

AB Youth Softball

2020 Spring Coaches Meeting

March 19, 2020



Agenda

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ Impact of Coronavirus
- ▶ Safety Training
- ▶ Rule and Safety Highlights
- ▶ Events – Training/Publicity
- ▶ Coach Requirements & Responsibilities
- ▶ Tentative Season Schedule
- ▶ Fields
- ▶ Cancellations / Rain-outs / Make-ups
- ▶ Equipment
- ▶ Summer Softball

Introductions

▶ 2020 League Officers / Coordinators

- ▶ President / Spring Director – **Al Caruso**
- ▶ Treasurer – **Dianna McNeish**
- ▶ Equipment Manager – Ken Kyzer
- ▶ Summer Director – Noah Nelson
- ▶ Capital Projects – Jim Yourk
- ▶ Training – Zuzka Blasi
- ▶ Publicity / Sponsorship – Emily Collins
- ▶ Registrar – OPEN
- ▶ Team Photo Coordinator – OPEN
- ▶ U15 Division Coordinator – Amaro Laria
- ▶ U12 Division Coordinator – Noah Nelson
- ▶ U10 Division Coordinator – Lisa Loram
- ▶ U8 Division Coordinator – Megan Kivela
- ▶ U6 Division Coordinator – OPEN

Impact of Coronavirus (Revised)

- ▶ Present Status
 - ▶ Permits for fields delayed by one week – nothing else official yet
 - ▶ Significant delay or cancellation of season likely
- ▶ League Plan
 - ▶ Be ready to start season on April 27 (consistent with HS sports / MIAA plan)
 - ▶ League-wide message to be sent in next few days to inform community
 - ▶ Adjust as required
 - ▶ Coordinators / coaches should keep in close communication with parents
 - ▶ League will provide refunds and/or vouchers for future season registration

Safety Training

- ▶ Lieutenant Jason W. Malinowski
 - ▶ Public Education Coordinator
 - ▶ Boxborough Fire Dept.
 - ▶ jmalinowski@boxborough-ma.gov

Rule and Safety Highlights

- ▶ 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 (or for U8, within the infield). It should not be a game of coaches sending the runners, and umpires returning the runners to the bases.
- ▶ U10 & up – helmets on batters, and base runners – helmets must have cage and safety strap
- ▶ U10 & up – No FAKE BUNTING (safety concern)

Events – Training / Publicity

- ▶ Swing into Spring – Free season kickoff event – held February 28
- ▶ Safety Clinic – Tonight
 - ▶ Additional Resources: CDC “Heads-up” Concussion Training on our Web site (Coaches section)
- ▶ Coaches Clinic – date/time TBD
 - ▶ HS Coaches will demonstrate various drills and provide guidance on running effective practices
- ▶ High School Varsity Clinic – Sun May 17 (time 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
- ▶ Team Photos
 - ▶ Need a volunteer to coordinate and take team photos, and mount to plaques for our sponsors
- ▶ Future Colonials Youth Night – Fri May 15, Elm St
 - ▶ Varsity game vs LS. Pre-game ceremony with ABYSB players. More information to come.

Coach Requirements & Responsibilities

- ▶ CORI
 - ▶ All coaches are required to allow for a CORI background check with ABYSB every year. Please fill-out a form and send electronically to Al Caruso.
- ▶ Code of Conduct
 - ▶ All coaches signed a Code of Conduct as part of registration. Please read fully. Copies online.
- ▶ USA Softball Background Check & SafeSport Training
 - ▶ New for 2020 from our governing organization, USA Softball
 - ▶ Additional background check through USA Softball
 - ▶ SafeSport Training
 - ▶ Web links will be provided to coaches directly

Tentative Season Schedule

- ▶ First practices – optimistically, week of April 6
- ▶ Coaches choose whether to hold practice/scrimmage/clinic during April vacation week (4/20 - 4/26)
- ▶ First games – week of April 27
- ▶ No games Memorial Day weekend, but U10/U12 may have games Thursday night
- ▶ Last games – Sat June 13
- ▶ Game Schedule – TBD
 - ▶ Posted to web site, encourage parents to use it as the only source of info
- ▶ End of Season Celebrations
 - ▶ Team and/or division events are encouraged – coaches / coordinators decide
 - ▶ The league will pay \$8 per player for trophies or other items (medals, team picture, etc.). Order from local or online sources. Plan in advance.

Fields

▶ Fields

- ▶ All are currently CLOSED and will remain so through at least April 5
- ▶ Will open for our use as soon as it is determined to be safe to gather in small groups
- ▶ 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 15 minute before dusk. 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.

Cancellations / Rain-outs

- ▶ Cancellations (due to inability to field a team)
 - ▶ U8 – can play with as little as 5 players, coaches contact each other to cancel
 - ▶ U10/U12 – 8 players required to start an umpired game. Head coach who cannot field a team must contact the 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
 - ▶ 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 two (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-ups

- ▶ Make-up Games
 - ▶ 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

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.

Summer Softball (Revised)

- ▶ Preview of Summer Program
 - ▶ MiddleEssex League (thanks Matt!)
 - ▶ 5 AB teams, 10U, 12U-A, 12U-B, 14U, 18U
 - ▶ Although long-term league organizer, Jeff Strong, has retired, intent is to keep format and rules consistent
 - ▶ One planned change: re-balancing of schedule mid-way through season to improve competition
 - ▶ 2 Tournament teams
 - ▶ 12U, 14U