

2018 FALL BALL TEAM REP MEETING

THANK YOU for volunteering to help out WMLL & your team's coaches, players & families!

TEAM REP ROLE & DUTIES:

What is a team rep? A team rep is a crucial component to the team having an enjoyable and successful season. 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 will determine the exact duties of that team representative.

Some suggested team representative responsibilities are:

- Assisting the coach in distributing and collecting team uniforms (different than in past years!)
- Preparing and distributing a player and parent roster with phone and emails AND/OR assisting with TeamSnap or similar team management app
- Informing & reminding players and families of WMLL & Fall Ball & essentials – parking rules, post-game snack program, volunteer requirements, etc.
- Notify players & families of rainouts...or remind them to check for themselves using one of the four options available
- Facilitating communication between the parents and coach and/or WMLL directors and distributing team handouts, WMLL newsletters, schedules, etc.
- Arranging a picture day when all players are present at a game (no formal team picture is not taken during Fall Ball)
- Helping coaches, spectators & players keep things in perspective – behavior, safety, etc.
- **SCHEDULING MANDATORY PARENT / GUARDIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR ALL GAMES**
- **Planning team gatherings, such as an end of season party**

KEY INFO ABOUT WMLL FALL BALL FOR TEAM REPS TO KNOW & SHARE:

- **wml.org** - WMLL's website is a good source of information – schedules, field conditions, league standings, rules, contact information, event listings, key information, volunteer opportunities, etc.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Fall Ball 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 Drive bulletin board (but may lag behind the website with updates)
- **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.wml.org/about-wml/field-conditions/
 - Sign up for field condition email alerts at www.wml.org/about-wml/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
- **Post-Game Treats:** The registration fee included a \$2 post-game snack after every game for all players in all leagues.
- **Parent Volunteer Requirements**
 - **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 umpiring and working the scoreboard do not!
 - **Game Day Volunteer Requirements:** TEAM REPS COORDINATE THIS!
 - **Home team:** one parent concession stand helper & one base umpire
 - **Visiting team:** one scoreboard operator (get/return controller from concession stand) & one base umpire
 - The home plate umpire will be provided by WMLL.

Working in the Concession Stand

- Concession stand volunteers are CRITICAL to the successful operation of the concession stand, while also keeping our registration fees affordable.
- Volunteer must be at least 16 years old (adults are preferred)
- The volunteer work shift begins 15 mins before the game time and last thru the "end of game" rush.
- Team reps should consider using a sign-up sheet or app of some kind (a paper version is attached) to organize & track volunteers
- Please send a list of which parent is working each game to the concessions manager (Jenny Luna, concessions@wml.org). Include any "opt outs," so the concessions manager can schedule additional paid help - your team does not need to supply a worker for that game!

- **Parking:** To ensure adequate parking for those with special needs & coaches carrying heavy equipment bags, the use of WMLL's parking lot is restricted to vehicles displaying either an official handicap permit or a valid WMLL parking pass. WMLL families may park anywhere on Forward Drive & in the portion of the Madison Ice Arena parking lot close to Forward Drive.
 - **Special Saturday restrictions:** On Saturday morning ONLY Challenger League families can park in the main lot.
 - **Player Drop-Off:** Please use the designated drop off zone on Forward Drive just to the north of the main parking lot entrance. Do not pull into WMLL's parking lot for drop-offs or pick-ups as there are many people in the area.
- **Safety & Behavior**
 - **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
 - harassment of umpires, including questioning "judgment" calls, not accepting & respecting umpire decisions & other actions that undermine umpire authority
 - hazing or organized chanting or "cheering" directed at opposing teams or players
 Instances of unsportsmanlike behavior reported to the Board of Directors will be investigated by the President and may result in discipline, including suspensions.
 - **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.

- **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.
- **Peanut Ban:** For the safety of players & spectators with peanut allergies WMLL does not allow peanuts anywhere 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.
- **Weather 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.
 - **Immediate Cancellations:** These rules will not restrict play from being immediately cancelled for safety reasons.

KEY CONTACTS FOR TEAM REPS:

- **Team Rep Meeting Lead:** Kim Mohoney – 347-0917 / garykimmohoney@att.net
- **Fall Ball League Coordinators:**
 - **Rookie BB:** Kyle Friedow – 212-2337 / kylewml@gmail.com
 - **Minor BB:** Harry Miller – 233-0866 / mill7049@gmail.com
 - **Major BB:** Frank Lenocho – 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 – 338-2803 / trhat79@gmail.com & Brian Beutter – 535-0001 / brian.beutter@gmail.com
- **Concessions Manager:** Jenny Luna – concessions@wml.org
- **Executive Director:** Brian Beutter – 535-0001 / brian.beutter@gmail.com

WMLL MISSION STATEMENT: West Madison Little League is a volunteer-driven, non-profit organization, which strives to provide a fun, first class environment for all children, regardless of their skill level, to learn the games of baseball and softball. Through proper guidance and exemplary leadership, all Directors, Officers, Managers, Coaches, Parents and Members shall devote themselves to teaching game skills and, equally importantly, the fundamental principles of sportsmanship, courage, discipline, teamwork, physical well-being and doing one's best. Our core goal is to develop superior citizens and a love for the game.

WMLL PARENT & VOLUNTEER PLEDGE: I will teach all children to play fair and to do their best. I will positively support all managers, coaches and players. I will respect the decisions of the umpires. I will praise a good effort, win or lose.

