

May 2020

**Richmond County
Baseball Club**

1400 Travis Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10314

If you have any
interesting info or news
you would like included
in a future newsletter,
please email to
jim@rcbclub.com.

Visit our website at:

www.rcbclub.com

In This Issue:

Petition	1
Bulletin Board	2
Tournaments	3
Webinars	4
Survey Results	5-8
Uniform Contest	9
Coach Lope	10-12
Marucci Featured Item	13



RCBC Newsletter

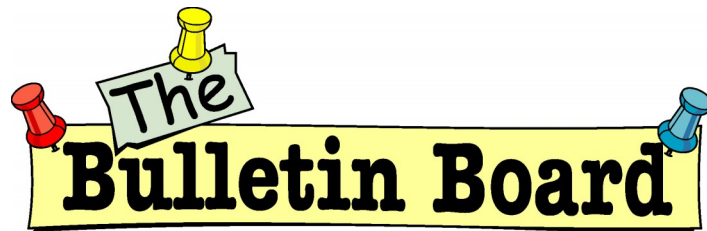
Sign The "Restart Baseball In NY" Petition



Sponsored by the NY Baseball Coalition, a group of baseball programs, organizations and industry leaders, the petition will be directed to Governor Cuomo and NY County Executives to allow the resumption of youth baseball safely. The Coalition's goal is to provide a safe way to reopen baseball, declaring "We want a dialogue with governing officials as to how to reopen baseball activities. We have safe solutions to propose. Play Ball. Stay Safe."

You can access the petition online via change.org. Please sign and share so we can get our players back on the field. Thank you for your immediate attention.

Coach DeFendis
Coach Quinn

A graphic of a yellow rectangular bulletin board with a black border. The words "The Bulletin Board" are written on it in a bold, black, serif font. "The" is on a small white tag pinned to the top left with a yellow pushpin. "Bulletin Board" is on the main yellow board, pinned to the top left with a red pushpin and to the top right with a blue pushpin.

The Bulletin Board

- Through the end of May, all RCBC baseball activity remained suspended and the Richmond County Youth Complex remained closed. Once the phased reopening of NYC begins, we will begin to systematically phase in baseball activities safely.
- For teams 11U-17U on a payment plan schedule for their Tournament Fees, please continue to make your payments as you can as we are hopeful to be back to baseball soon. If there are any changes in your tournament schedule, adjustments will be made. You can pay by credit card via your LeagueApps account or by check or cash. Checks should be made out to RCBC and mailed to 98 Tanglewood Drive, Staten Island, NY 10308. Do not mail cash.
- Follow us on Facebook as we continue to help you pass the idle time with info on MLB players and teams, baseball movies, and online games and contests. Keep those player videos coming.
- Thanks to everyone who made a donation for food deliveries for our local healthcare workers. We raised \$4,000 and made 11 deliveries as a result of your generosity.

2020 Tournament Update

Our May tournament schedule was also canceled due to the continued lockdown requirements. We are hopeful that the schedule can resume later in June. For those PG events that were canceled, we have added a new event to our schedule, the PG Super25 Summer Super Qualifier on August 7-9 for 10U, 11U, 12U and 13U. Additional events may be added as well.

For RCBC teams that have had their tournaments canceled, we will attempt to make up with other events later in the season.

Upgrades to the RC Complex continue and the spectator canopy structures are now in place.



On-field improvements continued too with the addition of new dirt and sod to get the fields into optimal condition for when the season starts. We continue to strive to make our complex one of the premier baseball facilities in the northeast.

For more information on our events, including our tournament schedule, visit our Tournament Website at www.rctournaments.com.



We continued to host a number of video webinars during the month on a variety of topics. Following are the most recent ones. If you missed them or want to watch again, video replays are available on the Richmond County Baseball Club website (www.rcbclub.com) or on our YouTube channel.

April 27 - Open Mic With RCBC Players In The Pros featuring Zack Granite, Rickey DeVito and JJ Franco.

May 4 - Talking Baseball with Coaches Matt Senk (Stony Brook), Dave Lorber (Montclair State), Nick Derba (University of Maine) and Phil Cundari (Toronto Blue Jays).

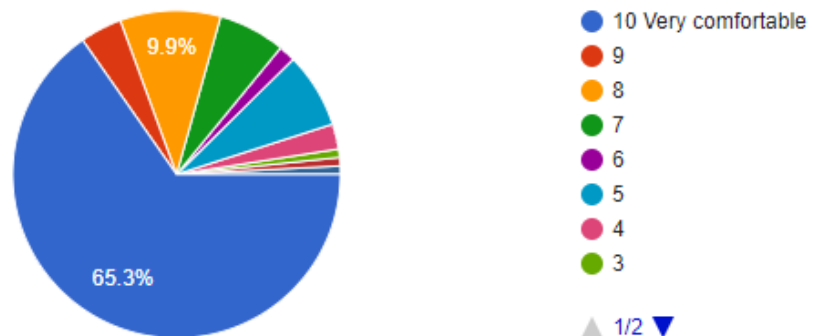
May 11 - Talking Baseball with Coaches Ed Blankmeyer (Brooklyn Cyclones), Darren Fenster (Boston Red Sox), Mike Hampton (St. Johns) and Rob DiToma (Farleigh Dickinson).

May 26 - Hitting Instruction and Drills with Johnny DeFendis from 5 Tool Baseball.

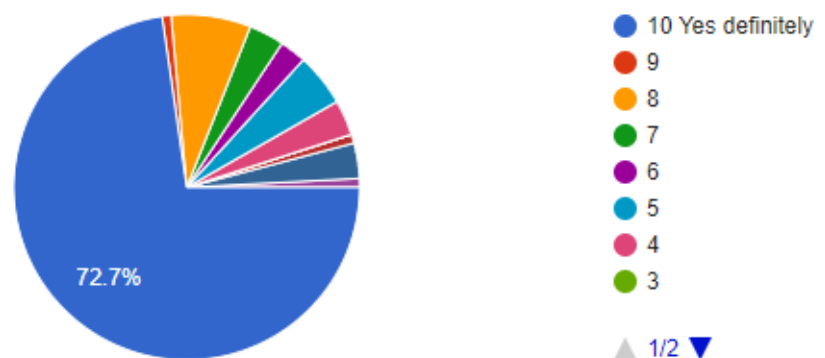
RCBC Member “Return To Baseball” Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who responded to our member “Return To Baseball” survey. We received over 120 responses which is a good representation of our members. Here are the results.

1. How comfortable are you returning to playing baseball in general - 65% said they were “very comfortable” (10) while an additional 14% gave it an 8 or 9.

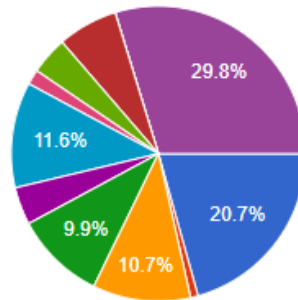


2. Are you willing to travel outside of Staten Island for tournaments or league games - 73% said “yes definitely” (10) while an additional 8% gave it an 8 or 9.

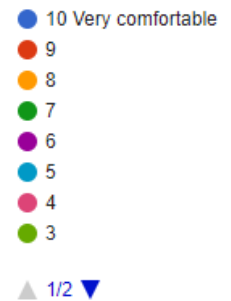
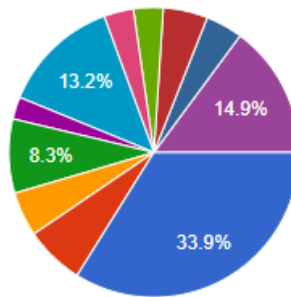


“Return To Baseball” Survey Results (cont’d)

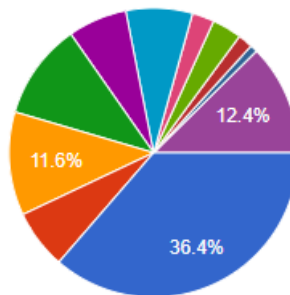
3. How comfortable are you traveling by airplane - mixed responses as 21% said they were “very comfortable” (10) while 30% said they would not fly at all (0).



4. How comfortable are you traveling by bus or van - 34% said they were “very comfortable” (10) while 15% said they “would not travel at all” (0).

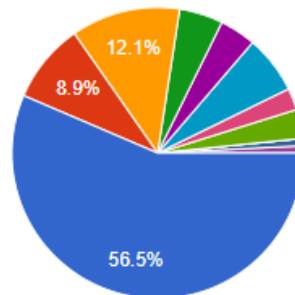


5. How comfortable are you staying at a hotel - 54% said they were “comfortable” (8, 9, 10) while 12% “would not stay at all” (0).

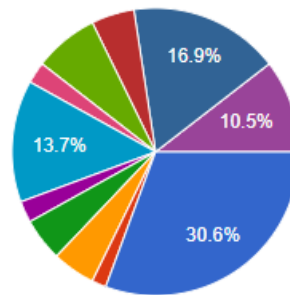


“Return To Baseball” Survey Results (cont’d)

5. How comfortable are you of your son being in the dugout with other players - 77% said they were “comfortable” (8, 9, 10).

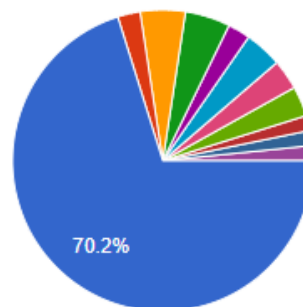


6. How comfortable are you if your son has to wear a mask during practices or games - mixed responses here as well with 31% “very comfortable” (10), 14%



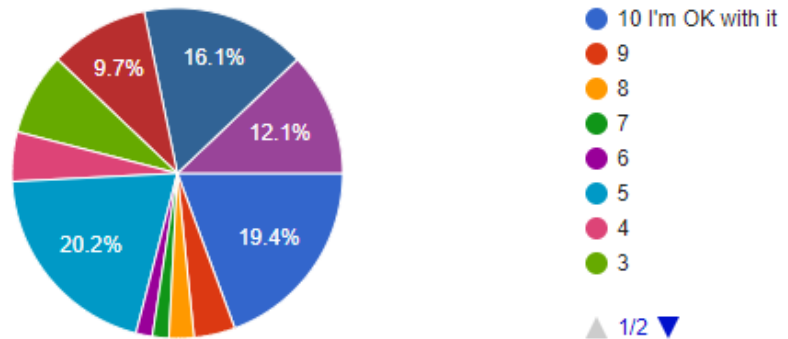
middle of the road (5), 17% very uncomfortable (1) and 10% “would not let their son play at all” (0).

7. How comfortable are you dropping your son off for practices and not being able to stay - 70% said they were “OK with it” (10).



“Return To Baseball” Survey Results (cont’d)

8. How do you feel if spectators are not allowed at the games - 19% said they were “OK with it” (10), 20% were middle of the road (5), 25% were not OK with it (1, 2) and 12% “would not let their son play at all” (0).



Comments:

The overwhelming response was “let’s play ball” with most people being anxious to get back to baseball.

Ensuring that safety precautions and procedures (e.g., social distancing) were in place was also raised.

The most repeated concern was wearing masks on the field or during games. Many felt that there would be other health risks in doing so. Unfortunately we do not know what the requirements will be once we go back. This may be driven by state or even venue requirements.

Thanks again to all those that responded.

Uniform Design Contest

Congratulations to Gregory Harrison (14U Americans) on winning the uniform design contest. Gregory won a pair of Marucci batting gloves for his creative design. 2nd and 3rd place went to Anthony Petruzzelli (9U Nationals) and Christian Falzone (10U Nationals).

Thanks to all the players who submitted an entry; a great job by all. And thanks to all the fans that voted. We hope we provided a little diversion for everyone during this difficult period of idle time.





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Coach Lope's Baseball Thoughts

In This Issue - RCBC's "Jim Of All Trades" -
Master of All

Quote of the Month - A famous Yogi Berra "Yogi-ism" that holds a lot of truth today during this coronavirus pandemic:
"The future ain't what it used to be."

If Jim Russo was an animal in a zoo, he'd be an Octopus - six arms and two legs!! The problem is that Jimmy needs way more than 6 arms to handle the amount of jobs thrown in his direction.

The usual image of Jim when he gets to the Complex is seeing him hurrying out of his car, briskly heading to the Clubhouse for that day's duties; his walk punctuated by a slew of questions from every direction, followed by quick answers as he tries to talk and walk simultaneously! Welcome to the hectic world of Jim Russo at RCBC.

It began calmly for Jim at RCBC. "I started out helping coach my son's team at South Shore LL and Federation, and that continued when the team joined RCBC in 2011."

Russo grew up in East New York, Brooklyn and wound up getting his degree at Queens College (so did Seinfeld. LOL). While Jerry teamed up with Kramer, Elaine and George at NBC, Jimmy went to lower Manhattan to work for 30+ years at Merrill Lynch. Russo left the hectic world of Wall Street for what he thought would be a calmer and a bit more relaxing life of baseball. Then came the one sentence that changed his RCBC existence. "I told Directors Nick DeFendis and George Quinn "that I was pretty good at



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(Continued)

technology." A grand slam for Richmond County. RCBC now officially became high-tech while Russo officially added to his workload; boy did he ever. Jim's title is that of General Administration at RCBC, and with the help of Christina Flashner, they help keep the motor running here.

Below is a list of his various duties:

- Database management and business applications
- Monthly Newsletter (thanks Jim)
- RCBC websites and social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube)
- Email correspondence
- Annual player registrations and payments
- Registration for winter and summer camps
- Annual College Showcase Camp
- RCBC marketing, promotions and advertising
- Marucci liaison, including Locker Room
- Fundraising
- Tournament coordination - primarily pre-tournament set-up

(Russo admittedly has cut down the amount of time with tournaments to save some weekends for the family!).



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(Continued)

Plus, Jimmy has to handle a volume of phone calls and emails at home while at dinner or watching a Mets or Yankee game. So why does he do all this? "I love baseball; being around the game, being around the players and coaches. I feel I help make a difference at RCBC."

Yes, he's the "Jim Of All Trades" and master of all!!!!



Jim and his son Joseph,
a former RCBC player for 6 years,
at last year's Marucci World Series.

Editor's Note: Coach Lope picks his material each month, and although I prefer to stay out of the spotlight, I do appreciate his desire to write this article and for his endorsement and complementary remarks. Jim R.

Marucci Featured Item

RC Custom Protective Gaiter Masks

Extra inventory available. If you did not order initially, please advise your coach if you want to purchase.



- Made of machine washable anti-microbial cotton.
- Made in the U.S.
- Meets all Federal requirements.
- One size fits most: 10" tall by 20" around
- \$20 each.

For all your equipment needs, visit our Marucci Locker Room online store where RCBC members always get a discount.

