



March, 2011

Dear Coach,

Thank you for volunteering to coach in the DYA program this year. Volunteers are the foundation of this program and there would be no DYA without people like you. You are sincerely appreciated.

In preparation for the upcoming league meeting we have enclosed a few items for your review. Your reading this material before the meeting will make the meeting run more efficiently. Write down any questions you have and bring them to the meeting. Thank you.

### **League Meeting Schedule**

Your league meeting is scheduled as follows at Tommy's Pizza, next to the DYA office. The meeting is for coaches only. Please **DO NOT BRING PLAYERS** or other parents. You may bring your assistant coach.

#### **BASEBALL LEAGUES**

Wiffleball	Sunday, May 15th	7:00 p.m.
Rookie Coach Pitch	Sunday, March 13th	4:00 p.m.
Class A Coach Pitch	Sunday, March 13th	5:30 p.m.
Class A Machine Pitch	Sunday, March 13th	3:00 p.m.
AA	Sunday, March 13th	7:00 p.m.
AAA	Monday, March 14th	7:00 p.m.
Junior Pony	Sunday, April 3rd	5:00 p.m.
Pony	Sunday, April 3rd	7:00 p.m.
Senior Pony	Sunday, April 3rd	7:00 p.m.

#### **SOFTBALL LEAGUES**

Coach Pitch Softball	Sunday, March 13th	1:00 p.m.
Softball Minors	Sunday, March 13th	2:15 p.m.
Softball Majors	Sunday, March 13th	4:00 p.m.
Softball Seniors	Sunday, March 13th	5:45 p.m.

Equipment and uniform boxes can be picked up at the office after the scheduled meeting. Please arrive early as the player drafts will start on time.

Bring a \$300 check dated July 31<sup>st</sup>, payable to DYA for deposit on your equipment. The check will not be cashed, unless you do not return your equipment at the end of the season.

## **Purpose of Program**

To have fun and learn the sport. This program is for the kids.

## **Organizational Structure**

You are the coach and the person in charge of your team. You report to your league commissioner and should take up any issues, questions, or concerns with him/her first. The commissioner reports to the respective Director of Baseball or Director of Softball, both elected members of the Board of Directors. Each of these directors reports to the entire board and its president. In addition there is an athletic director, whose sole function is to serve as a facilitator and resource for the commissioners in securing fields, uniforms, and equipment, making schedules, coordinating the sign-up procedure, maintaining the data base, etc. The athletic director has no authority in running the leagues. Please communicate with the commissioner of your league first, who will then take whatever steps are necessary, including taking your issue to the board members or the full Board of Directors. Thank you.

## **Passing Out Uniforms**

One of the duties you have as coach is to distribute uniforms to players. For Rookie Coach Pitch, Class A Baseball, and Coach Pitch Softball, **it is strongly suggested that you have all your players present before distribution.** If you do not have a full roster, it is suggested you wait a few practices before you pass uniforms out. In order to have uniforms ready to start this season, they had to be ordered last September. We know from past experience the general sizes of kids in these leagues and have had no adverse repercussions from ordering the same sizes year to year. Most difficulties have occurred when teams have distributed uniforms piecemeal, only to find the smallest uniforms remain for the biggest kids (or vice versa). In addition to the players' hats or visors (softball teams only), there are three coaches hats (adult size) in your uniform box. In other DYA baseball and softball leagues, a generic shirt is used year after year. Some players will not have purchased a jersey. On your list of players in the draft is listed whether they purchased a shirt and which size. At the end of your meeting the coaches will receive the shirts orders. Remember this is a change from prior years, and not everyone will have ordered a shirt.

## **Team Composition**

Players in the Rookie Coach Pitch, Class A, and Coach Pitch Softball leagues were assigned to their teams. Other leagues are drafted. Information regarding the respective drafts is mailed before the league meeting with this handbook. Make sure you read it and come prepared to make player selections promptly in your turn. Evaluations should be considered confidential and not shared with players or your children.

## **Filling Vacancies on Rosters**

Your roster may not be full and you may think you have an extra uniform, so you can just pick up another player. Not true. Do not attempt to do this. We are beginning to hold applications as of March 8<sup>th</sup> on a wait list and will call you to fill your roster vacancies. In addition each year we have to hold a handful of openings in each league to accommodate players who signed-up for the wrong league and do not realize it until the first practice they attend. **Under no circumstances may a coach add a player to his/her team on his/her own.** All applications must be filled out at the office and will be placed in the league on a first come, first in basis. Assignments to teams will be made by the league office.

## **Umpires and Umpire Payment**

In leagues for second grade and below, parent volunteers are used to umpire games. Paid youth umpires are used for the following leagues: AA, AAA, Junior Pony, Softball Minor, Softball Major, and Softball Senior. Coaches will be provided \$15 per home game to pay youth officials. The league will pay umpires after the season for any tournament games they work. During the regular season the team designated as the home team will pay the umpire before the game starts. Thus, a team that has played all its home games will have no money remaining at the season's end.

Please note that some youth umpires will be paid at a higher rate based on experience. Since we do not know yet who will be assigned to do your games, all youth umpires will receive \$15 at the game. The balance due them will be paid by the league office at the end of the season. Do not pay out more than \$15 at the game. You will not be reimbursed.

In the event of a rainout of a game that has been started, but not an official game, the umpire keeps his/her pay. For games rained out and not started coaches are required to return unused umpire money at the end of the season.

## **Umpire's Buddy**

Each coach will name an umpire's buddy for his/her team. The umpire's buddy is a non-coaching parent who will be at games to ensure that parents on your team's sideline remember who this league is for and will protect the umpire from verbal abuse that can occur from time to time. The umpire's buddy needs to be someone who appreciates the importance of having an umpire for the game and will be tactful in advising unruly parents to calm down or leave.

## **Rainouts**

For any games or practices that are to be canceled due to inclement weather, notice will be provided in two places. A voice message will be available at 777-2222 x 7246 (RAIN) after 4:00 p.m. Please do not call before 4:00 p.m. as the message cannot be changed if anyone is listening to it. Thus, if there is to be a last minute decision, that decision cannot be communicated on the RAIN line if anyone is on it. There are 20 incoming lines to the system, so access until game time should not be a problem. On weekends, the message will be changed at 9:45 a.m. on Saturdays and 11:45 on Sundays, unless someone is listening to the message. The system is not perfect, but it is very effective if not abused with callers jumping the gun.

Information about cancellations can also be found at the DYA web site:

[www.dublinyouthathletics.com](http://www.dublinyouthathletics.com) or [www.dya.com](http://www.dya.com)

## **Lightning Detection System**

In 2000 the City of Dublin has installed a lightning detection and warning system throughout parts of the city. Please follow the instructions in the flyer provided regarding suspension and cancellation of play and feel free to make copies for your team.

Remember, this is an early warning system that advises lightning has been detected in the distance and our fields are in the path of the danger. The system's range is set to detect lightning 10-30 miles away, and thus provide an early warning. If lightning is visible, it is usually within the 10 mile range, and the alarm would not sound. Use common sense in that case. Lightning is a danger. If you see lightning, clear the field immediately. The warning system's coverage area includes city parks and pools. It may

not reach your field in some instances. If you cannot hear the warning at your site and you see lightning, again use common sense and clear the field. We do not play in the presence of lightning.

### **Rescheduling Rainouts**

Based on past experience there has been little interest in making up Rookie Coach Pitch Baseball, Class A Baseball, or Coach Pitch Softball games. Fourteen games are scheduled during the regular season. Should teams in these leagues desire to make up a rained out game, the head coaches may arrange a make-up on their own and contact the commissioner for a field. Make up dates are Sundays, occasional Fridays, or following the last day of the regular season schedule.

In other leagues with paid umpires, rescheduling rained out games has been a difficult proposition in recent years. Arranging agreeable times on Sundays when teams can field enough players and finding umpires have been consistent challenges for our volunteer commissioners and umpire coordinators. To help minimize the problem of rescheduling games the current procedure was adopted during the 2001 regular season. Additional games have been added to the schedules and make-ups, if any, will be limited to the last two weeks of June. In the AA, AAA, Softball Minor, and Softball Major leagues the regular season will consist of 16 scheduled games. For Softball Senior, Junior Pony, Pony, and Senior Pony 14 games will be scheduled. For Junior Pony and Softball Seniors there will be no play during the Dublin Schools 8th grade field trips, assuming the trips are during the same week.

### **Concession Workers**

Teams playing at Avery Park (north end) will be required to staff the concession stand during the duration of their game, plus ½ hour before and ½ hour after their game (one or two adults - absolutely no children under age 16 in the concession stand). Teams will be asked to work no more than twice during the season and can split the time among parents so that no one parent has to work the entire time.

### **Season Length**

Games will be played starting the first Saturday in May in some leagues and will end no later than July 24<sup>th</sup>. There are 14 to 16 games during the regular season. In general there will be 9 to 11 weekday games and 4 or 5 Saturday games scheduled. There are no games scheduled Memorial Day weekend Friday through Monday or July 3<sup>rd</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup> (Independence Day observance). Tournaments are scheduled to begin as early as Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup> and conclude by July 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **Awards**

Rookie Coach Pitch, Class A Coach Pitch, Class A Machine Pitch, and Coach Pitch Softball participants receive individual awards at season's end. Coaches can pick up the awards on Saturday, June 18 between 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the DYA office. All other leagues are playing for tournament trophies. First and second place individual awards will be distributed following the championship game in each tournament division. There are no regular season awards other than Rookie Coach Pitch, Class A leagues, and Coach Pitch Softball.

Again, thank you for attending the meeting

Remember, have fun and this is for the kids.