

The Newtown Babe Ruthian

Newtown Babe Ruth League, Inc., P.O. Box 133, Newtown, CT 06470
www.NewtownBaseball.com

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Message From the President

I hope that everyone has enjoyed a happy and cheerful holiday season and is enduring the cold weather. Spring is right around the corner. In my first communication as President in December, I said that I would be communicating with you periodically. I have decided to create this newsletter to provide a formal communication channel and information on a quarterly basis.

Even as there is still snow on the ground, the Newtown Babe Ruth (NBR) board and its dedicated volunteers are planning diligently for the upcoming season. I personally am very excited about what is in store. We are working on new fund raising initiatives, continuing to improve training programs for coaches and kids, improving and upgrading the playing fields and working to keep costs down, so that we do not need to raise our participation fees in these trying times.

Inside this issue, I will introduce the new (and continuing) board members and the division directors, as well as provide a description of each division. This should be valuable information for you to get to know the baseball program better.

Also, **registration for the upcoming season will be opening on January 15th and will be open until January 31st.** Thereafter, children will be allowed to register (with a late fee), if space is available within their division.

Please register early so the volunteers can begin team formation and be well prepared for opening day. Also, please remember that **copies of Birth Certificates** will be required prior to the start of the season to confirm your child's age. The registration process is easy and on-line at www.newtownbaseball.com.

I look forward to seeing you and your children on the field very soon.

Ken

Introducing the New Board

Each October, NBR elects a new board of directors. This past October saw half of the board changeover with 3 new members. Special thanks go to Ron Schmidt and team, who did a great job in leading NBR for the past 2 ½ years. Ron left the league in much better shape than when he took over. He was supported by Karen Kelly as Treasurer and Pete Cochrane as Secretary, who both did a fine job.

Returning Board members include Art Rowe – Director of Field Operations, Warren Spencer – Director of Babe Ruth and Bob Elias – Director of Cal Ripken. Their experience and continuity in the organization will be invaluable and I thank them for their continued dedication.

Joining the returning board members are:
Joe Carrino – Vice President, Mike Connors –

Treasurer and myself. I look forward to working with the new board, as I think it is a great blend of experience and a fresh perspective.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the many volunteers that help in a variety of roles. Again, we have many returning volunteers as well as some new faces, both of which will be invaluable to the organization.

Division Structure

Newtown Babe Ruth has two sub-divisions; Cal Ripken (Ages 5–12) and Babe Ruth (ages 13–18). Cal Ripken ball is played on the smaller fields, with modified rules, while Babe Ruth is played on the standard baseball field using the Major League rules (with some minor exceptions). Within both Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth, there are age specific divisions. Your child's baseball age for the upcoming season is their age as of April 30th, 2009.

Each division is organized and coordinated by a "Division Director". Division directors are responsible for implementing the guidelines of Newtown Babe Ruth baseball for each level of play. In addition, they are responsible for team formation, scheduling, field usage and manager selection. All division director contact information is located on the website.

The overriding goals at all levels of play for NBR are to Have Fun and Learn the Game of Baseball, in a safe environment, promoting sportsmanship and fair play.

Divisions

Midgets (5–6 Year Olds) – Ted Hannan.

This is a very instructional division. The primary focus is creating an environment where kids can learn the fundamentals of the game in a fun setting. Coaches pitch and often use the "tee" for hitting instruction. Games are purely recreational, with no score kept, no outs recorded and all players batting. Teams are formed by the division director to allow kids to play with their friends and classmates and honor any parent requests that may accommodate or encourage participation.

Rookies (7 year olds) – Mike Connors. This is a very instructional league, with the emphasis on having fun, learning the game and keeping the kids interest. This is primarily a coach pitch league, although some pitching may be introduced during the season. No score is kept, but outs are recorded and not all players bat in each inning. Teams are formed primarily based on parent input with the intent of allowing players to play with their friends, but some competitive balance is considered.

Minors A (8 Year olds) – Ken Roche.

Instruction and skill development is the primary focus. Pitching instruction is a priority, with a mixture of kid and adult pitch. Competition is introduced, with score being kept. Teams are formed with competitive balance in mind, but parent requests are taken into account.

Minors AA (9 Year Olds) – Randy Dieckman.

This division focuses on skill development,

especially pitching, as it is full player pitch. Teams are formed via a draft system to ensure competitive balance within the league.

Minors AAA (10 Year Olds) – Joe Duffy. AAA focuses on continued skill development while introducing the finer points of the game. Competition is full baseball rules with the introduction of umpires as well. Team formation is via a draft to ensure a competitive balance between teams.

National Majors (11 Year Olds) – Bob Elias. The National Leaguers play full Cal Ripken Baseball rules on the 60 foot field. Teams are formed via a draft to ensure competitive balance.

American Majors (12 Year Olds) – Jeff Grasso. The American leaguers play on a larger field (70 foot bases versus 60 foot bases at the younger ages). Leadoffs are permitted. Teams are formed through a draft process with competitive balance as a primary objective.

13 Prep – Gino Scarengella. This division steps up to play on a regulation size diamond (90 foot bases). The focus is on instruction to playing on the larger field with full Babe Ruth rules. Teams play both in-town and against other towns.

Babe Ruth Juniors (Ages 14–15) – Warren Spencer.

Babe Ruth Seniors (Ages 16–18) – George Herring. Both Babe Ruth division are full

baseball rules with games in both Newtown and surrounding towns.

Calling All Sponsors

Over the years we have had tremendous support from businesses in the community. I thank our dedicated sponsors for their past contributions. The money provided by sponsorships goes to provide new equipment, upgraded fields and improved training for the kids. For a small, tax deductible contribution sponsors receive publicity through the website, as well as on the backs of their sponsored team uniforms, in addition to the satisfaction of knowing that their sponsorship helped improve the experiences young individuals. We are always in need of sponsors to fill the nearly 80 teams that are part of the Newtown program. Please consider sponsoring a team or continuing to, if you have in the past. Deb Lombardo is our sponsorship coordinator and can be contacted via the website.

Volunteer Now

As I have said before, the league is run entirely by volunteers. When registering, please consider signing up to be a Head Coach or Assistant Coach. No baseball experience is necessary. In addition, with our new fund raising initiatives, we will need more volunteers.

Rose Kitzmiller and Lorraine Santore have joined the organization with many great ideas that will need active participation. Our initiatives include food concessions and apparel sales, among others. Please join the current dedicated volunteers and make a difference in the baseball program.