



Jr. Raiders Program Overview

April 1, 2026

What is Jr. Raiders?



An alternative or supplement to private Club Baseball offerings (i.e. Bay State Braves, Nokona, Boston Prime, etc).

Designed to be an additional layer of development & competition on top of the standard Wellesley Little League town baseball program

Offering both competitive Club teams, as well as less intensive Local Travel team options for players 8 to 14 years of age, currently participating in Wellesley Youth Baseball programming

A place where Wellesley youth baseball players have an opportunity to play together with their friends and classmates without sacrificing learning the skills of the game needed to compete at the Jr. High & High School level



Who Plays on a Jr. Raiders Team?



Wellesley Little Leaguers – All Jr. Raiders teams are comprised completely of kids registered for Wellesley Little League programs. We do NOT recruit or allow players from other towns to join our teams

This is to ensure a place where kids can play with their peers and classmates, but do so in a more competitive and developmentally focused environment

The skill level of our players ranges from the very highly skilled to semi-beginners simply looking for more instruction

Teams are stratified by skill level to ensure competitive alignment and environments that foster skill level specific training and advancement opportunities for all players



TEAM RED – BLACK - WHITE



We form stratified teams Red, Black & White in each age group, depending on level of interest and registrations. Teams are determined by the overall skill level of the players and the desire to compete in either PG Club leagues or local Rt. 2 League play. It is important to note that not all Team Red, Black or White teams are created equal and can vary class by class in terms of both skill level and where they play their games

Team Red

Our most competitive teams

Players with higher skill level who play against varying levels of local Club baseball competition

Typically PG Majors or AAA Level

Team Black

Second tier-competitive teams

Players with varying skill level who still want to play Club baseball competition

**Typically PG AAA or AA Level
Some Teams opt for Rt. 2 League**

Team White

Teams that are either only looking for Local Travel option or are determined not yet skilled enough to compete in PG Massachusetts League

Skill-level can vary, but teams typically play in the Rt. 2 League

PROGRAMMING CALENDAR



The program begins in the Fall with outdoor practices and instruction, followed by a winter session of indoor skill-based practices as well as a strength & conditioning programming. The teams take the field in the Spring for approximately 10 weeks of game competition

Teams formed – begin practicing together outdoors

FALL

September through October

1 – 2 practices / week

Focus on situational baseball and building fundamentals of Hitting, Fielding, Pitching & Catching

Skill-building & developing strength & agility

WINTER

December - March

Club Teams – 2 practices/week indoor
Local Teams – 1 practice/week indoor

Focus on skill building
Strength & Conditioning

Games & Competition

SPRING

April – Early June

Club Teams – 1 – 2 DH games on Sat and/or Sun

Local Teams – 1 game/week on Friday Nights

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

During both the fall & winter in particular, Jr. Raiders encourages players to pursue other athletic and personal interests as desired. While attendance at off-season practices is encouraged, we embrace and encourage our players to be multi-sport athletes and well-rounded individuals. Deference is never given to any athlete based on attendance, particularly in the off-season months

FALL PROGRAM



The Fall program focuses on taking advantage of the time outdoors without scheduled games to engage in practices on the field where basic hitting, fielding, pitching & catching skills can be advanced. We also use this time to teach situational baseball in a controlled environment, often with internal scrimmages and drill-work

FALL

September through October

1 – 2 practices / week

Focus on situational baseball and building fundamentals of Hitting, Fielding, Pitching & Catching

SEP

OCT



WINTER PROGRAM



The winter program includes 12 – 14 weeks of indoor practices, as well as strength & conditioning classes with our partners at CompTrain New England, focused on building healthy habits and developing strength & agility. Club teams practice 2 x week from December through March with breaks for Christmas, Holiday weekends and Winter Vacation weeks. This time is spent focusing heavily on deeper skill-building and preparing for the season ahead.

WINTER

December - March

Club Teams – 2 practices/week indoor
Local Teams - 1 practice/week indoor

Focus on baseball related skill-building
Strength & Conditioning

DEC

JAN

FEB

MAR



SPRING PROGRAM



The spring program begins in early April and runs through early June. Club teams participate in the PG Massachusetts League and typically play 5 - 6 Double Headers on Saturdays and/or Sundays (we look to limit the number of Sat/Sun games in one weekend whenever possible), plus 1 or 2 Local Weekend Tournaments. Local Teams play 1 game on Friday nights. There are limited practices due to players also playing on their town team.

SPRING

April – Early June

Club Teams – 1 Double-Header game on Saturdays and/or Sundays

Local Teams - 1 game/week on Friday Nights

APR

MAY

JUN



CompTrain New England

CompTrain is our official strength & conditioning partner

Founded and run by Ben Bergeron, a former Ironman triathlete who has trained some of the world's fittest athletes, the program aims to develop vital health & wellness traits for any aspiring athlete

Each 90-minute class combines strength, speed, conditioning, and mindset training to prepare athletes for sport, school, and life

Programs are grounded in four pillars of performance:

Movement • Strength • Energy Systems • Durability

All classes also include daily education around their 5 Factors of Health (Train, Eat, Sleep, Think, Connect)



Coaches/Instruction



Jr. Raiders is built and runs on volunteer coach power. We strongly encourage and rely on volunteer parent/coaches to lead our teams whenever possible

We feel this provides a layer of connection and community not commonly found in a private club setting

HOWEVER, we do screen our coaches to ensure they are knowledgeable, capable and present to provide a positive environment and quality baseball instruction

Where there may be gaps in baseball acumen or availability within the volunteer group, we look to supplement teams with paid professional coaching to ensure quality instruction at each level

We also work with local professional organizations to provide clinics and instruction around key skill areas (pitching, catching, fielding, etc) to both players and coaches throughout the year



Program Philosophy



Development over Game Results – Always

- We are not incentivized or motivated to recruit players or solicit revenue via private instruction
- We are a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of our community's youth through the game of baseball, and the focus is always on that mission

The Development Journey is Different for Everyone

- We believe that kids develop their athleticism and skills at different times and at different speeds
- The program will look to embrace and provide developmental opportunities to as many players as possible, wherever they are in their development journey

A Foundation For Success on the Big Diamond (HS & Beyond)

- We believe in teaching the skills and knowledge that are key to success on the big diamond and beyond, and not necessarily aimed at success in the current youth baseball environments

More than Baseball

- We believe that baseball mirrors life and the most important of life's lessons can be reinforced and taught through the game of baseball
- We focus not just on the physical skills needed to succeed in baseball, but lean heavily into the mental toughness, skills and awareness that are so essential to future success both on and off the field

Youth Baseball = FUN

- We recognize this is a precious time in a child's life
- We believe the time spent practicing and playing baseball must be fun and looked back upon with extremely fond memory
- We are aware of the fleeting nature of this time in one's life and strive to not squander that opportunity to provide life-long friendships and memories through this experience

Summary



Jr. Raiders is a non-profit organization aimed solely at providing quality baseball instruction to the youth of Wellesley

The program seeks to provide top notch baseball skill development, alongside teaching life's lessons through the game of baseball

We focus heavily on the mental side of the game and the applications to life of the lessons learned in the way of hard-work, discipline, overcoming failure and building mental toughness

While we take our baseball seriously, we embrace this experience as a shared community and an opportunity to provide our kids with life-long skills, friendships and memories

Any profits derived from the program are re-invested in the Wellesley Youth Baseball & Softball organization to help fund better fields, facilities, equipment and skill-development opportunities.



Who We Are



Ben Percia – Volunteer Head Coach & Program Director

- Current 12U & 8U Red Coach
- Current WYBS Board Member
- Kids Leo (12) & Julian (8)

Rob Kotzen – Assistant Coach & Roving Instructor

- Assistant Coach 12U Red
- Hitting & Infield instructor 11U & 12U
- Former Babson College player, former Assistant coach at TC Roberson HS & Westwood HS

Andrew Renzella – Head Coach – 12U Black

- Head Coach & Instructor
- Coach of 2016 WLL State Champions

Bradley Ritland – Volunteer Co-Head Coach – 12U Black

- Kids Brandon (12)

Shawn Haviland – Volunteer Head Coach – 11U Red

- Former Minor League pitcher
- Co-President, WYBS Board
- Kids Jack (11)

Taylor Hart– Volunteer Head Coach – 11U Black

- Current WYBS Board Member
- Kids Declan (10)

John Goldie – Volunteer Head Coach – 11U White

- Kids Rhys (11)

Tony Couch – Volunteer Head Coach – 10U Red

- Kids Lucas (12) & Carson (10)

Bennett Fisher – Volunteer Head Coach – 9U Red

- Current WYBS Board (former Co-President)
- Kids Luke (9)

Ben Shirley – Volunteer Head Coach – 9U Black

- Kids William (9)

Tom Clifford – Volunteer Head Coach – 9U White

- Kids Patrick (9)

Still have questions? Please reach out to the Program Director, Ben Percia at bpercia@gmail.com or **617-851-9884**