

Boys & Girls Clubs of Whatcom County

INSIDER on 2017 Baseball/Softball

Here is the PRELIMINARY (subject to change) information on the Boys & Girls Clubs Baseball/Fastpitch for the 2017 spring season.

Note: By virtue of enrolling in the program, the parent and youth agree to abide by all policies, decisions, directives, procedures and rules of the Whatcom County Boys & Girls Clubs.

- 1. The following leagues are offered:** Kindergarten/1st grade co-ed T-Ball; 2nd/3rd grade boys/girls Rookie pitching machine; 3rd and 4th grade Cal Ripken (kid pitch); 9 and 10 year old competitive Cal Ripken; 11 and 12 year old rec Cal Ripken League; 11 and 12 year old competitive Cal Ripken League; 10 year old and under girls fastpitch; 12 year old and under girls fastpitch; and 14 year old and under girls fastpitch. Boy's age divisions are based on April 30th, 2017. Girl's age divisions are based on December 31st, 2016.
- 2.** This program is strictly governed by the published **RULES**. All Rules are enforced. Whenever a question is posed, our first response is, "What do the rules say?" The quality of your experience is dependent in large part on your coach's understanding, listening, supporting, and communicating rules and procedures. Parents are responsible for assisting the coach in these endeavors. It is the responsibility of the parent and player to abide by Club rules and to assist and cooperate with the coach at all times.
- 3. Primary REGISTRATION** runs from February 14th–February 25th. Registrations can be done in person at the Bellingham or Ferndale Club weekdays between 11:00am-6:00pm. Registrations can be done in person at the Blaine Club on Friday between 11:00am-6:00pm. Please contact us to set up a time to register if you can't make the 11:00-6:00pm time. Baseball/Fastpitch fee is \$85 plus a current 16/17 Club membership (\$30). There will be a Wait List sign up period from Feb 27-Mar 5. At the conclusion of the Wait List period, we will place kids on rosters on a space available basis. Please note, the Athletic offices will be closed on Feb 27th.
- 4. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY:** Individual Players registering for Spring season baseball must be able to show proof of Whatcom County residency. Team registrations for teams outside of Whatcom County will still be accepted. Individual Players that live outside of Whatcom County that played in our league last year will be permitted to continue playing in our leagues, but no new individual sign-ups will be taken.
- 5. Refund policy: no refunds are given once a registration is made.** Please read the 2016-17 Refund Policy on the back of the membership form prior to registering.
- 6. TEAMS:** Teams will be put together by requests then by school if there is not a request on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis. The Cal Ripken Minor A and Major A competitive league require tryouts. Maximum roster size is 12 or 13 depending on the division. Requests are NOT guaranteed regardless of registration order.
- 7. CHARTER:** The Boys & Girls Clubs' Babe Ruth charter is a combined charter consisting of players from Bellingham, Ferndale, Meridian and some Burlington players.
- 8. COMPETITIVE BASEBALL LEAGUES:** These leagues are offered for the players that have above average baseball skills. Anyone who is interested in the competitive leagues needs to register for baseball with the Boys & Girls Clubs and must attend our try-out. Try-outs will be held Saturday, March 4th (2p-6p) and Sunday, March 5th (2p-6p). The tryout will be for both Bellingham and Ferndale players and will be held at Joe Martin Field in Bellingham. Players not making the 9/10-year-old or 11/12-year-old competitive team will be placed on a recreation league team. Anyone drafted on a Cal Ripken Competitive team last year and meets the age requirements for this year has to attend try-outs again. If you played on a B league team last year and want to try for the competitive league you must attend the try-outs. The age cut off date for these leagues is April 30th. Your age on April 30th, 2017 determines what league you play in. If you turn 13 on or before April 30th you must play for the Pony league. Please check the B&GC website for updated tryout info.
- 9. COMPETITIVE HEAD BASEBALL COACHES:** The head coaches for both the Competitive Spring and Summer Baseball seasons will be selected by the Athletics Advisory Committee. In order to be considered, interested individuals must submit a letter of intent to the Boys & Girls Clubs Athletics Department by Feb, 21, 2017.
- 10. Baseball and softball players in the Competitive Division will play with their age group (based on their age on May 1).** The exception will be if the player is rated in the top 8 of the Competitive Division that he or she is trying out for (these ratings are based on independent evaluators). Players may also play UP if there are not enough players to create a team at their age level. Players that played UP a level last season may continue playing with the higher age group, but no new players will be permitted to try out for the higher age divisions (unless they meet the top 8 criteria).
- 11. SUMMER STATE TEAMS:** State Team info will be updated once information becomes available.
- 12. SPONSORS:** We are looking for sponsors for our baseball/softball teams. If you know of a business that might be interested in sponsoring your son or daughter's team please talk to Randy or Kaleb at the Clubs for further information or download the sponsor form at www.whatcomclubs.org.
- 9. UNIFORMS:** Players will receive a T-Shirt and a major league replica hat. The Athletic Director will assign color and sponsor names unless previously reserved (and unduplicated) by the coach.
- 10. RAINOUTS:** Cancellations of games because of bad weather will be decided at 4pm the day of games on weekdays. Coaches will be notified if games have been cancelled and will call their players. Please **do not** call the club for rain out information. Wait to hear from your coach. If you don't hear from your coach you need to show up at the field. Practices will be cancelled by coaches and not the B&GC. Rainout info will also be posted to our Facebook page.
- 11. NO TOBACCO or ALCOHOL** at any program site. Please do NOT bring your **PET** to the fields.
- 12.** Finally, the three most important words; communicate, communicate, **COMMUNICATE!** It is your responsibility to know the name and phone number of your coach. It is your responsibility to know your practice schedule, game schedule and any other team function. It is your responsibility to conduct yourself respectfully and appropriately. It is your responsibility to

immediately communicate any problem or concern to Randy Ashe at the Boys & Girls Club (527-9777). Thank you. Have a great season.

- 13. Kindness, courtesy and SPORTSMANSHIP are required.** We will not hesitate to act if the standards of the Club are compromised. Good sportsmanship is not extinct. Good sportsmanship begins and ends with parents. Good citizenship, good role modeling, ethics and values are requirements for everyone! It must be noted in the strongest terms that problems in this program most frequently occur from the few parents whose conduct is unacceptable. The Club will act decisively and with a no tolerance policy to eliminate those problems and individuals. Thank you for your cooperation as positive role models.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. My child is a 10 year old 5th grader. Does he play with the 11/12 year olds or the 3rd and 4th graders?

A. Since he is in the 5th grade he will play with the 11/12 year olds unless he wants to tryout for the 9/10 competitive team.

Q. My child tried out for a competitive team and didn't make it. Does he need to attend another evaluation?

A. No, players will be placed on teams by either request or location.

Q. Are the competitive teams drafted by location?

A. Yes, all Bellingham players will play for a Bellingham team, all Ferndale players will play for a Ferndale team. Meridian players will be allowed to tryout for either Bellingham or Ferndale.

Q. Can my child switch teams if he is drafted onto a competitive team?

A. No, players must stay on the team they were drafted to. If after the tryout your child does not want to be considered for a competitive team...you must let Randy Ashe know at the end of the tryout. If your child is drafted by a competitive coach, your child must play for that team or they may choose to play for a rec team instead.

Q. My child is a 3rd grader. Do they play 2nd/3rd grade pitching machine or in the kid pitch league?

A. That is up to you. It is a matter of what level of baseball/fastpitch your child is ready for.

Q. My child was on a competitive team last year. Does he need to attend tryouts this year?

A. Yes, it is important for every player to be there for draft purposes. Coaches do not protect players from the previous season. Teams are completely re-drafted each year.

Q. If my son played on a noncompetitive 11/12 year old team last year, will he have the same coach?

A. Teams will be put together by request and school. Be sure to register early if you want your child to be on a specific team.

Q. Can my child play up a grade level?

A. It depends on what division they want to play up to and how old they are. Ask Randy Ashe for permission if you want your child to play up a division. Children may try out for an older competitive team, but will not be placed on that roster unless they are rated in the top 8 by our independent evaluators.

Q. Will rained out games be made up?

A. That depends on if we have fields available to make them up and both coaches agree to make the game up. We will do everything we can to make sure that 10 of the 12 games are played or made up.

Q. Why are the age divisions different for baseball and fastpitch?

A. All teams are chartered with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken and they set the age cutoff.

Q. Do you have girl's summer state teams?

A. We have had summer state teams for girl's fastpitch in the past. It varies year to year.

Q. My daughter has never played; do girls need to be experienced?

A. We encourage girls at any level to play.

Q. What equipment do I need to buy my child?

A. A glove, cleats, and we encourage you to buy your child their own batting helmet. A hat and shirt will be provided. Other equipment you may consider getting would be baseball pants and bat (not required).

Frequently Asked Dates:

Q. My child is signed up, when will I hear from the coach?

A. Coaches meetings are March 14th at 6pm for Ferndale and March 15th at 6pm for Bellingham. Practices begin the week of March 20th. You should hear from the coach between these dates.

Q. When are pictures?

A. March 28th for Ferndale and March 29th and 30th for Bellingham. Please talk to your coach to find out what day and time they signed up for.

Q. When do games begin?

A. Games begin the week of April 10th. Teams will typically play 2 games per week for the first 5 weeks of the season and 1 game per week for the last two weeks of the season. Teams will have a 12 game season unless games are rained out. The regular season ends May 26th with makeups the first week of June.

Q. When will game schedules be out?

A. Game schedules will likely be posted on the website (www.whatcomclubs.org) the week of March 27th.

Contact Info:

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