

## 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 area youth. The department has adopted the philosophy of the American Sport Education Program by striving to place the athlete first and winning second in all its youth sport programs. Listed below is important information about our youth baseball program. We hope that this information answers most of your questions about our program. **Please note, that this program is not affiliated with Franklin Youth Baseball or Franklin Youth Softball. Contact those organizations if your child is 7 years or older by May 1st.** If you have any additional questions, please contact the program director, Ryan Jette, or you may phone the Recreation Department at 520-4909, 150 Emmons Street, Franklin, Ma 02038.

<b>Start Registration</b>	Monday-Friday, February 2, 8:30 am-4:30 pm @ Old Town Hall
<b>Program Costs</b>	\$85 includes game shirt and hat handed out at first practice.
<b>Season Highlights</b>	
<b>Parade</b>	<b>April 25, 10:30 am at Davis Thayer baseball field</b>
Practice begins	Depending if you signed up for Saturdays or Tuesdays: <b>Saturday, April 18</b> (one practice per week lasting 1 ½ hours) <b>Tuesday, April 21</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 16 (7 weeks of games, 10 total weeks) Tuesdays: May 12 (7 weeks of games, 10 total weeks)
Game sites	Fletcher Field, Peck Street (near tennis courts)
Final game	Saturday, June 27, pending no cancellations Tuesday, June 23, 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 16, 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 18/April 21-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 21st**. 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 25<sup>th</sup>) this year, we will have one week of baseball before the actual parade.

**April 25-Saturday-“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 not have a check in area this year as uniforms will be given out at the first practice the week before.

**What do we do for the parade?** After meeting at the Davis Thayer Playground, we will line up the kids around 10:15 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 (10:30ish). We will start lining up the kids around 10:15am as our group leads the parade. 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. 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. 4/28/09 or Sat. 5/02/09). 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 (myself) 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