

2019 KIRKWOOD ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BASEBALL NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2019 season at the Kirkwood Athletic Association, as we begin our 59th 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 2019 is no exception.

Park improvements for 2019 include additional flood resistant upgrades in the concession stand, laser grading of KAA fields to improve drainage, new sod and grass on multiple fields as well as installation of engineered soil on field 4 to improve drainage and playability. In addition, KAA has continued its partnership with Engage Sports of Des Peres, MO, to provide online registration for both leagues and tournaments, as well as improving our scheduling and rainout makeup capabilities. On our website, 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.

KAA is also proud to announce a closer partnership with Greater Midwest Baseball in 2019. GMB will increase its presence at KAA allowing for more tournaments and greater competition, all while keeping the same price structure for KAA league teams. Eric Hooper will have more details about GMB's increased presence at the park during our KAA manager's meeting.

In 2019, KAA continues our policy of no work duty for parents, nor mandatory fundraising, while continuing to ensure good competition, umpiring and fields. In 2018 we had over 110 teams play league baseball. While several of those have "graduated" out of KAA, we are already receiving numerous inquiries about space for 2019. We have tried our best to simplify registration and payment procedures for 2019 given our new website capabilities. **In order to thank teams for their commitment to KAA we are ending preferential status for returning teams in 2019.**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR TEAMS FOR 2019:

Teams must register online NO LATER THAN **January 9, 2019**. There are 3 payment options this year: Payment in full online by credit card; payment in full by check or \$500 deposit per team due NO LATER THAN January 9, 2019 with the balance of the league fees of \$1250.00, 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. The 2019 fees will remain the same at \$1750.00 per team for live and machine pitch leagues.

ALL teams should register online at KWDA.com Register early, when an age group fills it will be removed from availability of registration.

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 23, 2019, 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 Monday, **March 4, 2019** and conclude on Sunday, **March 24, 2019**. 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. We provide the use of the field only; no bases, pitching machines, mounds, etc.

LEAGUE SCHEDULE:

The 2019 season begins on Monday, **March 25, 2019** and is scheduled to conclude around Friday **June, 28, 2019**, however it could be extended until around **July 14, 2019** with rain out 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).

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 or 8u live pitch with the exception of Saturday, April 13th & April 20th 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 makeup weekend will be in June; 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 2020. 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. 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!

GREATER MIDWEST BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

We are excited to announce that we are again one of the host complexes for Greater Midwest Baseball's "School's Out Bash" from **June 1-2, 2019**. GMB will also host tournaments at KAA the weekends of April 6th and 7th and May 4th and 5th. KAA league teams will receive a \$25 per team discount for the two latter tournaments as in the past when KAA ran them. GMB's 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, mail, through the registration website or by placing it in the KAA drop box prior to the new player playing in his first game. 2019 rosters **MUST** be in the office prior to the first game for insurance to be in effect. 2018 rosters are not "carried over" to 2019. Even if you had the exact same players for 2018 and now 2019 you must submit a new 2019 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.

2019 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 or 314-302-0229

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