



# Stittsville Minor Softball Association

***Fun League  
Coaches Orientation Meeting  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010***



# Topics

- SMSA Fun League
  - Objectives and Expectations
  - How it operates
- Player Development
- Rules
- Calendar of Events
- To Do Lists
- Contacts



# SMSA Fun League

	<b>T-Ball</b>	<b>Min-5</b>	<b>Maj-5</b>	<b>Tyke</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2010 Registration:</b>	48	62	70	60	240
<b>2009 Registration:</b>	55	61	66	60	242
<b>2008 Registration:</b>	53	45	64	51	213

<b>Level</b>	<b>Teams 2010</b>	<b>Teams 2009</b>	<b>Teams 2008</b>
T-Ball	6	8	8
Minor 5	7	9	8
Major 5	8	7	5
Tyke	6	8	7

<b>Coaches 2010</b>	<b>Coaches 2009</b>	<b>Coaches 2008</b>
10	18	17
15	18	18
16	15	9
16	19	16



# Fun League Objectives

- To teach the rules and fundamentals of softball
- To build character and self-esteem through sports
- To develop respectful and sportsmanlike conduct
- To work cooperatively as a team and community



# Expectations for Coaches

- No abuse! (Both on and off the diamond):  
Refer to the Respect my Game link on the SMSA Website
- Reasonable knowledge of skills/rules
  - Leverage “Learn To Play” program in Coaches booklets
  - Can download the “Fast Pitch” rule book from our web site
- Delegate the workload – get others involved
  - Helpers, Student Helpers, Parents, Older Siblings
- Set the tone for the team
  - Be on time! Be Ready!
  - Organize & Plan: Team batting , field positions & Practice Plans
  - Sportsmanship

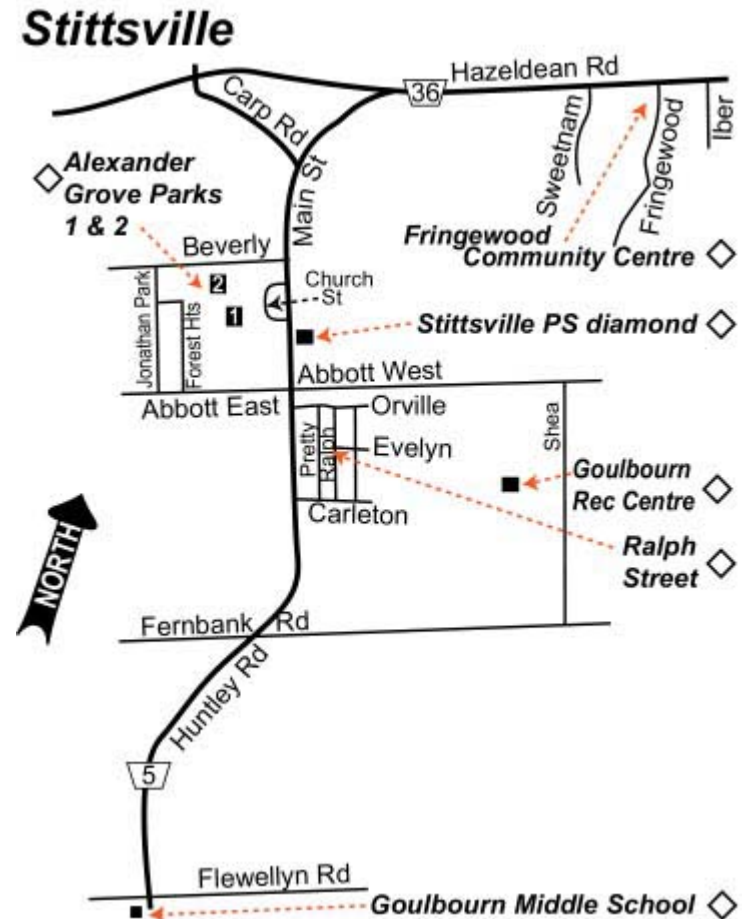


# Where we play

(<http://www.stittvillesoftball.org/diamonds/stittsville.htm>)

- A. Lorne Cassidy
- F. Banting Back
  - Front only used for practices
- Goulbourn Middle School (2)

**Batting Cage at  
Alexander Grove (Tyke!!)**





# When we play

- Monday-Friday @ 6:30PM
- Saturdays @ 9:00AM



# Our Season

- Pre-Season
- Regular Season
- Fun Day – June 19th
  - Game: Kids vs. Parents
  - Events: Dunk Tank, ...
  - Trophies, Food, ...



# Pre-Season

- 2nd half of April
  - Inform parents
  - Distribute equipment
  - Distribute shirts and hats
  - Coaches Clinics
  - Pitching Clinics for Tykes
- Practice Week,
  - 2 teams, 1 diamond, 1-1/2 hours



# Coaches Clinics

- **They are free!**
- Learn To Play
  - Introduction to coaching softball for Fun League Coaches
  - Session 1:  
Sunday, April 25th (9:30am to 12:30)  
(Beginning Coaching)
  - Session 2: Sunday, April 25th (1pm to 4 pm) (Returning Coaching)
  - Location: Holy Trinity School – 180 Katimavik Road (in gym)



# Regular Season

- Game night
  - Monday thru Friday based on Group
  - 2 teams, 1 diamond,
  - Divided into practice (1/2 hour) and a game (1/2 or 1 hour)
  - **Home team sets up and practices on the diamond**



# Rainouts

- We try to play unless there is lightning
- In event of rainout,
  - Contact other team coach and agree if game should be called **and if you want to re-schedule**
  - Contact parents prior to 6:00pm
  - email [karen@stittvillesoftball.org](mailto:karen@stittvillesoftball.org) with rainout information
- Re-scheduling procedure: TBP
  - Use our spare slots on Thursday nights at FB



# Practices

- ½ hour → expect to run three (3) drills, e.g.
  - Warm-up: running and throwing
  - Throwing-Catching: child-parent or child-child
  - Batting: off a T, hit-the-string, ball-on-a-rope, soft toss, and/or pitched ball
    - Multiple stations -- limited by number of bats and adults (**1:1**)



# Games

- ½ hour → 2 innings, 1 hour → 4 innings
- Try to keep the kids “active”
- What slows things down
  - Changing from batting to fielding → Bat twice through the order (discuss with other coach)
  - Dressing the catcher → Plan ahead (Major-5 and Tyke)
  - The catcher → Batting team’s coach to help out
  - Batting order → Share helmets, get a parent to “herd”



# Equipment

- Each player is given their own hat and team shirt
- Players need to bring a glove **and their own helmet** **and water and warm clothes**
- Each team is issued:
  - Bats
  - Balls
  - Catchers Gear
  - Learn To Play manuals
  - First Aid Kit
- Bases and T's are stored at the diamonds
  - You will be provided combinations for the lockers
- Coaches may want to bring: ice, and **teaching aids**



# Player Safety

- Bat → Adult
  - Watch the bat “rack”
  - Watch for younger siblings
- Batting → Helmets
- Helmets → Hats (Hygiene)
- Zero tolerance for throwing the bat (or swinging bat near players bench!!!!)
- Warn other coaches about players who can really hit/throw ...”Heads Up!”
- Watch out for “collisions”



# T-Ball

- Player Development Goals
  - Running the bases
  - Names of bases
  - Hitting off a T, > 9 feet
  - Proper Throwing
  - Stopping a ball
  - Throwing or Rolling to 1st base



# T-Ball - Rules

- Game Length: ½ hour practice, ½ hour Game
- Batting: All players Bat, hit off T until ball is fair
- Batting/Positions: Rotated each inning
  - Outs: No Outs, Ball goes to 1<sup>st</sup> base
  - Running: 1 base advance only, All run on last batter
  - Stealing: None, Can't lead off until ball is hit
  - Pitching: **Batting team's Coach** places ball on T
  - Dress: **No Shorts or Jewelry**
- Base Paths/Ball: Distance: 40 feet, 9" Ball
  - Hitting: No bunting and ball must travel > 9 feet
  - Fly Ball: All players advance
- Throwing Bat: Removed from base running
- Last Batter: Must be announced



# Minor 5-Pitch

- Player Development Goals
  - Hitting a pitched ball (from a Coach)
  - Catching the ball (from a Coach)
  - Throwing or Rolling to 1st base



# Minor-5 - Rules

- Game Length: ½ hour practice, ½ hour Game
- Batting: All players Bat, **5 pitches then T**
- Batting/Positions: Rotated each inning
  - Outs: No Outs, Ball goes to 1<sup>st</sup> base
- Base Running: 1 base advance only, All run on last batter
- Stealing: None, Can't lead off until ball is hit
- Pitching: **Coach, 26 feet or closer (but not too close)**
- Dress: No Shorts or Jewelry
- Base Paths/Ball: Distance: 40 feet, 9" Ball
  - Hitting: No bunting and ball must travel > 9 feet
- Fly Ball: All players advance
- Throwing Bat: Removed from base running
- Last Batter: Must be announced



# Major 5-Pitch

- Player Development Goals
  - No rolling the ball
  - Catching between players
  - Introduction of outs at bases
  - Multi base hits (doubles)



# Major-5 - Rules

Game Length: ½ hour practice, **½-1 hour Game**

Batting: All players Bat, 5 pitches then **WALK**

Batting/Positions: Rotated each inning

**Outs:** **Force at any base, no tagging, unlimited**

Base Running: **Limit to a Double**, All run on last batter

Stealing: None, Can't lead off until ball is hit

Pitching: Coach, 26 feet or closer

Dress: No Shorts or Jewelry

Base Paths/Ball: Distance: 40 feet, **11" Ball**

Hitting: No bunting and ball must travel > 9 feet

Fly Ball: **All Players Return**

Throwing Bat: **Automatic Out**

Last Batter: Must be announced



# Tyke

- Player Development Goals
  - Strike outs
  - Pitching
  - Triples and Home Runs
- Preparing them for House League



# Tyke - Rules

Game Length: ½ hour practice **1 hour Game**

Batting: All players Bat, 5/6 pitches then **OUT**

Batting/Positions: **Can keep same positions**

Outs: **Regular out, Tag below the shoulders** , unlimited

Base Running. **Unlimited if outfield positioned else Double**

Stealing: None, Can't lead off until ball is hit

**Pitching: Teammate (3) then Coach (3)**, 26 feet

Dress: No Shorts or Jewelry

Base Paths/Ball: Distance: 40 feet, 11" Ball

Hitting: No bunting and ball must travel > 9 feet

Fly Ball: All players Return

Throwing Bat: Automatic OUT

Last Batter: Must be announced



# Preparing Tykes for House League

- Let them make their own real-time decisions – don't over coach
  - Coach before the play (“runner on 1st, play is to 1<sup>st</sup> or 2nd”)
  - Coach after the play (explain what should have happened)
  - Explain this to the parents
- Want them pitching as soon as they are able to
  - Offering pitching clinics to help players (and coaches) with the basics
- Player Evaluations
  - Will ask you to evaluate players at the end of the season
    - Used to balance teams in House League
  - I'll send you a copy of the form we used last year



# Playing Up

- Generally not allowed for the Fun League
  - Emotional maturity vs. physical skill
  - Want to keep them with kids their own age
  - Skills and Abilities vary greatly for this age group
  - Manageable within the objectives/rules of the league/level
    - Not the issue it is with hockey, soccer, and basketball
- (Very Rare) Exceptions?
  - Identify them at the 1<sup>st</sup> practice
  - Discuss with parents
  - Contact me
  - We want to resolve it before Regular Season starts



# Important Dates

- April 24<sup>th</sup> Pitching Clinic for Tyke (3:00 – 4:00 p.m. BSP)
- April 25<sup>th</sup> All players and parents have been contacted by coaches
- April 26<sup>th</sup> Equipment Pickup and Helmet Sale  
- Sweetnam Storage Lockers – 6:30-8:30p.m.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> Fun League Starts
- May 8<sup>th</sup> Picture Day- Frederick Banting
- May 16-18 Shutdown for Victoria Day weekend
- June 19<sup>th</sup> Fun Day (9:00-2:30) Grove 1



# Need your input on ...

- This is my first year directing the Fun League;
  - I want your input as the season progresses
- End of season; what is your input on mixing teams?
- Tyke coaches; please fill in evaluation forms at year-end



# What I still need to send you

- Coaches List (Almost complete)



# What I e-mailed you

- Final team list
- Link to the Schedules
- Details on Coaches Clinics
- Parents welcome letter and Code of Conduct



# What I need from you (ASAP)

- If you are planning to attend a clinic, which one(s)?
- If you have a “Learn To Play” manual and it’s not for your current level(s), please let me know
  - Red → T-Ball and Minor-5
  - Blue → Major-5, Tyke



# To Do List – Pre Season

- Contact team Coaches – introduce yourselves (I will send general e-mail to all coaches for each level)
- Contact Parents with team introduction and league expectations (telephone and/or **e-mail**)
  - Refer them to our online calendar
  - Tyke coaches please remind parents about Pitching Clinics
- Pick-up Equipment: April 26th
- Forward team schedule. Ask people to contact you when they won't be able to make the game.
- Pick-up team hat's and shirts – April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>
- Review the SMSA local league rules.  
(<http://www.stittvillesoftball.org/funleaguerules.htm>)



# To Do List – 1<sup>st</sup> Practice

- Plan what activities will be done
  - Coaching Clinics and Learn To Play manual
- Speak with the parents at the 1st practice or in the introduction letter to encourage them to participate in the practices...Bring their glove!
- Speak with the children, let them introduce one another. Use name tags on the hats or shirts for the 1st few sessions.
- Give lots of positive feedback....GREAT Job Billy !!!!!...bring star stickers and put them on the hat after each session to show a job well done.
- Plan a post game treat schedule for the parents...Sally is Captain this week !!!!
  - Have each parent bring drinks/juice for after every game.
  - Popsicles are a Fun Leaguer favourite (depending on weather)!



# To Do List – Games

- Remind the parents 1-2 days before each game (e-mail).
- Continue to leverage the parental involvement. Ask a parent to: ump 1st base, equip the catcher, monitor batting order...etc
- Your game plan has every child batting 1st, last...etc, and everyone gets to try all positions throughout the year. Some children will only want to play the same position... move them around.
- Continue to provide positive feedback...Your getting better Sally !!!
- Do this and your coaching experience will be a BREEZE.....



# 2010 SMSA Executive

President	Tim Bafia
Vice-President	Craig Pavia
Administrator	Karen Halse
Treasurer	Ida Everest
Registrar	Colleen Hache
Fun League	Russ Hardy
Fun Day Coordinator	Vacant
Equipment	Phil Walsh
Fundraising	Dave Lee
Scheduling	Mike Kotuba
Past President	Brent Olson



# Questions?

**Russ Hardy**  
Fun League Director  
**[russ@stittvillesoftball.org](mailto:russ@stittvillesoftball.org)**