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Around The Horn

News for the Middle Atlantic Region

How Disadvantaged Is Your All-Star Team?

The start of the tournament trail is just around the corner and many leagues will be picking their all-star teams (if they haven't already done so). The big question is.....how disadvantaged is your all-star team?

Many leagues start off the tournament trail with a big disadvantage because they have not selected a full roster of players.

Your league can have 15 players on a Cal Ripken division or a 13-15 age group team and 18 players on a 16-18 age group team.

Teams without a full roster put themselves at risk for forfeits if too many kids are injured or fail to show for the games. They also don't give themselves the same depth at positions like pitching that other teams have.

There is no excuse for not having a full complement of players. If your roster is short players, look at your selection methods. Did you fill the team with coaches' and league officers' sons only? Did you choose only to take the most elite players?

If you only have 12 players on your roster weren't there 3 more kids in your entire

league who you could have given a chance to play? Some kids would be more than happy not to be starters but just get the chance to be on a tournament team. Couldn't you have selected them as well?

Per Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations, players, manager and coaches may be replaced between tournament levels, but a league may not add players after submitting a team roster at the first level of play.

So if you haven't submitted your roster yet you have time to fill it up. If you have already sent in your roster, consider changing your selection processes for next year. ♦



Baseball Quote

“What's important is that kids discover that baseball is fun and that it gets to be more fun as you get better at it.”

--Mickey Mantle

Avoiding Problems and Protests

Problems and protests arise every tournament season at every level of play. Many can be avoided if managers and coaches would take the time to do one simple thing.

READ THE BOOK!

When was the last time you read the Babe Ruth and/or Official Baseball rulebook?

Most coaches will tell you that they don't have to read the book because they've played baseball in the past and they follow the game on TV. So they know the rules.

Consider these statements... If the batter breaks his wrists when swinging, it's a strike. The batter who batted out of order is the person declared out. Anytime a coach touches a runner, the runner is out. The home plate umpire can overrule the other umpires at any time. The batter cannot be called out for interference if he is in the batter's box.

If you thought any of these were true statements it's time to hit the books again. These are all false.

No one is saying that you have to memorize all the rules and regulations. Just read the book and familiarize yourself with the rules before your first tournament game. You'll get more respect from the umpires if you know what you're talking about. ♦

Get Your Credentials in Order

As your league prepares to start tournament play make sure that you have all your credentials in order. You need your credentials at the start of the District Tournament.

Make sure your tournament team has the following:

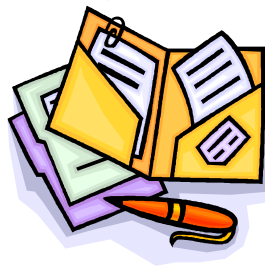
Birth Documents - One document or ID card is required for each of the tournament players. Only official copies or certified copies of the original are acceptable.

BR Rules & Regulations: 11.04-1(a)

Official Roster / Information Sheet

Signed by your league's president and filled out completely.

BR Rules & Regulations: 11.04-1(d)



Tournament Eligibility Form -

Signed by the District and State Commissioners in designated areas.

BR Rules & Regulations: 11.04-1(e)

Insurance policies - This is a copy of your league's certificates of coverage of group accident and liability insurance policies.

BR Rules & Regulations: 11.04-1(b) & 11.04-1(c)

Consent for treatment forms - One for each of the tournament team players. Make certain that allergies are listed on the consent forms.

BR Rules & Regulations: 11.04-1(f)

Team Photo - 5x7 or 8x10 color or black & white

BR Rules & Regulations: 11.04-1(g)

Coaching Certification I.D. Card or Certificate.- This is a copy of each manager and coaches' proof of coaching education and certification.

BR Rules & Regulations: 11.04-1(h)

Remember that these documents must stay in the possession of the Tournament Director during each tournament level. These same documents shall accompany the team as they advance in tournament competition. ♦

Stump The Ump Quiz

1. Runner on first base, two strikes on batter, who swings at the pitch which hits him/her. Is the batter out?
2. In how many situations can a run score when the third out is made on a force play?
3. Batter hits illegal pitch and is thrown out at first base. Does the out stand?
- 4.
- 5.



2008 TOURNAMENTS

Regional Tournaments

Cal Ripken Div. 10 year-old

Site: Troy, NY

Dates: July 24 – 28

Cal Ripken Div. Major/60'

Site: Bridgewater, NJ

Dates: July 24-28

Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'

Site: Edison, NJ

Dates: July 24-29

13-year-old

Site: Washington Twp., NJ

Dates: Aug 1-6

14-year-old

Site: State College, PA

Dates: July 31-Aug 5

13-15 year old

Site: North Syracuse, NY

Dates: July 31- Aug. 5

16-18 year old

Site: Chester, PA

Dates: July 24-29

Invitational Tournaments

8-year-old

Site: Bayonne, NJ

Dates: Aug 9-14

9-year-old

Site: Hamilton, NJ

Dates: Aug 7-13

11-year-old/ 60 ft.

Site: Clifton Park, NY

Dates: Aug 8-12

11-year-old/ 70 ft.

Site: Washington Twp., NJ

Dates: Aug 7-12

16-year-old

Site: Bear, De

Dates: Aug 1-4

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:

1: Yes – Rule 2.00-STRIKE (e) & 6.05(e). The old myth comes back to haunt you if you got this one wrong. The hands are NOT part of the bat. We do not know of a manufacturer that makes bats with hands on them. Swinging strike three, ball is dead and runner on first stays on first.

2 None – Rule 4.09(a) EXCEPTIONS: (2). The rule is pretty cut and dry in that it specifically says no runs will score when the third out of the inning is a force play out.

3: No – Rule 8.05 PENALTY. The umpire should approach the manager of the offensive team and advise him/her that there is an option on this play. The manager would take the results of the play or the penalty for the illegal pitch.