



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What support do the Tigers provide?

The Tigers staff supports each youth team in areas off the field such as training and player development, facility use, uniform and apparel designs, uniform coordination, team communication tools, Tiger app, fundraising efforts, player recruiting, team insurance, tournament discounts, travel information and events, social media platforms, training videos, practice planning, and other resources.

What are the responsibilities of the coach?

The coach manages all areas of running a team throughout the season including schedules, games, batting order, roster decisions, team budget, travel, hotels, playing time, managing parents, team communication plus much more. Our staff is available as a sounding board through all of these aspects, but the final decisions belong to the head coach.

How do coaches find players?

The demand is huge for our Tiger youth program as a large number of families want to be Tigers each year. Each season, the Tiger high school staff coordinates and runs the youth tryout day. Our staff books the fields, does the itinerary, and runs the tryout. We handle all the details from the marketing, advertising, and check-in process. It is an extremely well run and organized tryout.

Coaches are asked to submit answers to a list of questions about their team to give to players at the tryout. These questions include things like the number of tournaments, what leagues the team will play and how many players the coach wants on the roster. The youth coaches do the evaluating and will receive detailed registration lists as they arrive to the tryout. Coaches make roster decisions for their team.

After the large club tryout, coaches are welcome to hold individual tryouts to fill remaining spots on their team. On our website, there is a note on each team page indicating if a team is full or has open roster spots. If there are open spots, there is a link for players to email the coach to request a tryout.



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If an offer to play is made to a player, the coach then directs the player to register and pay online on the Tiger website. That registration is the commitment from the player to your team.

What if the roster is not full after tryouts?

The Tigers send emails to our large database with a list of teams looking for players. These emails are sent throughout the year until all teams are full. Interested players contact coaches directly to arrange private tryouts. We encourage coaches to invite these players to their team practices to see if there is a match.

Since the Tigers youth program ends at 14U, do all players automatically make a High School Tiger team?

The Tigers have the premier high school program in the St. Louis area. The goal is to develop players and give them the resources and help they need to play college and professional baseball.

The Tigers view our youth system as a large pool of talent that is developing towards 15U baseball. Once the players turn 15, the father coaches then step aside and the players tryout for our high school program which is 100% run and managed with our high school staff comprised of 31 individuals, none of whom are parents.

The Tigers understand that our future for the high school program lies in the hands of our youth coaches and players/families. We want families to be a part of our club all the way up and see it through, but all players must go through the tryout process.

Can Tiger teams play at any level?

The Tigers Youth program is comprised of teams 7U-14U. Our teams range in competition categories that are set with Black, Orange, and White levels play. All of these levels are determined by each youth head coach. A team commits to the color for the year and are welcome to move up or down the following season if the team changes in competition level.



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While each team has its own identity, coaches choose a color that best describes their team within our club. The following guidelines are used by the coaches to determine their Tiger color:

Black

- Focus is on player development
- Plays Major/AAA tournaments
- A minimum of one Major tournament is required
- Plays at highest level available in league play if they play in a league
- Required to play in at least one travel tournament. Multiple travel tournaments are probable.

Orange

- Focus is on player development
- Plays AA/AAA tournaments
- A minimum of one AAA tournament is required
- Plays in one of the top two levels in league play if they play in a league
- Will more than likely travel, but it is not required

White

- Focus is on player development
- Plays open level or AA tournaments
- No requirements to play in Major, AAA or AA events
- Plays at any level of league they choose
- Possibility of travel is at the coach's discretion

What are the costs for the players?

The Tigers offer two distinct programming options that each family will choose from Club or Academy. This is NOT decision made by the head coach, these are decisions made by each individual family in our Tiger organization.

Club Player (starter membership): \$625

Academy Player (premium membership): \$1120



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What is included with the Club Player Membership?

- 9 Club Training Days (6 indoors during the winter, 3 outdoors in June)
- Team Facility Use
- 10 Family Cage Credits
- Discounts at Balls-n-Strikes Ballwin for lesson packs, cage rentals and programs:
 - Private Lesson 6 Pack \$240
 - 10% Off any cage rental at BNS-Ballwin
 - 10% Off selected camps from BNS- Ballwin
- Youth Team Tryout Day organized by our HS staff
- Pre-designed uniform and apparel choices set for your team
- Access to our resources: Coach curriculum meetings upon request, Tiger TV interviews and videos, social media outlets, VIP access to the Tigers website, discounts from Rawlings and other vendors.
- Tiger Fundraising Opportunities: 2019 season consisted of Media Guide Sales, Trivia Night and TJ's Pizza sales
- All other costs are part of the team budget and are determined by the head coach. These costs could include the following: Tournament fees, league fees, outdoor practice facilities, team equipment, additional training and any other expenses determined by the coach. These costs will vary by team. Tiger fundraising opportunities can be used to cover any of these costs if families choose to participate.

What additional benefits are included for the Academy level player?

The Academy Player option will be much more in depth for families that want more. The Academy Player training program has been designed with a greater purpose on offering more premium training to our youth players. These programs have designed curriculum to build basic and advanced skill sets. The time commitment will be more, and the training will be more specific to each player.

Academy level players get all of the same items as club level players, PLUS a choice of 3 of our Advanced Training Classes:



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- 6 Week .400 Club Hitting Class modeled after our HS training set up and structure.
- 6 Week Tiger Pen Pitching Class focusing on core strength and injury prevention along with building proper mechanics.
- 6 Week Gold Glove Defense Class focusing on fielding, baseball awareness and instincts. This class will be held outdoors allowing our staff to teach the game within the game in a more in-depth structure. Players will meet 1x per week during April & May
- 6 Week Iron Catchers Class focusing on soft hands, quick feet, blocking and reduced pop time.
- Discounts at Balls-n-Strikes Ballwin for lesson packs, cage rentals and programs
 - Private Lesson 6 Pack is \$225
 - 25% Off any cage rental at BNS- Ballwin
 - 25% Off selected camps from BNS- Ballwin

What access do the Tigers have to Balls-n-Strikes?

Teams are scheduled for 1.5 hours per week January 1- March 31. That time includes batting cages in the Old Tiger Center or the Huntington Center at Balls-n-Strikes. The time for each team will change each week, coaches will receive a schedule for their time in October. During those months, if a team needs to change their time, they are welcome to trade with other teams. If a team needs to cancel a time, the Tigers will attempt to reschedule with the coach, but cage availability is not guaranteed.

In the other months, coaches have a team pass to book cages one week in advance for team practices. The team pass allows coaches to book one cage for one hour, but they are welcome to stay longer or spread out if there is room. The team pass can be used for any of the 3 buildings at Balls-n-Strikes Ballwin. Each family will receive 10 credits for 30 minutes of cage time that they can book throughout the year. This time is for families to use the cages on their own.



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How do players register?

Coaches will submit an expected roster online. Players will then receive a link to register through the Rawlings Tigers website. Tiger fees are paid by the family at the time of registration. The deadline for registration is August 15, 2020.

Do coaches have to purchase team insurance?

The Tigers provide insurance that covers teams for practices, leagues and tournaments. However, there may be some tournament companies that require teams to purchase additional insurance through that specific company.

Currently, there are no tournament companies in St. Louis with this requirement.

Do the Tigers provide a Team Communication tool? What is the Tiger App?

The Tigers provide a communication tool for coaches and families. Coaches are able to use one app to send messages, post schedules and collect player availability. Detailed training on using the system is provided.

How do teams choose and order uniforms?

The Tigers create a sell sheet of uniforms in October each year. The choices include new items each year as well as items from the previous year. Coaches will visit an online store to choose the options for their team. Once those choices are made, Fischers Sporting Goods will create a unique online store for each team. Families are able to go to Fischers in person to try on items and then all orders are placed online.

What are the requirements for fall ball?

Each head coach determines if they will play fall ball. For fall, Tigers are required to wear Tiger jerseys and caps. Uniform selections are limited due to the quick turn around after tryouts. The Tigers do not consider fall ball to be a tryout for spring.



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Do Tigers issue refunds?

The Tigers issue club fee refunds on a sliding scale. Refunds for funds paid to the coach are determined by the coach. Fischer's will only refund for non-custom items. Coaches are asked to keep players for the full season, once players have registered, coaches should not cut players until the season is over.

Refund Scale:

| Moving out of the Metro Area or Injury |

Prior to December 1: full refund

December 1- April 1: 50% refund

After April 1: no refund

| Player Quits |

Prior to December 1: 50% refund

December 1-January 31: 25% refund

After January 1: no refund

Do the Tigers provide outdoor practice facilities?

No, coaches are required to find outdoor facilities for their team. In the past, teams have used local schools, churches and city parks. The Tigers insurance does cover practice fields.

Who are the Tigers partnered with?

Products: Crossover Symmetry, Jaeger Sports, Oats Specialties, Baseballism, Pocket Radar, Eye On The Ball, On Deck Sports, Swingrail, Heavy Swing, Tanner Tee's, Hitting World, Powerforce, Varo Bat Weight, Senaptic, Aqua Swing Trainer, Power Core 360



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Tournaments:

St. Louis: Game 7, Triple Play Tournaments, Greater Midwest Baseball, GameTime, 314 Baseball Tournaments

National: Ripken, Disney Baseball, , JP Sports, , Grand Slam Sports Tournaments, Game Day USA, Ohio Valley Sports Production, BSE Tournaments, DBat SportsPlex, Hardcore Baseball Tournaments, King Sports, NET Elite, Xtreme Diamond Sports.