

January 2011
MBSA Newsletter

MOKENA

BASEBALL / SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION

Dates to Remember:

MBSA Board Meeting
Tuesday 2/1/2011
7:30PM – Mokena
VFW Lower Level

MBSA Informal Meeting
(Board Members
only)
TBA

Topics in this Issue:

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Month

Visit us on the web! WWW.MBSA.ORG
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 572, Mokena, IL 60448

Board Meeting Report

The final push to register for our spring season was a mad dash. We were starting to worry that no one wanted to play this year!

Thanks to everyone for their "constructive" criticism regarding online registration. We made a few changes regarding age groupings as they relate to the divisions, which caused some minor issues with getting some of the children into the appropriate division. We definitely will ensure that your player will be playing in the appropriate division. Let us know if you have any other concerns.

We will be keeping the

high school divisions open until April so that we may offer playing opportunities to the high school players.

Our sponsorship coordinator, Dan Schaaf, has been working the phones and emails contacting everyone he can, trying to recruit sponsors. Sponsors play such an important role for MBSA; helping to keep costs down, costs that otherwise would be passed on to our participants. However, we could really use your help in finding sponsors. We are looking to find more sponsors interested in supporting our league. Please inquire with your employer, neighbors and anyone you think might want to assist in

sponsoring one of our teams. It would really help out.

Lastly, we haven't received many applications for our scholarship offering. I know there are college bound seniors in the area that could use some extra money for school. The application can be found on our website, www.mbsa.org

Enjoy the last of winter. We will soon have draft night, equipment hand-out and baseball and softball right around the corner.

Chris Hedges
MBSA Vice President

Lincoln-Way Coaches Clinic

The Lincoln-Way East Coaching Staff will be putting on a baseball-coaching clinic for all area coaches and managers. It will take place at Lincoln-Way East Main Gym on Saturday January 22, 2011 from 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. This is a hands-on clinic, so dress accordingly and bring your glove!

For additional information please view the following link:
<http://www.lw210.org/eastbaseball/camps.htm>



Hit a Home Run by Becoming a MBSA Sponsor

Mokena Baseball/Softball Association would like to thank our past sponsors for their continuing investment in our area youth. Your commitment of sponsor dollars helps MBSA to provide a low-cost playing opportunity for more than 1,000 kids every year. Sponsor dollars keep uniform costs low, help improve field-playing surfaces, aid in the cost of replacing worn equipment, and provide indoor training opportunities in the off-season.

To the area business leaders, we hope that you can become part of our family once again by continuing your investment in our local youth by becoming a sponsor. The low-cost sponsorship pays you back with team uniforms bearing your company name, inclusion into our monthly newsletter, and posting on our website. Information regarding becoming a MBSA sponsor can be found at www.mbsa.org, or by contacting our sponsor coordinator, Dan Schaaf, at sponsorship@mbsa.org.

Thanks for your support!

Late Registration

Baseball is Almost Here!

Major league pitchers and catchers will report to spring training on February 14. Position players are to arrive February 26.

Thanks to all who registered before the deadline for the Spring 2011 season. We will be taking late registrants as space permits. A late fee of twenty additional dollars will be added to the registration fees. For more information, please see our website www.mbsa.org

We will hold registration open for high school aged kids until April 11, 2011. High school registrants will not be charged the late fee unless they miss the 4/11/11 deadline.

MBSA \$Scholarship

For the second year in a row, MBSA has approved and is proud to offer two \$500 scholarships, to be awarded to one female and one male graduating senior seeking continued education at any university, college or trade school.

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a high school senior and live within the 210 high school district boundaries (applicants can attend a private school)
- Must attend a university, college or trade school after high school
- Must have participated in MBSA a minimum of four years as a player, umpire or both
- Must complete a 200-400 word essay on "How has MBSA touched your life?"
- Children of current MBSA board members are not eligible
- All applications must be submitted by March 31, 2011

The scholarships will be awarded after the April 2011 MBSA board meeting. Click here for a link to the application: <http://files.LeagueAthletics.com/Text/Documents/2874/20694.pdf>

MBSA Newsletter



BLAST News!

Blast Winter Training

Division Coordinator Cyndee Barduson reports that the recent winter training program was a huge hit! Look for more offerings in the future!



Attendees of the December 2010 Blast Softball Clinic

Blast Part-time Travel Softball Tryouts

What: MBSA Blast Part-time travel softball tryouts
When / Where: First Tryout – Saturday 1/22/2011 @ Mokena Elementary Gym
Second Tryout – Saturday 1/29/2011 @ Mokena Intermediate Gym
Times: 12U – 9am to 11am
10U – 11am to 1pm
8U – 1pm to 3pm

For more info contact Dennis Muczynski at girlsmetro@mbsa.org

The 14U team is still reviewing candidates for the Manager's position. All interested parties should contact Dennis Muczynski at girlsmetro@mbsa.org

Blast 10U Full-time Travel

MBSA and the Blast are planning to field a full-time 10U girls travel softball team in 2012. Tryouts for the team are tentatively scheduled for August 2012. More information will be forthcoming in the near future.



MBSA BASEBALL WINTER WORKOUTS

MBSA will be sponsoring FREE off-season Pitching, Hitting and Fielding lessons for boys registering for the Pinto 1, Pinto 2 and Mustang in-house divisions for the 2011 season.

In preparation of the spring season two clinics will be held each Saturday from November through February. Each clinic will be limited to 12 to 15 players to ensure that each player receives individual attention and instruction from former college players and current Blaze managers. Parents are encouraged to attend all lessons and will be required to attend pitching lessons so that they or an older sibling can catch their sons. Players are allowed to register for multiple sessions.

To register for Pitching, Hitting or Fielding lessons, please contact Sean Hussey at **Blaze@MBSA.org** or at 312-804-6327.

To register your child for the 2011 Baseball Season please see the [registration page](#) at [Mokena Baseball and Softball Association website](#). Registration is now open.

Training Tip of the Month

Sharing Information

In anticipation of the LW East Coaches Clinic, I thought I'd share a link to their webpage where they have posted several of their drills in a video format. Click on the link below to get to the drills.

<http://www.lw210.org/eastbaseball/drills.htm>

Helping the Struggling Pitcher During the Game

Your pitcher is struggling, and you need to talk to him. Here's a quick checklist to go over.

- Ask him how he feels – is he tired? Most often they will say they feel okay. Check with the catcher, ask him how he's doing.
- If he's struggling to throw a strike, remind him of the proper pitching mechanics. Proper grip, don't overstride, eyes on the target. Adjust his starting position on the pitching plate if he is missing inside or outside
- Sometimes the mound itself can be an issue. Make sure the landing area is in good shape and he's not compensating for a bad mound.
- Always be positive and offer how to improve, rather than dwelling on what he or she is doing wrong.

We would love to include a drill or practice routine that has been useful for you. Send your suggestions to board@mbsa.org.