

Graceland Recreation

Youth Baseball/Softball/T-Ball Leagues

Parent Information



Welcome to Graceland Recreation Ministry and the youth sports program. We are glad that you have chosen for your child to participate in Graceland's leagues this year. We hope and trust that this will be an enjoyable experience for your child (or children) and your entire family.

Our motto here is "Play with a Purpose." That purpose is to provide a Christian environment for you and your family in whatever sport you are involved with here at Graceland. First Corinthians 9:22 says "I have become all things to man, that I may by all means save some." It is our goal and mission here at Graceland to do just that. We want everyone to know that we have a great God that loves them and has a plan for their lives. Sports are an outlet to reach people for Jesus and, at the same time, to provide an atmosphere that helps kids learn not only about a sport, but also about our God.

In our baseball/softball leagues we offer great experiences for boys and girls ages 4-12. As you noticed when you registered your child, we have several different leagues for the different age groups. We will try and answer most of your questions in this information packet, but please feel free to email or call me if you have further questions. Again, we are greatly pleased that you have chosen to entrust your child to us for this season. We are always open to suggestions for making this ministry a greater one for our God.

God's Blessing on you and your family this season!

Karen Croft

Recreation Director

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Evaluations (for ages 6 and older)

Evaluations are a process that we do in order to try and make teams as even as possible. All players ages 6 and older MUST be evaluated. This year's evaluation dates are March 5 & 6 at 6:00 p.m. in they gym.

Practices

Practices normally begin around Spring Break week for the older kids. Younger kids will begin sometime in April.

We will have a T-Ball Informational Meeting in order for you to meet your coach and get your practice times on April 3rd at 6:30 in the large gym. Everyone (other than T-Ball) will be contacted by your coach sometime after March 28th. You will have 2 practices a week up until games start and then you will have a practice and two games. This does not include T-Ball. T-Ball will have a couple of practices in April and then games begin in May.

Games

Games for older kids will begin middle to end of April, and younger kids will be first week of May. Specific days of the week have not been established for games for each of the leagues, but you find out at your first practice what days of the week and what times your team will play (Saturday is a given). We will have no practices or games on Sundays or Wednesdays.

Picture Day

Sonshine Studio will be taking pictures on April 28th. You will be given a time for your team's picture at a later date. We try to get all of the pictures done on one day and before season begins so it does not interrupt game times. Pictures will be taken rain or shine. If it rains, we will have pictures taken in the gym. Sonshine Studios accepts cash, check, or credit card. Please bring payment on the day of pictures.

Concessions

We will have concessions available for your and your family. Team drinks may be purchased at the concession stand if it is your day (or night) for snacks for the team. Please help us out and use our concessions. This is the main fundraiser for our leagues. We know that, as parents, you probably don't have the time or energy for another fundraiser and the concession stand helps make up for our league costs.

Awards

We will have an awards program at the end of the season. Each child will receive some type of medal or trophy at the end of the season. This date will be toward the end of June. A specific date has not been set at this time.

Leagues

T-Ball

T-Ball games will be played during the week, and usually on a Tuesday and Thursday. They will last approximately 1 hour. No score will be kept for t-ball games. This league is purely recreational and for fun. Yes, they will learn some of the basics of the game, but at this age level, we are more concerned that they have fun and socialize than that they feel the pressure of intense competition. Each team will have time to bat and play the field. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to help out on the bench or in the field as 4 and 5 year olds tend to play in the grass or dirt. Games begin in May and go until the middle or end of June (depending on weather). They will play once a week while school is still in session and twice a week once school is out. Coaches will pitch to the kids that can hit the ball and then the tee will be brought out after so many pitches.

6 Yr Old Boys Pee Wee

This league was designed for 6 year old boys to help develop their skills a little further before moving to the Rookie League. They will practice once a week and then have a game during the week and on Saturdays. Coaches will pitch to the boys (a certain number of pitches) in order for them to try and hit the ball. Unlike T-ball, if they do not make contact after so many pitches, then they are out. This league is a little more like real baseball and teaches the boys more fundamentals as they are getting older. All boys will still bat and play the field each time. Games begin in May and run through June.

6-8 Girls Softball

This league is designed to help the girls at this age to start learning more about the game of fastpitch softball. This will be a machine-pitched league, but the ball will be pitched at a speed appropriate for their age group. Scores will be kept at this level. They will practice during the week and play games twice a week. Games begin in May and run through June. Some games will be against other leagues and there may be limited travel games involved.

7-8 Boys Rookie

This league is coach-pitched. The boys will learn more fundamentals about the game as well as team play. Scores will be kept as this age as well, but all boys will bat and play the field. They will practice once and play twice a week. Games begin in May and end in June. An All-Star team will be picked at this level. All-Star practices and games will begin when the regular season is over. They will travel in order to play in tournaments.

9-10 Softball

This league will be half machine- and half kid-pitched. This is the age at which we try and start developing pitchers for the fastpitch softball league. This league will practice at least once a week and could possibly practice more depending on the number of games they have that week. Because numbers are normally low, this will be a traveling team, but still recreational. Every child will still get to play. It will be more competitive at this level, which means it is important for your child to be at every practice.

9-10 Boys Minor

This league will be kid-pitched. They will practice during the week and play games twice a week, and may sometimes even travel to another league to get more experience. Heavy fundamentals and team play are emphasized. Games will begin in April and go through June. An All-Star team will be picked and they'll play after the regular season ends. Again, at this level, it is of utmost importance that your kids be at all the practices.

11-12 Girls and Boys

These leagues are both kid-pitched. They will practice 1-3 times a week before the season begins and then once a week once games start. Two games will normally be scheduled. Numbers are usually down in both of these leagues, so numbers of players will determine the number of teams we have and where we play. Most likely, both of these leagues will travel most of the time. We will have games here at Graceland but also on the road. Most games are played within 20 to 45 minutes from Graceland. All-Star teams will be picked, as well, in these leagues.

We hope this will be a great season for you and your family. Please feel free to call or email me if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to a great time of fun and fellowship with you all this year!

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