

WNSL Spring Baseball

Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question, start here.

If you still cannot find your answer on this page, e-mail scott@wnsl.net

Sign-Ups, Cost and Division Questions

When can we register? Regular registration is now open and will close in early March except for the Prep Division, which closes in early April.

How do I register and pay online? Go to www.wnsl.org and click on one of the sports you would like to register for. Once on a sport-specific page, log into your WNSL account (see the Login button on the right side of the screen). Once logged into your account, click "Register Now" in the top left corner to select the sport you would like to register your child for. If you do not have a WNSL account, click the "Register" button on the right of the screen to register/create an account. You will then "Add Participants" to your account and select which sport(s) you would like to register them for. There is a helpful "How to Register" link on each sport's page.

What if I do not want to register online? You can download an application on the Baseball page at www.wnsl.org. You may mail it in with a check but there will be a \$10 paper registration fee as indicated on the application.

What if I forget to register? After the deadline coaches or the WNSL Director must approve the addition of players and the registration price increases in every division. After this date, registrations may be accepted on a case-by-case basis with prior approval from the WNSL Director or a coach.

Do you give refunds if my child decides not to participate? Refunds are only given with a Doctor's excuse that a child cannot play due to injury (minus a \$35 processing fee). Registrations may be transferred to another sport up until the time the uniforms are ordered. **After uniforms are ordered refunds are not available.**

Who can play in the WNSL and how do you form teams? The WNSL is open to full teams, partial teams and free agents. All players are welcome to request a coach on their registration, however, this is just a request -- there is no guarantee that the participant will be placed on the team they request. We try our best to accommodate requests; however, coaches with pre-formed or partially formed teams submit rosters with the players they intend on playing on their team. We go by this roster first. Players not on a pre-formed team are free agents and we work to place them on a team with classmates/players from their area or create an entire team from free agents. There is no draft in the WNSL.

If my player is not on a preformed team, how and when will I know which team he/she is on? Individuals not on a team (Free Agents) will be contacted by their coach following the Coaches' Meeting, which takes place in early March.

Is the WNSL affiliated with a national baseball organization? The WNSL is affiliated with the Cal Ripken division of Babe Ruth Baseball. WNSL All Star teams will play other local Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth teams and may advance to a Regional or World Series Tournament.

What are the age divisions and can players play up or down? We have 5 divisions:

Tee-Ball (4-5 year olds) – A “pure-fun” recreational league, for players brand new to baseball.

Wookies (5-6 year olds) – Coach pitch baseball for players who are more advanced.

Rookies (7-8 year olds) – Recreational, mid-level and competitive divisions

Minor League (9-10 year olds) – Recreational, mid-level and competitive divisions

Major League (11-12 year olds) – Recreational, mid-level and competitive divisions

Prep League (13-18 year olds) – Competitive division. Starts later due to school ball

The child's age on May 1st determines in which division he/she will play. Because of this, we will not allow kids to “play down” a division but they are allowed to “play up.” **Occasionally** a player will be allowed to play down but this exception must be approved by the director of the WNSL.

How much does Spring Baseball cost? Tee-Ball - \$160, Wookies -- \$160, Rookies -- \$240, Minors -- \$260, Majors -- \$260, Prep -- \$260

What is included in the registration fees? Baseball is expensive to operate. The WNSL does not ask you to volunteer to help run the league unless your player is on a scholarship. The registration fee includes staff, insurance, uniforms, field maintenance, umpires, etc. A lot of work goes into the preparation of the fields both before the season and prior to games each day. We also try to upgrade the facilities a little bit each year.

Is the cost for tournament players included in the initial fee? No. The cost for tournament players is additional as the players receive new uniforms and the league must cover tournament fees among other expenses.

Coach/Team Parent Related Questions

Who coaches the teams in the Spring Baseball League? Some teams bring coaches with them and often parents coach. If you are interested in coaching or being an assistant you may indicate this on the “Volunteer” portion of the registration site. Coaches, assistant coaches and team parents need to complete the Volunteer area on the website during registration process.

How are coaches certified? Coaches are asked to provide necessary background check information at the Coaches' Meeting in Early March and sign a "Code of Conduct".

How does a parent notify the league that he or she would like to coach or be a team parent?

During the online registration process there is a "Volunteer" page. Click on the volunteer position you would like (Coach, Assistant Coach or Team Parent) and fill out the requested information. You will then be assigned to your child's team once the registration process is closed.

How do you come up with team names? The coaches determine team names. Team names can again be Minor League or Major League teams.

How many players are on a team? The WNSL does not have a specific policy regarding number of players but recommends teams carry 10-12 players. Some coaches may choose to have more.

Weather, Practice, Season Length, and Baseball Basics

What type of baseball league does the WNSL offer? The WNSL feels all youth sports should be recreational in nature yet also competitive where the players feel engaged and have the desire to work toward being better at the sport. The sports program is not a babysitting service but it is a league that does not encourage a win-at-all-cost attitude. Sportsmanship, camaraderie, fun and learning the game are the most important aspects of our baseball league. Teams play 10-16 games (depending on the division) for the recreational regular season and some will play more via tournaments. The WNSL feels that the casual recreational player as well as the more serious competitive player will both be accommodated. In short, the WNSL wants players of all different levels to have fun, excel and feel good about what they are doing.

Are there different rules for different divisions? Yes. The complete rules for all divisions are available on the WNSL website but in short, we start out teaching basic skills and the game becomes more like "real" baseball as the kids get older. The Wookie league plays coach pitch or tee-ball with everyone batting and playing in the field. The Rookie league moves up to machine pitch. Everyone bats and plays 10 in the field. The Minor League moves up to kid pitch. Everyone bats and nine play in the field. Runners can steal bases but not lead off. The Major League plays on a little bigger field and use rules that are pretty close to real baseball. Everyone bats that is on the roster.

When does the season start and how long does it last? The 2020 Spring Baseball season's first pitch will be on Saturday, March 28 and conclude the Saturday before Memorial Day. All-Stars/Tournaments will be offered through July. Practices may start as soon as teams are formed.

When and how often do teams practice? Teams usually practice once-a-week before games begin but teams may practice as little or as much as they wish. Teams will be given one practice slot for each week before the season begins, but if they wish to find their own practice spot, they are encouraged to do so. Once games begin, practice times will be limited due to field availability and coaches must procure their own practice time and location.

Where are the games played? All games are played at the Harpeth Hills Church of Christ fields (off Old Hickory, just east of Hillsboro Road) and Warner Park (Vaughn Road and Old Hickory Blvd.)

Does the WNSL provide insurance? Yes. The WNSL does provide full insurance for all practice venues. You can obtain a certificate upon request. To receive your copy of the insurance policy, contact Angela Salcido at West Point Insurance: E-Mail: angela@westpointinsurance.com , Phone: 800.318.7709. Inform her you are with the WNSL, give her the facility name and address and you will receive your policy within one day.

Does the league provide photos for teams and individuals? A photographer will be present at Opening Day to take team photos and individual photos. Each team is given a time slot on that day to get their photos taken. The photographer has various packages available. Payment is due on the day the photos are taken and coaches are notified when photos are ready to be picked up. Photo package options are given out at the Coaches' Meeting so parents can get familiar with the options available.

What happens in case of inclement weather? Are games rescheduled? How will a parent/coach know if games are canceled? Rainouts are unfortunately a part of baseball. If games are canceled, there will be a notice on the homepage of www.wnsl.org, a posting on the league's Twitter account (@WNSLonline) as well as a message stating games have been cancelled at 615.376.4700. The league will do its best to reschedule all games. The season will not be extended past Memorial Day and all games will have to be played before Memorial Day.

End of Season League Tournament: There is a season ending in house tournament for the Rookies, Minors and Majors. This is week-long event and is very fun. Teams must be present though Memorial Day to be included in this tournament.

Does the WNSL post standings? No, the WNSL does not provide standings as we do not want to promote over-the-top competitiveness and wish to focus on the "Love of the Game" instead. During tournaments, however, scores are posted and teams are rewarded for winning.

Sponsorships and Financial Assistance

Why is each team asked to have a \$250 Team Sponsor? Aside from offsetting some of the costs not covered by the registration fee, team sponsorships help cover the increase in financial assistance given out to players in need. Baseball field maintenance is very expensive and some of the sponsorship money helps with field upkeep.

What does the \$250 fee include? The team sponsor logo will be present on that team's jersey. They are also welcome to set up a booth/table at Opening Day to pass out promotional items. In addition, they will have their logo in the electronic newsletter distributed to all WNSL Baseball participants.

What if I am interested in sponsoring a team or the league? Please let your participant's coach know and then contact scott@wnsl.net or lauren@wnsl.net.

Are there any opportunities for corporate sponsorships (other than the team sponsorships)?

Yes. The WNSL offers corporate sponsorships for each individual sport, as well as the overall league. All opportunities are listed under the sponsorship link at www.wnsl.org. If you are interested in corporate sponsorships, contact scott@wnsl.net. There is also an opportunity for a field to be named after a corporate sponsorship for \$1500.

Does the WNSL provide financial assistance or scholarships? Yes. If you are in need of a full or partial scholarship, fill out and submit the financial assistance information at www.wnsl.org. Someone will be in touch in regards to the amount of financial assistance available for your participant.

Miscellaneous Questions

Are end of season trophies presented to the league champions/runners up? The Baseball League does not award Championship and Runner-Up trophies to teams. We like to keep the focus on purely the Love of the Game. We do give out "Love of the Game" sportsmanship trophies to teams that exemplify good sportsmanship throughout the season. If a coach requests, players will receive a medallion at the end of the season. Championship trophies are given out at the tournaments.

What is the difference between WNSL and other baseball leagues? The West Nashville Sports League is a top-notch youth sports organization that emphasizes all players valuing the pure love-of-the-game over a winning-at-all-costs attitude. We work hard to keep everyone heavily involved in the community by promoting and being involved in local organizations, colleges and events. Providing fun Opening Day events, the best field conditions possible, certified umpires, and excellent communication to all participants, parents and coaches and an informative and user friendly website, the WNSL goes above and beyond to create a memorable and positive experience for all involved.

ALL STARS in the WNSL: All players are given the opportunity to play as an All Star in June and July. There are tryout days for these All Star teams. There is an extra expense to play as an All Star to cover uniforms and tournament fees. The All Star season is high level of baseball and players have to be committed to play in June and some of July.