



Let's Play Ball!!

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Commissioner's Letter

As we pass the midpoint of the season, there is much to be impressed with in the Roland Park Baseball universe. Nearly 700 boys and girls have played over 400 games in our five

recreational leagues or as members of our ten travel baseball squads. For the most part, the weather has cooperated, a welcome relief after the past few seasons of seemingly perpetual rain. Rain did impact the end of RPBL night at Camden Yards on May 10th. But it didn't dampen the spirits of the many RPBL families that attended. A special shout out to the National League Blaze who had nearly a full squad of players in their jerseys and were the winners of one of the Jupiter Ice Cream parties.



Our Tee-Ball and International league athletes' seasons are nearly complete, but the playoffs will begin after Memorial Day in our National, American and Teen leagues. If you're itching to catch some Playoff Baseball, you'll have nine games to choose from on Tuesday, May 28th alone. One great location to watch a game will be Macsherry Field which was renovated this off season. An in-season addition was a wonderful new scoreboard that displays the score to the fans in the stands.

Championship games will take place the week of June 3rd, with the National League game scheduled for Wednesday, June 5th, the American League game scheduled for Thursday, June 6th, and the Teen League double elimination playoffs wrapping up either Wednesday or Thursday night. The Wednesday night Teen League game will be played in the Gilman Varsity Stadium again this year, quite a treat for a couple of lucky teams. Schedules are available on the RPBL website. Come out and cheer our young athletes on as they go for the gold.

On Saturday, June 1st, the third class of the Roland Park Baseball Leagues Hall of Fame will be inducted. Entering the Hall this year are Allen Barrett, Chris Downs, Derek Savage, Robert Wood, all past Commissioners, and longtime umpire and song-smith Curtis Greene. Each of these individuals has made an indelible mark on Roland Park Baseball, and their names will be enshrined on Hall of Fame bricks at Memorial Field. Please come meet our new Hall of Famers at a field-side reception at Memorial Field coinciding with the 3pm National League playoff game. This is becoming an RPBL tradition.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks by the fields and then at the Closing Ceremonies at Belvedere Square on Saturday, June 8th. Don't miss this great event that includes tasty food, carnival games, dunk tank, DJ, and the world famous basket raffle.

Sincerely,
Andrew Wolfe

RPBL News and Notes

Tuesday, May 28th, will be jam packed with playoff action. 9 playoff games will be taking place across our fields in Medfield Heights, Mt. Washington and Roland Park.



Friday, June 7th, Impact Baseball will have a Free Clinic under the lights at Hopkins Stadium.

Your old, or undersized baseball gear can be donated to children who are less fortunate. Plan to bring it to the closing ceremonies on June 8th. Details will be

passed along in the next newsletter (third edition).

The third RPBL Hall of Fame Class will be inducted on June 1st at the Springwell Senior Living Facility in Mt. Washington.



Rule Quiz!! Answers Are In ...

1) A batter hits a ground ball and barely beats the throw to first, but he jumps right over the base without touching it. Will the umpire call him out?

No. Missed bases are only done on appeal. The only way that he would be called out is if the opposing team appeals the play before the baserunner returns to the base.

2) A batter hits a line drive back towards the pitcher and the ball caroms off of the rubber and goes out of play behind the back stop. How many bases does each baserunner get?

Zero. It is simply a foul ball. The ball went foul before ever crossing first or third base.

3) When do baseball rules call for the baserunner to get "the base that they are going to and the next one" on an overthrow that goes out of play?

Never. That is a rule that does not exist. Overthrow rules are either one base or two bases and are either based upon the time of pitch or time of throw. Here are the most common. 1) An overthrow from an infielder that is the first throw (ie. not the second throw of a double play) is two bases from the time of pitch. Note: A pitcher who steps off the rubber is an infielder, so a pick off throw done by a pitcher after stepping off the rubber would result in two bases. 2) An overthrow from an outfielder or the second throw from an infielder would be 2 bases from the time of throw. 3) An overthrow from a pitcher still attached to the rubber would be 1 base from the time of pitch. The most common example of this would be a left handed pitcher throwing to first base.

4) When can a baserunner steal on a foul tip?

Always. What makes this question tricky is the fact that one must know the definition of "foul tip". By definition, a "foul tip" is caught by the catcher. It is treated the exact same as a clean strike. If the ball is not caught, it is not a foul tip. It is a foul ball.

5) The number 4 hitter is supposed to be up, but instead, the number 5 hitter is batting. If the opposing coach brings it to the umpire's attention, will an out be called?

No. This is another one of those things that can only be done on appeal. If it is brought to someone's attention too soon, the opposing team would simply correct the mistake and the proper batter would assume the count of the incorrect batter. The proper way to handle the situation as an opposing coach is to say nothing. Only say something if the player gets on base. At that point, the play can be properly appealed and the out is awarded.

The out is the batter who was supposed to bat and not the batter who batted. So in this example, the #5 hitter who hit the ball would be the one to come up to bat next and the number 4 hitter would be out.

6) When can a batter run on a drop third strike?

Always, unless there is a baserunner on 1st base and there is either zero or one out.

7) If an "Infield fly rule" is in effect, what happens if the ball is not caught?

The infield fly rule only means that the batter is out (if the ball lands fair). So, if it is caught, the runners have to go back to their base and then can tag up if they so choose. If the ball is dropped, the runners can stay at their base or run. They are not forced, so to get them out,

they must be tagged.

8) If a fielder throws his mitt at the ball, what happens?

Nothing unless contact is made with the ball. Assuming that it is on a hit, the player is awarded at least 3 bases. If it is to prevent a homerun, the homerun will still be awarded. If it is on a throw, the runners will be awarded two bases. If it is on a pitch, the runner will get 1 base. I just saw this last year when a catcher scooped up a ball with his helmet. The baserunners all advanced one base.

9) If a batter bunts the ball and the bat and ball make contact on the ground in fair territory, what happens?

It depends. If the bat hits the ball, it is a dead ball and would be foul (ie. the batter bunts and drops the bat on the ball.). If the ball hits the bat, it is in play (ie the batter drops his bat on the ground and the spin of the ball causes it to rule into the bat).

10) Who was the last player to hit a walk off inside the park grand slam?

Roberto Clemente



The NL Pilots grabbing a bite at new sponsor The Local Fry

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In addition to our participants, parents and team sponsors, our special league sponsors get an assist for helping us keep the league fun. Thanks to them, thanks to you!!

Dental Trauma – A Quick Guide for Parents

One of the most frequent emails the league receives are from coaches with questions. Below are the answers to some of those most frequent questions.

It is not uncommon for accidents to happen on the baseball field. Sometimes the mouth and teeth are involved in these sports related injuries and this can be a scary event for both the child and parent. Below are some recommended guidelines that parents or coaches can follow to help potentially save a tooth!

Wear a **Mouth Guard** when activity involves a risk of collisions or contact with hard equipment. Do Not Panic. Rinse the traumatized area well with water or saline to visualize injury. If loss of consciousness, nausea, or vomiting occurred, seek medical attention immediately at your nearest ER to rule out a head injury.

Management of a dental injury usually depends on whether the affected tooth is a baby tooth or a permanent tooth. The dentist will often ask for you to text a photo of your child's mouth to evaluate the severity of the injury.

Permanent Teeth

1. **Chipped or Broken Tooth** – Contact your dentist. Find the broken tooth fragment, if possible, and take it with you to the dentist. Store the fragment in milk or saliva.
2. **Mobile Tooth** – Contact your dentist.
3. **Luxated Tooth (tooth knocked out of place)** – Contact your dentist immediately.
4. **Avulsed Tooth (tooth knocked out of the mouth)** – This is a true dental emergency as the tooth must be re-implanted immediately. Find the tooth and pick it up by the crown (the part usually visible in the mouth). **DO NOT TOUCH THE ROOT!** Rinse the tooth for 10 seconds under clean running water. If the tooth appears unharmed, try to place it back into the socket. If successful, have your child bite down on a towel/cloth to keep the tooth in place. If unsuccessful or tooth appears damaged, place it in milk or the child's own saliva. **SEEK DENTAL TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY.**

Primary (Baby) Teeth

1. **Chipped or Broken Tooth** - Contact your dentist.
 2. **Mobile Tooth** – Contact your dentist.
 3. **Luxated Tooth (tooth knocked out of place)** – Contact your dentist immediately.
 4. **Avulsed Tooth (tooth knocked out of the mouth)** – **DO NOT** place the tooth back in the child's mouth! Contact your dentist. If the tooth cannot be found, seek dental treatment immediately
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