

# *Everything you ever wanted to know about coaching Tball*

**McGee's Crossroads Athletic Association**

[www.gomcaa.com](http://www.gomcaa.com)

*McGee's Crossroads Athletic Association*  
**Home of the MCAA**

I. Introduction to the MCAA

- a. The McGee's Crossroads Athletic Association is a non-profit organization created to develop, support and promote recreational activities in the McGee's Crossroads area.
- b. The primary focus of the organization will be teaching the fundamentals of each sport and sportsmanship to the players. This focus is intended to bolster the abilities and understanding of the participants, to aid in physical conditioning, and to increase community spirit.

II. Our Fields

- a. The primary practice and playing field for Tball is at Johnson Memorial Church, a couple of miles down from the Sheetz Station
  - i. Address: 8280 NC 50 Hwy North, Angier, NC
- b. Participation at some events such as ceremonies and make up games could be scheduled at the McGee's Crossroads Middle School field.
  - i. Address: 13353 NC Highway 210, Benson, NC
- c. The League for the most part will maintain the facilities (such as mowing the outfield), but coaches are expected to make sure the fields are game ready. This can involve raking around the bases, dragging the field, painting lines, and so on. Keep an eye out for works shop memos and participation requests from the other coaches.
- d. Make sure everyone is aware that smoking and pets are not permitted on the properties.
- e. It should go without saying that cursing and any other unruly behavior will never be tolerated.

III. Game and Practice Schedules

- a. Practice and game schedules are provided by the league.
  - i. There is typically a 1 hour practice during the week. Multiple teams will share the facilities so a field rotation should be worked out amongst the coaches.
  - ii. Games are normally scheduled for Saturday mornings but there is a chance that a weekday game could be scheduled
  - iii. As the season progresses it is common and encouraged to use your practice time as a scrimmage with the other team sharing the field.
- b. Try to stick to your posted schedule as best as possible, allowing parents to stay consistent with the week to week activities.
- c. Weather happens - work with the League for reschedules.

IV. The Game Basics

- a. We do not keep score - have fun!
- b. Games are 3 innings, but other teams are going to be scheduled before and after. Typically one hour or so is allotted for the game. Stress the importance of starting on time and manage the clock so each team has a chance to hit and field evenly.
- c. Beginners should hit off the Tee. Players can get 3 pitches from the coach before hitting off the Tee.
- d. All players get to hit each inning, and all players are in the field for defense.

V. Asking for Help

a. Assistant Coaches

- i. Be prepared to designate at least one parent as your assistant coach.
- ii. Ideally you want several parents as assistants, not only for games but for help during practice as well. Please make sure they do NOT interfere with balls that are in play during a game.
- iii. There are 5 Coach positions for each game
  1. Pitcher (normally the Head Coach but not mandatory)
  2. Catcher
  3. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base
  4. Dugout (normally called a Dugout Mom or Dad)
- iv. Ideally you will manage every practice and every game. But life happens. So with advance preparation, if you are not able to attend a practice or game, you can still maintain the schedule by having your assistants fill in for you.

b. Team Parent

- i. If you are not email savvy or you have limited access to the internet, choose a parent to be your “voice”. Have the Team Parent send out your emails so there is no lag in communication with your team.

c. Game Snacks and Concessions

- i. At the beginning of the season designate a player each week to bring snacks and drinks for after the game.
- ii. Each team should have at least one adult volunteering to run concession for ½ the game. It’s a good idea to have that be the same family that is bringing snacks so that they are limiting their personal participation to only one game of the season.

VI. Stay in Touch

a. The primary tool for communication within the league is email.

b. Communicate with Coaches

- i. Highly recommended that you have the emails and cell numbers of your fellow Tball coaches. This comes in handy for weather updates, game and practice reschedules, etc.

c. Communicate with Parents

- i. You need to have the cell number and email addresses of each parent, and if there are other adults such as grandparents that would be involved in bringing the players to practices and games get theirs too. Use a consistent email contact list and provide updates often and well in advance if there are any changes to schedules, venues, etc.

VII. Planning and Preparation

- a. Seniority prevails, but you have options on your uniforms
  - i. Choose a color that is available - favorites are red, blue, yellow, orange, etc.
  - ii. Players (parents) can choose their number. The choice should be in the range of how many are on the team, such as 1 through 11 if there are eleven players.
  - iii. Make sure that you have the players' names spelled correctly.
  - iv. Sponsor names are printed on the shirts, meaning that no other official name is given to your team.
- b. Try to keep track of practice and game attendance so week after week you know who is participating and when.
- c. Keep a record of the hitting lineup and positions played. This will help you pace the players' progress and allow you to check that a good rotation of all the positions is taking place.
- d. Having your line-up set prior to the game provides a variety of benefits. Firstly, in the event that you have to miss a scheduled game, you can relieve the burden from your assistant coaches. They may not know the progress level for each player and may be uncomfortable with trying to set positions and batting orders. Secondly, if you have several copies of the line-up at each game, you will have help getting the players in the field and the batting order is set. This speeds up the game since you and the assistants are telling the kids where to go, and when to hit. In the example below, you have the players' names and jersey numbers. The batting order is simply top to bottom, and each position is predetermined:

1st Inning		2nd Inning		3rd Inning
# 9 WILL		# 10 GAVIN		# 12 DOMINIC
LF		short		LF
# 10 GAVIN		# 12 DOMINIC		# 2 ALEX
RF		LF		2nd
# 12 DOMINIC		# 2 ALEX		# 3 LONDON
3rd		RF		3rd
# 2 ALEX		# 3 LONDON		# 4 NATHAN
LF		LF		RF
# 3 LONDON		# 4 NATHAN		# 5 WESLEY x
2nd		3rd		XX RF
# 4 NATHAN		# 5 WESLEY x		# 6 DREW
pitch		xx LF		LF
# 5 WESLEY x		# 6 DREW		# 7 ETHAN
xx LF		2nd		RF
# 6 DREW		# 7 ETHAN		# 8 DEAN
short		1st		short
# 7 ETHAN		# 8 DEAN		# 9 WILL
RF		pitch		1st
# 8 DEAN		# 9 WILL		# 10 GAVIN
1st		RF		pitch
Snacks/Concessions			Home	Away
Jordan Family			Smith	Johnson

VIII. Equipment and Uniforms

- a. The League will provide practice bases, Tee's, and Tballs.
- b. Each player will receive a game shirt and ball cap from the League
- c. The Head Coach is provided an Mx shirt for games as well as several adult ball caps for yourself and a couple of assistant coaches.
- d. Each player is responsible for having cleats, socks, standard gray baseball pants, helmet, glove and bat.
- e. At practice they should wear pants and a shirt other than their game ones.
- f. If any of your players are unable to provide their own gear, ask around for help.

IX. Practice the Tball Fundamentals

- a. Catching
- b. Throwing
- c. Positions
- d. Fielding
- e. Batting
- f. Base Running

X. Sponsors, Pictures and Trophies

- a. The League will ask each coach to get at least one sponsor.
- b. Levels and cost are determined seasonally and the detail is provided by the League.
- c. Sponsors can be local business, but also know that organizations, families, etc. can sponsor a team as well.
- d. Normally the primary sponsor of a team also has a player on the team. They will also be recognized on the jersey, but it's not uncommon to have multiple team sponsors because of the different contribution levels.
- e. Pictures will be scheduled prior to season end
  - i. All players are expected to participate in the team photo regardless of whether or not they are buying pictures
  - ii. Your assistant coach or coaches should be in the team photo
- f. Every player will receive a trophy for participation. A ceremony will be scheduled prior to season end.

- XI. So we can't exactly cover "everything" but this outline is a good starting point. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask. This association is a volunteer and community based organization and all of the age groups have a vested interest in your success. Thank you.

***Play Ball!***