



Let's Play Ball!!

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Welcome to the 2019 RPBL Season!

Welcome to the 68th season of the Roland Park Baseball Leagues. It has been my honor to serve as the 44th Commissioner of our illustrious league. This year, over 700 boys and girls will be playing on 59 recreational, and 10 travel baseball teams. Game take place on over 25 different fields throughout Baltimore, ranging from Swann Field in Locust Point to Memorial Field in Mt. Washington.

Our league is run by a tireless army of volunteers that includes our coaches, our league coordinators, our rostering, rules and fields committee members, our schedulers and our Board of Trustees. And of course, the league would not be able to run without the efforts of Caroline Macsherry Mapp who continues the Macsherry family contributions to RPBL that have stretched back to the early 1970s.

This year we have made several improvements that we hope will make the league even better. We are piloting a team mentorship program by which a younger team can pair up with a team from an older league to get a sense of what is next in the RPBL progression. At its simplest, this would include having the younger team join the Mentor team for a practice and then come out to watch their Mentor team play a game. Interested teams should reach out to Peter Quinn who is coordinating this program (peter.g.quinn@gmail.com).

Also this season, we have upgraded several of our fields to improve the quality of the practice and game experiences. This includes a major renovation of Macsherry Field, supported in part by the Charlie Macsherry Memorial Fund, but also with a contribution from the Roland Park Elementary and Middle School Annual Fund.

The continuing improvements to our playing fields are supported in part by membership dues, but also by the generosity of our sponsors. This includes over 70 team and field sponsors, and also our lead sponsor, Belvedere Square. Belvedere Square provides financial support, but also partners with the league by hosting our Coaches Appreciation Party in February, and our Closing Ceremonies scheduled this year for *Saturday, June 8th*.

Coming up this week are our Opening Day ceremonies. **They will take place Saturday, April 6th on Macsherry Field, with the festivities kicking off at 9am.** The ceremony will start at 9:30am. We will have a great Silent Auction happening that includes a treasure trove of fantastic items and experiences. Bid early and often! We will also be selling an array of spirit wear, including hats, t-shirts and sweat shirts. Our Cooperstown Team will be on hand selling food and beverages to keep you fueled up for the morning. The will also have lottery tickets on hand for their 50/50 raffle. \$20/ticket.

RPBL Opening Day is one of my favorite days of the year! Seeing the hundreds of boys and girls spread out across the field and their excitement as they embark on a new season is a sight to see. I hope everyone, whether a player, parent or other family member, sponsor and other members of the greater Roland Park community will come join in the fun.

Sincerely,
Andrew Wolfe

RPBL News and Notes

RPBL's very own Wyatt Ralff stars in the Netflix original, *Twelve*. [See the Trailer Here.](#)

How 'Bout Dem O's? RPBL night at Camden Yards is Friday, May 10th. Follow this link to purchase tickets.
<http://www.orioles.com/tix/rolandpark>

The Fall Whiffle Ball Classic raised over \$8000 that was donated to the Carver and Paterson High School Baseball programs. *Thanks Trevor Khouzami!*



Don't miss the RPBL Silent Auction on Saturday!

Take a peek at a few of the **incredible items** that will be available.*

See you Saturday at Roland Park Elementary and Middle School for the Opening Day festivities. Auction bidding begins at 9 a.m. Bid often and bid high! All proceeds will benefit RPBL.**

Cash, checks and CREDIT CARDS will be accepted.

**[Link to Sneak Peek List here!!](#) Look for a complete list of available auction items later this week. And, yes, the Kids' Table will be back by popular demand.*

*** Interested in donating tickets, an item or service? There's still time. Please contact RPBL Board Member and Auction Chair Heather Harlan Warnack at harlanwarnack@gmail.com.*

Rule Quiz!!

- 1) A batter hits a ground ball and barely beats the throw to first, but he jumps right over the base without touching it. Will the umpire call him out?
- 2) A batter hits a line drive back towards the pitcher and the ball caroms off of the rubber and goes out of play behind the back stop. How many bases does each baserunner get?
- 3) When do baseball rules call for the baserunner to get "the base that they are going to and the next one" on an overthrow that goes out of play?
- 4) When can a baserunner steal on a foul tip?
- 5) The number 4 hitter is supposed to be up, but instead, the number 5 hitter is batting. If the opposing coach brings it to the umpire's attention, will an out be called?
- 6) When can a batter run on a drop third strike?
- 7) If an "Infield fly rule" is in effect, what happens if the ball is not caught?
- 8) If a fielder throws his mitt at the ball, what happens?
- 9) If a batter bunts the ball and the bat and ball make contact on the ground in fair territory, what happens?
- 10) Who was the last player to hit a walk off inside the park grand slam?



Get Those Arms Warmed up!

Roland Park Baseball Leagues is hosting the 2019 edition of the Major League Baseball Pitch Hit & Run (PHR) competition immediately following Opening Ceremonies.

The competition is a FREE, 1-day event for boys and girls ages 7-14*. PHR is the official skills competition of Major League Baseball and can be hosted by any organization, league, civic group or set of volunteers in the community.

Sign up for the RPBL Pitch Hit and Run Competition Here (no day-of signup)
<https://pitchhitrun.leagueapps.com/events/994469>

Participants compete in either the Baseball Division have the opportunity to advance through four levels of competition including Locals, Sectionals, Team Championships and the National Finals during MLB All-Star Week.

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In addition to our participants, parents and team sponsors, our special league sponsors

Tips for Coaches

One of the most frequent emails the league receives are from coaches with questions. Below are the answers to some of those most frequent questions.

1) Scheduling question.

- Scheduling for both practices and games are handled by three individuals. George Atkinson for the Tee ball and International Leagues. Chuck Fancher for the National and American Leagues and for 9/10 and 11/12 travel. Andrew Wolfe for the Teen League and all travel teams that play on our 90 foot diamonds. Their contact information can be found on the [Coaches Page](#) located under the Rules and Helpful Information menu.
- Email your scheduling coordinator with requests. Please copy the other coach on your emails so the coordinator knows everyone is on the same page.
- Check to make sure schedule is updated on the web site.

2) Fields.

- Maps and Field Manuals are available for most of our fields and are located under the Field Information menu.
- Coaches are our eyes and ears. If you see something at a field that could be improved, repaired, removed, etc., let the league know.

3) Equipment.

- Equipment is missing or broken. Reach out to John Duggins for replacement. His contact information is on the [Coaches Page](#). Please give him a day to receive the order and respond. If you don't hear back after a day, send an email to the league (RolandParkBaseball@gmail.com).
- Equipment is expensive. Please demand that your players take care of the equipment. Do Not slam bats against rocks or metal poles, Do Not throw helmets, Do retrieve balls whenever possible.

4) Umpires

- The umpire coordinator is Andre Noel. His contact information is located on the [Coaches Page](#). If your game is about to start and the umpire hasn't arrived, call Andre.
- Please make sure you ensure that our umpires are treated with respect, both by you and by your players and parents.

5) Rosters

- RPBL's rules ensure that all players get a chance to play. No one is a bench warmer or permanent right fielder. All players must get a chance to play in the infield and the outfield in every game. Every player must be in the field for 3 of the first 5 innings. All players bat.
- Beyond these rules, recreational baseball is also the place for your young athletes to get a chance to try the different positions, including pitcher and catcher. No player is forced to try all positions, but do encourage them to try.

6) Sandlot day

- In our competitive leagues, we have our popular Sandlot games. This year each team will have two Sandlot games scheduled. As a reminder, this is where the kids do everything. Please bring the gear and then step back and let the kids run the show. A good way to give them the signal that they are running things is for you the coaches to not wear your team jerseys.
- The only concession to helping out I have done in years past is to keep a parallel scorebook.
- It is possible to have too many cooks in the kitchen. With two games, you could think of making half of your older players the captains for one of the games and half for the second. The younger kids will get a chance to captain next year.

7) All Star Game Selections.

- Our competitive leagues have All Star games at the end of the season. All Star selections are ultimately at the discretion of the Coach, but different teams use different methods to pick their All Stars.
 - Putting it up for a team vote
 - Putting it up for a vote by the coaching staff
 - Some teams only make the older kids eligible (10 year olds for NL, 12 year olds for AL and 14/15 year olds for the Teen League). The thinking being that the younger kids could play in the game the following year.

