



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PROGRAM (all are co-ed except for softball)	AGES	DESCRIPTION	# of Games
Softball – Angels	8-10	Girls fast-pitch competitive softball with a focus on instruction and FUN. Played under Dixie Softball Inc. – player pitches	12 to 15
Softball – Ponytails	11-13		
Baseball – Minors	8-10	Competitive baseball with an emphasis on FUN and improving players’ skills. Played under DYB. – player pitches	12 to 15
Baseball – “O”Zone	11-12		
Baseball – Boys/Majors	13-15 & 16-19	Competitive baseball with an emphasis on FUN and working to allow players to play a variety of positions	12 to 15
Coaches Pitch Baseball OR Softball	6-8	Fundamental baseball or softball with a focus on FUN and skill building. – Coach pitches to players	10 to 12
T-Ball (girls AND boys)	5-6	Beginner level with a focus on FUN with an introduction to basic fundamentals. – player hits from Tee if necessary (after 3 pitches from coach)	8 to 10
Wee T-Ball (girls AND boys)	3-4	Introduces players to the very basics of baseball. Provides FUN social interaction. – player hits from a Tee	6 to 8



Q. What is the objective of the baseball/softball program?

A. To provide a FUN program focused on improving each player’s skills and to inspire teamwork & sportsmanship.

Q. Where and when are practices and games held?

A. Every effort will be made to ensure each team has as close to a 50-50 split between the Prosperity fields and the Newberry fields for practices and games. There may be a few occasions where a practice or two may be held on other fields. Field space/availability is always subject to change. Practices and games are typically either Monday, Wednesday, and/or Saturday OR Tuesday, Thursday, and/or Saturday (two to three events per week; i.e., two practices or one practice and two games). Saturday games are typically completed by 2:00 PM and every effort is made to ensure weekday events do not interfere with schedules in relation to school. There will be practices and/or games at 6:30 or later depending on the age division. We make every effort to limit the number of later practices/games per team to one or two per week (when possible and especially in the younger age divisions). Softball teams will have limited travel to Saluda, Batesburg-Leesville, and/or Edgefield.

Q. When will practice and game schedules be available?

A. An initial practice schedule for the first week of practices is provided to the head coach approximately five days prior to the first practice. Once we have more information about any potential scheduling issues, a practice schedule is developed that outlines all scheduled practices up to games beginning. Approximately one week prior to games beginning a practice schedule is provided to the head coach that outlines at least four weeks of practices. Additional practice schedules are provided in the same manner as needed to complete the season. Game schedules are made available to head coaches to share with parents typically within two weeks of practices beginning. The game schedules are also posted on the website for easy access. Website: www.NewberryCountyBaseballSoftball.com.

Q. How will information be communicated to parents/guardians?

A. Staff and coaches primarily communicate via text messages (or phone call). It is important that you provide a working number and are responsive. Some coaches use apps such as Remind or GroupMe to communicate information. Be sure to communicate any issues with using these platforms to the coach as soon as possible.

Q. How are teams selected?

A. Younger division teams are randomly selected. An effort is made to ensure each team has an even number within each age bracket. Older division teams (Minors/Angels, Ozone/Ponytails, Boys/Majors) are selected using a draft format (player evaluation and selection by coaches). A returning player will be placed on the same team as the year prior unless they are moving to a new division or the number of teams changes.

Q. What equipment/items do I need to make sure my child has to participate?

A. The registration fee covers the player's uniform other than pants. Players will be instructed by their coach regarding information about pants. Players must supply their own helmet and glove. Helmet must have a face guard for softball, optional for baseball (recommended). A fielder's faceguard (see below) is required for any softball player who will play infield (Coaches Pitch and Angels) or pitch (Angels and Ponytails). Players are welcome to supply their own bat, but rules do apply in each age division and must be followed. Cleats are strongly encouraged (especially in the Minors/Angels, Ozone/Ponytails, and Boys/Majors divisions), but not required. Cleats must be plastic; no metal spikes allowed except in Boys/Majors.



Softball Faceguards

Q. Can my child play at an older age level?

A. Typically this is discouraged as it affects player development; however, if you would like your player to move up, a request must be made directly to the Director of Parks and Recreation for Newberry County (P: 803-924-8328 or E: recreation@newberrycounty.gov). For Angels, Ponytails, Minors, and Ozone: A player who elects to play in an older age division (with parent and League Administrator approval and if space allows) during the regular season will only be eligible for All-Star selection in that age division (the age division they participated in during the regular season). A decision to play in an older age division MUST be made prior to player evaluations.

Q. What if my child needs to miss a practice/game?

A. Practice is where new skills and fundamentals are taught/reviewed, so it is critical to have your player at practices. If they cannot attend, advanced communication is encouraged. If missing practices becomes habitual it is likely to impact playing time during games. Attendance at practices becomes more important to earning playing time in the older divisions. This is a commitment for the player AND the parents/guardians.

Q. How are parents/guardians notified of practice/game cancellations?

A. Newberry County Parks & Recreation staff make the determination as to whether practices/games will be cancelled due to weather, field conditions, safety or health related circumstances and will communicate this information to coaches. Cancellations are made as far in advance as possible, but there may be times in which cancellations are not made until a practice/game begins. The goal is to make a determination at least one hour prior to practice/game start time. Once rosters have been set, coaches will communicate the information regarding cancellations to parents/guardians.

Q. The purchase of a bat is not required, but how do I know what bat to purchase if I so choose?

A. A bat can be an expensive purchase. We strongly suggest attending a practice or two and doing some research prior to purchasing a bat. See page 12 of the 2024 DYB Rulebook (<https://dybusa.org>) for information about legal baseball bats.

