

# 'BEFORE YOU CALL THE PARK OFFICE'

PARENT'S INFORMATION PACKET

T-BALL, BASEBALL, & SOFTBALL  
2025

**\*\*\*PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION\*\*\***

**This packet contains dates, team info, phone numbers & rules.**

**PARK OFFICE 893-5219**

**INFO-LINE 895-6188**

**WWW.OBMS.US**

**olivebranch.recdesk.com**

## OLIVE BRANCH PARKS & RECREATION T-BALL, BASEBALL & SOFTBALL SEASON

Welcome to the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation 2025 T-ball, Baseball & Softball season. We would like to provide you with some general information concerning the program. We will give more specific information as soon as it becomes available.

- Registration will be from **Monday December 30, 2024 through Monday January 20, 2025**. We will be **CLOSED** on Wed. 1/1/25 & Mon. 1/20/25 for the holidays.
- **Register online at [olivebranch.recdesk.com](http://olivebranch.recdesk.com)**
- Our office hours for registration are Monday through Friday from 8am until 5pm (*Closed 1/1/25 & 1/20/25*) Office open on **Saturday January 18<sup>th</sup> from 8am until 12PM**.
- **Boys & Girls ages 4-16**. For a child to be eligible to play, he or she must be 4 years old by **April 30, 2025**.
- The fee is **\$75 per child, Desoto County Resident and \$100 per child, Non-Desoto County Resident**. This includes a jersey, baseball cap or visor, a picture package, and umpire fees.
- An **online waiting list** will be formed on Tuesday January 21, 2025. Players on the waiting list will be contacted **if needed** on a “first come, first serve” basis.
- **Coaches are not permitted to choose players from the waiting list.**
- We will contact coaches to attend a coaches meeting, and to pick up team rosters. **The coaches will contact the parents after their meeting.** We would appreciate your patience and cooperation concerning this matter. Drafting and filling out team rosters is time consuming, and it only slows the process when each parent calls to see if we are finished yet, or if we can just tell them what team their child is on. **Please do not call on this matter.**
- Teams will begin **practice around March and games will begin around April.**
- **SCHEDULED GAMES CAN BE ON ANY DAY OF THE WEEK EXCEPT SUNDAYS.**
- **Make up games can possibly be scheduled on a Wednesday night.**
- We will contact coaches to pick up game schedules 10-14 days prior to the start of the season. We do not expect to hand out uniforms until about one week before the games begin. Coaches will contact parents with this information. **Contact your coach for any team information.**
- **The season will consist of 10-12 season games.**
- **WE DO NOT TAKE SPECIAL REQUESTS TO PLAY ON A CERTAIN TEAM, WITH A CERTAIN COACH, OR WITH A CERTAIN TEAMMATE.**

We appreciate your patience and cooperation. Coaches will contact parents with all team information as soon as possible. For further information on registration, please contact the Park Office at 893-5267 or 895-4108 or 893-5219.

## REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

- Coaches cannot place a child on any team. A child must be officially registered and placed through the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department.
- **Due to the large number of registrants in each sport, we cannot honor special requests, such as a child being placed with a particular coach, team, or friend. The Sibling Rule and Coaches' Children Rule are the ONLY situations in which children are placed on a particular team.**
- **The Sibling Rule-** *Siblings* that live in the same household and meet the requirements of the same age group will be placed on the same team.
- **Coaches' Children Rule-** A coach's child(ren) will be placed on his/her team as long as he/she is coaching that child's age group. Each coach is allowed to secure ONE assistant coach, and the assistant coach's child(ren) fall under this same rule.
- **A birth certificate is required to register.** We may have your child's birth certificate on file if they have previously played in one of our programs. We will be happy to check, but if we do not have it on file, it is your responsibility to provide a copy. **We CANNOT register a child without a copy of a certified copy of the birth certificate.**
- Children that are not registered during regular registration will be placed on a waiting list for that age group. No money will be taken at that time. The waiting list DOES NOT GUARANTEE YOUR CHILD WILL BE PLACED ON A TEAM. If and when there is an opening in your child's age group, we will call the first name on the waiting list. If you do not choose to register, we will move on to the next name.
- Children that are pulled from the waiting list may be delayed in receiving their uniform. We **cannot guarantee** receipt of uniforms by the start of the season or by the picture day scheduled for children pulled from the waiting list.
- Refunds will not be granted to anyone after games begin.
- Parents must understand that you are registering your child for a TEAM SPORT. Attendance to practices and games are key to a successful team. THE PARTICIPATION POLICIES apply to all children registered in an Olive Branch Parks and Recreation team sport program. Please read over the PARTICIPATION POLICIES thoroughly before registering your child.

# OLIVE BRANCH PARKS & RECREATION

## TEAM SPORT PARTICIPATION POLICIES

We at the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department limit the number of participants per team in order to insure all children receive an equal amount of playing time in the games. Due to excessive absences of players in our team sports programs, and complaints by coaches and parents, the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department has implemented participation policies for all team sport programs. Baseball, soccer, and basketball are the major sports programs that are provided, all of which are team sports. Parents must understand that attendance is extremely important to the success of a TEAM. In all three sports, teams risk a forfeit if there are not enough players present at a game. Attendance is just as important for practices, in order for the team to learn to play together. The following policies apply to team sports programs:

1. Teams will practice approximately 2 times per week for four weeks. Players are expected to attend at least 80% of the practices. (i.e., 6 of the 8 practices)
2. If a player must miss a practice, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to contact the coach.
3. Coaches have the right to disperse playing time in a practice or a game based on poor attendance.
4. Coaches are responsible for keeping accurate attendance records. In order to receive an additional player due to excessive absences, a coach must have proof of attendance.
5. The Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to add a player to a team that has a player or players that did not meet the 80% attendance requirement during the four-week practice period.
6. Each addition to a team will be decided by the Olive Branch Parks & Recreation Department on a case-by-case basis.

## PARENT'S GENERAL INFORMATION

### **Jewelry**

Jewelry of any kind is **NOT ALLOWED** to be worn by any player during any sport, exception being a medical alert bracelet/necklace.

### **Soccer**

Soccer cleats are required in soccer, a child **CANNOT** wear **baseball cleats or football cleats** during soccer games. However, the Under 6 age group can play in tennis shoes instead of soccer cleats if they wish to do so. **All age groups MUST wear shin guards.**

### **Phone Numbers**

For game or practice rain out information, call **895-6188**

For sport program information, to get a coaches' phone number, to schedule a practice, or for any sport related information, call **893-5267** or **895-4108**.

### **City Website**

[WWW.OBMS.US](http://WWW.OBMS.US)

### **Park Website**

[Olivebranch.recdesk.com](http://Olivebranch.recdesk.com)

Registration, league rules, game schedules/scores, league standings, makeup game schedules, picture day schedules, and more information can be found here.

### **Pictures**

All pictures will have one scheduled date. A park official schedules the date and time of pictures. A park official will notify coaches with the specific information, and the coaches will in turn call the parents. We do not schedule pictures on major holidays. **NOTE:** We cannot schedule pictures around anyone's vacation schedule or around a hunting season.

### **Game Schedules**

Game schedules will be given to each coach 7 – 10 days prior to the start of a season. Coaches will give a copy to the parents of his/her team. Your coach will also contact his/her parents about make-up games.

**NOTE:** Game schedules will not be changed to accommodate vacation schedules of coaches, players, or the player's family.

### **Complaints & Concerns**

Parents should follow the attached 'Grievance Procedures'. A complaint/concern form has been provided to you in this 'Parents Packet'. NOTE: Concerns must be in writing for the appropriate actions to be taken.

### **Insurance Information**

In the case of injury or accident, notify the coach immediately. The coach must fill out an incident report and file it with the park office on the first business day following the incident. First, parents are to file the claim with their insurance company. Second the parents may file a claim with the Supplemental Insurance offered by Olive Branch Parks & Recreation. An explanation of benefits from your insurance company will be required to file a claim. In the case parents do not have insurance, the supplemental insurance then becomes the primary policy. Deductibles and rules apply to all claims. Call 893-5219 for further information.

**PLEASE CALL 893-5267 or 895-4108 FOR GENERAL INFORMATION**

# A FACT SHEET FOR Youth Sports Parents



This sheet has information to help protect your children or teens from concussion, or other serious brain injury.

## What Is a Concussion?

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury—or TBI—caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or by a hit to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. This fast movement can cause the brain to bounce around or twist in the skull, creating chemical changes in the brain and sometimes stretching and damaging the brain cells.

## How Can I Help Keep My Children or Teens Safe?

Sports are a great way for children and teens to stay healthy and can help them do well in school. To help lower your children's or teens' chances of getting a concussion or other serious brain injury, you should:

- Help create a culture of safety for the team.
  - Work with their coach to teach ways to lower the chances of getting a concussion.
  - Emphasize the importance of reporting concussions and taking time to recover from one.
  - Ensure that they follow their coach's rules for safety and the rules of the sport.
  - Tell your children or teens that you expect them to practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- When appropriate for the sport or activity, teach your children or teens that they must wear a helmet to lower the chances of the most serious types of brain or head injury. There is no "concussion-proof" helmet. Even with a helmet, it is important for children and teens to avoid hits to the head.

**Talk with your children and teens about concussion.** Tell them to report their concussion symptoms to you and their coach right away. Some children and teens think concussions aren't serious, or worry that if they report a concussion they will lose their position on the team or look weak. Remind them that *it's better to miss one game than the whole season.*

## How Can I Spot a Possible Concussion?

Children and teens who show or report one or more of the signs and symptoms listed below—or simply say they just "don't feel right" after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body—may have a concussion or other serious brain injury.

### Signs Observed by Parents

- Appears dazed or stunned
- Forgets an instruction, is confused about an assignment or position, or is unsure of the game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
- Can't recall events *prior to* or *after* a hit or fall

### Symptoms Reported by Children and Teens

- Headache or "pressure" in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness, or double or blurry vision
- Bothered by light or noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Confusion, or concentration or memory problems
- Just not "feeling right," or "feeling down"

**GOOD TEAMMATES KNOW:  
IT'S BETTER TO MISS ONE GAME THAN THE WHOLE SEASON.**



[cdc.gov/HEADSUP](http://cdc.gov/HEADSUP)

# CONCUSSIONS AFFECT EACH CHILD AND TEEN DIFFERENTLY.

While most children and teens with a concussion feel better within a couple of weeks, some will have symptoms for months or longer. Talk with your children's or teens' healthcare provider if their concussion symptoms do not go away or if they get worse after they return to their regular activities.



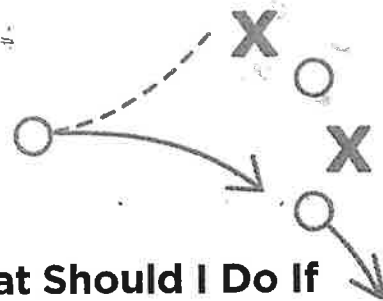
**Plan ahead.** What do you want your child or teen to know about concussion?

## What Are Some More Serious Danger Signs to Look Out For?

In rare cases, a dangerous collection of blood (hematoma) may form on the brain after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body and can squeeze the brain against the skull. Call 9-1-1, or take your child or teen to the emergency department right away if, after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, he or she has one or more of these danger signs:

- One pupil larger than the other
- Drowsiness or inability to wake up
- A headache that gets worse and does not go away
- Slurred speech, weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination
- Repeated vomiting or nausea, convulsions or seizures (shaking or twitching)
- Unusual behavior, increased confusion, restlessness, or agitation
- Loss of consciousness (passed out/knocked out). Even a brief loss of consciousness should be taken seriously

**Children and teens** who continue to play while having concussion symptoms or who return to play too soon—while the brain is still healing—have a greater chance of getting another concussion. A repeat concussion that occurs while the brain is still healing from the first injury can be very serious and can affect a child or teen for a lifetime. It can even be fatal.



## What Should I Do If My Child or Teen Has a Possible Concussion?

As a parent, if you think your child or teen may have a concussion, you should:

1. Remove your child or teen from play.
2. Keep your child or teen out of play the day of the injury. Your child or teen should be seen by a healthcare provider and only return to play with permission from a healthcare provider who is experienced in evaluating for concussion.
3. Ask your child's or teen's healthcare provider for written instructions on helping your child or teen return to school. You can give the instructions to your child's or teen's school nurse and teacher(s) and return-to-play instructions to the coach and/or athletic trainer.

Do not try to judge the severity of the injury yourself. Only a healthcare provider should assess a child or teen for a possible concussion. You may not know how serious the concussion is at first, and some symptoms may not show up for hours or days. A child's or teen's return to school and sports should be a gradual process that is carefully managed and monitored by a healthcare provider.

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To learn more,  
go to [cdc.gov/HEADSUP](https://www.cdc.gov/HEADSUP)



## **PARENTS: ROLE MODEL FOR LIFE**

What can parents do to make the game more enjoyable for their children...and other people's kids, too?

1. Be knowledgeable of the game.
2. Encourage fair play at home.
3. Be supportive: Be sure the player attends practices; pick him/her on time.
4. Attend games.
5. Be positive or be quiet at games.
6. Be respectful; expect your own children to be respectful.
7. Focus on good nutrition.
8. Volunteer to help the coach.
9. Officiate games.
10. Play the game.
11. Be calm and have good manners.
12. Support the coaches and officials decisions.
13. Encourage communication between coach and parent.
14. Ask your own children to describe his/her role, what new skills have been learned.
15. Watch practices; focus on new strategies.
16. Find videos on the game and watch the movies with them.
17. Concentrate on praising other people's children during games.
18. Read newspaper articles about older player's successes; provide models for your own children.



**ATTENTION !!!**  
**PARENTS AND COACHES**

DO NOT DROP YOUR CHILDREN OFF ANY EARLIER THAN 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THEIR PRACTICE OR GAME TIME.

BE PROMPT IN PICKING THEM UP FROM PRACTICES AND GAMES.

COACHES CANNOT LEAVE ANY PLAYERS IN THE CARE OF SCHOOL OFFICIALS, OTHER COACHES OR PARENTS AFTER A GAME OR PRACTICE.

A COACH AND ANOTHER ADULT MUST REMAIN WITH ANY OF HIS/HER PLAYERS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PICKED UP.

FOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS:  
PARENTS- CHILDREN THAT ALREADY ATTEND THE OLIVE BRANCH MIDDLE SCHOOL AND/OR OLIVE BRANCH INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CANNOT STAY AFTER SCHOOL TO WAIT FOR A PRACTICE. SCHOOL OFFICIALS OR THE PARK OFFICE WILL NOT TOLERATE PARENTS LEAVING CHILDREN UNATTENDED.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION!

# **OLIVE BRANCH PARKS & RECREATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

As with any large organization, on occasion problems will occur. When problems do occur, we want to insure that everyone in our programs receive fair and equitable treatment. Your participation and our volunteer coaches are vital to our organization's success. The following grievance procedures have been established:

1. Arrange a private meeting with your coach to try to resolve the problem.
2. If the problem is not resolved (no agreement reached), call the park office to arrange a meeting with the Athletic Coordinator. At this time you will be asked to submit, in writing, a detailed account of the problem to the Athletic Coordinator prior to your meeting. You may call 893-5219 to schedule this meeting.
3. Finally, if the problem is not resolved, the administrative assistant will arrange a meeting with you and the Park Director to attempt to resolve the problem.

\*The Park Director is the final step, and will decide what steps, if any, need to occur.

## Parent's Code of Ethics

**I hereby pledge to provide positive support, care, and encouragement for my child participating in youth sports by following this Parent's Code of Ethics Pledge.**

I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game, practice, or other youth sports event.

I will place the emotional and physical well being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.

I will insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

I will support coaches and officials working with my child, in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

I will demand a sports environment for my child that is **DRUG, TOBACCO, and ALCOHOL FREE**, and will refrain from their use at all sports events.

I will remember that the game is for the youth, not the adults.

I will do my best to make youth sports fun for my child.

I will ask my child to treat other players, coaches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

I promise to help my child enjoy the youth sports experience by doing whatever I can, such as being a respectable fan, assisting with coaching, or providing transportation.

I will require that my child's coach be trained in the responsibilities of being a youth sports coach, and that the coach upholds the **Coaches' Code of Ethics**.

**I have read and fully understand and agree to adhere to the Code of Ethics listed above.**

**Parents signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_