



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF BETHALTO**

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL/T-BALL PROGRAM

Program Overview

The Boys & Girls Club of Bethalto provides **recreational** T-ball, Softball and Baseball for youth from the River Bend area. The goals of the program include teaching the fundamentals of the sport, but just as important, teaching good sportsmanship, teamwork and character development. **We ask parents to encourage and praise their children and help them learn to deal with winning and losing in a positive way.**

How are teams made up?

Youth are put into divisions based on their age as of Sept. 1, 2011 - no exceptions are made. The divisions are **T-Ball Clinic (age 4), T-Ball (ages 5-6), Midgets (ages 7 & 8), Juniors (ages 9-10), Minors (ages 11-12), and Majors (ages 13-15)**. Once the early registration period is closed, teams are formed in each division based on the previous year's roster, youth request for a team, and the date of registration. We try to accommodate all requests but cannot guarantee placement, especially for youth that sign up after the early registration period, which ends February 19. As youth register, they will be added to teams that are not yet full.

When are practices?

Volunteers coach all of our teams. Since these individuals are giving of their time, energy and knowledge, coaches determine when and how often they will have practices. **Your child's coach will contact you following the Coaches Meeting in late April.** They are given their team rosters at that time. **Remember that all fundraising money must be turned in before your child can begin practicing.** Coaches will be provided with a list of youth that still owe money. In addition, a code of conduct must be read and signed by both player and parent before the player receives his/her uniform.

When does the season begin and when are games?

The season will run from May 9th through July 22nd (with Minors and Majors starting the week of May 17th). Please note if we are unable to get all games played or rescheduled due to weather, the season may be extended until July 31st. T-ball games will be the last games to be made up. **We will not play into August.** T-ball clinic runs one night a week for four weeks, beginning in June, and will conclude with a game. T-ball and Midget divisions will play three games every two weeks (one game one week and two games the next). All other divisions will play two games each week. If there are an odd number of teams in a division, not all teams will play every scheduled night. Schedules will be provided to coaches as soon as they are completed, but at least one week prior to the start of the season.

How do I know if a game is rained out?

Coaches will be notified as soon as it is determined that games are rained out. Remember that games will only be called off if the fields are too wet for play. **We will have the information on the rainout line after 2 p.m. Please do not call the office since we do not have the manpower to answer phones for over 800 youth in the program.** Please be patient and you can get through on the rainout line. Please hang up immediately after hearing the message since this fills the machine and causes problems. Parents are encouraged to form a phone tree for rainouts. **Rainout phone number is 377-0309, and www.bqcbethalto.com is the Club's website for rainout and rescheduling information.**

What about team sponsorship?

An individual, business or organization can sponsor a team or teams by contacting the office. Sponsorship is available for \$100 per team. The business or organization's name will be printed on the back of the uniforms. Requests for particular teams will be honored on a first come basis, so call the office immediately at 377-6030.

Fundraising deadlines

All candle orders and candy money **MUST** be turned in and paid for by **FRIDAY, APRIL 8th** so that we can order your child's shirt.

No further information will be available until the coaches meeting in late April

Please be patient, your child's coach will contact you. If you have not been called by May 1st, you may contact the Club at 377-6030 and we will assist you. Have a great season!