

## Pee Wee Baseball Program Guide

The Pee Wee Baseball League is a town-sponsored league designed for boys and girls ages 4-6 years old. The Franklin Recreation Department has provided this program and other youth sport programs for the past several years, and continues to be successful. The mission of the Franklin Recreation Department is to provide sport opportunities to Franklin youth.

The program has 3 distinct age groups that are determined by age, not ability or experience. or position played. Please adhere to our age policy.

**6 Year Old League** PLEASE NOTE: The 6 year old league has a rotating schedule. Your team could meet one day per week, either (Sat.9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm & Tues.5:30pm). See [Schedule](#) for your teams dates and times. The 6 year old league is a coach pitch, developmental league. 10 sessions (3 practices, 7 games). The practices consist of station training in 20 min. intervals (hitting, fielding, throwing, and base running). The games consist of 15-20 min warm up, followed by 1 hour game. 10 Teams of 13 players.

**5 Year Old League** The 5 year old league has a set time/day of week, either (Sat.9am, 11am, 1pm & Tues.5:30pm).The league is a coach pitch, tee developmental league. 10 sessions (3 practices, 7 more practices). Practices will consist of station training in 20 min. intervals (hitting, fielding, throwing, and base running).

**4 Year Old League** The 4 year old league is a tee ball instructional league. Kids must be 4 years old by May 1<sup>st</sup>. 3 year olds should not sign up unless they are 4 years old by May 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the cutoff for Franklin Youth Baseball, so we will not take kids that young. This league is a lot of fun, but requires the assistance of many parents to help with organizing lines, helping teach the kids technique, and participate in drills.

**Coaches** All Pee Wee Baseball coaches are expected to attend the coaches meeting held **Thursday, April 15, 7:00 pm** at the Recreation Department. Coaches will be introduced to the program philosophy & learn team rules and regulations. This program requires the assistance of good coaches that will teach kids proper mechanics and skills while encouraging team concepts and sportsmanship. We need your help! If you are interested in coaching, please notify us in the notes column upon registration.

## Season Highlights

Parade	<b>April 24, 10:00 am at Davis Thayer baseball field/playground</b> <b>Try to arrive a little bit early, between 9:00-9:45 am.</b>
Practice begins	Depending if you signed up for Saturdays or Tuesdays: <b>Saturday, April 17</b> (one practice per week lasting 1 ½ hours) <b>Tuesday, April 20</b> (one practice per week lasting 1 ½ hours) There will be at least 3 practice sessions before we begin games.
Practice site	Fletcher Field, Peck Street (near tennis courts)
Practice time	Saturdays: 9:00-10:30 am (or) 11:00-12:30 pm, 1:00-2:30 pm Tuesdays: 5:30 pm-7:00 pm
First game	Saturdays: May 15 (7 weeks of games, 10 total weeks) Tuesdays: May 11 (7 weeks of games, 10 total weeks)
Game sites	Fletcher Field, Peck Street (near tennis courts)
Final game	Saturday, June 26, pending no cancellations Tuesday, June 22, pending no cancellations

## General Program Information

Equipment	Sneakers or plastic cleats, shorts, sweats, or baseball pants should be worn in addition to the team shirt (provided as part of the program) No metal bats! We will provide bats, balls, bases, and other necessary equipment. Kids should bring their own glove. Batting gloves optional
Eligibility	Boys and girls ages 4-6 years old may participate in the program. 80 players accepted into each session.
Coaches	All Pee Wee Baseball coaches are required to attend the coaches meeting held <b>Thursday, April 15, 7:00 pm</b> at the Recreation Department. Coaches will be introduced to the program philosophy & learn team rules and regulations. This program requires the assistance of good coaches that will teach kids proper mechanics and skills while encouraging team concepts and sportsmanship. We need your help! If you are interested in coaching, please notify us in the notes column upon registration.

**IF IT'S RAINING, PRACTICE/GAME IS CANCELLED, check our website for info**

For more information, or to ask questions regarding this program please call, 520-4909.

Visit our website for latest news and weather cancellations

<http://www.franklin.ma.us/town/recreation>

## Important dates and answers to common questions...

Welcome to the Pee Wee Baseball program sponsored by the Town of Franklin Recreation Department. My name is Ryan Jette, Director of Recreation and head instructor for the Pee Wee Baseball program. We want to make sure you have all your questions answered so we've put together this program guide, which should answer all of your questions.

**April 17/April 20-Saturday/Tuesday--"Opening Day":** Depending on which day you are registered for (Tuesdays or Saturdays) you will meet at your assigned time on Saturday (ie: 9:00-10:30 a.m., 11:00-12:30 p.m., or 1:00-2:30 p.m.) **OR** if you are signed up for Tuesday nights 5:30-7:00 p.m., then you will **have opening day on Tuesday, April 20th**. Each week, we will meet at Fletcher Field, near the tennis courts. It is recommended to park on the Wachusett Street side of Fletcher Field to avoid the mad house on Peck Street.

### NEW THIS YEAR!

Because the parade is being held so late (April 24<sup>th</sup>) this year, we will have one week of baseball before the actual parade.

**April 24, Saturday--"Parade" NO BASEBALL PRACTICE, JUST PARADE:** We will ALL meet at the Davis Thayer School Playground between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Saturday. We will have 320 kids between the ages of 4-6 in the playground area, so please stay with your child. We will have a uniform distribution table for those that did not attend practice 1.

**What do we do for the parade?** After meeting at the Davis Thayer Playground, we will line up the kids around 9:50 a.m. Before the parade starts, feel free to park your car near Fletcher Field (Wachusett Street side), or stay and wait until the parade starts (10:00ish). Please make sure you stay with your child as there will be 1200 youth baseball players, and 600 softball players marching with us. If you cannot attend the parade, then don't feel obligated to attend. However, there will be no practice on this day.

We will march behind the Fire engines through the center of town (Route 140), take a right on Summer Street, then a right onto Winter Street and down into the little league field #1 (outfield area). We'll take part in the opening day ceremonies put on by Franklin Youth Baseball & Franklin Girls Youth Softball.

WE WILL NOT HAVE PRACTICE ON April 25th ONLY THE PARADE.

### What do we do if it rains

If it is lightly raining before you leave to come to Davis Thayer try logging on to our website:

[www.franklin.ma.us/town/recreation](http://www.franklin.ma.us/town/recreation)

And scroll down where it says, "WEATHER CANCELLATION". We will do our best to post any cancellations or delays. Our weather phone line is also available by calling 520-4909 press 2.

If it is pouring, then we will NOT march in the parade. *If we are forced to cancel the parade, please come to the next practice (Tues. 4/27/10 or Sat. 5/01/10). The parade will not be made up if it is cancelled.*

**What team is my son/daughter on? Who is his/her coach?** If your child is signed up for the 4 year old or 5 year old sessions, they will participate in timed stations designed to teach the fundamentals of baseball in a non-competitive fun atmosphere. They will not have set coaches and teams. There will be several coaches and parents helping at each level along with Recreation staff. If your child is signed up for the 6 year olds division, you will receive an email and/or phone call with a schedule and coach info once registration is finished. When the kids have learned the proper techniques and rules of the game, we progress into controlled games to apply the skills they have acquired. We utilize volunteer parents and our staff to coordinate practices and games.

**Is there room in the 9:00am slot or can I pick a time that is convenient for my schedule?** NO, Unfortunately, we have 80 players and 80 sets of parents at each session. Each time slot has a different color jersey (red/white/blue/gray) to distinguish the kids signed up for each time slot. If more than 80 kids attend one of the sessions than the teams are uneven and players lose playing time. Instead, we like to keep everyone at the registered time slot. 9:00 a.m. is the most popular time slot, but we cannot have kids switching times mid season, or even weekly. Please attend the time you sign up for!

Please understand that the Recreation Department has two employees (the Director and a secretary (Lynne), so replying to messages with questions may be delayed slightly. Please see if questions can wait until your practice, as staff will be available at the registration table.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Jette  
Director of Recreation