



Vantis Life Baseball League 2019 Pre-season Newsletter

One Sponsor, new name, new site!

Vantis Life Insurance is now our sole sponsor, and we are excited to continue to work with Vantis Life CEO Peter Tedone and his staff. We have renamed the league the "Vantis Life Baseball League", and you can now find us at vantislifebaseball.com. Please bookmark/favorite the new site as the old link will be phased out soon. Thank you to Farmington Bank for their support the past five years!

2019 Championship Games at New Britain Stadium

Last year's Championship Games were a resounding success, so we'll be back at New Britain Stadium this year! The Bees schedule does not allow us to have all three games on one day, so we're splitting the games between Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4. Rain date will be August 5. **LET YOUR PARENTS KNOW THE SEASON ENDS AUGUST 5.**

We listened to your suggestions about the playoffs and having so many days off before the Championship Games. This year, the regular season will end on Thursday, July 26, extending the regular season by nearly a week. Playoffs will start for all divisions on Saturday, July 28, with subsequent rounds on Monday July 29, Wednesday July 31, and Friday, August 2.

Vantis Life Baseball Night at the Bees

Once again, we will hold Vantis Life Baseball Night at the Bees on July 6, at 6:35 PM, when the Bees take on the Sugar Land Skeeters. Your registration fee includes 15 tickets to the game. Extra tickets are available directly from the Bees. This event enables us to offset the cost of holding the Championship Games at New Britain Stadium, so please help us out with a good turnout!

Registration opens January 1st

- Registration for the 2019 season opens January 1. Registration is on our website only. We are offering a \$100 discount off the total registration fee for teams registering by January 31. Registration closes on April 3.
- **We require a \$200 per team deposit, payable by check, due by the Organizational Meeting on April 3.** This will secure your place in the league.
- **IMPORTANT CHANGE FOR 2019** -- If a team withdraws before the preliminary schedule is released (around April 15), any registration fees paid will be refunded. If a team withdraws after the preliminary schedule is released, the team will receive a refund of registration fees paid, less \$200. After June 3, there are no refunds. Teams registering by January 31 may not use the \$100 discount to offset the deposit.
- Registration fees are due by the May 8 Scheduling Meeting and are payable by check only. 2019 Registration fees are as follows, and include Umpires, three Coaches shirts, and 15 tickets to Vantis Life Night at the Bees.
 - Prep: with insurance \$1600, without insurance \$1350
 - Junior: with insurance \$1625, without insurance \$1375
 - Senior: with insurance \$1735 without insurance \$1435
- Insurance is mandatory for all teams, you may purchase it yourself or through the league.
- The League shall provide two umpires from the Hartford Board of Approved Baseball Umpires for each game. Teams may not hire their own umpires. If the Hartford Board does not cover

games in your town, the registration fee is \$375, not including insurance. Umpires will be then be arranged by the League through another chapter of the Connecticut Board of Approved Baseball Umpires. In this case, the Home team is responsible for paying the umpires on the field, including playoff games. Team paying this reduced fee are not eligible for the \$100 January discount.

- Your registration fee covers umpires, insurance (if purchased through the League), three coaches' shirts, and 15 tickets to Vantis Life Baseball Night at the Bees.

Rules Meeting May 30

There will be a separate Rules Meeting this year, on May 30 at Webb Elementary School in Wethersfield. We find that many teams do not have coaches named by the Scheduling Meeting, and those coaches do not receive important information on rules and dates. This meeting is mandatory for all teams.

Administrative Rules Changes

- Point System Change – We are changing our point system to 2 points for a win, 1 for a tie, zero for a loss.
- New Patch – as our name has changed, so has our patch. We recommend silk-screening the patch onto your uniforms. A jpg can be found in the Documents section of our website. We will continue to supply patches to those teams who want to sew them onto uniforms. Patches will be available at the Scheduling Meeting on May 8.
- Number of Coaches – teams may have a maximum of 3 coaches plus a scorekeeper on their roster. If a coach or scorekeeper drops out of the league another may be added.
- Registration Cards – two changes of note:
 - We are requiring an email address for a parent of the player. This information will be forwarded to Vantis Life for marketing purposes. Parents may choose to opt-out by checking the box on the registration form.
 - Players age 18 and over can sign their own Registration Card.
 - Parents as well as players and coaches must now sign the Code of Conduct form.

Playing Rules Changes

- Drop -5 bats are now allowed in the Prep Division
- A maximum of 3 Managers and Coaches plus a scorekeeper are allowed in the dugout.

Coaches Uniforms

Coaches in all divisions must wear a uniform. Baseball pants are required, and a team shirt or League polo shirt is acceptable. Please see the Playing Rules document for more information. We are relying on the coaches to self-enforce this rule. If a coach is not in uniform, bring it up at the plate meeting with the umpires.

Turf Shoes Required at Hartford Fields

Hyland Park and Annie Fisher (University) fields are artificial turf. Everyone must wear turf shoes or sneakers when using these fields.

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 Vantis Life 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 Vantis Life 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:

Registration Opens – Monday, January 1

Meetings – at Webb Elementary School in Wethersfield:

- Organization Meeting – Wednesday, April 3
- Scheduling Meeting – Wednesday, May 8
- Rules Meeting – Thursday, May 30

Last Day to Change Schedules – Friday, May 10

Opening Day – Monday, June 3

Last Day to Change Rosters – Saturday, June 29

Vantis Life Baseball League Night at the Bees – Saturday, July 6

Playoff Eligibility Forms Due – Saturday, July 13

Last day of the Regular Season – Thursday, July 25

Playoffs Begin – Saturday, July 27

Championship Games at New Britain Stadium

- Prep and Junior – Saturday, August 3, 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM
- Senior – Sunday, August 4, 5:00 PM
- Rain Date, Monday, August 5

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