



Let's Play Ball!!

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Commissioner's Letter

Hello Families of Roland Park Baseball Leagues.

It is not the time to think about baseball. Not in the least! I hope one and all are engaged with the holiday season we have now entered, and that you are finding peace with friends and family. However I do have a job to do here, so I will do what I can to keep this newsletter on point.

To start, I must introduce myself: I am Chuck Fancher the 45th commissioner of Roland Park Baseball Leagues, 8 years a rec league coach, 5 years a league trustee, a parent of two players, and frequently a late arrival at practices. It is my honor to now serve the league I have come to appreciate as an institution of Roland Park and the surrounding area, and in doing so I aspire to maintain its mission - *to instill sportsmanship and to provide a nurturing environment, which will allow children to mature physically, mentally, and emotionally*— in this, the 69th season!

As many of you know, Roland Park Baseball Leagues is now a year-round enterprise from spring travel team tryouts starting in late winter, to our 700+ player spring recreation season, to the fall skills clinic, fall travel teams, and wiffle ball tournament. Insert smaller events among the preparations for the major ones, and our volunteers never lack for things to do. And do we ever rely on volunteers! Between coaches, coordinators, rostering committee people, fundraising assistants, field maintainers, and the Board of Trustees, we have over 200 members of our community helping to keep this moving forward for nothing more than the desire to provide a fantastic league for our children to play in. So, with sincere gratitude for the work done this past year and high expectation for the coming season, I say:

Happy Holidays,

Charles J. Fancher

Baseball For All Comes to Maryland

by Josh Braverman

In little league baseball there are around 100,000 girls playing nationwide, by high school, 99% of these girls will have dropped the sport. Why does this happen? Who, if anyone, is behind it? How can we change this pattern? These are all valuable questions, and Justine Siegal has devoted her career to finding the answers and taking action. Justine is an American baseball coach who is working to create equal treatment and opportunity for girls on and off the field. Justine is an innovator. In 2009, she became the first woman to coach a major league baseball team. In 2011, she became the first woman to throw batting practice to a professional baseball team. Most importantly, she founded the organization Baseball For All in 2016. This organization states that their mission is “Leveling the playing field for girls across America by addressing the social justice issue of gender inequality.”

In just the few years that Baseball For All has been around, they have already had a huge impact. Starting with just one all-girl team, they quickly expanded. Today, they have players from 37 different states competing in tournaments all across the country and further. But their impact is even greater than that. The organization has taught girls lessons that can be applied throughout life; one Baseball For All player said that, “Justine [has] made me see that with enough hard work and dedication you can accomplish anything.”

Justine and her work has shown us the urgency of this issue and has demonstrated that it is possible to make a change. Should Roland Park consider an all-girls team? That is for you to decide.

Contributed by Josh Braverman, Roland Park Elementary Middle School student

If you have an aspiring sports writer in the family that would like to contribute to the RPBL Newsletter, have them contact me, Chuck Fancher, at chuck.rpbl@gmail.com. Topics can be provided, or may be one's own. Material should pertain in some way to youth baseball.

Baseball For All National Tournament

Each year Baseball for All holds a national tournament and this year it comes to the Ripken Experience facility in Aberdeen, Maryland, July 26-31, 2020. Divisions will be T-ball, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, and 18U. Roland Park Baseball Leagues aims to enter teams in several divisions.

If you have a player interested in participating on a team, or if you can assist with coaching or organizing this event, please contact one of the following:
Matt Fischer (matt.erik.fischer@gmail.com)

For more information on Baseball For All visit www.baseballforall.com

Girls Baseball Clinic!

Impact Baseball is partnering with DC Girls Baseball to offer its **2nd Annual DC Girls Baseball Clinic** this winter! Impact Coaches will cover techniques & mechanics in hitting, pitching, catching, fielding, base running, and mental IQ.

If you want to be challenged and have fun working hard over the long winter months this clinic is for you!

We welcome all girls that aspire to or currently play baseball (or softball even though this is a baseball clinic)! *DC Girls Baseball members receive discounted rate--inquire for coupon code!*

Location: Friends School Baltimore--Indoor Cages (5114 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD 21210)

Dates: January 5, 12, 26, February 2, 9, 23, March 1, 8, 15 (Make-Up Date--March 22)

Time: 9am - 10am

Price: \$180 for DC Girls Baseball Members (Must have coupon code), \$225 for Non-Members

Link to Register: <https://impactsports.as.me/?appointmentType=8663298>

If you have any questions please contact Dave Miele via cell phone 240-310-5514 or email dave@impactsportsbaltimore.com.

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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!!

Spring Recreation League is coming!

Registration is open

We are pleased to announce that spring registration for the Roland Park Baseball Leagues (RPBL) 2020 Spring Season is now OPEN for ages 5-15. To register, please go to www.rolandparkbaseball.com/registration/.



Team sponsorships

Past and future supporters of Roland Park Baseball Leagues, it is the time of year that we line up sponsors for our 60+ spring recreation league teams! If you, or a business or organization you know, would like to support RPBL, please consider the team sponsorship. There is no better way to show your support for our community than to adorn the jersey of a Moose, Knight, Shamrock, Falcon, or Cub with your name or logo.

For more information on sponsorships go to www.rolandparkbaseball.com/team-sponsorship/ or write to Roland Park Baseball at rolandparkbaseball@gmail.com.

Thinking About Coaching? You should!

Do you find yourself at a loss for things to do in each spring? Here is a RPBL secret: **as**

a parent of a Roland Park Baseball League player, you are **already** qualified to try your hand at **Coaching!** RPBL welcomes one and all.

Each spring RPBL needs two or three - sometimes 6 for Tee Ball - coaches and assistant coaches to fill out our teams, and as always, the parents of RPBL step up to the challenge, many of them coaching a team in any sport for the first time. We offer clinics in the early spring, meetings with league coordinators, and a plethora of other information to get you into form by Opening Day. If you are interested, please indicate this when registering your child, or email me directly at chuck.rpbl@gmail.com.

Other News

Fall Classic Wiffle Ball Tournament and Home Run Derby

The 4th annual RPBL Fall Classic was a huge success! With over 110 participants the event raised \$12,063.30. This year proceeds were split between Carver Vo-Tech and Patterson High, with some leftover to add additional programs.

Visit www.rolandparkbaseball.com/news/ for more on this great RPBL tradition.

Thanks again to organizers Trevor Khouzami and Wyatt Winstead. Trevor has spearheaded this event since its inception in 2016, raising over \$34,000 in total for Baltimore school athletics. This year he was joined by Wyatt to begin a transition of the event organization assuring its continuation into future years. Best wishes to Wyatt with the 2020 tournament!



RPBL at the 8th Annual Trick-or-Treat at the Square

RPBL attended the Trick-or-Treat at the Square event at Belvedere Square this past October. Morning rain gave way to a sunny afternoon complete with trick or treating, a costume contest, and dancing. Parents Brad Lamont, James Yoon, and John Angel oversaw distributors Declan Lamont, Emerson Yoon, and Henry Overton as they handed out two trunkfuls of candy.



FIRST PITCH Celebration at Gilman

Gilman School is hosting the First Pitch Celebration ... Take photos with the Oriole Bird and Gilman Greyhound, get professional baseball player autographs, join a silent auction for baseball memorabilia!

Keynote Speaker:

Tim Kurkjian, *Analyst on ESPN's Baseball Tonight and Sportscenter*

Guest Speakers:

Ryan Ripken, *Bowie Baysox 1st Baseman*, Gavin Sheets, *Birmingham Barons 1st Baseman*

Saturday, January 11, 2020, 3:00-5:30 pm
\$25/general admission
\$10/kids 10 & under

A New Look

This past spring RPBL learned that our website platform, League Toolbox, would be discontinued, and by the end of the spring, it was. After an extensive search and a few test runs, we have landed on a new platform, TeamSnap. As one of the most popular and developed league management tools, it has already made the daunting task of transitioning our information smooth and (relatively) quick. Among its features is an app for your phone or tablet that will help keep you in touch with your team and schedule. More details on the website will come this spring!

[Search](#)

TeamSnap
Sports Team Management

OPEN

4.8 ★★★★★
31.5K Ratings

#7
Sports

4+
Age

What's New [Version History](#)

Version 5.2.0 1w ago

- You can now include photos in group and direct messages. Selfie bomb!
5.1.1 [more](#)

Preview

Today Games Apps Updates Search