



Wednesday, March 10, 2009 - 7:00PM
Mason Middle School – Dining Commons
MYO Head Coaches Meeting

MYO Board of Directors

President	Mike Marotta
Vice President	Bill Stites
Treasurer	Paul Glass
Secretary	Jay Meibers
Tee Ball Commissioner	Vince Metzger
Minor League Commissioner	Bill Caplinger
Major League Commissioner	Kevin Carey
Sr. Softball Commissioner	David Theuring
Jr. Softball Commissioner	Chris Wodzisz
Rules Commissioner	Bill Worley
Fall Baseball & Softball	Open

MYO Coordinators

Girls Field Scheduling	Dave Theuring
Boys Field Scheduling	Mike Elegeer
IT	Jeff Colton
Photography	Brian Blomeke
Sponsors	Mike Marotta
Training	Brent Rice
Trophy	Cindy Hyland
Boys Uniforms	Paul Griffith
Girls Uniforms	Pam Wesley
Equipment	John Darlington
LL Safety Officer	Jim Erjavec

1. **Thank You** - MYO could not exist without the dedication, sacrifice, and energy of its many volunteers. Thank you to the Board for their many, many hours of work and thank you to the coaches for choosing to get involved and make a difference for the youth of Mason!

2. **League Stats**

MYO Totals:						
Sport	Gender	League	Level	Age	# Teams	# Players
Baseball	Boys	Tee Ball	T1	5	14	164
Baseball	Boys	Tee Ball	T2	6	16	178
Baseball	Boys	Tee Ball			30	342
Baseball	Boys	Minor League	Pony 1	7	18	206
Baseball	Boys	Minor League	Pony 2	8	12	146
Baseball	Boys	Minor League			30	352
Baseball	Boys	Major League	American	9 - 10	14	169
Baseball	Boys	Major League	National	11 - 12	8	102
Baseball	Boys	Major League	Junior	13 - 14	5	57
Baseball	Boys	Major League	Senior	15 - 16	2	25
Baseball	Boys	Major League	Friday Night	9 - 12	4	43
Baseball	Boys	Major League			33	396
Softball	Girls	Jr. Coach Pitch	6U	5 & 6	10	103
Softball	Girls	Jr. Coach Pitch	8U	7 & 8	10	123
Softball	Girls	Slow Pitch			20	226
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	10U	9 & 10	10	124
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	12U	11 & 12	6	75
Softball	Girls	Slow Pitch	14U	11 - 14	4	46
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	14U	13 & 14	3	36
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	High School	15 - 18	3	36
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch			26	317
Totals:					139	1633

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3. Changes to the MYO Program in 2010 –

- MYO Softball was reorganized from Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch Leagues into a Junior “Coach Pitch” League (5-8 yr. olds) and Senior “Girl Pitch” League (9-18 yr. olds).
- We maintained a 14U Slow Pitch league for young ladies, 11-14 years old.
- MYO held player evaluations for all Major League Baseball Players at SWOBAT in February.
- MYO is having a Spring Break Tournament for interested Major League baseball players on April 10-11th.
- MYO will hold 3 skills day camps on Sundays in March / April for all MYO baseball and softball players interested in developing a particular skill (pitching, hitting, fielding, baserunning).
- MYO Minor League Baseball (Pony Leagues, 7 & 8 year olds) is affiliating with Little League International for the 2010 season.
- MYO Little League Baseball (7-17 year olds) will be changing uniforms in 2010 to Majestic MLB Replica uniforms.
 - Our Minor League teams (7-8 year olds) will be supplied with MLB Minor League Replica T-shirts and hats,
 - Our American and National divisions will have the corresponding MLB Major League (American and National) Replica T-shirts and hats.
 - Junior & Senior Leagues will have a choice of Majestic MLB Replica uniforms.
- MYO Softball will provide all girls with coordinating shorts as part of the uniform.
- MYO will once again have an Opening Day Celebration on May 1st (the rainout date is May 2nd). Please save the date and encourage your team to participate.
- MYO has enacted a program this year for a parent of each player to volunteer their time in some capacity this year. Player evaluations were successful in part because of the help.
- We are also looking to help Mason Parks & Rec. with the Reds’ Rookie Success league this summer. If you are interested in helping, please look for details next month.

4. **Website (www.masonryouth.org)** - Our By-Laws, 2010 Rulebook, game schedules, standings, sponsor lists and more can be found on our website. You can always find information on upcoming dates of importance from our home page and MYO Calendar Page. Please visit the website on a regular basis for updates.

5. **Fields** - MYO has been allocated 14 fields this year full time: nine (9) fields at Heritage Oak Park and five (5) fields at Cottell Park. In addition, we have limited access to fields at Mason Sports Park on certain days of the week. MYO has provided field boxes for all 14 fields we have full time and we have access to a couple of field boxes at MSP. We keep items such as medical kits, new set of bases, umpire equipment, tee, etc. in the field storage boxes. They will also be used for replacement equipment exchange and for lost and found. When you pickup your equipment, you will receive a key providing access to the field boxes. Please keep the field box locked when not in use and when you are the last practice/game for the day on a field, please return appropriate equipment to the field box and make sure that it is securely locked. The key must be returned to MYO at the same time as equipment return.

6. **Capital improvements for the 2009 season** - At Cottell Park, on deck batting cages were added to field 1-3, and fields 4 & 5 were rebuilt with pitching mounds and outfield fence. In addition, MYO have provided a donation to Mason Parks & Rec. for the installation of a Lightning detector system at Heritage Oak Park, which should be working by the start of practices.

7. **Emergency Medical Authorization / Release Form** - This form, found on the Coaches page of our website, must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian for each player and given to the Head Coach. It is required that the Head Coach have all medical release forms present at all team functions. No player is permitted to participate in practices/games until the head coach has received an executed medical release form.

8. **Coach Agreement** – Needs to be signed and turned in at the equipment pickup. The agreement is your acceptance of the equipment, the umpire money and the field box key. We will email you a copy of the form to complete and bring with you to the equipment pickup.

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9. **Rules** – The 2010 MYO Rulebook is available in PDF format on our website. Each team will receive at least one (1) rulebook at the time of equipment pickup and a copy will be placed in the MYO Lock Boxes. Our rulebook provides important information regarding our program. It also includes MYO league specific exceptions to the governing rules of each league. We have made some changes this year, so please review the rules in detail and encourage your team parents to do the same. In addition, all Minor & Major League teams will receive a copy of Little League International's 2010 Rulebook, all Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch Softball teams will receive a copy of the USSSA rulebook and all Fast Pitch teams will also receive league specific rules from SOGFA.
10. **Safety Manual** – As part of our association with Little League International for Baseball's Major League teams, MYO is putting together an MYO Little League Safety Manual this year to highlight all the precautions we should take as an organization to keep our players, umpires, coaches and families safe. The document will be available on our website, as well as distributed to the Minor and Major League Head coaches.
11. **Parents Code of Conduct** – We have a parent's code of conduct on the website. Your Commissioner will send you a copy to forward to all your team parents to sign the form.
12. **Practices and Games** - Practices schedules are on-line and practices will begin on March 26th & 27th for all teams. However, this should be considered a pre-season practice because fields will not be cleaned up and the bathrooms will not be open until April 1st. Games will begin on Friday & Saturday, April 30th - May 1st (Junior Baseball League teams will begin games in April). Game schedules will be posted to our website and distributed to coaches in early April. Weekday games will begin the week of May 17th, with the exception of T-Ball and 6U Slow Pitch softball, which will begin weekday games June 1st. Once weekday games begin, practices end. Rainouts will be made-up on Sundays. Sunday games will not be scheduled to start before 12:00pm. Some games may be scheduled on holidays. The end-of-season tournaments will begin on June 26th, with the season planned to end no later than July 1st, (please note: not all leagues have a year end tournament). *SPECIAL NOTE – Saturday, March 27th, fields 4-7 will be closed at Heritage Oak Park for the City Easter Egg Hunt. If your practice times are 11:00am, 12:00pm or 1:00pm your new times will be Sunday, March 28th at 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm respectively.*
13. **Equipment Pick-Up and Drop Off** - Head Coach (or Designee) is required to pickup equipment on Equipment pickup date Saturday March 13th, from 9:00am – 12:00pm at the Fortress Store & Lock – Row M, 1233 Castle Drive, Mason, OH. This will be the only equipment pickup time; so if head coaches are not able to make this time, you need to send an assistant or other designated person to the equipment pickup. When you pickup your equipment, you will also receive a check from MYO in an amount sufficient to cover umpire fees for your regular season games, as well as game balls, the appropriate rulebooks for your league and a lockbox key. Please check out the equipment for correct quantity and sizes immediately. Please do not wait until the first practice or game to make sure you have everything. If you need anything, contact the equipment coordinator at equipment@masonryouth.org. All head coaches will be notified in early June when the equipment drop off day will occur. Please cleanout the equipment bag prior to return and take count of any missing items. This year's game balls will be used as practice balls next year and should be returned, along with the field box key and any unused umpire fees.
14. **Equipment** – As a safety concern, MYO now provides helmets with face masks for all leagues. Fast pitch softball pitchers will also be required to wear face shields this year. We have also partnered with the **Don't Blink** Program to receive free helmets. It will require Head Coaches to complete two surveys. Please participate. This year, some of the older leagues will notice the bags are lighter and contain less equipment. Since most players in the older leagues have their own helmets and bats, we have reduced the number included in the bags. However, if your team requires additional equipment, it is available by contacting the equipment coordinator. Please do not take equipment from field boxes to replace lost/broken/missing equipment from your bag. Send the equipment coordinator an e-mail to request replacements. Please remember to put away and lock all equipment borrowed from the MYO field boxes during practices and games.

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- 15. Umpire Pay** - Each Head Coach will be responsible for paying the umpire(s) the exact amount in cash during ground rules (umpires will not make change). Please review the Umpire Pay Matrix in the MYO rulebook and have the check you receive at equipment pick-up cashed and divided into equal amounts needed for each game. The Head Coach from each team is responsible for paying half the total amount due the umpire(s) per game, with the exception of Fast Pitch Softball and Junior/Senior Major League Baseball. For these leagues, the Head Coach of the HOME team is responsible for full payment to the umpire(s).
- 16. Coaches Training** – MYO is holding training clinics at SWOBAT Academy, located off the Union Centre exit in West Chester, for all Head and Assistant Coaches:
- Baseball coaches will meet on Sunday, March 21st, from 3:00-6:00pm.
 - Softball coaches will meet on Sunday, March 28th, from 3:00-6:00pm.

All coaches are highly encouraged to attend, and the clinic should be considered mandatory for all new MYO coaches. The first hour of the clinic will focus on basic drills for younger or new players and running a successful practice. The second two hours will focus on advanced drills, based on players' age.

- 17. NYSCA** – MYO want to have all coaches NYSCA certified (currently available for Tee Ball, Baseball and Softball), including Assistant Coaches. All Head Coaches must be certified in the sport(s) they are coaching, prior to the first practice in the appropriate sport (Tee Ball, Baseball, or Softball) for which you intend to be the Head Coach. If you are not NYSCA certified for the appropriate sport, you will not be able to coach in MYO. You can easily get certified online at www.nays.org, by reviewing the program, answering the required questions and completing an application for a fee. If you have already been certified by NYSCA, your certification can be renewed for up to 24 months after it expires. Prior to registering, please review the NYSCA Online Certification Guide which can be found on the Coaches page of our website. Also, if there is enough interest in a live training for new coaches, the City of Mason will provide a training class for MYO.
- 18. Background checks** – MYO currently requires all coaches to pass a national background check (performed within a three year cycle) in order to work with the children of MYO. This year, MYO is looking into another annual national background check program for all adult volunteers that are in regular contact with the MYO children. We are testing the new national background check program with the MYO Board, all coaches and umpires associated with all our Major League teams and any additional coaches that volunteer to participate. If we are pleased with the new program, next year we will run all MYO Volunteer background checks utilizing it.
- 19. Uniforms and Sponsors** – You will be notified by your League Commissioner when your uniform order is ready for pick up in early April. The Head Coach or designee is to pick up team uniforms (jerseys & hats for baseball) (jersey, shorts & visor for softball) (shirt & hat/visor for coaches) from either:
- Scott's Awards, located at 9044 Cincinnati-Columbus Road (Route 42), West Chester, Ohio (513-777-8456) for boys teams.
 - Koman's Team Apparel, located at 5948 Snider Road, Unit K, Mason, Ohio (513-204-1583) for girls teams.

MYO will cover the expense of putting player's name on the back of the uniform shirt at Scott's Awards or Koman's Team Apparel (you do not pay anything when you pick up the shirts). Otherwise, you can take them to another vendor, but you will have to pay and **not** be reimbursed by MYO. Prior to adding names to shirts, please make sure you check all the uniform shirts to make sure the sizes match the player requests. If all the sizes do not match the sizes you have been given in your player file, you will need to adjust the order accordingly. All teams can also order coordinating uniform components from our sponsors. See flyers for group discounts on baseball pants, socks, belts, softball socks, etc. Discuss this option with parents at first meeting.

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Please note, our **sponsors** contribute funds to help MYO keep our costs down, and in return we offer them visibility to the MYO families. With your uniforms, you will receive flyers, brochures, postcards from some of our sponsors highlighting their businesses. Please break the literature down into packets and distribute them to each player (or parent) on the team. Many of our parents sponsor teams, so if you do not provide the flyer they paid to have printed up, we will lose future sponsorship. You will also receive picture packets with the uniforms. Please distribute them to the parents, and if a parent is sponsoring your team, please thank them.

- 20. Pictures Date – April 17th, 18th, 23rd** – Picture packets will be included with the uniform order. This year, we are having the pictures taken indoors at the MECC gym of at MECC, on Hickory Woods Drive (rain or shine). Please sign-up your team on the Photography Schedule at the end of this meeting if you would like to schedule a time slot for your team picture. Otherwise the photographer will schedule your team and the schedule will be distributed and posted on-line. Please note, for teams with individual players or coaches that are being sponsored, you will receive the MYO Thank You plaque to provide to the sponsor. If you receive the plaque, but do not know who the sponsor is, please contact the Photography Coordinator.
- 21. MYO Rainout Number (513) 588-0177** - The MYO rainout number is used to relay detailed information for practices and games. Please make sure that your team parents know this number, and use it every day they are to be at a field, even if the weather is nice. The message will be updated as soon as Mason and Deerfield Township Parks and Rec. inform us of field status (typically by 4:30 pm weekdays, 8:00 am Saturday, and 12:00 pm Sunday). If the infield is closed, you are allowed to practice in the grass unless the rainout message specifically says that you cannot. If for some reason the rainout message has not been updated, it is the responsibility of the coach to determine if the field is playable and contact his/her team (use best judgement).
- 22. Reporting Game Scores** - The Head Coach of the winning team (or home team in case of a tie) will need to register their game score online at www.masonryouth.org (Fast Pitch will use www.sogfsa.org). League/division standings will be updated by Monday at noon. Standings will be kept on the website for all Minor League and Major League Baseball (except Friday Night Pick-Up League) and all Fast Pitch and Slow Pitch Softball Leagues (except 6U Slow Pitch). The Head Coach may designate an assistant coach or team parent to handle this responsibility.
- 23. MYO Fall Ball** – Although the spring season has not yet begun, we are already making plans for our Fall Ball program. MYO will again have a Fall Baseball Program and we will work with Lakota for Fall Fast Pitch Softball. The program continues to grow and we are excited to expand even further this year. However, we are in need of a Fall Baseball Coordinator and Fall Softball Coordinator to make it happen. Please let me know if you have an interest in either position after this meeting. Keep an eye on the website for updates.
- 24. MYO Opening Day Celebration** – The MYO Opening Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 1st, 9:00am-12:00pm. The main activity is once again a Pitch, Hit and Run competition, sponsored by Aquafina in affiliation with Major League Baseball. This year there is a separate softball competition for girls. Winners of the local level in each category could advance to a regional competition, then a stadium competition, then a national competition at the 2010 All Star Game. There will also be food, entertainment and other activities so please talk it up with your players and their families.
- 25. Youth Sports Day hosted by the City of Mason Parks & Rec.** – All MYO coaches are encouraged to attend the event to be held at the Mason Municipal Building on Saturday, March 20th, from 8:30-1:00pm. See the flyer to learn more about the event.
- 26. Safety** – We strongly encourage all coaches to follow safety guidelines during practice and games. Having our coaches knowing basic first aid to treat sports related injuries is important. Also, the **Don't Blink** Program is another example of where we can make a difference.
- 27. League Specific Breakout sessions** – Additional information from your Commissioners.

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MYO 2010 Team Picture Details

- Team pictures will be taken on:

Saturday, April 17, 2010 (9:00am-2:00pm)

Sunday, April 18, 2010 (1:00pm-5:00pm)

Friday, April 23, 2010 (6:00pm-9:00pm)

- **Individual make-ups: (TBD – may be Sunday, April 25, 2010)**
- Requests to change team picture day/time should ONLY be made by head coach and should be directed to the photography vendor – TSS Photography - Pam & Scott Tibbs – stibbs@tssphotography.com or 937-684-4294.

- **Pictures will be taken on date scheduled – RAIN or SHINE**

Indoor location – MECC Gymnasium off Hickory Woods Drive (cafeteria will be used as a staging area)

- Uniform package will include a hardcopy of the team picture schedule, related team picture details and the picture order forms
- MYO website (www.masonryouth.org) will be updated with the team picture schedule and related details
- Brian Blomeke, MYO Photography Coordinator, will also e-mail the team picture schedule and related details to all head coaches. Please notify Brian if you have any other questions/concerns - photography@masonryouth.org.

Lazer Kraze MVP Awards

- This year, Lazer Kraze is providing an MVP coupon good for one free game at their Maineville location. Please remember to pick up your coupons prior to leaving tonight. Please note, they will not accept the coupon unless it is signed and dated by the coach – and the offer is not good for a team party because the whole group can not have the same date noted on the coupon.