

NORTH COLONIE BASEBALL

2011 CAL RIPKEN DIVISION

Our Cal Ripken Division consists of our spring travel teams, our post season Cal Ripken All-Star teams, our post season tournament teams and our fall ball program. The purpose of this Division is to provide opportunities to the players in our league who have the desire and ability to play in a **high level competitive** program against teams from nearby communities. Players are selected to participate on these teams based upon rules established by the president of the Cal Ripken Division (Division president) approved by the Executive Committee of North Colonie Baseball (Board).

Spring Travel Teams

For the 2011 spring season, we held tryouts in September and October of 2010 and picked two teams in each of the following age groups: 8u / 9u / 10u / 11u and 12u. In each age group, a manager was selected to manage each Padres team and that selection was approved by the Board. After tryouts, each Padres manager selected his roster. A Shakers manager was then named for each age level and approved by the Board and selected his roster. All roster selections were approved by the Division president. See Page 2 of this document.

POST SEASON ALL-STARS

In each age group for the 2011 season, the Board authorizes the creation of two All-Star teams (Padres and Shakers). The manager and player selection process for these teams will be established by the Division president, approved by the Board and posted on our website (www.ncyba.com). See pages 3 through 7 of this document.

POST SEASON TOURNAMENT TEAMS

For the 2011 season, the Board authorizes the creation of both a 12u and 10u post season tournament team to be selected pursuant to the process established by the Division president, approved by the Board and posted on our website. The Board additionally directs the Division to create additional teams if a sufficient number of players and coaches are interested in participating in invitational tournaments. See page 8 of this document.

FALL BALL PROGRAM

For the 2011 season, the Board authorizes the Division to enter in the Empire State Baseball League fall baseball program. The manager and player selection process for these teams will be established by the president of the Cal Ripken Division, approved by the Board and posted on our website. See page 9 of this document.

2011 Spring Travel Teams

North Colonie Baseball provides this opportunity for its players not only to benefit their development as baseball players but also to strengthen our post season All-Star teams.

Players were selected to participate on these teams after tryouts held in the fall of 2010. These teams require a high level of commitment from the families and players who participate. Our travel teams are expected to practice during the winter months and the cost for such is shared by the families.

For 2011, the Board authorizes these teams to play on Sundays in the Empire State Baseball League. Also, the Board authorizes a “dark” weekend (no regular season games), which will be Memorial Day weekend, so these teams can choose to enter tournaments. Any costs for these tournaments are again shared by the families.

Players selected for the spring travel teams pay two registration fees (one for regular season North Colonie baseball and one for travel baseball). All travel players **must** play regular season North Colonie baseball and are subject to the same rules to be considered for any post season team.

During 2011 the league will evaluate how future spring teams should be chosen including the managers of such and will post such on the All-Star page of the North Colonie Baseball website (www.ncyba.com).

2011 POST SEASON ALL-STAR

The opportunity to represent North Colonie Baseball in the local, state, regional and World Series play for Cal Ripken baseball is open to all players who played in at least fifty percent of their games for their regular season team during the 2011 season.

For all age groups, All Star teams are selected each year. A prior selection does not guarantee a spot on any of the following year's All-Star teams nor does non-selection one year prevent a child from selection in future years. Finally, players playing on our spring travel teams are not guaranteed a spot on a post season All-Star team.

The Board has determined the best "tryout" for our All-Star teams is the regular season that all children participate in. The process detailed below allows all players to demonstrate their abilities to the coaches in their division and be voted onto a team.

Padres/Shakers: For the 2011 season, two All-Star teams in each of the following age groups: 8u / 9u / 10u / 11u and 12u will be selected with each team consisting of twelve players. In all but the 8u group the roster of the Padres will be selected first, based upon the process stated below. After such roster has been selected and approved, the Shakers manager will select his roster based upon the process stated below. Any remaining players will be eligible for a Tournament Team. In the 8u Division, a Padres and Shakers manager will be named. Those managers will identify the "best" six pitchers in their age group. The Padres manager will select three pitchers with the remaining three being placed on the Shakers. The Padres manager will then select his roster based upon the process stated below, followed by the Shakers manager.

Manager Selection: By May 10th, any parent or interested candidate must e-mail the Division president their interest in managing/ coaching an All-Star team. All managers and roster coaches must participate in the interview process. The e-mail should include: name, contact information, age group and any prior baseball coaching experiences. Send e-mails to calpresncyba@yahoo.com. The candidates will make themselves available for an interview to be conducted by the Commissioner of the League, the Cal Ripken president, the Major Division president, the Minor Division president, the Parent Advocate and any other person(s) that the Board determines should be included. Any of these individuals having conflicts within an age group can participate in the interview process but will not have a vote as to manager selection. The interview will stress knowledge of baseball, prior coaching experience, leadership, prior service to North Colonie baseball and prior parental feedback from coaching surveys. Participation in the interview process is necessary for consideration as a Padres or Shakers manager/coach. However, the outcome of the interview/selection process **will not** affect the team for which the candidate's child is chosen. For example, if a child of a pre-selected Shakers manager is chosen to the Padres, the League would appoint a new Shakers manager. Each manager is allowed to have two coaches. These coaches will be selected by the managers but must be approved by the Division president and the Board and must have

participated in the interview process. The Board reserves the right to name coaches if deemed necessary.

Player Nomination: Parents will receive an e-mail from the Division president sometime before Opening Day inquiring as to the player's interest in post season play. Parents should respond by e-mail to the Division president at calpresncyba@yahoo.com and indicate: 1) their child's interest in post season play; 2) whether they (child and parent) can commit to all practices and games (up through the Cal Ripken Mid-Atlantic regional -- tournament dates are on page 10 of this document); and 3) disclose any known conflicts (e.g. vacation, family obligation). A conflict will not forfeit the opportunity to play on a post-season team, but will be taken into consideration during the selection process. Commitment to the post-season will also require that parent and child commit to playing on the team for which they are chosen, that the child is not playing for any independent baseball team and that the family has reviewed this document. This e-mail must be sent to the Cal Ripken president prior to May 10th. **Families who do not e-mail their interest by the deadline may not be eligible for selection to All-Star teams. This is the only method for your child to be considered for post-season play.**

Manager/Book Coach Evaluate: On May 10, the Division president will forward a list of all players interested in the post-season to the Major & Minor League presidents. As stated above, the Board has determined the best "tryout" for our post-season teams is our regular season. Accordingly, all games played during our regular season are individual tryouts being evaluated by the opposing team's managers and book coaches. The Board and Division presidents will stress to all our coaches the great responsibility that is being given to them and will strongly encourage them to view other games that they are not participating in. In early June, the Division president will hold a meeting with all managers and book coaches in each division to review all players seeking consideration for post-season play. After the review, each manager and coach will be asked to rank the top thirty (30) players in each age group. Managers and coaches will only rank the players for each age group in the division that they manage/coach in. They WILL NOT rank a player that plays on their regular season team. Managers and coaches will rank players 1 through 30. Players ranked 1 – 6 will receive 5 points, 7 – 12 will receive 4 points, 13 – 18 will receive 3 points, 19-24 will receive 2 points and 25- 30 will receive one point.

In addition, each regular season manager/coach will be asked to name a Padres and Shakers team for each age group in their division. In this step, the manager/coach will be able to name their team's regular season players to the appropriate post-season team (Padres or Shakers). The players placed on the Padres will receive three points each and the players placed on the Shakers one point each. However, if a manager/coach puts a player from his own team on their hypothetical teams those players will not receive any points for that placement.

The Division president will use these rankings to compile a list of the top thirty players in each age group.

Rankings Posted/Tryouts Set: During early June, the rankings of the top thirty players will be finalized. The Division president will email each family that expressed interest in post-season advising the family whether: 1) the player was ranked in the top 8 in their age group and therefore will be placed on the appropriate Padres team (NOTE: the player does not need to attend the post season tryout); or 2) the player was ranked 9 through 30 and therefore must attend the tryout; or 3) the player ranked outside the top thirty and therefore cannot be considered for a Padres/Shakers team. The players in this last group can be considered for a tournament team if one exists in his age group. Any parent wishing to know their child's rank may request that information from the Cal Ripken president. The players ranked 9 – 30 in each age group will be required to attend a two-hour tryout conducted by the Padres & Shakers managers in their respective age group. The form of the tryout including who will be evaluating players will be at the discretion of these managers. However, the Division president will hold a meeting with these managers prior to the tryout. The meeting will present guidance from the Board on conducting tryouts, and seek from the managers not only the specifics of how the tryout will be conducted but also the names of the individuals performing evaluations. For the players ranked 9 – 20 they will be trying out for the four remaining Padres spots (picked by the Padres manager) with the other eight being automatically placed on the Shakers. The players ranked 21 – 30 will be evaluated and the Shakers manager will use such to pick the final four to complete his roster. **The Division president will collect tryout sheets and rank all players that participated. The president reserves the right to adjust roster selections if a player is ranked at the top of the tryout (i.e., top 3) but is not selected for either the Padres or Shakers team. No roster is finalized until the Division president approves such and the Board is advised by the Division president that the process has been completed pursuant to the process stated above.**

The remaining six players in each of the following age groups (9's, 10's, 11's and 12's) that attended the tryout, but were not selected for a Padres/Shakers team, will be placed on our first two tournament teams (see Tournament Teams). The six 11's and six 12's will play on a 12u tournament team. The six 9's and six 10's will play on a 10u tournament team.

8u DIVISION: The following modifications to the process stated above will be in effect. Besides ranking the top 30 8u players (7's & 8's), the regular season managers and coaches will also rank the top 6 pitchers. The Padres manager will select three of those pitchers to start his team with the remaining three being placed on the Shakers. Assuming the top six pitchers are in the top 30, those names will be removed from the list and the list re-organized to a top 24. The top 5 will be placed on the Padres. The remaining nineteen (ranked 6 through 24) will be invited to the tryout. After the tryout, the Padres manager will select four (4) players from the re-organized list from the players ranked 6 through 14. The five players from the re-organized list ranked 6 - 14 not being selected to the Padres will be placed on the Shakers. Players ranked on the re-organized list between 15 and 24 will be trying out for the remaining

four spots on the Shakers. Any player not selected will have first opportunity to join an 8u tournament team if one is created.

Points of emphasis:

All-Star goal: The purpose of our All-Star program is to create teams that will be *competitive* against other local community programs and independent teams. While winning is not our only goal, it is a GOAL. The processes stated above are in place to make every attempt to obtain as much information as possible about coaches and players in order to make the most informed decision possible to create a successful program.

Best team vs. best twelve: While it could be argued that after the voting ,the top twelve players should be Padres players and the next twelve Shakers players. Such a process, however, does not lead to the selection of the best teams. The voting process at times can lead to a player's abilities and attributes being undervalued. It can also lead to skill imbalances on teams. Accordingly, we have added the step of team selection by each regular season manager and book coach. While it is only a recommendation, we will stress to all our All-Star managers that their final four selections should be used to finalize their teams. These managers should use the information provided by our regular season managers, the tryouts and their own instincts and observations.

Tryouts: While we have heard arguments both ways (have them and pick the whole team based on them or don't have them as they are a waste of time) we feel this is our safety net. While a player may be overlooked in the voting process (top eight or not) that player most certainly will be in the top twenty and have a chance to show their skills directly to the manager. It also allows our managers to get one more look at the players who are eligible to be selected to their team in an atmosphere where players are compared head to head. However, we stress that the tryout is not the end all, only a component in a manager's decision.

Perfect System: In short no. We understand in the end that no system or set of rules would be perfect and we appreciate any and all constructive feedback. When we can, we will make the process better.

FAQs:

When will the tryouts be held? Tryouts will be Saturday June 11th, with the rain date being Sunday June 12th. 8u, 9u & 10u tryouts will be at 11:30am. 11u & 12u tryouts will be at 6:00pm. Dates were selected to minimize conflicts with school field trips and to make sure that all players tryout at the same time under the similar conditions. A family commitment may be considered grounds to miss a tryout, but a request must be made in writing to the Cal Ripken president. All determination will be made on a case by case basis. Under no circumstances will there be personal tryouts.

What if a player is injured and does not play the required fifty percent of regular season games? An injury that causes a player to miss more than 50% of his regular season games

(dropping him below the 50% participation threshold) may appeal to the Cal Ripken president for an injury waiver. In his consideration, the President will consider the validity of the injury (simply proven by medical record or physician's note), the player's prior participation in post-season, all-stars play (any level), and feedback from League officials (board members, managers and coaches) concerning the player's ability and attitude. The Division president's determination will be forwarded to the Board for final approval.

Will the spring travel managers be the post-season managers? Not necessarily. The League will conduct interviews and make a final determination that is in the best interest of that age group. We stress that we are not going to change managers just for the sake of changing managers. All factors are considered and will continue to be. Our travel managers understand that they are under and will continue to be under constant scrutiny. However such scrutiny cannot only be based upon that he doesn't play my child at shortstop. Factors we are interested in include, but are not limited to, professionalism, sportsmanship, communications with players, communications with parents, ability to teach baseball, and knowledge of the game.

Can I choose what All-Star coach my child plays for? The short answer is no. Any family that nominates a player must be prepared for that child to play for the manager and coaches selected by the League. In our regular season program, the vast majority of children are selected (drafted) for a team without parental input into the selection. The league sees no reason that our All-Star program should be any different.

What if we have "second" thoughts about the All-Star process? Depends upon when those second thoughts are brought to the attention of the Cal Ripken president. If those second thoughts occur between the time you nominate your child for post season consideration (the email to the Cal Ripken president) and the time of the manager's/coaches vote, then no harm -no foul. If your second thoughts occur after the voting process and parent notification, then the consequences are greater. Your change of heart has affected another player's chance for post season selection. This is not in the best interest of all players under consideration or the League. Such will be noted and considered in any future all-star / travel considerations.

Is there a charge for All-Star baseball? Most fees and equipment (umpire fees, baseballs, etc.) are covered by North Colonie Youth Baseball. However, player uniform cost is not covered. Typical uniform prices are approximately \$65. The League is attempting to standardize uniforms for both our All-Star and travel teams. Our goal is to minimize costs to parents and maximize use. Any specific questions regarding uniforms can be addressed to the Cal Ripken president at calpresncyba@yahoo.com

Specific questions / comments? Those can be emailed directly to the Cal Ripken President at calpresncyba@yahoo.com

2011 Post Season Tournament Teams

North Colonie Baseball provides this opportunity to all players as a part of our post season All-Star program. These teams allow players the opportunity to represent North Colonie in local tournaments.

As discussed in our 2011 Post Season All-Star information, the Board has approved at least two tournament teams. One of these teams will play as a 12u team. It will consist of the six twelve-year olds not selected from the top thirty for the 12u Padres or Shakers, as well as the six eleven-year olds from the top thirty not selected for the 11u Padres or Shakers. A manager will be named after the All-Star process is complete. The second of these teams will play as a 10u team. It will consist of the six ten-year olds not selected from the top thirty for the 10u Padres or Shakers, as well as the six nine-year olds not selected from the top thirty for the 9u Padres or Shakers. A manager will be named after the All-Star process is complete.

In addition, the Board has authorized the Division president to establish additional teams if there is sufficient player and manager interest. Accordingly, after the All-Stars and tournament teams are named, any person that would like to establish an additional tournament team should contact the Division president at calpresncyba@yahoo.com of their interest. Include in the email the age group for the team. This request must be received within one week of the All-Stars and tournament teams being posted on the North Colonie Baseball (www.ncyba.com) website. If more than one request is received for an age group, the Division president will choose a manager. The Division president may or may not conduct interviews. The President's choice will be approved by the Board. The chosen manager will be provided a list of all the players nominated for post-season play for the age group requested. Contact information will also be provided. It will be the responsibility of that manager to contact players, construct a team and find tournaments. The League will provide equipment, balls and facility time to help facilitate these teams but tournament cost will be the responsibility of the individual teams.

2011 FALL BALL

North Colonie Baseball provides this opportunity for all players as a continuation of our regular season and also to supplement our post season All-Star program.

Games are played as part of the Empire State Baseball League and are played on weekends in September and October. Games are played against other local communities that are part of the Empire State Baseball League and will require some local travel. Additionally families participating in this program must help maintain the North Colonie fields, open concession stands during home games and help with closing the park at the end of the fall ball season.

Parents wishing to manage or coach one of these teams should contact the Cal Ripken president at calpresncyba@yahoo.com by e-mail in August. The Division president will name managers with approval of the Board and will oversee the placement of players.

Registration for fall ball is open to all families that reside within our League's boundaries and such registration will take place in August. The cost of such will be determined once team fees paid to the Empire State Baseball League, umpire costs, uniform costs, equipment costs, insurance costs and other miscellaneous costs are determined.

It is our determination to place every child that wants to participate on a fall ball team. To do this, a team may be made up of 11 to 14 players and some age groups may be mixed. Players playing age is determined based upon their age as of April 30th of the following year. Accordingly, for the 2011 fall season, players' age is based upon their age as of April 30, 2012. As with our regular season program registering your child will allow his placement on the team that our managers and Division president determine is the best fit not only for the player but for the league and for all players participating.

Players are not required to try out for this program.

Players will play in their age group (no playing up) unless the Cal Ripken president consolidates certain age groups to allow full participation.

Players (parents) will not be able to request that their child play for a certain manager.

2011 PROPOSED CAL RIPKEN TOURNAMENT DATES/SITES

AGE	DISTRICTS	STATES	MID-ATLANTIC	WORLD SERIES
8	6/27/2011 - 7/16/2011 ROUND ROBIN	7/22/2011 - 7/28/2011 HOST- SPRING	8/5/2011 - 8/X/2011 HOST- STATEN ISLAND, NY	NONE
9	6/27/2011 - 7/16/2011 ROUND ROBIN	7/22/2011 - 7/28/2011 HOST- WILTON	8/5/2011 - 8/X/2011 HOST- CHERRY HILL, NJ	NONE
10	6/29/2011 - 7/3/2011 HOST-NORTH COLONIE	7/14/2011 - 7/19/2011 HOST- CLIFTON PARK	7/28/2011 - 8/2/2011 HOST- SPRING FORD, PA	8/13/2011 - 8/20/2011 HOST- WINCHESTER, VA
11	7/7/2011 - 7/12/2011 HOST- NISKYUNA	7/22/2011 - 7/27/2011 HOST- ROME	8/5/2011 - 8/X/2011 HOST- WARRINGTON , PA	NONE
12	6/29/2011 - 7/3/2011 HOST- NISKYUNA	7/14/2011 - 7/19/2011 HOST- NORTH COLONIE	7/27/2011 - 8/1/2011 HOST- CLIFTON PARK	8/13/2011 - 8/21/2011 HOST- ABERDEEN, MD