



## **MUHLENBERG SUMMER BASEBALL NEWSLETTER**

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you with information on the Muhlenberg Summer Baseball program for 2010. This program includes up to four teams for players of ages 13 to 19. All summer baseball teams for this age group are now sponsored by the Muhlenberg A's Baseball Club, regardless of the league that the team participates in. The 2009 summer baseball season was very successful, with all four teams making the play-offs and the 14 and under team winning the regular season championship.

Depending on sign-up numbers, the Muhlenberg/Laureldale area will field up to three teams for 13-16 year-olds in addition to Legion (16-19). MTAA will continue to sponsor little-league teams for ages 12 and under (see [www.mtaasports.com](http://www.mtaasports.com)). Some details are shown below:

<u>League</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Competitive Level</u>	<u>Commitment</u>
Legion	16-19	Highest	5-6 days/wk
Jr Legion	13-15	Highest	5-6 days/wk
City-County 16U	14-16	High	4-5 days/wk
City-County 14U	13-14	Developmental	4 days/wk

\* More than 60 total sign-ups will be needed to field all four teams

All seasons will run from late May (after school season) to mid-to-late July. While the Legion and Jr Legion leagues are the most competitive, and require the highest level of commitment, the City-County 16 and under league is also very competitive, especially since each team can now roster up to eight 16-year-olds. The City-County 13-Prep league is now the City-County 14 and under division. This league will continue to ease the transition from Little League to the senior level and the much longer pitching and base distances. The City-County 16U league will use wood bats while all other leagues will use metal bats. All of the intermediate-level teams are considered feeder programs for the Muhlenberg Legion team and players will have the opportunity to try out and play for different teams from year to year.

In the past, we have also fielded a Laureldale 13-15 team in a less competitive Western Berks league (good opportunity for younger and less-committed players). Last year, we did not have enough players to field a Laureldale team and it is not likely that we will have enough in 2010. To provide better opportunities for younger players, 13-year-olds not selected for the 14 and under team will be allowed to return to MTAA Mite teams (to be decided based on try-outs in April).

### **Player Sign-Ups and Try-Outs**

**Sign-ups for the 2010 summer baseball season will be held on Saturday, January 16 and Sunday, January 17 from 10AM to 1:30 PM at Pizza Como (5<sup>th</sup> Street Highway and Water Street).** It should be noted that there is no overlap

between the school and summer baseball schedules so all players are encouraged to sign-up. **It is very important that all interested players sign up at this time so we can commit teams to the appropriate leagues and balance our teams effectively. There is no guarantee that there will be roster spots available for players who do not sign up at these times. This is especially true of the Legion team where we need a commitment as soon as possible. Again, please sign up on January 16 or 17.**

Players age 18 and under are eligible for the Legion team (typically 16-18). In addition, 19-year-olds who do not turn 20 in 2010 are eligible, even if returning from college. Although we currently have only one team for this age group and the roster size is limited to 18, we will attempt to form a City-County 19 and under team if there is enough interest.

For the intermediate-level teams, players should be at least 13 years old on April 30, 2010. Players turning 13 in May thru July 2010, who are in 7th grade, will be eligible to sign up for either the 14U team or MTAA teams. Players interested in Jr High baseball should play up to avoid the overlap of seasons. Eligibility rules generally require that players be permanent residents of Muhlenberg Township or Laureldale, residing with their legal guardian. Proof of age and residency may be required before try-outs. Please call Rick Frank at 610-921-3561 with any questions.

Try-outs will be held in April (most likely 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>). Players will not be eligible to be selected onto a team unless they attend try-outs or other arrangements can be made. The selection process for the intermediate level teams is designed so that players are distributed more effectively across the available teams to allow for best playing time situations.

### **Fees and Fund-Raising**

The cost to field a summer baseball team ranges from \$150 to \$300 per player depending on the team and league. In the past, Legion/JL teams covered costs mostly through fund-raising and volunteer efforts while other teams covered more of the costs with player fees (which did not cover actual expenses). For 2010, we will again attempt to cover costs with a combination of a very low \$25 registration fee (due at sign ups) along with numerous fund-raising activities. In order to make this work, ALL families must help with fund-raising activities including supporting the February 27 Pasta Dinner, the Lottery Calendar, the Golf Tournament, helping out in the concession stand, and others where possible (additional information will be available at sign-ups). If families cannot support these efforts, we will have no choice but to drop teams or implement much higher player fees (up to \$300 per player in other organizations). Fundraising went well in 2009 and we are mindful of the tough economic times, so let's make it work again in 2010!

We look forward to another great summer baseball season in 2010. Please call Rick Frank at 610-921-3561 if you have any questions.

**Muhlenberg A's Baseball Club**