

AB Youth Softball

Spring 2019 Start of Season Coaches Meeting

- **Introduction**

- League Officers/Coordinators:
 - President/Spring Director – Al Caruso
 - U6 Coordinator – Megan Kivela
 - U8 Coordinator – OPEN
 - U10 Coordinator – Lisa Loram
 - U12 Coordinator – Noah Nelson
 - U15 Coordinator – Amaro Laria
 - Equipment Manager – Ken Kyzer
 - Training Director – Zuzka Blasi
 - Summer Director – Noah Nelson
 - Treasurer – Dianna McNeish, OPEN in 2020
 - Capital Projects – Jim Yourk
 - Publicity / Sponsorship – Emily Collins
 - Registrar – OPEN
 - Photo Day Coordinator – OPEN
 - Umpire Coordinator – Steve Rosecan
- League Philosophy

- **Website: absoftball.com**

- Board of Directors / Coordinators
- Calendar / Schedules
- Field Locations
- Teams / Standings (if used for division)
- All Coach Documents – Rules, CORI Forms, Safety Info, Code of Conduct, etc.
- Umpire Contact – who to call to cancel a game due to weather
- Guides on using the site

- **Rule and Safety Highlights**

- **U6/U8** – helmets on batters, base runners, pitcher, first and third basemen
- **U10+** helmets on batters, and base runners – helmets must have cage and safety strap
- **ALL** - No on-deck swings (only at the plate)
- **ALL** – Coaches should stop their runners if a defensive player has control within the pitchers' circle*. It should not be a game of coaches sending the runners, and umpires returning the runners to the bases. (*U8 – if the ball is in the infield)
- **U6 – Outs** (suggestion) For the first half of the season, when an out is recorded, the runner will be permitted to remain on the base to which they were advancing. In the second half of the season, the runner should be sent to the bench if a put out is made.
- **U8 – Outs** “an out is an out”
- **U8+** Outfielders may not make a put-out in the infield except on a fly ball or double play.
- **U10+** No FAKE BUNTING is allowed (batter cannot show bunt, draw in infield and then pull back and swing away). This is for safety reasons.
- **U12+** The inning may end early if a team scores the run limit before it is put out 3 times (No continuation. The last play can continue to its logical end, i.e. the ball in possession in the circle, but only the run limit will count for official scoring.) The run limit is lifted for the seventh inning ONLY.

- **Training/Publicity/Sponsorships**

- Swing into Spring – Free kickoff event held February 2, AtBats
- Safety Clinic – TBD, RJ Grey gym
 - CDC “Heads-up” Concussion Training on our Web site (Coaches section)
- Coaches Clinic – TBD, AB High School upper gym or softball field
 - HS Coaches will demonstrate various drills and provide guidance on running effective practices
- High School Varsity Clinic – Sun May 5 (times TBD), AB High School field
 - Great annual event that the league will announce/promote – free to ABYSB players
 - Some coaches will be asked to help by providing equipment bags
- Photo Day – (date/times TBD), AB High School cafeteria
 - PLEASE encourage all players to be in attendance. Sponsors are a significant portion of our revenue. Let's have a great team picture to show them!
- Future Colonials Night – Fri May 24, Elm St – Varsity game vs Hudson. Pre-game ceremony with ABYSB players.
- Softball Skills Matrix – draft document available in the Coach's Corner of our website

- **Coaches CORI and Code of Conduct**

- All coaches are required to allow for a CORI background check with ABYSB every year. Please fill-out a form and present your ID before leaving tonight.
- All coaches are required to sign a Code of Conduct every year (part of registration). Please read fully. Copies online.

- **Summer softball preview**
- **Equipment**
 - Equipment handout
 - Elm St shed, between the field and the parking lot (date/time TBD)
 - Handout of team equipment, balls, shirts, visors, etc., plus additional coaching materials (rulebooks, scorebooks, ump checks)
 - Equipment boxes – Lock boxes hold key for equipment boxes. Equipment boxes hold bases, tape measure, ice packs, etc. Please make sure everything is returned to the equipment box, remember to close and lock the equipment box, and return key to lock box. **All lock box combinations: 8-6-4-2** (except Gates Blue)
 - NARA: Green equipment box behind backstop, key lock box hanging on fence.
 - Blanchard: Yellow equipment box behind backstop, no lock.
 - Elm St: Green equipment box behind backstop, key lock box hanging on fence.
 - Gates: Yellow equipment box behind Gates 2 backstop, key lock box directly on the equipment box.
 - Gates: Blue equipment box behind Gates 1 holds pitching machine/balls, power cords, and generator.
- **Season Overview**
 - Fields are all currently CLOSED. Expected to be open a week or two after the snow melts. Please check the website home page for updated status. A field will automatically go into a “TBD” status the day after it’s closed. Status typically updated by 3:00PM on a weekday and by 10:00AM on a weekend day to indicate Closed or Open for each field.
 - Elm St Lights – Automatically turned on/off. Will shut off at 9:15pm. Be sure to be packed up before then. Division Coordinators will have access to extend or cancel the schedule as needed.
 - First practices – week of April 1
 - Coaches choose whether to hold practice/scrimmage/clinic during April vacation week (4/13 - 4/21)
 - First games – week of April 22
 - No games Memorial Day weekend, but U10/U12 may have games Thursday night
 - Last games – Sat June 15
 - Game Schedule – TBD (will be posted to web site, encourage parents to use it as the **only** source of info)
 - Trophies – the league will pay \$8 per player for trophies or other items (medals, team picture, etc.). Order from local or online sources. Plan on a 2-week turnaround.
- **Umpire Payment**
 - U10/U12 – \$22 from each head coach per game, given to umpire at start of game
- **Umpire Coordinator**
 - U10/U12 – Steve Rosecan – 978.394.3195
- **Cancellations / Rain-outs**
 - Cancellations due to inability to field a team (8 players required to start an umpired game)
 - U6/U8 – can play with as little as 5 players, coaches contact each other to cancel
 - U10/U12 – Head coach who cannot field a team must contact Umpire Coordinator 48 hours prior to the scheduled game time. Otherwise the coaches must show up at the scheduled game time and pay the umpire!
 - Rain-outs
 - U6/U8 – coaches contact each other to call off game
 - U10/U12 – head coaches decide whether to play game. If game is to be rained-out, they must contact the Umpire Coordinator 2 hours before the game start time.
 - If fields are closed, all games are automatically cancelled, and coaches only need to inform their teams.
- **Make-up Games**
 - U6/U8 – coaches coordinate whether to make-up and if so use practice slot
 - U10/U12 – coaches contact Al Caruso (alcaruso@yahoo.com) to schedule field and umpire
- **Division Breakouts** (coordinators & coaches)
 - Assign/verify practice slots
 - Review/modify rosters
 - Review division-specific rules, safety info, game time limits, game schedule, etc.