

evanston

Baseball & Softball Association

Newsletter-2010 Season

Presidents' Message

Welcome to Evanston Baseball and Softball Association. Our website is currently being updated for the 2010 season and will be ready to go soon. In the meantime, registration for the 2010 house league season is underway. Please click on the appropriate link to get started.

Last season we had 1500 boys and girls playing baseball and softball. Our 2009 season was a tremendous success at all age levels in both our house and travel leagues. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our boys and girls playing EBSA.

We hope you had plenty of opportunity to come out and watch the games, including the baseball and softball tournaments we hosted in 2009, which brought in teams from neighboring communities. As always, our sincere thanks to the City for their continuous support, including their outstanding field maintenance throughout the season. We also hope you enjoyed our new electronic scoreboards on fields J1-J14 at James Park. We received many positive comments. The scoreboards certainly add to the buzz and excitement at James Park on game days.

We are excited for the opportunities 2010 brings for EBSA. This season we brought on Joe Knudsen as EBSA's Player and Development Coordinator. Joe is a member of the ETHS Varsity Baseball coaching staff. Joe's experience and demeanor with the kids will be a tremendous asset to EBSA. Keep an eye on our website and for EBSA emails for the numerous player and coach instructional clinics that Joe will be heading up.

We are always in need of dedicated volunteers. If you love EBSA like we do and are interested to get more involved at any level, please contact us to discuss openings.

Thank you all for your continued support and passion for EBSA.

Play Catch!

Bill Blanchard Michael Weber
Co-Presidents, EBSA

The EBSA Mission

To teach Evanston's young people the skills, values, and just plain fun of baseball and fast pitch softball. We have been Evanston's main youth baseball and softball program for almost 60 years.

Our Values

We believe that community baseball and fast-pitch softball should be open to all boys and girls. Our no-cut programs ensure that all registered players will have the opportunity to fully participate. We believe that ability to pay should not be a factor and so offer financial aid to all who need it. We believe in the value of participating in multiple sports. We make every effort to keep the game in perspective, insisting that players, parents, coaches, and umpires treat one another with respect.

Registration is Underway for the 2010 EBSA Baseball and Fast-Pitch Softball Season

This newsletter contains the information you will need to register for the 2010 season of the Evanston Baseball and Softball Association.

- *Please note:* For the Rookie, Farm, and softball leagues, if you register by the February 28 deadline, we can place your child with friends or classmates. If you register late your child will be placed where there are openings. There will be no exceptions. (Middle, Major, and Pony teams are assembled based on player ability in order to balance play.)
- Our main form of communication is e-mail so the sooner you register, the sooner you will receive our e-mail newsletters.

Our website carries a wealth of information, or call the hotline.

www.evanstonbaseball.com or www.evanstonsoftball.com

847-604-1266.



BASEBALL LEAGUES

In all the baseball leagues of the Evanston Baseball and Softball Association, every registered player plays in every game that he or she attends. We also know that the better a player's skills, the more fun the game will be. So we emphasize teaching the game as well as playing.

Rookie League: Ages 5-6

The Rookie League is a wonderful introduction to the sport. (Girls interested in softball should play in the Rookie League, with the option of switching from baseball to softball at age seven or age eight.) Games are Saturday morning at 9:00am, with a midweek game after school is out. Teams have 12-13 players, ensuring the most possible individual attention. A batting T is used to emphasize the importance of learning a proper swing, with some pitching by coaches.

Farm League: Ages 7-8 (See also girls, age 7, softball)

Coaches pitch in this developmental league for boys and girls age 7-8. Games are played at 1 pm on Saturday afternoons, with one midweek game after school ends. Emphasis is on the fundamentals of the game with children playing all the positions. Innings are over when three outs are made. For many children the Farm League is their entry point to baseball. Important Note: There are two Farm League divisions, Farm-Orange for 8-year-olds and Farm-Blue for 7-year-olds. This age-group division ensures a higher quality of instruction and play for youngsters in both groups, and the introduction of age-appropriate skills.

The T-3 Program: 8-Year-Olds

The entry point for the travel program is designed for boys and girls in the Farm League who will be 8-years old by September 1, 2010—mostly those who have finished 2nd grade. Called Travel Training Team (T-3), this program includes six to eight advanced training sessions held on a once per week basis. Players receive instruction in all aspects of the game. All sessions are held at James Park starting approximately in mid-June.

Baseball Playing Age **Special Note About "Playing Up"*

In the house leagues, the league age is based on age as of September 1, 2010. The exception to this rule is for players born during August, in which case the player has the option of playing up with his or her classmates or down with his or her age group.

The Travel Leagues in which we compete set May 1, 2010 as the age "as-of" date. EBSA policy is that for travel ball, your child will have the option of playing "younger" or "older" if his or her birthday falls between May 1 and September 1.

The EBSA will not grant waivers to play up beyond the guidelines listed above.



Coordination with Soccer

Through an agreement with Team Evanston, we play Middle League games at 10:45 am on Saturdays. We do this to accommodate the significant number of children age 10 and under who play travel soccer in the spring. We are doing this because we believe in the value of children having the opportunity to play multiple sports and want to do what we can to help minimize conflicts. If your child has ability in multiple sports, nurture it.

Middle League: Ages 9-10

The Middle League is another fine entry point to the game. The Middle League plays at 10:45am on Saturdays, with one midweek game. Players pitch and innings are over when there are three outs or five runs are scored. Umpires work each game and the season ends with a championship tournament. Teams are formed with the objective of evenness and balance.

Major League: Ages 11-12

While most players in the Major League have prior baseball experience, we have seen many youngsters start the game at the Major League level if they have the desire and athletic ability. Games are played on Saturday afternoons, with one or two games midweek. Leadoffs and base stealing become part of the game. All games are umpired. Innings end with three outs or when the roster bats. Teams are formed with the objective of evenness and balance. A championship tournament ends the season.

Pony League: Ages 13-14

In this league, all the rules of baseball are in force, including leadoffs and stealing. Teams are formed with the objective of evenness and balance. Umpires work all games. Some Pony League games are played under the lights at James Park. Up to three games are played each week, typically with one weekend game and one or two in midweek.

HOW TEAMS ARE FORMED

Rookie and Farm Leagues

For these two leagues players are matched with classmates, friends, and others from their neighborhood. Players who register after the February 28 deadline will be placed where there are openings. There will be no exceptions.

Middle, Major, and Pony Leagues

For teams in these leagues, we feel it important to have competitive balance among all teams in each league. Each team will have players from throughout the city. Middle League is the first in which players are placed on teams based on skill.

July Ball

After the end of the spring and early summer season we form new teams at the Middle, Major, and Pony level and play a July season in partnership with the Ken-Win baseball association.

Fall Ball

Fall Ball is offered to Middle Major and Pony League players. Fall provides motivated ballplayers the opportunity to stay on the field well into the autumn.

BASEBALL FEES

The Evanston and Skokie-Evanston fee for Rookie, Farm, Middle, Major and Pony Leagues is \$160 for the first child and \$90 for each additional child in one family. In all EBSA programs, scholarships are available for all Evanston and Skokie-Evanston residents who need them. (While we welcome players from other communities, we do not offer out-of-town scholarships.) If you are not a resident of Evanston or Skokie-Evanston you are welcome to play in the EBSA. The fee for the regular season is \$200.

Baseball Traveling Teams

(for players age 9 to 14)

Players between the ages of 9 and 14 who are interested in playing a competitive second season of baseball should try out for a spot on the EBSA age group traveling teams. The season starts in the beginning of June and runs through the last full weekend of July.

We provide players with the coaching and training needed to produce strong, competitive baseball teams. For a child who enjoys baseball and a developmental track that can lead to high school play, the EBSA travel teams are ideal.

Please note that there are additional fees charged to play on a travel team. These fees cover among other things, the league and tournament fees, uniforms and coaching stipends. However, payment plans and scholarships are available.

Ages 9 through 12: Age Group Travel Teams: Lake Shore Feeder League

Players who are nine through twelve are eligible to try out for the age group traveling teams. In order to qualify for play on the EBSA travel teams, players must also play in one of the regular EBSA leagues. Travel teams are formed in February and March and practice during the regular EBSA season. The teams will play in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League against communities ranging from Park Ridge to Lake Forest. In addition, teams will play in two weekend tournaments during the season.

Cooperstown Teams

Both of the 12-year old travel teams will play in week long tournaments in Cooperstown New York during the first week in July. This extraordinary baseball experience has become an EBSA tradition.

Travel Team Tryouts

Tryout sessions for the travel teams for ages 9 through 12 will be held in February and March. The dates and times will be well publicized through e-mail on the EBSA website: www.evanstonbaseball.com. All tryouts will be held indoors at Evanston High School.

***Important:** Travel team players cannot miss more than a week of the season due to camp, vacation or other commitments. Players who will be gone for more than a week from Memorial Day through the end of the July are not eligible to try out. Additionally, a player must be present during the last week of the July for the league championship tournament. We assume that a player who makes the commitment to travel ball will have baseball as his or her first athletic priority during the course of the travel season. If you are not in a position to meet the participation requirement, the July Ball program with our Ken-Win teams is an option.



Ages 13 and 14: All-Travel Options

Players age 13 and 14 try out for the EBSA travel teams in the fall and participate in practice sessions starting right after the new year. In the spring, teams begin playing in a series of competitive weekend tournaments in the greater Chicago area. During the summer, the teams play in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League which ends with its championship tournament during the last week of July.

Players on these teams are welcome to play on house league teams as well, but are not required to. In either case travel play would have priority over house league play. Please note that only players who are eligible to attend Evanston Township High School or who have played at least one year prior in the EBSA are eligible to try out for these 13/14 teams.

Jackie Robinson League

At the end of the house league season, EBSA forms teams to play against competition from the Jackie Robinson League in Chicago. These Jackie Robinson teams offer higher level competition for kids who might otherwise not play baseball in the summer. We will form as many teams as necessary in the 11/12 and 13/14 age groups.



How Travel Teams are Selected

Travel teams are selected by the travel team coaches for each age group. At the 13 and 14 year old level, evaluators from the Evanston High School baseball staff are also involved in the evaluation process. Along with previous season play and evaluation, players are rated during tryouts as to their defensive skills, throwing strength and accuracy, and hitting skills. Others factors being equal, a player who has been in the EBSA will have preference over a player who is new to the Association.

Baseball Key Contacts

Co-Presidents

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The Commissioners

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Coach Amanda Carlson

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GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL LEAGUES

A rapidly growing sports option for girls in grades 3-8 is fast-pitch softball. All teams play about 12 games during the season and then participate in a playoff tournament. All games are played at 6 pm on weekdays. About half the games are played at James Park or Evanston Township High School, with away games played against teams from Skokie, Niles and Morton Grove.

EBSA will sponsor pitching classes and indoor practice sessions in the winter, so players are encouraged to **REGISTER EARLY** so they can receive information about these opportunities.

7-Year Old Softball

For girls interested in getting an early start in softball, EBSA's entry point to softball is for 7-year-olds. This is a T-ball version of softball and a great way to get started in the game.

Pigtail Division: Girls currently in 3rd or 4th grade

Basic skills are emphasized and pitching is introduced. Girls use an 11" softball and pitch from 35 feet, with roster batting. A no-walk rule speeds up the game as coaches step in to pitch as needed. There are two games per week on Tuesday and Thursday with practices scheduled by coaches. Girls may sign up with a friend. Teams are kept together for two years.

Ponytail Division: Girls currently in 5th or 6th grade

Players in this division typically have some softball experience but a few start at this age. Skills grow as girls learn to steal bases and pitch consistently. A 12" softball is used and pitching is from 40 feet, with roster batting. Games are on Monday and Wednesday, with practices scheduled by coaches. Teams are formed with the objective of evenness and balance. We try to keep teams together for two years.

Junior Division: Girls currently in 7th or 8th grade

Players learn finer points of the game including sliding, dropped third strike, and the infield fly rule as parts of the game. Girls have usually started to specialize in a position or two, with roster batting. Teams are formed with the objective of evenness and balance. Games are also played against Morton Grove, Skokie, and Niles. There will be two games per week, most likely on Monday and Wednesday, and occasionally on Sunday.

Softball Playing Age

In the softball leagues, girls play according to their grade in school. For travel teams, the "as of" age is January 1, 2010.

How Teams are Formed

In the Pigtail Division girls may sign up with one friend. In the Ponytail and Junior Divisions, teams are formed with the objective of evenness and balance. We try to keep teams together for two years.

Softball Fees

The fee for all softball leagues is \$160. This includes a uniform and all necessary equipment except the glove. Many players bring their own bats. Personal bats are shared with others on the team.

Can I Register with a Friend?

Yes. In your registration you can stipulate that you would like to be on a team with a friend of your choosing, as long as that friend also requests you. E-mail this information to the softball commissioner.



SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT TEAMS

For experienced players who would like to compete at an advanced level, the Evanston Baseball and Softball Association sponsors two fast-pitch softball travel teams. One is for girls 12- and under, the other is for girls 14-and-under.

Our intention in forming traveling tournament teams is to develop squads that play as competitive a game of fast-pitch softball as possible. Tournament teams typically play five or more games over a weekend within driving distance from home. Tryouts are in the fall with team members chosen based on skill and commitment to the game. Practices take place all winter, with up to nine weekend tournaments scheduled from May through July.

Softball Key Contacts

Commissioner

Stephen Reiches

Stephen.Reiches@rrcapital.com

Tournament Teams

Dan Managlia

Managlia@gmail.com

SPECIAL EVENTS

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Picture Days We will take pictures of all players and teams. Dates and times will be announced. Pictures are mailed directly to your home.</p> | <p>Baseball and Softball Fest Saturday, June 5 from 9 am to 5 pm This is our annual celebration of the games of baseball and fast-pitch softball. Most teams will be scheduled to play a game at James Park during the course of the day. There will be carnival games, home run derby, the batting cage, and throwing games for older players.</p> |
| <p>Raffle Each EBSA family will receive ten raffle tickets with their registration. Each family is then free to either sell the tickets for their \$5 face value, or keep them for entry in the annual EBSA raffle. Prizes are donated by local businesses and families. Drawing will be the afternoon on June 5 (rain or shine) to cap off Baseball and Softball Fest. This is our most important annual fund raising activity. The prizes are terrific, with lots of winners</p> | <p>Grand Slam Tourney for 8-Year-Olds July 11 (date subject to change) All players moving up to the baseball Middle League are invited to register and play in this two-day round robin tournament. Teams are formed from the youngsters who register.</p> |



2010 DATES TO REMEMBER

(all dates subject to change)

For up-to-date information, please refer to the EBSA website and EBSA emails

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|---------------|--|
| February 28 | Registration Deadline for all Leagues |
| March / April | Coaches Clinics – Dates to be Announced |
| April 17 | Middle, Major, Pony Leagues Open |
| April 24 | Rookie & Farm Leagues Open |
| May 10 | Girls Fast-Pitch Softball Leagues Open |
| June 5 | Baseball / Softball Fest |
| June 6-13 | Tournament Week Season Ends for Middle, Major, Pony Leagues |
| June 26 | Girls Fast-Pitch Softball, Rookie, and Farm Leagues End |
| July 2-9 | Cooperstown Tournaments – Two Twelve Year Old Travel Teams to Attend |
| July 11 | Eight Year Old Grand Slam Tournament |



2010 Baseball and Softball House League Registration

Mail to EBSA * PO Box 5530 * Evanston, IL 60204

Hotline: 847-604-1266 www.evanstonbaseball.com or www.evanstonsoftball.com

Registration deadline is February 28, 2010. After that time a waiting list will be used

PLEASE USE THIS FORM ONLY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO REGISTER ONLINE ON THE EBSA WEBSITE

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Player's First Name | Player's Last Name | Parent/Guardian |
| School | Grade (2009/2010) | <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
| Home Address | City | Zip |
| Date of Birth | Home Phone | Today's Date |
| E-mail (please print clearly) | | E-mail (again) |

Baseball League
(Age as of 9/1/10)

- Rookie (Ages 5-6)*
 Farm (Ages 7-8)*
 Middle (Ages 9-10)

- Major (Ages 11-12)
 Pony (Ages 13-14)

Softball League
(By Grade)

- Junior Ponytail (grade 1-2)*
 Pigtail (grade 3-4)*

- Ponytail (grade 5-6)*
 Junior (grade 7-8)

The Evanston and Skokie-Evanston fee for Rookie, Farm, Middle, Major, and Pony Leagues is \$160 for the first child and \$90 for all additional siblings. If you are not a resident of Evanston or Skokie-Evanston you are welcome to play in the EBSA. The fee will be \$200. In all EBSA programs, scholarships are available for all Evanston and Skokie Evanston residents who need them. (We do not offer scholarships to out-of-town players.)

I hereby give my approval for this child to participate in any and all activities of the EBSA. I understand that baseball and softball can be dangerous games, and that protective equipment does not prevent all injuries to players, and do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold harmless the EBSA, its organizers, directors, officers, coaches, sponsors, supervisors, participants, the City of Evanston, and persons transporting my child to and from EBSA activities from any claim arising out of any injury connected with or resulting from any EBSA activity. We further agree that our child/ward above is covered by our medical/insurance policy.

Signature of Parent or Guardian

*For Rookie and Farm League and Softball Only:
Please try to place me with this player.

(After February 28, we will not assure placement with a friend)

EBSA Volunteers!

Please choose at least one

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coach/Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball Fest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Raffle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picture Day | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration |

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check #

Cash Amount:

Initials:

EBSA Scholarships!

Evanston Residents Only:

If you would like to request a scholarship, call 847-604-1266 before sending in your registration.

Please consider donating to the EBSA Scholarship Fund. Sponsor a player for \$160. (Contributions are tax deductible)

Fee: \$160.00 per child/\$90 for siblings \$ _____

Fee (non-resident): \$200.00 per child \$ _____

Scholarship Fund _____

Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to EBSA