

Around the Bases

The North Murray Diamond Sports Association's newsletter



October 2008

Important Dates

- 26 October 2008 -

Tee-ball Umpiring Clinic at Mandurah

- 1 November 2008 -

Tryouts to play for State Championship teams immediately following the U10 Tee-ball games

- 2 November 2008 -

Tee-ball Umpiring Clinic at Willetton

- 16 November 2008 -

Tee-ball Coaching Clinic at Armadale

- 23 November 2008 -

Tee-ball Lightning Carnival at Yokine

- 6 December 2008 -

Christmas break for U16 baseball

- 13 December 2008 -

Christmas break for Tee-ball & U14 baseball

- 17 December 2008 -

Christmas break for Little League baseball

- 10 January 2009 -

U16 baseball games resume

- 24 January 2009 -

U14 baseball games resume

- 28 January 2009 -

Little League baseball games resume

- 31 January 2009 -

Tee-ball games resume

- 25 February 2009 -

Last Little League baseball game for the season except players in State Charter team

- 29 February 2009 -

General bye for Tee-ball due to State Tee-ball Championships &

Last U14 & U16 baseball games unless in the finals

- 14 March 2009-

Last Tee-ball games for the season

Dates for the trophy presentation / windup and the team photos are still to be advised.

Update from the President

Well, we have made it to the start of the season despite many challenges since we finished last season.

Personally, I'm quite worn out and I'm sure many of the other committee members feel much the same. When I reflect back on what we have achieved during the break, it's quite understandable. Your committee really does deserve to be congratulated on their hard work.

Some of our activities are listed below but I'm bound to have missed some of the things we've done.

- Preparing and submitting 6 grant/sponsorship applications with great success.
- Mailing out close to 500 letters seeking sponsorship and support with very little success.
- Designing, printing and personally delivering flyers to all areas in our district.
- Organising a colouring competition with the local schools to raise our profile and make more people aware of our existence.
- Taking time off work or other activities to run four Tee-ball / Baseball clinics at local primary schools.
- Taking registrations from around 160 players and shuffling teams dozens of times before we got a workable solution.
- Trying to find coaches and umpires for all teams and then arranging training sessions for them.
- Liaising with Shire, Baseball WA, Tee-ball Association of WA, Department of Sport & Recreation, local newspaper reporters and our state & federal government representatives to ensure our club's needs are well known and in most cases being met.
- Updating websites and designing a club website.
- Organising quotes on different storage space options and discussing options.
- Organising quotes for the new back nets, doing a drawing, submitting a planning application and arranging to have them built.
- Establishing a Little League Charter called Southern Hills with Kelmscott, Rolyestone and North Murray teams and getting our three teams up and running.
- Purchasing new equipment and uniforms needed for all the teams and distributing. Putting all equipment items onto an asset database.
- Line marking the Tee-ball diamonds and cleaning out the canteen.
- Planning fundraising activities.

General Club Updates

We were unable to have Softball and U13 Tee-ball competitions this year due to the number of registrations being too low for a local competition. Most of the players who had registered to play U13 Tee-ball are now playing Little League baseball which will be a great experience for them. We also have one North Murray softball team playing in another club's competition. Hopefully the local softball competition will be up and running again for next season.

On the bright side, we have four new Tee-ball teams and five baseball teams this season – 3 Little League teams, Under 14 and Under 16. We do however need a few more players for the Little League baseball teams who train in Mundijong.

We were very disappointed at how hard it was to find coaches for all the teams this year and would like to thank the parents who stepped forward and took on the task. It is expected that you give them your help as they are all new coaches this year and they don't yet know a lot about the sports they are coaching. They are giving up their valuable time for the sake of our children so deserve our support.

Another disappointment was when only three people turned up to do the line marking despite about 20 people being asked to help. As a direct result of this, a line marking roster by team will be set up to make sure that this ongoing task is not being left to a couple of people.

You will notice that the canteen has not re-opened after the break and it will remain closed until we can find someone willing to manage the canteen operations. The Canteen Manager is a paid position or alternatively we will consider a profit share situation. Please contact Connie on 9525 4696 if you would like more information.

There seems to have been far too much work done by too few people over the past few months and this must change. In my own case, I work full time as well as spend many hours working for the benefit of the club. My husband Shaun and I are not getting enough spare time to spend with our two daughters so we have made the decision that if we don't get more people helping then we will have to consider whether we want to be actively involved with the club next season.

The Committee is now focussing on finding a solution to our lack of storage space close to our grounds. With the extra teams and subsequent equipment and uniforms we now have, we will be struggling to fit everything into the current storage area at the end of the season.

We have had quite a few discussions with the Shire and the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR). Unfortunately due to the high vandalism rates at Briggs Park and the lack of support being available from DSR (we're on a 'Bush Forever' site and don't have security of tenure), the only secure storage option available to us is a shipping container. We are currently waiting on letters of support from our state and federal members and once received we will submit an application to the Shire to see if they will allow us to place a container on the site. The application will also have to be approved by the WA Planning Commission.

Congratulations to our teams who all won their first games during the past week – Ladies Softball, U14 and U16 baseball teams and the two Little League teams who played

We hope that you all enjoy the season ahead of us. If you have anything you'd like to discuss, please contact me in the evenings on 9525 4696.

Connie Keating

Wanted – New Committee Members

Due to the resignation of some of our Committee members, we really need some more members to join the committee and help run the Club. If you would be interested in joining this fantastic friendly group of people who are working hard for the benefit of the club, please contact Connie on 9525 4696.

Development Courses Available

There are a number of courses available to coaches and umpires through Department of Sport & Recreation and Sports Medicine Australia. Please have a look at their web sites and let our Volunteer Coordinator Ramone Glasgow know if you would like to attend one of the courses.

Payment Reminder

As part of our player insurance requirements, all fees are to be paid in full before the third game of the season otherwise the player will not be allowed to continue to play. If you are having difficulty paying your fees, you should contact the Treasurer, Shaun Keating as soon as possible.

Little League Items

Fixture Change

We have had a couple of fixture changes as follows so please make sure you amend your Fixtures books straight away.

29/10/08 – NM Orange vs NM Black, Kelmscott Red vs NM Grey

10/12/08 – Kelmscott Red vs NM Orange, NM Black vs NM Grey

Little League Packs

Baseball WA will be distributing 'Little League Welcome to Baseball Packs' at the Perth Heat games vs South Australia as detailed below so please make an effort to go to one of these games to collect the packs as they include a family season pass to the Perth HEAT home games.

Dates: Nov 14 and 15

Time: 5:30pm to 7:30pm (30 mins after game start time)

Collection Point: In front of the Ticket Box at Baseball Park, Cnr Nicholson & Wilfred Roads, Thornlie

Baseball Items

Congratulations to the U14 and U16 baseball teams who both won their first game last Saturday.

Please note that for the U16 game against Willetton on the 15th November, the game may need to be played at Briggs Park due to reticulation upgrades being done on Willetton's grounds. You will be advised closer to the time if this is the case.

Lodgement of Game Results:

- To assist with the swift processing of results scorers should print on the Game Reports and include the player's full names - not abbreviated names.
- The Results Fax Line is available on both Saturday and Sundays so results may be forwarded over the weekend.
- Results should be emailed to: bwaresults@amnet.net.au
- Please ensure that all correspondence that relates to the results, postponement of a game etc be forwarded to Natalie Todd on bwaresults@amnet.net.au so that this can be recorded correctly.

What Can You Do?

You may not realise but it takes quite a few volunteers before a team can function well.

For each team we ideally need to have a Coach, an Assistant Coach, two Umpires, two Scorers, a Team Manager, a First Base Coach and a Third Base Coach. Thank you to all the members who indicated that they would be willing to help in some way by noting this on the registration form.

For the season ahead, we particularly need umpires for Tee-ball and Baseball. We can arrange for anyone interested in coaching or

umpiring to attend a Clinic. The Clinics are great fun and they provide the opportunity to learn the skills needed to either be a Coach or an Umpire.

Please let your coach know that you would like to help them with a task. If you would be interested in attending one of the clinics or would like more information, please contact Connie by phoning in the evenings on 9525 4696 or by emailing to president@nmdsa.org.au.

Club Policies You Should Know About

- It is expected that all players will respect and care for their uniforms and wear them with pride. The Club provides pants to tee-ball players and shirts to baseball and tee-ball players. All Club supplied uniforms must be returned at the end of the season in good condition.
- All players are required to bring their own glove to each game and to wear Club caps. Tee-ball players are required to wear the long black Club socks at all games.
- All players and helpers/volunteers who go onto the diamond must wear closed shoes such as sneakers.
- Long hair is to be tied back and all jewellery (except medic alert bracelets or chains) either removed or taped against the player's body.
- All players should arrive well before their game to allow sufficient time to warm up and thus prevent possible injury.



- We are a healthy club which means that **smoking is only allowed in the car park and is prohibited on or near the playing field or the canteen.** This

applies to training sessions as well as matches.

- Hats are to be worn and sunscreen applied to all players, volunteers and spectators for both training sessions and matches. Water should be readily available to all players and spectators to prevent dehydration and heat stroke.
- All rubbish including cigarette butts should be disposed of in the correct manner.

As part of our player insurance requirements, all fees are to be paid in full before the third game of the season. If you are having difficulty paying your fees, you should contact the Association's Treasurer.

Note that copies of the Club's Healthy Club and Sport Safe Policy are available from the Club's canteen or from the President. Please make yourself familiar with the contents of this policy. Constitution copies (our rules) are available from the President.

Tee-ball Umpiring Tips

If you are interested in learning more about the rules, please let your team coach or umpire know as they would, we're sure be happy to answer your questions with the help of the rule book if needed.

If you as a parent or player have a concern about a call that an umpire has made, please do not approach them during the game, but discuss the issue with them when the game has finished. Only the team coach may approach and question the umpire about the rules during the game.

Note that our club has a strict 'no arguing' with a Green Shirt umpire policy. Umpires wearing green shirts are new to the role so need time to settle in without comment from parents.

Calling Time

The Tee-Ball rule books states "When the ball is hit, play proceeds normally until the ball is held by any player in an infield position and all runners are in close proximity to a base. The umpire shall then call: 'Time'."

Players should be discouraged from holding the ball up in the air but rather encouraged to complete the play by returning the ball to the home plate. Umpires should be careful not to call 'Time' too quickly but allow enough time for play to develop and proceed to its natural conclusion.

Thrown Bat

"The batter shall be given out for disposing of the bat in a **dangerous manner**. (It is considered dangerous when the bat is disposed of in a way that would allow it to make contact with another person)."

Local Club Rules

Please refer to the club's by-laws for some local rules. In particular if you have a child playing in the U7 competition, please make yourself aware of these rules namely –

- Smaller diamond size
- Option of 45min or 1hr games
- Five strikes before being given out
- Team keeps batting until 3 players are out or nine players have batted
- No outfield positions but a right shortstop has been added making seven players on the field
- Two parents can guide the fielders during play

Baseball WA Support

During the season break, our club has had immense support from Steve Fish, the Development Manager at Baseball WA. Steve helped us with the local primary school baseball clinics and he has also been providing some coaching to our U14 and U16 teams.

During the season, we hope to be getting some Perth Heat players visiting the Tee-ball players so stay tuned for more information on this when it becomes available.

Please try and get the chance to support Perth HEAT during this season. They are the top baseball team in Australia and are fantastic to watch.



Baseball WA Barbagallo Perth HEAT EVENTS SCHEDULE 2008/2009

14 Nov (Fri)	7.00pm	Barbagallo Perth HEAT vs South Australia Bite	Baseball Park
15 Nov (Sat)	7.00pm	Barbagallo Perth HEAT vs South Australia Bite	Baseball Park
20 Nov (Thurs)	7.00pm	Barbagallo Perth HEAT vs Team USA	Baseball Park
21 Nov (Fri)	7.00pm	Barbagallo Perth HEAT vs Team USA	Baseball Park
22 Nov (Sat)	7.00pm	Barbagallo Perth HEAT vs Team USA	Baseball Park

BASEBALL PARK, cnr Nicholson and Wilfred Roads, Thornlie

~ BASEBALL PARK IS A SMOKE FREE VENUE ~

Note that our Club can be fined if any of our members are caught smoking inside the venue. Baseball WA will also be at risk of losing significant sponsorship funds if people smoke at Baseball Park. Quite simply – please don't!

Private Baseball or Softball Tuition

If you are interested in having some private tuition in baseball or softball, please look at the options available at CC Sports. It's only 25 minutes from Byford and well worth the visit.

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The Green Shirt Program

The objective of the Green Shirt Program is to reduce the incidence of abuse and harassment directed towards inexperienced officials and, as a result, improves retention rates at the grass roots level of sport.

The Green Shirt Program aims to:

- Make new officials easily identifiable, so that they are easy to recognise and support;
- Raise awareness and increase recognition and support for new officials;
- Reduce pressure and lessen abuse and conflict directed towards new officials;
- Create a culture of support for these new officials through the education of players, coaches, spectators and the media.

The officials who take part in the program run by Baseball WA and the Tee-ball Association of WA are provided with an easily identifiable coloured official's shirt.

We need to understand that in our Club there is zero tolerance to anyone arguing with our umpires. Only the team coach may quietly approach and appeal to an umpire about a decision they have made. If any parent wishes to discuss a decision or question a rule, they should do so at the end of the game.

Unresolved issues with any of our umpires or coaches should be directed to the Club President.



Games Tally

We are now keeping a record of games played for all junior players regardless of whether it's Tee-ball, Little League or Baseball games being played. When a player moves from Tee-ball to Little League or Junior Baseball, the number of games already played will carry over to the new sport. Please refer to the club's by-laws for details of the game milestones where trophies are awarded to players.

Also, if you have transferred from another club and can provide North Murray Diamond Sports with evidence of the number of games played for the previous club, we will transfer this amount to the player's game tally as well.

Some of our baseball players from last season who continue to play for the club will receive catch up trophies at our end of this season wind up.

I'm wearing green, so please don't see red!



If you see Officials and Umpires wearing this shirt then it's important for you to know that they are beginners.

Like any learner they may make mistakes. Give them a chance to develop their skills without harassment and abuse. They are doing their best.

Be helpful and give constructive feedback to your sport via the correct channels. Help us to help you by supporting our officials and umpires.

Supported by:



2008-2009 Sponsors

We would like to thank all our sponsors for their support of our Club and ask that you, as members support them in return. In particular, the support we have received from Alcoa, Byford & Districts Community Bank, Clear-Tech and the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire have allowed us to erect the new backnets at very little cost to the club. We will let you know about our sponsors in future newsletter editions.

We are still looking for more businesses to sponsor the cost of pop-up marquees that are needed to protect our players from the sun and the wind. These marquees will withstand the wind better than the shades we have at present and we can arrange to have a sponsor's name printed onto them. Please contact Connie on 9525 4696 if you would like to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

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