

2017 KIRKWOOD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BASEBALL NEWSLETTER AND REGISTRATION FORM

Welcome to the 2017 season at Kirkwood Athletic Association, as we begin our 57th 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 2017 is no exception.

The 2016 season was a challenging year for the park-just not in a way we prefer. The highest recorded Meramec River level in late 2015/early 2016 caused us to lose multiple off season weeks we normally use to maintain and improve the park. Nevertheless, with the aid and support of our KAA family and the St. Louis community, we were able to recover in time to start our season, on time, with no games missed due to flooding.

Park improvements for 2016-2017 include a new irrigation system throughout the park which will expedite field maintenance and reduce dusty conditions on the fields once the weather turns hot. KAA has maintained its contract with Engage Sports of Des Peres, MO, to provide on-line registration for both leagues and tournaments we continue to work on finalizing our scheduling and rainout make-up capabilities. This first ever 21st century technology for KAA will eventually allow coaches to register and pay league fees, reschedule rainouts, check standings as well as register and pay for KAA tournaments, all from the comfort of your favorite electronic device. Lastly, several of you will notice a “bump out” on the east side of the concession stand between fields 2 & 3. This is a new portable refrigeration unit we have installed to increase our storage capacity, but just as importantly, is portable so we can move it in high water events to both reduce the costs and speed of recovery.

In 2017, KAA will maintain our policy of no work duty for KAA parents, or mandatory fundraising, while continuing to ensure good competition, umpiring and fields. In 2016 we had over 180 teams play league baseball. While several of those have “graduated” out of KAA, and we are already receiving numerous inquiries about space for 2017. We have tried our best to simplify payment procedures for 2017 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 2017:

Deposits of \$500.00 *per team* are due NO LATER THAN November 30, 2016. 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 November 30th. The 2017 fees will be **\$1750.00** per team for live and machine pitch leagues. New teams will be notified on December 1, 2016, whether they have been accepted for league play in 2017. Teams playing in fall league for 2016 are **not** guaranteed entry for spring of 2017.

For returning teams, the slot remains with the manager of record in 2016, NOT THE TEAM. If the 2016 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 which 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 2017, you will be notified on December 1, 2016; your deposit is not refundable. If you are NOT accepted, again, you will also be notified on December 1, 2016 and your check returned.

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

MANAGER'S MEETING:

Wednesday, December 7, 2016, 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, February 25, 2017 and conclude on Friday, March 24, 2017. 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 2017 season begins on Saturday, March 25, 2017 and is scheduled to conclude **around** Friday June, 30, 2017, however it could be extended until July 28, 2017 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. 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 rainout make-up dates; our first rainout make up weekend will be June 10-11; 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 2018. 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 up and running at the time this letter was released, 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 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!

FREE BASEBALL CLINICS:

KAA is proud to announce that, in conjunction with the Kirkwood High School baseball program, a free players clinic will be hosted sometime shortly after KHS rosters are set for the Spring. Details regarding the time and date should be provided at the Coaches Meeting, or shortly thereafter.

In addition, the KHS Coaching staff has announced plans to host a coaches clinic sometime in January or February. More details on that clinic as they become available. Updates will be posted on the KAA Website.

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 8-9. 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 6-7. 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 3-4, 2017. 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. 2017 rosters MUST be in the office prior to the first game for insurance to be in effect. 2016 rosters are not "carried over" to 2017. Even if you had the exact same players for 2016 and now 2016/17 you must submit a new 2017 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 had a few incidents of vehicle break-ins last Summer. 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 Treecourt 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.

2017 Board of Directors
Kirkwood Athletic Association

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

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