

2016 KIRKWOOD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BASEBALL NEWSLETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM

Welcome to the 2016 season at Kirkwood Athletic Association, as we begin our 56th 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 2016 is no exception.

The 2015 season was a challenging year for the park-just not in a way we prefer. The wettest June in recorded meteorological history caused us to lose multiple days in the park due to flooding. However, with the efforts of our staff, field crew and volunteers we were back open in record time and with very few games ultimately missed.

Park improvements for 2016 include new lights being installed on fields 2 & 3, which will complete the installation of our new lighting system throughout the park. Beginning in late 2015, in time for the 2016 season, KAA has contracted with Engage Sports of DesPeres, MO, to provide on-line registration for both leagues and tournaments as well as scheduling and rainout make-up capabilities. This first ever 21st century technology for KAA will allow coaches to pay league fees, reschedule rain outs, check standings and register/pay for KAA leagues and tournaments, all from the comfort of your favorite electronic device. We anticipate this system will be up and running in time to pay your deposit on-line should you choose to do so.

In 2016, KAA will continue our policy of no work duty for KAA parents, or mandatory fundraising, while continuing to ensure good competition, umpiring and fields. In 2015 we had over 180 teams play baseball. Several of those have “graduated” out of KAA, and we are already receiving numerous inquiries about space for 2016. **RETURNING TEAMS PLEASE GET YOUR MONEY IN ON TIME OR RISK BEING LEFT OUT.**

Deposits of \$500.00 per team are due in the KAA office NO LATER THAN November 12, 2015. The balance of the league fees, or \$1215.00, is due in full by January 14, 2016. The 2016 fees will remain **\$1715** per team for live pitch and machine pitch. ***Payments received after January 14th, 2016 will incur a \$50.00 per week late fee. Returned checks will also result in a \$50.00 per week late fee and put your team in danger of losing its spot.*** New teams will be notified on Friday, November 13th, 2015, whether they have been accepted for league play in 2016. Teams playing in fall league for 2015 are **not** guaranteed entry for spring of 2016. Again, KAA will provide two new game balls for each league contest, including machine pitch games. ALL PAYMENTS MADE THROUGH THE KAA WEBSITE WILL BE SUBJECT TO A 5% CREDIT CARD SURCHARGE AND MUST BE PAID IN FULL AT THE TIME PAYMENT IS MADE.

MANAGER'S MEETING:

**Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 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 2 hours. Practices will begin on Saturday, February 27, 2016 and conclude on Friday, March 25, 2016. In the event of inclement weather, the fields will **not** be available for practice, and no rescheduling will be available. The KAA rainout line will be updated daily regarding field conditions and availability.

LEAGUE SCHEDULE:

The 2016 season begins on Saturday, March 26, 2016, and is scheduled to conclude **around** Sunday July, 17, 2016, however it could be extended until July 29, 2016. Teams can register for 2 divisions of play, just not in the same age group. The exception is 8u, where teams may register for both machine pitch and live pitch. Baseball games will **typically** be played on Monday, Tuesday and Friday evenings. 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 double headers 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 rain out make-up dates; by necessity, however, these dates will usually be on weekends. 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 2017. KAA DOES NOT PROVIDE CASH REFUNDS FOR GAMES WHICH ARE NOT PLAYED.

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

With the new Engage Sports system not yet up and running at the time this letter was released, specifics are limited, but KAA has been assured Engage has the capability to allow teams to register and pay online for leagues AND enter KAA run tournaments. In addition, the program will allow you to amend rosters and view tournament brackets in real time. So, no more 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!

FREE BASEBALL CLINIC:

Saturday, March 26, 2016, KAA will hold its annual FREE baseball clinic for 5u and 6u teams and individual players of the same age. This event is open to all 5 and 6 year olds regardless of their affiliation, and, as the name implies, is free. More details on the clinic will appear on the website after the first of the year.

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 9-10. 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 April 30-May 1. More information on these tournaments will be available on the website.

GREATER MIDWEST BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

We are also excited to announce that in addition to again being one of the host complexes for Greater Midwest Baseball's "School's Out Bash" from June 4th-5th, KAA will also serve as a host complex for GMB's "World Series Weekend", which runs from July 2nd through the 4th. Their website is www.GMB.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. 2016 rosters **MUST** be in the office prior to the first game for insurance to be in effect. 2015 rosters are not “carried over” to 2016. Even if you had the exact same players for 2015 and now 2016, you must submit a new 2016 roster. Email roster addendums to: gkatinas@kwdaa.com.

BORROWED PLAYERS

American level players may be borrowed by National level teams in the same division, or play up an age group in either division.

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.**

No pets, of any kind or size are permitted, with the exception of service animals. No hitting balls of any kind into fences or backstops.

Additional parking is available on the lower level of the Family Golf Center located across Treecourt Industrial Drive. 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.**

You are ultimately responsible for your team’s conduct and sportsmanship. This includes players, assistant coaches, parents, and spectators. Please notify all of your parents 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.

2016 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.

