

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the 2010 Kalispell PeeWee Baseball season! Inside this packet you will find a list of key dates, information on accessing our website, evaluation sheets, contact information, All-Star tryout applications, and other information. We are continuing to work to improve the communication between the league and the parents so you have all of the information you need to get the most out of this season for your child. We do have a few changes to the league this year that I want to bring to your attention:

- ◆ We have partnered with Babe Ruth and KYSA to offer you family discounts regardless of which level and organization your kids are participating in. Sign up your kids from oldest to youngest to receive the discount.
- ◆ We have added a T-ball league for 5 and 6-year-old boys which will play 8 games in May on the Miracle Field
- ◆ We expanded the Rookie league tournament so that each team plays at least 2 games
- ◆ All fields on both the upper and lower complexes are now playable, meaning we were able to schedule fewer Wednesday night and Saturday games during the regular season to make the schedule more family-friendly.
- ◆ We will continue to operate without the candy sale. Instead, we will have official league hoodies and hats for players and supporters to purchase in support of their team. As in previous years, each team will be required to run the concession stand for a few hours. This is a major fundraiser for the league, as concession stand proceeds are used to pay the umpires. Without volunteer help in the concession stands, registration fees would need to be increased 33%. Please be willing to help out during one of your team's assigned times.
- ◆ We've made other minor changes as well and I encourage you to visit our website at www.peeweebaseball.org and download the local rulebook to familiarize yourself with all of our local rules. Also at the website you will find information on all of the leagues, key dates, downloadable forms, and much more. Check it out!

We are continuing to limit the roster sizes in all leagues. We are prepared for 18 Major teams, 9 in each conference, 15 Minor teams, 6 rookie teams, and 6 T-ball teams! We have the capacity for 540 kids this year!

I am a firm believer in the importance of organized sports in a child's life, but I also know that in this age group, if the kids aren't having fun, they will find something else that IS fun to do instead. I encourage you to help us keep baseball fun for the kids by bringing a positive attitude with you to the fields, and if possible, take part in the experience with your child by assisting your coach in some capacity.

Board Member	Responsibilities	Contact Phone	Contact email
Alan West	President, Major league liaison, scheduler	270-7236	alanwest@bresnan.net
John Bemis	All-Star coordinator, Minor league liaison	250-9892	Coachjohn2009@gmail.com
Dennis Venturini	Rookie league liaison, web site	756-8280	venturelandscapes@centurytel.net
Greg Adkins	T-Ball liaison, league publicity	890-2506	adkingg@sd5.k12.mt.us
Gina Halland	Special events, concessions liaison	270-9118	gghalland@aol.com
Mark Johnson	Treasurer, secretary, sponsor recruitment	253-7467	mark_johnson@ml.com
Todd Brester	Umpires	261-1867	brester@bresnan.net
Travis Wiley	Upper complex equipment manager	257-0311	twiley@bresnan.net
Jeff Hartsoch	Lower complex equipment manager	261-0970	hartsoch@hotmail.com

All of the above board members are committed to providing the best possible baseball experience for your child. If you have any comments or concerns, please contact any of the above by phone or email. If the concern falls into a category for which a responsibility is assigned, please attempt to contact the responsible board member. One or more of us will be present at the fields most evenings and you can speak with us in person if you prefer, but we ask that you please not interrupt us while we are coaching, please wait to speak with us until we have finished with the kids for the evening. See you at the fields!

Alan West

2010 SIGNIFICANT DATES for Kalispell PeeWee Baseball
59 years of Kalispell Youth Baseball

Date	Time	Location	Description
January 28	6 – 7pm	The Meadows*	Preseason meeting for all returning coaches
February 27	10am - 2pm	Kal Center Mall	Signups
March 6	10am - 2pm	Kal Center Mall	Signups
March 13	10am - noon	Summit, Rm 2	Mandatory new coach meeting/interview
March 22	7-9pm	Summit, Rm 3	Mandatory meeting for ALL coaches, returning and new
March 23	5:30 – 9pm	Kalispell Middle School	Player Evaluation night – MANDATORY for all 10-12 year-olds that have NOT played on a Kalispell PeeWee major team
March 25	7 – 9pm	Summit, Rm 1	Major coach’s meeting, player placement
Week of April 5			Tentative, all Majors teams begin practice
Week of April 12			Tentative, all Minors and Rookie teams begin practice
Week of April 26			All T-ball teams begin practice
May 1	10am – 4pm	KidSports	Opening Day all leagues
May 8			All-Star coaching applications due
May 23	2:00pm	KidSports	AL and NL All-Star team tryouts
June 7			Rookie, Minor, Major tournaments begin
June 11	6:00pm		Rookie championship game
June 22	6:00pm		Minor championship game (tentative)
June 24	6:00pm		Major championship game (tentative)
June 29	6:00pm	KidSports	League picnic for anyone who wants to take a more active role in PeeWee Baseball
July 2-4		KidSports	All-Star Firecracker Tournament – come support our local All-Star teams and watch some GREAT baseball!

* **The Meadows is directly south of the Kidsports complex on Four Mile Drive.**

KALISPELL PEEWEE BASEBALL

www.peeweebaseball.org

2010 PeeWee Baseball Season

Welcome to Kalispell PeeWee Baseball. We are excited about the upcoming season, the 59th consecutive year of PeeWee baseball in the Flathead Valley. On-time registration is \$75 Majors/Minors/Rookie or \$35 T-ball for the first child, \$35 for the second, and \$20 for each additional child. If you have a child playing in the Babe Ruth league or KYSA, register that child first and you will receive a coupon for a \$15 or \$25 discount for your oldest child registered in PeeWee. Late registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis with a \$15 late fee added. In case of financial hardship, speak with a board member, we can work with you to find a way for your child or children to participate. For league age purposes, it is a child's age as of April 30th, 2010 that determines the child's playing age. All games are played on the Harp Complex and lower fields at KidSports.

T-BALL DIVISION (AGES 5 & 6) In this division, players are introduced to basic fundamentals, mechanics, rules of the game and sportsmanship. Parent participation is recommended to have a successful season. Success in this division should be measured by the development of the players and whether the players are enjoying learning about and playing baseball. Therefore, the more assistance coaches can have with practices, the more opportunities the players will have to learn. Kids aged 5 & 6 will be assigned to this division. T-ball teams will have 1 practice in the final week of April, with games beginning on May 1st. Teams will play 8 games, finishing up before Memorial Day. Games will start at either 5:15 or 6:30pm. The first 2 games, all players will hit the ball off of the tee. After that, pitching is done by the coaches, if the child fails to hit a coach-pitched ball, they will hit the ball off a tee. No end-of-season tournament is held for this level.

ROOKIE DIVISION (AGES 7 & 8) In this division, players are introduced to basic fundamentals, mechanics, rules of the game and sportsmanship. Parent participation is recommended to have a successful season. Success in this division should be measured by the development of the players and not so much by a W-L record. Therefore, the more assistance coaches can have with practices, the more opportunities the players will have to learn. Kids aged 7 & 8 will be assigned to this division if they have not previously played in the rookie league, if an 8-yr-old has already played in the rookie league, they are encouraged to move up to the Minor league. Practices tentatively begin the week of April 12th, with 2 practices each week until the games begin. League play begins with May 1st being opening day, and teams will play 10 games. Games will start at either 5:15 or 6:30pm. Pitching is done by an umpire-fed pitching machine. A pool-play tournament will be held at the end of the season, each team playing at least 2 games, beginning June 7th. The championship game will be June 11th.

MINOR DIVISION (AGES 8-10) In this division, players continue to develop basic fundamentals and mechanics and expand on others. Players will learn more about the rules of the game and begin to develop more advanced techniques. Score of the games is kept, but the team W-L record during the season has no bearing on the seeding for the double-elimination tournament which begins June 7th. An emphasis is placed on team play, good sportsmanship, and equal playing time. All 9 year-olds and some 8 and 10-yr-olds will be placed in this division. May 1st is opening day for the season, teams will play 11 regular season games. Practices tentatively begin the week of April 12th, with 2 practices each week until the games begin. Pitching will be from either a player or the opposing coach. 10-yr-old players must attend the skills evaluation night, if they are not placed on a Major team, they will be placed on a team in this division. A 10-yr-old player initially placed in this league may still have the opportunity to be selected for a Major team if a Major team loses a player during the year.

MAJOR DIVISION (AGES 10-12) This is a competitive division, however an emphasis is still placed on team play and good sportsmanship. More advanced skills, fundamentals, mechanics, and techniques are taught, as well as a deeper understanding of baseball strategies and philosophies. Practices tentatively begin the week of April 5th, with 3 practices per week until games begin on opening day May 1st. Teams will play 12 games, the first 4 games do not count toward the team's W-L record, the last 8 games are conference games which do count. Seeding for the double-elimination tournament which begins June 7th is based on the records of the teams over the last 8 games of the season. All 11 and 12-yr-old players along with 40-60% of the 10-yr-old players will play in this division. **SKILLS EVALUATION NIGHT IS MANDATORY for ALL 10-12 year-olds who have not yet played on a Kalispell PeeWee Major team.** Exception: Players with an older sibling on a Major team, or with a parent who is a team's Head Coach do not have to attend, those players are automatically placed on the same team as their older sibling or parent unless the player or parent requests to waive this exception. If you are waiving this right, you must let the board know at signups that your child will be participating in the skills evaluation night. Skills evaluation night is March 23rd, at the Kalispell Middle School gym. **Sign-ins start at 5:30, with the 10-yr-old tryouts beginning at 6:00pm. 11 and 12-yr-old tryouts follow the 10-yr-old group, so sign-ins for 11-yr-olds start at 7:00, and 12-yr-olds start at 8:00.** It is important for all players to understand that during the skills evaluation night they need to demonstrate their abilities as best as they can, using techniques and fundamentals they have been previously taught. Every coach has different qualities they are looking for in a player. A player who attends the skills evaluation night and is selected to a Major team will not be returned to the Minors. Players who do not attend the skills evaluation will be placed temporarily with a Major team through a "hat pick" process to be evaluated by the coach and the coach will have the option of keeping the player or returning him to the Minor league. This evaluation will be done in the first week of Major practices, before the Minor teams begin their practices, in order to not disrupt the Minor team rosters once practices begin.

ALL STARS Two All-Star teams will be formed again this year, made up of 11 and 12-yr-old players, 1 team formed per conference. The All-Stars are in essence competitive teams playing an extended season of tournaments and provide players with an opportunity for more playing time against some very competitive teams. Players interested must participate in a tryout session scheduled for May 23rd, 2:00pm, at the fields. Players will be selected based on the tryout session and the evaluators' knowledge of the players' performances during the regular season games up to that point. If selected, players must understand they are representatives of our league and must carry themselves in a positive manner at all times. Additional "local tournament only" teams may be formed depending on the level of interest in the All-Star program. These teams would play in tournaments in June and the 1st weekend of July in Whitefish, Columbia Falls, and Kalispell. There will be a \$30 per player fee for All-Star participation on any team this year.

FALL PROGRAM Details have yet to be worked out, but we will be offering fall baseball for 9-11 year-olds, playing games with the Majors rules, to enable kids who were in the Minors program to experience the Majors level. This will be very informal, most likely on 3 Sunday afternoons in September. Kids would go through a practice session and then play a game. The cost has not yet been determined, but will be \$15 or less.

Play Ball!

Alan West – president
270-7236
alanwest@bresnan.net



KALISPELL PEEWEE BASEBALL ALL-STAR TRYOUTS

The Kalispell PeeWee Baseball program fields two All-Star teams each summer, one team from the NL conference and one from the AL conference, made up of 11 and 12-yr-olds. For All-Stars, games and practices continue through July and possibly early August, with tournaments each weekend. One or two tournaments will be held on the KidsSport complex, one is in Whitefish, the others require travel. Tournament locations may be different than past years' due to our affiliation with Cal Ripken Baseball.

Selections are made on a try-out basis, and we ask that any player who tries out be committed to traveling each weekend with the team. Summer plans that interfere with the All-Star schedule may affect a player's prospects for selection.

The head coach of each All-Star team will be selected by the Kalispell PeeWee Board. Assistant coaches will be selected AFTER the All-Star rosters have been determined.

For 2010, player evaluations are scheduled at the field complex **Sunday, May 23rd, beginning at 2:00 pm**. With the exception of the head coach, all evaluators will not be relatives of players being evaluated. Parents may be asked to assist in drills, but will not participate in actual selections. Player selections will be based on observations at the session as well as the head coach and evaluators knowledge of the players' performances during the regular season.

If you are interested in trying out for the All-Star team, fill out this page and turn it in to the concession stand prior to tryouts or bring it with you on the day of tryouts.

Name: _____ Phone _____ League Age _____

Email Address: _____

League Team _____

Positions Played _____

Dates not available between 6/26 and 8/3: _____

Parent's signature _____

10 Things Kids Say They Don't Want Their Parents to Do

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 the 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.

PARENTAL CODE OF CONDUCT

The essential elements of character building and ethics in sports are embodied in the concept of sportsmanship and six core principles: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship. The highest potential of sports is achieved when competition reflects these "six pillars of character."

I THEREFORE AGREE:

1. I will not force my child to participate in sports.
2. I will remember that children participate to have fun and that the game is for youth, not adults.
3. I will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or others.
4. I will learn the rules of the game and the policies of the league.
5. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators.
6. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
7. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
8. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.
9. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
10. I will praise my child for competing fairly and trying hard, and make my child feel like a winner every time.
11. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
12. I will emphasize skill development and practices and how they benefit my child over winning. I will also de-emphasize games and competition in the lower age groups.
13. I will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire I may have for my child to win.
14. I will respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches at the game field, and will take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
15. I will demand a sports environment for my child that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and I will refrain from their use at all sports events.
16. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
17. I will refrain from verbal or physical threats or abuse aimed at any player, coach, official or other parent, and I will refrain from initiating any fight or scuffle with any person.

Please sign this page and return it to your child's coach during the parents' meeting. Thank you!

Signature of parent or guardian _____