

Kelowna Minor Baseball Association



GAME ON 2009 !!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is reluctantly leaving us and making way for Spring. Although March was cold and damp, April brings the promise of sunshine and warmer temperatures. The 2009 baseball season has arrived!

Your KMBA board has been working hard to make 2009 one of our best seasons ever. Here are a few highlights of what's in store this year.

We have applied for and been selected to host the Pee Wee A Provincial Championships at Lombardy Park. Once again, we are making significant park improvements by adding a state of the art double-wide batting cage and some new dugouts (more details in this Newsletter). The Concession renovations are complete and we will be offering a much improved service this season. We continue to up-grade our uniforms and equipment. Our Umpire-in-Chief can now train and certify our own umpires in-house. This is a major enhancement to our association's efforts to develop a strong umpire program. We are supporting the new Okanagan College Baseball program by offering an annual \$1000 bursary for one of their players. Our plans for Opening Day are bigger and better than ever. You won't want to miss this event!! And finally, we are offering our players and families an expanded selection of KMBA products, from hoodies, to helmets, to shirts. Check out our website for more details on the products we have on sale.

On a personal note, I want to thank our Board, our Coaches, the Umpires and the many other volunteers for helping plan and organize the 2009 season. It should be an exciting and successful season.

Play hard. Play safe. And above all, have fun!

Fred Bourcier,
KMBA President

PLEASE NOTE: SPRING CAMP DAY Saturday April 4th has been cancelled, sorry for the inconvenience. The City has informed us the fields can not be used due to current conditions.

UMPIRE CLINICS – LEVEL 1 & 2 FINAL NOTICE – Saturday, April 4th.

KMBA needs Umpires! Pee Wee age kids (11 yrs & up) to Adult are eligible. This is an excellent way to make some money while helping out the great game of baseball. Two clinics are offered and it only takes 4 hours to get your Level 1. Just bring a lunch and show up this Saturday, or take 3 consecutive Wednesdays for two hours. The cost is \$25 for Level 1 and an additional \$50 for Level 2. Contact Darcy Rysz at (250) 718-7820 for more info.

Saturday, April 4 Rutland Middle School

Level 1 8:30 am - 1:00 pm (\$25)

Level 2 8:30 am - 4:00 pm (\$50)

Wednesdays, April 8, 15 & 22 (all three evenings) Heritage Christian School

Level 1 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm (\$25)

REGISTRATION & EVALUATIONS - April 11th – 18th Lombardy Park

All registrations are handled through the KMBA website www.kelownaminorbaseball.com. Please get registered if you haven't already. Time is running out and we need to set the number of teams in each Division.

This year we are grateful to the Kelowna Jays Baseball Club who will be returning to conduct Evaluations and help raise our expertise in this area. The following dates and times may change so watch for emails from your Division Director before attending. As we prepare this newsletter the following Divisions have decided their schedule for evaluations:

Tadpole - Saturday, April 11th, Lombardy Park at 1-3 pm.

Mosquito - Saturday, April 11th, Lombardy Park at 1-3pm for Group A and 3-5pm for Group B. Coaches will contact each player to advise which group they are in.

Pee Wee - Wednesday, April 15th, Lombardy Park at 6 p.m. - 7:30 pm

Bantam – Saturday, April 11th, Lombardy Park at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Midget - Saturday, April 11th, Lombardy Park at 10:30 am - Noon

OKANAGAN HALOS GIRLS BASEBALL

The Okanagan Halos are a proud new addition to KMBA. The Okanagan Halos Girls Baseball program will field two Mosquito house league teams and one PeeWee "A" team. This is a great advancement for Kelowna baseball and female athletics. We are the only all-girls program in Western Canada and growing rapidly. For information please contact Halos Director, Byron Miki at byronmiki@shaw.ca. Come on out and play girls!

OPENING DAY CEREMONIES & JAMBOREE - Saturday April 25th

Baseball season in Kelowna is just about to begin and the excitement is building. KMBA has marked April 25th for the Opening Day Ceremonies and Jamboree at Lombardy Field from 11:30 to 4:00pm. Opening Pitch will be thrown by Mayor Sharon Shepherd to start the season. Players will participate in the Parade of Teams, Opening Ceremony and exhibition baseball games. Families and fans can come out to watch and enjoy traditional baseball food, batting cages, radar gun, bounce castle, raffles and much more. Celebrity guests and members of local elite teams will also help with concessions. This year KMBA is hosting a food drive for the Kelowna Food Bank. Please bring your non-perishable contributions to the KMBA Tent. If you can help out for a couple hours with this fun event, please contact Romany romany@silk.net as soon as possible.

KMBA GEAR IS HERE!!

Check out the new KMBA "Store" on the website www.kelownaminorbaseball.com. The Board has selected a variety of Official KMBA jackets, shorts, warm-up pants, baseball bags and caps for the whole family. These items may be purchased by individuals or by teams. We have negotiated some fantastic pricing and terrific looking gear so order early to look your best facing the competition!

Hoodies, batting helmets and family baseball caps are all in stock for under \$25, and will be available to buy on Opening Day. Team caps are provided to players with their uniforms. For the other items, orders can be placed to size. Please print out the order form from the web site and contact Carrie or Grant McGinn to place your order (250 764 3106) by email or fax.

FINAL CHANCE FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITES

With the growing number of kids playing this sport, so grows the need for more sponsors – this year more than ever! Sponsor a Team for \$500 Opening Day Ceremonies or Tournaments for \$200.

In consideration of your financial support of a Team, your corporate name will be recognized on the team shirts; each family will receive a schedule with your company's name on it; and a large corporate banner will be hung on the backstop at each scheduled game.

All sponsors logos are proudly displayed on the KMBA Website home page, and will be offered a link on the Sponsors page. Your company will be acknowledged as a proud sponsor of baseball in the local papers. All sponsors will also receive a team picture and appreciation wall plaque, and of course, the gratitude of many baseball families.

The Benefits are many! Consider sponsoring a team or, pass this on to someone that might be interested in sponsoring a youth sport. Your efforts are much appreciated. To obtain a sponsorship information package email Romany Runnalls, Sponsorship Director romany@silk.net or phone 250 862-1794.

PARK UP-GRADES

KMBA has received approval on a \$20,000 grant application to make some park improvements this season. Our Facilities Manager has met with Parks and Sports Kelowna officials to discuss the placement and construction of a new “double-wide” batting cage at Lombardy Park. The cage will be built just outside the left field fence of the Bantam diamond (near the tadpole and mini-tad diamonds). There will be two hitting nets inside a chain link cage. The plan is to install artificial turf in the hitting area and have a small storage capacity at one end.

The batting cage is part of a two part capital project grant that will also see dugouts constructed at Jack Robertson Park where we will be scheduling games and practices for some of our Pee Wee teams this season. The total costs of the two projects will be just over \$40,000.