



March 2008  
Volume 8, Issue 3

## Inside this Issue

- 1 New Tournament Coaches' Document
- 1 Spring Regional Meeting in April
- 2 Sending the Wrong Signals
- 2 Tournament Update
- 2 Baseball Quote
- 2 Rules True or False Quiz
- 3 2008 Tournament Sites and Dates
- 4 Quiz Answers

Evelyn Gouveia  
Asst. Middle Atlantic Reg. Comm.

Evelyn.Gouveia@ITT.com

# Around The Horn

*News for the Middle Atlantic Region*

## New Tournament Coaches' Document

There has been an increasing problem in recent years with leagues/teams dropping out of tournaments either right before a tournament starts, or while the tournament is going on. This is occurring at all levels of play.

This practice is extremely disruptive to the tournament and often unfair to the other teams playing in the tournament.

In an effort to make leagues better informed on what is expected of managers and coaches and their all star teams, a new document has been created.



This regional document contains information on what the tournament trail consists of, what type of commitment is needed and how long a commitment the tournament trail is.

Each State Commissioner was emailed a copy of the document in February to forward to their League Presidents. The document can also be found on the regional website.

Entitled Following the Tournament Trail (What Coaches Need to Know), this document should be given to every one of a league's coaches who may become an all-star coach. ♦

## Spring Regional Meeting in April

The annual spring regional meeting will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>. If there is anything that a league wants to have discussed now is the time to mention it to your State Commissioner.

The purpose of the spring meeting is to discuss issues which may become a problem during the season. It is also when the upcoming tournaments are discussed and pool play and bracket positions are picked.

The meeting will be held at the Hilton Wilmington/Christiana hotel in Newark, Delaware. The address of the hotel is 100 Continental Drive, Newark, Delaware 19713-4319 and the telephone number is (302) 454-1500. ♦

## Sending the Wrong Signals

How is your league perceived? Do people think of it as “just a rec league”? Do you lose players to “better” leagues?

If you could not come up with a favorable answer to the first question and answered yes to both of the other questions, then you are sending out the wrong signals.

When the board members and coaches treat the regular season as unimportant it gives the impression that you don't really care about the kids who play in the league. If people think the league isn't important they'll find somewhere else for their kids to play, especially if they are competitive players.

How do you correct this perception? There are a number of things you can do. Try some inter-league play to make the season interesting. Hold coaching clinics or hold clinics to teach kids the fundamentals of the game. Encourage the better players to learn more than one position; it'll make them more well-rounded if they decide to try out for high school baseball.

If your league is “just a rec league” then it is up to you to do everything you can to change that perception. ♦

## Tournament Update

Clifton Park, NY has requested and been granted permission to host the 11/60 ft tournament instead of the 11/70 ft tournament.

A league in Pennsylvania has expressed interest in hosting the 13 year old tournament.

There is still no host for the following tournaments:

- 8 year-old
- 11 year-old – 70 ft.
- 16 year-old
- 16-18 year-old

If anyone is interested in hosting one of these tournaments please contact your state commissioner or the regional commissioner as soon as possible.♦



## Baseball Quote

“Give a boy a bat and a ball and a place to play and you will have a good citizen.”

-- *Hall of Famer Joe McCarthy*

## Rules True or False Quiz

Is each of these statements True or False?

- 1) If a fielder holds a fly ball for 2 seconds it's a catch.
- 2) An appeal on a runner who missed a base cannot be a force out.
- 3) The batter is out if a bunted ball hits the ground and bounces back up and hits the bat while the batter is holding the bat
- 4) The batter-runner is always out if he runs outside the running lane after a bunted ball.
- 5) The ball must always be returned to the pitcher before an appeal can be made.

## 2008 TOURNAMENTS

### Regional Tournaments

**Cal Ripken Div. 10 year-old**  
Site: Troy, NY  
Dates: July 24 – 29

**Cal Ripken Div. Major/60'**  
Site: Bridgewater, NJ  
Dates: July 24-29

**Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'**  
Site: Edison, NJ  
Dates: July 25-30

**13-year-old**  
Site: tentative host  
Dates: Aug 1-6

**14-year-old**  
Site: State College, PA  
Dates: Aug 1-6

**13-15 year old**  
Site: North Syracuse, NY  
Dates: July 31- Aug. 5

**16-18 year old**  
Site: TBD  
Dates: July 24-29

### Invitational Tournaments

**8-year-old**  
Site: TBD  
Dates: Aug 8-11

**9-year-old**  
Site: Hamilton, NJ  
Dates: Aug 8-11

**11-year-old/ 60 ft.**  
Site: Clifton Park, NY  
Dates: Aug 8-11

**11-year-old/ 70 ft.**  
Site: TBD  
Dates: Aug 8-11

**16-year-old**  
Site: TBD  
Dates: Aug 8-11



### World Series

**Cal Ripken 10 and under**  
Site: Abbeville, LA  
Dates: Aug. 8-15

**Cal Ripken Div. Major/ 60'**  
Site: Martin, TN  
Dates: Aug. 7-14

**Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'**  
Site: Aberdeen, MD  
Dates: Aug. 9-16

**13-year-old**  
Site: Jamestown, NY  
Dates: Aug, 16-23

**14-year-old**  
Site: Quincy, MA  
Dates: Aug. 16-23

**13-15 year old**  
Site: Van Buren, AR  
Dates: Aug. 15-22

**16-18 year old**  
Site: Newark, OH  
Dates: Aug. 7-16

---

**SOFTBALL 12U**  
Site: Luzerne County, PA  
Dates: Aug. 7-14

**SOFTBALL 16U**  
Site: Pittsfield, MA  
Dates: Aug. 1-8

# Quiz Answers

All of these statements are myths of baseball and FALSE

## 1. TWO SECOND CATCH RULE MYTH

A catch is legal when the umpire judges that the fielder has COMPLETE control of the ball. The release of the ball must be voluntary and intentional. [Rule: 2.00 CATCH Official Baseball Rules]

## 2. MISSED BASE APPEAL RULE MYTH

A runner must touch all the bases. If the runner misses a base to which he was forced because the batter became a runner and is put out before touching that base, the out is still a force play. If this is the third out, no runs may score. The base can be touched or the runner can be touched, either way it's a force out. [Rules: 2.00 FORCE PLAY, TAG, 7.08(e), 7.10(b) Official Baseball Rules]

## 3. SECOND BAT HIT RULE MYTH

The rule says the BAT cannot hit the ball a second time. When the BALL hits the bat, it is not an out. [Rules: 6.05(h) and 7.09(b) Official Baseball Rules]

## 4. RUNNING LANE RULE MYTH

The runner must be out of the box AND cause interference. He is not out simply for being outside the lane. He could be called for interference even while in the lane. This is a judgment call. [Rules: 2.00 INTERFERENCE, 6.05(k), 7.09(k) Official Baseball Rules]

## 5. APPEAL RULE MYTH

An appeal may be made anytime the ball is alive. The only time the ball must go to the pitcher, is when time is out. The ball can not be made live until the pitcher has the ball while on the rubber and the umpire says "Play". If time is no out, the appeal can be made immediately. [Rules: 2.00 APPEAL, 5.11, 7.10 Official Baseball Rules]