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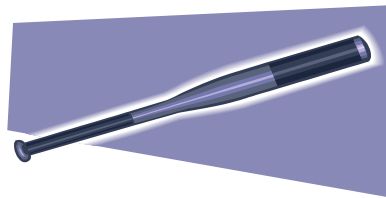
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Around The Horn

News for the Middle Atlantic Region

New Composite Bat Rule

The International Board of Directors has approved a moratorium on the use of composite bats in the Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15 and 16-18 Divisions, effective immediately. The moratorium shall be in effect until further notice by Babe Ruth Headquarters.



The moratorium will follow the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), based on a recommendation from its Baseball Rules Committee. The NFHS Board enacted a rule to prohibit the use of composite bats until they can produce compliance with the standards through the life of the bat. If a composite bat is legal/approved under the NFHS rule for the 2011 season, it is league for use in the Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15 and 16-18 Divisions for local league play and tournament competition.

Composite bats that are certified by an approved independent testing laboratory as meeting the current Ball Exit

Speed rating (BESR) and the Accelerated Break-In (ABI) procedure will be eligible. For a list of composite bats approved for the 2011 Babe Ruth Baseball 13-15 and 16-18 Division, please go to the following website:

<http://www.nfhs.org/content.aspx?id=4155&terms=composite+bats>

At present, the moratorium on composite bats does not apply to the Cal Ripken Major, Minor, Rookie and T-Ball Divisions, nor does it apply to any division of Softball.

The Board of Directors goal is to provide the local leagues clear direction regarding the 2 ¼" barrel composite bats, and which ones meet the standards for the Cal Ripken Divisions, if any, as soon as possible. They hope to have information in the very near future.♦

Baseball Quote

“For the parents [of a Little Leaguer], a baseball game is simply a nervous breakdown into innings.”

-- Earl Wilson

Three Bridgeton, NJ Volunteers Honored

The 130 combined years of selfless service by James Ridgeway, Samuel Hunter Sr, and Charles Hudnall was recognized last month in their town of Bridgeton, New Jersey.

In honor of their service, the city council and Mayor Albert Kelly passed a resolution to rename the Babe Ruth Baseball Field and scoreboard after the three men.

Ridgeway was part of the Babe Ruth league for a total of 53 years, Hunter has given 50 years. A new sign will be erected near the field's backstop to honor the two.



Hudnall, who has passed away, volunteered 27 of his years at the Babe Ruth field and much of that time was spent working the score board. He was serving as league vice president, a position he held for over 12 years, at the time of his passing. Appropriately, the resolution will rename the scoreboard after him.

Mayor Kelly presented plaques to the recipients, as well as their families, for their dedication to the city. Emphasizing the importance of volunteerism, Kelly asked the audience to consider" who is

going to take up the mound for these people here?"

Congratulations to all three men for an honor well deserved. Volunteers of their caliber and dedication are hard to come by these days.♦

Change in Host/Hotel Policy

In the past, host leagues were required to secure blocks of rooms at affordable prices for the state champions to use. However, problems have arisen where leagues coming to the tournament have made their own arrangements at other hotels, leaving the host league financially responsible for the rooms they had blocked which went unused.

Starting with the 2011 regional tournaments, the host league will no longer be required by contract to secure hotel rooms for state champion teams. They will only be required to provide a list of affordable hotels in the area as part of the tournament information package. State champion leagues will be responsible for securing their own hotel accommodations. ♦

Tournament Sites Needed for 2011

Sites are still needed for the 8 year old, 9 year old, 11/60, 11/70, 16 year old and 16-18 year

old tournaments. If your league is interested in hosting one of these tournaments please contact Regional Commissioner Ray Lotierzo. The goal is to have all of the tournaments sold before the regional spring meeting in April. ♦

Middletown, NJ Represented BRB

When the 10 year old World Series champions from Scott County, Kentucky were unable to participate in the National Championship in Memphis, TN, runners-up team Middletown, NJ, stepped up to the plate.

The National Youth Championship features teams from the Babe Ruth League, AABC, AAU, Dixie, NABF, Pony, USSSA, and Super Series.

Middletown lost the three games they played against the teams from the NABF, AABC, and USSSA organizations.



In an email commenting about the tournament Babe Ruth President/CEO Steven Tellefsen stated that, "The players, coaches and families were great representatives of our program." ♦

Make Parents a Part of the Team

If success is going to be a part of any program it not only takes good coaches, it takes the parents as well.

Parents are providers, interpreters and role models for their kids. They are *providers* because they provide the opportunity for their children to play and provide support with things like transportation, finances, and scheduling. They are *interpreters* in that children often adopt their parent's sport goals, and parents influence the children's' emotions, stress, and interpretations of success and failure. They serve as the *model* of behavior and sportsmanship and emotional reactions.



The coach has to recognize that there are basically four types of parents' involvement: the over-involved, the under-involved, "other types" and the supportive/optimally-involved parents.

The *over-involved* are usually the most visible negative influence. These include the "don't have a clue" parent, those with unrealistic expectations, those that use pressure-criticism and those parents trying to coach the child.

The "*other types*" include those who think their child can do no wrong (so the coach must be the problem), those who try to be the "buddy parent" to their kids, those who reinforce violent behavior and abusive parents.

Under-involved parents do not actively support their child in the sport and see the coach as providing "baby sitting".

The *supportive/optimally-involved* parent trust, support, and appreciate the coaches, reinforce the coach's messages, and understand the fine line between pushing and supporting their child.

The best way to make parents a part of the team is to educate them and include them from the start. Have a preseason parent meeting to explain your coaching philosophy and how you will handle the team. Assign the parents roles to help out the team and the organization. Listen to the parent's concerns and expectations as well. Write everything down and give it to the parents. Have them "sign up" to the goals and roles assigned.

If a parent doesn't attend the meeting, seek them out and make sure they sign the agreement as well. Enlist the help of supportive parents to get non-supportive ones to realize the team is about "we" not "me".

Keep the lines of communication throughout the preseason and the season open. Understand that the parents want to be in the information loop, want to hear good things about

their kids, want to see their kids play and want their kids to be included and be among friends. ♦

