

Kingston Youth Baseball & Softball League • Silver Lake Youth Football & Cheerleading • Kingston Youth Soccer Association • Kingston Lacrosse

Dear Kingston Youth Sports Organization (KYSO) Members,

The purpose of this letter is to help you and the people of Kingston better understand the role of our organization.

In 2004, the Opachinski Athletic Complex was opened for use. At that time, due to the fact that several different sports organizations would be using this facility, a group of like-minded sports parents and coaches decided that it would be beneficial to all of those groups if there was a single sports-related entity overseeing and governing the use of the fields. Hence, the Kingston Youth Sports Organization was created.

MAKE-UP OF THE BOARD: This small group of people formed a Board of Directors, which is now comprised of the following representatives:

- Kingston Youth Baseball and Softball League "KYBSL" (two representatives)
- Kingston Youth Soccer Association "KYSA" (two representatives)
- Silver Lake Youth Football and Cheerleading "SLYFC" (two representatives)
- Kingston Youth Lacrosse "KLAX" (one representative)
- KYSO Fundraising Committee (two representatives)
- Kingston Recreation Commission (one representative)
- Member at Large (one representative)

Officers (president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer) are elected from the above list of representatives to fill specific duties listed in the KYSO By-Laws.

MISSION STATEMENT: The original mission statement of KYSO was summarized in its' Articles of Corporation as follows:

"The purpose of the corporation is to provide a focal point for athletic programs for Kingston youth and assist with overall planning, coordination, fundraising and operation." Since that time, KYSO has evolved somewhat, and it has clarified and adapted its mission statement into the following:

"The Kingston Youth Sports Organization works with many of the town's youth sports groups (listed above) and with the Kingston Recreation Department to enhance the quality of the youth sports programs and facilities in Kingston."

We believe our responsibilities can also be summarized into two main purposes:



Kingston Youth Sports Organization
KYSO PO Box 241 Kingston, MA 02364 • www.kysogolf.org • kyso_golf@yahoo.com



Kingston Youth Baseball & Softball League • Silver Lake Youth Football & Cheerleading • Kingston Youth Soccer Association • Kingston Lacrosse

1. Assist the Recreation Department and our member groups in managing and scheduling the use of the athletics fields at the Reed and Opachinski complexes so that all our sports groups can co-exist without conflict.
2. Raise funds for the benefit of our member organizations for two reasons:
 - A. To help offset the costs of maintaining the fields
 - B. To finance the purchase of improvements to the fields

Given the costs involved in the above listed Item #2, KYSO formed a fundraising committee which has concentrated its efforts in two ways: (1) by utilizing a fence sign advertisement program, that offers local businesses the opportunity to advertise on the premises in exchange for an annual fee; and (2) by hosting the annual "KYSO Golf & Dinner Event" each May at the Indian Pond Country Club in Kingston.

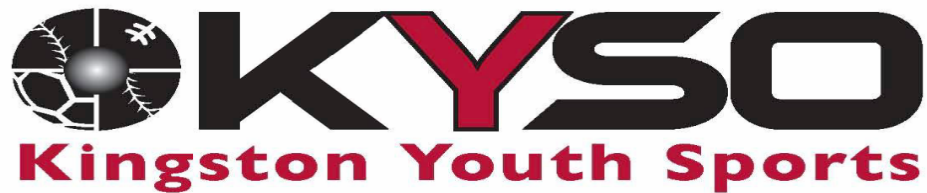
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS: Over the first five years of our existence, the KYSO Fundraising Committee has raised over \$300,000 via these two above-listed revenue streams. Thanks to the generosity of our members, and the continued support of many local individuals and businesses, we have been able to purchase many amenities and services. Some of the most noteworthy items are listed below:

1. Picnic tables
2. Concession Stand Bulletin Board
3. Scoreboards for three baseball and softball fields
4. PA System
5. Electrical infrastructure for vending, lights, scoreboards, etc....
6. Player/team benches
7. Appliances needed for the Concession stand
8. Rizzo Field Scoreboard
9. Police Details for joint sporting activities
10. Utility golf cart
11. Rizzo Field Press Booth
12. Donation to help start High School Lacrosse program
13. Defibrillator for complex
14. Rizzo Field spectator stands
15. Stools for Press Booth
16. KYSO Contributed, along with KYBSL, to the purchase & self-installation of field lighting for three baseball and softball fields (B4, B5, and B6.)
17. Rizzo Field Mats
18. Lacrosse Nets
19. Batting Cages
20. Defibrillator donated to KES
21. Soccer Nets



Kingston Youth Sports Organization

KYSO PO Box 241 Kingston, MA 02364 • www.kysogolf.org • kyso_golf@yahoo.com



Kingston Youth Baseball & Softball League • Silver Lake Youth Football & Cheerleading • Kingston Youth Soccer Association • Kingston Lacrosse

- 22. Portable Football Goal Posts
- 23. Line marking machine and paint
- 24. Bat houses
- 25. Donation to KEF for school computers
- 26. 20' x 12' multi-sport shed
- 27. Yearly High School scholarships to SLRHS
- 28. A-Frame signs
- 29. Recycle bins
- 30. Port-O-Jon's
- 31. Renovation of Field B1
- 32. Flags
- 33. Offset Users Fees
- 34. Yearly donation to Jonathan Rizzo Foundation
- 35. Eagle Scout project donations for flag pole, pavilions, fence gate, etc...
- 36. Yearly turf improvements (slice-seeding, aerating, liming, sodding, etc.) on all practice and game fields

UNDERSTANDING USERS FEES: This subject is one which is commonly misunderstood by our members. In order to comprehend how this fee assessment works and why it has been instituted, one needs to know a bit about the history surrounding the development of the Opachinski Fields.

In the latter part of the 1990s, a group of Kingston residents created a plan to build these ball fields on Pottle Street. Given the cost of this proposal, and the reality that the proponents could not otherwise raise funds to finance the cost of the project, the proponents sold the idea at Town Meeting by agreeing to a quid pro quo. Namely, they agreed that if the townspeople would vote in favor of this expenditure, then the proponents would make sure that the fields would be self-sufficient. In so many words, the proponents promised they would not go back to Town Meeting in the future to ask for more money to operate the fields.

In essence, since the fields are Town-owned, the only way for this to work would be for the Town to charge the sports groups "user's fees" to offset the cost of operating and maintaining the fields. So, through the Recreation commissions budget, KYSO is charged a quarterly assessment for our use of the fields, and we, in turn, bill our four sports groups for their agreed upon share. This may sound complicated, but it is actually fairly simple.

Below is some information that outlines the costs associated with operating and maintaining the Opachinski and Reed fields:

	Expense	2009	2010
1	Dumpster Costs	\$2,475	\$3,300
2	Grading Parking Lot	\$4,500	\$5,000



Kingston Youth Sports Organization
 KYSO PO Box 241 Kingston, MA 02364 • www.kysogolf.org • kyso_golf@yahoo.com



Kingston Youth Baseball & Softball League • Silver Lake Youth Football & Cheerleading • Kingston Youth Soccer Association • Kingston Lacrosse

3	Irrigation System	\$6,500	\$12,000
4	Filtration System	\$2,000	\$3,000
5	Electricity	\$9,200	\$13,500
6	Staff	\$3,456	\$6,400
7	Property repairs & maintenance – additional irrigation expense	\$10,500	\$8,000
	Total Field Expenses	\$38,631	\$51,200
9	Turf Management – fertilizing, lime and general maintenance	\$15,032	\$15,032
10	Mowing and Weeding	\$23,010	\$23,010
11	Total Recreation Department FY09 Budget for fields	\$76,673	\$89,242
12	Less Operating Budget	<\$25,285>	<\$25,285>
13	Less T-Mobile Lease	<\$24,720>	<\$25,461>
	Total Remaining Amount Billed to KYSO		\$38,496
14	Less KYSO Raffle		<\$5,855>
15	Difference, and amount billed to KYSO	\$26,668	\$32,641

So, in a nutshell, this outline shows that the total cost for the operation and maintenance of the fields for FY 2010 is \$89,242 (Line 11.) Fortunately for our member organizations, we are not currently responsible for the total cost. We are able to deduct \$25,285 (Line 12), that is paid through the Recreation Department's budget, and deduct another \$25,461 (Line 13), that is paid by the lessee of the cell tower located at the fields. Thus, for FY 2010, KYSO was left with the remaining \$38,496 of the total bill.

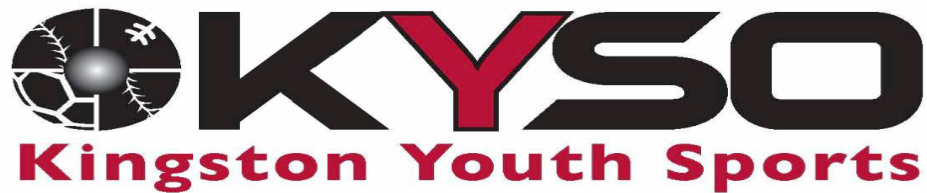
In the past, KYSO has been able to reduce this total amount owed through its fundraising efforts. Our primary sources of revenue have been the fence sign advertising program and the annual KYSO Golf & Dinner Event. For the past five years, all the revenue generated through the sale of signs at the fields has helped offset the user's fees charged to KYSO and its member organizations.

However, the weak economy has impacted local businesses, so our advertising revenue has been low in the past few years. Given the fact that the economy hasn't improved, it is reasonable to expect that these advertising revenues will remain lower than normal for the time being (sign revenue was \$6,100 in FY '10.) Hence, other fundraising ideas are being employed to make up for the loss in sign sales. Last spring, KYSO held a raffle that raised \$5,855 (Line 14), all of which was used to offset the cost of users' fees. This spring, we will be holding another raffle (a helicopter ball drop) and the hope is that we will be able to raise \$7,000, all of which will again be used to offset the cost of users' fees.



Kingston Youth Sports Organization

KYSO PO Box 241 Kingston, MA 02364 • www.kysogolf.org • kyso_golf@yahoo.com



Kingston Youth Baseball & Softball League • Silver Lake Youth Football & Cheerleading • Kingston Youth Soccer Association • Kingston Lacrosse

From the prospective of the KYSO Board, it is vital that our member organizations understand the importance of their involvement in all KYSO fundraising efforts. We need the direct involvement of our members in order to maximize the revenue from these fundraisers.

To underscore the importance of the preceding paragraph, below is the comparison of the amount of users' fees our member groups owed in FY 2010, and how much their bills were reduced as a result of our collective fundraising efforts in the amount of \$11,955:

	Without Any Fundraising	
KYSO Member	Percentage Share	Amount Owed
KYBSL	39	\$15,013
KYSA	30	\$11,549
SLYFC	24	\$9,239
KLAX	7	\$2,695
TOTALS	100	\$38,496
	With Fundraising of \$11,955	
KYSO Member	Percentage Share	Amount Paid
KYBSL	39	\$10,351
KYSA	30	\$7,962
SLYFC	24	\$6,370
KLAX	7	\$1,858
TOTALS	100	\$26,541

CLOSING: We hope this information helps our members better understand the role of KYSO, especially as it relates to our four member organizations. We also hope the information in this letter demonstrates the importance of all the activities, programs and expenditures we have undertaken to help run, maintain, and improve our facilities, so as to give our members the best possible experience when using the facilities.

As an organization, we also feel that we are incredibly fortunate for the many things we have going for us. First and foremost, to the benefit of our kids, we have one of the best outdoor athletics facilities in the region. Second, we have an incredibly vibrant, hard-working, and creative group of volunteers working within KYSO and its' member organizations. And lastly, by virtue of a consistently strong concerted effort, we feel we have the opportunity to continue to improve upon everything we already have going for us.

But, we cannot afford to take any of that for granted. The need for private funds to run our facilities is always going to be an issue, and since we cannot rely on the Town of Kingston to pay our bills, we have to be vigilant to maintain that effective concerted effort in all areas of fundraising. This will be the key to the long-term stability of our facility and to KYSO.





Kingston Youth Baseball & Softball League • Silver Lake Youth Football & Cheerleading • Kingston Youth Soccer Association • Kingston Lacrosse

KYSO holds an open meeting forum each month where members and guests are free to speak, raise questions or concerns, share ideas and offer their time and/or services.

Involvement is the key to success, so come join in the fun. We can all attest that there are not many better places you can be than at the Opachinski Athletics Complex with your kids!

Please visit our KYSO website at:

<http://www.kingstonyouthsports.org/contacts.php>

Thank you.

The Kingston Youth Sports Organization and its fundraising committees.

KYSO is a 501(c)3 Tax-Exempt Not-For-Profit Organization. Our tax ID # is 51-0505969

KYSO

Kingston Youth Sports Organization

KYSO PO Box 241 Kingston, MA 02364 • www.kysogolf.org • kyso_golf@yahoo.com