



Dear HYBA Members:

The Board of Directors of the Hampden Youth Baseball Association is pleased to announce registration for the 2010 spring baseball season. Registrations for players 6 to 18 years of age will be accepted at the Hampden Township Recreation Building, across from Sporting Hill Elementary School, on **January 9, 2010 8am - 12:00 noon & January 16, 2009 Noon - 4:00 pm.**

Players must be Township residents and six years of age by **April 30, 2010.** First-time registrants show a copy of their birth certificate. The enclosed registration materials are provided for your convenience. Additional forms will be available at registration. Registration information and selected forms may also be found on the web at www.hampdenbaseball.org.

Please review the following important information:

Baseball Age Determination Date

Effective with the 2006 season, the league age of all HYBA Little League and Teener players became determined by the players' age on April 30 of the current year as required by the rules of Little League Baseball and the West Shore Teener Association. HYBA players must play in the league designated for their age group based on their age on April 30, 2010. The HYBA does consider a player's grade level. Please reference our age/eligibility table available at registration, and under the sign-up tab of www.HampdenBaseball.org.

Saturday Baseball

Regular season baseball games will continue to be scheduled on selected Saturdays throughout the season at all age levels. This will increase scheduling flexibility and allow the association to take maximum advantage of our available playing facilities. Please take this into consideration as you begin to plan for your child's spring activities. Additional scheduling details will be announced when our 2010 team rosters are formed.

League Structure for 6, 7, and 8 year-olds - Instructional League and Junior League

Baseball programs for our 6, 7, and 8 year-old players will continue to be structured in two leagues for the 2010 season. The Instructional League will include all 6 year-old players and 7 year-olds playing for the first time. The Junior League will group 7 year-olds with previous playing experience and all 8 year-old players. Parents of returning 7 year-olds who feel their child's skills have not developed sufficiently to play with 8 year-olds will have the option to have their child play in the Instructional League with the 6 year-olds and first year 7 year-olds.

Both leagues will continue to stress learning and development as in previous years. The Instructional League is a modified "tee ball" league which combines coach pitching and hitting off batting tees. The Junior League provides a transition to Minor League play and introduces pitching by the players. In Junior League games the pitching duties will be shared by coaches and players - batting tees will not be used in games. In addition, Junior League teams will have potential opportunities to play some games on larger fields with expanded rules.

To assist in forming Junior League teams with a balanced range of playing abilities, and to ensure that an appropriate skill level has been attained to ensure the safety of 7 year-olds desiring to play with 8 year-olds, brief skills evaluations will be conducted for 8 year-olds and returning 7 year-olds. Special requests for children to play with specific coaches or teams cannot be honored at the Junior League level.

Background Checks for Volunteers

To ensure the ongoing protection of our players under regulations of the Little League Child Protection Program, the HYBA will continue to conduct mandatory criminal background checks on volunteers who have regular contact with players. This policy will apply for our head coaches (managers), assistant coaches, and board members. In addition to our regular coaching application form, **coaching volunteers must provide their social security number, a copy of government-issued photo identification, and complete the Little League Volunteer Application.** This form will be available at registration, and may also be downloaded from the Little League link provided at www.HampdenBaseball.org.

Code of Conduct

HYBA baseball programs continue to provide positive experiences for the vast majority of our members. The HYBA calls on all adult members to build on the *positive* examples you have set for our players - through continued emphasis on respect, responsibility, and sportsmanship. In support of this effort, the enclosed Code of Conduct provides guiding principles for participating in youth baseball programs. Please review the Code of Conduct prior to registration as compliance with the Code of Conduct is an ongoing condition for membership in our association. You will be asked to indicate your understanding of this requirement when you register.

Over



Player Evaluations

Player evaluations will be conducted for HYBA Junior League, Minor League, Major League, on March 13, 2010 at the Capital Area Christian Church, 1775 Lambs Gap Road, Mechanicsburg. Additional details are included on the enclosed evaluation schedule and are also available on our web site.

Important Additional Information:

- ⇒ Please visit www.HampdenBaseball.org for up-to-date information, including codes of conduct, important dates, and points of contact. Please visit our web site often, and read all HYBA registration materials.
- ⇒ The HYBA provides players with hats, shirts, and socks. Team equipment will include bats, helmets, catcher's equipment, and baseballs. Players will need to supply their own baseball glove, baseball pants (no shorts), athletic cups, and footwear. All equipment must conform to Little League standards. www.LittleLeague.org offers guidance on glove size, and publishes bat specifications for those players using their own bat(s). Little League's new pitch count rules are also outlined on the Little League web site.
- ⇒ In addition to registration fees, parents are asked to participate in a yearly fundraiser, and to purchase \$1 concession tickets for each player on their team for one game per season (totaling \$12-\$13). Individual teams may opt to purchase coaches' gifts and/or organize team parties as agreed upon by the parents of the players on that team.
- ⇒ ALL LITTLE LEAGUE PARENTS are REQUIRED to work in the concession stand once or twice during the season. Your team parent will distribute a schedule. Profits from the concession stand are our main source of fundraising, so operating the stand is of utmost importance. GAMES WILL NOT BEGIN if the concession stand is not staffed; therefore, it is vital that you accept this responsibility when it is your turn. Detailed instructions are posted in the stand, and there will be veteran volunteers scheduled with new parents.
- ⇒ Coaches for the HYBA give much of their time, talent, and energy offering baseball instruction to our children. Please be courteous and notify your coach if you will miss a practice or game. Also, speak directly with your coach if you will not be present for a practice or game and pick-up your player promptly at the conclusion of all practices and games.
- ⇒ COMMUNICATION is a key component of the HYBA program. If your player is experiencing difficulties, please SPEAK TO YOUR COACH! Usually, misunderstandings can be cleared up easily as long as your coach has the problem brought to his/her attention. If the issue is not resolved, the coordinator of your league will become involved. In extreme cases, the HYBA Board of Directors may be needed. Should an issue escalate to this level; all parties will have an opportunity to express their concerns before any decisions are made. This process is in place to solve problems as quickly and efficiently as possible in the best interest of players, parents and HYBA volunteers.
- ⇒ The HYBA will again form a Junior Little League team(s), if there is enough player interest. Junior LL is open to 13 & 14 year olds. This team(s) will primarily play games on Saturdays, usually doubleheaders. When considering this team, please understand there is an increased level of commitment involved. In addition to West Shore Teener games (at least 2 per week) and practices, you will be playing two additional games on Saturdays. There will also be an additional charge of \$55 to participate on the Junior LL team. Please consider and be willing to make this commitment before signing-up for this team. You are welcomed to contact Dean Adams (717-761-4082) if you have any questions.
- ⇒ The HYBA offers All-Star and Fall Baseball opportunities following the regular season. Fall Baseball registration forms will be available in late May, and will be due by the end of July. All -Star applications and questions will be handled by your coach.

The HYBA strives to teach children the game of baseball in a safe and fun environment, within an atmosphere of healthy competition and good sportsmanship. Dozens of dedicated volunteers work year round to make the Hampden Little League Baseball possible. Thank you for choosing to spend your spring baseball season with the HYBA. We look forward to a wonderful 2010 season!

Sincerely,
The 2010 HYBA Board of Directors

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