

Medfield Youth Baseball & Softball - 2016

www.medfieldybs.org

Our Mission:

Medfield Youth Baseball & Softball is committed to providing a safe, competitive environment promoting the enjoyment, appreciation and understanding of baseball and softball.

- We will instruct the players participating in the program on the fundamentals of baseball and softball.
- We will identify coaches that are knowledgeable, encouraging and supportive of our players.
- We will develop coaches and players by instilling qualities of commitment, teamwork, sportsmanship, self-confidence, discipline and respect for others.
- We will encourage competition and at the same time emphasize skill development, fair play and an equal opportunity for all participants.
- We are committed to creating a partnership with parents of players and improving community participation.

Medfield Youth Baseball & Softball honors the idea that first and foremost these programs exist for the benefit of our children.

Key Dates:

Kick-off meeting – Saturday, March 19th (9am - 10:30 am, Pfaff Center
** Make-up date, Monday, March 21st (7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Blake MS Gym)

Spring Training Clinics (Softball)

Grade 3 & 4 – Wednesday, 6pm – 7pm, Blake MS Gym, 3/23 – 4/13

Grade 5 & 6 – Wednesdays, 7pm – 8pm, Blake MS Gym), 3/23 – 4/13

Spring Training Clinics (Baseball)

Grade 2 & 3 - Tuesdays, 6pm – 7pm, Blake MS Gym, 3/22 – 4/12

Grade 4, 5 & 6 – Thursdays, 6pm - 7pm, Blake MS Gym, 3/17 – 4/14

Babe Ruth - Thursdays, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Blake MS Gym, 3/17 – 4/14

Teams Drafted -- TBD (must be completed by March 31st)

Teams Announced – Week of April 1st

Games start – TBD

Opening Day Parade - Sunday, May 1st

Baseball and Softball Championship Day: TBD

Board Members & Coordinators

<p>Peter Hunt President H 359-1840 C 617-650-1932 huntp1130@Gmail.com</p>	<p>Paul Hirschfeld Summer Coordinator, Sr. Babe Ruth Scholarship Committee Paul.Hirschfeld@prospectmtg.com</p>	<p>David DeCoste Business Drive David.Decoste@Gmail.com</p>
<p>Grayland Cousins Field Maintenance H 359-5955 C 508 989-5418 gcoutins@atlanticretailing.com</p>	<p>George Chung Babe Ruth (Asst. Coordinator) H 359-7445 C 508-265-8124 papachungz@yahoo.com</p>	
<p>Eric Baacke H 359-6044 etbaacke@verizon.net</p>	<p>Kevin Glasheen Equipment Coordinator H 359-7787 C 508-962-7192 nnglasheen@aol.com</p>	
<p>Joe Clifford Softball Coordinator Grade 8 Website & Registrar C 617-955-9967 cliffordj@verizon.net</p>	<p>Neil Stolzenbach Babe Ruth Coordinator Photography coordinator H C 617-797-3356 NCS@parallax-consulting.com</p>	
<p>David Reilly Baseball Coordinator Grade 2 C 508-314-8817 David.Reilly@ngam.natixis.com</p>	<p>Craig O'Connor Softball Coordinator Grade 7 H C OConnor315@Gmail.com</p>	
<p>Jen Gemski Social Media JenniferGemski@Verizon.net</p>	<p>Sean McCarthy Baseball Coordinator Grade 1 SeanPMcCarthy@gmail.com</p>	
<p>Dan Shield Softball Coordinator Grade 1 & 2 Softball Coordinator Grade 3 & 4 H 242-5462 C 617-331-9759 Daniel.Shield@pyramis.com</p>	<p>James Hatch Concession Stand Coordinator H 508-242-5219 C 508-241-7794 jameshatch98@verizon.net</p>	
<p>Jerry Potts Softball Coordinator Scholarship Committee Website H 359-8748 C 617-571-2797 jprophet@verizon.net</p>	<p>Scott Bate Treasurer Special Events Coordinator H 359-2031 C 315-323-4337 Scott_Bate@Hotmail.com</p>	
<p>Andrew Brooslin Softball Coordinator Grade 5 & 6 C 617-875-1592 asbrooslin@aol.com</p>	<p>Aaron Hagwood Baseball Coordinator Grade 4 H 359-1804 aaron.hagwood@morganstanley.com</p>	
<p>Bill Donahue Baseball Coordinator Grade 5 CORI Coordinator dhue@aol.com</p>	<p>Dan Duggan Baseball Coordinator Grade 3 DDuggan22@Verizon.net</p>	

Keys to Success:

- **Treat ALL the children you coach as though they're your own... unless you treat your child terribly!**
- **Communicate**—use the website/email. Talk with parents and players about how you coach, what you look for, and what to expect. Reach out to coordinators and/or the Board if you need help. Behavioral issues DO NOT get better when they are not addressed.
- **Encourage constructive parent involvement and feedback.** The program belongs to ALL of us as parents. Be open to feedback on ways to improve.
- **Coach in a way that encourages players to develop a passion for the game.** Make it fun *AND* develop skills so each player gains confidence.
- **Set goals with each player on how they can improve.** Start by focusing on the positives. Make sure the goals are attainable and realistic. Success builds on success.
- **Lead by example**—how we interact sets the tone for the program.
- **Be organized**—If you're not organized by nature, reach out to parents who may want to help but may not have baseball/softball skills. Run practice efficiently (2 or 3 stations, keep it moving versus the snake-line of death!), have a consistent approach to pre-game warm-ups.
- **Remember**—the most important position on the field is the one where the ball is hit! Makes sure to rotate players and balance playing time.
- **Our shared goal**—each child we coach wants to play the next season. **Period.**

Coach, Player, Parent or Fan – Conduct Guidelines

The following are conduct standards that will be used in all games played under the MYB/S umbrella. Other games authorities (schools, Legion, AAU etc.) will be asked to use the same standards.

As a coach:

- I will always conduct myself in a manner consistent with the spirit of baseball/softball and to honor the traditions of the game and the good name of Medfield.
- I will be fair in my application of the MYBS policies and standards.
- The development of young players is my first priority.

The following are zero-tolerance conduct policies:

- Never, ever engage in an aggravated argument with a coach, player, umpire*, opponent or spectator.
- Never, ever throw a bat, helmet or other piece of equipment.
- Never, ever damage the field, dugout in an aggravated manner.
- Never, ever use profanity.

Consequences for infractions of the zero tolerance policies and behavior inconsistent with the spirit of baseball:

Immediate ejection from the game and subject to further sanctions by the MYBS Board of Review.

By acknowledgement of these consequences a coach or player who violates any one or more of the conduct standards is agreeing to remove themselves from the game immediately. The next higher level of authority will assist in the removal. (Coach over player, Board or umpire over coach)

The above stated consequences are in place to prevent poor behavior. Game ejection is a remarkably effective tool in deterring any bad behavior. All coaches must follow-through or the policy is meaningless. By knowing clearly what the consequences are, very few incidents will occur.

*See guidelines for handling umpires and bad calls

Managing Umpires & Dealing with "Bad" Calls

MYBS has 3 Levels of Officials

LL has just Plate Umpire (maybe 2 in playoffs). Spring Babe Ruth has just Plate Umpire. Summer Babe Ruth and higher BR level of play usually requires Plate and Base Umpire. For larger fields, 2-man crew has closer positioning to get better angle at making calls.

- LL Majors/Babe Ruth - Adults: some are "Patched", most are State certified
- LL AAA - MS or HS students w/some experience. Some are Rookies
- LL Farm - MS or HS students w/some experience. Some are Rookies

I train Farm and AAA student umpires annually via free clinic.

Managing Umpires

Best advice: "Let officials officiate, coaches coach, and players play the game." Otherwise coaches and players get distracted <==> NOT focused on your job at hand

e.g. "How's *that* a strike?" or in LL, "that pitcher is throwing curve balls!"

Appeals can be made only on Rule interpretations. Cannot argue Judgment Calls (balls/strikes, out/safe). Appeals must be made when the ball is LIVE and before the next pitch.

Handling "Bad" Calls

Remember every Judgment Call is a BAD and a GOOD call - depends on perspective.

Umpires are human - they will try to get into best angle possible to make a call. 100% Bad calls are when Rules of Baseball are misinterpreted. Just call TIME to get an explanation before the next pitch. When you believe the Umpire has misinterpreted a rule, APPEAL immediately.

Getting Tossed (Coaches & Players)

Let's avoid that at all costs - because it is just plain embarrassing. Reasons to get tossed:

- Arguing Judgment calls
- Opening statement is "You..." - magic word, grounds for ejection
- When Coaches do not control parents
- Swearing within earshot of stands, players, etc.

How We Play

The Medfield Baseball/Softball System is a group of interrelated policies, standards and procedures put in place to teach young baseball players about the time-honored traditions, skills and the sporting principles of baseball. Following the system will allow players to enjoy baseball, play well, look great and most of all, act in a manner respectful to the spirit of the game and the Town of Medfield.

The Spirit of Baseball

"Baseball is a uniquely American game of skill and traditions. A play well executed is a delight to see and so, too, it is a fine thing to observe the time-honored traditions of baseball being applied in the true spirit of the game. Baseball players play to win but never to humble their opponents. A true player would prefer to lose rather than win unfairly.

A good player never attempts to distract an opponent or otherwise prevent him/her from playing his/her best.

While the main objective of the game is to determine the relative skills of the players, the spirit of the game demands good sportsmanship, kindly feeling and honorable conduct. This spirit should influence both the interpretation and application of the rules of the game and also the conduct of all participants on and off the field."

Playing Standards

Baseball Uniforms: White pants are the standard for all baseball players in Medfield. At the high school level, they will wear a navy pinstripe. Belts are required and the players are encouraged to wear matching belts.

Clean, polished black shoes are the standard in Medfield through the high school varsity. Although very popular, avoid white shoes and flashy colors.

All shirts must be clean and tucked at all times.

Softball Uniforms: For grades 3-8, uniforms are purchased at Tri-Valley Sports in Medway and will be used for spring, summer, and fall leagues. The white jerseys should be worn for the home team, the blue jerseys for away games. Jewelry cannot be worn (including earrings, even if covered.)

Team Coaching Systems: Preparation is the key to success. Development is the most important function of coaching youth baseball. Early development (K-6 grades) prepares our youth to enjoy baseball/softball and for the more committed players, summer travel teams and the Williamsport tournament. Later development (grades 7-10) will refine the skills and prepare them for high school varsity and legion level play.

Avoid over-coaching. Teach them baseball and allow them to think about the game. Allow them to create their own plan at the plate based on the game situation. Allow catchers to call pitches based on the count and situation. Of course your input is key and proper intervention is appropriate as a learning tool.

Skill and Knowledge Standards: The Medfield Youth Baseball & Softball (MYB/S) program provides spring, summer and fall baseball and softball opportunities for all kids, regardless of skill or commitment. The program is developed for the pure love of baseball/softball by volunteers across town. Our program is built on *skill development, knowledge of the game and sportsmanship*. Combined with a winning attitude, our program gives our kids a good chance of achieving their goals. Our summer travel teams will be more competitive and are geared more toward the players who are absolutely committed to baseball/softball. Please see the program descriptions on our web page.

The items listed on the Skills Charts are the MYB/S standard. They are based on skills identified by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and can be referenced in the book Baseball Skills & Drills published by Human Kinetics. All coaches are required to teach to the standard. With proper adherence to the program, our kids should be able to demonstrate the skills, knowledge and sportsmanship at the end of the each respective season.

Continuous Improvement: On an ongoing basis the Skills Committee will review the material and continuously improve it. The Skills Committee encourages coaches to share great ideas.

Guidelines for dealing with umpires.

- Always introduce yourself to each umpire.
- Always call the umpires by their first name (Never say “Blue” or “Ump”)
- Never argue balls and strikes (discuss the strike zone between innings)
- If an umpire gets hit with a ball, have your catcher call time and visit the mound. This will give the umpire time to “walk it off”.

To discuss a call by the base umpire, calmly call time with the plate umpire first. Walk out the base umpire, never run. Calmly discuss the call with the base umpire. Most of our games are umpired with a one or two-man crew (MLB games have four or five). The fewer umpires there are the more bad angles exist. Example, with a two-man crew, the base umpire stands near second base with a runner on first. The base umpire will have a poor angle on a play at first that may pull the first baseman off the bag. You may suggest that the plate umpire may have had a better angle on the play and ask him if he could discuss it with him. Remember, the umpires want to get it right.