

To: Trussville Baseball Membership

Thanks to everyone who signed up to play baseball this Spring season. I want to personally update the membership on the current conditions of the park. Over the past several years, the City of Trussville has been trying to merge recreational baseball (TBA) and travel baseball (Husky) together in order for everyone to play in the Trussville Baseball Complex. It has been a very complicated, tedious process to bring the organizations together, but we have finally merged and everyone will be playing in the park. By us merging some things will be a little different than what some are accustomed to at the park. There will be a few weekends that the park will be hosting travel tournaments and rec will be off. Husky Baseball will be practicing on some of the fields and using the batting cages for practice. We will also be using some fields we are not accustomed to using for practice (Library and Spradling). If you are not familiar with the location of the fields please ask your coach or commissioner.

I hope everyone has seen the work the city has done to the infields at the lower complex. This is hopefully just the beginning of improvements you will see at the park. The new infields have caused practices to be scheduled a little different than what you normally expect. The city will be scheduling and preparing the fields for practice and games. This is a huge win for the commissioners, coaches and parents that help in the preparation of the fields. Going forward the coaches will only need to worry about warming up their team and not getting the fields ready for games. The city will be more hands on in the scheduling of practices and games. TBA has always scheduled our own events at the park, but with the merger the city has decided to schedule events. This will allow for both organizations to schedule events at the park without overlapping. This will slow down the time frame that communication flows from the park to the coaches and parents. For example, rainouts may take a little more time to communicate the date and time the game has rescheduled to play. Please bear with us as we learn this new process together. The city is supposed to communicate with TBA, by about 3pm, the field conditions and we will use Twitter to communicate to coaches and parents. If you have not signed up for Twitter, please do so as this is our official communication within the park (TrussvilleBBall). Information also flows to our web page (www.trussvillebaseball.com) and to Facebook.

We will be operating the concession stand ourselves this Spring. Please try to support the concession stand as it does generate some revenue for your park. If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Amy Lachina.

This year we would like to replace most of the batting cages and the awnings over the bleachers. This is a very expensive project that needs to be done to make the park more enjoyable for everyone. Every year we ask every team for a sponsor to help with expenses and maintenance. This project is expected to cost around \$25,000 to complete. This year we are hoping to have a few more sponsors to make sure this project can be completed. If anyone knows of a company or individual who would be interested in donating their time or money to help with this project or any other project, please contact Pay Coyne, Bryan Watkins or myself. We are always looking for people who like to volunteer to paint, pressure wash, pick up trash, build benches and so on.

Every year during the month of April we nominate and elect board positions. Some positions are elected annually and some are bi-annual. If you are interested in volunteering to

be on the TBA board please ask a current board member for details about the position or how to sign up. Current board members can be found on the TBA website along with our contact information. Please remember the positions have responsibilities. We all serve on a volunteer basis and have the best interest of all players at heart. This year the city also created a "Super Board" for baseball. It consists of 2 TBA members, 2 Husky members and 1 person appointed by the city. The function of this board is resolve any issues that TBA and Husky cannot resolve on their own. More details of this board will be available as they develop.

The city has asked us to conserve energy where we can. If you or your team has a practice that has been cancelled by the coach, please notify the appropriate commissioner so that light schedules can be adjusted. If you ride through the park and notice lights on and no one on the field please contact someone on the board so we can have them turned off. Remember these are your tax dollars we are trying to save.

Please remember we are all volunteers, we all pay the same and we all have the same vested interest in the park. Some people just choose to volunteer more than others such as; coaches, assist coaches, dugout help, team moms, board members and work day volunteers. Please try to remember when you come to someone with a complaint, try to also come with a suggestion and plan on how to make the park better.

Please be respectful of our umpires in the park. If you have an issue with an umpire please contact your league commissioner.

Anyone who steps foot on the field must pass a background check (every 12 months) and attend a city mandated coaching clinic (class every 2 years and online test every year). Both of these are required of the city and must be completed, no exceptions. Anyone who does not complete will not be allowed on the fields. There is no cost for either of the requirements.

There have been several questions about bats. TBA is not requiring new bats for the regular spring season. For the current spring season USSSA BBCOR 1.15 is acceptable. All stars and games not played in a GBBA park will be required to follow their parks rules for bats. Starting this fall all bats will have to have meet the new standard and be stamped with USA.

As always don't hesitate to contact me or another board member with any questions or concerns you may have. Hope everyone has a great and memorable season.

Thank you for your attention,

Jason Smith
President TBA