

## **Ocee Park Babe Ruth League Fall 2008 Baseball/Softball Program Description & Philosophy**

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The Fall program is a less competitive supplement to the Spring baseball and softball program and is designed to provide an opportunity for players to get additional practice and game experience but to also experiment with playing positions they might otherwise not play in a more competitive Spring season. Many players in the Fall program are also participating in other Fall sports but enjoy playing baseball or softball and wish to enjoy a year-round experience without necessarily the same level of commitment required in the Spring. The main characteristics of the Fall program are as follows:

- **Focused on instructional practice and play** (game strategy is not focused exclusively on winning as is the case in the Spring program)
- **No player assessments are performed**
- **Team are assigned** (not drafted as they are in the Spring season)
- **Standings are not kept**
- **No recognition of league champions** at season end
- **No end of season tournament**
- **No All Star selections or All Star games**
- **Strict adherence to time limits** – games are terminated precisely when time limit is reached without regard to current score or which team is batting – for teams overly concerned with who won or lost the game, the score reverts back to last completed inning
- **Trophies** – trophies are only awarded to youngest players including those in the tee ball league, 7- and 8-year old baseball, and 6-8 softball. All other age participants will receive an Ocee Park Fall 2008 custom pin

The Fall program is designed as a 2-month season that begins right after the Labor Day holiday once school is back in session and ends the final Saturday in October. With the exception of Tee League, teams will practice once and play games twice weekly during the Fall season. Tee League teams have one weekday and one Saturday event. The first games are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in September. The first 5-6 events of the Fall season are practices only.

It is important that potential participants in the Fall program understand the overall philosophy of the program and how it differs from the Spring program. There is a significant difference in the level of competition between the two programs and the Fall program is not necessarily suitable for highly skilled players looking to extend their Spring experience. The Fall program is however a great way to enjoy 2 months of baseball or softball, to work on refining their skills, for trying out new positions, for getting a head start on a transition to a new league for the following Spring, and namely for making new friends and simply enjoying baseball or softball at Ocee Park. Please keep in mind the overall philosophy of the Fall program as you register to make sure your goals are consistent – this is the best way to make sure you have an enjoyable Fall program experience.