

Hillside Athletic Association T-Ball League 2012 Frequently Asked Questions [FAQ]

1. What is the deadline for registration?

Answer: Please have your sons and/or daughters registered by Saturday, April 7.

2. The HAA website says T-Ball is for 5-7 year olds. My child is currently 4 and will turn 5 in May. Are they eligible to play this year or should they wait until next year?

Answer: April 30 is the normal birthday cutoff for Little League. However, if your child has the social skills and desire to play - we would love to have them join our T-Ball League.

3. When does the T-Ball Season begin and end?

Answer: In 2012, the first date games can be played is Monday, April 23. The Season concludes by the second week of June in most cases. We do not play games on Memorial Day weekend and Mother's Day.

4. Are all T-Ball games played on Saturday mornings? Do they also have practices during the week? Is there ever a time commitment on Sundays?

Answer: Most weekend T-Ball games are played either Saturday morning or afternoon. Hillside does not play T-Ball on Sundays.

5. How often do T-Ball Teams play?

Answer: Depending on the number of teams and players we register this year, games will normally be twice a week, one during the week and one on Saturday. No games on Sunday.

Some coaches prefer pre-season practices and none during the season. Veteran Hillside T-Ball Coaches have learned that 5 and 6 year olds, with a limited attention span, do not greatly benefit from excess practice time. Most Coaches teach and instruct during the games.

6. Do you have a schedule for the T-Ball League?

Answer: After organizing players and teams, HAA assembles a schedule and shares it with T-Ball Coaches at the Mandatory T-Ball Coaches meeting on April 10, 2012.

7. My child does pretty well at throwing and hitting, but is still learning the basics of catching. Are most kids playing T-Ball at this same skill level or are they more developmentally advanced since they are older than my child?

Answer: Actually, this is about the same level as most of our first year players. Some players arrive with basically no skills, but that is just fine. We teach them the initial skills and everyone learns quickly. Most important, is that the players have fun and make friends whatever their skill level.

8. What are the Hillside Athletic Association's boundaries? If we do not live in your Little League region, can we register?

Answer: The Westside School District is the general boundary; however, ALL youngsters T-Ball age, regardless of address, are very welcome to play at Hillside!

9. Do the T-Ball teams use a regular baseball or do they follow the same method as the YMCA and use tennis balls?

Answer: Hillside uses a standard sized "safety" baseball. This ball is the same size as all baseballs, but they are made of a softer, flexible rubber-like material to keep from harming our young players.

10. The website talked about a Hillside Snack Shack deposit. Does this apply to t-ball? If so, could you explain this program to me?

Answer: Yes, the volunteer requirement does apply to T-Ball. Matter of fact, ALL Omaha Little Leagues have a volunteer time requirement. Here's how the Hillside Auxiliary or Concessions Program works --

It takes over 1500 hours of volunteer time to operate the concession stands every season. The profit from Hillside Concessions is critical to the financial existence of our League. It helps fund the many improvements we make to our fields and facilities each year. It also helps keep the cost of registration as low as we can possibly make it.

Hillside depends on our player's parents to keep this lifeblood going. Again this year, each family is required to submit an Auxiliary deposit check of \$100 at registration. However, what Hillside boys and girls really need is your volunteer spirit, and not the \$100 deposit.

Getting your deposit back is the easy part... simply bring smiles to the faces of kids by selling snacks for a 2-hour time slot per each registered player is what it is all about. Each family is responsible for scheduling their time, but in many cases, a team parent will help with assigned times. Please contact Tammy Bisailion, Concessions Commissioner, at tkbhome@cox.net if you have any questions.

11. I realize we only have a few days until the registration period ends. Is completing the application on-line the best registration method?

Answer: Yes, completing the application on-line is best.

12. What is the most important thing about Hillside T-Ball?

Answer: The most important thing is for our kids to remain interested and have fun at this age.

13. If I want to be a T-Ball Coach, what sort of issues do I need to know?

Answer: In April, Hillside holds a mandatory meeting for all T-Ball head coaches. Assistant coaches are also encouraged to attend. Below, you will find some of the vital issues which will be discussed:

1. Safety Issues
2. Organizing Practices
3. History of the Hillside and Memorial Leagues
4. Opening T-Ball Ceremonies
5. Picture Day Schedule
6. Night out with the Storm Chasers
7. Concession Stand requirements
8. Sponsors
9. Identifying a Team Parent(s)
10. Addressing concerns of the coaches

14. Will my child have fun, enjoy making friends and learn some teamwork skills in addition to building life-long memories in the bright sunshine!?!?!?

Answer: ABSOLUTELY!!!