

Bath Charter Township Parks & Recreation
Little Sluggers Baseball 2019
May 20 – June 27, 2019



Little Sluggers baseball is designed to build on the basic **fundamentals** achieved during t-ball and to acquire and work on new skills. Through this league, players coming in should have the basic knowledge of the batting stance and swing, the progression of bases, fielding the ball, “breaking the window” throwing technique, and the “ready” position with the basic understanding of outs. Little Sluggers is recommended for ages 5 & 6 (by May 1, 2019). Players age 5 should have at least 1 year of T-ball prior to registering for Little Sluggers Baseball. Those who are age 7 and wish to continue in this league will be considered however they must contact the P&R Director prior to registering. Score is not kept during games. Practices will not be held once games begin. An emphasis will be placed on techniques listed above and challenged with charging the baseball to field it, identifying and executing an out along with the proper positioning of the baseball mitt. Practice will be held 1x/week/1.5 hours on the South Field in Bath prior to the game season. Games will be held in Bath on Tuesday’s and Thursday’s at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and run for 50 minutes. As much as possible, teams will be divided equally by gender and age. The 2019 season schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, May 21 - Practice	Thursday, May 23 - Practice
Tuesday, May 28 – Practice	Thursday, May 30 - Practice
Tuesday, June 4 – Game	Thursday, June 6 - Game
Tuesday, June 11 – Game	Thursday, June 13 - Game
Tuesday, June 18 – Game	Thursday, June 20 – Game
Tuesday, June 25 – Game	Thursday, June 27 - Game

The objective of the community sports program is to provide a safe, positive learning experience for each participant and maximize the opportunity for the individual to have fun and promote lifetime fitness. This is a non-competitive community sports program designed to teach fundamentals, skills, and to play with a team attitude. Good sportsmanship and conduct is expected for all players, parents, coaches and spectators. Violations of these stated objectives will be handled in accordance with Township policy. On the following pages is a list of rules/guidelines that your league will follow.

Rules & Information

Attendance

- Any youth who is participating under the youth Scholarship Assistance Program (SAP) has a mandatory 80% participation rate for the entire season to be considered for a future scholarship.
- Baseball is a team effort and therefore it is extremely important that all players make practices and games a priority by attending as much as possible.
- Please contact your coach if you are unable to participate.
- Please be punctual when arriving and picking up your player. Our volunteer coaches have family obligations and many times plan their schedule around baseball practice and games.

Weather Related Issues

- Our leagues will follow the MHSAA weather related rules. If during a practice or game, thunder is heard or lightening is seen you must stop play and retreat with your child to a safe place. You MUST wait 30 minutes before you may begin again. If during those 30 minutes you see lightening or hear thunder, the 30 minutes starts over again. Assess your games time limit to determine if you would have enough time to start the game back up if you wait 30 minutes for the weather to change.
- In Bath if the temperature or heat index is 90 degrees or higher at game or practice time, the coach will contact players to determine if s/he has enough players to participate or if s/he needs to cancel.

Cancellations

- Game cancellation information will come from your coach and/or the P&R Office most generally through an email. If an email is not listed on the registration the phone number listed will be used and a message left if no one answers.
- Time permitting; cancellations will be posted on the Bath Twp. Facebook Page and on the P&R Cancellation Phone line at 641-5168.
- Cancellations will not be made up.

Restroom

- A restroom is located in the park.
- A player will not be allowed to visit the facility alone. If a parent is not present, the coach will ask an assistant to accompany this player to the restroom, wait outside for him/her and return to the field when done.

Coaching

- Those approved to coach/volunteer have provided Parks & Recreation with a Coaching Application, Coaches Code of Conduct, passed the CDC online training course, "Heads Up! Concussion in Youth Sports," and passed an ICHAT (background check). If you are interested in helping a coach or coaching, you must complete this same process during registration.
- Parents are always welcome to join and are encouraged to do so as a coach or volunteer.

Equipment & Attire

- Baseball equipment will be stored in a locked container at the field. **No one is allowed in this container except the coaches and those who the coaches identify.** Please do not allow children to climb on top of the container or on the fence at the field.

- Equipment for the game will be supplied by the Township. Equipment includes team bats, batting tee, helmets, and baseballs. Please understand that sharing a helmet or hat is an easy way to spread head lice therefore if you purchase a helmet for your player, sharing is at the parent's discretion.
- Please discuss with your child the expectation that a batting helmet must be worn when in the on-deck circle, at bat and running bases.
- Township uniforms will consist of a Bath Twp. reversible jersey (purchased by parent) and a ball cap (purchased by Twp.). Each player will receive a hat on the first game night. Please plan to wear your hat for all games.
- Players will supply their own baseball mitt and shoes. Close toed and heel shoes must be worn. Metal cleats are not permitted.
- Players are welcome to sport sunglasses.
- Baseball pants are optional (to be purchased by the parent.)
- A reversible jersey must be worn for games with the Home team sporting white.
- Write your player's name on any personal equipment or uniform pieces.

Games

- Little Sluggers games will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Games will start at 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and run for 50 minutes.
- The base distance will be set at 50'.
- The distance of pitcher's mound to home plate will be set at 35'.
- Coach pitchers will use an overhand pitch for boys and an underhand pitch for girls.
- Games are set up for participation and not win-loss records.
- NO score will be kept.
- Outs will determine a switch from offense to defense.
- Players, who are thrown out, tagged out or who fly out, will leave the base and retreat to the players bench.
- The number of registrants will dictate the numbers on a team's roster.
- No umpires or catchers will be used.
- Coaches assisting the pitcher on the mound will not field the ball unless the situation is deemed unsafe.
- No youth catcher will be used; rather a coach will stop the ball behind the plate and throw it back to the player on the pitcher's mound.
- All players will play for offense and defense; no one will sit the bench.
- Games will be held in the grassy area north of the pavilion.
- If you are going to miss a game, please inform your coach.
- Parents, please encourage your player to be a team player and while on offense sit on the player's bench as directed by their coach. This will allow the coach to quickly provide a batter at the plate. Also encouraging them to participate defensively by taking the field when appropriate would be of great assistance to the coach.
- If a team is short players, they may borrow players from another Bath Twp. P&R Little Sluggers team. Borrowed players must bat last and play only in the outfield unless there are open infield positions.
- Please plan to arrive 10 minutes early as each team will be allowed a 5 minute warm-up on the field prior to the start of the game.
- Games will begin the first week in June and be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. **GAMES MUST START ON TIME** and will consist of 50 minutes. All games must start on time regardless of the number of players present.

- Coaches will provide a batting order changing the order each game to give every player the opportunity to move up in the order of each game.
- Anyone arriving after the start of the game will be added to the bottom of the batting roster.
- Coaches will pitch the ball to the batter. If after 5 hittable pitches the player doesn't connect with the ball, a batting tee will be used.
- There will be no strike outs.
- No youth catcher will be used; rather a coach will stop the ball behind the plate and throw it back to the player on pitcher's mound.
- A fielding team will consist of players at 1st base, 2nd base, short stop, 3rd base, pitcher, (optional: left field, center field, right field).
- If an on-deck circle is on site, the ONLY player that may occupy it is the player on deck.
- No one should have a bat in their hand unless they are up to bat or in the on-deck circle.
- Any ball hit into fair territory is played.
- Leading off is not allowed.
- No walking. Batters are expected to run to 1st base after putting the ball into play.
- No bunting. Batters are expected to take a full swing to put the ball into play.
- No stealing.
- **NO SLIDING.**
- Runners approaching 1st base should be taught to "run through" the base and turn right before returning to the bag, rather than stop when they arrive.
- Balls hit allow the batter and runners to advance 1 base only. During the last week of games, and if coaches agree, runners may advance 2 bases.
- Coaches will serve as base coaches, catcher and on the pitcher's mound for their team when on offense.
- Coaches will assist their team when playing defense by being on the field to give direction to their players.
- Coaches will NOT stop a hit ball traveling through the infield unless it poses an immediate danger to players. Only players will field the balls.
- Following each game players and coaches must congratulate the opposing team verbally and with a handshake, high five, or fist bump.
- During your season, coaches will award each player with a baseball. Please use this ball to practice the skills taught by your coaches.
- The last batter on a team will only travel to 1st base after they hit the ball. This closes out the inning and players on the bags return to their players bench once the play is over.
- Cancelled games will not be made up.

Practices

- Practices will be held in the grassy area north of the pavilion.
- Practice will be held 1x/week/2 weeks/up to 90 minutes.
- Practice will not continue once games begin.
- Practice day and time will be selected by the coach and begin the week of May 20.
- Practices will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Unless you are an SAP recipient, practices are not mandatory but it is expected that families will make every effort to attend games and practices as much as possible.
- If you are going to miss a practice, please inform your coach.
- Please arrive 15 minutes early to your first practice. This will provide an opportunity to meet other parents and offer an opportunity for a Q&A session with the coach.

- Coaches are responsible only for his/her players listed on his/her roster. Therefore do not leave another child at the field with your player if you cannot stay.
- Cancelled practices will not be made up.

Snacks/drinks

- Snacks and drinks will be offered providing parents sign up for their turn. NO NUTS OR NUT PRODUCTS ARE ALLOWED!!! Please try to keep snacks and drinks healthy.
- Each player is encouraged to bring their own water bottle to practice and games. When temperatures are extremely hot, please make sure your child takes breaks and stays hydrated.

Requests

- Requests are accepted during registration only.
- No one may request a specific coach.
- Children of coaches will be placed with their parent coach.
- A coach's child loses their right to a player request.
- Each player is allowed 1 request. The requests must match to be considered.
- Every effort will be made to keep relatives together on a team if noted on the registration form.
- If at any time players on a team are mostly comprised of "requests" the P&R Director reserves the right to deny the requests.
- If you have a specific time that you cannot practice, please write that information on your registration form.

Injuries

- Parents, if your child suffers a small injury and needs a bandage or ice pack, please seek out a coach. S/he has access to a first aid kit for the parents to use if needed.
- In the event of an emergency each coach will follow the instructions that parents provided on their player's Emergency Medical form and has been instructed to call 911 if the injury is considered serious (when a parent is not present).

Pictures

- Pictures will be offered through Emily Derksen Photography.
- Coaches will set up a date and time for pictures and will notify their parents.
- If you do not want to order pictures, please make every effort to still participate so that those who are purchasing pictures have a complete team picture.

Each family will receive a Baseball Survey following the program. Please take the time to complete the survey as answers will assist us in making Baseball decisions for 2019. If you have additional comments, please email P&R Director Becky Goodwin at bgoodwin@bathtownship.us.

Coaches are responsible only for his/her players listed on his/her roster. Therefore do not leave another child at the field with your player if you cannot stay.

Please make sure to survey your area before leaving the field and dispose of any debris from your group.

Participating in and showing your support for the community sports programs is very important. The community sports program emphasis is on playing safe and having fun. These activities are non-competitive and are designed to teach fundamentals, skills and to play with a team attitude. Good

sportsmanship and respectful conduct toward others is expected from all. Bath Township appreciates your support and participation in the community sports program.

We are very fortunate to have parents who volunteer their time to offer this program. Without their assistance, we would not have a program. Please, if you do not agree with something your coach is doing, request a meeting with him/her at a later date. This program should be fun for everyone. Please set by example. Respect, good sportsmanship, and coachable kids all lead to a successful program. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns that you have been unable to resolve with your coach, please feel free to call me.

Becky Goodwin, P & R Director – 641-5167