

Frequently Asked Questions

For the list of Important Dates, please look under the Documents link on our website.

What is Visalia Youth Baseball (VYB)?

Visalia Youth Baseball is an affiliate of the Babe Ruth League that includes the Cal Ripken division for players ages 4-12 and the Babe Ruth division for players ages 13-15.

What is the difference between Cal Ripken and Little League?

Cal Ripken's Majors and AAA division pitching and base length are longer than little league to better prepare our players for the next level.

Bases are 70' for our Majors and AAA divisions vs. bases staying at 60' to age 13

Pitching Distance: Is 50' for our Majors and AAA divisions vs. staying 46' to age 13

Base Stealing: Players are able to take leads from bases vs. waiting for the ball to cross the plate

Coaching & Training CERTIFICATION: REQUIRED vs. NOT Required

What age division will my player be in?

Our online registration system automatically places your player in the correct age division based on birthdate.

League age is based on your child's age as of April 30th, 2019. Please refer to the "age restrictions" chart on our website. Players are not allowed to move up a division. They must play in their own age division. Your child will be removed from our league if he/she deliberately signed up for the wrong division.

T-Ball: Ball players 4-5 years old learn hitting and fielding fundamentals in a supportive team environment. Young athletes **hit the ball from a batting tee** which is height-adjusted for a level swing, batting in order through the line-up for the entire game.

Rookie 6 and 7 year olds: These divisions use **coach pitching** and finish with **player pitch**.

Minor 8 and 9 year olds: This division is all **player pitch**. *(Players are not required to attend tryouts although it is recommended. Registered players that do not attend tryouts come out of the draft pool and will be randomly drawn to be placed on teams.)*

AA: Open to players ages 10-12. Featuring a 46' pitching distance and 60' base paths. This division is for the less experienced player. Tryouts are **not** required for this division. This division is not guaranteed each year as the amount of registrations vary but is typical.

AAA: Open to players ages 10-12. Featuring a 50' pitching distance and 70' base paths. This division offers an intermediate level of play and is recommended for the intermediate-advanced player. **All players must attend tryouts.**

Major/70: Open to players ages 10-12. Featuring a 50' pitching distance and 70' base paths. This division offers an advanced level of play and is recommended for the experienced player. **All players must attend tryouts.** Players drafted to a major team will remain on that team for the duration of their Cal Ripken career.

Babe Ruth Baseball Division: This division was created for ballplayers ages 13-15 who wish to continue their baseball playing experience beyond the age of 12.

Can my player register for a higher age division? No, all players must play in their required age division which is based on your child's age per the current year's age chart listed on the baberuthleague.org or on our website.

Can my kids be on the same team?

Our registration form has a comment section to indicate any specific request in this regard. While we make reasonable efforts to honor these requests, we cannot guarantee them. For 8u-Majors, VYB has a brother pick option you can request. It only works if the kids play in the same division. The manager has the option during the draft to pick both kids back to back. We leave this to the discretion of the manager during the draft and it is not guaranteed. Please be sure to let us know in the comment section **and at the draft check-in** if you would like them to be a brother pick.

Are there tryouts?

Yes, we do hold a try out for ages 8 thru 12 during our Spring Season. All players are drafted to a team. The purpose of the try out is so that all coaches have an opportunity to evaluate players prior to the draft. Our intent is to have as much parity as possible between all of our teams. We do not hold tryouts for Fall Ball.

Are all players required to attend the tryout?

Yes, all players participating in the 10 thru 12 year old divisions (excluding AA) must attend a tryout. Players for the 8 and 9 year old divisions are encouraged to attend the *skills evaluation*. If your child cannot attend the *skills evaluations*, they will be assigned to a team by a blind draw.

Try Out Dates

(For the list of Important Dates, please look under the Documents link on our website.)

Major and AAA: Are on two Saturdays usually during the last weekend(s) of January and/or first weekend of February at Riverway Sports Park. (Please see *Documents* for exact dates.)

You may only attend one of try out dates. The second tryout is not always guaranteed due to weather possibilities or rainouts so we recommend making the first one.

Minor 8 and 9 year olds: Usually on the last Sunday of January at Riverway Sports Park (Please see *Documents* for this year's exact dates.)

What is included with the Registration fee for your Spring Season? Jersey and Hat as well as the *standard* picture package.

What is included with the Registration fee for your Fall Season?

Shirt and Hat for individual sign ups. Team entries wear their own uniforms.

How do I register?

Registration is 100% online. All player information must be input on our website during open registration. VYB has a Facebook page that posts dates and times. **Like** our page to see new information. Registration is not complete until documents are submitted online or in person and the fees are paid.

How long is the season?

Spring season runs from tryouts in January – mid May. Babe Ruth teams will be formed in late April with play starting in May. Please refer to our "[Important Dates](#)" document for more detailed information.

When are games played during your Spring Season?

All teams, except Tee Ball and Babe Ruth, play twice per week. Games are on Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday **and** each Saturday. An example schedule might have 1 evening game on Monday and 1 day game on Saturday. On rare occurrences, games may be played on Sunday for rainy day make-ups. Tee Ball plays 1 game a week on Saturdays only. All games are subject to rain out. We will attempt to the make up all game rain-outs, dependent upon time.

When are games played during your Fall Season? All games are played on Sundays.

How many games will my kid play?

Age groups vary but the T-ball to Rookie 7's usually have around 10 to 16 games in the season and the Minor 8's thru Majors could play 10 to 22 games, depending on playoffs, rainouts, etc.

When are practices held?

Practices are determined by the team's Manager. Teams typically practice 2 to 3 times per week during spring season. During fall, teams practice 1 to 2 times per week.

Who will be my kid's coach?

VYB is 100% volunteer. All managers, coaches and Board members give their time to the league to help the kids. Parents and adults sign up to manage and must pass a background check with abuse training to be approved by the Board prior to tryouts. Managers and coaches must also complete the Cal Ripken coaching certification at the Babe Ruth website. Once approved, the manager attends tryouts and drafts a team. T-ball and Rookie divisions are placed on a team by the Board *and* Minors through Majors are drafted after tryouts. Each draft is a closed-session and only coaches and necessary Board members attend.

What is the difference between a manager and a coach?

Managers are in charge of the team. They draft the players, schedule practice, and call the shots. Coaches assist the manager and are picked by the manager. Managers in the AAA, Minor 9's, and Minor 8's may choose one assistant coach before their draft.

Who is on the Board?

The Board members are volunteers who decided they would like to help the league run smoother. The [VYB bylaws](#) are online and have detailed information about the Board. There is a voting process to become an official Board member. The Board meets once a month in public to discuss current needs and upcoming events. Public is welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings. Times and locations are posted on Facebook. Board members put in a lot of hours prior to and during the season to make sure players have a great experience.

Do Board members or Coaches get paid?

No. All board members and coaches are volunteers and are not compensated financially in any way.