



Welcome to the Spring 2021 Season of BYA Baseball & Tee-Ball!

Hi everyone! To those of you returning to the organization, we're sure you're looking forward to another exciting season of baseball and tee-ball. And for those of you who may be "rookies" this year, the purpose of this welcome packet is to share some information regarding the most commonly asked questions each season. If you have additional questions, please contact us at bya@badenyouth.org or visit our website at www.BadenYouth.org.

General Information

- ① Registration is now open to children ages 3 through 12 living in the Baden, Ambridge and Economy areas. Register [online](#), or visit us at one of our live registration dates.
- ① Early bird registration discount is available until January 31st. All registrations received after February 29th will incur an additional \$10 Late Registration fee. Late registrations will only be accepted if team rosters are not full.
- ① BYA divisions include:
 - Tee-Ball – Ages 3-4, co-ed, non-competitive, in-house
 - Rookie Baseball – Ages 5-6, co-ed, non-competitive, coach-pitch/tee, intro to baseball with modified rules, in-house
 - 8U Baseball (Minor) – Ages 7-8, co-ed, semi-competitive, coach-pitch, focus on player development
 - 10U Baseball (Minor) – Ages 9-10, co-ed, competitive, kid-pitch
 - 12U Baseball (Major) – Ages 11-12, co-ed, competitive, kid-pitch
- ① We don't require player fundraisers!
- ① Your spring registration fee includes our free Fall Ball program (non-competitive option).
- ① Regular season begins mid-April and will end by mid-June. A list of important dates is included in this welcome packet. Please review those dates to get familiar with the 2021 season schedule.
- ① Emails from the BYA come from bya@badenyouth.org and badenyouth@gmail.com. To avoid missing our messages, please add our email addresses to your safe-senders email list.
- ① Please sign up for text alerts during online registration as this is how we communicate important, league-wide notifications such as game-day weather cancellations.
- ① We encourage parent participation and help on and off the field. If you'd like to volunteer as a coach, assistant coach, or dugout helper please [contact us](#) ASAP – no experience necessary! A coach's clinic will be scheduled prior to the first practice. BYA requires coaches to have Child Abuse History and Criminal Background Check Certifications on file as governed by the KeepKidsSave.pa.gov. Also, we always need help in the concession stand during games. If interested, please [contact us](#).
- ① We charge a \$20 Volunteer fee during registrations for all divisions except Tee-Ball. This is to encourage parents to help with the many tasks that make this program possible. We don't need your money, but we do need your help. There are many ways you can have your \$20 refunded. See the Volunteer section in this packet for more info.
- ① All players receive a team shirt and hat from the league. 8U, 10U and 12U also receive pants, belt and socks. If you're purchasing your own pants, we recommend gray. Baseball cleats are optional but recommended.
- ① ALL players will need their own glove. The league supplies balls, bats, catcher's gear, and helmets. Although batting helmets are sanitized regularly, they are shared among the players. Parents may choose to purchase their child's own equipment – please see bat and glove buying recommendations later in this packet.
- ① There will be a player evaluation session held in March for first-time players and those players requesting to "Play Up" or "Play Down". This allows us to place your child in the program that is best suited to their experience and skills. There is no charge for this session. More details soon.
- ① Please respect your child's coaches. Absolutely no profanity, verbal, or physical abuse by coaches and/or spectators will be tolerated! See BYA Code of Conduct for official terms and conditions.

We look forward to sharing another great season with our BYA families!

2021 BYA Registration Fees

| Register Between | Program | Type | Rate | Volunteer Fee* | Total | Each add'l player |
|------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------|----------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1/1/21 - 1/31/21 | 12U (Baseball) | Early Bird Discount (-\$10) | \$85 | \$20 | \$105 | \$75 |
| 1/1/21 - 1/31/21 | 10U (Baseball) | | \$85 | \$20 | \$105 | \$75 |
| 1/1/21 - 1/31/21 | 8U (Baseball) | | \$75 | \$20 | \$95 | \$65 |
| 1/1/21 - 1/31/21 | Rookie Baseball | | \$60 | \$20 | \$80 | \$50 |
| 1/1/21 - 1/31/21 | Tee-Ball | | \$45 | \$0 | \$45 | \$35 |
| | | | | | | |
| 2/1/21 – 2/29/21 | 12U (Baseball) | Regular Rate | \$95 | \$20 | \$115 | \$85 |
| 2/1/21 – 2/29/21 | 10U (Baseball) | | \$95 | \$20 | \$115 | \$85 |
| 2/1/21 – 2/29/21 | 8U (Baseball) | | \$85 | \$20 | \$105 | \$75 |
| 2/1/21 – 2/29/21 | Rookie | | \$70 | \$20 | \$90 | \$60 |
| 2/1/21 – 2/29/21 | Tee-Ball | | \$55 | \$0 | \$55 | \$45 |
| | | | | | | |
| 3/1/21 - 3/7/21 | 12U (Baseball) | Late Fee Imposed (+\$10) | \$105 | \$20 | \$125 | \$95 |
| 3/1/21 - 3/7/21 | 10U (Baseball) | | \$105 | \$20 | \$125 | \$95 |
| 3/1/21 - 3/7/21 | 8U (Baseball) | | \$95 | \$20 | \$115 | \$85 |
| 3/1/21 - 3/7/21 | Rookie | | \$80 | \$20 | \$100 | \$70 |
| 3/1/21 - 3/7/21 | Tee-Ball | | \$65 | \$0 | \$65 | \$55 |
| | | | | | | |

*Volunteer fee applies to Baseball registrations only and is refundable once volunteer commitment is met. See volunteer section for more details.

Multi-player discount of \$10 applies to each registered player after first paid player registration.

Your spring registration fee includes Fall Ball registration (non-competitive option). Play in Spring, Play for Free in the Fall!

2021 BYA Little League Baseball and Tee-Ball Age Chart

To determine your child's **Division Age**, match month (top line) with player's month of birth and box with year of birth. The BYALL Division Age will be indicated at the right. Please be sure to select the correct program when completing your registration.

| JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | AGE (Program) |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------|
| 2018 | 2018 | 2018 | 2018 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 3 (Tee-Ball) |
| 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2017 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 4 (Tee-Ball) |
| 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2016 | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 5 (Rookie Baseball) |
| 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2015 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 6 (Rookie Baseball) |
| 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 7 (8U Baseball Coach Pitch) |
| 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 8 (8U Baseball Coach Pitch) |
| 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2012 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 9 (10U Baseball Kid Pitch) |
| 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2011 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 10 (10U Baseball Kid Pitch) |
| 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2010 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 11 (12U Baseball Kid Pitch) |
| 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2009 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 2008 | 12 (12U Baseball Kid Pitch) |

2021 BYA Baseball and Tee-Ball Divisions

Tee-Ball – for 3- & 4-year-old boys and girls. At this age, the game is primarily focused on getting the players to swing the bat, hit the ball and run the bases. Each team will bat through the entire lineup each inning – no outs, no strikeouts. Games are played once a week and typically last 3 innings or 45 minutes max. Soft foam bats are provided by BYA. The BYA tee-ball program resembles the [Little League Tee-Ball program](#) and is a great way to introduce your child to the game of baseball in an instructional, yet fun and family-oriented setting. Parent participation during games & practices is encouraged.

Rookie Baseball (6U | Minor Division) – Our in-house, Rookie Baseball program is for 5- & 6-year-old boys and girls with or without tee-ball experience. The Rookie program plays a form of modified-rules baseball that focuses more on instruction than competition. The Rookie program concentrates primarily on the fundamentals of hitting and fielding, and it uses modified rules that allow greater offensive and defensive opportunities. Both coach-pitch and tee-hitting is used at this level. The Rookie Baseball program is a great way for players to learn the fundamentals required to compete at the 8U and 10U levels as they grow older. See more details about this program [here](#). Each team will play a max of 10 regular season games and can expect to play or practice 1-2 times per week.

Baseball (8U | Minor Division | Coach Pitch) – Our 8U baseball program is for 7- & 8-year-old boys and girls who have 1 or more years of experience playing Rookie Baseball (or similar). This age group naturally tends to be slightly more competitive, but our coaches will emphasize instruction, sportsmanship and team effort over competitiveness. The 8U program is fantastic for players who want more instruction before moving on to a higher competitive level. The 8U program is coach-pitch and focuses on the fundamentals of hitting, fielding and game strategy. Our 8U team will be competing in the **Route 65 League** in games against 8U teams from Quaker Valley and Avonworth and will play home games at the BYA fields and away games at Quaker Valley and Avonworth fields. At the end of the regular season, the 8U team may compete in a single-elimination tournament. The 8U team will play between 10-16 regular season games and can expect to play or practice 1-2 times per week.

Baseball (10U | Minor Division | Kid Pitch) – Our 10U baseball program is for 9- & 10-year-old boys and girls who have 1 or more years of experience playing in the BYA 8U program (or similar). While emphasis still leans towards development and sportsmanship, we begin introducing elements of advanced game strategy and positional play. The 10U program introduces kid pitching for the first time. Our 10U team will be competing in the **Route 65 League** in games against 10U teams from Quaker Valley and Avonworth and will play home games at the BYA fields and away games at Quaker Valley and Avonworth fields. At the end of the regular season, the 10U team may compete in a single-elimination tournament. The 10U team will play between 10-16 regular season games and can expect to play or practice 1-2 times per week. 10U players may also have an opportunity to play in additional district-level Little League tournaments after the regular season.

Baseball (12U | Major Division | Kid Pitch) – Our 12U baseball program is for 11- & 12-year-old boys and girls who have 1 or more years of experience playing in the BYA 10U program (or similar). At this age, gameplay is much faster and more strategic. Player safety also becomes more important at this age. Our 12U team will be competing in the **Route 65 League** in games against 12U teams from Quaker Valley and Avonworth and will play home games at the BYA fields and away games at Quaker Valley and Avonworth fields. At the end of the regular season, the 12U team may compete in a single-elimination tournament. The 12U team will play between 10-16 regular season games and can expect to play or practice 1-2 times per week. 12U players may also have an opportunity to play in additional district-level Little League tournaments after the regular season.

Playing Up or Playing Down

Little League rules allow players to “play up” or “play down” under certain guidelines. We typically recommend that players register for the division that their age permits, but there are exceptions. Players who display above average skills and who have several years of experience may be candidates for “playing up” to an older division. On the other hand, a first-time player may want to “play down” a division to learn more about the game and build confidence.

For players requesting to play up or play down, we’ll hold a player evaluation session prior to the start of the season to determine what division a player is best fit for. Any players who would like to play up or play down will be required to attend this session. A date, time and location for this evaluation will be sent out in advance.

Regular Season vs. Tournament Season

During our regular season (mid-April through mid-June), all 8U, 10U and 12U teams will be competing against other BYA teams as well as against other local teams. Any player who registers with BYA during the regular season will be placed on a BYA regular season team.

At the end of the regular season, Little League tournament season begins (mid-June). We intend to participate in district-level tournaments for 8U, 10U and 12U. Any player who demonstrates the skills and characteristics required to play at this higher level will be considered for a tournament team. The tournament teams could consist of BYA regular season players and/or players who didn’t play on a BYA regular season team but who meet our Little League residency requirements. More info on tournament teams will be distributed during the regular season.



Volunteer Info

The Baden Youth Association is operated 100% by volunteers. Our board members, concession stand workers, grass cutters, field maintenance workers and coaches – all volunteers who devote valuable time to keeping our organization going strong. We invite everyone to become involved!

During registrations, we collect a refundable \$20 Volunteer Fee from each baseball family (tee-ball families excluded). Your \$20 fee will be refunded if you volunteer for any of the following activities:

Board Member | League Director | Head Coach | Assistant Coach
Full-season dugout helper (bookkeeper) | Team Mom (helps coordinate snacks)
One Field Day participation | Two concession stand shifts

Remember, our organization needs your help, not your money! All unclaimed refunds are deposited into the BYA General Fund at the end of the season and will be used towards supporting and growing our programs. To volunteer for any of the above activities please indicate your interest on your registration form or contact us at bya@badenyouth.org



Coaching Info

We need volunteer head coaches for all levels! No experience necessary!

Coaching at the youth level is a tremendously rewarding experience. You get to help mold our young athletes into respectful sportsmen and sportswomen, teach them the virtues of team play, and help them develop valuable life skills that can be used on and off the field. BYA coaches get to experience first-hand, the fun and excitement that baseball and tee-ball provide our young players.

Primary responsibilities of a head coach include being available April – June to run practices and games, teaching fundamental game skills, communicating with parents, setting up game-day equipment and, most importantly, ensuring the players have a good time. Prior to the start of the season, we conduct brief Coaches Clinics that will give you all the info you need for a successful season. For all coaches, we provide detailed practice plans, video tutorials and loads of support throughout the season – don't be afraid to help if you don't have coaching experience.

If you'd like to volunteer as a coach for the season, please indicate your interest on your registration form. All coaches are required to have clearances (more info [here](#)).

***** Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches (of baseball programs only) will receive a refund of the \$20 Volunteer Fee paid during registration after they attend a pre-season Coaches Clinic*****

Please contact bya@badenyouth.org with any questions.

Important Dates

All dates are subject to change

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/1/2021 (Fri) | Registration Opens |
| 1/31/2021 (Sun) | Early Bird Registration Discount Ends |
| 2/13/2021 (Sat) | Live Registration, Baden Borough Community Room, 11am – 1pm |
| 2/27/2021 (Sat) | Live Registration, Baden Borough Community Room, 11am – 1pm |
| 2/28/2021 (Sun) | Last Day to Register for Spring Season |
| Early March | Indoor Practices Start (More Info Soon!) |
| Early-Mid March (TBD) | Player Evaluations |
| 3/27/2021 (Sat) | BYA Field Day |
| 3/28/2021 (Sun) | Meet Your Coaches (Uniform Distribution) – Time & Location TBD |
| Early April (TBD) | Team Pictures |
| Early April (TBD) | Outdoor practices start |
| Mid-April (TBD) | Regular season starts |

Financial assistance is available for families who receive WIC, SNAP or Free Lunch benefits. Email us at bya@badenyouth.org for more info.

T-MOBILE CALL UP GRANT PROGRAM

The full cost of a BYA Little League registration can be covered for those in need. Contact us to find out how.





BYA Official Fan Wear



Hooded Sweatshirt w/BYA logo
50% cotton/50% polyester

Black w/white logo
 Gray w/black logo
 Navy w/white logo

\$30

Item# BYA-15800



Long Sleeve Shirt w/BYA logo
100% polyester

Black w/white logo
 Gray w/black logo
 Navy w/white logo

\$20

Item# BYA-788



Short Sleeve Shirt w/BYA logo
100% polyester

Any BYA Team Color

\$14

Item# BYA-790



BYA Logo Hat

Black w/white logo
 Navy w/white logo

\$15

Item# BYA-6270



Drawstring Backpack

Black, Navy, Royal, Red

\$10

Item# BYA-8888



Ladies V-Neck Shirt w/BYA logo

100% cotton

Black, Gray, Navy, Royal, Charcoal,
 Red, Pink, Lime

\$14


Item# BYA-5V00L

3 ways to order:

- Order online at www.BadenYouth.org
- Mail form & payment to Baden Youth Association, PO Box 25, Baden, PA 15005
- Email form and send PayPal payment with amount due to BadenYouth@gmail.com.

All orders due by February 29, 2020.

Apparel Logo Options

- 1. Baden**
 BASEBALL 
- 

| Qty | Item# | Size (YXS – A3XL) | Color | Logo (1 or 2) | Text on Back (Optional – add \$5) | Price |
|-------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
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| Amount Due: | | | | | | |

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ordered By | Name: _____ |
| | Email: _____ |
| | Phone: _____ |
| | Player Name: _____ Player Team: _____ |

BYA Glove Recommendations



A couple things to remember when buying a glove at any age. First, make sure the glove can be opened and closed by the child. New gloves are fun to buy but are often too stiff for the kid to close. Breaking in a glove can take years so a used glove, already broken in, is a great option (Craig's List, eBay, garage sales, Facebook, or hand-me-downs, etc.).

Second, just because your child can handle a big glove doesn't mean it's a good idea. Larger gloves allow a young player to rely more on the glove and less on their ability. If your child can make plays using a smaller glove, he or she will be an expert when older and can move up to adult size gloves. Little league has a 12" maximum glove size for a reason. Here are some general sizing suggestions for children in the various division. Please understand that each child is different and there may be exceptions.

Tee-Ball (Ages 3-4): Generally marked with "Tee-Ball" somewhere on the glove. Sizing 9-10" recommended. Make sure the glove is thin and easy to close, as T-ballers generally don't have the hand strength to close a real leather glove.

Rookie Baseball (Ages 5-6): Similar to Tee-Ball, a 10" glove is ideal for this age group making sure that the glove can easily be closed by little hands.

8U (Ages 7-8): At this age division, hands are getting a bit stronger. Typical kids from 7-9 would use a 10.5" or 11" glove but larger kids can probably use a 11.5" glove. Even though kids are stronger it's also important to find a glove that's easy to close. **At this age, we strongly recommend NOT using a tee-ball glove.**

10U (Ages 9-12): For minors it's normal to use a 10.5" to 11.5" glove. Kids this age can sometimes use a 12" glove, however using a slightly smaller glove is better for player development as the player is forced to get down on the ball and play it correctly rather than letting the glove do most of the work.

Here's a great [Glove Buying Guide](#) to help you find the perfect glove for your player.

BYA Bat Recommendations



The BYA does not permit bats larger than 2 5/8" in diameter. Please keep this in mind when purchasing any bat.

Buying a bat is often the most difficult piece of equipment to buy. The worst thing you can do is get a bat that is too heavy for your child. This will slow his/her speed down and often cause the bat to dip early in the swing giving him an upward golf swing. Having a bat too light will rob your child of power, however it's better to error on a lighter bat side.

One rule of thumb is a player should be able to hold the bat out horizontally with one hand for 5-10 seconds. If this isn't possible or even a struggle, do not buy that bat. Generally bigger kids use bigger bats and smaller kids use smaller bats. One other key size mentioned below is "bat drop." Bat drop is the ratio between bat length in inches and bat size in ounces. A 28" bat that weighs 16 ounces has a bat drop of -12. Here are some general guidelines by divisions for buying bats:

Tee-Ball (Ages 3-4): The BYA provides soft foam tee-ball bats. There is no need to purchase a tee-ball bat for your child.

Rookie Baseball (Ages 5-6): Rookie baseball players can still use approved tee-ball bats in most cases. 25-27" bats are common, usually with a -12 to -15 drop. A heavy bat here is asking for trouble so keep it light. We'll also encourage players in this division to use big barrel foam bats or even wiffle-ball bats during games. At this age it's more important to make contact with the ball than it is to be able to hit a baseball with a real bat.

Baseball (Ages 7-8): **For this division, all bats must have the USA Baseball stamp.** In this age group, balls are starting to get hit to the outfield so there is an advantage to having a heavier bat if the child can handle it. Most kids graduate to a 26-30" bat with a drop of -10 to -15. Use the horizontal arm method above before buying a bat. Click [here](#) for a great bat buying guide with additional info. Bats must be 2 5/8" in diameter or less.

Baseball (Ages 9-12): **For this division, all bats must have the USA Baseball stamp.** In this age group, most kids are using 27-31" bats. For weight, you typically see the smaller contact hitters using -13 to -12 bats and the bigger power hitters using -10 to -8 bats. Click [here](#) for a great bat buying guide with additional info. Bats must be 2 5/8" in diameter or less.