

# FALL BALL UPDATE: 8/19/2020

Dear Buckhead Baseball Families:

We are excited to have the kids back at the park this fall and look forward to getting them outside, enjoying the game of baseball as we all navigate various versions of “back to school”. As we continue to finalize plans for the fall, we want to provide a quick update on the expected timeline for commencing the fall season, as well as some of the parameters by which we will be operating.

Normally, our fall offering provides only one event/week, which includes 2 practices, followed by 8 weeks of games on Sunday (total of 10 events for the fall season). The intent of this format is to provide a more laid-back baseball season with fewer events, which allows kids to be involved in multiple activities.

As most are aware, all Atlanta city parks are currently operating under specific COVID limitation. All city parks are currently restricted from large gatherings and restricted to small gatherings for conditioning / practices with adherence to social distancing.

As such, BB will begin our fall season in a modified format, but one that will provide increased opportunities for skill development, while also returning to the park in a safe manner for all. While we are hopeful of the ability to transition into games and/or scrimmages, we cannot guarantee the ability to do so. While details are still being finalized, our modified fall season will be as follows:

**Teams will be formed as usual.** Rather than one event / week, each team will have the opportunity to meet 2x/week for skills and conditioning work (potentially up to 16x events vs. the 10 events in a typical season). These sessions will be led by our fall coaches with input and direction from our League Development Committee (LDC) on skills and practice composition. We will continue in this format until such time as we are permitted by the City to commence scrimmages and/or games. Even if we are not able to resume games, this will provide the kids with more “reps” than we normally have in a fall offering and most importantly, an opportunity to be outside.

**Cost of Sessions:** For those registered for fall baseball, all skills sessions will be included in your registration fee. As a reminder, the cost for all leagues is \$250 (except TB4 is \$210). ***Per our original note, beyond the initial non-refundable registration fee of \$35, all remaining balances will not be charged until 9/15/20; however, if anyone wishes to cancel, you must do so by August 28<sup>th</sup> to allow the league time to confirm participants and create “teams” for the development sessions.*** If you do decide to cancel, you will not be charged the remaining balance.

**First Day of Fall Season: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.** Skills/Conditioning times will be allocated during the week between 4pm and 9pm (goal will be for younger kids to be finished by 7:30pm) and on Sunday from Noon to 9pm. With the delay in the commencement of school for many and the need for our families to get used to a new school year in unusual circumstances, we felt it important to delay the start of the season a few weeks.

**Conditioning Times:** Skills/Conditioning times will be separated by 15-minute intervals (vs. back to back as we normally do) to limit congestion and provide adequate time for each team to leave before the next team takes the field.

**Parent Involvement:** We will ask all parents not involved in coaching for the older leagues to please drop off and leave. For the younger kids, please limit the number of “field observers”, wear masks and socially distance. For all leagues, if parents need to stay, please be mindful of the need to wear your mask at all times as our ability to operate in this environment is contingent on limiting those at the park. We will be providing all families with an update to our COVID protocols prior to the commencement of the season

We are very excited to have all the kids back at the park and appreciate the patience and understanding of all our families. 2020 continues to be a very unusual time for all of us. We understand the importance of getting kids outside and active, particularly as many experience some version of “virtual” school. We also know how important the league is for so many friends and families that don’t go to school together or live close by, and thus the league provides an opportunity to reconnect many of those friendships, however, we want to do so in a safe and effective way.

As a league, we will do our best to communicate any changes as we go through the season, but please feel free to reach out to our Registrar, Jennifer Rogers, at [jennifer@buckheadbasball.com](mailto:jennifer@buckheadbasball.com) or 404-775-6165 with any questions or comments.

Thank you for participating in the Buckhead Baseball fall season and we look forward to seeing everyone at the park!

Jon Balch  
2020-2021 President, Buckhead Baseball