



web: www.carlingfordbaseball.com.au

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Aussie T-Ball @ Carlingford – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Aussie T-Ball (ATB)?

- Aussie T-Ball is an exciting new, modified version of baseball for children aged 5-7
- Sessions combine a structured, fun-based skills development with non-competitive match play
- The focus is on maximum involvement and fun
- Children of all abilities get an equal chance to participate
- Match play is a six-a-side, t-ball game that is all about being active and having FUN
- Games are played for six innings. Each innings players rotate so they get to field in every position in every game – that's very cool
- Children get to practice the foundation skills of throwing, catching, hitting and running that are required for baseball and many other sports
- There are no outfielders in Aussie T-Ball, so no standing around getting bored – it's action packed!

Why are Carlingford running Aussie T-Ball as an 'in-house' program?

We are very excited about having an in-house program. We see this will have many benefits including;

- It's ours – we can structure it to best suit our kids
- having a variety of experienced coaches on hand to work on skills development
- provide opportunities for novice coaches and umpires to gain experience in a supportive environment
- it's a flexible format that can be tailored to suit the skills, experience and interests of the kids
- there's no need to travel to other venues
- you still have weekends free to enjoy the summer
- no separate training night - skills development and match play are combined

What team will my child be in?

Our plan is to keep the format flexible, while still allow kids to play with friends and maintain continuity in playing groups. We see this as vitally important.

We know that playing with mates is fun, no matter what you're doing!

We will be putting players together in groups/squads that they will be able to readily identify with and who will regularly train together and play with. The size of these squads will depend on overall numbers but we'll be aiming for 12 per group.

We expect that teams will be formed each week from players within each squad.



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Who will be coaching?

We will have a mix of experienced and novice Coaches. It's very exciting that we also have a number of older junior players who want to come along as Assistant Coaches.

Every season we also find that plenty of parents that are new to the Club enjoy getting involved, but are unsure of how to go about it. This format will allow you to get involved at your own pace, with experienced, supportive Club people behind you. This might be as a Coach, an Assistant or even as an Umpire.

If you are interested in getting involved, give us a call on 0412 654 182, or any of our helpful Committee and Coaching team.

Which is better for young children, Aussie T-Ball or the Saturday Inter-Club Competitions?

In the 5-7 year age group, the focus should always be on having fun, learning fundamental skills and the basics of match play. In the competitive t-ball conferences it is easy for the focus to drift onto "winning" and "what's the score" and sometimes the fun doesn't get a chance to happen.

We firmly believe that Aussie T-Ball match play will be a more positive learning environment than the existing competitive conferences for the younger age groups, because each child will be more involved and we will be able to tailor games and sessions to suit.

Will this affect the skills development of my child?

We absolutely think playing Aussie T-Ball will affect your child's skill development – in a very, very positive and healthy way!

Many Coaches will tell you that they would love to do more skills development with only 1-2 children at a time. Often this isn't feasible because the Coach has a whole team and training session to run.

With Aussie T-Ball we will have many experienced hands available to do exactly this type of one-on-one work, wherever it might be needed.

How long should children play Aussie T-Ball for?

A lot of children start playing t-ball at age 5. This means that they will have 3 seasons of U8 t-ball.

We think it would be beneficial for most to play the first 2 seasons in Aussie T-Ball, then move to competitive t-ball for their final season in U8.

We will be structuring our training programs so that first year players work together and second year players work together and so on. This is where the benefits of a controlled in-house program will really pay off.



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Can children play in both Aussie T-Ball and the competitive conference?

Absolutely. Experienced players are more than welcome to play both.

How long does the season run for?

We will be kicking off with a 'meet and greet' launch in October, on the first Friday of daylight saving, between 5.30-7:00PM. Sessions will run through until December.

What day/s will the program run?

5.30-7:00PM on Friday afternoons.

Is it too late to join Aussie T-Ball?

It's never too late to join. One of the things we love about offering this program is that new players can join any time.

Can the kids still play with their mates?

Absolutely. Just let us know when you register, or shoot an email to us at carlingfordbaseball@hotmail.com and we'll make sure that we keep all friends and playing groups together as much as possible.

What does it cost and what value do you get?

At just \$75 we believe that this program is tremendous value for money. The all-inclusive fee covers all registrations and insurances, a club cap and a fun filled Participation Pack provided by the Australian Baseball Federation. This pack contains a mitt, outdoor themed goodies and plenty of cool stuff that U8s are just going to love.

We can't make it to a session because we have another commitment, but we don't want to let anybody down?

That's OK. This format allows us to mix and match players so that everybody gets a go and no team is inconvenienced. We think that's great flexibility for teams, parents and kids alike.



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Do they have to use a foam bat?

Aussie T-Ball is all about having fun and developing skills in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment. There is definitely the opportunity for inexperienced players to begin their t-ball careers using safety equipment such as foam covered bats and the like.

Again, we will be able to structure our program to suit the levels and experience within each playing group.

Why isn't there a separate (mid-week) training session?

One of the advantages of our program is that we will be offering combined skills sessions with match play. We believe this will provide more than enough face time per week for kids to enjoy the sport and develop their skills.

Why don't they wear proper uniforms?

We believe our Aussie T-Ball program is going to be pretty special. We want our kids to feel special. So, each player will be receiving a specially designed Club T-Shirt.

At the end of the season, normal uniforms get returned to the Club. This special shirt will be yours to keep – we think that's very cool.

If I have more questions, who do I talk to?

In this FAQ we've covered a few of the things that you might be wanting to know, but we're sure that there are other queries that you may have.

By all means get in touch with us to discuss any queries, suggestions or ideas you have. If you post your questions on www.facebook.com/carlingfordbaseballclub others will be able to see the questions and answers, as well as have discussions about any issue.

Feel free to discuss anything with any of our Committee, or alternatively you can contact:

carlingfordbaseball@hotmail.com

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