



OLEY VALLEY YOUTH LEAGUE

January 2012

Board meetings will be held on the following dates beginning at 6:30 pm:

Wednesday, January 4; Wednesday, February 1; and Wednesday, March 7.

These meetings will be held in Room 125 at OVHS. Please check our website, www.ovyl.org, for details. Everyone is welcome to attend.

SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION

Tee Ball, Junior Baseball, and Softball

Registration will be held at the Oley Valley Elementary School lobby



Thurs., Jan. 5 " 6:00 – 8:00pm

Tues., Jan. 10 " 6:00 – 8:00pm

Sat., Jan. 14 " 10am – 1pm

For more information, visit our website at www.ovyl.org.

Senior Baseball Registration



- Western Berks Junior League
- Junior American Legion

Sunday, March 11, 2012

1:00 - 3:00 pm

**Oley American Legion Post Building
Jefferson Street, Oley, PA**

A Note from the President . . .

As the first year of my presidency comes to a close I reflect on what makes a good coach and a respectful parent. Both are integral parts of our organization. Both require wisdom, patience, and remembering what is important—the kids.

A good coach . . .

Has knowledge of the game. Take the time to study, even take a class. Many websites offer instructional documents and video.

Treats all players equally and with respect. All players should feel equally important.

Understands that the goal is to develop all players on the team. Give equal playing time.

Plans the practices. Each practice should focus on a particular skill set that is reinforced through a scrimmage or game situation.

Realizes that no coach is perfect. Make mistakes but learn from them.

Does not play games to *win at all cost*. Understand that each player brings a unique skill or talent that can enhance the team. Understand that all players will develop differently. Do not focus on winning as the end goal. Do not give more playing time to the "better" players in order to achieve a win.

Balances hard work and fun.

Is a role model for his/her team.

A respectful parent . . .

Is a role model for all players.

Encourages all players to strive to improve.

Respects the decisions of the coaches and officials. Keep in mind that most coaches and officials are parents or older siblings of players on the team. Remember: it is not the World Series or the World Cup.

Volunteers at the Youth League to maintain the facility for all participants.

Understands that most players in youth sports programs will not play NCAA in college. Even fewer will play a professional sport. The Youth League is focused on fundamentals, skills, sportsmanship, and friendship.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at spring sports registration in January.

David Kauffman, president, Oley Valley Youth League

Junior Baseball

The junior baseball program includes tee ball, instructional baseball, minor league baseball, and major league baseball. Last year 112 kids participated in the OVYL program of four tee ball teams and two each of instructional, minor league, and major league teams.

The success of the 2011 season was a direct result of the volunteers who helped throughout the season. I am looking forward to the return of those volunteers and would love to see new faces as well.

Tee ball (ages 6 and under) is where it all begins. Last year each of our four teams played 12 games. Besides playing the fellow Oley teams, we had games versus Antietam. Our focus is on making tee ball fun while emphasizing the fundamentals of the game. This is a very important stage for development.

The instructional program (8 and under) is a great development league. The kids face live pitching and begin to run the bases more aggressively. Our teams play league games versus Earl Township, Antietam, and Birdsboro. We will host our annual instructional tournament as well as join in other tournaments.

The minor league program (10 and under) plays league games versus Birdsboro, Fleetwood, and Brandywine. We will have tryouts for a Junior Diamond team and a tournament team. The Junior Diamond team has two games each weekend from late April through late May. The tournament team plays early June through early July. The competition offered in these extra games is unsurpassed. Combined they offer approximately 35 games to play.

The major league program (12 and under) is a key step in the progression from minor league to Western Berks, as the field dimensions increase to 75-ft baselines (from 60-ft in minors) and 53-ft pitching distances (from 46-ft in minors). Note that in Western Berks the field dimensions increase again to 90-ft baselines and 60-ft pitching distances.

In 2011 the major league teams competed in a twelve-team league versus teams from Birdsboro, Fleetwood, Kutztown, and Brandywine. This league was very competitive and developed fine baseball players who are now moving up to Western Berks. The season ended with an Oley team winning the league playoffs. The tournament team competed in four tournaments, placing second in the Oley tournament and first in the Governor Mifflin tournament.

Tournament teams will be offered on a tryout basis again this year. These teams will require commitment from both the players and the parents. Parent volunteers are crucial for the Oley tournament in particular as we strive to make it the BEST tournament in the county.

Winter workouts begin in January and will continue through March. More information will be provided at January registration.

Pat Solley, Junior Baseball Commissioner

JrBaseball@ovyl.org

SENIOR BASEBALL

Senior baseball at OVYL is for boys ages 13 – 15 who live in the Oley School District. There are two teams: Western Berks Junior League and Junior American Legion. The Western Berks team is a competitive instructional league primarily for boys moving up from the 11 and 12 year-old major league and for boys who could use a little more basic instruction and experience in baseball before moving into the Junior Legion. Players on the Western Berks team must play in every game. The Junior Legion team is for boys ages 13 – 15 who have developed baseball skills and are ready for advanced play. The league rules do not require that players participate in every game, but the coaches strive to do just that.

If you are interested in playing good competitive baseball, these are the teams for you. Both senior level teams play league games in Berks County with a few games as far as Morgantown and Schuylkill County on weekends. They also play tournaments. The games are played on full-sized fields with rules similar to major league.



Last year the Western Berks team played for the league championship, falling just short of the title. They showed much improvement and had a great time playing for the Youth League. Last year's Junior Legion team also improved over the prior year with more wins and closer games. Many of these boys will move up to the Senior Legion level next year and have proven they are ready for it.

Senior baseball registration will be held Sunday, March 11, 2012, 1:00- 3:00 pm, at the Oley American Legion Post building on Jefferson Street in Oley.

Play the best baseball in the Oley Valley. Play for the Youth League Western Berks and Junior Legion teams.

Gary Koenig, Senior Baseball

Commissioner

SrBaseball@ovyl.org

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SOFTBALL

I am looking forward to another fun softball season. In January we will offer open gym times for girls to practice their skills. Open gym schedules will be available at spring sports registration (see page one of this newsletter for specific dates and times).

Registration for spring softball will include: 8 & under (1st and 2nd grade); 10 & under (3rd & 4th grade); and 12 & under (5th and 6th grade). Any girl who turns 13 after January 1, 2012 still qualifies to play 12 & under softball. The same age requirements apply to the younger groups.

I look forward to seeing you at registration.

Robb Beers, Softball Commissioner

softball@ovyl.org



SOCCER

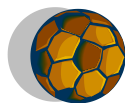
Thanks to all the parents and coaches for making this past fall season successful. Special thanks to Lisa Kemmerer for organizing the registrations and to Trish and Dan Allen for their time spent at RBJSJL meetings.

Spring soccer is coming soon. Each coach will contact his/her team members about participating.

This coming season will be one of transition. Jim Gundy and I will be dividing the duties of commissioner, as this will be my last year as soccer commissioner. As always, please contact me with any questions or comments.

Mike Davis, Soccer Commissioner

soccer@ovyl.org



U6/U8 SOCCER

The 2011 season was successful and everyone had fun! The highlight of the season was the Roley Oley Goalie U8 tournament, held at the Youth League Saturday, October 8th. A total of 27 teams (over 300 kids) from nine clubs made it a full day at OVYL. The weather was perfect, the games were competitive, and I received positive feedback from the visiting coaches. Thanks to the OVHS and OVMS students who volunteered as referees.

I thank all the parents who volunteered as coaches. This program, along with all other OVYL sports programs, would not exist without parental support. Your child will always remember that you coached his team!

I am grateful for the support I have received from parents and the OVYL board members during my first year as commissioner. I am looking forward to a great 2012 season.

Mike Levengood, U6/U8 Soccer

U6U8Soccer@ovyl.org

Field Hockey

The 2011 Field Hockey season ended with a spectacular showing by Oley in the final tournament at Twin Valley. Oley Junior Girls swept 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places and Senior Girls placed 1st and 3rd. The tradition continues! The annual Oley Valley Field Hockey Tournament was a huge success with 34 teams from across the region competing. Oley placed 1st and 2nd in the Junior and Senior divisions.

Play between leagues is ever more competitive, and the Oley program has answered with challenging, rigorous workouts and strong skill development. A special clinic was hosted by the Oley High School Girls in September and a 6th grade play-up night in October. 18 young women will be moving on to the middle school next season, graduating from the youth league program. Still, we are filled with excitement for the enthusiasm the junior players will bring to the senior level.

This program is possible because of the enormous effort of our volunteer coaches and parents. The time commitment is great and the emotional investment the coaches show for Oley youth is evident. Many thanks to our sponsors whose generous donations support our program: Levan Machine Co., The Pressure Positive, Third Rail, and Bill's Khakis.

Susan Lackey, Field Hockey Commissioner FieldHockey@ovyl.org

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A special thank-you . . .

A special thanks to the team at Graber Letterin' for creating the billboards and the beautiful sponsorship signs located near the exit of the Youth League. We have received rave reviews from the sponsors and OVYL visitors!

Thanks to JPMascaro and Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church for the generous donations to the OVYL general fund. Such donations help make the youth league a beautiful place for the children of the Oley

Joe Corbi Fundraiser

Orders due to Tara Eck by Monday, January 30th

Pick up date is Saturday, February 11th, 10am – Noon, OVYL pavilion

For more information contact Tara at Fundrais-

NEEDED: UPRIGHT FREEZER

OVYL is requesting the donation of an upright freezer for the concession stand. If you are interested please contact PJ Sonon at concession@ovyl.org.

Advertise at OVYL!

It's not too early to begin thinking spring, and spring is a very busy time at OVYL. The Youth League is host to many practices, games, and tournaments that bring visitors from all areas of Berks County and beyond to the facility. Advertise your business on a billboard at \$650/3-year term or on one of gorgeous new seasonal sponsorship signs for only \$200. Contact Felicia Fisher at Sponsorship@ovyl.org for more information.

Congratulations to the winners of the OVYL raffle prizes at the 2011 Oley Fair:

Amy Guldin

DeAnne Wentzel

Lynn Gladieux

Harry Woody

Dave Wentzel



Visit us at www.ovyl.org.