

Osseo Maple Grove Athletic Association Winter Newsletter





NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Scott Ross
ross@omgaa.org

OMGAA Players and Families,

The 2017 season is fast approaching and on behalf of the entire Board of Directors I would like to thank all of our members for past, current and future participation in our programs. I would also like to welcome families new to our programs. OMGAA strives to provide a fun environment for youth in the Osseo and Maple Grove High School attendance areas while helping them develop as athletes and citizens in the community. OMGAA offers a wide variety of programs for players aged 8-19 years old in baseball, fastpitch softball and adapted softball at both house and traveling levels. We are one of the few programs in the area to offer house fastpitch softball and the only athletic association in the state that offers an adapted softball program. Look for more information on our programs in this newsletter and on our web site, omgaa.org.

2016 was an extremely successful year both on and off the field for OMGAA. On the field, several of our Storm Fastpitch and Baseball teams placed in the top 4 of their respective State Tournaments, we had a 15U baseball team win the State Rec Tournament, and our Adapted Softball team played it's way into a National Tournament. Off the field, OMGAA partnered with the Maple Grove Parks and Recreation Department to add grass infields to all three fields at Weaver Lake Park and we were able to help cover the dugouts at the Maple Grove High School Fastpitch fields.

2017 is shaping up to be another successful season for our organization. We are expanding our training programs to provide more development opportunities for our athletes and coach

es. The renovation at Weaver Lake Park has positioned us to host multiple State Qualifier Baseball tournaments as well as expand our house league All-Star Weekend events. Field improvements will continue with the installation of electronic scoreboards at Fernbrook 3 and 4 this spring as well as other smaller, yet to be determined initiatives to help bring our facilities closer in-line with our neighboring communities.

Expanding training, hosting tournaments and other events, and improving facilities all require increased involvement from our membership. We are actively seeking someone to fulfill the position of Tournament Director. We will continue the use of the Dibs program we piloted last year to encourage and reward volunteerism by association members. A wide range of volunteer opportunities will be made available to our members, such as coaching, helping out at winter clinic and preseason tryouts, working at tournaments and special events, and fundraising. Once again parents will have the option of "buying out" of the program in lieu of volunteering.

This is OMGAA's 44th year of offering athletic programs to our area youth and while I'm proud of what we've done in the past, I am even more excited in what the future holds for OMGAA athletics. Together we will make 2017 a great success!

Scott Ross
President
OMGAA
ross@omgaa.org

UPDATES FROM OMGAA

OMGAA Dibs Volunteer Program

We are now entering our second year using the Dibs Volunteer Program. Those of you with players in other sports leagues in Maple Grove should be familiar with the Program. We will have a wide variety of opportunities to volunteer ranging from helping out at try-outs to assisting with equipment distribution and return and fundraising efforts. We hope that this program will help reduce the burden on the relatively small percentage of members who provide the bulk of our volunteer efforts.

Traveling Baseball will have 4 hours of volunteer time while the rest of the league will have 2 hours of volunteer time. There will be a cap of 6 hours per family. If you do not wish to volunteer you will have the choice at registration to buy out of the program.

We are also in need of a Dibs Coordinator. So if you are comfortable with it this will be a great way to use your volunteer time. If interested contact info@omgaa.org

Some of our volunteer opportunities:

- Coordinator
- Director
- Head Coach, Assistant Coach, Team Manager, Scorer (Coaches will receive a set number of hours to distribute)
- Equipment distribution/collection
- Uniform distribution
- Tryout help
- Tournament Help – Planning, souvenirs, concessions, admissions...
- All Star Weekend help - Planning, souvenirs, concessions, raffle...
- Clinic help
- Public relations
- Field maintenance and improvement
- Fundraising

At the beginning of the season you will be asked to provide your coach with a check made out to OMGAA. This check will not be cashed and will be returned or destroyed once your hours have been completed.

Volunteer hours must be complete by September 30, 2017 and be served by adults, not players.

If there are any hardships we do not want this to be a deterrent to your child playing. In this case you will need to contact info@omgaa.org and we will make every attempt to accommodate you.

Questions contact info@omgaa.org

UPDATES FROM OMGAA

Field Improvements you will see in 2017



You will see some improvements to some of our fields this upcoming season. Grass infields have been added on the three fields at Weaver Lake Park. Some other great things will be added in the future, stay tuned. These fields will be utilized by all ages and leagues. We will also be hosting some tournaments there now as well!

Dugouts were added to the fastpitch field at Maple Grove Senior High. This was done over safety concerns over foul balls from the adjoining field. All good now!

The baseball fields at Fernbrook have been regraded to allow better drainage and new irrigation. Scoreboards will be added there soon!

We will continue our quest to improve the fields in Maple Grove with new announcements to come as the year goes on.

UPDATES FROM OMGAA



Online Registration opens February 1

Go to www.omgaa.org to register

Attention Graduating Seniors- OMGAA scholarships are available

The OMGAA Academic Scholarship Program has awarded over \$30,000 in scholarships since May of 2004. Scholarships are awarded to graduating area seniors that have played in an OMGAA program while attending HS. Scholarships are awarded based on academic performance without regard to athletic achievement. Scholarship applications can be picked up in your high schools Career Resource Center.

2016 OMGAA Academic Scholarship winners.

Osseo Maple Grove Athletic Association is proud to announce the winners of the 2016 OMGAA Michael Parenteau Academic Scholarship award to the following Student Athletes:

Morgan Schock and Andrew Kivi. Both are from Maple Grove Senior High

Morgan is attending Baylor University and Andrew is attending The University of Minnesota this fall.



STORM TRAVELING BASEBALL

STORM

STORM TRAVELING BASEBALL

Storm baseball is the most competitive level of baseball offered by OMGAA. We have teams for players from ages 9-14. At the ages 10-13 we will field 4 teams 1 team that plays at the AAA level and 2 teams that play at the AA level, as well as 1 team that plays at the A level. Storm teams will play 16 league games (12 at 9U), 8 in Maple Grove and 8 away games throughout the metro area.. There will also be league playoff games, which start in mid July. Over the years Storm teams have been very successful and have even won the State Tournament that takes place each July against as many as 30 other teams. The State Tournament winner receives their championship rings on the field during a Twins game in August. Along with league play each team will participate in 4 weekend tournaments , typically 2 in May and 2 in June at locations throughout the metro area and occasionally out of town.

2017 Teams & Prices

Price: \$275 plus a tryout fee of \$25. There are also traveling fees of roughly \$245 due in May 2017.

Teams:

Storm Traveling Baseball 9U - 3rd Grade

New for 2017 we will field 2 teams at 9U! 9AAA and 9AA

Storm Traveling Baseball 10U - 4th Grade 10AAA, (2) 10AA, 10A

Storm Traveling Baseball 11U - 5th

Grade 11AAA, (2) 11AA, 11A

Storm Traveling Baseball 12U - 6th Grade 12AAA, (2) 12AA, 12A

Storm Traveling Baseball 13U - 7th Grade 13AAA, (2) 13AA, 13A

Storm Traveling Baseball 14U - 8th Grade 14AAA, (2) 14AA

We are hosting a new Tournament

Another new addition for 2017 is that OMGAA and Storm Traveling Baseball will be playing host to baseball tournaments in 2017! As most of you know we now have new playing surfaces at Weaver Lake Park and we are excited to show them off to the baseball community. OMGAA and Storm Baseball will be hosting the following events in 2017!

2017 MAPLE GROVE/ OSSEO STORM INVITATIONAL

MAY 5-7 9AAA AND 9AA

MAY 12-14 13AA

JUNE 2-4 10AAA AND 13AAA

JUNE 6-9 12AAA

Please do not hesitate to give Storm baseball a try; I think you will enjoy the experience!

Questions contact:

Craig Solle

solle@omgaa.org

STORM TRAVELING FASTPITCH

STORM

STORM TRAVELING FASTPITCH

Storm traveling fastpitch had a very successful 2016 season, and we're looking forward to an even better 2017!

- 10U: girls eligible for 10u have to be 10 years old or under on January 1, 2017. Girls born in 2006, 2007, and 2008 are eligible. There will likely be two to three teams of 10u Storm travel fastpitch. The "A" team will consist of more experienced players and will play at a high level of competition. The "B" team will consist of more first year players and will focus more on development. Kids will be placed on a team where they can be successful and will want to continue playing in the future.
- 12U: Girls eligible for 12u have to be 12 years old or under on January 1, 2017. Girls born in 2004 or 2005 are eligible for 12u Storm fastpitch. There will likely be two to three teams of 12u Storm travel fastpitch. The "A" team will consist of more experienced players and will play at a high level of competition. The "B" team will consist of more first year players and will focus more on development. Kids will be placed on a team where they can be successful and will want to continue playing in the future.
- 14U: Girls eligible for 14u have to be 14 years old or under on January 1, 2017. Girls born in 2002 or 2003 are eligible for 14u. 14u teams are formed in August of the previous year. If the player will be moving up to 14u for 2018 she will have tryouts following the 2017 season. There are three 14u teams for 2017.
- 16U: Girls eligible for 16u have to be 16 years old or under on January 1, 2017. Girls born in 2000 or 2001 are eligible for 16u. 16u teams are formed in August

of the previous year. If the player will be moving up to 16u for 2018 she will have tryouts following the 2017 season. There are two 16u teams for 2015.

NEW FOR THIS YEAR

New for this year is 8U travel! This is the first time OMGAA has offered an 8U travel program. There will likely be one team, and the rules will be governed by the Suburban League/Tri-County League rules. Tryouts for 8U travel will be in the spring.

All of our Storm teams play in the Suburban league. Other teams we will face and will travel to, to play include towns such as Anoka, Champlin Park, Brooklyn Park, Blaine, etc. The Suburban league is very well run and is competitive. Games will be on either Monday and Wednesday evenings, or Tuesday and Thursday evenings. All league games consist of double headers. There will be an even amount of home games and away games. Each team will play 2-3 in-season tournaments. These tournaments are weekend tournaments. Some tournaments start on Friday night but most are Saturday-Sunday tournaments and most are local. Teams also play in a end-of-season state qualifier tournament, which helps place the team in a specific tier for the state tournament. The state tournament is always played the weekend following the state qualifier tournament.

The Storm traveling season starts in May and ends at the end of July.
Price: \$309*

Questions contact:
Mark Pallansch – Director
OMGAA Storm Traveling Fastpitch
pallansch@omgaa.org



2017 League Descriptions - House Leagues



House Baseball

Cal Ripken – Ages 8-12

Rookie League (Ages 8-9)

Rookie ball is intended as a player's first introduction to real baseball. Rookie teams will be made up of players who are 8 or 9 years old on May 1st, 2017. All players will go through an evaluation and then will be split in two divisions. Teams will then be made up by schools/neighborhoods and evaluations scores. Both divisions are kid pitch. Bases are set at 60' and the pitcher's mound at 40'. Evaluations are on April 8, 2017, please check the website for dates.

Price: \$225*

Questions contact :

Aric Stienessen

stienessen@omgaa.org

10-12 Minor/Major Leagues

The OMGAA House league is comprised of the Minor league and the Major League. These teams will be made up of players who are in 4th, 5th and 6th grade. All players are required to complete an evaluation of basic baseball skills. Evaluation date is April 8th, 2017 at the Maple Grove Dome. Exact evaluation times will be posted on OM-GAA.org. 11 year olds will be placed in either the Major or Minor League based on evaluation scores and/or grade level.

11/12 Major League:

The Major League will consist of players who are 11 and 12 years old. League will consist of 16 regular season games and playoffs. League play will begin in mid-May with playoffs in early July. Teams will be evenly balanced based on evaluation scores. Bases for this league will be set at 75 feet and pitching mound will set at 52 feet. Price: \$245 10/11

Minor League:

The Minor League will consist of players who are 10 and 11 years old. League will consist of 16 regular season games and playoffs. League play will begin in mid-May with playoffs in early July. Teams will be evenly balanced based on evaluation scores. Bases for this league will be set at 65 feet and pitcher's mound will be set at 46 feet. Price: \$245

Questions Contact

Greg Eckman

eckman@omgaa.org



2017 League Descriptions - House Leagues



House Baseball

Sr. House Baseball (Ages 13 – 15)

The Sr. House League is a recreational baseball league welcoming players of all skill levels. We have two divisions in Sr. House, 13U for players no more than 13 years old by May 1st and 14/15U for players no older than 15 by May 1st.

New for Sr. House Baseball in 2017 is our alignment with Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS). You may be familiar with this organization if your player joined a Fall ball league in that past couple of years. We made the decision to move away from Babe Ruth based on the small number of other communities in our area participating in Babe Ruth and because we wanted to expand opportunity for our teams to compete against teams from multiple communities. We will be working with MYAS to establish a division where our teams will compete against teams from Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Rogers and maybe even Plymouth. We understand travelling to away games can be challenging for families and will make every effort to ensure evening games are within reasonable driving distances.

There will be 16 regular season games this year where our teams will compete against teams from multiple other surrounding communities. Our season runs from early May through early July. One team from each division will be selected to compete in the MYAS State Recreational Tournament, typically held in early August. The process for team selection for the state tournament will be determined prior to the start of the season.

13U - fields with 75' base paths and will pitch from approximately 52-54'. Price - \$245

14/15U - fields with 90' base paths and will pitch from approximately 60'. Price - \$245

Team Selection: A player assessment will be held on Sunday, April 9th at the Maple Grove Sports Dome where players will demonstrate their baseball knowledge and skills while coaches assess. An equi-draft system will be used to form teams.

Questions contact
Joel Milteer
milteer@omgaa.org



House Fastpitch

2017 House Fastpitch Newsletter

OMGAA House Fastpitch is a recreational program for girls completing grades 2 – 12. The league focuses on teaching the fundamentals of the sport, team play and skill development. Practices begin in mid-May with games starting in late May or early June and concluding with a season ending tournament in mid to late July.

Practices are usually 1 -2 times per week and 2 games per week are held during the season.

House Fastpitch Leagues:

- 2nd – 4th grade league for those who are at least 8 years old or have completed 2 – 4th grade
- 5th – 7th grade league for those who have completed these grades
- 8th – 12th grade league for those who have completed these grades

The summer of 2016 was a successful season which saw several key improvements. Uniforms were upgraded, a new umpire partner provided more consistent officiating and the mid season all star event was combined with baseball for a full OMGAA experience. Most importantly, we upgraded the equipment provided to the teams to ensure a safe and comfortable experience for players.

In 2016, due to a unique mix of a very large group of 7th graders but small group of 8th graders, the 5th – 7th grade league was expanded to include 8th grade. Based on enrollment, the goal this year is to return to 5-7th grade for this league. For the second consecutive year, a player assessment was held to build teams and we again enjoyed team parity with each team winning games and a tight league record going into the sum-

mer ending tournament.

The 9th – 12th grade league had 4 home teams this year and saw high player retention. For the second year, we collaborated with Plymouth Wayzata Youth Softball Association and the Westonka Fastpitch league to provide interleague play for both 5-8th and 9-12th grade leagues.

The focus for the 2017 season will again be on improving the quality of the league. This includes a focus on player retention and skill development at all levels. The best news, with careful planning, we have been able to hold fees low while continuing to invest in this league!

In conjunction with Storm Fastpitch, winter player and pitching clinics are being offered on Sundays at the MG dome for players who would like to keep up with their skills in the off season. See the website for more information.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, team managers, coordinators and parents for their time and dedication to the league. As announced, by the league, a DIBS volunteer system was implemented last year and will be expanded this year to promote volunteerism for the league. To sustain our leagues, we will need many dedicated volunteers to coach, lead and support our players through the season. Please indicate your ability volunteer when you register your daughter for the 2017 season.

Questions contact
Stephanie Beyer
beyer@omgaa.org



Senior Traveling Baseball

15U Travel Team: This program will be very similar to our Jr. House travel teams. There will be one AAA team at the 15yr. old level. Tryouts will be in late April early May. The team will be registered through MYAS. They will play the MYAS regular season schedule, plus 3-4 tournaments with the chance to qualify for state. Registration will open Feb. 1st. If you are interested in coaching this team, please email Tom Cary at cary@omgaa.org.

Registration Fee: \$245 Travel Fee: \$200

We also have 18U Sr. Babe Ruth team. This team is for players in the age range of 16-18. This team is for older boys who still are interested in playing competitive baseball. Registration will open Feb. 1st. We are also looking for coaches for this team. If you are interested in coaching this team, please email

Tom Cary at cary@omgaa.org. Registration

Fee: \$245 Travel Fee: \$200

If your son is just interested in playing baseball and wants to be on team with his friends. The 16-19 rec league is the perfect league for them. The league is competitive, fun, but less of a commitment then travel teams. All games are played in Maple Grove/Osseo. Registration will open Feb. 1st. This league we allow players to register as a full team. Registration Fee: \$225

Any questions about the Sr. Travel League, please email Tom Cary at cary@omgaa.org

Off-Season Training in Full Swing:

OMGAA off-season training is off to a great start. Over 400 players are taking part in one of OMGAA's many different training sessions. See the Training section at www.omgaa.org.





About Osseo Maple Grove Athletic Association

Osseo Maple Grove Athletic Association is a non-profit organization that has been in existence since 1974. OMGAA was created to provide youth, living within the boundaries of ISD #279, with comprehensive athletic programs for basketball, baseball and football.

As the community grew, our basketball program divided off into a separate organization, OMGBA. In the early 1990's OMGAA added Traveling Fastpitch Softball, and then followed with one of the first House Fastpitch programs in Minnesota. Our football program grew and was divided off into a separate organization, OMGFA.

In 2003 we became the first "main stream" youth sports organization in Minnesota, to include Adapted Sports (Special Olympics), under it's umbrella. In 2004, we established the OMGAA Academic Scholarship program that provides college scholarships to OMGAA participants.

OMGAA works to teach each player the fundamentals of the sport that they are participating in, and provide the framework for the wholesome participation at each players playing ability. More importantly, OMGAA strives to develop the ideals of team work, community participation and mutual respect among it's members, players, coaches, coordinators and directors. As the needs of our community continue to grow and change, we welcome your support, comments, time and talents as we work to offer these programs to our children.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the OMGAA program, please contact the appropriate Director via email which can be found on the OMGAA website at www.omgaa.org. If a link in this document does not work in your browser, all the information in this newsletter can be found at the OMGAA site as well.

Osseo/Maple Grove Athletic Association

OMGAA
P.O. Box 1415
Maple Grove, MN 55311

Questions about anything OMGAA

Email: info@omgaa.org

Please allow 2 business days for a response

www.omgaa.org