

**Ocee Park Spring 2008 Registration
Special Instructions for 16-18 Baseball Age Group**



Age Group: 16-18 Babe Ruth baseball only

Background: Starting with the Spring 2008 season, for the 1st time, OPAA will have a baseball offering for players of league age 16 through 18. In 2006, OPAA offered a 15-16 year old baseball program under Little League but in our first year of Babe Ruth in 2007, we had to restrict the maximum age to 15 due to league alignment, league size and field time slot limitations. This meant that OPAA did not have an offering for our 16 year old or older players in 2007. OPAA will offer a maximum of 3 teams in 16-18 baseball for 2008 and teams will participate in interleague play with Wills Park in order to provide a more interesting and challenging schedule.

How To Register: All players of league age 16, 17, or 18, without regard to their playing status in Spring 2007, should register for the Baseball 16-18 Age Group Lottery. This will be the only registration category open for this age group and will be available starting Saturday, November 10th, at 8am EST. Registration will promptly close on Sunday, December 2nd, at 5pm EST at which time a wait list for the age group will be opened.

Why a Lottery? What if I played in Spring 2007?: There are a number of reasons why we are forced to conduct a lottery for this new league. Our 13-15 league accommodates 8 teams or 96 players. Since a considerable number of the 15 year olds from 2007 will play as 16 year olds in 2008 combined with what we expect to be considerable interest from 17 and 18 year old players that previously played at Ocee Park as well as new players, there is a distinct possibility that more than 36 players will attempt to register and in fact there may be more than 36 players considered as Returning Ocee Park Players. Since we do not implement registration on a first-come first-serve basis out of fairness, the lottery will provide us with a means for systematically selecting registrants based on previous Ocee Park playing status and then implementing a random selection process for any remaining openings.

How is this Going to Work?: Once registration closes, we will look at the previous playing status of each registrant. Players who meet the following criteria will be considered Returning Players and will be accorded the highest priority:

- Any 16 year old player that played in the Spring 2007 program is considered a Returning Player (players meeting this criteria played in the Spring 2007 program as 15 year olds)
- Any 17 year old player that played in the Spring 2006 program as a 15 year old is considered a Returning Player (players meeting this criteria could not play in Spring 2007 since 16 year olds were ineligible)
- Any 18 year old player that played in the Spring 2006 program as a 16 year old is considered a Returning Player (players meeting this criteria were ineligible in 2007 regardless of Little League or Babe Ruth league affiliation since they would have played as 17 year olds)

Returning Players: Any player that is accorded Returning Player status will have the highest priority for entry to the program. If the number of qualified Returning Players is 36 or less, all such players will get into the program.

Returning Player Lottery: If the number of qualified Returning Players is greater than 36 (the number of players we can accommodate), we will need to conduct a random lottery among the eligible Returning Players. Any Returning Player that is not selected in the lottery will be placed on the wait list in order as determined by their lottery number. Openings in the program will be filled from the wait list as they occur.

New Player Lottery: Any players that do not meet any of the criteria to qualify as a Returning Player will be considered a New Player. If the number of program openings left after Returning Players have been registered is greater than the number of New Players, all new players will be provided a spot in the program. If however, there are insufficient openings to accommodate all of the New Players, a random lottery will be conducted among the players in this group to fill any program openings. In the event that we can not accommodate all of our Returning Players (see above), all New Players will be placed on the wait list for any openings that might occur. A player's spot on the wait list is determined by their lottery number.

Lottery Fee: There is no fee assessed to register for the lottery. If you are selected in the lottery for a program opening, instructions will be provided for how to register and pay for the Spring 2008 program.

How and When will I be Notified?: The registrants to fill program openings will be determined by December 10th or sooner. All registrants in the 16-18 Baseball Lottery category will be notified by email shortly thereafter of their status (Accepted or Wait Listed).

More Information or Questions: If you need additional information or if you have questions, please contact the Registrar/Player Agent (Reese Jacobs) using the following email address:

playeragent@oceepark.com