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Around The Horn

News for the Middle Atlantic Region

Change in 16 Year Old Regional Tournament

The 16 year old regional has become somewhat of a problem child the last few years. Due to a lack of following at this age group, host sites consistently lose money when they host the tournament. With that being the case, it has become increasingly hard to find host sites.

Yet some State Commissioners contend that we need to have a 16 year old tournament in order to keep the 16-18 programs alive in their states.

At the regional fall meeting a motion was made by MNY that for 2010 we attempt to run a 16 year old invitational regional with no state tournaments being held. Teams will be charged to play in the regional tournament. The motion was seconded by ENY with the proviso that each state commissioner surveys their leagues to see who would be interested in participating.

The fee per team would be approx. \$400-\$600 depending on the number of teams wanting to participate. The majority of this money would go to the host site to help defray the costs of the tournament such as the umpires and the baseballs. The remaining

portion will go to cover regional expenses.

Details of this new format for 2010 will be discussed at the upcoming regional spring meeting next April. ♦



Baseball Quote

“Progress always involves risk. You can’t steal second base and keep your foot on first.”

Frederick B. Wilcox

Regional Pool Play Format Changes

There have been grumblings and complaints in recent years about teams with winning records being sent home after the pool play portion of tournaments because of the pool play tie-breaker rules.

In an effort to stop that, the State Commissioners voted at the regional fall meeting to change the format of the pool play tournaments. In 2010 the **top three teams from each pool will advance to the single-elimination bracket phase** instead of just the top two.

This will add two more games to the schedule but will potentially eliminate the perceived unfairness.

In conjunction with this change, the World Series format will be used to determine the home team in the bracket phase. Essentially that means the higher seeded team will automatically be home team. In the final game, if both teams are the same seed, a coin will be flipped. ♦

Parents and Coaches Need to be Committed

Another growing problem with the tournaments is that parents and coaches are not committed to the full Babe Ruth tournament trail.

There are numerous trends that seem to be emerging.

(1) In the past when double elimination brackets were used parents complained about travelling to a tournament for two days and then having to go home. Now with the pool play format, parents complain that the schedules are too long.

(2) Leagues are increasingly paying to play in tournaments up in Cooperstown, etc. and booking weeks which conflict with the Babe Ruth tournament schedule. Some leagues see no problem with dropping out of the BR tournament early to go to these other tournaments.

(3) Parents and coaches fail to look at the big picture. Often they just plan for their kids to play in the district, or maybe state tournaments. When they advance to the regional and then have a chance to advance to the World Series, parents do not want to give up the time to be there.

In fairness to some parents and coaches, with the current economy and job situations, it isn't always possible to get the time to go to the tournaments or have the money to spend for travelling, etc.

Babe Ruth Baseball tournaments are different from many other tournaments. A team cannot buy their way in to play (with the exception of invitational regionals). Players who have earned their playing time deserve to have support and commitment from the adults at every level of play they advance to.

The 2010 dates for the regional tournaments and the World Series are listed in this newsletter. Plan ahead and plan well!

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



2010 TOURNAMENTS

Regional Tournaments

10 year-old

Site: **TBD**

Dates: July 29 – Aug. 3

12-year-old / 60 ft.

Site: **TBD**

Dates: July 28 – Aug. 2

12-year-old / 70 ft.

Site: Queensbury, NY

Dates: July 30 – Aug. 4

13-year-old

Site: **TBD**

Dates: Aug. 4 – Aug. 9

14-year-old

Site: **TBD**

Dates: Aug. 6 – Aug. 11

13-15 year old

Site: Readington, NJ

Dates: Aug .5 – Aug. 10

16-18 year old

Site: **TBD**

Dates: July 22 – July 27

Invitational Tournaments

8-year-old

Site: **TBD**

Start Date: Aug. 6

9-year-old

Site: Edison, NJ

Start Date: Aug. 6

11-year-old / 60 ft.

Site: **TBD**

Start Date: Aug. 6

11-year-old / 70 ft.

Site: **TBD**

Start Date: Aug. 6

16-year-old

Site: **TBD**

Start Date: July 17



World Series

Cal Ripken 10 and under

Site: TBD

Dates: August 13-20

Cal Ripken Div. Major/ 60'

Site: Wilson County, NC

Dates: August 12-19

Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'

Site: Aberdeen, MD

Dates: August 14-21

13-year-old

Site: Levelland, TX

Dates: August 19-26

14-year-old

Site: Loudoun Co., VA

Dates: August 21-28

13-15 year old

Site: Monticello, AR

Dates: August 20-27

16-18 year old

Site: Newark, OH

Dates: August 4-12

SOFTBALL 12U

Site: Alachua, FL

Dates: August 7-14

SOFTBALL 16U

Site: TBD

Dates: August 5-12