

TIPS FOR BETTER COMMUNICATION AND PLANNING YOUR SEASON – SPRING 2011

PRACTICES & GAMES

- These will be keyed into the website and must remain accurate for three reasons:
 - Someone might show up at your field if your game/practice does not lock that field in
 - Parents will be happier with a schedule they can trust
 - Players will be on time for practices and games if they are getting text messages with each event.
- Every game and practice will generate 2 reminders – 1 two days prior and 1 the night before the event.
- Please leave the field in a condition better than when you got there. Carry clear plastic bags for quick clean up. NC baseball fields do not have garbage cans because of raccoons and vermin. Each field has a nearby dumpster.
- Set some strong rules for ON DECK and IN THE HOLE practicing so that no one gets hurt this year. At Mead, Mellick and Gamble, there are clearly designated areas, but at Country School, Saxe, Connor, Coppo and Irwin they are less obvious. Establish a rule and stay vigilant.
- Do a fast fix of the field with a rake if it needs it, before you leave.
- Report any problems with field conditions to Steve Benko who will monitor the amount of work that is done on the fields for the spring season.
- Want some additional field time? Go to FIELDS on our website and click on little icon to the right of the field you want to use. It shows you all scheduled activity. Pick a date and time and text/email/call me. I will respond with a yes/no and key it into the system.
- There have been numerous changes to regulations on bat sizes from Babe Ruth and soon, from the state of Connecticut. Please refer to those restrictions from our home page. Click on the Bat Regulations Links in the upper right corner.

PARENTS

- Send the parents to the EDIT MY ACCOUNT tab on our website (bottom left side) when they want to change an email/phone/address on file, or add a second parent. You can't make those changes with your admin password. Only they can.
- Strongly encourage the players to put THEIR cell phone number into the system under their name and to select a PHONE CARRIER to begin texting service.
- IN THE EXCHANGE is where parents and coaches can post that they have lost or found an item, or if they want to sell a piece of equipment. Anyone can access it and post something.

COMMUNICATING

- You have two ways to send the parents an email blast: through the roster or as a bulletin on the News page. My suggestion is the when you have a lengthy message (more than 3 sentences) to them that you want the parents and the players to read, use the bulletin method, so that it stays on the home page for the player to read later that evening when they are home. Game recaps,

strategies, future events outlined are all good reasons for a bulletin. Emails through the roster, "email the whole team" button are for short, simple messages and are not public.

EMERGENCY LISTS

- We will be giving each of you a laminated emergency phone list. It contains all of the parent contact information as well as the third party alternate contact, if needed. Please keep this in your equipment bag.

GAME RESULTS & STATISTICS

- The manual explains how to do this easily. In one easy step, you can post your game results to the website AND you can send a quick recap of the highlights of the game to two local papers. This is good, free P.R. for our baseball program & the kids love to see their name mentioned periodically, if you have the time to write the quick review. The deadlines for this week's paper are Tuesday at 12 noon for the New Canaan News-Review and Monday at 3 pm for the New Canaan Advertiser.
- OLDER AGES: If you want to put player statistics into this website, call me and I will open it up for you. You can have the statistics available for player viewing or just available to you through your coach password. It is a robust and flexible program that performs any calculations you want, keeps just those statistics you want, and allows you to print reports of your choosing. I have a PDF for that as well.

Have a great season!

Susan