

NP Recreation sports leagues strive to:

- Promote health and fitness by encouraging a love of the sport
- Teach the fundamentals
- Provides in-town competitive opportunities for all skill levels
- Foster an environment of sportsmanship and personal growth for both players and volunteer coaches

Coaching

Recreation Contact Info

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 Karen Lambert, Sports Assistant: klambert@newprov.us

Weather Cancellations

- Games or practices may be cancelled on a field-by-field basis depending on conditions.
- E-mails regarding game cancellations will be sent from Rec office to leagues playing that night.
- Cancellations will be posted on season league lineup site (see Communication).

Communication

- Season announcements, team rosters and schedules, and league rules are posted at www.leaguelineup.com/newprovbaseball .
 - The current schedule (approx. 2 weeks) can be found by scrolling to the bottom of homepage.
 - League specifications can found under the BULLETIN BOARD link
- Team rosters with contact information are provided to facilitate communication with parents
- All coaches should be registered via Community Pass in order to receive league notices (link from newprov.org/recreation).
- Please encourage parents to assist as possible and sign up as coach or parent helper.

League Overall Details

- Length of season: Tuesday 4/1 through end of May or early June.
- Days of week: Tuesday & Thursdays
- Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
- Location: Lincoln fields
- We will keep softball in-town this year
- Field Equipment Boxes: Boxes with supplies are on each field and the combination is: _____
- Please make sure equipment is returned to boxes and lock them after scrimmage/practice

Sportsmanship

- Sportsmanship is defined as conduct and attitude considered as befitting participants in sports, especially fair play, courtesy, striving spirit, and grace in losing.
- In order to encourage sportsmanship in all Recreation sports, the following have been developed:
 - **Code of Conduct** (part of registration). Parents agree to have their child adhere to the code.
 - Codes of Conduct for Coaches, Parents, and Players available under BULLETIN BOARD on the league lineup season website
 - Articles and essays regarding Sportsmanship are posted on the season website.

Safety

- Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) are available at allgyms/ fields in town (see separate sheet).
- Information on concussions, along with the NP Recreation Sports-related Concussion Policy, is posted on the season Web site.
- Coaches are asked to submit an Incident Report for any injuries that occur at a game or practice.

Coaching Background Checks

- The Borough of New Providence is requiring free background checks **every other year** for all Recreation volunteer head coaches, assistant coaches, and parent helpers over age 21.
- If you have done a background check as a result of your occupation, please let us know and provide documentation.
- If you have not completed a background check, you will be receiving an email from our vendor. Please respond to this email to complete the check.

Rutgers SAFETY Coaching Certification

- NP Recreation is phasing in a one-time requirement that all coaches take a coaching safety course.
- We made arrangements for the Rutgers SAFETY Clinic with Steve Kern of Tri- Town Little League.
- Spring dates are Thursday, 3/26 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm or Saturday, 4/12 from 8:30 am to 11:30 am
- The online clinic is provided via web conference.
- **To register please email: skern@wmblanchard.com.**
- Let Steve know that you are from New Providence and NP Rec will cover the fee; you do not need to pay.

Handouts

- AED locations
- Concussion articles
- Incident report
- Thunder and Lightning policy
- Sportsmanship and coaching

Scrimmage Set-Up & Rules

1st & 2nd Grade Softball should be instructional and developmental, looking to improve on skills and techniques. The goal is to teach the proper way to play the game and to have fun.

Equipment

- 10 inch softball; ASA aluminum bats; batting tee
- All players must wear protective batting helmets when at bat and when running the bases. The helmets must meet National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) standards and carry the NOSCAE label. Do not use any helmet if the shell is cracked or deformed; or if the interior padding is deteriorated.
- Players provide their own fielding glove/mitt
- Helmets will be provided in equipment boxes, but recommend player has their own labeled helmet

Uniform:

- Recreation issued t-shirt and cap; sneakers or non-metal cleats; long pants are recommended.
- Jewelry is not allowed.

Field Set-up

- Pitching distance: 35 feet from pitching plate to home plate.
- Bases 45 feet apart with 64 feet as distance from home plate to second base.
- Bases may remain loose or connected with stake
- Imaginary playing line: “connects” 1st and 3rd base. All defensive players stay behind this line until ball hit
- Home team: listed last on schedule, bats last, and sits on 1st base line.
- Away team: listed first on schedule, bats first, and sits on 3rd base line.
- Equipment box behind backstop with supplies at all fields. Please secure box when scrimmage complete.
- **Equipment lock combination**

Number of Players

- All players should play in the field. Ideally 10 players with six infielders and four outfielders on the grass.
- Extra players should be put in the outfield.

Time

- Warm –up: 6:00 PM to 6:20 PM
- Scrimmage: 6:20 PM for a four-inning scrimmage
- No new inning will start after 7:30 PM

Instruction and Scrimmage

- Instruction one day/week to provide skills/drills in a positive way to encourage consistency, proper technique, and repetition of fundamental skills. Coaches assist with instruction.
- Scrimmage one day/week to utilize skills in structured game environment to help understand rules, position, strategy etc.
- Coaches provide guidance. Scores will not be officially kept; no playoffs

Coaching Scrimmage Position

- The team at bat may coach in the coaching box at 1st or 3rd base
- Fielding team may stand near defensive players to offer advice, but not interfere with play.
- Coaches may request “time” to demonstrate a technique or explain a situation to a player.
- Fielders: please make sure all players in the field are engaged and ready to play
- At bat: Please make sure all players other than the batter or in batting circle are sitting on the bench.

Batting Rules

- No bunting permitted
- All players present at the start of the game will be listed in the batting lineup and bat every inning.
- Late players will be listed at the end of the order.
- Outs are to be counted, but sides do not change until all have batted.

Base Running

- Base runners remain on base until ball is hit.
- No stealing or sliding. No infield fly rule.
- An overthrow into fair territory results in runners advancing at their discretion.
- An errant return of the ball from catcher to pitcher is not considered an overthrow.
- On a batted ball, play stops when the player “pitcher” receives the ball on the mound from another player.

Playing Time

- Coaches must make every effort to equalize playing time during each scrimmage and over the season.
- Players will be given the opportunity to play various positions (subject to coach’s judgement).
- There is free substitution for all positions.