

ROLAND PARK BASEBALL LEAGUES

TIPS FOR COACHES

BY JIM CONSIDINE

THE PLAYING FIELDS

A locker/box of "field" equipment is chained to the backstop at Green Fields (Roland Park Elementary/Middle School), the North & South Field (Gilman), Tudor Field, and St. Mary's Seminary. Each box will contain a home plate, pitching rubber, tape measure, hammer, or rubber mallet to set up your field for the baseball game. If the box is missing any of these items, please contact georgeatkinson@rolandparkbaseball.com

We are the guests of numerous schools throughout the community. Each school has specific rules that they ask for us to observe. We are permitted to play baseball at so many local schools due to the respect shown to our hosts and the diligence of the people who preceded us.

Gilman allows the RPBL to use their fields after 5:30 PM on weekdays. If Gilman should have a game or practice, which runs past 5:30 PM, we must wait until they are finished before we can begin our activities. Our teams are requested to stay away from the Gilman team who is using the field. We suggest that you take your team to another location on the campus. The batting cage is available for our use, if you want to keep your players busy.

At Gilman, the home team coach of the last game of the day is responsible for "raking out" any ruts on the skinned (dirt) portion of the infield. This normally occurs in the batter's boxes, pitching mound and first base. We appreciate your taking time to attend to this "housekeeping task". A rake is stored in the RPBL shed on the Gilman campus.

Please be sure that we leave any field used by the RPBL in an orderly state. Needless to say, we should clean up after ourselves following a game or practice. Quite often, this means we have to pick up after others.

Portable restrooms are located at Gilman (next to maintenance shed and adjacent to the "North & South" fields and Roland Park Elementary & Middle School.

The RPBL in-house leagues may not use the Gilman Varsity baseball diamond. The 13/14 Travel League team will play their home games on the Gilman Varsity diamond.

THE WEBSITE

www.rolandparkbaseball.com

A Coaches Page has been created to aid the RPBL coaches by providing links to several resources that may be of assistance. Roland Park Baseball Leagues Rules, field dimensions, and league material are available for download from this site. There are active links where (1) the winning coach can report the results of their game (2) If a player requires first aid attention [cold compress, bandage, etc] we would appreciate the coach informing us by clicking on the SafeBaseball@RolandParkBaseball.com. The league is concentrating on ways to improve everyone's baseball experience. (3) order replacement equipment, (4) reschedule a postponed game or (5) send an email to share your thoughts with the commissioner or whomever you care to direct your message.

For the convenience of our families and friends, the RPBL schedule on the website offers the patron an opportunity to search for a game within a league, by team, by date, or by field. Maps, driving directions, and information pertaining to the location of the game are available for your information.

The RPBL will post messages daily on the home page of the website. We will post the latest news regarding the RPBL throughout the season. If you have pictures that you would like to share with us, please send them to jimconsidine@rolandparkbaseball.com

INCLEMENT WEATHER

The home team coach is responsible for making final decision on whether to postpone or play a game. It is considered proper protocol to discuss the decision with your opponent. If you are the home coach and a decision is made to postpone the game, you are responsible for

- ⊕ Notifying our head umpire Jim O'Connor (410-435-4525). If we postpone the game once the umpire is in route, we are liable for a portion of the umpire's fee. Jim O'Connor can provide the margin of time he needs to cancel an umpire without incurring a fee.
- ⊕ We will assist you if the field is wet on a Saturday. It is in everyone's best interest not to cancel games on Saturdays.
- ⊕ Notifying Paul Schaefer (either using the website or sending a direct email to PaulSchaefer@RolandParkBaseball.com)
- ⊕ Paul will help you to reschedule the game. Once this is completed, you will need to contact Jim O'Connor again to schedule an umpire for the makeup game.

A game cannot be played with standing water on the field. Gilman supplies the RPBL with a product called "Turface", which is kept in our shed on the Gilman campus and in the locker behind Green Fields. Here are some tips when applying this product to a wet infield.

- ⊕ Please do not use more than four (4) bags of Turface to dry your field. If you need more than four bags to dry the field, the game should be postponed.
- ⊕ How to apply Turface:
 - Puddles need to be eliminated. There are various ways to accomplish this task. One technique that we should not use is to rake the standing water onto the adjacent turf grass.

- Create a cross pattern in the wet infield dirt with your rake.
- Add the Turface.
- Lightly, rake the Turface and mix it with the wet infield dirt. Let the treated area sit undisturbed for 15 minutes to allow the product to work. (Hint: for all of you who have had the pleasure of having a cat as a house pet, this stuff works a lot like cat litter)

“WeatherBug” is an effective real time weather monitoring software program available for download www.weatherbug.com - Gilman has a weather monitoring station that will allow anyone to see how much precipitation has fallen, the current weather, humidity, and wind speed. There is a weather station at Villa Julie, which is close to St. Paul's School. The Villa Julie location has a live web-camera. In case you are in Annapolis and are curious what the weather is on Roland Avenue, this is a good way to help make the decision on whether to play your game or postpone. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with Jim Considine JimConsidine@RolandParkBaseball.com , George Atkinson GeorgeAtkinson@RolandParkBaseball.com , or Mark Hyman BaltHyman@aol.com

TIPS FOR NEW COACHES

- ☺ The scorekeeper is an important person for a baseball coach. They can keep your team focused on what is going to happen next. Keeping the batting order organized is invaluable to a manager. The younger your team, the greater the value placed on the job of the scorekeeper.
- ☺ Umpires will make mistakes. In the heat of the moment, coaches have been known to argue with an umpire over an umpire’s call. Throwing an “Earl Weaver-esque” tantrum will not serve anyone’s purpose. If you feel the umpire made a bad call, we suggest you discuss the matter with the umpire during the inning break, or after the game. Your players will appreciate and respect you by keeping the upper hand.
- ☺ If you have a question, complaint or a problem, please contact Mark Hyman, Jim Considine, or any RPBL Board member for assistance.
- ☺ Each league has a coordinator who will provide assistance with a problem should one arise. The 2006 coordinators for the RPBL are;
 - Mark Dewire & Hilary Don – TeeBall
 - Will Schwarz – iLeague
 - Scott Thompson – National League
 - Steve Sakamoto-Wengel – American League
 - Gil Wylie – Teen League
- ☺ An experienced coach will be happy to assist you with any question that might arise. Paul Schaefer/Indians, Chris Downs/Cavaliers, Brent Hoffman/Aces, Gary Waugh/Aces, or Ron Sheff/Ravens have over 60 years of coaching experience amongst themselves.
- ☺ Reschedule your postponed game at the earliest possible date. The league wants every team to play a full schedule. No one knows how much rain we can have each spring. Trying to “cram” your postponed games during the last week of the season is not a good idea due to the limited amount of playing fields available.
- ☺ The RPBL Board of Directors is happy to assist in any way possible. They member s of the 2006 board are;

Mark Hyman	Coaching and player assignments
Jim Considine	Printing, website & field maintenance
Paul Schaefer	Scheduling and rules
Louise Macsherry	Administration
David Mock	Treasurer
George Atkinson	Equipment, Umpires
Lanny Springs	Travel Leagues
Becky Scaletta	Raffle
Hilary Don &	Safety
Laura Burden	