

2018 KIRKWOOD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BASEBALL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2018 season at the Kirkwood Athletic Association, as we begin our 58th year of serving the youth of St. Louis. Each year we listen to feedback from managers, coaches, parents and players in an effort to improve the baseball experience at KAA, and 2018 is no exception.

The 2017 season was a challenging year for the park-just not in a way we prefer. The highest recorded Meramec River level in April 2017 caused us to lose multiple weeks we would normally play baseball and softball. Nevertheless, with the aid and support of our KAA family, and the St. Louis community, we were able to recover in time to salvage our season, with very few games missed due to flooding.

Park improvements for 2017 include additional flood resistant upgrades in the concession stand, laser grading of all KAA fields to improve drainage, new sod on multiple field and a trial installation of engineered soil on field 4 to improve drainage and playability. KAA has continued its contract with Engage Sports of Des Peres, MO, to provide on-line registration for both leagues and tournaments, as well as improving our scheduling and rainout make-up capabilities. Coaches can now register, pay league fees, check standings as well as register and pay for KAA tournaments, all from the comfort of your favorite electronic device.

In 2018, KAA will maintain our policy of no work duty for parents, or mandatory fundraising, while continuing to ensure good competition, umpiring and fields. In 2017 we had over 140 teams play league baseball. While several of those have “graduated” out of KAA, we are already receiving numerous inquiries about space for 2018. We have tried our best to simplify registration and payment procedures for 2018 given our new website capabilities.
RETURNING TEAMS PLEASE GET YOUR MONEY IN ON TIME OR RISK BEING LEFT OUT!

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR RETURNING AND NEW TEAMS FOR 2018:

KAA considers a “new” team one that did NOT play at KAA in 2017, even if the team played at KAA in 2016, or earlier. Returning team deposits of \$500.00 *per team* are due NO LATER THAN December 20, 2017. NEW teams MUST MAIL IN FULL PAYMENT instead of a deposit only. If paying by credit card, the balance of the league fees, or \$1250.00, is due in two separate monthly payments (\$625.00 each) which will be automatically debited at approximately 30 days and 60 days AFTER your first payment. If a returning team paying by check, FULL PAYMENT MUST BE in the office by December 20th. The 2017 fees will **remain the same at \$1750.00** per team for live and machine pitch leagues. New teams will be notified on December 21, 2017 whether they have been accepted for league play in 2018. Please note: Teams playing in fall league for 2017 are **NOT** guaranteed entry for spring of 2018.

For returning teams, the slot remains with the manager of record in 2017, NOT THE TEAM. If the 2017 manager is not coming back, he/she must send an email to Gretchen advising who they are designating for their slot, if anyone. The slot can be designated to only one person.

ALL teams *should* register online at KWDA.com. RETURNING TEAMS now have the option of paying by check OR credit card. NEW TEAMS (i.e. those that did not play league at KAA last year), must MAIL IN YOUR DEPOSIT which will be held until acceptance. IF your team is accepted into play for 2018, you will be notified on December 21, 2017; your deposit is not refundable. If you are NOT accepted, you will also be notified on December 21, 2017, and your check returned.

KAA will provide two new game balls for each league contest, including machine pitch games. 5U & 6U teams will be notified when they can come to KAA to pick up their 6 game balls.

MANAGER'S MEETING:

**Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.
Kirkwood Community Center-Theater
111 S. Geyer Road
Kirkwood, MO 63122**

We highly recommend that you have a team representative present for this meeting

FREE PRE-SEASON PRACTICE FIELDS:

Once your ENTIRE league fee has been received, you may schedule your team's four free preseason practices at KAA. These fields are provided on a first come/first serve basis until filled, and are shared with KAA softball teams, as well, on the same basis. These practices must be at the same time and on the same day each week and will last 1 hour and 50 minutes. Practices will begin on Saturday, March 3, 2018 and conclude on Friday, March 30, 2018. In the event of inclement weather, the fields will **not** be available for practice, and no rescheduling will be available. The KAA rainout line and Facebook page will be updated daily regarding field conditions and availability.

LEAGUE SCHEDULE:

The 2018 season begins on Saturday, March 31, 2018 and is scheduled to conclude **around** Friday June, 29, 2018, however it could be extended until July 14, 2018 with rainout reschedules. Teams can register for 2 divisions of play, assuming there is room, just not in the same age group. The exception is 8u, where teams may register for both machine pitch and live pitch (so long as a separate fee is paid for each). Teams desiring to play both live and machine pitch are guaranteed one slot, so they must choose which one will be guaranteed and which one will be wait listed.

Baseball games will **typically** be played on Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings as well as an occasional Wednesday or Thursday evening for the older age groups with the exception of the weekend of April 2-4th where ALL ages will be scheduled for play. Depending upon the age group, and number of teams registered for play, one or more weekends will also be used for league play. Every effort will be made to avoid split doubleheaders or games on both Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend.

KAA will offer a 12 game season, with 9 games completed considered a full season. In the event of inclement weather, KAA will provide rainout make-up dates; our first rainout make up weekend will be June 9-10; other dates will be in July. In the unlikely event a team does not play at least 9 games, a credit for the missed games, up to 9, may be issued for 2019. KAA DOES NOT PROVIDE CASH REFUNDS FOR GAMES WHICH ARE NOT PLAYED.

REGISTRATIONS & RESCHEDULING RAIN OUT MAKE-UPS THROUGH THE KAA WEBSITE

With the Engage Sports system up and running now, KAA has the capability to allow teams to register and pay online for leagues AND enter KAA-run (“house”) tournaments. In addition, the system will allow you to amend rosters and view tournament brackets in real time. So, no need for calls to tournament directors in the middle of the night asking for updates or waiting to hear back from KAA for confirmation of rescheduled games!

KAA SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

KAA will again sponsor two tournaments this year, which are open to any teams in, or out of, KAA. The first tournament will be our “Spring Swing” tournament and will be held on the weekend of April 14-15. It will be offered at a discounted price, as a sort of pre-season tournament. The second tournament will be our “May Madness” tourney and will be the weekend of May 5-6. More information on these tournaments, including cost, will be available on the website.

GREATER MIDWEST BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

We are also excited to announce that we are again one of the host complexes for Greater Midwest Baseball’s “School’s Out Bash” from June 2-3, 2018. Their website is www.greatermidwestbaseball.com for registration information.

FIRST TIME 5U & 6U TEAMS

New teams, who are paid in full, will be provided up to 15 shirts and hats, as well as initial team equipment, consisting of catcher’s gear and 5 batting helmets. This is one time only per team, so 5u teams returning at 6u the following year will not be issued additional equipment or uniforms.

TROPHIES

KAA baseball is a trophy league. Trophies are awarded to the first place team in each division of each age group. Winners receive a \$100 credit at Johnny Mac's for awards of their choosing. Machine pitch teams in the 5u-8u age groups receive a \$50 credit for participation awards. The first place 8U live team(s), will receive a \$100 credit, just as the other live pitch divisions.

ROSTERS

KAA has an "open" roster policy. Players may be added at any point in the season. For insurance purposes, new players must appear on the roster. This can be done by submitting a supplemental roster to the KAA office by email, fax, mail, through the registration website or by placing it in the KAA drop box prior to the new player playing in his first game. 2018 rosters MUST be in the office prior to the first game for insurance to be in effect. 2017 rosters are not "carried over" to 2018. Even if you had the exact same players for 2017 and now 2018 you must submit a new 2018 roster. Forms are on our website. Email roster addendums to: gkatinas@kwdaa.com.

BORROWED PLAYERS

This is an issue that comes up, in one form or another, every year. This is KAA policy: *American* level players may be borrowed by *National* level teams in the same division, or play up an age group in either division. *National* level players are *strongly* encouraged to stay rostered only on National level teams for their age group, but can play up an age group just as American level players. While KAA does not want teams forfeiting games for lack of players, KAA also does not want American level teams loading up with National level players/pitching in an effort to create an unfair advantage against other American teams. I.E. NO DUAL ROSTERING.

PARK RULES

KAA relies on concession revenue to keep costs down and avoid mandatory concession stand duty for parents. As such, **NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR BEVERAGE IS ALLOWED IN THE PARK. HOWEVER, PLAYER WATER/DRINKS ARE ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE PARK.**

No smoking, E-Cigs or Vaping is allowed within the fenced in areas of the park at any time.

No pets, of any kind or size are permitted, with the exception of service animals.

No hitting of balls of any kind into fences or backstops.

KAA has had a few incidents of vehicle break-ins over the years. As such, KAA highly recommends leaving all valuables at home, or hiding them from sight in your vehicle. KAA assumes no responsibility for items left in vehicles.

Additional parking is available on the **LOWER** level of the Family Golf Center located across Tree Court Industrial Drive in designated areas only. The City of Kirkwood **will** ticket and/or tow any cars parked on the grass across Marshall Road from the KAA complex. In order to provide access for emergency vehicles, no parking is allowed in the area in front of the main gate by Marshall Rd **at any time**.

Managers are ultimately responsible for their teams' conduct and sportsmanship at all times. This includes players, assistant coaches, parents, and all other supporters, in their interaction with other teams, umpires and KAA staff. Please notify all of your parents/supporters that failure to obey park rules may result in their, and your, ejection from the park, and may also result in a forfeit of your team's game(s).

Again, the members of the KAA Board thank you for selecting our park to play in. We hope you, your players, and your families have a great experience at KAA. We look forward to providing your youngsters an outstanding baseball experience. Best wishes for a successful season.

2018 Board of Directors
Kirkwood Athletic Association

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the following people:

Andy McDowell
KAA Baseball Coordinator
amcdowell@fdic.gov
314-302-0229

Gretchen Katinas
KAA Office Manager
gkatinas@kwdaa.com
314-822-3686
Mon-Fri 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

