

# Spring 2009

## Ocee Park Babe Ruth League – Spring 2009 Player Assessment FAQs



Contact: Ocee Park Player Agent ([playeragent@oceepark.com](mailto:playeragent@oceepark.com))

**Q: What is the purpose of player assessments?**

*A: Players assessments are performed for baseball players ages 7-18 and softball players ages 8-16 in an effort to determine the relative skill level of each player. The skill ratings are used by coaches during the league draft process in an effort to competitively balance each team in the league. Skill assessment results may also be used to separate players into leagues when a particular age group such as 11- and 12-year old Majors baseball or Majors softball offers more than one league.*

**Q: Does my child need to attend player assessments?**

*A: All baseball players (except as noted) ages 7-18 and all softball players (except as noted) ages 8-16 must attend the appropriate player assessment session(s). If your son is a returning **Majors National League** player from the Spring 2008 season and has been contacted prior to assessments by the Player Agent, League Commissioner, or a Team Manager, he does not need to attend assessments and will be assigned to the same league/team in 2009. If your daughter is a returning **Major NGFA League** player from the Spring 2008 season and has been contacted prior to assessments by the Player Agent, League Commissioner, or a Team Manager, she does not need to attend assessments and will be assigned to the same league/team in 2009.*

**Q: My child is on the Wait List – do we attend assessments?**

*A: No, not unless you are specifically contacted by the Player Agent or the League Commissioner prior to the assessments. The assessment rosters provided to the team Managers only contain the name of registered players.*

**Q: What does my child need to bring to the assessment session?**

*A: Each player should bring their glove as well as a bat and helmet if they have them. We will provide players with helmets and bats to use when batting but most players perform better in assessments with their own equipment. Plastic cleats are also recommended for all players. Be sure to dress players in layers since the weather is unpredictable during January.*

**Q: Why are player assessments not performed for 5- and 6-year old tee ball players (both baseball and softball)?**

*A: Players are assigned to Tee Ball teams by the Player Agent since team balance is not a primary consideration for this developmental league.*

**Q: Why are player assessments not performed for 7-year old softball players from the 7-8 softball league?**

*A: For 2009 (as in 2007 & 2008), we are assessing only the 8-year old softball players in an effort to balance the 8-year old talent across the teams in the 7-8 year old Farm League. Teams in 2009 will be assigned by the Player Agent in contrast to a draft system. This eliminates the need for most softball players in the 7-8 age group to assess and allows us the flexibility to honor more of the special requests for team mates in this age group. This change was put in place for the Spring 2007 season and was very favorably received and has been used since that time.*

**Q: My 6-year old son has played a year of baseball Tee Ball already and would like to tryout for the Farm League (baseball)?**

*A: Playing up is not permitted in any baseball league, including the baseball tee league, effective this Spring (2009). Players are required to play in the tee ball or baseball age group based on their league age.*

**Q: My 5- or 6-year old daughter would like to play Tee Ball?**

*A: We are introducing a softball specific tee league this Spring season for girls 5- and 6-years of age. The focus will be on softball fundamentals and will include hitting from a tee and using coach pitch. It is no longer necessary for girls to begin playing tee ball in baseball and then switch to softball later.*

**Q: Can my daughter play baseball instead of softball?**

*A: Yes, although uncommon, it is permitted. We offer a full range of leagues for girls in softball that encompasses ages 5-16. We encourage girls to play softball since this is more common as they grow older. The softball tee ball league is designed as the first step in organized softball and represents a new offering for Spring 2009. We think this will have a positive impact on the early development of our softball players.*

**Q: How exactly does player assessment work?**

*A: There are 5 components to a player assessment score with each component being rated from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Each player has an opportunity to field several ground balls and to throw to a base from a fielding position (generally shortstop to 1<sup>st</sup> base). Each player also has an opportunity to catch several fly balls and players are then rated from 1 to 5 on these 3 fielding and throwing skills. Players then have an opportunity to bat using a pitching machine for consistency. At the conclusion of the player's last batting attempt, the player will run from home to 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Players are then rated from 1 to 5 in these 2 skill categories. These 5 scores are then added together to form the player's assessment score. Each league official performing player assessments maintains their own score per player. All scores are later combined and averaged by the Player Agent to create the assessment score that is used in the draft process.*

**Q: Who performs the player assessments?**

**A:** *Various league officials are involved in the assessment process. This includes the Commissioner and Managers for the age group being evaluated. The Player Agent and additional league personnel invited by the Player Agent such as league Vice Presidents and the Coaches Director will also participate in the process.*

**Q: My son is a returning Majors Division – National League baseball player. Does he need to attend the player assessments?**

**A:** *No, returning Majors National League baseball players are not required to attend assessments for the 2009 season. Players from the Majors National league in 2008 that are again age eligible for the Majors National league in 2009 will be assigned automatically to their 2008 team without the need to attend assessments.*

**Q: My daughter is a returning Major NGFA League softball player. Does she need to attend skills assessments?**

**A:** *No, if your daughter played in the Major NGFA League (ages 10-12) during the Spring 2008 season and is again age eligible for the Major League in 2009, she does not need to attend assessments. Major NGFA League players are re-assigned to their 2008 teams automatically. This is subject to change based on the number of players that return to the Major NGFA League – players will be contacted by the appropriate softball league officials or the Player Agent following registration.*

**Q: Do 11- and 12-year old baseball players trying out for the Majors Division need to attend multiple player assessments?**

**A:** *Multiple assessments may be needed for those players that score high enough in the initial assessment to be considered for the National League 70/50 program. Any player 11-12 that receives a qualifying score in their preliminary assessment session may be invited to return for a special 70/50 program assessment if such an assessment session is deemed necessary by league officials. Multiple assessments can help to ensure that the most highly skilled players are assigned to the National League.*

**Q: Are 10-year olds permitted to tryout for and play in the Majors American or National leagues (baseball)?**

**A:** *No, this would be considered playing up in baseball and is not permitted in Spring 2009. All 10-year old baseball players must register for and play in the baseball league appropriate to their age.*

**Q: How will my child be notified if they are invited for additional National League 70/50 assessments?**

**A:** *Each player is assigned a unique number to wear when they attend the assessment sessions. Once the final list of players to be invited for the 70/50 follow-up assessment has been determined, those numbers (not names) will be posted to the Ocee Park web site with specific instructions on the time/date for the special session(s). Additional assessments are conducted at the discretion of the Player Agent and League Commissioner.*

**Q: Is it important that my child attend the player assessment session assigned to his or her age group?**

*A: Yes, attending the correct session is critical. The sessions are broken into age groups based on league ages. Player assessments are performed by the Managers that have been selected for each league and Managers generally only attend the assessment sessions specific to their coaching age group. If your son or daughter attends the wrong session, they will miss an opportunity to be evaluated by the Managers in their league.*

**Q: How do I determine the league age of my child?**

*A: The assessment sessions and leagues at Ocee Park are all based on what is called a player's league age. For baseball, this is the age of the player on April 30, 2009. For a softball player, league age is the age of the player on December 31, 2008. Please calculate the playing age of your son or daughter using these dates and contact the Player Agent at Ocee Park if you have questions. The Ocee Park website also provides league age charts for your convenience – consult the baseball or softball chart to determine the appropriate league age for your child. Note that Tee Ball is considered both a baseball program and a softball program and therefore the appropriate age chart should be used based on the league in which you register. The age charts are sport specific – not gender specific.*

**Q: What if I miscalculate the league age for my child and we attend the wrong assessment session?**

*A: In most cases, we will catch this error when you check-in for assessments. The player assessment rosters provided to the Commissioner and Managers for an assessment session contain only those league age players for their league. If you provided the correct birth date at registration but simply miscalculated the league age, we can direct you to the appropriate session when you check in. Be aware that assessments are performed on multiple days. It would be possible for us to determine that a player is attending the wrong session but that the correct session for that player has already been held. Please contact the Player Agent if this is the case or if you have any questions about the league age for your son or daughter.*

**Q: My child can not attend the player assessment session at the time assigned based on their last name. What should we do?**

*A: Players may be able to attend a different assessment sessions for their age group if they are unable to attend the session at the time assigned to them by last name. To allow us to efficiently manage the assessment process, we request that players attend the session assigned to them when possible. Please contact the Player Agent if you have a schedule conflict you can not work around.*

**Q: What if my child is not able to attend player assessments for any session? Will they not be permitted to play this season as a result?**

*A: All players that successfully register (not Wait Listed players) will be placed onto a team for the Spring season regardless of whether a player attends assessments. Players that do not attend assessments will be drafted to a team but in general will be drafted into the lowest league associated with their league playing age (i.e. an*

11- or 12-year old that does not attend assessments will be drafted to the Majors American League and will not be eligible for the Majors National League).

**Q: How does the draft process work if my child does not attend assessments and therefore does not have an assessment score?**

**A:** *If any of the league officials associated with the draft have knowledge of your son or daughter from previous seasons, he or she will most likely be assigned a consensus assessment score and this will be used in the draft process. Otherwise, your son or daughter will be drafted through a lottery at the conclusion of the drafting of all players with an assigned assessment score.*

**Q: What about inclement weather on the day of player assessments?**

**A:** *The weather in January can range from sunny and mild to cold and rainy (with snow and ice always a possibility). As many Ocee Park returning families know from experience, unless we can not safely conduct the player assessments on the assigned dates, we will make every effort to adhere to the schedule. Even if the weather is considered marginal, we will try to hold the assessments on schedule. We will use broadcast email to inform parents and players in the event of schedule changes and we will also post the information to the web site ([www.occepark.com](http://www.occepark.com)) so check for updates prior to attending your assessment session.*

**Q: If player assessments are canceled, will they be re-scheduled?**

**A:** *Yes, we have several weather contingency dates built into the schedule.*

**Q: Why do we hold player assessments in January since the weather always seems to be miserable?**

**A:** *Practices for the Spring season begin in mid-February with the first games being played the 1<sup>st</sup> week of March. Players are evaluated in the last 2 weeks of January (including contingencies in the schedule for weather) giving us a few days to assemble all of the player ratings for our drafts. Once assessments are completed, it generally takes us 7-9 days to hold player drafts for all of our leagues since some leagues depend on others being drafted first. At this point, it is the 1<sup>st</sup> week of February giving coaches 1 week to notify players regarding their 1<sup>st</sup> practice of the season.*

**Q: Are the player assessment scores shared with parents and players?**

**A:** *Absolutely not. Player assessment scores are only available to a select number of league officials on a need to know basis. This includes the Board of Directors and specifically the Player Agent that manages the process, league Commissioners, and team Managers. Commissioners and Managers only see player assessment scores for the players assigned to their age group. Commissioners and Managers are instructed not to share assessment score information under any circumstance and failing to abide by this Babe Ruth League and Ocee Park rule will result in that Commissioner, Manager, or Coach being removed from their position.*

**Q: What if my child is not drafted into the league I expected?**

**A:** *It could be the result of many factors such as the failure to attend assessments, an assessment score that did not qualify the player for a certain league, or a mistake. If you have questions about your league assignment, please contact the Player Agent.*

**Q:** **I want my child to play in the next higher age group league in baseball (referred to as playing up). Is this possible and what do I do if this is the case?**

**A:** *Playing up in baseball (and tee ball baseball) is NOT PERMITTED. All players will be required to play in the baseball tee ball or baseball league that is appropriate based on their league age for the Spring 2009 season.*

**Q:** **None of this makes any sense to me. What do I do next?**

**A:** *Contact the Ocee Park Player Agent ([playeragent@oceepark.com](mailto:playeragent@oceepark.com)).*