

How you can help your child's baseball or softball team as a parent.

All of our coaches are volunteers from the community and are doing their best to teach your child the fundamentals of baseball and softball and many times they need a little extra help from parents. Even if you do not know how to play baseball or softball or have never played before there is always a way you can help. **Near West Recreation wants more parent involvement! Take a look at the different ways you can help this season at practice and games.**

At practice:

- **Helping coach set-up or clean-up after**
- **Help sanitize equipment**
- **General Extra hands**
 - For kids to get the most out of practice, it is nice to split them up into smaller groups to do drills.
 - Different things you can help with are throwing grounders, pop-flys, throwing to batters, putting the ball on the tee, telling players to run through first base, etc. Let your coach know you can help that day and what you can help with. You may not be good at throwing to batters, but can roll ground balls to players.
- **Catcher**
 - Warming up kid pitchers or catching the coach for coach pitch teams.
 - If you have experience, you can catch and work with pitchers at the same time while the coach is working with other positions

At games:

- **Being a base coach.**
 - Telling players when to run to the next base.
 - Telling players to run through first base.
- **Managing the dugout or sideline.**
 - Making sure the team is in the correct batting order.
 - Making sure upcoming batters have a helmet on.
 - Sanitizing equipment (helmet, catcher equipment, bats)
- **Bringing snacks. (after-game)**
 - Parents can coordinate with one another if they want to do this or not.
- **Catcher – Coach Pitch teams only.**
 - Catching when the coach is pitching to their team.
- **Keeping Score (12u minor, 15u major league and softball)**
 - Each team has a scorebook. You do not have to know how to keep track of balls, strikes, singles, etc. You just need to keep track of outs, batting order, and how many runs are scored each inning. The NWR team will show you how.

Always:

- Making sure your child is on time to practice and games and ready to play ball in the proper attire. Uniforms for games. Athletic/PE clothes for practice. No flip flops
- Make sure your child uses the bathroom before practice. Most of the fields do not have water fountains or bathrooms
- Being supportive of your child, their coach, teammates, and the umpire.
- Communicating with your coach.
- Practice with your child outside of schedule practice and game time. Watch the type of drills they implement at practice and try some out at home.
- Positive attitudes!

Parent's Code of Ethics & Responsibility

I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child and all participants in Near West Recreation Baseball & Softball by following this Parents Code of Ethics. All parents/guardians will be held to the following policies:

- I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players at every game, practice and event.
- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of my own desire to win in order to provide a positive enjoyable environment for all.
- I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.
- I will provide support for coaches, volunteers and officials working with my child.
- I will make every effort to bring my child to all practices and games and will let coaches know when we cannot attend. **Please try to be at the field fifteen (15) minutes before game time. Please be there to pick your child up timely after games and practices.**
- I will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free recreation environment for my child and agree to refrain from their use at all baseball practices, games and events.
- I will remember the game is for children not adults.
- I will treat and will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.
- I will be a respectful fan and will use only positive, encouraging words towards all participants and coaches and will not interfere with the coach's ability to coach the team.
- I will be responsible for the behavior of friends and family attending my child's game.
- I will help ensure a litter-free environment. **Please help pick up after your child's practice and game.**

League Info

New League Changes

- NWR is using TeamSnap as its new way to communicate with coaches and parents.
 - Download TeamSnap app or view on your computer.
 - You can view practice and game schedule on app.
 - You can easily message your coach and teammates through the app.
- NWR has a new website – www.nearwestrec.org We are still building the website out, but this is where we will be posting info, schedule, and resources along with sending them through TeamSnap app.
 - You can check for baseball and softball information by visiting the website, hovering over Sports at the top and then clicking on Baseball & Softball. There will be a 2022 page with schedule and other current information.
- **NWR is a Cleveland Guardians PlayBall Cle grant recipient. We are waiting on details about game day and other fun opportunities, but all players and coaches need to sign up here so they can be included in all of the benefits including free MLB TV access**
<https://cleguardians.leagueapps.com/events/2854089-near-west-recreation>
- NWR 15u Major and Softball teams will be playing OBALL, West Denison, and City of Cleveland teams. We are waiting to flesh out all details, but as of now 15u baseball will play on Tuesday and/or Thursdays in June and July.
- All Saturday (tee-ball, coach pitch, 12u) games will be at MetroParks Brookside Fields. Concession stand and bathrooms will be open down there.
- **Some fields may not have a port-a-potties at City of Cleveland fields. Plan accordingly. A permanent public restroom at Fairview Park is expected to be installed this summer.**
- Opening Day is back. We are planning on having it Friday, June 3. Location TBD. This will be team picture day as well.
- **Team Game Schedules are not ready just yet. 15u baseball and softball will play weeknights start the week of June 1. All other teams will start on Saturday, June 4.** We will have some weeknight games in July in lieu of practice for tee-ball, coach pitch and 12u teams. This allows kids to play more game or make up the rained out games.

Upcoming Dates

- Wednesday & Thursday, May 4 & 5 -Parents Meeting Drop in Meeting at Ohio City Incorporated and Near West Recreation office (3308 Lorain Ave).
- Week of May 9 – First Week of Practice for all teams.
- Week of June 1 – 15u and Softball Games will start.
- Friday, June 3 – Opening Day & Picture Day. Location TBD.
- Saturday, June 5 - First Saturday of Games for tee-ball, coach pitch and 12u minor.
- Saturday, July 2 – No games.
- Saturday, July 30-Last Day of Games and End of Season Celebration TBD.
- There will be a ice cream social and other small outings. Dates and location TBD.

Contact Information for Tee-Ball, Coach Pitch, 12u Minor & general league questions

NWR Director of Recreation Programming: Christophe McGhee

Office: 216-781-3222 ext. 101

Email: cmghee@ohiocity.org

Contact Information for 15u Major and Softball & league sponsorship questions

NWR Senior Director of Family & Youth Engagement: Keri Palma

Office: 216-781-3222 ext. 108

Email: kpalma@ohiocity.org

Saturday Game Day Contact:

If there is an issue or if you need anything on game days, please find NWR Coordinator, Evan O'Donnell

2022 Field Locations

- Lincoln Park, 1399 Kenilworth Avenue (West 14th & Kenilworth Ave)
 - Field is at the corner of West 14th & Kenilworth.
- Fairview Park (Ohio City), 1728 W. 38th St. (West 38th & Franklin Ave)
- Roberto Clemente Park, 3762 Seymour Ave (West 38th & Seymour Ave)
 - Two fields – Little (grass only) and Big
- Brookside Reservation, 3900 John Nagy Blvd
 - Three fields – Rose, Elder, Brookside #4

Non-Permitted Fields

- WC Reed, 1700 Dension Ave. Field is located behind Horizon Science Academy
- Herman Park, 5908 Herman Ave (West 59th & Herman Ave)
- Zone Recreation
 - Big Field is by the basketball courts.
 - Little Field is by the gazebo and playground.

Coach Issues

Is you have any major issues with a coach or assistant coach, please email Near West Recreation Director at cmghee@ohiocity.org with details. We will work with you and others to find a solution to the problem. We want your child to have a positive baseball and softball experience!

General League Policies and Division Rules

For League policies and rules for each division, visit the Baseball & Softball page at our Near West Recreation website at www.nearwestrec.org, select Baseball and Softball 2022.

FAQ

What kind of equipment do I need to buy for my child?

Coaches will have all the major equipment taken care of. For coach pitch and tee-ball, all they need is a glove and water bottle. Cleats are optional. For 12u and 15u baseball and softball, players need glove, water bottle, and cleats. All 12u and 15u baseball boys also need protective cup. We do have extra gloves for keep, if you cannot afford to purchase a glove for your child. You can purchase personal bat, helmet, bag for your child just make sure to label their equipment.

Where can I view my child's team schedule?

Practice and game schedule will be available on the TeamSnap app soon. Practices will be the same day, time, and location for most of the year. You can also view game schedule on website at www.nearwestrec.org, go to Sports, Baseball & Softball, 2022

When does practice start?

All teams will start practice the week of May 9. Your practice time is listed at the top of your child's packet info. Practice schedule is also available on TeamSnap.

Can my family or friend add their child to my child's team?

Maybe. Depends on the size of the team. Parents can sign up players to our waiting list by emailing nearwestrec@ohiocity.org We will add waiting list players as we have room on teams.

It rained and stormed today, is there a game or practice tonight?

Coaches will send a practice cancellation alert via TeamSnap if it is storming or raining during your child's team practice time. If it rained earlier in the day, the infield maybe muddy, but teams can still practice in the outfield. For games, NWR will send out an alert to team coaches and players about cancellation of game. Games can be cancelled due to bad field conditions even if it is sunny when game is schedule. Check your TeamSnap messages if you are unsure. We will also post on our website and NWR Facebook page.

Who do I contact when my child will miss a game or practice?

Contact your coach via the TeamSnap app. There is a chat and message button where you can easily send a quick message. Communicate with your coach often. It helps them prepare for practice and games.

Are games rescheduled, if they are rained out?

Most of the time. We try, but sometimes its hard with field availability and other factors.

If I want to help my child's team, whom do I ask?

If you would like to help coach, please contact nearwestrec@ohiocity.org. We will provide you with all the team information you need. All coaches are required to get a background check. If you would like to just help in the dugout, help sanitize equipment, keep score, bring snacks, or just be a extra hand at practice, introduce yourself to coach and let them know you are willing to help.

How many games do teams play?

All teams should play at least 7-8 games. Depending on weather, NWR would like for most teams to play 9-10 games.