

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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Weather Cancellations

- Games or practices may be cancelled on a field-by-field basis depending on condition.
- 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) for all leagues can be found by scrolling to the bottom of homepage.
 - League guidelines/rules 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: Monday, March 31 through the end of May or early June
- Days of week: Monday and Wednesday
- Time: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM
- Location: Hillview, Lincoln & Lions fields
- 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 all gyms/ 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 8:30am 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 Info
- Incident report
- Thunder and Lightning policy
- Sportsmanship and coaching

Scrimmage Set-Up and Rules

1st/2nd Grade Baseball 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

- Softer than standard “Little League” ball; tees, bats
- 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. Helmets meeting the standard will have the NOSCAE label on them. 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

Uniform:

- Recreation issued t-shirt; sneakers or non-metal cleats; exercise or comfortable pants (LONG pants are recommended).

Field Set-up

- Pitching distance: 30 to 40 feet depending on batter
- Bases 60 feet apart with 84 feet distance from home plate to second base
- Imaginary playing line: “connects” 1st & 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 box combination:**

Number of Players

- 10 players with six infielders and four outfielders on the grass

Time

- Warm-up: 6:00 PM to 6:20 PM
- Scrimmage: 6:20 PM for a possible four to six inning scrimmages depending on dusk time
- Time limit: no inning starts after 7:30 pm

Practice and Scrimmage

- Please provide instruction during practice/ warm-up time. Please provide skills/drills in a positive way to encourage consistency, proper technique, and repetition of fundamental skills.
- Scrimmages utilize skills in structured game environment to help understand rules, position, strategy etc. Scores will not be officially kept; no playoffs will be held.

Coaching Scrimmage Position

- This is a coach pitch league.
- Coaches pitch to their own team from a safe distance (about 30 to 46 feet).
- 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.
- 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 are in batting circle are sitting on the bench.

Batting Rules

- All players present at the start of a game are listed in the batting lineup.
- Players arriving late will added to the end of the batting order.
- Outs are counted and player returns to bench. *Inning ends with three outs.*
- The intent is for the player to put the ball in play, not to strike out.
- After a player takes FIVE SWINGS at pitched balls that are either fouled off or missed, a batting tee may be used until the ball is hit into fair territory. Note: Any batter can request to use batting tee at any time.
- On deck batter must only prepare in the on-deck areas (batting cage or circle) with helmet on. No swinging of bat anywhere else.
- No throwing of bat permitted. Bat must be placed down or carried to first base after the batter hits the ball. Warning will be given at first offense. For second offense, batter will be called out and will not be permitted to bat the rest of the game.
- No bunting, leading, or stealing
- No umpires are assigned, and no scores are kept.
- Each team will “draft” a base umpire to call outs at bases.

Base Running

- Base runners remain on base until ball is hit.
- No stealing or sliding. No infield fly rule.
- Play is stopped when the ball is returned to the pitcher (COACH or PLAYER) in the general area of the mound.
- Runners in between bases are awarded the next base on the ball-back-to-pitcher throw if halfway or more to the base.
- On overthrows runners may only advance one base at their own risk.
- An errant return of the ball from catcher to pitcher is not considered an overthrow.
- 5-RUN MAXIMUM per inning applies, with the exception of the last inning
- When the catcher for the next inning is a base runner, he will be replaced by the last batted out to put on equipment.

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.