

# FAQs | Spring Season

Date	May 13, 2019
<b>TEAM ASSIGNMENTS   GAME EXPERIENCE</b>	
QUESTION	ANSWER
Can I make special requests for practice nights, teammates, etc.?	With more than 90 teams and 1,000 youths playing at OYO every spring, it's hard to grant special requests and maintain team parity. That said, we are a recreational league and want to offer each child a fun and memorable experience. So each league commissioner does review each and every request and grants as many as possible. In all fairness, the hardest one to grant is a specific practice night. Play-together requests can often be accommodated as long as it doesn't create an imbalance between teams in the same league.
When will we know who our coach is and who else is on our team?	Coaches are selected the last week in February. Teams are formed the first week in March. With LeagueApps, families will be notified about team assignments via a league-wide email and then can immediately visit the website to learn all about each ballplayer's team assignments and practice nights. We expect this information to be available around March 15, sent directly from OYO to your email. And, then, you can expect a personal call/email from your coach shortly after the teams are released.
My child is 13 and we have not received a call from our coach yet, why not?	The leagues for kids ages 12 years and older typically have some high school kids playing in them. IHSAA does not allow players participating in a high school sport to play or practice that sport away from the high school team until their season is over.  Therefore, we start our Junior Baseball (ages 13-15), Senior Baseball (ages 16-18) and 14U/16U Softball a little later. These seasons typically do not start until late April or early May. Some coaches will have practices for kids who are not participating in high school softball or baseball.
Will my child have to play outfield all the time since they are new to OYO?	First off, outfield is a very important position. In fact each of our board members can share stories of how they played in the outfield back in the days when they played youth baseball and softball. At the same time, OYO is a "fair play" league focusing on player participation, training, and development. We like to develop players for overall skills. OYO has rules which require every player to play infield and outfield at least one inning per game. Also, no player can sit out a second inning unless all of the other players have sat at least one inning.
<b>PRACTICE   GAME SCHEDULES</b>	
QUESTION	ANSWER
When does practice start?	The first day of practice is March 16, 2019. Each team will be given a Saturday practice time as well as a weekday practice time. Coaches may schedule additional practices in the batting cage, as time permits. Starting Saturday, April 13, 2019, each team will play one or two weekday games and either one game or a doubleheader on Saturdays. Our baseball and softball teams for players ages 7-12 will be scheduled for three games per week. In short, we've added a couple games to the schedule for each league. We follow a no-makeup format that is designed to eliminate the hassles of rescheduling games by providing teams more games up front. In recent years, this has been increasingly embraced by our league's families.  Once teams start playing two or three games per week, practice will be dependent on the coach. Some coaches may hold batting practice at the batting cages. Typically all of the fields are being used for games once the season starts. So, there is minimal field availability for practices.
How will we know if the game or practice is rained out?	For practices, your coach or team parent will contact you if practice is canceled. Some coaches may choose to practice in the parking lot if the fields are too wet, or some coaches may ask parents if they want to chip in a couple dollars to practice indoors. We try to update the Weatherline as early as we can make a decision. It saves our coaches and team parents from calling everyone on the team when there is a delay or rainout. At times, we may just delay games rather than cancel them, and the Weatherline recording will ask for volunteers to come out and help prepare fields. We encourage your participation for this if you are available.  <u>To find out if a <b>GAME</b> has been canceled because of weather, call the OYO Weatherline at 317.767.5170.</u>

When is our first game?	<p>"Opening Day" is Saturday, April 13, 2019. This is a really great day for the kids. Teams assemble at Oakandon Elementary School and the fire trucks lead a parade over to Veterans Memorial Park. They close down Pendleton Pike, the Mayor speaks, people line the streets, and it is a real big deal! Once we get to the park, we go through some customary festivities followed by the famous softball and baseball traditional phrase "Play Ball" and end with every team playing a game.</p> <p>Here is a tip to all of you who are new to OYO, consider parking at OYO before the parade and walking over to Oakandon Elementary. That way when you get done with the parade and festivities, you will not have to walk all the way back to the elementary school to get your car. This is a trick many learn after their first year in the league – we're sharing it with you now.</p>
How long is the season?	We offer a 15-game-no-makeup schedule for all leagues with players ages 7-12 with occasion doubleheaders on Saturdays. These leagues also participate in a double-elimination tournament. Junior Rookie participates in a 12-game-no-makeup schedule without doubleheaders.

## PARK LOGISTICS | ASSISTANCE

QUESTION	ANSWER
Why are some of the parking spots blocked with orange cones on Thursdays and Saturday mornings?	<p>Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings are when our Challenger League plays. The OYO Challenger League opens doors and removes barriers to allow special needs youth to enjoy learning and playing organized baseball. We reserve extra parking spots for these Challenger families. Most of our Challenger League players need one-on-one assistance as they run the bases, bat, and field the baseball.</p> <p>Volunteers are needed to be Challenger "Buddies" to help the Challengers play baseball. If you are interested in helping, please let an OYO board member know.</p>
How do I get help when I am at the park?	<p>We schedule three "Advisor On Duty" volunteers whenever games are scheduled. These "AODs" will be wearing blue shirts labeled "OYO Volunteer".</p> <p>If you have questions or need help, look for an AOD. Typically we have an AOD near each concession stand and another one floating between the front and the back fields at our park.</p>
My child's grandparents would like to come watch a game, but they cannot walk all the way back to the fields.	<p>We have a golf cart reserved for transporting fans with mobility problems to the fields. When you are in need of a golf cart, look for an AOD or ask one of our concession stand workers to request a golf cart.</p> <p>Please be patient as these carts are in high demand before and after games. For insurance reasons, only OYO Board members are allowed to drive the golf carts. So, please, let us do the driving.</p>
With so many teams and games being played at one time, is OYO safe for my younger children?	<p>Yes! We have established Park Rules to provide a safe and clean environment for families to come and enjoy the baseball experience. As a result, here are just a few of the measures we've implemented in recent years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterans Memorial Park is a smoke-free environment</li> <li>• No firearms are allowed at anytime</li> <li>• No bikes or skateboards are to be operated throughout the park – individuals may walk them in but not ride them</li> <li>• We constructed four shelters to keep adults and children protected from foul balls (and the sun) near the back fields</li> <li>• We have eliminated all swinging of bats and throwing of balls outside the fence of the playing fields except for a few designated warm-up areas – this helps keeps all children and adults free of injury</li> </ul>

## UMPIRES

QUESTION	ANSWER
Why can't I yell at the umpire when they make a bad call?	<p>When you registered your child, you agreed to abide by the OYO Code of Conduct when you are at Veterans Memorial Park. A copy of the Code of Conduct is included in this welcome packet. OYO strictly enforces these rules and we expect all players, parents, and family members to follow them as well.</p> <p>Part of the OYO experience is to foster good sportsmanship and teach our children to be good citizens of the community. Negative remarks made toward a player, coach, umpire, or another fan would be considered poor sportsmanship and a breach of our Code of Conduct. Please help us by setting a good example for your child.</p>
Why are kids out there umpiring games?	<p>OYO has one of the strongest youth umpire programs in the area. We strongly believe in teaching kids to be good citizens and nothing teaches this life skill like being an umpire. Our umpires must be at least 11 years old and attend two mandatory clinics. After the first "Rules Clinic," each umpire must pass a 100-question exam. We select the best umpires and invite them back for a "Mechanics Clinic" and train them to umpire at OYO.</p> <p>An umpire can only umpire games younger than their age. So, we never have a 12-year-old umpire umpiring a 12-year-old game. The umpires are evaluated during the season, and the best umpires are selected to umpire the tournament. While watching the games, remember these kids (and sometimes adults) are learning how to umpire the sport. Often they know the rules better than the fans. So, be careful about arguing a call with an OYO umpire.</p>

## COACHING | VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

QUESTION	ANSWER
How do I become a coach?	<p>In order to be considered for a head coach position at OYO, you need to complete a coach's application and send it to the respective baseball or softball VP.</p> <p>Once coaches have been selected, they are invited to attend a coaching clinic. The clinic details can be located on the OYO calendar on the OYO website (<a href="http://www.oyoball.org">www.oyoball.org</a>). At this clinic we provide the coaches tips and drills to be taught at OYO.</p> <p>In the event you do not get selected as a head coach, please volunteer to help as an assistant coach. We like our coaches using stations in practices, so the more parental help we can get, the better we can run a practice.</p>
My child's coach asked me to help with practice, but I don't know anything about baseball or softball.	<p>Our coaches are trained to run practices with "stations" rather than put all the kids in the field and hit balls to them one at a time. This keeps the kids moving and learning specific skills during the entire practice. With the help of the parents, your coach can have 4-5 stations set up at a practice. If enough parents are willing to help, the coach can float around to the different stations and teach the parents what to look for in the drill. The coach will show you the drill they want you to help with, and you can always work with your child on that skill when you are at home.</p>
My coach seems very busy on game day, is there any way I can help.	<p>We ask our coaches to do a lot for the kids at OYO. As a result, they typically are very busy on practice days and game days.</p> <p>One thing you can do to help the coach out on game day is offer to help prepare the field prior to the game or drag the field after the game. The home teams are responsible for preparing the field which includes lining them. Don't worry if you are not sure you can mark the baseline straight. (If anyone complains, they get to line it the next time!) The visiting team is responsible for filling in the holes and dragging the field with a brush after the games. Believe it or not, this is more important than lining the fields.</p> <p>As our fields host more than 1,000 games each summer, they develop holes around the bases and the pitching mounds. Filling in these holes allows the rain to pack the dirt back down and the holes disappear.</p>

My child's team seems to lose more games than they win. Do the coaches know what they are doing?	<p>OYO tries to set up an atmosphere which focuses on player skill development rather than winning and losing. When teams are drafted, our goal is to make balanced teams so the games are competitive.</p> <p>Once the season starts, we purposely do not record scores and keep standings, because we want coaches to use the games as "instructional games."</p> <p>When the end-of-season, double-elimination tournament starts, the coaches get an opportunity to show what the kids have learned. Many times in recent years, the tournament champion is a team that has lost a fair number of games during the regular season.</p> <p>When a child asks a coach if his/her team won the game, a coach should always ask if they had fun. As the OYO board president says best, "I believe if you had fun, you won!"</p>
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## ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

QUESTION	ANSWER
What if my child wants to play more softball or baseball? 13-15 games just isn't enough.	<p>Most of our kids at OYO enjoy playing softball and baseball as a recreational sport. However, some of them want to take the competition to another level or just want to play more ball. OYO offers a recreational All-Star program we call "Red Storm" softball and "Bomber" baseball. These teams participate in Sunday Alliance League games in April and May as well as area tournaments during late June and July. Tryouts for these teams are early in the season. If your child is interested in trying out for these teams, have them talk to their coach, or feel free to contact our travel commissioners</p>
Does OYO offer any programs other than spring softball/baseball?	<p>Yes. Our rapidly-growing Fall Ball program is entering its eleventh season in 2019. In eight short years, we've watched participation grow from 313 players in 2008 to 602 players in 2019. And every year since we have expanded the league to allow for more players, since we exceeded the fall program's capacity. We conducted an exciting developmental six-week program for four age groups in baseball (Rookie, Minor, Super Major, and Junior Babe Ruth) and four age groups in softball (8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U/16U). Teams play two games each Sunday beginning the Sunday after Labor Day. The season commences with a single-elimination tournament in mid-October. To further help players develop their skills, teams can schedule optional practices during the week. This program offers young boys and girls who are advancing to the next level to get some OAKLANDON YOUTH ORGANIZATION page 6 of 6 experience with the new set of rules and fundamentals prior to the spring season. More information about registration and leagues available this fall will be released in June.</p>
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## IN-SEASON ACTIVITIES | TEAM REQUESTS

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
Why is the Team Parent asking us to buy "Treat Tickets"?	Many teams offer their children "Treat Tickets" after each game. Our concession stand sells the treat tickets for \$1 each, and they can be redeemed for \$1 worth of food or drinks from the concession stand. If your team chooses to do this, the Team Parent usually collects the money for the season rather than collect at every game.
What is "Picture Day"?	Picture day is when all of the softball and baseball teams at OYO have individual and team pictures taken. It is a crazy day as we try and get more than 1,000 kids organized to have their pictures taken prior to their game and still get to their game on time. You can help speed up the process by having your picture forms filled out and checks written and having your child arrive at the park at the time your team parent and coach request. You can purchase packages and individual pictures on Picture Day. In an effort to control our expenses and allow our families to make their own choices, the pictures are not included in your registration fee.

## OYO WORK DAY

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
We are asked to help out with "Work Days." What are these, and what do I need to do?	<p>OYO is responsible for cleaning up and maintaining Veterans Memorial Park. Every spring we see weather damage to the facility after our blustery Indiana winter. To help keep our costs down, we require every family to help prepare our park for the upcoming season.</p> <p>The 2019 Spring Season Work Days are on Sundays from Noon-4 p.m. March 10, March 17 and April 7. We ask all families to come and volunteer an hour or two on one of these Sundays.</p> <p>Bring some work gloves, work clothes, and a rake if it is convenient. We will have people at the park directing you to the tasks which need completed. Please help out with this as your volunteer work helps keep our registration costs down.</p>

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>
I work for a company that likes to support local organizations. Is OYO interested?	Of course. The league relies heavily on the tremendous loyalty and support from our local businesses each season. There are two primary ways your company can assist OYO – through a financial donation with a qualifying sponsorship or in-kind services. We offer sponsorships of varying levels that can include displaying your business name on team jerseys, banners along the outfield fences, or naming rights for an entire field. We also contract with local businesses for a wide range of services. If you provide services our organization can use to improve the quality of the fields or improve a visitor's overall park experience and are willing to provide those in-kind or at discounted rates, we can also offer sponsorships. To discuss these options, contact Scott Maskel at <a href="mailto:scottmaskel@yahoo.com">scottmaskel@yahoo.com</a> .