



Little League.....Big Fun!!

Hello, Roland Park Baseball Families!

Happy, Healthy New Year! With January coming to a close, the Board of Trustees, volunteers, and I are busy planning for another exciting rec and travel season. We remain proud that RPBL has continued to operate throughout the pandemic, providing our players with a safe and healthy outlet during such an uncertain time.

As we approach our 71st season, our experience, committed volunteer base, and strong team of medical advisors make RPBL the ideal choice for little league baseball once again in 2022. To that end, spots are filling up quickly! *If you have not done so already, please register your player(s) for the spring rec season before prices increase by \$50 on Feb. 1.*

RPBL runs on volunteers. We are grateful to the many moms, dads, and friends who have agreed to coach players ranging from tee-ball to teen. We still have some openings; if you are interested in coaching, please let us know.

Thank you also to new and returning sponsors whose support fuels RPBL. Our sponsorship options start at \$600 and are a wonderful way to market your business or service. For more details, check out our website.

Read on for more information about upcoming events, an enhanced travel program at the 13U level, and the leagues' current COVID guidelines. Meantime, thank you for your continued support of RPBL.

With appreciation,

Heather Harlan Warnack
Commissioner, Roland Park Baseball Leagues

In This Newsletter...

- Baseball is Back! Registration Info .. ***Hurry! Prices increase by \$50 on Feb. 1***
- Coaches Info Sessions — ***Thursday, Feb. 3 and Wednesday, Feb. 16 (Sessions to be held via Zoom.)***
- ***New Travel Team Offerings, Featuring an 8U and 13U Team Available!!***
- ***"... safe and healthy ..."*** — RPBL COVID-19 Guidelines
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Spring Travel Tryouts Info — ***Sunday, Jan. 30 and Saturday, Feb. 5 at Gilman School's "Old Gym." See Below For More Details.***

- Play by the Rules Quiz (and answers to last issue's questions)



Spring Rec Baseball is Back!

*****Registration is OPEN*****

Thank you to the many families who have registered for RPBL's spring rec season. Don't delay! **Register your player by clicking here before prices increase by \$50 on Feb. 1.** Still unsure of your plans? Registration will remain open until **Feb. 20.** Don't miss the incredible opportunity to be a part of one of oldest little leagues in the country!



The Roland Park Baseball Leagues are set up as follows:

- **Tee-Ball League (Ages 5 and 6):** An introduction to baseball.
- **International League (Ages 7 and 8):** Coaches pitch to players.
- **National League (Ages 9 and 10):** Players pitch. Bases are set 60 feet apart.
- **American League (Ages 11 and 12):** 70-foot diamond and stealing allowed.
- **Teen League (Ages 13-15):** This is baseball played on a regulation, 90-foot diamond.

[Register Now](#)

Calling All Coaches!



Have you considered coaching but just aren't sure if you have the time or skills needed? Then, please join RPBL for two information sessions about volunteering and coaching. Matt Fischer, a volunteer RPBL coach since 2004 and RPBL Board member, will cover the basics, share stories about the rewarding coaching experience RPBL offers, and answer your questions. **Mark your calendars for Thursday, Feb. 3 and Wednesday, Feb. 16; both sessions will be held over Zoom.**

Thanks to League Sponsor, Belvedere Square!!

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New and Exciting Travel Offerings!!

In response to player interest, RPBL is thrilled to debut an 8U travel experience and a pilot program at the 13U level to serve as a healthy and competitive option to club baseball. This hybrid approach, designed to prepare players to make their high school teams, will include the following:

- Volunteer coaching;
- Paid/professional coaching to supplement volunteer efforts;
- Entry in regional tournaments;
- The consideration of rec waivers by the RPBL Commissioner; and
- An increased fee per player not to exceed \$1,000 a season.

The Board of Trustees recently approved these additions along with several other changes, [which can be found here](#), in an effort to keep our travel program healthy and competitive without eroding the rec offerings that set RPBL apart. Special thanks to the members of the Travel Advisory Committee, led by Russell Wrenn, Director of Athletics at Gilman, for their hard work this fall!



2022 Spring Travel Tryouts



RPBL will hold open tryouts for its 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, and 14U travel teams on Sunday, January 30, 2022, and February 5, 2022, in the "Old Gym" at Gilman School. Please note: The "Old Gym" can be accessed from the Northern Parkway entrance. Gilman is located at 5407 Roland Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland, 21210.

** A player's age group is determined by his/her age as of May 1, 2022 **

A player must attend at least one session to be considered for a team, and attendance at both sessions is highly recommended. A player may attend a tryout for an older age group; however, he/she should also attend a session for his/her age appropriate level as well.

Register at the following link: [2022 Spring Tryout Signup](#)

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: RPBL is following Baltimore City and Gilman health and safety regulations. Therefore, masks are required (unless drinking water). In order to limit the number of individuals inside, attendance is limited to participants and coaches only. Please make arrangements to drop off and pick up your child.

Questions? Please contact RPBL's Travel Coordinator, Phil Kulinski, at pkulinski@hotmail.com.

RPBL COVID-19 Guidelines

RPBL has updated its COVID-19 guidelines in an effort to keep all players, coaches, umpires, and spectators safe and healthy. It is imperative that all participants follow the guidelines to ensure another successful season. If your player is experiencing COVID systems, please keep him/her at home.

Similarly, if anyone in your household has tested *positive* for COVID or is awaiting test results, please have your player *refrain from RPBL activities*. [Click here to review RPBL's COVID guidelines](#) (download). As during past seasons, we will update this document as national, state, and local guidance changes.

FAQs

As we gear up for RPBL's spring season, we expect that parents and players will have many questions. *Can my player be rostered with a friend? Is it possible for my son or daughter to play "up" in the next age group? Will my travel player be excused from the rec requirement? What equipment does RPBL provide? How long are games? And, what about the family dog?*

We've compiled answers to the most frequently asked questions. Click [here](#) to learn more about Roland Park Baseball Leagues.

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Play by the Rules Quiz #11

#1 – With a runner on third and one out, a long fly ball is hit to left field where it is caught. The runner tags up and scores but leaves third before the fielder makes the catch. The fielding team appeals: The pitcher returns to pitcher's mound then throws the ball to the third baseman, however the throw sails past her and out of play. The third baseman retrieves the ball, steps on third, and appeals to the umpire. What is the result?

#2 – With a runner on third and one out, a long fly ball is hit to left field where it is caught. Realizing the ball would be caught, the runner takes a few steps down the line toward the outfield, then runs toward third at full speed, stepping on third as the ball is caught. He then runs home safely. Does the run count?

Answers to Issue #10 Play by the Rules Quiz

(Answer to #1) — The runner on third is awarded home (scores) and the runner on first is awarded two bases, therefore ending up on third. Key here is that the pitcher has disengaged from the rubber, at which point he is now an ordinary defensive player. Were it a pickoff from the rubber that goes out of play, it would have been one base each.

*(Answer to #2) — The infield fly means that the batter is out regardless of whether the ball is caught or not, and force outs are not possible. What happens to the runners **does** then depend upon whether the ball is caught. If caught, the runners may only advance after tagging up (and may be 'doubled up' if they do not return to their base before the ball), but if not caught, runners can advance at their own risk. This is not the best question because it does not state where the runner ended up. If the runner crosses home without the catcher tagging him, it is a score. If he returns to third without being tagged, he is safe. It doesn't matter if the fielder steps on the plate or base first because the runner is not forced.*

Answers in the next addition of the RPBL Newsletter. Past newsletters will soon be available at: [RPBL Newsletter Archive](#)

Keep an eye out for Spirit Wear emails coming soon to an e-mail inbox near you! We'll be working out the available pieces and get you signed up so that you'll be all decked out for 2022!! Stay tuned.



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