

FAQs – 2011

Topics	
What is covered in this document?	<p>You can find common Q&As about the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Assignments/Game Experience • Practice/Game Schedule • Park Logistics/Assistance • Umpires • Coaching & Volunteer Opportunities • Additional OYO Programs • In-Season Activities, Team Requests • OYO Work Days • Sponsorship Opportunities
Team Assignments/Game Experience	
Can I make special requests for practice nights, teammates, etc.?	<p>With more than 90 teams and 1,000 youths playing at OYO every spring, it's hard to grant special requests and maintain team parity. That said, we are a recreational league and want to offer each child a fun and memorable experience. So each league commissioner does review each and every request and grants as many as possible. In all fairness, the hardest one to grant is a specific practice night. Play-together requests can often be accommodated as long as it doesn't create an imbalance between teams in the same league.</p>
When will we know who our coach is and who else is on our team?	<p>Coaches are selected the first week of February. Teams are selected the last week of February. Rosters will be completed and distributed to coaches by Saturday, March 5. So, you can expect a call from you coach within the first 10 days of March.</p>
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 have some high school kids playing in them. 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 these leagues a little later. These seasons typically do not start until May. Some coaches will have practices for kids who are not participating in high school softball or baseball as early as late April.</p>
Will my child have to play outfield all the time since they are new to OYO?	<p>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. Also, no player can sit out a second inning unless all of the other players have sat at least one inning.</p>

Practice/Game Schedule

<p>When does practice start?</p>	<p>The first day of practice is Saturday, March 12. Each team will be given a Saturday practice time as well as a weekday practice time. Also during the first two weeks of the game season, each team will have one weekday practice and one Saturday game. After that, each team will play one or two weekday and either one game or doubleheaders on Saturdays. In short, during the month of May, each team will be scheduled three games per week. Also, we've added a couple games to the schedule for each league. The new format is designed to replace the rescheduling process that has become increasingly more difficult for families and the league.</p> <p>Once teams start playing two or three games per week, practice will be dependent on the coach. 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>
<p>How will we know if the game or practice is rained out?</p>	<p>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.</p> <p><u>To find out if a game has been canceled because of weather, please call the OYO Weather Line at 767.5170.</u></p> <p>We try to update the Weather Line as early as we can make a decision. 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 Weather Line recording will ask for volunteers to come out and help prepare fields. Please come out early if you can to help prepare the fields.</p>
<p>When is our first game?</p>	<p>"Opening Day" is Saturday, April 16.</p> <p>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. They 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 traditional festivities followed by the famous softball and baseball traditional phrase "Play Ball" and ends 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>
<p>How long is the season?</p>	<p>We typically play 15 games in our season followed by a double elimination tournament. No games are scheduled the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of Memorial Day weekend. The OYO recreational season tournament begins, Sunday June 6 and ends on Saturday, June 18. How long you play simply depends on how well your team does.</p>

Park Logistics & Assistance

<p>Why are some of the parking spots blocked with orange cones on Thursdays and Saturday mornings?</p>	<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>
<p>How do I get help when I am at the park?</p>	<p>We schedule 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>
<p>My child's grandparents would like to come watch a game, but they cannot walk all the way back to the fields.</p>	<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. Please be patient as these carts are in high demand before and after games.</p> <p>For insurance reasons, only OYO Board members are allowed to drive the golf carts. So, please, let us do the driving.</p>
<p>With so many teams and games being played at one time, is OYO safe for my younger children?</p>	<p>Yes. We have established Park Rules to provide a safe and clean environment for families to come and enjoy the baseball experience.</p> <p>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 environment • 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 – this helps keeps all children and adults free of injury

Umpires

<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 charter 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>
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<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> <p>If you’re interested in umpiring, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willie Clark at wclar2@amfam.com
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Coaching & Volunteer Opportunities

<p>How do I become a coach?</p>	<p>In order to be considered for a coaching position at OYO, you need to complete a coach’s application and send it to the respective baseball or softball VP.</p> <p>Once coaches have been selected, they are invited to attend a coaching clinic. The clinic will be March 6 this year at Sports of All Sorts. At this clinic we teach the coaches how we want the skills to be taught at OYO.</p> <p>We also highly recommend coached get Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Coaching Certifications. This is an excellent on line coaching certification. In the event you do not get selected as a head coach, please volunteer to help as an assistant coach. We like our coaches using 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 them balls 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 the fields. Don’t worry if you are not sure you can mark the baseline straight. (If anyone complains, they get to line it the next time 😊.) The visiting team is responsible for filling in the holes and dragging the field with a brush after the games. Believe it or not, this is more important than lining the fields.</p> <p>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".</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 OYO Programs

<p>What if my child wants to play more softball or baseball, 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" softball and "Bomber" 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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walt Perry (Red Storm) at syddaws@vzw.blackberry.net • Brent Paddock (Bombers) at brent.paddock@pnc.com
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<p>Does OYO offer any other programs other than spring softball/baseball?</p>	<p>Yes. In 2008, we launched our Fall Ball program.</p> <p>In both 2009 and 2010 we expanded the league to allow for more players, since we exceeded the fall program's capacity. We conducted an exciting developmental six-week program for four age groups in baseball (Rookie, Minor, Super Major, and Jr Babe Ruth) and two age groups in softball (10U and 12U). Teams play two games each Sunday beginning the Sunday after Labor Day. The season commences with a single-elimination tournament in mid-October. To further help players develop their skills, teams can schedule optional practices during the week.</p> <p>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 this fall will be released in May.</p>
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In-Season Activities, Team Requests

<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 every game.</p>
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<p>What is “Picture Day”?</p>	<p>Picture day is when all of the softball and baseball teams at OYO have individual and team pictures taken. It is a crazy day as we try and get more than 1,000 kids organized to get their pictures taken prior to their game, and still get to their game on time. You can help speed up the process by having your picture forms filled out and checks written and having your child arrive at the park at the time your team parent and coach request. You can purchase packages and individual pictures on Picture Day. 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>
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OYO Work Day

<p>Our coach asked us to help out with “Work Days”.</p> <p>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 help prepare our park for the upcoming season.</p> <p>This year the work days will be on Sundays from Noon – 4 p.m. on March 13, 20, 27, and April 10.</p> <p>Your coach will let you know which date your team is scheduled to work. If you cannot make it on that date, please attend one of the other dates to help out. 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. Please help out with this as your volunteer work helps keep our registration costs down.</p>
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Sponsorship Opportunities

<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 and qualifying sponsorship and in-kind services.</p> <p>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 can also offer sponsorships.</p> <p>To discuss these options, contact either Donetta Gee-Weiler at 213.6216 or dgee-weiler@ecommunity.com or Dana Bowser at 414.6399 or dbowser@ecommunity.com.</p>
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