

## Midget Baseball Program Common Questions (Fall Ball)

**Question 1 :** How much is the Registration Fee for the Fall Ball Midget Baseball Division?

Answer: The Fee for the Fall Ball 2010 season (9-10 years old) is \$55. This fee represents a good value.

**Question 2:**

What clothing will my child receive as part of the registration fee?

Answer: A child registered will receive a T-shirt only.

**Question 3:**

What equipment will be provided by the league for use during games and practices?

Answer: The following equipment will be available for use during games and practices:

- Wooden Baseball Bats
- Batting Helmets
- Bases
- Baseballs
- Catcher's Safety Equipment

**Question 4:**

Is there any other equipment I should consider purchasing for my child?

Answer: Yes. Below is a list of items:

- Protective Cup
- Baseball Bat specific to the size of your child
- Batting Glove
- Baseball Glove

**Question 5:**

What guidelines should I use when determining what size/type bat to buy?

Answer: If purchasing a bat, it should be aluminum for use in our league. The weight of a bat can vary. The lighter a bat is, the easier it will be for your child to control the bat and swing it effectively. As a test, have your child hold the bat directly out from their side without bending their elbow. If they can hold it for 30 seconds without having it rise higher or lower, than it's an appropriate weight.

**Question 6:**

What guidelines should I use in determining what size baseball glove to purchase for my child?

Answer: Kids 9 and 10 years of age should consider gloves in the 11 to 11.5 inch range. Especially search for a flexible glove. Nothing is more frustrating to a young player than having a ball fall out of their glove because they aren't able to close the glove. Use shaving cream to help soften new gloves and make them easier to close. Once applied put a baseball in the pocket of the glove and tie it shut with string for 24 hours. Your Child's hand should fit comfortably into the glove as well. You can expect to pay between \$15 and \$45 dollars for a baseball glove, depending on the quality.

**Question 7:**

When does the Baseball Season Begin and end?

Answer: Practices for the Fall Ball Midget season normally begin in August and the season runs through the first week of October.

**Question 8:**

How important is it that my child attends practices?

Answer: It is very important for your child to arrive at practices on time and attend as many as they can. It is during the practices that the skills needed to become a good ball player and enjoy the games are learned. At this age, repetition of specific drills will help to build their confidence and understanding of the game.

**Question 9:**

Do we keep score?

Answer: Yes. Midget game scores are kept, but standings are not.

**Question 10:**

How does pitching work in the Midget Baseball Division?

Answer: The Midget Baseball Division is where kid pitching for complete games is introduced. All kids are taught how to pitch in this league. There are limits as to how many innings a particular player can pitch per game, and per week. Your coach can answer any questions you have in reference to this. You can also download a rulebook from [www.howellbaseball.com](http://www.howellbaseball.com) to read the rules yourself. These pitching rules are put into place to ensure that we are looking out for our children's future where pitching is concerned. While instruction is given on how to pitch, it's important that follow up practice happens at home. This practice will straighten the players arm and give them confidence to throw pitches around the strike zone. After warming up with stretching and long toss, please limit the amount of pitches thrown to 60.

**Question 11:**

Can I assist the managers and coaches during games and practices?

Answer: The Howell Area Junior Baseball Association is an all-volunteer organization. The league relies heavily on the involvement of parents during games and practices. From our experience, managers/coaches at this age level welcome the involvement of parents at many different levels. They may ask you to assist with coaching a base, managing the dugout or keeping score. Don't hesitate to ask the manager/coach to assist them when you're available to do so. Also understand that there may be situations where the coach has enough helpers for a specific game or practice. But by offering to assist, you are letting the coach know that for future needs, you would be more than willing to help. **If your schedule allows, you should consider managing a team yourself next year.** It's a wonderful experience and allows you to give back to the community in a way that words can't describe.

**Question 12:**

Will my child's games and practices be on the same day each week? And will there be weekend games?

Answer: The intention is to have Fall Ball practices and games on Mondays and Thursdays. One additional weekday may be added, depending on the number of kids that register.

**Question 13:**

If I have a problem with the way that my child is being treated by our manager/coach/teammates, what should I do?

Answer: If you have concerns where your child's role in the team is concerned, your child's team manager and/or coach should be given the opportunity to hear your concern first. They are the person most likely able to ease your concern and make any changes that may need to be made. Our team managers are all volunteers, and they do their best to make the baseball experience enjoyable and educational as possible for all players. The best time to approach a manager/coach with a concern is after practices and/or prior to games. These two times are likely to be the least « Hectic » for the manager/coach and will allow them to give you the needed time to listen to your concern. Should your concerns not be adequately addressed to your satisfaction by your manager/coach, you do have the option of contacting the Midget Commissioner as

well. The commissioner contact info can be found at <http://www.howellbaseball.org/>. Be aware that the commissioner's first action will be to contact the manager and discuss the situation with them. That's why it is important that you give your manager an opportunity to hear your concern prior to contacting the Midget Baseball Commissioner.