

# WESTERN BRANCH LL

PO BOX 9784, CHESAPEAKE, VA 23321

[www.wbll.org](http://www.wbll.org) March 2010

## **Welcome to another season of softball at WBLL!**

We will play this year with our newest division Wee Ball, 2 teams in our tee ball division, 3 minor division teams, 4 major teams, 3 senior teams and 1 Big League team. Some divisions will inter-league with other District 6 little leagues.

The WBLL Spring 2010 Season will officially kick off on Saturday, April 10, 2010 with our Opening Day Ceremonies. **All players should arrive at the field at 8:30 a.m. in their uniforms** to assemble with their teams.

The Opening Day Ceremonies will start at 9 a.m. and will feature introductions of teams and players, the First Pitch of the season, the Little League Pledge, and more!

Following the ceremonies, the first games will start at 10 a.m. Questions? Contact Andrea Martin

## **FUNDRAISER**

Please continue to sell your raffle tickets. The money or tickets are due back no later than April 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. Remember, you get \$10.00 back for every \$100.00 you sell.

## **FROM the TREASURER**

Welcome back to another spring season with WBLL.

As we all struggle to make ends meet, we here at WBLL are doing our part to keep cost down. There is however a need to keep the league running and a place

for all the girls to play and have a good time on safe and well kept ball field.

We are an all volunteer organization; however WBLL still has financial needs. So far this year we have purchased new catching gear for all the minor, major and senior divisions. We also purchased face masks for the helmets.

There are many more items that the league would also like to provide and that ware you, the moms and dads can help. This year's fundraising event of raffling gas cards is back. We have lowered the price to \$5 each. If each player sells there all their tickets, that would raise \$13,000 for the league.

The registration fee that WBLL charges covers about 30% of the cost of the leagues operation. The rest is through fundraising, donations and sponsors.

Our 2010 Budget can be found on line at [www.wbll.org](http://www.wbll.org). At the bottom of the fundraising page is a link to the budget. Tom Conter – Treasurer.

**DID YOU KNOW?? WBLL spends more than \$2000 a year on electricity for the lights and concession stand. That's almost ¾ of the registration money collected from the Senior Division.**

## **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms will be handed out over the next week for the Minors, Majors and Seniors divisions. Wee Ball and Tee Ball divisions will be distributed as soon as the order arrives. If you have any questions please contact Denise at 686-1001.

## **PICTURES**

Pictures will be taken on a team by team basis. Coaches will be called individually to schedule times that will be best for each team. This will give the teams time to order visors and socks if desired. Just remember, the later you wait to have pictures taken the longer it will take for them to be delivered. If you have any questions concerning your team's pictures please contact Denise Conter at 686-1001.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Board members set the league's budget, approve managers and coaches and oversee various aspects of the league operations. A member of the board is present at the field at all league games held at our fields.

For a complete list of our board please go to [www.wbll.org](http://www.wbll.org). You and any parent of WBLL are welcome to attend any board meeting. You cannot vote, but your opinions and ideas will be heard. A league calendar is on our web site for your convenience.

**DID YOU KNOW?? The fields we play on were built by the parents of WBLL? As was the field house and now the bathrooms. Volunteers made it happen. Volunteer make it happen. Be one!**

**BACKGROUND CHECKS** Each and every person who comes into regular contact with the players must undergo a background check. If your manager asks you to leave the field because you don't have one he/she is just following the rules to make sure all our children are safe. If you would like to help on the field please complete the volunteer form, turn it into the concession stand and you will

be notified if there are any areas of concern. Only the league President has access to your record. The information is kept confidential.

## **PIERCED EARS & SAFETY**

Parents should NOT get their daughters ears pierced during the season. Insurance rules prohibit girls from taping over freshly pierced ears. Earring will need to be removed. Holes will not close up in two hours. But please help us avoid causing the girls stress and avoid getting ears pierced during the season.

**ALL batting helmets minors and above will be required to have a face mask this season. NO Exceptions.**

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Many jobs at WBLL are just common sense; \*\*See some trash on the ground, pick it up and put it in a trash can. WBLL is responsible for keeping it clean and safe, not the schools and city. \*\* See a hole that needs to be filled. Grab a shovel and fill it from the pile of clay. \*\* See your manager marking the fields, go out and help. \*\* See a full trash can. Empty it in the dumpster. \*\* See the grass is getting long. Ask your manager for the key to the tractor and cut it. \*\* See something you think needs to be done. Mention it to your manager or a board member and then help to get it done. \*\* See a fence that needs to be tightened. Buy the wire to fix it, do it with a friend. Just keep your receipt on any small job you complete and the league will reimburse you for the supply cost up to \$50 without prior approval. We will provide training on dragging fields or any specialized tasks just watch the bulleting board or ask a board member how you can learn and help.

**Did you know???** WBLL spends more than \$1200 a year on softballs for games? That's more than twice what all the tee ball players paid to register.

### **PITCHING CLINICS**

This coming weekend WBLL will be hosting pitching clinics for Minor, Major and Senior divisions with Coach Sam Guidry of Triple Threat Sports. In order to keep the number of players manageable within the time constraints, each team manager will identify up to 3 players who would most benefit from this kind of intensive pitching clinic. Current pitchers as well as those who have expressed interest in learning to pitch will be given priority. It's important to note that only players who have been invited by their managers will be eligible to participate; if there is enough interest we can consider offering additional clinics in the future. Players and their parents are encouraged to discuss their interest in participating with their team manager as soon as possible. Invited players should understand this is a valuable chance to work closely with a highly-regarded pitching coach and should therefore be on time, highly motivated and ready to work hard and have fun.

### **ADD A BRICK to the building**

I'm sure you and your daughters have noticed the bricks on the field house. Some have been bought by the league to thank companies and individuals for their contributions to the league. However, most were purchased by individuals to celebrate participation, an event, to support the league or all three. Brick forms are available through the web site or by brick forms in the concession stand. Bricks are \$100.00 each and are tax deductible.

### **Sideline Suggestions (10 Things Kids Say They Don't Want Their Parents to Do)By Darrell J. Burnett, Ph.D.**

1. **Don't yell out instructions.** During the game I'm trying to concentrate on what the coach says and working on what I've been practicing. It's easier for me to do my best if you save instructions and reminders for practice or just before the game.
2. **Don't put down the officials.** This embarrasses me and I sometimes wonder whether the official is going to be tougher on me because my parents yell.
3. **Don't yell at me in public.** It will just make things worse because I'll be upset, embarrassed, or worried that you're going to yell at me the next time I do something "wrong."
4. **Don't yell at the coach.** When you yell about who gets to play what position, it just stirs things up and takes away from the fun.
5. **Don't put down my teammates.** Don't make put-down remarks about any of my teammates who make mistakes. It takes away from our team spirit.
6. **Don't put down the other team.** When you do this you're not giving us a very good example of sportsmanship so we get mixed messages about being "good sports."
7. **Don't lose your cool.** I love to see you excited about the game, but there's no reason to get so upset that you lose your temper! It's our game and all the attention is supposed to be on us.

8. **Don't lecture me about mistakes after the game.** Those rides home in the car after the game are not a good time for lectures about how I messed up -- I already feel bad. We can talk later, but please stay calm, and don't forget to mention things I did well during game!
9. **Don't forget how to laugh and have fun.** Sometimes it's hard for me to relax and have fun during the game when I look over and see you so tense and worried.
10. **Don't forget that it's just a game!** Odds are, I'm not going to make a career out of playing sports. I know I may get upset if we lose, but I also know that I'm usually feeling better after we go get a pizza. I need to be reminded sometimes that it's just a game.

(From **Playbook for Kids: A Parent's Guide to Help Kids Get the Most Out of Sports.** The Gatorade Company)

## President's Corner

Welcome to another year of Western Branch Little League Softball. We are one of a very few unique Little League organizations, in that we only offer fast pitch girls softball. At WBLL we strive to provide an organization where we put the needs of the softball players first. My personal opinion is that we get better at it every year and hopefully that will continue this year as well with your help.

This is a year of retrenchment as we have finished two building projects and are all luxuriating in a permanent concession stand, running water, flush toilets and no porta potties. Our first

step was to buy all new catching equipment for all the teams. Before spring of next year, we hope to purchase all new uniforms for the players and invest even more in training and training equipment. We know this will be tough to do but several members of the league have committed to cosigning a loan so that the league can make this happen if needed. Please try and sell all your raffle tickets.

On a personal note this will mark my 35<sup>th</sup> opening day as a manager of a Little League team. I remember them and all the young men and women who played in all of them. I hope you build a collection of memories as wonderful as mine. It's not the wins and losses that you will remember years from now it's your child and children of others. Please help out and volunteer to help make all the memories great.

