

# 2019 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:**

- **SCHEDULING MANDATORY PARENT / GUARDIAN VOLUNTEER SERVICE FOR ALL GAMES**
- Planning team gatherings, such as an end of season party
- 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.
- Assisting the coach in distributing team uniforms
- Notifying players & families of rainouts...or reminding them to check for themselves using one of the three options available (see below).
- 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.

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

- **WMLL.ORG:** WMLL's website is a great 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 & 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!
  - **NEW!** While scores will be kept during games, neither scores nor standings will appear on WMLL's website.
- **TEAMS:** Fall Ball teams are formed by the league coordinator 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.
  - **NEW!** All teams have been assigned a name. Teams can change this name thru Sun, Sep 8.
- **UNIFORMS:** Uniforms for all Fall Ball leagues consist of Dri-Fit style jerseys & caps/visors. Players get to keep both. Players need to provide their own pants & socks. Male players should also wear an athletic supporter. Cleats & batting gloves are not required, but many players use them (cleats must be plastic except for the Junior & Senior Lgs).
- **EQUIPMENT:** A list of needed, supplied & optional equipment is available on WMLL's website under the resource tab.
- **SEASON:** The season consists of 12-games played over six weeks beginning on Mon, Aug 26. Teams play twice a week – usually one weekday & one weekend game. Week 7 is reserved for any rainout makeups that weren't rescheduled during weeks 1-6. The season will end on Sun, Oct 13 even if all rainout makeups have not been completed.
  - No games are scheduled on Labor Day (Sep 3) or Rosh Hashanah (Sep 10). Labor Day may also be used for rainout makeups.
- **SCHEDULE:** The best source for the schedule is wml.org (or your team's team management app if one is used). At wml.org, schedules can be viewed by team, league, day or as a calendar-style master schedule with all leagues/games.
  - The master schedule will also be posted on the ballpark info board (but updates may lag behind the website)
- **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/](http://www.wmll.org/about-wmll/field-conditions/)
- Sign up for field condition email alerts at [www.wmll.org/about-wmll/field-conditions/subscribe/](http://www.wmll.org/about-wmll/field-conditions/subscribe/)
- Call WMLL's field condition hotline at 274-6556
- **POST-GAME TREATS:** The registration fee included a \$2 post-game snack after every game for all players in all leagues.
- **GAME DAY VOLUNTEERS: TEAM REPS COORDINATE THIS!**
  - **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 as a coach, team rep or concession stand helper...or to opt out by making a special donation when registering.
    - **Concession Stand Helper (one volunteer provided by the HOME team every game):** Concession stand helpers are CRITICAL to the successful operation of the concession stand. Volunteers must be at least 16 years-old (adults are preferred). Shifts begin 15 mins before 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@wmll.org](mailto:concessions@wmll.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!*
      - *Team reps are encouraged to email or call parent volunteers the night before the game they are working to remind them of their obligation.*
  - **Other Volunteer Needs (do NOT satisfy mandatory service requirement):**
    - **Scoreboard Operator (one volunteer provided by the VISITING team every game):** Get/return the scoreboard controller from/to the concession stand & keep score during the game (inning, strikes, balls, outs, runs).
    - **Base Umpire (1-2 volunteers needed for every game from HOME and/or VISITING team):** Assist the league provided home plate umpire.
  - **Volunteer Applications & Background Checks:** WMLL requires Board members, head coaches, team reps, paid staff (concessions workers, grounds crew & executive director) & adult umpires to submit a volunteer application and undergo a background check once every calendar year.
- **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 Dr. & in the Madison Ice Arena parking lot close to Forward Dr.
  - **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 Dr. 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 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 WMLL safety plan guidelines at all times.
  - Report any hygiene issues, hazards or safety concerns to a WMLL board member or to ground crew or concession stand staff.
  - Keep an eye on your children, help them understand & follow WMLL rules & remind them to be careful on playground equipment.
- **BALLPARK PROHIBITIONS:** The following activities & items are PROHIBITED on WMLL property:
  - pets (excluding service animals)
  - alcohol, drugs, smoking (including vaping & e-cigarettes) & weapons of any kind
  - peanuts & tree nuts
  - littering
  - using bikes, skateboards, scooters or rollerblades and climbing on fences, trees, picnic tables or bleachers.
- **BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS:** Coaches, parents, players, and spectators must adhere to a high level of sportsmanship.
  - Be respectful, considerate, supportive & positive.

- Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating it at all times.
- Remember that the players are kids, this is a game, the coaches volunteer & the umpires are human (& usually kids)
- **PROHIBITED BEHAVIOR:** WMLL does not tolerate:
  - offensive language or gestures
  - noisemakers (radios, cow bells, clap sticks, air horns, etc.)
  - heckling, taunting & intentionally distracting teams, coaches or players (including booing)
  - harassing & disrespecting umpires (including questioning calls & undermining their authority)
  - confronting coaches or managers during games
  - entering the dugout or playing field (unless you are a coach, umpire or player)
  - and verbal or physical altercations or other negative interactions with coaches, spectators, umpires & players

*Instances of unsportsmanlike behavior reported to the Board of Directors will be investigated by the President and may result in discipline, including suspensions.*
- **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:** Local rules for each league are available on WMLL's website.
  - **Game Inning & Time limits:** Fall games are limited to 6-innings with two types of time limits
    - No new inning may begin after the "**No New Inning**" time limit is reached - 1 hr, 20 min for the Rookie, Minor & Minor Leagues & 1 hr, 40 min for the Major, Junior & Senior Leagues.
    - When the "**Hard**" time limit is reached (10 mins after the "No New Inning" time limit), the game ends immediately after the current batter finishes their at-bat.
    - Time-limited games can end in a tie & are a complete game regardless of the number of innings played.
  - **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.
- **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:** Kelly Bodie – 218/290-5740 / kellylyn22@hotmail.com
- **Your Team's Coach**
- **Concessions Manager:** Jenny Luna – concessions@wml.org
- **Fall Ball League Coordinators:**
  - **Rookie League BB:** Robb Vogel – 444-5040 / rvogel0615@yahoo.com
  - **Minor League BB:** Kraig Bodie – 218/780-8746 / kraig.bodie@hotmail.com
  - **Major League BB:** Frank Lenocho – 233-1483 / kflenoch@gmail.com
  - **Junior League BB:** Mark Newburg – 831-0334 / newy@tds.net
  - **Senior League BB:** Jerry Schmitt – 575-3988 / dksgrs@tds.net
  - **Rookie League SB:** Scott Fossum – 209-2485 / scottfossum@gmail.com
  - **Minor League SB:** Michele Gassman – 345-1508 / scubadive07@gmail.com
  - **Major League SB:** Barry Vredembregt – 575-6204 / bvredembregt@madison.com
  - **Junior League SB:** Scott Fossum – 209-2485 / scottfossum@gmail.com
- **Executive Director:** Brian Beutter – 535-0001 / brian.beutter@gmail.com

