

***Welcome to the 2023 Baseball and Softball Season***

We would like to welcome you to the 2023 season, and we would like to thank you for supporting RABA baseball and softball programs! We are excited to get the season underway and we are excited for another great year! Our program is solely run by volunteers, so we want to extend a huge ***THANK YOU*** to those that volunteered last season, we couldn’t have done it without you!

As a board, we are always looking forward to different ways to make our program better and provide an exciting season for the kids. If you have ideas on ways to improve our season, and future seasons, please reach out to a board member…we’d love your input! As always, our goal is to provide the kids an opportunity to learn new skills, make friends, improve our community athletics, and most importantly, have fun! We couldn’t do any of this without your support. This season is no different, we need you to volunteer! We are in need of head/assistant coaches, team moms, field maintenance helpers, and umpires. ***There remains a large umpire shortage, so this is a critical position if you are interested in completing the training.***

***Fundraiser vs Buyout***

RABA is a nonprofit community organization. ***There are no paid officers.*** Your fees pay for all uniform items, insurance, trophies, and umpires. All other items including, but not limited to field maintenance, baseballs/softballs, equipment, cooperative league fees, and operating supplies are paid for by sponsorships, concessions, and fundraisers. It is mandatory to either participate in the raffle ticket fundraiser where you must sell $55 worth of raffle tickets, or you may opt to buy out of the raffle for a $45 fee. We suggest selling the raffle tickets to save yourself some money or perhaps win the grand prize!!

We are excited to bring back our Fish Fry this year! We had a wildly successful fish fry last year, thanks to all of you! We are using monies raised to make field improvements, such as building new dugouts and most recently having the fields deep treated for vegetation management (those pesky weeds). Each player is responsible for selling 2 fish fry tickets, as part of their fundraiser fees. Tickets are $15 each/$20 at the door. Each of our fundraisers is geared towards being able to make improvements to our fields and concession stand.

All fees and raffle ticket envelopes must be turned in to the concession stand at the below date (March 18th). If you do not turn in your tickets, your child will not receive a uniform.

 **Raffle Prizes include Grand Prize $500, Second Prize $250, Third Prize $100**

***Baseball and Softball Information***

Every child must provide their own batting helmet and glove. Girls’ softball batting helmets must have a faceguard. We have a limited supply of gently used equipment such as: gloves, cleats, and helmets. If you need help let us know.

***Important Dates:***

**March 4:** Coaches Draw for teams (you will be notified of your child’s team the following week. Also, 18U, 14U, Majors, and High School teams begin later than the younger leagues, so communication regarding those teams will come later).

**March 4-7th:** Dick’s Sporting Goods Shopping Event @ Beavercreek, Ohio location

**March 11th:** Field Clean Up; 9 am until complete (we need as many volunteers as possible, and it will go faster)

**Week of March 13th:** Practice Begins (Schedules provided after team draw)

**March 18th:** Raffle Ticket/Fish Fry (ALL monies will be turned into the concession stand)

**March 25th:** RABA Fish Fry (Located at the ABP Hall; 1675 Woodman Dr.)

***April 19th(excludes 14u/18u, Majors and HS teams):*** *Picture Day at 530 pm. Pictures will be located at Overlook Hall. No Cleats! Team Schedule to follow. \*\*\*If you do not attend this date, you will not be in the team picture.*

**May 6th:** Opening Day!

\*\*Some leagues may begin their games prior to the opening day. We will communicate all schedules as soon as they are available. Most schedules run into the first week of July, wrapping up by the 4th of July, this excludes the older teams (14U/18U, Majors, HS) which go until the end of July, approximately.

**June 10th:** Dayton Dragon’s Event. Forms due June 1st.

**July 15th:** End of the Year Trophy Ceremony/Celebration at RABA Fields

***SPONSORS NEEDED!***

As you well know, the cost of our uniforms, umpire fees, equipment, insurance, and field maintenance increase every year. Sponsors help to keep our registration fees affordable for all of our young athletes. If you know of a business owner who would like to sponsor one of our teams, please let us know so we may contact them. Also, if you would like to be more involved in our program, our board is open to new members. Please contact RABAOhio@gmail.com for more information.

**WEBSITE INFORMATION**

Have you checked out our website? Visit [www.daytonyouthbaseball.com](http://www.daytonyouthbaseball.com). Here you will find schedules, maps, team and coach information, private communications, game status, calendar sync and much, much, more! This will become our main avenue to keep you informed. It will also link to Facebook to keep communications open.

**Thank you for your participation! If you have any questions, please email us at** **RABAOhio@gmail.com****.**

**RABA Board**

**President: Amber Wagner**

**Vice-President: John Gray**

**Secretary: Mary Trent**

**Baseball Commissioner: Justin Holloway**

**Softball Commissioner: open**

**Board Member: Justin Holloway**

**Board Member: Joshua Trent**

**Board Member: Marissa Frazier**