, including playoffs should be complete by the final day of the school year. There may be some situations where the season goes beyond that date if there are a large amount of rainouts, particularly during the playoffs.

**Q: When are games and practices?**

A: Each season can be a little different and each team might choose to practice more than others. However, division schedules typically look like:

- T-Ball – Saturday mornings
- Farm, Minors, Majors, Babe Ruth – 2-3 games/practices per week (evenings), some Saturdays

**Q: How do I know if a game is rained out?**

A: Prior to games starting, league directors will work with coaches to determine whether the fields are playable. The safety of players, umpires, coaches and parents is the most important factor. If a game is cancelled, coaches will be responsible for notifying their team members as soon as possible. The league website will be updated with cancellations in a timely manner, so check there first. We will also update our Facebook page for people who find that easier.

**Equipment**

**Q: What equipment does the league provide?**

A: TYBA provides each player with a baseball shirt and hat, which they will be allowed to keep at the end of the season. Each team is supplied with bats, batting helmets, catcher's gear and balls for use during games and practices.

**Q: What equipment does my child need to play?**

A: Each player should have their own baseball glove. It is recommended that you write your child's name on the inside of the glove. Baseball cleats (plastic only) are required in the upper leagues, and optional in the lower leagues. Baseball pants, belt and socks are often recommended, but are not required. If your child is going to play the catcher position, it is recommended that they have a cup.

**Q: Should my child have his/her own bat?**

A: It is recommended that your child utilize the bats provided by the league initially. Since bats can be very expensive, it is important that any bat purchased individually conform to league rules and is suitable for your child. As a result, it is recommended that you consult your child's Coach, League Director or a TYBA Board member before purchasing any bat. Please note that in 2018 Cal Ripken league bats are required to have USA Baseball Markings, cannot exceed 2 5/8" Barrell and must not exceed 33" in length. Please label any bat that you bring.

**Q: Should my child have his/her own helmet?**

A: Batting helmets are provided for each team. You may choose to bring your own helmet, but please label it so that it is not confused with team equipment.

**Coaching**

**Q: Do I need a background check if I'm just helping out every once in a while?**

A: **Yes. Anyone** who will have contact with kids on the field, practice field or dugout (except if this person is only prepping the field) needs to get a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check. This includes parent helpers, team parents, managers, coaches and assistant coaches. The safety of our children is our most important objective. The process is not difficult and is done at no charge through the Recreation Department.

**Q: I would like to coach. How do I get started?**

A: During the registration process, you may indicate in the "Interested in Helping Out" field that you are interested in helping out. In the "Comments" field, please indicate what you would like to help out with (head coach, assistant coach, team Mom, fundraising, etc.). You may also reach out to the director of the league you would like to coach in. TYBA provides guidance to new coaches, so prior experience is not a requirement.

**Summer Baseball**

**Q: What is summer baseball?**

A: Summer league provides an opportunity for competitive baseball after the Spring recreational baseball season. TYBA is a member of The Eastern Massachusetts Cal Ripken Baseball Division of Babe Ruth Baseball. We send teams to the district tournaments for U9, U10, U11 and U12 age groups. Those teams play for the opportunity to advance to the regional, state and World Series tournaments for Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth. In addition, those teams (and sometimes those from younger age groups) play in local, competitive tournaments throughout the area during the summer.

**Q: Who is eligible to play?**

A: Summer baseball is limited to players who have played Spring baseball during that season. Players must meet age requirements as defined by Cal Ripken (age as of April 30<sup>th</sup>).

**Q: How are the teams chosen?**

A: Teams are chosen from the list of eligible players in the age group by the coaches assigned to that summer league team. This is done through an objective review of how well the player performed during the recreational season and during tryouts that occur before the start of summer league.