



Dear HYBA Members:

The Board of Directors of the Hampden Youth Baseball Association is pleased to announce registration for the 2017 spring baseball season! Registrations for players 5 to 19 years of age will be accepted online at www.hampdenbaseball.org, beginning January 4, 2017, or in person at the Hampden Township Recreation Building, across from Sporting Hill Elementary School, on January 7, 2017 9am to noon.

First-time registrants must provide a copy of their birth certificate and proof of residency, and those playing based on school location or grade must provide their report card. Registration materials are provided at www.hampdenbaseball.org, under the Registration tab. Additional forms will be available at registration.

Please review the following important information:

Baseball Age Determination Date

HYBA players must play in the league designated for their age group based on their age and/or grade level. Please reference our age/eligibility table available at registration, and under the Registration tab of www.hampdenbaseball.org.

Parents may request that player(s) be evaluated to play one level higher than the current HYBA age guideline specifications. For example, an eight year old may be considered for the Minor League. PARENTS MUST NOTIFY THEIR AGE GROUP COORDINATOR OF THIS REQUEST PRIOR TO EVALUATIONS. There is no guarantee that requests to move up will be accommodated. Evaluations will be used to determine if a player is suited to move up. Parents agree to accept the placement, and acknowledge that (if offered) playing outside of the standard age/grade chart may effect a player's selection to 2017 tournament teams.

Saturday Baseball

Regular season baseball games will be scheduled on selected Saturdays throughout the season. This will increase scheduling flexibility and allow HYBA to take maximum advantage of our available playing facilities. Please take this into consideration as you begin to plan for your child's spring activities. Additional scheduling details will be announced when our 2017 team rosters and schedules are formed. Hampden Township baseball fields open on April 1st, weather permitting.

League Structure for 5, 6, 7, and 8 year-olds - T-Ball, Instructional League and Junior League

Baseball programs for our 5, 6, 7, and 8 year-old players are structured in three leagues. The Tee Ball League will include all 5 year-old players, and 6 year-old players. The Instructional League will group interested 6 year-olds with previous playing experience and 7 year-old players. The Junior League will group interested 7 year-olds with previous playing experience and 8 year-old players. Parents of returning 6 year-olds who feel their child is not ready to play at the Instructional League may have their child play in the Tee Ball League. Likewise, parents of returning 7 year-olds who feel their child is not ready to play at the Junior League may have their child play in the Instructional League.

These leagues will continue to stress learning and development. The Tee Ball League combines coach pitching and hitting off batting tees. The Instructional League is strictly coach pitching. The Junior League provides a transition to Minor League play; coaches and players will share the pitching duties.

Background Checks for Volunteers

The HYBA conducts mandatory criminal background checks on all volunteers. All volunteers must provide their social security number, a copy of government-issued photo identification, and complete the Little League Volunteer Application. In addition, those desiring to coach must complete an HYBA coaching application. Please bring your background check information to registration. Forms are available at www.hampdenbaseball.org. If mailing your coaching and volunteer application, please include a copy of your photo identification.

In addition, recent changes in legislation (HB 1276 or Act 15) require that all volunteers who come in contact with youth are required to obtain background checks. The Act (effective July 1, 2015) provides for a waiver of fees for criminal record checks conducted for volunteers who are required by the Act to obtain them. If you would like to volunteer you will need to obtain these certifications as soon as possible. You may complete the process online to receive some of your results immediately. Regardless of other background checks that you may have completed, ALL prospective volunteers must obtain the following certifications at this time (note that upon completion your background certifications will be valid for sixty months):

1. Complete a "Report of Criminal History" from the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP); and
2. Complete a "Child Abuse History" certification from the Department of Human Services.
3. If the volunteer has NOT been a resident of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the entirety of the previous 10 years, a

fingerprint based federal criminal history (FBI) submitted through a PA Department of Human Services (DHS) authorized agent is required.

Code of Conduct

HYBA baseball programs provide a positive experience to all of our members. The HYBA calls on all adults to build on the *positive* examples we have set for our players through continued emphasis on respect, responsibility, and sportsmanship. In support of this effort, the Code of Conduct provides guiding principles for participating at the HYBA. Please review the Code of Conduct prior to registration. Compliance with the Code of Conduct is an ongoing condition for membership in our association. You will be asked to indicate your understanding of this requirement upon registration.

Player Evaluations

Player evaluations will be conducted for HYBA Junior League, Minor League, and Major League, on February 25, 2017 at TWIN PONDS, 200 Lambs Gap Road Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. Additional details are available on the evaluations schedule posted at www.hampdenbaseball.org under the Registration tab.

Important Additional Information:

- ⇒ Please visit www.hampdenbaseball.org for up-to-date information, including codes of conduct, important dates, and points of contact. Please visit our web site often, and read all HYBA registration materials.
- ⇒ The HYBA provides players with hats, shirts, and socks. Team equipment will include bats, helmets, catcher's equipment, and baseballs. Players will need to supply their own baseball glove, baseball pants (no shorts), athletic cups, and footwear. All equipment must conform to Little League standards. www.littleleague.org offers guidance on glove size, and publishes bat specifications for those players using their own bat(s). **Personal bats must be Little League compliant.**
- ⇒ **We are pleased to announce there will continue to be NO SEPARATE FUNDRAISING!** Parents are encouraged to patronize our concession stand after games! Concession tickets are available for purchase; \$1 each from the concession stand. Individual teams may opt to purchase concession tickets, coaches' gifts and/or organize team parties as agreed upon by the parents of the players on that team. Watch for information regarding HYBA Day at the Harrisburg Senators! This event will provide the HYBA with funds in support of our program.
- ⇒ **ALL LITTLE LEAGUE PARENTS are REQUIRED to work in the concession stand once or twice during the season. Your team parent will distribute a schedule. Profits from the concession stand are a primary source of fundraising; so operating the stand is of utmost importance. GAMES WILL NOT BEGIN if the concession stand is not staffed; therefore, it is vital that you accept this responsibility when it is your turn. Detailed instructions are posted in the stand, and there will be veteran volunteers scheduled with new parents.**
- ⇒ Coaches for the HYBA give much of their time, talent, and energy offering baseball instruction to our children. Please be courteous and notify your coach if you will miss a practice or game, and pick-up your player promptly at the conclusion of all practices and games.
- ⇒ COMMUNICATION is a key component of the HYBA program. If your player is experiencing difficulties, please **SPEAK TO YOUR COACH!** Usually, misunderstandings can be cleared up easily as long as your coach has the problem brought to his/her attention. If the issue is not resolved, the coordinator of your league will become involved. In extreme cases, the HYBA Board of Directors may be needed. Should an issue escalate to this level; all parties will have an opportunity to express their concerns before any decisions are made. This process is in place to solve problems as quickly and efficiently as possible in the best interest of players, parents and HYBA volunteers.
- ⇒ The HYBA offers Tournament and Fall Baseball opportunities following the regular season. Tournament applications and questionnaires will be handled by your coach near the conclusion of the spring season. Fall Baseball registration forms will be available in late May, and will be due by the end of July.

The HYBA strives to teach children the game of baseball in a safe and fun environment, within an atmosphere of healthy competition and good sportsmanship. Dozens of dedicated volunteers work year round to make the Hampden Little League Baseball possible. Thank you for choosing to spend your spring baseball season with the HYBA. We look forward to a wonderful 2017 season!

Sincerely,

Your 2017 HYBA Board of Directors