

# MYBA Winter 2005 Newsletter



## President's Message

It's time to start thinking about baseball and the 2005 season is right around the corner. This past season was a tremendous success and MYBA is looking to keep the momentum going in 2005 with continuous improvement in our Rec Ball and Travel Leagues.

In reflecting on last season, we were able to provide full uniforms to all players ages 9 to 18, increase the number of baseball scholarships, improve our web site, make significant improvements on our fields, and partner with the City of Medina on field improvements. Former Major League Umpire Greg Kosc volunteered his time to train our umpires. We were also able to enter into a partnership with Ron Pruitt for Fall Baseball for those members of MYBA who can't get enough baseball during the spring and summer.

During the off-season, MYBA has been very aggressive in our efforts for the 2005 season! We entered into a partnership with the Medina High School Athletic Department and Baseball Parents Booster Club for use of the High School Baseball Complex for our Rec Ball and travel teams. We partnered with the City of Medina to have all fields crowned for the upcoming season. We are in the process of working with Medina Assembly of God on Rt. 42 for use of their fields for the upcoming season. We have entered into agreements with Brownlee's Baseball Academy, Ron Pruitt Baseball Center, and Brunswick Bat Cage for batting cage

rental and field rental during the spring training season.

We are very happy to announce that our uniforms will be purchased in Medina this year. It goes without saying that the MYBA Board of Directors is striving to utilize the money where it is earned, in the City of Medina, Ohio. We have also lowered the sponsorship fee to \$250 from \$325. Greg Kosc has agreed once again to volunteer his services in training our umpires. We will continue to improve our web site and our fields for the upcoming season.

We will improve the level of instruction with coaching clinics designed for all levels within MYBA. This instruction will include local high school coaches, former major league players, and a professional sports trainer, Kris Lewandowski, from the Sports Performance Institute, Medina, OH. It is our hope to improve all skill levels within MYBA and add more travel teams in the future!

Volunteers are our most valuable assets and in 2005 we are looking for many high-energy parents and community leaders to improve baseball in Medina. If you are willing to help or have an idea that would improve MYBA, please call me at 330-723-6055 during the evenings. E-mail me at MYBA@zoominternet.net. We are looking forward to the 2005 season!

Donald Catanzarito  
President of MYBA

## 2005 Rec Ball Registration

The 2005 MYBA Registration has begun! Registration of players can be accomplished on-line, by mail or in person. The MYBA website can be used to complete the on-line process. Go to [www.MedinaYouthBaseball.Org](http://www.MedinaYouthBaseball.Org) and click on Registrations. Or mail in the enclosed registration form. The form enclosed with this newsletter is based upon the 2004 division (Rec Ball or Hot Stove) in which the player participated. Registration forms are also available at the Medina Community Recreation Center and City Hall and can be downloaded and printed from MYBA's website.

In-person registration will be held at the Medina Community Rec Center (MCRC) on two Saturdays: February 5 and 19, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Please note the change in location. Payment of fees can be made with checks, cash, MasterCard or Visa.

On-line and in-person registrations offer a new payment option this year. Electronic checks will be accepted. Simply choose the e-check option of payment, enter the information requested from the face of your check, verify the amount, click and print out your receipt. The payment will be deducted from your checking account within 24 hours. No waiting for the bill to come!

For families living outside the Medina City limits, i.e., any street address greater than 1400, a Sports Activity Permit (SAP) must be obtained for each player from the City of Medina. The SAP may be purchased at the Rec Center. The permit fee is \$35 and can be paid by check, cash, or credit card. The Rec Center will offer the SAP during the In-Person Registration. This SAP must be obtained PRIOR to registering players for baseball.

(Continued on page 2)

**Tell Your Friends!!**

**Register Early and Often!!**

### Calendar of

### Events—2005

**January 3.....**Online & mail-in registration becomes available through MYBA's website

**February 5 & 19.....**In-person Registration at Medina Rec Center. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Feb. 28.....**Registration Deadline for Hot Stove 8-14, Minor 9/10, Major 11/12 and Senior 13/14

**March 31.....**Registration Deadline for T-Ball through Farm 8, Senior 15-18, and Hot Stove 15/16

## 2005 Rec Ball Registration

(Continued from page 1)

**Birth certificates are required** on all 2005 applications. If, however, a birth certificate was submitted with the player's 2004 registration, a copy will not be needed in 2005. All birth certificates turned in for 2004 have been saved and the 2005 registration will be matched up with the birth certificate on file.

## Hot Stove Registration

MYBA's 2005 Hot Stove registration has also begun! Hot Stove players, which include both those who played in 2004 and those who are new to the Hot Stove league, will be able to also register on-line, via mail, or in person.

MYBA has allocated a specific number of playing slots for each league in Hot Stove, due to the availability of playing fields. Returning 2004 players were allowed to preregister to guarantee their spot. MYBA's website is updated with the number of available spots for each league and will be updated every few days with the latest numbers as registrations are received. Click on MYBA Events and look for the Hot Stove Registrations listing for the latest numbers. Playing spots in Hot Stove will be allocated as registrations are received as determined by the on-line registration date stamp, postmark

## Birthdates for Leagues:



### Hot Stove:

Farm 8	8/1/96 – 7/31/97
H League-9/10	8/1/94 – 7/31/96
G League-11/12	8/1/92 – 7/31/94
F League-13/14	8/1/90 – 7/31/92
EE League-15/16	8/1/88 – 7/31/90

date or first-in-line during the In-Person Registration.

It is possible that all spots may be filled prior to the In-Person Registration on February 5. If a 2004 player did not complete the Advance Registration form, he is not guaranteed a spot in a Hot Stove league for 2005.

Players who have already completed the Advance Registration will deduct the \$10 payment from their final payment. Those who register on-line will automatically have the fees reduced by their prepayment.

The deadline for all new and returning 2005 Hot Stove registrations is February 28, unless a particular league is filled prior to that date. The registration deadline for players who will be playing in the Hot Stove EE League (15-16 year olds) is March 31, unless the available spots are filled prior to that date.

## Birthdates for Leagues:



### Rec Ball

T-Ball (5/6)	8/1/98 – 7/31/00
Farm 7	8/1/97 – 7/31/98
Farm 8	8/1/96 – 7/31/97
Minor 9/10	8/1/94 – 7/31/96
Major 11/12	8/1/92 – 7/31/94
Senior 13/14	8/1/90 – 7/31/92
Senior 15-18	8/1/86 – 7/31/90

## MYBA Registration Fees

The MYBA Board of Directors is proud to announce that player fees will remain the same in 2005. All player fees include \$20, which is used to offset fundraising. The history behind this fee is that there has always been a very limited number of volunteers who stepped up and helped provide fundraising efforts. When the members of MYBA (parents) were asked for input, the response was overwhelming in stating that most parents would rather pay an additional \$20 instead of taking time to help with fundraising or volunteer extra time outside the parameters of the baseball season.

The cap on fees will now include Hot Stove players. If a family has at least one Hot Stove player, the family cap will be \$225. If the family has players who only participate in Rec Ball, the cap will be \$200.

## NSF Checks

MYBA is a non-profit organization and prefers not to give players' fees and sponsor income to banks paying fees for registration checks returned because of insufficient funds. Please be advised that, if a check is returned to MYBA because of NSF status, a request will be made by MYBA to the player's parent to cover the registration fee, as well as the bank fee (approximately \$15).

The player's registration will be considered incomplete until reimbursement is made and the player may not be allowed to play in MYBA-sanctioned games until then.

## Akron Aeros Tickets

Ticket vouchers for any Akron Aeros' home game in April or May will be available for purchase during MYBA's February 5 & 19 In-Person Registration. The vouchers will be available for \$6 per voucher, a savings of \$3. The voucher can be turned in or mailed to the Akron Aeros for the actual ticket for a game.

If a player wishes to sell any vouchers for MYBA, he becomes eligible to be chosen to throw out the first pitch at MYBA Night at the Aeros' game on June 22!

This is a great fundraiser for MYBA, as no parent is being asked to sell anything and the Aeros are gracious enough to return fifty percent of each ticket sold to MYBA. Help start the baseball season off right with taking in a professional baseball game (cheaply!) at a great ballpark! See Don Catanzarito for vouchers.

## Can I Borrow \$10?? How about Becoming an Umpire?

MYBA has the solution to this commonly used phrase by teenagers. MYBA players 12 and older are invited to join a group of their peers and become a paid MYBA Umpire. They can sign up during MYBA baseball registration on February 5 or February 19 at the Medina Recreation Center between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or go online anytime to the MYBA website. Click the Front Office tab under Play Ball in the upper left of the page, click Umpires and fill in the umpire form.

The MYBA Umpire program provides Medina youth with the opportunity to make much-needed cash (\$14 to \$20 per each two-hour Rec Ball or Hot Stove game) while still allowing them to work around their personal schedule. As an umpire, they will be able to make all of their practices, play their full MYBA baseball schedule and work on their off days. Work one day per week or full-time. The player makes the call!

The MYBA umpire program will provide each umpire with all needed training, skills and equipment. The season will start with class room training and then move outdoors for some "live" training at MYBA scrimmages. When the first pitch is thrown in the regular season, the umpires will be ready. If interested, utilize the MYBA website to register or visit the Umpire table during MYBA registration in February.

Dave Wingard Sr.  
Umpire Director

Dave Wingard Jr.  
Assistant Umpire Director



## Code of Ethics

MYBA would like to remind all players, coaches, and parents that our Codes of Ethics are posted on the website. These Codes serve as the basis of how MYBA operates. It is requested that anyone associated with MYBA activities read through these Codes and please adhere to them while working with our local youth.

The Code of Ethics can be found on the MYBA website by clicking on "Front Office," then either "Parents," "Coaches," or "Players." Thank you!

## New Team Names

Want to play for the Indians? How about the Reds? Please don't say the Yankees!! Or Red Sox!! Well, 2005 will be your chance! MYBA is changing the method of naming teams this year. Teams will be named based upon Major League Baseball nicknames. Sponsors' names will be placed on the back of players' jerseys. Look for your favorite team on the diamond!

## New CVBA Travel Team

The Medina Hornets will be a competitive 8-year-old travel team. This is their first season in MYBA. The Hornets' program is designed to develop young athletes into exceptional baseball players who will compete at a high level of youth pitch baseball. The Hornets will compete in the Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association (CVBA), the same association in which the Medina Sting participate. The Hornets are also participating in the Diamond Indoor Sports Complex program during the off-season.

Try-outs for the 2005 season will be held on January 16, 2005 from 9-11 a.m. at the Medina Community Recreation Center (MCRC). Please go on-line and register at [www.medinahornets.com](http://www.medinahornets.com) or call 330/764-4820. The deadline for registration is January 9. The roster will be finalized by February 4 and players notified at that time.



**Have a question??**

**Check out the FAQ's  
on the MYBA Website!**

## Scholarships

Every player who desires to play baseball can play! MYBA does not turn any player away because of a family's financial situation. Scholarships are available.

The only requirement is that the player must be enrolled in the school's lunch program. The player's guardian is asked to submit a written request to MYBA asking that the player be considered for a scholarship.

## New Caps on Fees

The Family Cap on Registration Fees will again be \$200 for all players registering in Rec Ball only. If one or more players is registering in Hot Stove, the Family Cap becomes \$225. This is new for 2005!

## Hot Line Ops

MYBA's telephone Hot Line, 330-725-MITT (6488) is updated periodically prior to the season and daily after the season begins. Once the first "Play Ball" is yelled out for the season, field conditions will be posted daily on the Hot Line and the website.

Messages or questions may be left on the Hot Line as well. Simply hit # at any time after the recording begins to leave a message.

### **MYBA Board Members**

President: Don Catanzarito  
Chairman: Bob Galloway  
Vice President: Ken Carpenter  
Treasurer: Gary Baker  
Secretary: Thom Lang  
Vice Treasurer: Dave Stumpf  
Vice Secretary: Robynn Cox

### **2005 League Commissioners**

T-Ball: OPEN  
Farm 7: Chad Browning  
Farm 8: Todd Brady  
Minor 9/10: OPEN  
Major 11/12: Dave Stumpf  
Senior 13/14: OPEN  
Senior 15/18: Mark Woodling  
Hot Stove: Ken Carpenter

### **2005 Board of Directors**

Director of Equipment: OPEN  
Director of Umpires:  
(Leagues 9-12): Dave Wingard  
(Seniors): Bill Scott  
Director of Concessions: OPEN  
Director of Sponsorships:  
Mike Lester

## **Sting 12 Fund-Raiser**

The Sting 12 Travel Team is holding a Fund-Raiser for their annual Cooperstown, NY, tournament trip in August, 2005. This year's event is a Reverse Raffle with a Silent Auction and gourmet dinner at the Weymouth Country Club, Rt. 3, Medina, on Saturday, February 5, 2005. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple.

The Sting 12 Travel Team is also looking for Silent Auction items for the Reverse Raffle. If you are unable to attend the Reverse Raffle, cash contributions are welcome. To purchase tickets or provide silent auction items/cash contributions, please contact MYBA President Donald Catanzarito at 330-723-6055 or Sting 12 Travel Team Manager Joe Stayer at 330-722-4658.

## **Clinics and Camps**

MYBA will offer many opportunities in 2005 for coaches to become better educated in areas such as the fundamentals of baseball, how to work with kids, planning practices, and protecting young arms. Some clinics will be optional, one or two will be required.

A Baseball Camp will be offered June 20-24 by the Medina High School Baseball Coaches and Players. More info will be available on-line and during In-Person Registration.

## **Monthly Meetings**

MYBA monthly meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of each month at Rustic Hills Country Club and begin at 7:00 p.m. Check the MYBA website for any changes in dates.

## **MYBA Website**

Please be sure to see the changes in MYBA's website in 2005. More functionality is being added. Rules for each league are available. Photos of all teams and rosters will be added in the spring. Current Medina weather is coming to the website! Directions to fields and field conditions are also available.

Want to see your team's scores on the web? Volunteer your time to add them after each game! Only takes a few minutes each day! E-mail MYBA or call the Hot Line and you can get all the info.

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