

January 22nd, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As we gear up for another season of baseball and softball, we the members of the LBSA Board of Directors would like to notify you of some changes to the program. Most notably we are switching our primary affiliation from the Tri-County League where we have participated for the last several years to the Smithville Baseball Softball League. The towns that participate are Lathrop and Plattsburg new to the league this year, along with Kearney, Excelsior Springs and Smithville. (We may have to send our older players, 14-U softball and baseball to Tri-County to compete.) Moving to Smithville will allow our families to spend less time traveling to away games. Secondly, with a smaller league we hope the communication is better amongst towns therefore resulting in a more positive experience for all our participants, their families and volunteers.

We will hold sign-ups on Saturday February 6th from 10am to 3pm and on Sunday February 21st from 1pm to 4pm at City Hall in downtown Lathrop. Forms can also be obtained at www.lathropmoonline.com or they will be sent home from school.

Additionally we are going to institute a new division and alter another. We will now offer machine pitch softball for girls that are 7-8 years old. Our hope and belief is that more of our younger girls will participate knowing they will be playing only with girls. This will better prepare our younger girls for fast pitch softball at 9-10 years of age. Please, encourage our young ladies to participate!

Next our T-Ball program will become a mixture of T-Ball and coach pitch. The players will see five pitches delivered by the coach and then if no contact is made will have three swings off the tee. This will help those that are ready to hit a pitched ball get the exposure and those beginners the option to learn the fundamentals of hitting. Our intent is to compete exclusively with Plattsburg within this age group.

Machine pitch pitches will be delivered by the coach instead of the umpire. The umpire will be present in the field and will be in charge of keeping the game moving at manageable pace.

We are always open to any ideas, comments, or suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the LBSA board members should you need any assistance. Volunteers are always needed to help keep the league operating efficiently. Thanks for your help and active participation.

Jerry (President) and Tracy (Treasurer) Archer 528-3161, Marty Schnatz (Vice President and Equipment Manager, Umpires) 816-476-3387, Melanie and Scott Stubler 740-3787(Registrations), Mike and Bobbi Dickerson 816-721-1511(Fund Raising and Concessions), Gail Frazier 816-740-6821(League Communications) and Susie Wolfe 528-6527(Concession Coordinator) We have a role for you too if you are interested in volunteering!