

04/07/2015

Travel Meeting for Parents

[Andy Via explaining travel baseball...]

8-year-olds play in "Friendship League". Eight game schedule playing home/away games with neighboring towns followed by single elimination tournament in Woodbridge. Pitching machine is used. No cuts. Teams are equitably distributed. Cost is lower than older divisions.

9-year-old forms district A team made of best players. If enough interest, multiple B teams may be formed. Price is increased to around \$300. Tournament team will play in the Jimmy Fund in Bethel. The A teams are strict with vacations. B teams are more relaxed. Both require no vacations during tournaments and/or playoffs. A roster will be 12 players. B may contain more.

10-year-olds have A-track and B-track with "world series" potential. Vacations may require lengthy travel.

11-year-olds have A track and "a" track. "A" plays on 50/70 (50' mound, 70' base path) fields while "a" plays on 46/60 (46' mound, 60' base path) fields. If enough interest, B teams will be formed that play 50/70.

12-year-olds have A track and "a" track.

[Questions about frequency of practices (approximately 3 every 2 weeks) and games (two or three per week)]

[Explanation of "pool play" for 11-year-old state tournament. Connection teams are divided into two pools that play each other with the top four from each pool making it to the state tournament.]

Coaches of travel teams must be certified before the start of the rec season (probably April 25th). Coaches are selected based on certified parents that volunteer to coach a travel team. Selection from a vote of the other coaches in the division subject to NBR board approval.

Teams must be picked by May 5th so uniforms can be ordered by May 7th so they can come in time for the Jimmy Fund tournament in early June.

[Discussion about playing time for A teams. There is no required minimum playing time. Chris Peterson suggested that NBR have their own minimum required playing time. Question if it's possible to even do that.]

Players that play on an A or a team are required to provide birth certificates with raised seals.

[Question about summer league participation. Andy expects more participation from neighboring towns this year. Explanation about the new summer "Xtreme" league that Andy runs.]

[Complaint about scheduling of playoff tournament and that it favors top ranked teams and unfairly penalizes teams in the losers' bracket because of pitching/player availability.]

Registration Update

About 530 kids. Down about 10%.

Newtown Baseball Day at Dick's

No numbers back from Newtown day, but anecdotal evidences indicates that we had a good turnout.

Travel Uniforms

Uniform selection will be a board decision with input from 12's. Supply is limited.

Nighthawk Clinic Recap

Clinic was fun. About 60 kids attended with about 12 to 15 HS players.

Equipment Distribution

Equipment will be distributed to division directors who will distribute as they see fit.

Newtown Baseball Day at Yale

This Saturday.

Coach's Certification

Coaches must be certified by April 25th.

Background Checks

Background checks are 99% done.

Travel Tryouts

Teams must be selected by May 5th.

Annual Coaches Dinner

Coaches dinner was fantastic. Thanks to Chris Peterson.

Picture Day

Picture day is May 9th.

Field Setup

Cages are set up at Walnut Tree. Middle School cage was terrible and was replaced by a used net. Some minimal work has been done. 11's and 12's need to set up the nets for the cages. Some leveling is being done to Watertown fields. To-do list has been given to Parks & Rec for other fields.

Fanfest

Andy was approached by NYA to have an event. Saturday the 25th from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM for 5/6 (from 2 to 3:30 and 7/8 from 3:30 to 5). May 16th (rain date 17th) for older division at Glander.

Magnet board

Andy presented design for a new magnet board.

Parks and Recreation Field Usage

Two P&R meetings since the last NBR meeting. At first meeting. NBR got a waiver to let some Monroe players that have no home team to play with us. The Captains and American Legion were denied field time. NBR offered to manage field time for the Captains so that Newtown families could play. Initial discussions seemed promising, but eventually stopped. A special P&R meeting was held yesterday where the Captains were unanimously given field time.

[Questions: What changed? Did Pat Llodra force votes to be changed? Is she trying to ruin town baseball so there are fewer fields to maintain? Should families expect to join a team in another town and still be entitled to play on Newtown fields? Will the Captains once again be given prime field slots that are disproportionately large and unfair to NBR? What is to stop other teams from leaving NBR and claiming to be an AAU organization that demands field time? Who will organize all of these organizations when P&R doesn't seem to work past 3:00 PM? What is the rationale for granting these waivers? Is the process corrupt?]