

2022 Coaches Guide

Coaching can be quite fun and rewarding. This guide is designed to assist first time coaches.

- Pick up uniforms, an equipment bag, and a coaches jersey at the shed (located at the equipment shed at Woodland Park)
 - Each child will be provided with a jersey and hat.
 - Equipment includes a First Aid Kit, game balls, and practice balls. Note that tballs are softer than league balls.
 - Tees will be issued to you to bring to the field for each game.
 - Note that each player is required to bring their own bat, glove, and helmet. Cleats and baseball pants are optional.
- **Download the SportsSignUp Play App.** This is the best way to communicate to your team and to view the schedule.
- Send a communication to the team.
 - Coordinate uniform delivery (recommend 1st come 1st serve with parent pickup and the remainder distributed at the first game)
 - Reminder of equipment needed
 - Optional in normal times: create a snack schedule assigning a parent each week to bring a snack. Ask parents if any of the players have any allergies. If possible, suggest a couple of extra snacks for any siblings that are at the game
 - Please note that due to COVID, group snacks are currently prohibited.
 - Optional: any supplemental practice schedule. This is completely at your discretion but please be advised that players may have other commitments. If choosing to have optional practices, please be sure to contact DYBA scheduling at scheduler@dyba.com to reserve a field. The [master schedule](#) is posted online.
- Read the [league rules](#) which are posted on the DYBA website.
- Prior to the game
 - Try to arrive at the game a couple of minutes early.
 - All fields are intuitive except for Briarwood Park. Please note that it is not at Briarwood Country Club and your GPS may take you to the wrong place. Briarwood Park is at 6 Greenbriar Dr, Deerfield, IL 60015.
- Game time
 - First 15 minutes is practice. Suggest beginning with an ice breaker (tell me your favorite...), followed by calisthenics, and drills. At this level the kids love running around the bases as a good warm up. Many kids are unable to catch so rolling them a grounder and having them throw to an adult works better than having 2 kids throw to each other.

For drills, try to focus on one skill a week. Youtube is a great source for ways to teach basic skills.

- For one of the first games, walk the players around the field to point out the bases. First time players may not know to run to first base.
- Batting tips:
 - Suggest having the batting order be based upon the kids jersey numbers. Start with jersey 1 as the leadoff and increase it each inning/game. Alternatively, you can make a lineup and then go in the reverse order in the second inning.
 - For batting, try to encourage players to cheer on their teammates and to stay away from their bats unless they are on deck.
 - Suggest getting a hula hoop to use as an on deck circle and instruct players to be careful
- Infield tips:
 - Rotate positions. Using the players numbers is a good way to ensure that everyone gets a turn at each position.
 - As there are no outfielders and no catcher, there will often be more players than infield positions. Have one of the coaches take the kids who aren't assigned an infield position to the outfield to practice throwing and fielding. If there isn't an extra coach there that day, please ask one of the parents to assist.
 - Kids all running and crowding on the ball is a common tball problem. Suggest having a coach stay in the infield and, after the ball is hit, call out the name of the player who should go get the ball. Instruct the rest of the players to refrain from going after the ball.
 - Another option is to avoid having a pitcher. As a pitcher often gets the majority of chances to field the ball, not having a pitcher allows everyone to get a chance and stay involved.
 - Alternatively you could have 2 or 3 pitchers. (right side, center, and left side)

Communications during season:

- Be on the lookout for emails from the league.
- Field status is on the DYBA homepage.
- In the event of inclement weather, check the website and then you may contact the coach of the opposing team and work through any cancellations/rescheduling. It is your responsibility to communicate to the rest of your team. The app is a great way to do that.