

2018 FALL BALL COACHES MEETING

Thank you for volunteering to be a coach!

VOLUNTEERS & KEY CONTACTS

- **Fall Ball League Coordinators:**
 - **Rookie BB:** Kyle Friedow – 212-2337 / kylewmll@gmail.com
 - **Minor BB:** Harry Miller – 233-0866 / mill7049@gmail.com
 - **Major BB:** Frank Leno – 233-1483 / kflenoch@gmail.com
 - **Junior BB:** Tom Rhatican – 338-2803 / trhat79@gmail.com
 - **Senior BB:** Jerry Schmitt – 575-3988 / dksgrs@tds.net
 - **Challenger Lg:** Randy Norton – 279-0384 / randaln@charter.net
 - **Minor SB:** Brian Beutter (see above) & Scott Fossum – 209-2485 / scottfossum@gmail.com
 - **Major & Junior SB:** Barry Vredenburg – 575-6204 / bvredenburg@madison.com
- **Fall Ball Season Coordinators:** Tom Rhatican & Brian Beutter (see info above)
- **Umpire Coordinator:** Tom Heneghan – 256-9233 / umpirescheduling@wmll.org
- **Damaged or Missing Equipment:** Mark Newburg – 831-0334 / central@wmll.org for baseball & Brian Beutter (see info above) for softball
- **Executive Director:** Brian Beutter (see info above)
- **Coaches:** All WMLL coaches are volunteers. Before each season, the Board of Directors seeks out & selects head coaches based on experience and other qualifications. Once chosen, each head coach selects one official assistant coach (subject to Board approval). The children of the head & assistant coach are automatically on their team.
 - **Volunteer Application:** Every coach must fill out an application so a background check can be performed...unless you already filled one out at WMLL during regular season.
- **Team Reps:** Each head coach also recruits a volunteer team rep. The team rep assumes a variety of tasks designed to ensure good communication within the team and the smooth running of off-field team business. This individual works closely with the head coach and together they determine the team rep's exact duties.

Common team rep duties may include:

- Facilitating communication between the parents and coach and/or WMLL directors
- Distributing a team roster & contact info and/or assisting with a team management app (like GameChanger or Team Snap)
- Informing players & families of WMLL & Fall Ball essentials – rules, volunteer requirements, etc.
- SCHEDULING MANDATORY PARENT / GUARDIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR ALL GAMES
- Assisting the coach in distributing and collecting team uniforms

- There is a team rep meeting for team reps new to Fall Ball on Wed, Aug 22 at 6:30 PM at WMLL

- **Game Day Volunteers** (team reps coordinate this!): In addition to providing one parent concession stand when the home team & one scoreboard operator when the visiting team, during Fall Ball both teams also need to provide a base umpire. WMLL will provide the home plate umpire. Volunteer umpires should work at first & third base & should change positions every inning or two.
- **Mandatory Service Requirement:** To make the WMLL experience a great one for our players, while also keeping our registration fees affordable, WMLL requires one parent / guardian for each player registered to volunteer in some fashion every season...or to opt out by making a special donation when registering.
 - During Fall Ball, coaching, serving as team rep & working in the concession shift satisfy the service requirement - base umping and working the scoreboard do not!

FALL BALL

- **Philosophy:** Fall Ball is WMLL's version of Little League's Training and Development Program, a slightly less competitive version of the spring /summer season that focuses on providing players an opportunity to improve their

skills playing a variety of positions.

- The emphasis is development. Please move players around in the field & let them pitch!
- **Teams:** 42 teams in 2018! BASEBALL: 4 Challenger Lg, 4 Rookie Lg, 8 Minor Lg, 7 Major Lg, 6 Junior Lg & 4 Senior Lg
SOFTBALL: 3 Minor Lg, 4 Major SB & 2 Junior SB
- **Season:** The season consists of 12-games over seven weeks beginning on Aug 27. Teams play twice a week – usually one weekday & one weekend game. The season will end on Oct 14 even if all rainout makeups have not been completed.
 - No games are scheduled on Labor Day (Sep 3) or Rosh Hashanah (Sep 10). Week 7 is reserved for any rainout makeups that weren't rescheduled during weeks 1-6. Labor Day may also be used for rainout makeups.
- **Schedule:** The best source for the schedule is wml.org. It can be viewed by team, league, day or as a complete calendar-style master schedule containing all leagues & games.
 - The master schedule is also posted on the Forward Dr bulletin board (but updates may lag slightly behind the website)
- **Team Rosters:** Fall Ball teams were formed by the league using player evaluations & other information to distribute more skilled and less skilled players evenly across teams...while also trying to accommodate buddy requests & special travel needs for players coming from longer distances.
 - If League Coordinators have not already done so, they will be distributing team rosters either at the coaches meeting or soon after via email.
- **Communications with Player Families:** If you have not done so already, please reach out to your teams this weekend to introduce yourselves, let the players know what team they are on, when you plan to practice, etc.
 - Consider using a team management app (like GameChanger or Team Snap)
 - There is a parent meeting for families new to WMLL on Mon, Aug 20 at 6:30 PM at WMLL
- **Parking & Coach Passes:** The use of WMLL's parking lot is restricted to vehicles displaying either an official handicap permit or a valid WMLL parking pass. Each team gets ONE parking pass. WMLL families may park anywhere on Forward Drive & in the portion of the Madison Ice Arena parking lot close to Forward Drive.
 - **EXCEPTION:** On Saturday mornings, the main lot is entirely reserved for the Challenger League only!

UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

- **Uniforms:** This Fall, WMLL will provide Rookie, Minor & Major league BB & SB & Challenger Lg teams with Dri-Fit style jerseys that players get to keep. To partially offset the cost of the new jerseys, WMLL is NOT providing players with socks. A cap/visor will still be provided.
 - Jerseys & visors will be handed out at the coaches' meeting. Please return any extra jerseys & caps/visors to your league coordinator or WMLL Board member during the first week of the season.
- **Game Balls, Scorebooks & First-Aid Supplies:** These items will also be handed out at the coaches' meeting. At the end of the season, please return any unused items to your league coordinator.
 - A large first-aid kit is available at the concession stand should an injury require additional supplies.
- **Shared Equipment Bags:** In Fall Ball, teams are not assigned their own equipment. Instead, equipment bags are kept in the coach mail room & shared across teams. Equipment is shared by FIELD for baseball & by LEAGUE for softball & bags are labeled for the home and visiting teams for each field/league.
- **Pitching Machines for Rookie BB & Minor SB:** WMLL's three pitching machines are stored in the coach mail room.
 - Contact your league coordinator to review procedures for setting up & using pitching machines or to arrange to use a pitching machine for batting practice.
- **Helmets with Face Guards:** Since the Major Field equipment bag contains only standard helmets, helmets with face guards are kept in the coach mail room for Rookie & Minor BB teams to use when they play on the Major Field.

PRACTICES & PREGAME WARMUPS

- **Practices:** Practice plans are up to each team's coaches. Please don't overdo it, this is a developmental league!
 - If you need practice equipment or use of a pitching machine, contact your league coordinator!

- **Pregame Warmups:** Coaches decide if their team will warm-up prior to games. This must be done in designated areas adhering to WMLL rules. Players are not permitted to enter Ch 15 property for any reason at any time. Coaches & other adults are allowed on Ch 15 property only to retrieve balls
 - **Batting cages:** Teams can use a batting cage before games (home team: 70 - 40 mins before the game & visiting team: 40 - 10 mins). Major, Junior & Senior BB & SB teams have priority. If cages are occupied, Rookie & Minor BB & SB teams can use the soft-toss stations. Please be diplomatic & cooperative! Extra batting helmets for use in the batting cages are kept in the coach mail room. Please return these helmets when you are finished using them.
 - **Infield practice:** Teams may warm-up in the outfield grass before their game. Time permitting, the home team may also conduct infield practice for up to 8 minutes. All players present (not just the starting infielders) should participate in the infield practice. Team warm-ups cannot interfere with the game's official start time

GAMES

- **Rules:** All national Little League rules, as described in the current season rulebook, apply unless specifically changed in WMLL's local rules. The WMLL Safety Plan contains further regulations which will be enforced as local rules.
 - Local rules for each league are available on WMLL's website.
 - League coordinators will review local rules for their league during league breakouts at the coaches meeting.
- **Inning & Time Limits:** All Fall Ball games are limited to 6-innings with two types of time limits. There also is a 9 PM curfew Sunday thru Thursday that supersedes both time limits. Umpires enforce the starting time and time limits. An inning starts when the last out of the prior inning is made.
 - No new inning may begin after the "**No New Inning**" time limit is reached - 1 hr, 20 min for Rookie BB, Minor BB & Minor SB & 1 hr, 40 min for other leagues.
 - When the "**Hard**" time limit is reached (10 mins after the "No New Inning" limit), the game ends immediately after the current batter finishes their at-bat.
 - During weeks 1-3, the first weekday game on the Minor Field (except for Major SB) must end by 5:50 PM.
 - Time-limited games can end in a tie & will be a complete game regardless of the number of innings played.
 - Have your players hustle on and off the field & use a courtesy runner for the catcher (required with two outs) to keep the game moving. The first pitch must be delivered not longer than 90 seconds after the third out.
- **Post-Game Pre-Paid Treats:** The registration fee included a \$2 post-game snack for all leagues.
- **Post-Game Responsibilities:**
 - **Every Game:** After every game, teams must clean up their respective dugout area. If a shared equipment bag, helmets or a pitching machine were used, coaches must return them to the coach mail room unless they will be used by a team in the immediately following game on the same day.
 - **Last Game of the Day:** After the last game of the day, both teams must help put on the tarps, remove the bases (storing them in the 3rd base dugout) & place "base plugs" in the anchor holes at each base. The visiting team must also return the scoreboard controller to the concessions stand &, on the Minor & Major Fields, turn off the scoreboard (via a switch on the scoreboard).
 - **Reporting Scores:** Coaches must email the score to their league coordinator by noon the next day.

WEATHER, FIELD CONDITIONS & RAINOUTS

- **Field Conditions:** There are several ways to keep abreast of field conditions on game days.
 - Check the field condition page on WMLL's website at www.wmll.org/about-wmll/field-conditions/
 - Sign up for field condition email alerts at www.wmll.org/about-wmll/field-conditions/subscribe/
 - Call WMLL's field condition hotline at 274-6556
 - Follow WMLL on Twitter or Facebook
 - Look for field condition updates on the sign by WMLL's parking lot
- **Delays & Cancellations:**
 - **Lightning:** When lightning is visible, the game will be suspended for 30 mins and everyone must take immediate shelter in the dugouts, near the concession stand or in private vehicles (NOT under trees!)
 - **Calling Games:** When a game has been delayed for 45 min, it will be called. A game called before the completion of one inning will be rescheduled as a new game. A game called after the completion of one inning and before it is

an official completed contest will be considered a suspended game. A suspended game shall be resumed at the exact point of suspension.

- **Immediate Cancellations:** These rules will not restrict play from being immediately cancelled for safety reasons.
- **Reporting Called Games:** Coaches must email their league coordinator & the executive director by noon of the day after a game – including the exact point at which play was stopped (inning, time, outs, count, score, runners, etc.)

SAFETY & BEHAVIOR

- **Safety First:** WMLL believes in “safety first” & is an active participant in Little League’s “A Safety Awareness Program”. Players, coaches, spectators and umpires are expected to:
 - be careful, use good judgment and adhere to the guidelines in the WMLL safety plan
 - help keep WMLL’s fields, grounds and facilities neat, clean and safe
 - report any hazardous condition or safety issue with the facility, grounds, playing fields and equipment a WMLL board member, a grounds crew member or the full-time staff in the concession stand.
- **First-Aid & Injury Reporting:**
 - **First-Aid Kits:** All coaches must have a basic first aid kit available at all games & practices. Additional & replacement supplies are available at the concession stand.
 - **First-Aid Reminders:** Stay calm & keep the injured person calm (keep others not helping away.) Ensure that proper medical attention is provided - knowing your first aid limitations & seeking trained medical assistance as needed.
 - **Injury Reporting:** Any accident that requires receive medical attention and/or first aid must be reported to WMLL within 48-hours of the incident by calling WMLL’s President or Executive Director.
- **Contacting EMS, Fire or Police:**
 - **Designate someone at the scene to quickly call 9-1-1** & provide key information, answer questions, relay information (have them stay on the line until the dispatcher hangs up.)
 - **Continue to care for the victim** until professional help arrives.
 - **Appoint someone to go to the street and wait for the first responders**, flagging them down if necessary. This saves valuable time. Remember, every minute counts.
- **Key WMLL Rules:**
 - **Peanut Ban:** For the safety of those with peanut allergies WMLL does not allow peanuts at the ballpark.
 - **No Pets Allowed:** For insurance, safety and sanitary reasons, pets are not allowed at WMLL – except for guide dogs for sight-impaired individuals.
 - **No Smoking or Alcoholic Beverages:** Smoking & alcoholic beverages are not allowed on WMLL property.
- **Sportsmanship:** Coaches, parents, players, and spectators must adhere to a high level of sportsmanship. WMLL will not tolerate:
 - verbal or physical altercations or other negative interactions between or among coaches, spectators & players
 - hazing or organized chanting or “cheering” directed at opposing teams or players
 - harassment of umpires, including questioning “judgment” calls, not accepting & respecting umpire decisions & other actions that undermine umpire authorityInstances of unsportsmanlike behavior can result in umpires issuing warnings, ejections, removal from the WMLL field areas and/or reports to League officials for investigation with additional disciplinary action possible.
- **Coach Interactions w/ Umpires:** The coach should provide players & fans with an exemplary model of sportsmanship.
 - To question an umpire’s ruling only one coach is to represent the team. The coach must request a time out and calmly consult with the umpire who made the call. A coach must remain in foul territory and may not run out of the dugout or yell objections.
 - Coaches who feel an individual umpire is lacking in skills or knowledge should not offer instruction or advice, but should report their concern to the League Coordinator or Umpire Coordinator.
- **Dugout Rules:** Only uniformed players, team coaches & one additional helper are permitted in the dugout. Players must stay in the playing area or on the bench during the game unless a coach permits them to leave. These rules are intended to keep players safe & help them stay focused on the game. Please enforce them!