**Welcome to the Stanley Park Ball**

Stanley Park Ball is run by volunteers with the Stanely Park Community Association (SPCA). The mission of the SPCA is to promote community activities, community outreach, and to encourage the participation of residents, of all ages, endeavoring to foster community spirit.

**TEAM DETAILS**

Your team roster and schedule are now available. You can view it on the RAMP Team app or on the website. If you’re viewing it on the website, please have your view set to “All”.

**UNIFORMS**

Each player will receive a shirt and a hat.

All participants are required to wear closed toe shoes such as running shoes- no sandals or flip-flops please. The wearing of shorts, bathing suits, and jewelry is discouraged. Wearing long pants is highly recommended. Except for Blastball, all batters and baserunners must wear a properly fastened batting helmet, and the pitcher and catcher must wear a helmet with a facemask. In the T-Ball and 3-Pitch leagues, all the other infielders must wear face protection, i.e. either a fielder’s mask or a helmet with a face mask.

**TEAM PHOTOS**

A hired photographer will be taking team photos this season. Team pictures will be scheduled during the week of May 12, 2025. Pictures will be delivered at the end of the season.

**GAME LOCATIONS**

All events are at Franklin Public School/Park. There are 3 diamonds (1, 2, 3), 3 play screens for Junior T-Ball behind the school (4, 5, 6) and an area for Blastball under the trees, by the fence along the soccer field.

Blastball and Junior T-Ball events are all exhibition games; there is no final score, no winners, and no losers.

Senior T-Ball and both 3-Pitch leagues have at least one round of exhibition games and then play regular season games that will count in the standings and determine a league champion.

**PARKING**

If you drive, there are a few spots to park - Franklin School lot or, for Junior T-Ball play, on Bradley Dr. or Midland Dr.  Viewmont Close is the closest spot to access Franklin #1. We have special permission to use the lot at St Luke’s Church. Please do not park on the grass, park only in designated areas. Parking is at the owner’s risk- the church isn’t responsible for damage or theft.

**GAMES AND UMPIRES**

Umpires are present at all games except for Blastball. Umpire calls are final- there is no appeal process.

All games, except Blastball and Junior T-Ball, require 8 players. A default is declared if there are fewer than 8 but the kids can still play for fun!

Play can go on if players are willing and there is enough light. Blastball usually lasts 30 to 40 minutes and Junior T-Ball games usually last about an hour. Junior T-Ball officials will be trying to get at least 3 innings in.  Senior T-Ball games are 5-inning events, but darkness will dictate a safe ending-time which will extend as the season progresses.

Officials and supervisors can end games depending on darkness and other factors like bugs and weather. Players are allowed to arrive late and/or leave early without penalty.

The games start at 6:30 pm.

**PERMITS**

SPCA has reserved (and pays for) permits through the City of Kitchener for the days and times for which we have scheduled games. This allows Stanley Park Ball teams to have priority for the fields, diamonds and grass areas.

**TEAM VOLUNTEERS**

Each team needs a fair number of volunteers to make the experience a rewarding one for the players and keep the game moving**.**

**BATTING**: Base coaches at 1st and 3rd, batting instructor, someone getting the batters in order and ensuring the batting helmets are on and secured, a scorekeeper, sportsmanship manager … etc.

**FIELDING:** Someone to ensure that the players know their fielding positions so the switch can be done quickly each half inning, an equipment person to ensure the infielders have the proper gear, the 3-Pitch catcher needs to be suited up ready to start play, fielding coaches in the outfield (as pre-agreed), scorekeeper, sportsmanship supervisor, 1st aid standby, worker manning the hitting stick, etc. In Blastball, playing split squads, so each team needs at least two dedicated volunteers with each set of players.

**SPORTSMANSHIP**

We are committed to promoting good sportsmanship at all levels. Please keep in mind that all players and parents/guardians signed an agreement to abide by a sportsmanship contract upon registration.

At the senior T-Ball and 3-Pitch level, at least one adult volunteer is required to supervise sportsmanship at each game. Volunteers can take turns in this role. A sportsmanship supervisor wears a visibility vest (included in the equipment bag). Though not required, it is encouraged that volunteers act as sportsmanship supervisors at the Blastball and Junior T Ball level.

Sportsmanship supervisors are responsible for monitoring their own team’s behaviour. They are not involved with the rules of the game. They deal with behavioural issues (i.e. abuse of officials, language, use of prohibited substances) and are empowered to give warnings and eject participants for unacceptable behaviour. There is a zero-tolerance policy for taunting, bullying, or abuse. If issues arise or you would like to make a report, please email ball@spcakitchener.ca.

**SCORE KEEPING**

Scores are kept for Senior T-Ball and both 3-Pitch leagues. Each team should designate a scorekeeper for the game who should be comparing their scorecard with the scorekeeper from the opposing team throughout the game. At the end of the game, the scorekeepers will ensure there is consensus and sign each other’s scorecard. The umpire will sign each scorecard. The coach from each team is responsible for taking a photo of the scorecard and sending it to score@spcakitchener.ca so that the standings can be kept up to date. Please note that on some occasions, Senior 3-Pitch may have an assigned scorekeeper.

**BLASTBALL**

Blastball events usually last about 30 to 40 minutes. They are scheduled to be played on the grass with the Tee set up under the trees that run along the fence between diamond #1 and #3 (by the church). They should set up far enough out from diamond #3 to be well clear of their outfield. We could have as many as 6 tees to set up with Grassy area #3 being the furthest. Please allow about 40 ft between each Tee and have the batters hit towards the school side of the park. Know which team you are playing so you can set your Tees up 40 ft apart. We play split squads, so you’ll be batting at their Tee as well as your own.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Game Day status is maintained on the website. When inclement weather arises before game time and a game needs to be moved or cancelled, we will notify everyone affected at least one hourbefore game time. It is the sole responsibility of the city to advise if games are being cancelled due to weather; you cannot cancel games on your own initiative. The city makes the call at 3 pm. Rain will not necessarily stop a game from proceeding. We sometimes start a few minutes later or move a game to an alternate location- sometimes we can “shift” the play area (i.e. if there is a puddle by 3rd base but the rest of the area is playable, we can move everyone over).

If conditions are playable, go ahead and play the game even if there aren’t enough players for it to be competitive- the kids can still play for fun.

We understand that heat warnings can be concerning, but we will not be cancelling games due to these conditions. We trust parents and guardians to make the best decision for their children regarding participation in the heat. Coaches are encouraged to respect players' comfort levels and ensure no one feels pressured to play in conditions they find challenging. If a team does not have enough players to meet official requirements, the game can still proceed informally for fun.

**RESCHEDULING GAMES**

We will make our best efforts to reschedule rain dates, but it is up to the City of Kitchener to confirm and allow permits. This may also mean a game will be held on a day outside of the predetermined days (ie Sr T-ball plays on Monday, Wednesday or Friday). There are no guarantees that rain dates will be rescheduled. Due to space constraints, we cannot accommodate any rescheduling for the Blastball and Jr T-ball leagues.

**FINAL GAME DAY**

Each team will have a final event scheduled for June 22, 23, 24, 25 or 26. At the conclusion of that game, teams will be provided with pizzas, courtesy of Domino’s, and players will receive their medallions and photos. Trophies could be presented to the top teams in Sr T-Ball and both 3-Pitch leagues. All teams are encouraged to make the event a team “celebration” as the season ends and summer break begins. Please take all the garbage and recycling with you.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COMMITMENT TO THE 2025 BALL SEASON!**

**Let’s play ball!**