

# Friendsville Recreation Program

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## Guidelines and Rules

The purpose of the Friendsville Recreation Program is to provide a structured environment for youth to learn the fundamentals of baseball while promoting participation, safety, and sportsmanship.

Wittle Weague is an instructional league. Tee-Ball is a developmental league that introduces limited gameplay elements.

**Player Eligibility:** A player's age shall be determined as of January 1 of the current season.

- Wittle Weague: Ages 3–5
- Tee-Ball (1st–3rd Grade League): Students enrolled in 1st through 3rd grade

Placement requirements:

- Any child within the Wittle Weague age range who has not previously participated in the program shall be placed in Wittle Weague
- Any player enrolled in 1st through 3rd grade shall be placed in Tee-Ball, regardless of prior playing experience

Kindergarten students:

- Kindergarten students shall be placed in Wittle Weague
- The League Commissioner may move a Kindergarten student to Tee-Ball as necessary based on coach availability, team structure, and participation numbers

**Team Structure:** The League Commissioner shall assign teams, schedules, and practice times.

- Teams shall have a maximum of 10 players, subject to registration numbers and coach availability
- Each team shall have one (1) head coach. The head coach may designate one (1) assistant coach. Additional volunteers (parents, grandparents) may assist as needed, to help on the bases or in the field.
- Each player will receive a team jersey
- Parents/guardians are responsible for providing the following equipment:
  - ✓ Bat
  - ✓ Glove
  - ✓ Batting helmet
  - ✓ Athletic shoes or plastic cleats

**Game Duration:**

- Games shall last one (1) hour or three (3) innings, whichever occurs first
- An inning shall end when all players from both teams have batted
- Games shall begin within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time, unless delayed due to field conditions or prior game completion

**Team Placement and Scheduling:**

- Player placement requests shall not be accepted, except for siblings registered in the same league
- Teams shall be formed to ensure balanced distribution of ages and skill levels
- No player transfers shall be permitted after teams are finalized

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- Practices:
  - ✓ Each team shall practice once per week
  - ✓ Parents/guardians shall provide availability during registration
  - ✓ Practice schedules are not guaranteed and are based on coach availability
  - ✓ Roster changes:

## Field Conditions and Rainouts

- The League Commissioner shall evaluate weather conditions and communicate with all head coaches regarding potential cancellations
- Games may proceed if weather conditions are deemed playable and a majority of head coaches agree to continue
- The Recreation Program is responsible for field preparation and marking
- Rescheduling of canceled games shall be coordinated by the League Commissioner

**Conduct:** The Friendsville Recreation Program is instructional and non-competitive. The primary goals of the program are to teach the sport of baseball, promote teamwork, and encourage positive social interaction among participants.

- All participants, coaches, parents, and spectators shall adhere to standards of good sportsmanship and support the instructional nature of the league.
- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of players and assistant coaches
- Spectators shall remain in designated areas during games
- Spectators shall not engage in disruptive behavior, including arguing, negative commentary, or interference with coaches or players

## Enforcement:

- Any parent, family member, or spectator who fails to follow these guidelines may be asked to leave the facility
- Continued or repeated violations may result in removal from the program and restriction from attending future events

**Parent Participation:** This program is instructional and non-competitive. Coaching direction shall be provided by designated coaches to ensure consistency, player development, and an enjoyable experience for all participants.

- Parents/guardians may assist during practices
- Parents/guardians may assist during games only if designated or approved in advance by the head coach
- During games, only designated coaches or approved volunteers are permitted on the field
- Spectators shall not provide instruction to players from the sidelines

**Administration:** Any questions, concerns, or rule clarifications shall be directed to the League Commissioner. The League Commissioner shall have the authority to interpret and enforce these guidelines.

## Program Structure and Instruction

**Wittle Weague:** Wittle Weague is an instructional league for ages 3–5. The primary objective is to teach basic baseball skills in a controlled and non-competitive setting.

- Instruction shall include:
  - ✓ Proper grip and swing of a bat
  - ✓ Base running in the correct sequence
  - ✓ Basic fielding and throwing techniques
  - ✓ Identification of field positions
  - ✓ Listening skills and participation in group instruction
- All batting shall be conducted using a stationary tee. Coach pitch is not permitted in Wittle Weague.
- Coaches are permitted on the field during all play to provide instruction and supervision.
- Coaches may stop play as necessary to provide instruction.
- All players shall bat each inning and participate defensively. No player shall sit out.
- No score shall be kept, and no standings shall be maintained.

**Tee-Ball:** Tee-Ball builds on the skills introduced in Wittle Weague and introduces limited gameplay elements.

- Batting may include tee use and coach pitch, as determined by the coach
- Scorekeeping is permitted only if both coaches agree prior to the game

The focus shall remain on skill development and participation.

- **Players and Positions**
  - ✓ All players shall bat each inning
  - ✓ All players shall play a defensive position each inning
  - ✓ No player shall sit on the bench during gameplay
- **Fielding requirements:**
  - ✓ A maximum of six players may be positioned in the infield
  - ✓ Remaining players shall be positioned in the outfield
  - ✓ Outfield players shall remain at least 10 feet behind the baseline
  - ✓ No catcher position shall be used
- **Position rotation:**
  - ✓ The pitcher position is a defensive fielding position only. Players assigned to this position shall not pitch to batters
  - ✓ All pitches shall be delivered by a coach
  - ✓ Each player shall be assigned to the pitcher fielding position for at least one inning during the season
  - ✓ Each player shall play a base for at least one inning during the season
- **Coaching/Volunteering requirements during games:**
  - ✓ Coach(s) shall assist at the batting tee
  - ✓ Volunteer shall be stationed at first base
  - ✓ Volunteer shall be stationed at third base