



Pete Kokinis Baseball League

2021 Preseason Newsletter

Welcome to our 2021 Preseason Newsletter! 2020 was quite a year, it was our 75th! Even though we had to cancel our Summer season, we were able to hold our first ever Fall program with 25 teams. If health conditions allow, we are planning both Summer and Fall seasons for 2021.

Summer Season Calendar

We plan to start our 16-game season on June 7, but we will keep an eye on what the CIAC decides to do with the Spring sports schedule. Our Championship Games are scheduled for July 31 and August 1 at New Britain Stadium. Please let your parents know these dates. Our current schedule is at the end of this newsletter.

Summer Registration opens January 1

Team registration for the 2021 Summer season opens on January 1 on our website, kokinisbaseball.com. There is a \$200 per team deposit required to hold your place in the league, and we are offering a \$100 discount if you register your team by January 31.

This year we will accept payments through Venmo! If not paying electronically, please mail checks payable to "Pete Kokinis Baseball League". Instructions will be in the receipt you receive after registering your team.

2021 Summer team registration fees are:

2021 PKBL Summer Registration	Prep (13)	Junior (14-15)	Senior (16-19)
Without Insurance	\$1550	\$1600	\$1700
With Insurance	\$1800	\$1850	\$2050

Umpire Fees

For games covered by the Hartford Board, umpires are paid for by the League. For all regular season and playoff games covered by any other umpire board (for example, New Haven, Eastern Connecticut, Torrington, Waterbury, Western Mass), the home team will pay umpires on the field. The "home" team is the team that bats last. At the end of June and the end of the season, teams will submit a record of umpire payments made. The League will reimburse teams within 10 days.

COVID-19

Until further notice, the League will continue to adhere to COVID guidelines at the State and local levels. Our COVID-19 Return to Play Guidelines are available on our site. Also, all our meetings will be held on Zoom until such time as we can meet in person safely.

Insurance

We have raised the liability limit on our insurance policy to \$3,000,000. We did this to better protect the league and teams against lawsuits. We recommend teams providing their own insurance purchase a \$2,000,000 policy, but the choice is up to the team.

On-line Player and Coach Registration

This year all players and coaches must register on our website after the team has registered. A parent or guardian must register first if the player is under 18 years of age. League and COVID waivers will be 'signed' on-line. Birth Certificates will be uploaded to our site and securely stored. We will no longer require coaches to submit registration packets. Instructions will be available soon.

PKBL Night at the Bees and 2021 Championship Games at New Britain Stadium

We are pleased to announce that we are continuing our relationship with the New Britain Bees. As part of your registration fee, you will receive 15 tickets to the Pete Kokinis Baseball League Night at the Bees. We will announce the date when the Bees schedule is released.

Our Championship Games will be held at New Britain Stadium on Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1, with rain date Monday, August 2 (at sites to be determined).

League Patches

All players shall wear uniforms bearing the Pete Kokinis Baseball League patch. We will provide a jpg to supply to uniform vendors for silk screening, and we will also provide iron-on patches free of charge for teams that prefer them.

Supervisor Wanted!

We are looking for a youth baseball enthusiast to join our crew as a Division Supervisor. The Supervisor:

- Is the liaison between several teams and the League
- Answers questions from the teams on rules and policies
- Communicates schedule changes from the teams to the League
- Facilitates team roster changes
- Attends games with an eye on good sportsmanship
- Collects game scores from the coaches and enters scores into the website
- Attends League meetings (3 with teams plus Supervisor meeting in the fall)

If you're interested in the position, please contact Dan Turkeltaub, dan.turkeltaub@gmail.com.

Administrative Rule Highlights

- Standings Tiebreaker – we have amended the tiebreaker to include Runs Against. Teams will now be ranked as follows:
 1. Points (Wins x 2) + ties
 2. Wins
 3. Head to Head
 4. Runs Against
 5. If still tied, a coin flip will determine playoff seeding. If three or more teams are tied, seeding will be determined by lot.Note our website will rank teams only on the first three criteria. Runs Against is displayed in the standings table but the table will not rank the fourth factor.
- Double rostering – we allow double rostering between divisions as follows:
 - Up to five Junior Division players may be double rostered on a Senior Division team.
 - Up to five Prep players may be double rostered on a Junior Division team.
 - A player may not be double rostered on teams within the same Division (Prep, Junior, Senior).

Playing Rule Highlights

- Rule Book
 - We use the NFHS Baseball Rule book, amended with our own rules sheet. NFHS is not publishing a new rule book for 2021 so the 2020 book will be used this year.
- Designated Hitter
 - The League does not use a designated hitter. We allow an extra hitter which does not bat for a defensive player. See the Playing Rules “EH RULE”.
- Mercy Rule
 - We follow the CIAC mercy rule for regular season games. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind ten (10) or more runs after 4½ innings or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. The mercy rule will also be used in playoff games.
- Equipment
 - Bats – the NFHS rule applies for all Divisions. Bats that are not made of a single piece of wood must meet the BBCOR performance standard and must be marked “BBCOR .50”
 - Chest Protectors - Catchers must wear chest protectors that meet the NOCSAE standard at time of manufacture. The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all body/chest protectors that meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
 - Baseballs - Baseballs for the Senior Division must meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacturer. Junior and Prep divisions may use the Rawlings RBRO1 Babe Ruth or equivalent baseball. See the Playing Rules for examples of approved baseballs.
- Lineup Cards
 - Lineup cards must contain first and last name, and uniform number, and on the reverse, the names of players ineligible to pitch that day.
- Coaches Uniforms
 - The League no longer provides shirts as we found most coaches wear team shirts. All on-field coaches must wear a uniform. Baseball pants and a team shirt or pullover/jacket are required. Please see the Playing Rules document for complete information.
- Electronic Scorebooks
 - An electronic scorebook may be used. Any scorebook, electronic or paper, must be made available for inspection by League officials upon request.

Background Checks

The League will again require yearly Background Checks. They are confidential and administered by Protect Youth Sports.

As a youth-serving organization, The Pete Kokinis Baseball League considers the safety and well-being of the youth in our program a top priority. Therefore, we continue to require a yearly background checking program to include all team personnel that come into contact with players.

Prior to a team’s first game, a background check will need to be performed on every Team Representative, Manager, Coach, Assistants, and volunteers. Your failure to participate will make you unavailable to coach and interact with League players. If, on game day, no team personnel have had a background check performed, the game will be forfeited. The check may take up to 48 hours to process so please do not wait until the day of your first game to submit for your background check. The check

must be performed using the League's service. Background checks made by your organization cannot be accepted.

See the Background Check page on our website for a link to Protect Youth Sports.

What you need:

Full Legal Name, Current and past addresses, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, and Driver's License Number.

Fee:

The fee for the background check is \$10.95 which will be charged to your Debit or Credit Card. The Vantis Life Baseball League is not responsible for this fee and will not reimburse anyone ordering a background check.

The Process:

When you are ready to submit your information, click on the link below. You will be redirected to our provider's site. When completed, the results will be provided to the Chair of the League's Background Check Committee, who will log your completion. He and only he will have access to your results.

Should there be an issue that requires follow-up information; The Chair of the Background Check Committee will contact you personally.

Please see the table below for a list of general suggestions of people who should submit to a background check. This list is not inclusive. Use your best judgment.

If you are or do the following, submit for a background check:

- Team Representative
- Head or Assistant Coach
- Scorekeeper
- Dad that throws batting practice
- Interns
- Anything that puts you in a private setting with a player

Some positions that, depending on their level of involvement with your team, might not need a background check:

- PA Announcers
- Writers
- Statisticians
- Concession Workers
- Groundskeepers

If you have any questions about background checks, please contact Dan Turkeltaub, dan.turkeltaub@gmail.com.

2021 Schedule (subject to change):

Organizational Meeting – Wednesday, April 7
Scheduling Meetings – Week of May 3
Rules Meeting – Wednesday, May 26
CIAC Finals – Friday and Saturday, June 11 & 12
Opening Day Prep and Junior – Monday, June 7
Opening Day Senior – Tuesday, June 8
League Night at the Bees – TBD
Last Day to Change Rosters – Saturday, June 26
Playoff Eligibility Form Due – Saturday, July 17
End of Regular Season – Thursday, July 22
Playoffs Begin (all divisions) – Saturday, July 24
Championship Games at New Britain Stadium – Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1
Rain date for Championship Games – Monday, August 2

Do you need more information about our League? Please contact League Director Pete Kokinis, peterkokinis44@gmail.com or Director of Operations Dan Turkeltaub, dan.turkeltaub@gmail.com.