



Good afternoon NYSA TBall Families,

Thank you again for a great Spring 2026 TBall season. I wanted to take a quick moment to recap this season as well as try and answer a few questions I both got throughout the season and received on the survey, give you the raw survey results, and give you a forecast into what is coming next into the Fall and beyond.

Sections:

- 1: Spring 2026 Recap
- 2: Budget Breakout
- 3: Fall 2026 Look ahead
- 4: General Survey Answers
- 5: Closing Thoughts
- 6: Raw Survey results

Section 1: This Spring 2026 season was unprecedented in the interest that we opened up with. As you have likely heard me say multiple times, I was blown away with the level of interest that was shown in our program once registration opened. In previous years, once opened, capacity might have been reached between 18-25 days in the ~30 day registration window before a small 5-10 family waitlist would be created. Pick the factor you like, but maybe the success of the 2025 season, the fact that our first every Fall season had 3/4 new families returning in the Spring, or another factor, but the 4U program reached capacity in 12 hours and the 6U in 18 hours and then the waitlist continued for another 50 families is a testament to the energy and effort you're willing to put into this program. I'm working behind the scenes....but I didn't coach or help one kid through the entire season. I didn't work one dugout, bring one snack or go to one practice. My goal is to build the infrastructure so that the framework is in place for our army of volunteers can focus on the much more important job of coaching our players.

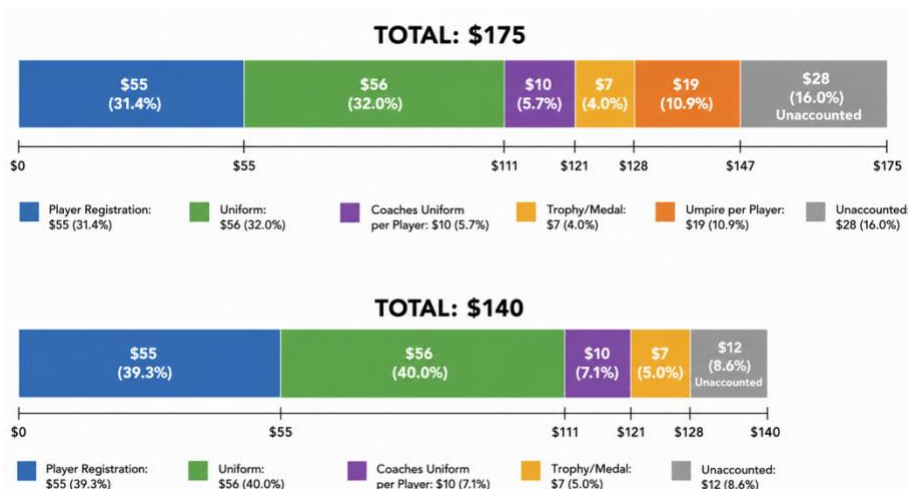
And what an army of volunteers we have. Our field clean up days normally might take 2.5-3 or more hours to get both our fields, shed, and common areas ready for the coming season. This year, when the call went out, you answered. 40 plus families showed up ready to get down on their hands and knees to pull weeds, till the infield, mow the grass, and all manner of jobs. A 3 hour job was done in 45 minutes.

Regarding things that were “new” for the Spring 2026 vs 2025 season, not many things changed. The biggest change would be the addition of the scoreboards. Last spring it was a Gamechangers-only scoring system, which while effective, could create confusion if a run was missed or counted differently and not caught until the end. So last Fall, as only 1 game occurs at a time, I experimented with a scoreboard which proved successful enough to purchase a 2nd one to have on both of the 6U fields. While there were some growing pains, I do think having a common viewed score does help in keeping miscommunication on the time remaining and score to a minimum. I’m very open to feedback, and the survey will speak to where many of you land, initial plans are to keep the Spring 2027 format much the same as these past 2 seasons.

Section 2: The Budget is something I would like to be as transparent as possible, but likely right up with the amount of time you spent at the park, where your money is going is something I think you should have an clear idea of what it is you are spending both your time AND money on. I do recognize that this TBall program is neither cheap, and not the cheapest in the area, and the price you pay in registration may only be the tip of the iceberg when you start to factor in cleats, gloves, snacks, and any other manner of expenses. So I’m going to try and break down what your money is allocated on.

One thing to note, the \$65 Annual Membership fee is not a TBall fee. That is a separate fee paid once a year by each family. If you paid it when you registered this same year when you registered for soccer, you wouldn’t owe if for TBall. If TBall is the first (or only) sport you register for in our October-October registration year, then that is why this \$65 fee is also included.

So looking at the registration fees, 6U and 4U have different prices. This is done because 4U has fewer games, a slightly shorter season (no playoffs) and does not have to pay for umpires. Spring prices were 6U=\$175 and 4U=\$140. But this does not tell the whole story.



In looking at the amounts shown in the graph to the left, you can see where the “static” must pay amounts are already allocated from each of the fees paid as part of the amounts paid per division.

When looking at the fee structure, the first \$55 dollars of any sport, TBall, soccer, lacrosse, Cheer, etc, goes back to the NYSA (separate from your annual membership fee) to cover the operating costs of the association, not the individual sport you are registering with. This covers things such as literally turning on the lights (we as the NYSA are responsible for that cost, not the county). While all of the commissioners, Board members, coaches, and most other positions are volunteers, we do have a few 1099 positions such as the front office, accountants, and ground keepers. There are several hundred thousand of dollars needed to run this park, and this first \$55 from each registration is what goes into filling that need.

From there, you can see where the rest of your player's registration fee is allocated in the "pre-season." So from every 6U player, the sport has \$28 to devote to the operation of the league and \$12 from every 4U player. From this season, that amounted to about \$2576 from 6U and \$432 from 6U for an operating budget of just under \$3000 for the year. (Fall is new this past season, and so not traditionally accounted for and priced lower than Spring given the smaller season and does not account for much extra operating funds, so the Spring registration is effectively the yearly operating budget). While we do get some funds from pictures and food vendors, this traditionally has amounted to ~\$150/season. Food trucks are scheduled more as a resource to the families than a source of income to the program. We do not have large enough crowds to attract vendors and have them pay a large percentage or flat fee.

From that \$3000 unallocated funds, this is what is used to purchase the scoreboards, batteries, Balls, tees, Field Chalk, Speakers, solar panel and battery for our shed, the "smart lock" last year, banners, TBall's percentage responsibility for the Park's "All Pro" field maintenance contract, and other expenses. I increased the fee \$10 last year to account for the fact the Board increased player fees to \$55, so I moved our fees in kind. At current price, the \$175 and \$140 fee structure should be able to remain in place and absorb unforecasted increases as long as other needs are not placed on the program.

Section 3: What will the Fall 2026 season look like? Based on what last Fall was able to played as, at a minimum, we should be able to field 4-6U teams. This limited size is based on, like it is every year, field availability. In the Fall, our TBall fields are shared with Fall-primary sports, namely cheer. So based on that as the entering argument, Wed and Fri were days our fields were free, meaning that there were 4 practice times each day which supported 2 practice times each for 4 teams with games only on Saturdays. If no additional field space can be worked, this will be what the structure will be this next Fall as well. Registration will likely open in July for a season running August-October. I would love to be able to find more field space to add more teams. But the reality of this situation is that in order to be able to find enough field space to make a 4U division likely is difficult as it will

be easier to add 1 or 2 more teams to an existing 6U structure but it will take more fields than what we are likely to have to also separately support a 4U team. Last year, I built a “4.5 year old wait list” where our older 4U players who would not technically be old enough for the 6U division could join a waitlist and in the 2 weeks or so prior to registration closing, I activated ~5 players to fill out a few rosters. Depending on likely interest and league size, I will explore that option. The fee will mirror the Spring 4U fee given the fewer games and lack of a league provided trophy or playoffs. Last year, with 4 teams, that is 3 opponents each. So each team played their opponents 3 times. The first 2 times under the regular season rules, the last time under the playoff rules but there was not a playoff or All Star game given the league’s small size.

Section 4: I wanted to take moment to briefly address a few questions I received throughout the year and some that I received in a few formats in the surveys. Just because I don’t answer your survey question here doesn’t mean it’s not valid, I just had to draw the line somewhere. I do not have contact information associated with any of the comments, so if you are willing to email directly with the question you’d like follow up on, I will work to respond back more directly.

4-1: Why are practices so late? This is a field space issue. We only have the 2 fields, and M-F practice times. I operate under the assumption that a practice starting much earlier than our 5:30 start time will become hard families getting off work or off the bus to be able to get home, changed, and back out to the field. So starting no earlier than 5:30 is what sets the latest end time. With practices running no longer than 1 hour, that means there are 2x5:30-6:30 and 2x6:30-7:30 practice times each day. The only way to reduce the late practices is to either start the early practices earlier than 5:30, reduce the number practices teams get each week, or start to practice on Saturday afternoons or Sundays.....none of which I am willing to really entertain right now. The other option that often gets pitched, and I have considered is to put all of the 4U practices in the 5:30 slot. While I’m not unsympathetic to the time and age considerations, that creates a disproportionate distribution of practices for the rest of the 6U teams with some of them only having the late practices all season. So in order to keep the times equal for all teams, I keep it split and each of the 10 teams across the 4U and 6U ages ranges will get 1 5:30 and 1 6:30 practice time.

4-2: The 4U division cost too much and we don’t have enough games, and needs umpires/scorekeeping. The 4U division is built as a developmental league. It already cost less than 6U (as seen above) and the league only ends up with \$12/player ‘left over’ after all the other costs are accounted for to cover league expenses. So I’ve tried to fine tune the 4U cost to about as low as I feel comfortable keeping it. With regards to the lesser game format. This is both a function of space, and also intentional. With our 2 fields, the total

league size for ~12 player rosters only allows me 130 players which is about 10 teams. Traditionally, this has worked best as seen this past Spring as 3-4U teams and 7-6U teams. What that means for 4U is the 3 teams only have 2 opponents each. So while I know the players don't know really care who they play, I have them playing each of their opponents twice for a total of 4 games. But yes, that is FAR fewer than 6U plays. Part of that is field space, but I could work more into the schedule, but part of that is purposeful. At the 4U age more is gained, both from a developmental and attention span level, during practices where players can have more individual attention and have more hand's-on opportunity with the ball or bat. During a game, 3/4 of the batting team has to sit in the dugout and in the field, only 1-2 or players will usually get the ball each play. During a practice, many more coaches can split all of the players up into stations and engage more/all of the players in more structured settings keeping them engaged and helping them grown. So while I know games are fun and what grandparents will come to see, the 4U division will 2-3 times as many practices as they will games because this is where most of the benefit at this age will be generated from.

4-3: Why do we not play in the All Star Tournament? Navarre used to play in local All Star tournaments (and is hosting the Gospel Projects 5U Little League World Series this June). When I took over last Spring, I no longer made that a focus. This was for a few reasons. First, when I took over, I changed our game play considerably as a way to distribute out the playing experience among all the players vs developing one 6 year old 1st baseman. But in doing so, that means that our league does not play under the same set of rules that other parks play with. So our players will have grown accustomed to one way of playing this whole Spring, but then will have to unlearn/relearn a new set of playing structure in a more competitive setting prior to being able to both play or compete at other parks. I could roll back my rules to mirror the other parks play setting to better allow our players to be ready to compete in those tournaments. But as I have said in all of my meetings with coaches or parents, the competitive aspect is NOT high on my value set. While our playoffs here in Navarre can get competitive internal to our park, I am unwilling to roll back our game play to that in which players may get "stuck" playing only catcher, only left field, or maybe only batting once a game if the other team is getting them "3 up, 3 down." Additionally, our league ends ~1 month prior to these tournaments begin. Most families are ready to be done and are not ready to finish our season, then commit to additional practices for another month with games starting into the summer. And lastly, these tournaments often times will have separate entry fees and will require separate uniforms at additional expense not covered by our league. So I was not looking for parents to cover additional expense on top of what I've already asked them to pay. So if coaches and parents would like to form their own team of players from within the NYSA TBall program, I will assist and support, but

my focus will be internal to our rec program and any games or tournaments external to that I will leave to those wishing to participate to orchestrate.

4-4: Either-I don't like the rule change in the playoff, I don't like the rules we played with during the regular season, or the playoff rules should be the ones we use all season. I understand all points of view here. As best I'm aware, the NYSA is only the league in the area that plays under this structure. I never played at a higher level myself, but I generally made this structure up when I took over (or I copied it without knowing or realizing it from somewhere else). So I can understand why it is likely foreign to many others as I had never played it myself before I 'tested' it last Spring. When I took over at the NYSA there was, in my opinion, an over emphasis on competition at too early an age, so I looked to level that back out in our current form of game play. This is what the regular season set of rules is built on. I don't think there is a lot of NIL money in TBall and no one is getting a D-1 scholarship out of 6U, but someone batting last and playing left field the whole season can very much get a sour taste to the sport and I wouldn't blame them for not wanting to come back. So I am looking more to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to experience and learn the game more so than a select few players finely developing their position skills. However, I do still understand that playing under these rules will limit the ability to truly show how good some of our players are and how far they have come over the season. So that is why the playoff rules exist. During the playoffs, when there is an elimination consideration, now I want teams to be able to actually show what they have learned, what their skill is, and what their actual full potential is as a team. So I remove some of the 'restrictions' that have been place. I do understand that this can be confusing to some, and I try and announcement the change as much as I can; the hope is that once this structure is played more than a season, it will be known as 'standard' and the playoff changes will be less abrupt. But as the survey will show, the league is still generally split on which side they fall on, so I can respect both sides of the argument.

Section 5: So what is next? I will continue to monitor the inbox, but I'll take a month off or so from actively working the NYSA TBall issues that aren't urgent. I will be focusing on the Gospel Projects 5U Little League World Series coming to our park June 19-23rd. We will not be hosting our own NYSA team (same reason as above from the All Star conversation) but we will be looking to make use of that same army of volunteers. This has the potential to gain huge revenue for our program for volunteers looking to help with take parking fees, run concessions, and help prep the field. It will be Friday night, Saturday, and Monday and Tuesday night. The profits could build up enough for us to fund large upgrades such as bleacher upgrades or increases, dug out upgrades, help pay to run utilities to our side of the park, or other larger "capital" projects normally out of reach of food truck or photo vendor revenue.

For the shades, you may have noticed the poles are already prestaged. We have run into delays with this rain. We will be “411”ing the areas we have marked for the poles, but we have to wait for the ground to dry as the water table is too high right now to dig down to set the poles. We are funded and ready to move, we are just victims of the weather at the moment. We have enough to cover the bleachers on both our fields and the softball Field 1 right there at our corner of the park.

For myself, commissioner positions are elected to 3 year terms. So consider this an unofficial call for nominations. My plan is to make Spring 2027 my last season and depart the program at that time. This will coincide with when my youngest will be aging out of the TBall program up into 8U. In saying that, if there is someone interested in the Commissioner’s position, come talk to me, ‘shadowing’ the position this coming Fall might give you a taste of what it is I do but that DOES NOT MEAN that this is how you have to run it. In the NYSA, commissioners have a huge amount of say in how their programs are run. So if you’d like to carry on, amend, or scrap and start over, all of these are options open to you. In any event, this time next year, this end-of-season report will be the final one as I will have finished out my last season. But if you’d like to come take this on, I’d love to talk to you about what it is I’ve been working on and work to package this up to make a transition as smooth as I can.

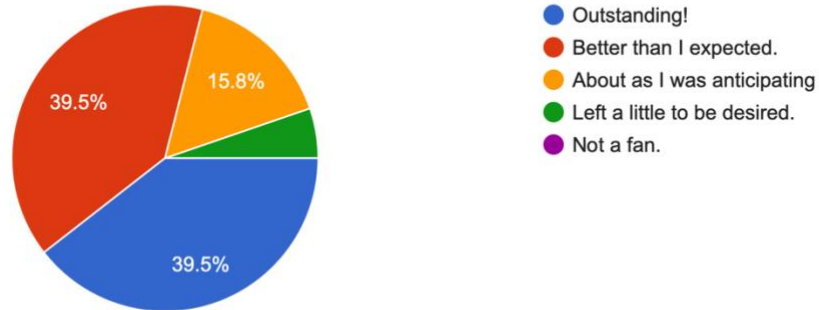
Section 6: For the survey to follow, I have left the responses “as-is” and unaltered. Some of the pie charts get a little colorful; this is because I left the “other” option as a choice so that people fill in their thoughts if what I offered didn’t quite match how they wanted to give inputs. The only thing I have removed is the open format inputs at the end as I want people to be able to give me direct feedback without fear of their thoughts being judged in the open.

At the time of writing this, I have 39 responses, which is about 3 times as many as last season, so THANK YOU for being willing to take the time to let me know what and how we need to improve. If you have questions or you left a comment that wasn’t answered or addressed, please feel free to reach out to Tball@nysasports.com If you have issues, please understand that I also am dual/multi-hatted as the Chair of the Ethics Committee, so the normal ethics complaints process doesn’t quite work for yall as any complaint you would file I would see. So if you have an issue you’d like to address in the formal method, the TBall program will need to address that directly to VP@nyssports.com or president@nysasports.com or attend one of the twice monthly Board of Director’s meetings (just remember that I am on Board as well, so I will also be at these meetings, but will be willing to step out should you need).

If further inputs are still received, I will post an update to this section with those final inputs noted:

What was your overall experience with the Spring TBall season?

38 responses



Was this your first experience with NYSA TBall?

39 responses



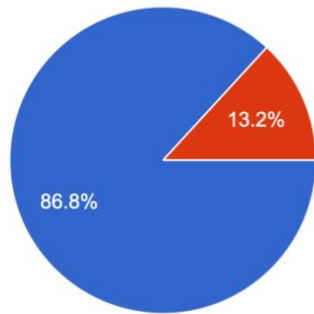
If you have something to compare it to, either previous NYSA years or a different league, how does this league compare?

29 responses



What was your experience using the Game Changer app overall?

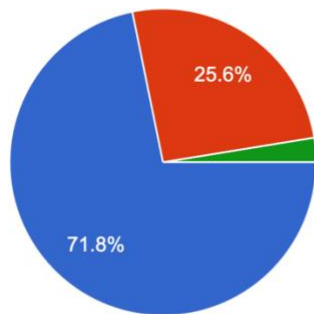
38 responses



- Super easy to use and great to have everything under one roof.
- Liked the idea of it, but there was a little bit of a learning curve lowering my overall thoughts of the app
- Meh...take it or leave it.
- I found it too difficult to use.
- What's GameChangers?

Looking at the messaging ability of GameChangers....

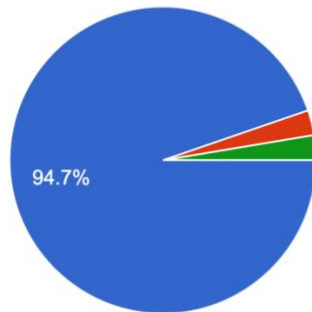
39 responses



- Really liked having all my TBall messages in one app separate from my other messaging apps
- Easy to use, served it's purpose.
- I've found other options more useful than this
- Barely used it or didn't use it at all.

Looking at the scheduling abilities of GameChangers.....

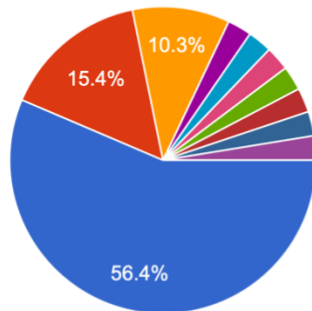
38 responses



- Great way to keep track of practices, games, pictures, etc
- Worked, but look a little more effort on my part than I would have liked
- Don't really see the benefits
- Didn't use it.

What were your thoughts of the regular season's game play rules (full batting order, rotating fielding positions, etc)

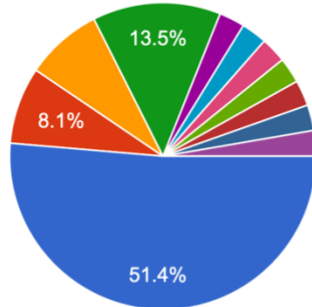
39 responses



- Really liked this format for this age group
- Found it too confusing to figure out
- I feel that it reduces the competitive aspect
- Had I known this is how the game plays
- The rule book contradicts itself quite a bit
- Found it hard to teach actual positions
- Needs tweaking
- Having everyone bat after 3 outs is confusing
- I think the rules were confusing, but with that being said, the umpire should be the one directing the game and ensuring rules are followed with scoring. The rules didn't need to be confusing if followed the same way each game.
- No opinion

What are your thoughts of the change of game play in the playoffs removing the 'balanced' rules from the front of the season?

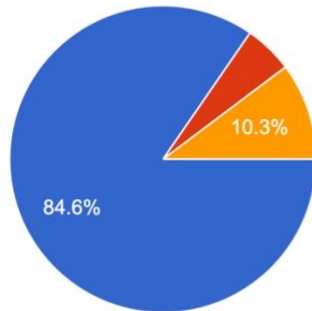
37 responses



- Like that the players got to get a little...
- Found it confusing to make a change t...
- I would have preferred keeping the be...
- These are the rules the entire season...
- The rule book states that TBall is mea...
- Playoff rules were great. It sped the g...
- No preference either way
- Unsure of what this is asking so not su...
- Can see positives and negatives
- We were 4U.

How was the communication from the commissioner?

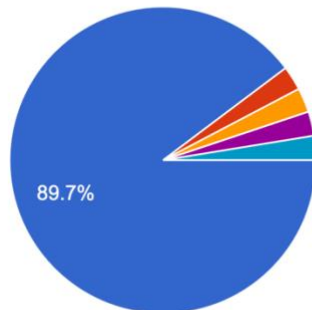
39 responses



- Great, all my questions were answered quickly or answered before I even asked them.
- Pretty good, minor delays in hearing back, but got my answer.
- Ok I guess.
- A little too much.
- Way to much

How was the communication from your coaching staff?

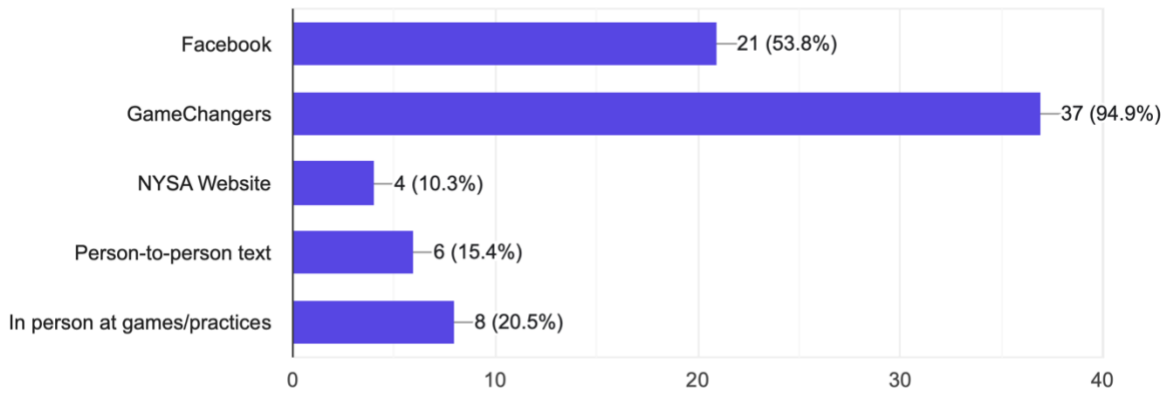
39 responses



- Great, all my questions were answered quickly or answered before I even asked them.
- Pretty good, minor delays in hearing back, but got my answer.
- Ok I guess.
- A little too much.
- Didn't have to communicate
- I'm a coach

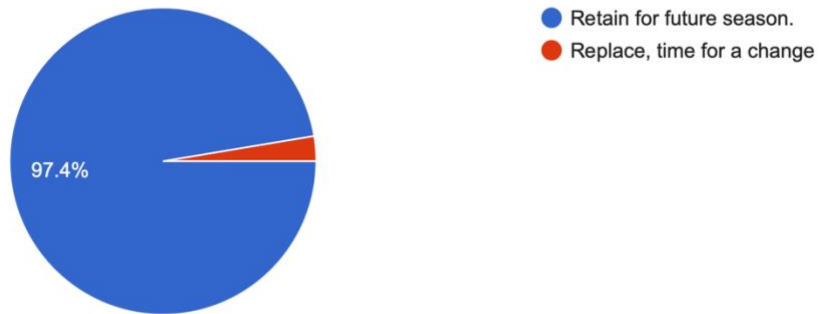
Where did you get most of your information?

39 responses



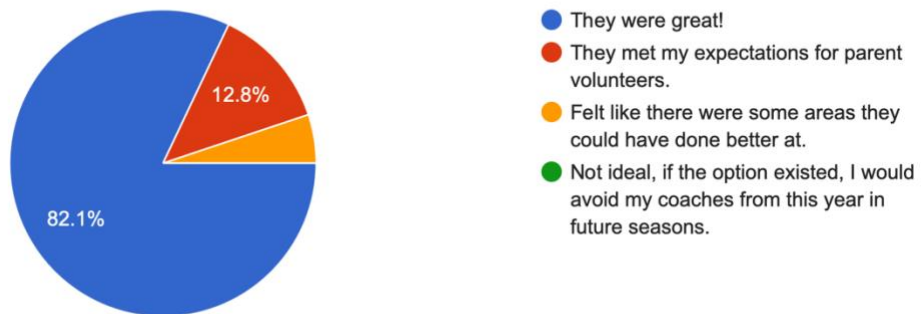
If left up to me, regarding the TBall commissioner, I would:

38 responses



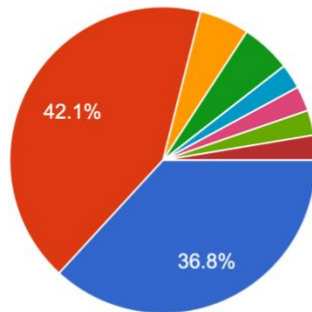
What was your experience with your coaches?

39 responses



Will you be returning for the Fall 6U TBall season?

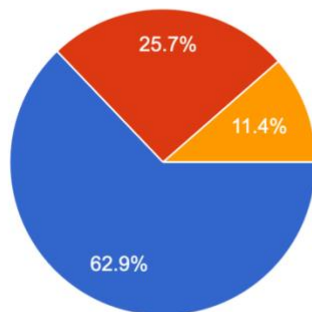
38 responses



- Absolutely!
- Would love to, but we are 'graduating' up to the 8U division
- Want to, but we are already committed...
- No, but it has nothing to do with NYSA
- No, based on the experience we had t...
- We're aging out
- We are committed to another sport at...
- N/A
- Not sure

What is your opinion on your value for the money?

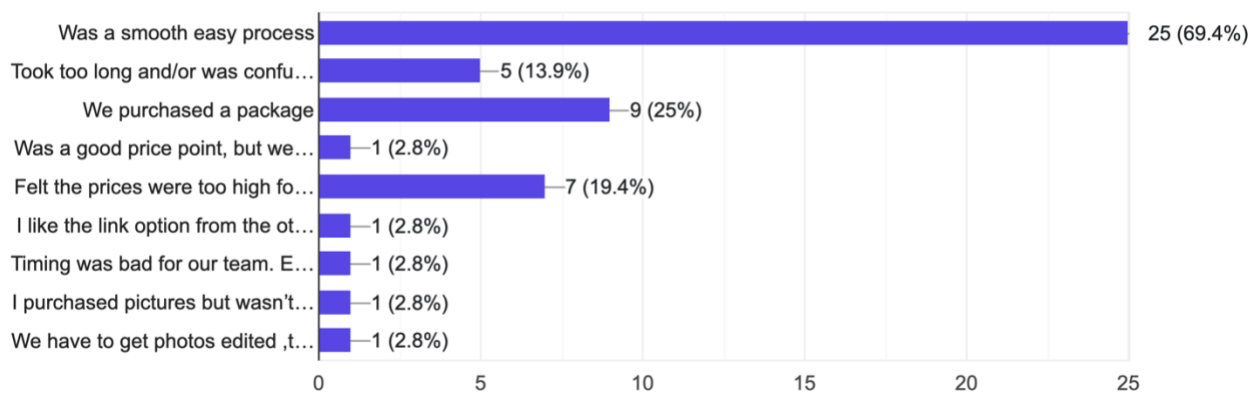
35 responses



- Works for us, just the cost of doing business
- I guess it's fine, but I'm not quite sure what my fees are paying for.
- Feels a little expensive for what we got
- Too expensive, if there was a cheaper option elsewhere, we would have done that.

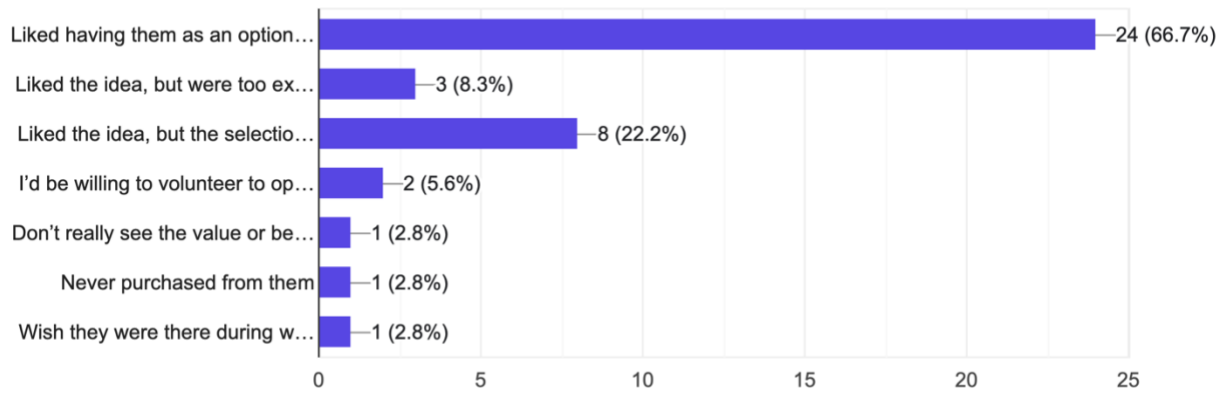
What were your thoughts on the photo process?

36 responses



Regarding the food trucks:

36 responses



Thank you again for your support of the NYSA TBall Program,



Respectfully,

Michael Tucker
NYSA TBall Commissioner
8504667027

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