

Dear RCJOUA Softball Coaches & Families:



Softball season is upon us!!! I would like to extend a warm welcome and THANK YOU on behalf of the entire Board to our returning and new coaches, as well as to all our returning and new families to our League and our community.

At a time when children have many sports and activities to choose from, we are thrilled that many girls have chosen to play RCJOUA softball in Rapid City. RCJOUA softball organization has served the community of Rapid City since 1996, providing a positive environment for the development of sportsmanship, character, athletic skill and love for the game of softball. As a parent myself, I know what a thrill it is to see your child play for the first time and watch them grow and improve over the years. These are memories that we will all cherish, and I am pleased that you too will enjoy watching your children grow as part of the RCJOUA softball family.

I applaud our 2019-2020 Board members for the time they have given so freely and the sacrifices each of them has made to help make RCJOUA softball complex one of the best. With that said, I'd like to introduce our Board Members: **Michael Burke, Chad Raterman, Scott Spencer, Carol Boland, Michael Deming, William Cannon, Tim Markovetz, Brad Burns and Zac Alcorn.** As such, one of our goals is to always improve on communication (board meetings and minutes are posted on the league's webpage), and with that in mind, hopefully this welcome letter will address some of the questions we have received.

- I. Concession stand and bathroom by field 5 & 6 is ready for use!! Because we were not able to get anyone to coordinate and staff our concession stand this year, we are going back to a concession stand manager who will coordinate with teams. Teams will be assigned duties 1 night during the summer. Multiple teams will be assigned each week. Each team will need a concession stand coordinator. 6-8 people minimum are needed to work the concession stand. Teams will be required to have 3-4 people show up 15-20 minutes before the first game of the night to help with set-up.
- II. Purchased dirt for fields 5 & 6. This dirt was made and purchased locally through Pete Lien, which was a great savings to the league. Weather permitting, we hope to get dirt spread on the fields before the start of the 6U-8U season.
- III. Properly maintaining our fields is essential. To help with this, we will need one parent from each team to attend a field prep tutorial on field clean-up day. We are hosting a 12U Northern National Tournament this year, with the hope of this being the first of many. With that being said, the need to keep fields in good running condition throughout the season is necessary for player safety and continued success of the RCJOUA Softball Complex. Field prep after every game (even the last game of the night) will be the rule and not the exception.
- IV. New backstop pads have been purchased and are ready to install on all fields. The replacement of the rubber backstops will help with player safety and overall appearance. New warm-up area between fields 2 & 5 to be completed when we have a break in the weather. New magnetic bases, batters' boxes, and pitching lanes on fields 1 & 2 have been purchased, and again are ready to install once the weather breaks.

**See you at the Diamond,
Stephen Vernon
RCJOUA Softball President**