



## **Spring Baseball 2024 Information Guide**

### **Field Location**

Gardens Park  
4301 Burns Road  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

### **Parent Coaches/Managers**

We encourage all parents who would like to become actively involved in assisting on the baseball field to do so. In the interest of safety, we will require a background check for all parents on the field or in the dugout. Coaches and Assistant Coaches will also need to complete a Coaching Certification. Please note that you only need to complete the coaching certification one time. Background checks must be submitted every year. Below are the links for both the coaching certification and background check.

[Background Check](#)

[Coaching Certification Course](#) (Only need to do 1 time)

### **Evaluations**

- T-Ball: Friday, January 12, 2024
- Rookie, Minor and Major: Saturday, January 13, 2024
- Make Up date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024
- Times for evaluations: TBD

### **Team Drafts**

- Wednesday, January 17, 2024, and Thursday, January 18, 2024.
- Location: Online Draft
- Any coach that has a child playing in the Spring season, this player will be automatically added to their team. Also, for any siblings that play in the same age group, they will be drafted to the same team unless a parent requests otherwise.
- To enhance parity amongst teams, one team will not be allowed to have a disproportionate number of travel players on their roster. We will also attempt to equally distribute skilled pitchers so that all teams have enough players that can reliably throw strikes.
- With over 500 players in the Spring season the league cannot accept any other request.

## **Team Information**

- After the notification of what team each child will be playing on, the coach will be communicating with all parents to introduce themselves and provide additional information regarding the practice schedule and expectations for the season.
- GameChanger Team Manager is the primary method of team communication and schedule access. You can download the Team Manager app at <https://gc.com/teammanager>. Create your account using the email you used to register with the league to login. Once your child is assigned to a team, the team will populate in your app home screen.

## **Team Practice**

- Team practices will start the week of January 22, 2024.
- Each team will be assigned 2 practices a week.
- Once games start, field space permitting, the league will assign 1 practice a week.

## **Opening Day**

- Saturday, February 10, 2024.
- This is a fun event to introduce all our 2024 Spring teams. There will be Fun Inflatables, a DJ, Chinese Raffle, Silent Auction items and BASEBALL GAMES!!

## **Games and Scheduling**

- For all age groups, games will start the second week of February.
- The official game schedule will be emailed to each parent via Sports Connect and loaded into Game Changer Team Manager prior to the first week of games. With approximately 500 players, the scheduling process takes some time and review before the final schedule is posted.
- Divisions: ***Subject to change***
  - Little T-Ball:** Monday & Friday
  - T-Ball:** Monday, Wednesday & Saturday
  - Rookie:** Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
  - Minor:** Monday, Wednesday & Saturday
  - Major:** Monday, Wednesday & Thursday
  - Senior:** TBD

## **Closing Day at Roger Dean Stadium**

- Please join us on Saturday, April 6, 2024, at Roger Dean Stadium!! Teams will be recognized on the field, jumbo screen and after the game, can run the bases! More information to follow.

## **Playoffs**

- Will begin approximately April 18, 2024 and Championship weekend, April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## **Uniforms & Equipment**

- All players will be provided a team jersey and hat. It's strongly recommended players purchase baseball pants, socks and cleats.
- All players must provide their own baseball glove, batting helmet with face guard and USA certified bat (Tee Ball players must use Tee Ball bats). You can find more information on USA Bat Certification here: <https://www.usabaseball.com/bats> USA Baseball Certified bats are available at all retailers that sell baseball equipment.

## **Sponsorships**

- **Team Sponsors \$350:** The Baseball league asks that each team have a team sponsor to help cover the costs incurred during the season. Team sponsors will receive their business name on the sleeve of the team jersey.
- **Banner Sponsor \$500:** A banner will be placed at Gardens Park with the business name for the recreation season.
- **Banner & 1 Team Sponsor \$800:** Business name on a banner at Gardens Park for the recreation season and the business name on the sleeve of the team jersey.

## **Season Updates and Communication**

- All league communication is through Sports Connect emails.
- You can also download the GameChanger Team Manager app on your Apple or Android device. Use your Sports Connect login and password. This will give you mobile access to your child's team roster, schedule, game reminders, etc.

## **Weather Notifications and Make Up Games**

- We will email if we have any rain outs, please note the City of Palm Beach Gardens makes the decisions on field closures.
- They will usually not make the decision until close to 5 pm as we do our best to get the games played.
- If a game is rained out, the baseball league will attempt to reschedule it to be played at a later date.
- The baseball board gets this information from the City of Palm Beach Gardens and would share with you via email as quickly as possible. The city now uses a service called Rainout Line to communicate field closures and you can access that directly to get this notification at the same time as we do.

[City of Palm Beach Gardens Rainout Line](#)

You can also download the free Rainout Line app to get push notifications sent directly to your phone:

[For Apple Devices](#)

[For Android Devices](#)

You can configure the app to get notifications for all Palm Beach Gardens Recreation Facilities.

- o Click on the hamburger menu on the top right and search for "Palm Beach Gardens"
- o Select the "City of Palm Beach Gardens" from the search result.
- o Here you will see a full list of all the city facilities. Scroll down to "Gardens Park Baseball Fields 1-8" and click on the bell icon to receive push notifications on your device and the star icon to have it marked in your app as a favorite.
- o This will set you up to receive up to the minute cancellations when we have inclement weather.

Please note: As this is not a PBGYAA application we are unable to provide any support should you have any issue setting it up. We will continue to send emails with field closures as soon as we can after receiving notification from this app.

## **Tee Ball Division: Little Tee Ball & Competitive**

### ***PROGRAM DESCRIPTION***

#### **Little Tee Ball Division**

The Little Tee Ball Division will consist of fun games and drills which are designed for the beginner player. The program will be overseen by professional baseball coaches with the expertise needed to teach and reinforce proper fundamentals. Parents of athletes in this program are strongly encouraged to volunteer to coach to help our professional trainers execute these drills, so please volunteer! Parent coaches will learn a lot as well!

### ***Program Structure***

Athletes will be assigned to teams that will work together through drills and games to develop fundamental skills. Training sessions will take place on Mondays and Fridays on the Miracle Fields (turf fields on the East side of the park) and run for 1 hour. Monday sessions will be Skills and Drills, and Friday sessions will be games.

## ***Program Objectives/Goals***

The core purpose of the Little Tee Ball Program is to teach players the basic fundamentals of baseball. Before moving to the Competitive Division, players should be able to:

- Throw and catch consistently
- Know where the bases are
- Understand where positions are on the field.
- Understand the basic rules of the game (how to make an out, 3 outs per side, etc.)

## **Competitive Division**

The Competitive Division has been created so more advanced players can learn to compete in competitive games. This division will play by the Official Cal Ripken Baseball Rules. The purpose is to better prepare players for the speed and style of play they will encounter as they move up into the Rookie Division (Machine Pitch). Games will be 6 innings or a maximum of 90 minutes, whichever comes first.

## ***Program Structure***

Teams will be formed by draft. Players will have more hands-on instruction and get the maximum number of innings played so that players can gain the most experience during the course of the season. This division will encourage a very aggressive style of play. Teams will meet on Mondays and Fridays or Saturdays for practices and games.

## ***Program Objectives/Goals***

The core purpose of the Competitive Division is to build upon the base fundamentals that athletes have already begun to master. Areas of focus will be on:

- Defensive movement off the ball (what to do when the ball is NOT hit to you)
- Base running, recognizing when to run
- The importance of outfield play
- Situational baseball, getting the lead runner

**THERE WILL BE AN EVALUATION FOR ALL 5 YEAR OLD COMPETITIVE PARTICIPANTS.**

## **COBRA Program (Coalition Of Babe Ruth Athletes)**

COBRA is an interleague Division where PBG teams will compete against teams from other Babe Ruth League/Cal Ripken Leagues in Palm Beach County. Because of the interleague aspect, games will be played at various Cal Ripken League Parks throughout Palm Beach County (about 25% of games will be at Gardens Park), typically as Double Headers on Saturday afternoons.

COBRA was designed for players that participate in multiple sports (i.e. travel soccer, travel basketball, travel baseball). As such, there are **no practices** for this group to free up time for them to continue with their obligations to other sports and still be able to participate in recreation baseball. Although skill is not necessarily a requirement for COBRA, there is little to no development with the lack of practices. COBRA was purely designed to accommodate for time, or the lack thereof, for multi-sport athletes with overlapping commitment.

COBRA is a part of the recreation program. Per our Charter with Babe Ruth League/Cal Ripken, players can only be rostered to one team in either the traditional "in-house" division, or the COBRA division, not both. Players will only be evaluated for placement on COBRA rosters if they register to participate. Due to limited roster space, not all players who register for COBRA will be rostered to a COBRA team, however all registered players will be drafted to a PBG Baseball Rec team for the upcoming season.

Here are some of the key points summarizing how the new COBRA program will be run this upcoming Spring:

- COBRA division teams will play a 10 game season against other COBRA teams from Palm Beach Gardens and Cal Ripken District 16 Parks in Northern Palm Beach County.
- COBRA games will be played in a Round Robin Double Header format with games being played over a 5 day spread during the Spring Rec Season (Mid-February through the beginning of May). Game sites will rotate between participating parks.
- The COBRA Division will strictly adhere to published BRL/CR rules, including: USA Bats, pitching rules/restrictions, closed bases (Rookie and Minor), etc. It is the same rules set that our All-Star teams play by throughout the Cal Ripken Tournament Trail.
- Rosters for COBRA teams will be formed after an evaluation process. All players that want to be considered for a COBRA roster can indicate that when registering for the Spring season. COBRA rosters will be made up of a mix of players by their baseball age as published for each Cal Ripken division - i.e. Rookie (7 and 8), Minor (9 and 10), and Major (11 and 12). It is important to note that All-Star Rosters can NOT be made up of 7 or more players from the same Rec Roster. COBRA rosters are Rec Rosters. PBG Baseball will have a minimum of two (2) COBRA teams for the Rookie, Minor and Major Divisions.

- COBRA teams will not have any regularly scheduled practice times (unless specifically requested) and will only be required to meet on scheduled game days.
- As the COBRA option is a part of our Rec Charter, players cannot participate in both the COBRA interleague division and the traditional "in-house" division as players cannot be on more than one Rec Roster and maintain All-Star eligibility.

## **League Age Determination - 2024**



**BABE RUTH LEAGUE, INC.**

### **BIRTH CHART FOR 2024 – BASEBALL DIVISIONS**

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
<b>January</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>February</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>March</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>April</b>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>May</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>June</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>July</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>August</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>September</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>October</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>November</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>December</b>	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

**All player ages are determined by the birth chart shown above. May 1 in any year shall be the deciding date.**

**Cal Ripken** – Any player born prior to May 1, 2020 and on or after May 1, 2011 will be eligible for Cal Ripken Baseball League competition.

Any player that turns 4-years-old in the months of May, June, July and August of 2020 is eligible to participate in the Cal Ripken T-Ball Division

**13-16** – Any player born prior to May 1, 2011 and on or after May 1, 2007 will be eligible for Babe Ruth 13-16 League competition.

**16-18** – Any player born on or after January 1, 2005 will be eligible for Babe Ruth 16-18 League competition.