

FAQs | Spring Season

Date	November 25, 2020
TEAM ASSIGNMENTS GAME EXPERIENCE	
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 balance. That said, we are a recreational league and want to offer each child a fun and memorable experience. So each league commissioner does review all requests and grants as many as possible. In all fairness, the hardest one to grant is a specific practice night. When possible, we also try to grant play-together requests so 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 one week before practices begin. 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?	<p>The leagues for kids ages 12 years and older typically include high school players on the rosters. 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.</p> <p>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 early May. At that time, the teams' coaches will conduct practices for kids who are not participating in high school softball or baseball.</p>
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 in all our divisions for players 12 and younger. Also, among the same age group of players, no player can sit out a second inning unless all of the other players have sat at least one inning.
PRACTICE GAME SCHEDULES	
QUESTION	ANSWER
When does practice start?	<p>The first day of practice is March 13, 2021. 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. Our game season will begin on Saturday, April 17, and only on Saturdays through May 1. During the weeks of April 19 and April 26, teams will continue to hold their standing weeknight practice. Then, starting the week of May 3, 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.</p> <p>Once teams start playing two or three games per week, 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.</p>
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. The OYO Weatherline is never used to announce practice decisions as this is strictly left up to the coach to decide and announce. However, the OYO Weatherline is used to announce updates for all game days. 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



	<p>Weatherline recording will ask for volunteers to come out and help prepare fields. We encourage your participation for this if you are available.</p> <p><u>To find out if a GAME has been canceled because of weather, call the OYO Weatherline at 317.767.5170.</u></p>
When is our first game?	<p>“Opening Day” is Saturday, April 17, 2021. This is a really great day for the kids. Teams assemble at Oaklandon Elementary School and the fire trucks lead a parade over to Veterans Memorial Park. To keep everyone safe, the community’s first responders help 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 Oaklandon 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?	<p>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 plus a double-elimination tournament, and Tee Ball families participate in a 14-game season. Our older divisions typically play a season involving a minimum of 12 games plus a tournament</p>

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 two or 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"> • Veterans Memorial Park is a smoke-free and pet-free environment • No firearms are allowed at anytime • No bikes or skateboards are to be operated throughout the park – individuals may walk them in but not ride them • We constructed four shelters to keep adults and children protected from foul balls (and the sun) near the back fields • 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 to keep everyone safe



UMPIRES

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Why can't I yell at the umpire when they make a bad call?</p>	<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>
<p>Why are kids out there umpiring games?</p>	<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
<p>How do I become a coach?</p>	<p>In order to be considered for a head coach position at OYO, you need to complete a coach's application online in LeagueApps.</p> <p>Once coaches have been selected, they are invited to attend a coaches' orientation and coaching clinic. The clinic details can be located on the OYO calendar on the OYO website (www.oyoball.org). 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 encourage our coaches to use stations in practices, so the more parental help we can get, the better we can run a practice.</p>
<p>My child's coach asked me to help with practice, but I don't know anything about baseball or softball.</p>	<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>
<p>My coach seems very busy on game day, is there any way I can help.</p>	<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, but just be sure to chalk the dirt areas only and never the grass. (If anyone complains, they get to line it the next time!) The visiting team is responsible for raking the fields following the game, and this includes filling in the holes around the bases. Believe it or not, this is more important than lining the fields. 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>



<p>My child's team seems to lose more games than they win. Do the coaches know what they are doing?</p>	<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." As a result, we always conduct a computerized random draw for the tournament in every division for the rec league tournament.</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
<p>What if my child wants to play more softball or baseball? 13-15 games just isn't enough.</p>	<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" for softball and "Bomber" for 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, usually late March and early April. 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 or VPs.</p>
<p>Does OYO offer any programs other than spring softball/baseball?</p>	<p>Yes. Our rapidly-growing Fall Ball program is entering its 14th season in 2021. Since its inception in 2008, we've watched participation grow from 313 players to nearly 600 players in 2020, a COVID-19 year. Every year we have expanded the league to allow for more players and even more divisions, since we exceeded the fall program's capacity. We conducted an exciting developmental program for six age groups in baseball (Tee Ball, Junior Rookie, 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 in late August. The season commences with a single-elimination tournament in 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 experience with the new set of rules and fundamentals prior to the spring season. More information about registration and leagues available is available online at oyoball.org and registration will open in June.</p>

IN-SEASON ACTIVITIES | TEAM REQUESTS

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>Why is the Team Parent asking us to buy "Treat Tickets"?</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>What is "OYO Photo Day"?</p>	<p>OYO Photo Day is when all of the softball and baseball teams at OYO have individual and team pictures taken. It is an exciting experience for the players and our photography partner – H&R Photography – does an excellent job keeping an organized effort in place. Their process is conducive to handling more than 800 kids to have their pictures taken prior to their game and still get to their game on time. However, you can help speed up the process by having your picture forms filled out (either in advance online or hard copy in hand at the photo shoot) with payment ready as well as ensuring your child arrives at the park at the time your team parent and coach request. 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.</p>



OYO PARK PREP DAY

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>We are asked to help out with "Park Prep Days." What are these, and what do I need to do?</p>	<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 2021 Spring Season Park Prep Days are on March 6-7, 2021. We ask all families to come and volunteer an hour or two on one of these two weekend days, and we will offer a Sign-up Genius a week before the season begins so you can contribute to a project that meets your availability and talent.</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. Thank you, in advance, for your time and support with this important park preparation initiative.</p>

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

QUESTION	ANSWER
<p>I work for a company that likes to support local organizations. Is OYO interested?</p>	<p>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 also can offer sponsorships.</p> <p>To discuss these options, contact either member of the Ways & Means Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brittany Anderson President kbamanderson@gmail.com 404.551.3527 • Michael DeSanto Vice President, Game Day Operations mdesanto317@gmail.com 317.345.9006

