

Welcome to Boardman Community Baseball

As Opening Day approaches, plans are well under way to make this an exciting and memorable season for you and your children. This newsletter contains important information and dates regarding the upcoming season. **PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE SECTION PERTAINING TO YOUR CHILD.**

BCB is pleased to offer the following programs:

Boys Programs - Ages 5 to 18:

- **4 and 5-year-old boys play MUSHBALL:** (Coed) Basic skills taught, coach pitch, tee used if needed, emphasis on learning and having fun.
- **6 and 7-year-old boys play ROOKIE:** Basic skills taught, coach pitch, emphasis on learning and teamwork. RIF ball.
- **Some 7, 8 and 9-year-old boys play MINOR A:** Basic skills taught, coach/kid pitch emphasis on learning and teamwork.
- **Some 8, 9, 10 and some 11-year-old boys play MINOR AA:** Players pitch and assigned according to draft and skill level.
- **Some 10, 11, and 12-year-old boys play MAJORS:** Players assigned according to draft and skill level.
- **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION: 11-13-yr-olds:** 50ft mound/70ft bases, District, League, can play both Major, PONY or 50/70 only. See pg. 4.
- **13 and 14-year-old boys play TRI-T PONY/LL Jr Lg.**
- **15 through 18-year-old boys play TRI-T COLT.**

Any questions regarding Boys Programs, please contact the league office at 330-758-2123 or Vice President of Boys, John Walsh at 330-507-5510.

Girls Programs - Ages 5 to 14:

- **4 and 5-year-old girls play MUSHBALL:** (Coed) Basic skills taught, coach pitch, tee used if needed, emphasis on learning and having fun.
- **6, 7 and 8-year-old girls play ROOKIE:** Basic skills taught, coach pitch, tee used if needed, RFI ball used.
- **Some 8, 9 and 10-year-old girls play MINOR:** Basic skills taught, players pitch and assigned by draft and skill level.
- **Some 10,11 and 12-year-old girls play MAJORS:** Players assigned by draft. Play in surrounding communities.
- **13 and 14-year-old girls play TRI-T PONY/LL Jr. Lg.:** Play in surrounding communities & the Fields of Dreams.

Any questions regarding the Girls Programs, please contact the league office at 330-758-2123 or Vice President of Girls Joe Sferra at 330-718-2644.

League Age Determination:

The BCB age is the age of your child as of **4/30/17** or **08/31/17** for **BOYS** and **DECEMBER 31, 2016** for **GIRLS**. Due to Little League rules and insurance issues BCB will strictly observe the age rules. All players must reside in the **BOARDMAN LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT** OR **ATTEND A SCHOOL IN BOARDMAN.**

Late and Final Registration:

Boys ages 11-14 and girls ages 11 thru 12, can still register and tryout until Friday, March 10, 2017. Boys ages 15-18 can register up to May 15, 2017. All other players can still register on a space available basis depending on division and number of teams. Registration is available online at www.boardmanbaseball.com.

For more information please call 330-758-2123.

A \$25 LATE REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE ASSESSED FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER FEBRUARY 19, 2017.

Dates For Your 2017 Calendar

March 4.....	Boys tryouts (8-12-yr-olds) Sluggers - South Ave Ext. See times on page 2.
March 4.....	Girls tryouts (8-12-yr-olds) Sluggers - South Ave Ext. See times on page 3.
March 10.....	Boys & Girls Make-up tryouts (8-12-yr-olds) Sluggers - See times on page 2 and 3.
March 10.....	PONY/LL Jr. League Boys tryouts Sluggers.
March 13-16.....	Major Boys Player Draft
March 13-16.....	Major Girls Player Draft
March 13-16.....	PONY A & B Players Division Draft
April 22.....	Team Mom Meeting
Late April.....	PONY Boys Opening Day
April 21-23.....	Ohio Baseball Tournament
April 25,26.....	Picture Days
May 1.....	Opening Day Major & Minor AA Boys & Minor Girls
May 1.....	Opening Day Mushball, Rookie Minor A Boys & Girls
May 26-28.....	BCB ASA Girls/Boys Classic LL Rules Tournaments
June 4.....	BCB Golf Outing- Mill Creek 1:30pm Shotgun
June 9-11.....	Triple Crown Boys Travel Tournament
June 21-24.....	Major/Minor AA Boys/Girls Playoffs begin
June 30-July 2.....	Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship Tournament
June 27-July 15.....	Little League District-2 Tournament
July 11-16.....	8U/9U BCB Tournament



Payment Plans:

OPTIONAL PAYMENT PLANS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO QUALIFY. CALL RICK SCHAFER AT 330-507-3598 FOR DETAILS. WE DO NOT TURN AWAY ANY CHILD BASED ON THEIR ABILITY TO PAY.

Website and Online Registration:

You may register online at www.boardmanbaseball.com. This year, our website will list schedules, scores, rainout dates and much more. Thanks to Jeff Wilson for his help with the new Blue Sombrero website.

BCB Policies:

ALL 11 AND 12-YEAR-OLD BOYS AND 11 AND 12-YEAR-OLD GIRLS WHO ARE NOT ALREADY ON A MAJOR TEAM MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO TRYOUTS ON MARCH 4 or 10, 2017.

Those who do not, will be on a waiting list to play in Boardman Community Baseball this season. It is highly suggested that ALL Non-Major players in this age group participate in tryouts. Those who elect NOT to participate in tryouts will be drafted to a Major league team. Those boys and girls who cannot attend the March 4 tryouts must contact their player agent to be excused and arrange to take part in a make-up tryout on Friday, March 10. **PLEASE COME EQUIPPED WITH A GLOVE AND BAT TO TRYOUTS, IF POSSIBLE. BATS WILL BE AVAILABLE.**

Major Boys & Girls Draft:

BCB OPERATES UNDER ONE LITTLE LEAGUE CHARTER - BCB LITTLE LEAGUE. THE DRAFT SYSTEM FOR THE 2017 SEASON WILL BE A RE-DRAFT OF THE MAJOR/ MINOR AA BOYS AND MAJOR/MINOR GIRLS DIVISIONS. THERE WILL BE 7-8 TEAMS IN ONE DIVISION FOR THE BOYS MAJOR AND 3-5 TEAMS FOR THE GIRLS MAJOR DIVISION. Girl's managers will observe ALL girls trying out. Boy's managers will observe ALL boys trying out. Following tryouts the managers will draft players to their respective team. All drafted players should receive a phone call from the manager within 48 hours of the draft date.

Boys 4 thru 12:

All 4 and 5-yr-old boys will be assigned directly to a Mushball team. Six and most 7-year-old boys will be assigned directly to a Rookie Team. Coaches pitch at the Rookie and Minor A level. Minor A team's players pitch last half of the season. Evaluations will be held for 7 thru 12-year-old boys to insure that the talent level is evenly distributed amongst the teams in each division.

7-yr-old boys have the option of being evaluated and entering the Minor A draft (see below the times by age and division). Any 7-yr-old that is not drafted to a Minor A team will be assigned to a Rookie team.

8-yr-old boys have the option of being evaluated and entering the Minor AA draft (see below the times by age and division). Any 8-yr-old that is not drafted to a Minor AA team will enter the Minor A draft.

10-yr-old boys have the option of being evaluated and entering the Major draft (see below the times by age and division). Any 10-yr-old that is not drafted to a Major team will enter the Minor AA draft.

Any 11-yr-old player not drafted to a Major team will enter the Minor AA draft.

All 12-yr-old players will be drafted to a Major team unless parents make a specific request to play in the Minor AA Division.

BOY'S tryouts will be held on SATURDAY, MARCH 4 and FRIDAY, MARCH 10 at SLUGGERS as follows:

Saturday, March 4 at SLUGGERS-SOUTH AVE. EXT. ---Boys
12 yr-oldSaturday, March 4.....10:30-NOON - MAJORS
10-11-yr. olds.....Saturday, March 4.....NOON-2:00PM - MAJORS
8, 9,10 & 11-yr-olds..Saturday, March 4....2:00-4:30PM - MINOR AA
7, 8 & 9-yr-olds-.....Saturday March 4.....4:30-5:30PM - MINOR A

Friday, March 10 at SLUGGERS-SOUTH AVE. EXT. --- Boys
10-12-yr-olds.....5:30PM-MAJORS
8-11-yr-olds 7:00PM-MINOR AA
7-9-yr-olds 8:00PM- MINOR A

Friday, March 10 at SLUGGERS-SOUTH AVE. EXT.
PONY AGE/LL JR LG. BOYS 13-14-yr-olds.....8:30PM

Parents: please call the appropriate player agent regarding any questions you or your child may have regarding this process. Our divisions of play are set based on skill and ability levels, not necessarily age. With that being said, if you have a child that you feel needs to be in a lower division than their age permits, please reach out the appropriate player agent and our board will consider your specific situation.

Please plan to be at the Sluggers AT LEAST 15 minutes before your scheduled time. The Major/PONY player draft will be held mid-March. All drafted players should receive a phone call from managers within 48 hours of the draft; please do not call league officials or player agents before that time. Call a player agent if you do not get a call by March 20, 2017.

Boys Player Agents:

Mushball Division (4-5-yr-olds):	JOHN WALSH	507-5510
Rookie Division (6-7-yr-olds):	JOHN WALSH	507-5510
Minor A Division (8-9-yr-olds):	VALERIE JONES	501-2933
Minor AA Division (9-11-yr-olds)	TOM HARRIS	881-6766
Major Division (10-12-yr-olds):	TONY PROVENZALE	565-9343
Pony Division (13-14-yr-olds):	CURT KOCH	506-0527
Colt Division (15-18-yr-olds):	CURT KOCH	506-0527
Vice President Boys:	JOHN WALSH	507-5510

Boys 13 thru 18:

PONY LEAGUE/LL JUNIOR LEAGUE:

This year in the PONY/LL JR. Leagues, players will be allowed to play in other Leagues (i.e. Class B 14U) while playing in the PONY/LL JR. Leagues. COLT League will also allow play in other leagues.

Managers are not required to give these players any special consideration.

There will be at least 3-4 teams in the PONY/LL JR. Leagues, all participating in the Tri-T/LL Jr. Leagues for 2017. There will be an A and a B Division with the number of teams in each division to be determined. The divisions will be based on players' ability. **TRYOUTS EVALUATING THROWING, HITTING AND RUNNING WILL OCCUR MARCH 10, 2017 STARTING AT 8:30 P.M. AT SLUGGERS INDOOR BASEBALL FACILITY ON SOUTH AVENUE EXTENSION FOR ALL REGISTERED PLAYERS NOT ALREADY ASSIGNED TO A TEAM.**

Managers will pick their teams at the Mid March draft. Each team will consist of 13-15 players. Non-drafted and Non-assigned players will go into a player pool for possible future participation. Pony/LL JR. season will begin in late April. For more information, call PONY Player Agent Curt Koch at 330-506-0527.



COLT LEAGUE:

BCB's COLT League program continues to grow with play at the Fields of Dreams. BCB continues to offer the COLT League program to boys ages 15-18, at the standards our league and community have become accustomed.

We are accepting applications for qualified managers and registrations for players. Our goal is to have a program that teaches the finer points of baseball, is highly structured, disciplined, and allows an opportunity for all team members to participate.

(THE DEADLINE FOR MANAGER APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 15, 2017 AND PLAYER REGISTRATION IS MAY 15, 2017). If you are interested in managing, please contact BCB as soon as possible by calling the BCB office at 758-2123. The future of our program lies in finding qualified managers and receiving player applications indicating our players' interest in this division. For more information, call the Vice President of Boys John Walsh at 330-507-5510 or Colt Player Agent Curt Koch at 330-506-0527.

Girls 5 thru 14 Fast-Pitch:

All 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8-year-old girls will be assigned directly to a Mushball or Rookie team, Coach pitch. **Some 8 and all 9 and 10-year-old girls play Minor league.** Player pitch. **Tryouts for SOME 8's, ALL 9 and 10-year-olds are being held to better evaluate a player's ability. This will allow us to evenly form teams during the Minor draft. All 11 & 12-year-old girls who PLAYED on a LL Major Team in 2016 MUST participate in tryouts.** All who will play as a 7-year-old or younger this year, do not report for tryouts. **ONLY 8-YR-OLDS TRYING OUT FOR A MINOR TEAM SHOULD TRYOUT.**

Girl's tryouts will be held on **SATURDAY, MARCH 4 at SLUGGERS-SOUTH AVE.-EXT.** as follows:

**Saturday, March 4 at SLUGGERS-SOUTH AVE. EXT. --- Girls 10-11-12-year-old girls.....Sat. March 4....8:30AM - MAJORS
8-9-10-year-old girls.....Sat. March 4....9:30AM - MINORS**

**Friday, March 10 at SLUGGERS-SOUTH AVE. EXT. --- Girls 10-11 and 12 year old girls- 5:30PM- MAJORS
8-9 and 10-year-old girls --- 7:00PM- MINORS**

Please plan to be at the Sluggers AT LEAST 15 minutes before your scheduled time. The player draft will be held on Mid March. This draft is for managers and ONE established coach only. All drafted players should receive a phone call from managers within 48 hours of the draft; please do not call league officials or player agents before that time. If you have not received a call by March 20, 2017 call your player agent.

TRI-T PONY tryouts will be announced if needed. A notice will be mailed to each player regarding tryouts if held. Any questions, contact Tri-T Player Agent.

Parents: Please call the appropriate player agent regarding any questions you or your child may have regarding this process. Our divisions of play are set based on skill and ability levels, not necessarily age. With that being said, if you have a child that you feel need to be in a lower division than their age permits, please reach out the appropriate player agent and our Board will consider your specific situation.

Girls Player Agents:

Mushball Division (4-5-yr-olds):	JOHN WALSH	507-5510
Rookie Division (6-8-yr-olds):	TOM SULLIVAN	719-3222
Minor Division (8-10-yr-olds):	JIM YODER	7271215
Major Division (11-12-yr-olds):	ERIC ERICSON	727-6205
Tri-T Division (13-14-yr-olds):	DAVE MATZ	519-5389
Vice President Girls:	JOE SFERRA	718-2644

Requests:

We will not be able to honor requests by parents for their sons or daughters to be placed on a particular team or with particular players or manager. Little League Baseball recommends that all players at the Major, Minor, Rookie and Mushball divisions go back to a pool after each season to be placed on a new team the next year. The goal is that players will make new friends and have new opportunities.

SAFETY AND SKILLS ISSUE REQUESTS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LEAGUE. PLEASE CONTACT THE PLAYER AGENT FOR YOUR DAUGHTER OR SON'S AGE GROUP OR THE VP OF GIRLS OR BOYS TO DISCUSS.

Challenger Division:

We are excited to announce the 28th season of our Challenger Division; a program designed for physically & mentally challenged youth, age 6 thru 22. If you know anyone who would like to take part either as a player, coach or volunteer, please contact Jim Colaluca at 330-651-4006. The Challenger season will start on June 4, 2017. Picture day will be announced. If you are interested in being a buddy for a Challenger Player contact Jim Colaluca at 651-4006 or the BCB office at 758-2123.

Volunteers:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have volunteered their services. Boardman Community Baseball is an adult, volunteer work project, constructed, supervised and assisted by parents who desire to make its benefits extend to their children. **BOARDMAN COMMUNITY BASEBALL COULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT YOUR HELP.**

Complex Field Days:

During the next two months, we will be preparing the fields for play. If you can spend some time helping us, contact Greg Krieger at 565-3114 or check the "Work Party Hot Line" at 758-2123. Each Team will have a mandatory workday where they will need to have 2 representatives present to work. Please plan to participate when your manager asks for volunteers.

Umpiring:

Anyone interested in umpiring at the Major, Minor, PONY/COLT level for both Boys & Girls should contact Tony Tarantino at 330-550-2593. All of our umpires are offered training and with the number of games we play at the Major, Minor, PONY/COLT level it takes many individuals to assure coverage for each game.

Again this season we are forming our own umpiring crews to work our Major, Minor boys and girls divisions. Umpires would be paid for services rendered. Please contact Tony if you are interested in becoming a registered umpire for BCB.

UMPIRE CLINICS:

BCB AND DISTRICT 2 DA CHET COOPER WILL CONDUCT UMPIRE CLINICS THIS SPRING. AN UMPIRE CLINIC WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 25, 2017 FROM 8:30AM-11:00AM AT THE WATTS CENTER AT YSU. CALL CHET AT 330-518-3977 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Team Moms:

A great way to participate is to volunteer as a "TEAM MOM". If you would be interested in helping this way, please let your manager know, or if you would like more information, call Valerie Jones at 501-2933 or vljrns@aol.com. The Team Moms meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2017, 10AM AT THE FIELDS OF DREAMS ADMIN. BLDG.**

Intermediate 50/70 Division:

In 2013 Little League International introduced the Intermediate 50/70 Division after a pilot program in 2012. BCB will participate in a District 2 League with other LL communities to be determined. BCB anticipates 1 team from our League. The age group is 11-13 yr olds with 70-foot bases and 50 foot pitching distance. LL Junior Lg. rules will apply. There will be a separate draft for this League. Players can play both Majors/PONY/JR LL and Intermediate or Intermediate alone, but will be on two different rosters. The focus will be on learning additional aspects of the game (i.e. leadoffs, pickoffs etc.), increased competition and more reps for our players. Bats are 2 5/8 or less. 13-yr-olds will follow PONY pitching rules while 11-12-yr-olds will follow LL pitching rules. There will be additional BCB Pitching Rules incorporated within our league to assure pitchers are not overused. There will be District 2, State, Regional and World Series Tournaments. Players can only play on one All-Star Team. BCB will restrict 13's to the Intermediate team, 12's to the Major team and 11's to the 11-yr-old All-Star team. There will be a 12 game schedule. There is additional \$50 fee for this division with no late fee if you want to register after your other division registration. For more information call **TONY PROVENZALE- 565-9343.**

Team Sponsors & Signs:

A great way to support Boardman Community Baseball is to sponsor a team, especially if your child is on the team. Support can also come in the form of an outfield or scoreboard sign. **Please contact Dean Ball (629-2368) or Rick Schafer (507-3598) for team sponsors and Sean Kreps for fence or scoreboard signs at 565-7691.**

Fundraising:

In our continuing effort to raise funds to support our baseball programs and our complex, Boardman Community Baseball needs your help to make our fundraiser a success. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 dollars via our fundraiser. BCB is a private self-supporting operation that receives no financial support from the township, county, state or federal agencies. The main source of income to support our facility and operations is the hosting of tournaments and the annual fundraiser that we ask each player (up to two per family) to participate in. Again this year we have included the fundraiser in the registration fee. The cost of the fundraiser is \$50/player. We will supply each player with \$60 worth of DISCOUNT CARDS for community business discounts. After players sell all of their cards, it will actually serve as a \$10 discount on the cost of your registration fee. We THANK YOU in advance for your support of the fundraiser and we hope your player will sell the discount cards to take advantage of the \$10 discount.

New LL Residency Rule:

In 2014 Little League changed the residency boundary rule regarding where a player lives and the LL League they can play in. Each Little League organization has a boundary map

by which their players must reside to play in said league. Now if a student attends a school that is within the league's boundary that player can play in said league regardless of their community residence. Proof of attendance is required from the school's administration.

Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship Tournament:

The 14th Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship Tournament will be held June 30-July 2, 2017. The tournament raises funds for the Chuck Schafer Scholarship and Boardman Community Baseball. Age divisions will include 9U, 10U, 10-11U, 11-12U and 13-14-yr-old divisions for Boys. Cost per team is \$250 for LL teams and \$275 for PONY teams. A discount will be offered to BCB teams entered into the tournament. For more information contact Mike Trel at 330-509-1615.

Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship:

The Chuck Schafer Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 academic years. Scholarships will be available to graduating students. Criteria includes: (1) senior status, (2) accumulative GPA of 3.0, (3) participated in BCB for 5 years in the baseball or softball program, (4) complete application and essay. Scholarship applications will be available at Boardman High School, Cardinal Mooney High School and Ursuline High School. Application deadline is May 1, 2017. For more information, contact Rick Schafer at 330-507-3598.

Golf Outing:

A Fields of Dreams 21th Anniversary Golf Outing will be held on Sunday June 4, 2017 at Mill Creek Park South Course. The Outing will be a Scramble with a shotgun start at 1:30PM. Funds raised will benefit the fields. Please mark your calendar and put your foursome together for a great day of golf to benefit the fields. More information will follow. There will not be any LL games on this day so everyone can participate. SEE YOU AT THE CREEK!

2017 Tournaments:

In 2017 15 tournaments will be held at the Fields of Dreams. Volunteers will be needed for all of the events. Please call Chad Miller at 330-717-6981 if you can help with gate, parking, officer of the day and other activities. Dates include:

April 21-23	Ohio Baseball Muddy Fields Tournament
May 26-28	BCB ASA Girls/Boys LL Rules Tournament
June 9-11	Triple Crown Battle at the Border
June 30-july 2	Chuck Schafer Scholarship Tournament
June 16-18	Magic ASA Softball Tournament
June 27- July 16	LL District 2 Tournaments
July 13-16	BCB 8u/9u Tournament
July 7-22	PONY 13-14 / Colt Tournaments - 4 weekends

