

Pete Kokinis **Baseball League**

2020 Pre-season Newsletter

Welcome to our 2020 Preseason Newsletter! As you can see above, we have a new name. Vantis Life Insurance has chosen not to renew their sponsorship of the League. We thank Vantis Life for working with us over the last six years.

We have not found a new sponsor, so we are pleased to announce we are naming the league after long-time League Director Pete Kokinis. The league shall now be known as the "Pete Kokinis Baseball League." Our website has been rebranded and you can now find us at kokinisbaseball.com. Our old address also works but will be disabled soon. Please change your bookmarks/favorites to our new address.

Registration opens January 1

Team registration for the 2020 summer season opens on January 1 on our website. As we have no sponsor, we have had to adjust our pricing. In order to keep costs down, we will no longer provide shirts for coaches (we found most coaches wear team shirts) and scorebooks. We will not have an early-bird registration discount this year. There is a \$200 per team deposit required to hold your place in the league. (A previous version of this newsletter said the deposit is \$250.) We do not accept credit cards. Please mail checks payable to "Pete Kokinis Baseball League" to the address on your registration receipt. 2020 team registration fees are:

2020 PKBL Summer Registration	Prep	Junior	Senior
Without Insurance	\$1475	\$1525	\$1625
With Insurance	\$1775	\$1825	\$2000

Umpire Fees:

For games covered by the Hartford Board, umpires are paid at the end of our season by the league. For all regular season and playoff games covered by any other umpire board (for example, New Haven, Eastern Connecticut, Torrington, Western Mass), the home team will pay umpires on the field. The "home" team is the team that bats last. At the end of June and the end of the season, teams will submit a record of umpire payments made. The League will reimburse teams within 10 days.

Season Calendar

The 2020 Summer season will start on Monday, June 8 and end with the Championship Games on August 1 and 2. Rain date is August 3. **Please make your players and parents aware of when our season ends!** The full calendar is at the end of the newsletter.

Insurance

We have raised the liability limit on our insurance policy to \$5,000,000. We did this in order to better protect the league and teams against lawsuits. We recommend teams providing their own insurance purchase a \$2,000,000 policy, but the choice is up to the team.

On-line Player and Coach Registration

This year all players and coaches must register on our website after the team has registered. A parent or guardian must register first if the player is under 18 years of age. We will no longer require coaches to submit registration packets. Instructions will be available soon.

PKBL Night at the Bees and 2020 Championship Games at New Britain Stadium

We are pleased to announce that we are continuing our relationship with the New Britain Bees. As part of your registration fee, you will receive 15 tickets to the Pete Kokinis Baseball League Night at the Bees, Friday, June 19 between the Bees and the Pittsfield Suns.

Our Championship Games will be held at New Britain Stadium on Saturday and Sunday, August 1 and 2, with rain date Monday, August 3 (at town fields). The schedule will be announced soon.

League Patches

All players shall wear uniforms bearing the Pete Kokinis Baseball League patch. We are working on the new design. We will provide a jpg to supply to uniform vendors for silk screening, and we will also provide iron-on patches free of charge for teams do not silk screen.

Fall Ball

We are aware that the Central Connecticut Fall Baseball League has folded, and we are considering a fall program to fill the gap left by this loss. If you are interested in participating in a fall program, please contact Dan Turkeltaub, dan.turkeltaub@gmail.com.

Supervisor Wanted!

We are looking for someone to join our crew as a Division Supervisor. The Supervisor:

- Is the liaison between several teams and the League
- Answers questions from the teams on rules and policies
- Communicates schedule changes from the teams to the League
- Facilitates team roster changes
- Attends games with an eye on good sportsmanship
- Attends League meetings (3 with teams plus Supervisor meeting in the fall)

If you're interested in the position, please contact Dan Turkeltaub, dan.turkeltaub@gmail.com.

Administrative Rule Changes

- Standings Tiebreaker – we have amended the tiebreaker to include Runs Against. Teams will now be ranked as follows:
 1. Points (Wins x 2) + ties
 2. Wins
 3. Head to Head
 4. Runs Against
 5. If still tied, a coin flip will determine playoff seeding. If three or more teams are tied, seeding will be determined by lot.

Note our website will rank teams only on the first three criteria. Runs Against is displayed in the standings table but the table will not rank the fourth factor.

- Double rostering – we allow double rostering between divisions as follows:
 - Up to five Junior Division players may be double rostered on a Senior Division team.
 - Up to five Prep players may be double rostered on a Junior Division team.
 - A player may not be double rostered on teams within the same Division (Prep, Junior, Senior).

Playing Rule Changes

- Designated Hitter
 - The League does not use a designated hitter. We allow an extra hitter which does not bat for a defensive player. See the Playing Rules “EH RULE”.
- Mercy Rule
 - We now follow the CIAC mercy rule for regular season games. The game shall end when the visiting team is behind ten (10) or more runs after 4½ innings or after the fifth inning, if either team is 10 runs behind and both teams have had an equal number of times at bat. The mercy rule will also be used in playoff games.
- Equipment
 - Bats – the NFHS rule applies for all Divisions. Bats that are not made of a single piece of wood must meet the BBCOR performance standard and must be marked “BBCOR .50”
 - Chest Protectors - Catchers must wear chest protectors that meet the NOCSAE standard at time of manufacture. The SEI/NOCSAE mark is required on all body/chest protectors that meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacture.
 - Baseballs - Baseballs for the Senior Division must meet the NOCSAE standard at the time of manufacturer. Junior and Prep divisions may use the Rawlings RBRO1 Babe Ruth or equivalent baseball.
- Lineup Cards must contain first and last name, and uniform number.
- Coaches Uniforms
 - The League no longer provides coaches shirts as we found most coaches wear team shirts. All on-field coaches must wear a uniform. Baseball pants and a team shirt or pullover/jacket are required. Please see the Playing Rules document for complete information.
- Electronic Scorebooks
 - An electronic scorebook may be used. iScore is the preferred app as it integrates with our League Athletics website. Any scorebook, electronic or paper, must be made available for inspection by League officials upon request.

Background Checks

The League will again require yearly Background Checks. They are confidential and administered by Protect Youth Sports.

As a youth-serving organization, The Pete Kokinis Baseball League considers the safety and well-being of the youth in our program a top priority. Therefore, we continue to require a yearly background checking program to include all team personnel that come into contact with players.

Prior to a team’s first game, a background check will need to be performed on every Team Representative, Manager, Coach, Assistants, and volunteers. Your failure to participate will make you unavailable to coach and interact with League players. If, on game day, no team personnel have had a

background check performed, the game will be forfeited. The check may take up to 48 hours to process so please do not wait until the day of your first game to submit for your background check. The check must be performed using the League's service. Background checks made by your organization cannot be accepted.

See the Background Check page on our website for a link to Protect Youth Sports.

What you need:

Full Legal Name, Current and past addresses, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, and Driver's License Number.

Fee:

The fee for the background check is \$10.00 which will be charged to your Debit or Credit Card. The Vantis Life Baseball League is not responsible for this fee and will not reimburse anyone ordering a background check.

The Process:

When you are ready to submit your information, click on the link below. You will be redirected to our provider's site. When completed, the results will be provided to the Chair of the League's Background Check Committee, who will log your completion. He and only he will have access to your results.

Should there be an issue that requires follow-up information; The Chair of the Background Check Committee will contact you personally.

Please see the table below for a list of general suggestions of people who should submit to a background check. This list is not inclusive. Use your best judgment.

If you are or do the following, submit for a background check:

- Team Representative
- Head or Assistant Coach
- Scorekeeper
- Dad that throws batting practice
- Interns
- Anything that puts you in a private setting with a player

Some positions that, depending on their level of involvement with your team, might not need a background check:

- PA Announcers
- Writers
- Statisticians
- Concession Workers
- Groundskeepers

If you have any questions about background checks, please contact Dan Turkeltaub, dan.turkeltaub@gmail.com.

Important Dates:

Organizational Meeting – Wednesday, April 8
Scheduling Meeting – Wednesday, May 6
Rules Meeting – Wednesday, May 27
Opening Day Prep and Junior – Monday, June 8
Opening Day Senior – Tuesday, June 9
CIAC Finals – Friday and Saturday June 12 & 13
League Night at the Bees – Friday June 19
Last Day to Change Rosters – Saturday June 27
Playoff Eligibility Form Due – Saturday July 18
End of Regular Season – Thursday July 23
Playoffs Begin (all divisions) – Saturday July 25
Championship Games at New Britain Stadium – Saturday and Sunday, August 1 & 2
Rain date for Championship Games – Monday, August 3

Do you need more information about our League? Please contact League Director Pete Kokinis, peterkokinis44@gmail.com or Director of Operations Dan Turkeltaub, dan.turkeltaub@gmail.com.