



Hit-A-Thon 2026 – Parent Guide

Event Information

When & Where:

- **Date:** Saturday, May 9, 2026
- **Time:** Begins as early as 9:00 a.m.
 - (team times announced a few days prior)
- **Location:** Shira Field – Field 7
7001 Murray Park Drive, San Diego, CA



What is the Hit-A-Thon?

A fun, high-energy event where players showcase their hitting and athletic skills while raising money to support the league—and compete for exciting prizes.

Participation:

- All players currently on a 2026 Patriot Baseball Junior League spring roster are eligible to participate
- Participation is not required—but **all players get 4 free pitches**, prizes, and a participation gift just for joining in!

How the Event Runs

Every player begins the Hit-A-Thon with **4 pitches**, and can earn additional pitches based on how much money they raise (*see pitch breakdown below*).

When it's their turn, each player will step up to the plate and take **all of their pitches in one round** using the pitching machine. Each hit will be scored based on where the ball lands, and those scores will be used to determine winners for the hitting prize categories (*see prize categories outlined below*).

After completing their swings, players will then move on to the **optional skills competitions**.



Skills Competitions (Immediately After Hitting)

Fastest Runner

On the player's final pitch, they will run from home plate to second base and be timed. The fastest time of the day wins.

Golden Arm

After reaching second base, the player will throw from a marked spot toward a target behind home plate. If the throw hits the target, they continue throwing until they miss. The player with the most successful throws wins.

Fundraising & Donations

Players raise money for the Hit-A-Thon by asking family, friends, neighbors, and supporters through email, text, and social media. The more a player raises, the more pitches they earn during the event.

Online Donations

To make fundraising simple, we use 99Pledges, where each player has their own personal fundraising page that can be customized and shared. Parents can also visit <https://app.99pledges.com/fund/patriots2026> and search for their player by name (note: photos can only be uploaded through the personalized email link). Once on the player's page, copy and share the link so supporters can donate easily and securely by credit card.

Important

Be on the lookout for an email from 99Pledges with your player's unique link. This is the best way to personalize your page (add a photo, message, etc.) and start sharing.

Cash & Check Donations (No fees deducted)

Players may also collect donations by cash or check (payable to Patriot Baseball).

*Cash and check donations collected **must be recorded on the [official tracking sheet](#) in order to be included in totals for both individual and team fundraising prizes before the deadline of 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026.***

Any cash or check donations collected on the day of the event, or not recorded on the [official tracking sheet](#) before the deadline, will only count toward a player's total pitches/swings and will not be included in fundraising prize totals.

Deadlines & Counting Rules

Online donations must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2026.**

Cash and check donations can still be turned in on event day to earn additional pitches, as long as they are received before the player's turn at bat.

Prizes & Incentives

The top three players with the highest total amount raised (including online and properly recorded [offline donations](#)) will receive fundraising prizes.

All players will receive a participation gift. Players who raise at least **\$50 by Saturday, April 25 will earn five extra raffle tickets** for additional prize opportunities.

Registration Reminder

Players who plan to participate using only their four free pitches must still register by **Saturday, May 2** using the [2026 Hit-A-Thon RSVP form](#).

Pitch Breakdown


Every player starts with **4 free pitches** and can earn more through fundraising (see fundraising section for deadlines and rules on what counts):


- \$0 → 4 pitches
- \$1–\$50 → 6 pitches
- \$51–\$100 → 8 pitches
- \$101–\$150 → 10 pitches
- \$151–\$200 → 12 pitches
- \$201+ → 15 pitches (maximum)


Important Notes:


- A pitch counts whether the player swings or not
- A pitch is only re-thrown if the umpire calls a machine malfunction
- Only approved Little League bats may be used
- Maximum total pitches per player is 15

Prizes & How to Earn Them

 **Individual Prizes:** Players earn these through their performance during the event and fundraising totals. Categories include Home Run Hitter, Top 3 Scoring Hitters (with trophies), Top Fundraisers, Fastest Runner, Golden Arm, and Opportunity Drawings

 **Team Prizes:** Teams compete for Top Hitting Team, Top Fundraising Team, and Highest Participation (manager prize included)

 **Bonus Rewards:** All players receive a participation gift and entry into opportunity drawings. Players who raise **\$50 by April 25** earn **5 extra raffle tickets**, with additional tickets earned through fundraising.

 **On-Field Bonus:** Hit a target during the event and receive a **\$10 snack bar card**

Prize Reveal Coming Soon!

Full prize details will be announced in a separate message—there are some really exciting prizes this year, so stay tuned!

Scoring System & Tiebreakers

Players earn points based on **where the ball comes to rest**, with additional points awarded for balls hit in the air (fly balls). Individual scores determine individual prizes, and combined team scores determine team prizes.

Point Values

Zone Hits:


- Zone 1 → 1 point (ground or fly ball)
- Zone 2 → 2 points (ground ball) | 4 points (fly ball)
- Zone 3 → 3 points (ground ball) | 5 points (fly ball)

Fence Hits:

- Left or Center field fence (hit in the air, ~300') → 20 points
- Right field fence above yellow line (in the air, ~250') → 20 points
- Right field fence below yellow line (in the air, ~250') → 5 points

Home Run:

- Over the fence → 25 points

 Players may use a tee on their final pitch if they have not made contact.

 All hits will be tracked and scored by official scorers on the field.

Tiebreakers (in order)

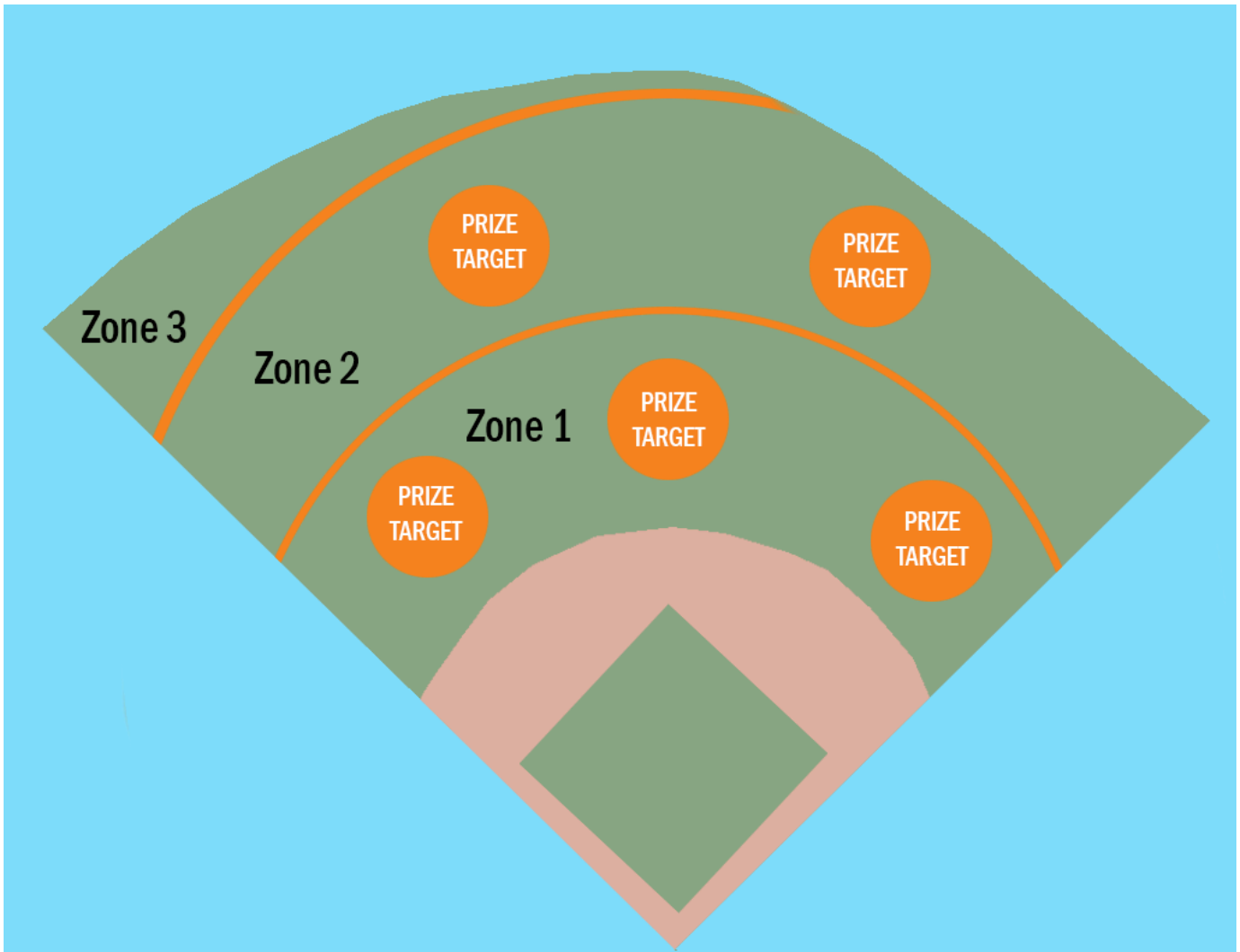
1. Total donations raised
2. Number of pitches earned
3. Points from first hit

Key Clarifications

- Scoring is based on final resting position of the ball
- “Fly ball” points apply when the ball reaches the zone or fence without touching the ground
- Each pitch counts as one scoring opportunity
- All scoring decisions are final and determined by event officials

Hit-a-Thon Scoring	Ground ball	Fly ball
Zone 1	1 pt	1 pt
Zone 2	2 pts	4 pts
Zone 3	3 pts	5 pts
Hits fence in LEFT or CENTER in the air (300')		20 pts
Hits fence in RIGHT in the air ABOVE yellow line (right 250')		20 pts
Hits fence in RIGHT in the air BELOW yellow line (right 250')		5 pts
HOMERUN		25 pts

Field Zone Diagram



Hit-a-Thon Scoring	Ground ball	Fly ball
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HOMERUN		25 pts

Rules & Reminders

- Players who plan to participate using only their free pitches must register by **May 2nd:**

2026 Hit-A-Thon RSVP

- Earned pitches **cannot be transferred to another player**
- A pitch counts once it is thrown, whether the player swings or not (unless ruled invalid due to machine malfunction)
- Official scorers track all results for both individual and team scores
- Detailed scoring explanations will be shared at the event
- Event start times and schedule will be finalized based on total participation

Why Participate?

- It's a fun team event for players and families
 - Players build confidence and skills in a game-like setting
 - It helps support and improve the league
 - There are many chances to win prizes—even just by participating
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Rules & Fine Print - Hit-A-Thon 2026

Participation in the Hit-A-Thon is open only to players officially rostered on a 2026 Patriot Baseball Junior League spring team. Participation is optional, but all players who take part will receive four (4) complimentary pitches, one opportunity drawing entry, and a participation gift.

The event will be held on **Saturday, May 9, 2026**, at Shira Field (Field 7) in San Diego. Start times may begin as early as 9:00 a.m., with specific team times shared a few days prior. The schedule and event flow may be adjusted based on participation, and families are expected to arrive on time for their assigned slot.

Each player begins with four (4) pitches and may earn additional pitches through fundraising, up to a maximum of fifteen (15). A pitch is counted once the ball is delivered by the machine, whether the player swings or not, unless the umpire calls a malfunction. Only approved Little League bats may be used, and earned pitches may not be shared or transferred between players.

Fundraising may be completed through online donations (via 99Pledges), cash, or checks made payable to Patriot Baseball. Online donations must be submitted by ****11:59 p.m. on May 8, 2026****. Cash and check donations must be ****recorded on the [official tracking sheet](#) prior to the deadline**** in order to be included in individual and team fundraising totals for prize consideration. Cash and check donations received on the day of the event—or not recorded on the tracking sheet before the deadline—may still be accepted to help a player earn additional pitches, as long as they are turned in before the player's turn at bat. However, these donations will not count toward Top Fundraiser prizes. No fees are deducted from cash or check donations.

All hits will take place from home plate using a pitching machine and will be scored by event officials based on where the ball comes to rest. If a player does not make contact before their final pitch, they may choose to use a tee for that last attempt for on-field prize eligibility. Final scoring decisions are made by official scorers.

Points are awarded based on field zones and targets, including 25 points for a home run and 20 points for a line drive that reaches the fence without bouncing. Additional points are awarded for field zones, with possible bonuses for balls hit in the air. Complete scoring details will be available at the event.

Players will also participate in skills competitions. On the final pitch, each player will be timed running to second base for the Fastest Runner award, followed by a throwing challenge for the Golden Arm competition. Players may continue throwing as long as they successfully hit the target, and the highest totals will determine the winner.

Prizes will be awarded for both individual and team achievements, including hitting performance, fundraising, participation, and skill competitions. All participants are automatically entered into opportunity drawings, with additional entries available through fundraising incentives. Players who raise at least \$50 by April 25, 2026, will receive five (5) extra drawing entries.

Scores will be recorded for both individuals and teams. Team results are based on a combination of participation, total funds raised, and player performance. In the event of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used: (1) total donations raised, (2) number of pitches earned, and (3) points scored on the player's first hit.

Players participating with only their four free pitches must register by May 2, 2026. By participating, families agree to all event rules and understand that all decisions made by event officials are final. Patriot Baseball reserves the right to adjust event details as needed to ensure a fair and successful experience.

[2026 Hit-A-Thon RSVP](#)