From: Jason Franck
cc: jasonfranck25@gmail.com; "David Padgett";
Subject: 2010 FYBA Instructional League (Coach Pitch) Season
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 4:53:39 PM

2010 FYBA Instructional League (Coach Pitch) Parents,

Thank you to everyone for registering your player(s) for the 2010 FYBA Instructional League (Coach Pitch) season. The snow has melted and spring is just around the corner, I know people are starting to think of baseball season and are wondering when things will kick off. The information below is not comprehensive, but should provide some answers to your initial questions.

FYBA Instructional League (Coach Pitch) League: FYBA promotes the fundamental baseball player development through our non-competitive Instructional League (Coach Pitch) league. Games will not be scored and there are no league standings. See the rules on www.fairfieldfyba.com for more details.

Season Overview – All teams will have 18 games scheduled. We hope to get 15 games in with rain outs and no rescheduling. Rainouts will only be made if the minimum number of games is not played and managers agree to play. Game and practice schedules will be handed out to managers at the managers meeting. They will then be in contact with you to tell you the schedule your child has this season. Please be patient and give the managers a day or two after the meeting to gather their thoughts and get the introductions and information out.

Thankfully we had 19 managers step forward early this year to volunteer their time to manage teams. I am in the process of putting managers to teams then players to teams. Once that is complete, we match players to sponsors and requested uniform colors so the uniforms may be ordered and returned to us in time for opening day.

Important Dates:

3/24 – Managers meeting – Managers only – Calls for practice will start after this
4/17 – Season Opener - All teams play (well almost all with 19 teams

someone will not be playing on opening day sorry but this is unavoidable)
5/15 – Individual & Team Pictures – Time assignments will be announced later.
6/30 – Season will be completed by this date

Website and Master Schedule – www.fairfieldfyba.com - Once completed, the managers will be given your season schedule and these will be posted online, by your manager's name.

Rainouts - We have two methods for communicating rainouts. The first is a phone blast system that uses the phone numbers you provided at registration. In the event of a rainout a voice mail message will be sent to that phone number(s). Your mangers will also be offered an opportunity to use this system as a way to communicate specifically with their team, if they so choose. You may also call the FYBA rainout line at 513-829-7292. Please do not call me as I rely on the above systems, same as you do.

For those that are new to the sport, please realize that if it rained hard the night before and the sun is shining today, the fields still may not be playable. Our field maintenance crew makes every effort to have the fields prepared and generally play when other area leagues are rained out.

Parent Requests: During the registration process we received a number of requests for certain coaches and/or days of the week restrictions. In many cases these were accommodated, but there are constraints in granting all requests. For example the 7-8 year old team make up is adjusted to balance out the number of players ages, so not all requests for coaches could be granted. The best of attempts are made for returning 8 years olds are kept with the players when they were 7. Just so you know, as the kids move up to the next age level, these requests are only accommodated through 2 manager picks and teams do not age up together to insure as much parity as possible when they start to be more competitive.

In addition, this year we have had an overwhelming request for parents to have their child move up early. I would like to state that FYBA has an age restriction for a reason. Moving kids up early does not help in the development of the fundamentals that are taught at this age. I understand that many parents worry about the amount of time spent sending multiple children to different

practices and games can be a bit overwhelming (I have one son in coach pitch and another in T-Ball so I feel your pain). For any child that was moved up early in the past I would like to point out that they *WILL NOT* move up early to Farm League, expect three years of Coach pitch. I hope that everyone understands that this decision has been talked about in length at the board meetings and agreed upon as the best course for the development of the players as a whole.

Equipment – In addition to the facilities, FYBA will provide players with a jersey and hat. The managers will be provided with the some equipment. Coach Pitch equipment includes balls, game balls, catchers equipment, Practice tee, 5 batting helmets. Parents are to provide bat and glove. Cleats are recommended, but not required. Coaches may ask that parents buy certain color pants and socks to go along with a team uniform.

Township Fields - At this point the Township Administration has only offered FYBA field access on Friday nights, Saturday mornings and Sundays. FYBA does not play on Sundays, but some coaches may choose to practice on that day. While we historically had more field access, the administration has changed their direction and given the majority of nights to a few select baseball teams. We are continuing to negotiate, but it looks as our space there is limited.

Additional Practice Fields – Having 19 teams share 2-3 game fields does not allow for all teams enough access so, in addition to the 2 fields at Waterworks, fields 6 & 9, and partial access to field's 14 and 15 in the Township, we also have access to the Oak Wood Park fields on Oak Tree Lane in Fairfield (this is off of Winton road. We are going to box cut and drag those practice fields before the season, so those should be improved over previous year's conditions.

Note to parents: Every year we get a number of complaints/requests from parents for me to talk to their manager about their coaching style, personality or baseball philosophy etc. In many cases the parent was not willing to do talk to the manager themselves. If there is something you would like the coach do, or not do, please talk to them first before escalating to me. Talk to the manager about everything that concerns you early in the season which may include vacations, player expectations/ development, health/behavioral issues, helping coach, planning team treats

or the end of season party.

Please use common sense when approaching your manager. If you are angry about something, please refrain from starting a discussion/argument during a game or right after. Chances are, the heat of the moment will pass and if the issues is that important it would be best served discussing it the next day. The manager is worrying about 10-13 players and many parents are only focused on their child. Please remember we are all volunteers and this is a non-competitive Instructional (Coach Pitch) league.

Hope everyone has a good season,

Jason Franck
FYBA Board