



Around The Horn

News for the Middle Atlantic Region

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It's Time to Choose

Tournament time is approaching fast and that means the usual complaints about schedules is arising. Actually it's more realistic to say that the amount of complaints is rising.

In the past the regional tournaments were played with a double elimination format. There were complaints from parents, coaches, and officials that it wasn't fair to the "weaker" teams because they would travel all the way to a regional site and have to leave after losing only two games.

So, after the World Series adopted the pool play format, the state commissioners voted to use the same format in the regionals. It's a nice concept – everyone gets to play four games before possibly being sent home and the state runner-up gets to play in the regional to balance out the pool divisions. One drawback – the tournament now takes longer to play because it goes from 17 games to 23 games.

Now the complaints arise from parents that the tournament takes too long and it's too expensive to stay in hotels all week. That's a perfectly understandable complaint in these tough economic times.

So the tournaments have been compressed into four or five days. In addition, the state

commissioners wanted to send three teams to the elimination round instead of two because of perceived unfairness in the pool play tie-breaker rules. Now the schedule is 25 games.

The result—parents and coaches are complaining that they have to play too many games (i.e. double headers) in too few days. This is especially true in the younger age groups.

Reality check - there is no way to play 25 games in only four or five days without playing double headers, even when using two fields.

So it's time for league presidents and the district and state commissioners to decide what they really want and what is best for the players of each age group. You can't have longer tournaments in shorter time frames without playing multiple games in one day. If parents want to spend fewer days at a tournament then maybe it's time to go back to the double elimination bracket.♦

Baseball Quote

"Baseball is simple but never easy."

Sportswriter Roger Angell

MAR Softball Super Regional

Ruth McCullen, the Middle Atlantic Softball Regional Commissioner, has announced that this year there will be a “** Super ** Regional” for the softball leagues in our region.

There will be tournaments for the 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U & 16U levels all played during the same extended weekend – July 15th to 19th.



The 10U and 12U team entries will play their games at the Waretown, NJ site and the 8U, 14U and 16U team entries will play at the Egg Harbor Township, NJ site.

If any leagues are interested in more information they should go to the website:

www.waretownthunder.org/2010middleatlanticsuperregional.htm

◆

No 2010 16 Year Old Regional

Due to the fact that all potential host sties have backed out of hosting a 16 year old regional, Regional Commissioner Ray Lotierzo had decided that there will not be a 16 year old regional tournament this year.

In the past some state commissioners have pressed the point that this tournament is needed to keep interest in their 16-18 programs. If that is true then it is time to start pressing for more support among the leagues to have a 16 year old tournament.◆

Name Change

If you look at the “Inside this Issue” column you may have noticed that there is some conflicting information. There are two different surnames listed. Also, some people may have received emails from me with a different last name.

I got married on May 15th and I am in the process of changing my name to that of my husband. My last name is now Skiendziel.

However, until the computer system at work is reconfigured my email address will stay the same, using my maiden name. ◆

What’s the Ruling Quiz?

Do you know the answers?

1) Situation: Runner on second base; one out.

Play: The pitcher tries a pick-off, but no one covers the bag. Rather than hold the ball, the pitcher throws to the shortstop, who is minding his own business at his regular fielding position. What is the correct ruling?

a-Balk. This is considered throwing to an unoccupied base

b-Balk. The pitcher didn't throw to a BASE in an attempt to retire the runner

c-Balk. This is considered deceiving the runner

d-Balk. This is actually considered an illegal pitch

e-Nothing. This is perfectly legal

2) How about this one?

I. The hands are part of the bat

II. If the batter, after hitting fair, steps on the plate on his way to first, he is out (on appeal) for not running the bases in the correct order

III. If the batter, after reaching first, makes a 180 degrees left turn and returns to the base on fair territory, he is in jeopardy of being tagged out.

IV. The batter is always out if he hits the ball while the toes of his left foot touch the plate.

How many are correct?

a - None

b - One

c - Two

d - Three

e - All

f - None of the above is correct

2010 TOURNAMENTS

Regional Tournaments

10 year-old

Site: N. Tonawanda (WNY)
Dates: July 29 – Aug. 3

12-year-old / 60 ft.

Site: Springfield (SE PA)
Dates: July 28 – Aug. 2

12-year-old / 70 ft.

Site: Queensbury (ENY)
Dates: July 30 – Aug. 4

13-year-old

Site: S. Colonie (ENY)
Dates: Aug. 4 – Aug. 9

14-year-old

Site: Charles County (MD)
Dates: Aug. 6 – Aug. 11

13-15 year old

Site: West Windsor (SNJ)
Dates: Aug .5 – Aug. 10

16-18 year old

Site: Onondaga (WNY)
Dates: July 22 – July 27

Invitational Tournaments

8-year-old

Site: Troy (ENY)
Start Date: Aug. 6

9-year-old

Site: Edison (NNJ)
Start Date: Aug. 6

11-year-old / 60 ft.

Site: Severn, (MD)
Start Date: Aug. 6

11-year-old / 70 ft.

Site: Gibbsboro-Voorhees (SNJ)
Start Date: Aug. 6

16-year-old

Site: No tournament this year
Start Date: July 17

World Series

Cal Ripken 10 and under

Site: Ocala, FL
Dates: August 13-20

Cal Ripken Div. Major/ 60'

Site: Wilson County, NC
Dates: August 12-19

Cal Ripken Div. Major/70'

Site: Aberdeen, MD
Dates: August 14-21

13-year-old

Site: Levelland, TX
Dates: August 19-26

14-year-old

Site: Loudoun Co., VA
Dates: August 21-28

13-15 year old

Site: Monticello, AR
Dates: August 20-27

16-18 year old

Site: Newark, OH
Dates: August 4-12

SOFTBALL 12U

Site: Alachua, FL
Dates: August 7-14

SOFTBALL 16U

Site: Varina, VA
Dates: August 5-12



Answers to quiz:

1) e - Nothing. This is perfectly legal

The pitcher is not required to throw to second base once he makes a step in that direction. Only to first base a throw to the bag is mandatory after stepping to that base.

However, rule 8.05h may be invoked if the umpire judges that this act is done by the pitcher in order to delay the game. An umpire may call a balk for any unnecessary delay of the game by the pitcher.

2) a - None

All of these are well known baseball tales that seem to be very popular at almost all levels of baseball. Let's review them:

I. "The hands are part of the bat"

Everyone will know that hands do not come as part of the bat when you buy your new bat at the sports store. Batters who get hit on the hands, and who are not trying to hit the ball, will be sent to first base on the hit-by-pitch. There is no rule mentioning any exceptions to this rule in case the pitched ball hit the hands.

II. "If the batter, after hitting fair, steps on the plate on his way to first, he is out (on appeal) for not running the bases in the correct order."

A good lawyer might successfully defend this appeal. After all, the batter DID touch home plate, and thus missed first, second and third. However, this would look like an appeal for touching a base (home plate) instead of missing a base...and there's no rule that supports appeals for touching an additional base.

III. "If the batter, after reaching first, makes a 180 degrees left turn and returns to the base on fair territory, he is in jeopardy of being tagged out."

In baseball, you don't have to turn right. In baseball, you don't have to return in foul territory. The only requirement is that the batter-runner should return immediately.

IV. "The batter is always out if he hits the ball while the toes of his left foot touch the plate."

No, he is not! A batter is out if he hits the ball while at least one foot is placed on the ground completely outside the batter's box. Now, the plate and the batter's box are only 6 inches apart. Any batter could easily have his toe on the plate while his heel is still at least on the box' lines. So, the batter is not automatically out if his toes touch the plate.