



BASEBALL

PROGRAM GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

ORYA MISSION STATEMENT

The Oyster River Youth Association (ORYA) provides inclusive, fair, diverse and developmentally appropriate recreational programs to the youth of Durham, Lee and Madbury, NH. ORYA meets the changing needs of the children and families in our community for sports and recreational activities by acquiring and maintaining facilities, promoting volunteerism and seeking collaborative and strategic partnerships.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Oyster River Youth Baseball (ORYB) strives to establish, maintain, and promote youth baseball activities. We oversee Spring, Summer, and Fall Baseball programs for boys and girls ages 5 through 15 years. ORYA's mission is to provide an environment for our youth to have an enjoyable, safe, team-oriented, and community-based experience while learning and playing the game of baseball. ORYA is committed to teaching our youth life lessons of good sportsmanship and teamwork. We consider each player a student athlete, constantly working towards achieving academic success, while maturing both physically and mentally. ORYB works to help our youth set and work towards common goals, build character, leadership ability, and confidence. We will always work hard to find a place for a child that wants to play baseball. Other than All-Star selection, we have a "no cut" policy for our league. Our core belief is EVERYONE PLAYS!!

Our league is chartered through Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth League baseball. We operate under the guidelines of the ORYA's Board of Directors By-Laws, and the Rules and Regulations of Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth League Baseball.

LEAGUE DESCRIPTIONS

Oyster River Youth Baseball is chartered to play Cal Ripken (ages 5-12) and Babe Ruth (13-15) Baseball. Cal Ripken Baseball is a division of Babe Ruth League Baseball Inc. The league consists of four levels of competition: Major, Minor (Live Pitch), Rookie (Coach Pitch) and T-Ball. Each level has its own recommended age group and rules. The overall age group for playing in the Cal Ripken League is 4-12. However, our local league covers ages 5-12. Cal Ripken Baseball adopts the Official Baseball Rules, but also has some of its own special rules.

RIPKEN BASEBALL INC.

Ripken Baseball Inc. was founded by Cal Ripken Jr., who played 21 seasons for the Baltimore Orioles. After retirement, he built a baseball complex in his hometown of Aberdeen, Maryland. The complex consists of a minor league stadium used by the Class A minor league Aberdeen IronBirds. The Ripken Youth Baseball Academy is located adjacent to the minor league stadium. This academy has several youth-sized fields that are built to look like famous major league

stadiums. Every August, 16 teams of 11- and 12-year-olds from all over the world compete in the Cal Ripken World Series.

In 1999, Babe Ruth League Inc. named their 5-to-12-year-old division Cal Ripken Baseball. There are approximately 700,000 young baseball players playing in Cal Ripken Baseball leagues worldwide.

PROGRAM DETAILS AND REGISTRATION INFO

TBALL

Program Description |

The T-Ball program is recommended for 5 & 6 year-olds. This program is intended to provide the very basic fundamental skills for beginning players. Each batter bats from a tee that is adjusted according to height. The adjustments are made to help teach the young players to swing the bat on a level plane. Every player plays at least two innings on defense, with a coach standing behind the infield to help with instructions. A glove is required for each player & helmets are recommended.

Creating Teams |

This is an in-house recreational program. T-Ball teams are created by having an appropriate mix of ages on each team. Without an evaluation teams are created solely based on the age range of the team. We do our best to avoid teams made up of all 5 or 6-year-olds. If your player is participating in T-Ball for the second year in a row, players are typically placed on the same team as the previous year.

Practice Schedule |

ORYA is not able to offer a training schedule until all coaches have been identified and their requests/conflicts have been gathered and compared against appropriate field size & availability. This is an ongoing process during registration and just after. We hope to announce your practice schedule at the same time we announce teams. All T-Ball teams should expect to practice for 60 minutes once per week and play a 'game' on Saturday mornings. As rain-outs affect schedules some weeks may offer more than your normal schedule.

Uniform |

Your uniform shirt and hat are included in your program tuition but **you will need to order your team shirt once placed on a team to ensure proper size and color.** Uniform ordering information can be found on the ORYA Baseball page in your age group program information.

You will be responsible for ordering online within the uniform ordering window. Your team will be provided to you as part of your program tuition and is sized in either youth or adult snap-back. Anyone attempting to order their uniform after an ordering deadline may not receive their uniform in time for play and may experience an increased cost.

Since each T-Ball team wears a different color we are not able to open uniform ordering until team placements have been communicated. Each team will have their own unique order code which corresponds to their shirt color. This order code will be communicated at the same time you receive your team placement information.

Team Snap |

Your volunteer coordinators will utilize Team Snap to communicate with you this spring. This easy & user-friendly app helps keep your schedule straight and allows to and from communications with your coach. Great for last minute schedule updates and player availability, we hope this app makes your season that much easier to keep track of! Be on the lookout for a Team Snap invitation following team placement communication.

MINORS COACH PITCH

Program Description |

Coach Pitch players range mostly from 6-8 year-olds. Teams are created evenly to provide a good level of competition for in-house games. All players face coach pitchers which support consistency, prevent early arm overuse, eliminate the fear of being hit and promote hits to fielders. A glove and helmet are required for each player. Expect 2 practices and 1 game per week.

Creating Teams |

This is an in-house recreational program, and teams are created with a mix of ability levels and offer parity between teams. Teams are created by having an appropriate mix of ages on each team. Without an evaluation, teams are created solely based on the age range of the team. We do our best to avoid teams made up of just younger or older players. If your player is participating in Coach Pitch for the second year in a row, players are typically placed on the same team as the previous year.

Practice Schedule |

ORYA is not able to offer a training schedule until all coaches have been identified and their requests/conflicts have been gathered and compared against appropriate field size & availability. This is an ongoing process during registration and just after. We hope to announce your practice schedule at the same time we announce teams. All Coach Pitch teams should expect one team practice per week, one group skills practice per week, and one game on Saturday morning. As rain-outs affect schedules some weeks may offer more than your normal schedule.

Uniform |

Your uniform shirt and hat are included in your program tuition, **but you still need to order online to ensure proper size and color.** Uniform ordering information can be found on the ORYA Baseball page in your age group program information.

Since each Coach Pitch team is a different color uniform shirt, we are not able to open uniform ordering until team placements have been communicated. Each team will have their own unique order code which corresponds to your shirt color. This order code will be communicated at the same time you receive your team placement information. You will be responsible for ordering online within the uniform ordering window. Your team hat will be also provided to you as part of your program tuition and is sized in either youth or adult snap or Velcro-back.

Anyone attempting to order their uniform after the deadline may not receive their uniform in time for play and may experience an increased cost.

Team Snap |

Your volunteer coordinators will utilize Team Snap to communicate with you this spring. This easy & user-friendly app helps keep your schedule straight and allows to and from communications with

your coach. Great for last minute schedule updates and player availability, we hope this app makes your season that much easier to keep track of! Be on the lookout for a Team Snap invitation following team placement communication.

MINORS LIVE PITCH

Program Description |

Live Pitch players range mostly from 8-10 year-olds with individual exceptions made following the placement clinic. Everyone makes a team. Teams are created evenly to provide a good level of competition for in-house games. Players will continue to work on fundamental skills and begin to understand some elements of game strategy. Each season at this level, we have the opportunity based on interest and coach availability to form post season teams and participate in tournaments and other exhibition events. A glove and helmet are required for each player.

Placement Clinic |

The purpose of ORYA Baseball's placement clinic is to make sure each player is placed in a division & team that will allow them to enjoy the game and play with & against parity-based teams. We utilize this opportunity to evaluate all players to create parity-based teams. We believe that the games will be appropriately competitive this way. Lastly, the evaluations serve as a great opportunity to catch a spring fever after a long and cold winter.

Creating Teams |

This is an in-house recreational program, and teams are created with a mix of ability levels and offer parity between teams. Teams are created by having an appropriate mix of ages on each team. Without an evaluation teams are created solely based on the age range of the team. We do our best to avoid teams made up of just younger or older players. If your player is participating in

Live Pitch for the second year in a row, players are typically placed on the same team as the previous year.

Practice Schedule |

ORYA is not able to offer a training schedule until all coaches have been identified and their requests/conflicts have been gathered and compared against appropriate field size & availability. This is an ongoing process during registration and just after. We hope to announce your practice schedule at the same time we announce teams. All Live Pitch teams should expect two team practices per week and at least one game on Saturdays. As rain-outs affect schedules some weeks may offer more than your normal schedule – including some mid-week games.

Team Snap |

Your volunteer coordinators will utilize Team Snap to communicate with you this spring. This easy & user-friendly app helps keep your schedule straight and allows to and from communications with your coach. Great for last minute schedule updates and player availability, we hope this app makes your season that much easier to keep track of! Be on the lookout for a Team Snap invitation following team placement communication.

Uniform |

Your uniform shirt and hat are included in your program tuition, **but you still need to order online to ensure proper size and color.** Uniform ordering information can be found on the ORYA Baseball page in your age group program information.

Since each Coach Pitch team is a different color uniform shirt, we are not able to open uniform ordering until team placements have been communicated. Each team will have their own unique order code which corresponds to your shirt color. This order code will be communicated at the same time you receive your team placement information. You will be responsible for ordering online within the uniform ordering window. Your team hat will be also provided to you as part of your program tuition and is sized in either youth or adult snap or Velcro-back.

Anyone attempting to order their uniform after the March 22 deadline may not receive their uniform on time and may experience an increased cost.

MAJORS

Program Description |

Majors players range mostly from 10-12 year-olds with individual exceptions made following the placement clinic. Everyone makes a team. Teams are created evenly to provide a good level of competition for in-house games. ORYA utilizes the 60-foot base path a 46-foot pitching distance. Players are still developing so practices are still viewed as the more important part of their baseball experience. A glove and helmet are required for each player.

Placement Clinic |

The purpose of ORYA Baseball's placement clinic is to make sure each player is placed in a division & team that will allow them to enjoy the game and play with & against players of a similar ability. We utilize this opportunity to evaluate all players to create parity-based teams. We believe that the games will be appropriately competitive this way. Lastly, the evaluations serve as a great opportunity to catch a spring fever after a long and cold winter.

Creating Teams |

This is an in-house recreational program, and teams are created with a mix of ability levels and offer parity between teams. Teams are created by having an appropriate mix of ages on each team. Without an evaluation, teams are created solely based on the age range of the team. We do our best to avoid teams made up of just younger or older players.

Practice Schedule |

ORYA is not able to offer a training schedule until all coaches have been identified and their requests/conflicts have been gathered and compared against appropriate field size & availability. This is an ongoing process during registration and just after. We hope to announce your practice schedule at the same time we announce teams. All Majors teams should expect two team practices per week and at least one game on Saturdays. As rain-outs affect schedules some weeks may offer more than your normal schedule – including some mid-week games.

Team Snap |

Your volunteer coordinators will utilize Team Snap to communicate with you this spring. This easy & user-friendly app helps keep your schedule straight and allows to and from communications with your coach. Great for last minute schedule updates and player availability, we hope this app makes your season that much easier to keep track of! Be on the lookout for a Team Snap invitation following team placement communication.

Uniform |

Each player will purchase their own uniform to keep. Majors uniforms will consist of one white jersey and one navy jersey with each players' name and number on the back. For each game, the home team and away team will wear a specific color. Your uniform shirt is NOT included in your program tuition. The goal is for players to get more than one season out of their uniform in an effort to keep the program as affordable as possible. You will be responsible for ordering online within the uniform ordering window. Your team-specific hat will be provided to you as part of your

program tuition and is sized in either youth or adult snap-back. Pants are also an individual purchase as the style of pant is a personal preference.

Uniform ordering information can be found on the ORYA Baseball page in your age group program information. Anyone attempting to order their uniform after the deadline may not receive their uniform in time for play and may experience an increased cost.

BABE RUTH

Program Description |

ORYA usually plans on having a 13 year-old team and a 14 & 15 year-old team, each with a roster max of 13 players. Registration is first come, first served. If you register after the roster max has been reached you will automatically be added to a waiting list. If enough players register to create another team, a volunteer must step forward from that group of players. If we do not identify an additional coach or don't have enough to field an additional team, we will work with neighboring communities to find a place for your player to play.

Babe Ruth players range mostly from 13 to 15 year-olds. Teams are created based on the age and ability level, where applicable, of registered players. Teams train and play at Little River Park in Lee and will compete in a semi-regional league against other towns with Babe Ruth programs. Gloves and a helmet are required for each player. Expect 2 practices and 1+ game per week.

Practice Schedule |

ORYA is not able to offer a training schedule until all coaches have been identified and their requests/conflicts have been gathered and compared against field availability. This is an ongoing process during registration and just after.

Uniform |

Babe Ruth program uniforms were purchased by ORYA. They will be passed out at the beginning of the season and collected at the end of the season. Failure to return a uniform may result in a fee equal to the cost of a replacement. On one of your first practices your coaches will bring your uniform stock to practice and each player will choose a uniform that fits them. Each uniform **MUST** be returned at the end of the season.

Team Snap |

Your volunteer coordinators will utilize Team Snap to communicate with you this spring. This easy & user-friendly app helps keep your schedule straight and allows to and from communications with your coach. Great for last minute schedule updates and player availability, we hope this app makes your season that much easier to keep track of! Be on the lookout for a Team Snap invitation following team placement communication.

Player Tuition |

Based on expected number of registrations, the tuition for this program accounts for insurance (medical & liability), equipment & supplies budget, per town ORYA Admin & Board designated savings allocations, online payment processing & merchant account fees, uniform shirt and hat for appropriate age groups, home umpires, Porto-potties at each location, per player annual field maintenance contribution, sport-specific field maintenance expenses, Cal Ripken League dues & fees and small stipend for coach education or skills coaches.

ORYA Admin |

This encompasses all expenses of which most are non-sport specific and allow the organization to operate. The admin portion of player fees go toward ORYA employee salaries, workers compensation & Board liability insurance, bookkeeping & accounting services, temporary/intern staff stipends, office equipment & supplies, employer paid taxes, payroll service fees, employee benefits, postage, printing & reproduction, advertising, IT support & computer services, service subscriptions & annual dues, telephone, internet, web hosting, web support, bank charges, business travel & meals, charitable contributions, mileage/toll/parking reimbursements and other items from year to year.

ORYA Board Designated Savings |

ORYA's Board Designated Savings supports new initiatives, large scale programs, and/or facility improvements. The BDS is sustained by donations, grants, and program registration fees. The BDS ensures ORYA's steady growth and, over time, investment in larger projects. All of ORYA's programs benefit from BDS. Expenditures from ORYA's BDS must support the organization's mission and be approved by the Board of Directors. ORYA admin fees will only count towards those that are a part of a full ORYA team.

Why are player fees presented differently this season?

ORYA has re-evaluated its player fee budgeting process, to include total town funding contributions in the equation. Taking into account each town's expected number of participants, current funding and in-kind donations, such as field and office space, ORYA has created a new budgeting approach. This new approach reflects a rate that correlates directly to the individual town's total contribution per participant.

ORYA continues to evaluate ways to reduce expenses as well as explore opportunities to increase organizational fundraising. If you or your business would like to donate to or otherwise support ORYA with volunteer hours, in-kind services, materials, or supplies and equipment please reach out to the ORYA Director, Matthew Glode, at director@oryarec.org.