

SPRING YOUTH BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL ZONE BASED REGISTRATION FAQ'S

By popular demand, the Town of Cary has moved from Town-wide organization of spring youth instructional baseball and softball leagues to an organization of those leagues by geographic zones. The goal is to permit participants in those leagues to practice and play games more frequently at locations closer to their home. For more information, please see the Frequently Asked Questions below.

What changes are you making to the spring baseball/softball leagues?

In the past, all Town of Cary spring baseball/softball leagues conducted registration Town-wide. Individuals in Cary instructional leagues (leagues for ages 10 and younger) were assigned to teams geographically by staff based on the child's home address. Beginning this season, in instructional leagues, individuals will choose which "zone" they prefer to practice and play most often.

Why are you making these changes?

As the Town of Cary has grown both in population and geographically, travel from one side of Cary to the other has grown more challenging. According to our research, our participants have a strong preference to practice and play as close to home as possible. Allowing families to choose their "zone" will permit them to control where they play, and will serve to conserve fuel, save time, and lessen traffic in the Town.

What are the "zones," and how are they defined?

There are "West," "Central," and "South" zones, defined by zip code. A map of the zones can be found [here](#).

Am I required to register in the zone in which I live?

No. You may register in any zone that has space available.

How should I decide which zone to register in?

You should register in the zone that contains the fields at which you prefer to practice and play most often. The map of fields in each zone can be found [here](#).

Are all the age groups offered in all the zones?

No. Individuals registering for Tball, Mite, Mustang, or 10 & Under Softball will be able to register by zone. Individuals registering for Bronco, Pony, Colt, 12 & Under, 14 & Under, and 18 & Under softball will still register in a Town-wide league.

Why is zone-based registration only available for instructional leagues?

Older baseball and softball leagues require fields of a certain size and layout in order to play. Therefore, each league is limited to only a small number of fields with the proper dimensions for that league. The Town does not have fields in each zone of the necessary size for the older leagues. The younger, instructional leagues can play on fields of any dimension, and we therefore can accommodate play for those leagues in any zone.

Will I practice and play exclusively in the zone in which I register?

Our goal is for each instructional league team to have nearly 100% of their practices in their "home" zone. The percentage of games played in one's home zone depends on the size of the league. The more teams formed in a zone, the more "home" games will be played in that zone.

May we register in more than one zone?

No. Individuals may only participate in one zone.

What do I do if the zone I want is full?

We strongly encourage participants to register as early as possible. Space is limited in each zone, therefore registration must be limited. If the zone you prefer is full, you may add your name to the waiting list for that zone. Individuals will be called from the waiting list as space in the zone becomes available.

Individuals may register in one zone, while being on the waiting list in another zone. In that case, if they are called from the waiting list, they will be required to withdraw from the zone in which they originally registered. Team assignments will be complete by late March. After an individual is assigned to a team, it is no longer possible for that individual to withdraw from one zone to move to another.

Do I need to register at a facility in the zone in which I wish to play?

No. You may register online [via our online portal](#), or at any Town of Cary staffed Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources facility beginning in February. For more information on when and how to register please go to [our Youth Athletics page](#) beginning Jan 16.

Is the registration fee the same no matter where I play?

Yes. If you are a Town of Cary resident, the cost is \$60. If you are a non-resident, the cost is \$85. This is true no matter which zone you register for.

We played in Cary last spring, and are returning to the same age group as last year. Are we able to play on the same team as last year?

Individuals returning to the same age group in Town of Cary youth sports leagues ordinarily return to the same team. That will be the case under this new arrangement as well. There will be some cases this spring where teams are “disbanded,” if there are not enough players to keep the team together, given the total number of teams in a zone.

We had a great coach last year. Can we request to have the same coach this year?

Unfortunately, requests for particular coaches cannot be honored.

We need to carpool with another family. Can we request to be on the same team as that family?

While siblings registered in the same age group will automatically be placed on the same team, we cannot honor requests for those not in the same family to be on the same team.