



Wednesday, March 11, 2009 - 7:00PM
MI Campus - 4/5 Building - Commons Area
MYO Head Coaches Meeting

MYO Board of Directors

MYO Coordinators

President	Mike Marotta
Vice President	Bill Stites
Treasurer	Jeff Colton
Secretary	Jay Meibers
Tee Ball Commissioner	Bill Caplinger
Minor League Commissioner	Tom McCormick
Major League Commissioner	Kevin Carey
FP Softball Commissioner	David Theuring
SP Softball Commissioner	Chris Wodzisz
Rules Commissioner	Jim Erjavec

Field Scheduling	Dave Theuring
IT	Jeff Colton
Photography	Amy Behrman
Sponsors	Troy Seppelt
Training	Troy Seppelt
Trophy	Cindy Hyland
Boys Uniforms	Paul Griffith
Girls Uniforms	Pam Wesley
Equipment	John Darlington
Fall Baseball	Paul Glass
LL Safety Officer	Scott Myers

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

2. League Stats

					MYO Totals:	
					153	1727
Sport	Gender	League	Level	Age	# Teams	# Players
Baseball	Boys	Tee Ball	T1	5	14	137
Baseball	Boys	Tee Ball	T2	6	20	202
Baseball	Boys	Tee Ball			34	339
Baseball	Boys	Minor League	Pony 1	7	16	205
Baseball	Boys	Minor League	Pony 2	8	16	190
Baseball	Boys	Minor League			32	395
Baseball	Boys	Major League	American	9 - 10	16	187
Baseball	Boys	Major League	National	11 - 12	10	116
Baseball	Boys	Major League	Junior	13 - 14	6	66
Baseball	Boys	Major League	Senior	15 - 16	1	15
Baseball	Boys	Major League	Friday Night	9 - 12	4	36
Baseball	Boys	Major League			37	420
Softball	Girls	Slow Pitch	6U	5 & 6	10	97
Softball	Girls	Slow Pitch	8U	7 & 8	9	102
Softball	Girls	Slow Pitch	10U	9 & 10	4	50
Softball	Girls	Slow Pitch	14U	11 - 14	4	48
Softball	Girls	Slow Pitch			27	297
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	8 and Under	7 & 8	3	36
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	10 and Under	9 & 10	9	107
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	12 and Under	11 & 12	5	61
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	14 and Under	13 & 14	4	46
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch	High School	15 - 18	2	26
Softball	Girls	Fast Pitch			23	276

MYO Head Coaches Meeting

- 3. Changes to the MYO Program in 2009** – We have a few changes this year, including our affiliation with Little League International for Major League baseball, the introduction of a Friday Night Pick-Up League for boys ages 9-12, and the addition of 8U Fast Pitch Softball (coach pitch). Also, an Opening Day Celebration and an MYO LL Safety Manual.
- 4. Website (www.masonryouth.org)** - Our By-Laws, 2009 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 we are adding an MYO Calendar Page this year. 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 access to three (3) 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, the infields will be re-graded with a new, better draining soil. We are hoping this work should reduce the number of rainouts. We are also looking to add one on-deck circle to each field at Cottell. In addition, we are looking at the addition of Lightning Detectors at each park.
- 7. 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.
- 8. 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 or games until they have submitted a fully executed medical release form to their Head Coach.
- 9. Rules** – The 2009 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 Major League teams will receive a copy of Little League International's 2009 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 a list of league specific rules from SOGFA.

MYO Head Coaches Meeting

- 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 Major League Head coaches. We would like to build on this program next year to cover all of MYO, and look forward to your input.
- 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 may begin on Friday and Saturday, March 27th – 28th for all teams. However, this should be considered a pre-season practice because fields will not be cleaned up until April 1st and the bathrooms will not be open as well. Games will begin on Friday and Saturday, May 1st – 2nd (some Major 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 18th, 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. A Sunday game 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 June 30th (please note: not all leagues have an end of year tournament). *SPECIAL NOTE – Saturday, April 4th, 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, April 5th at 1:00pm, 2:00pm and 3:00pm respectively.*
- 13. Equipment Pick-Up** - Head Coach (or Designee) is required to pickup equipment on Equipment pickup date Saturday March 14th, 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. Please do not take equipment from field boxes to replace lost/broken/missing equipment from your bag. Once again, send the equipment coordinator an e-mail, and he will get what you need. If taken from the field box, we have no way of knowing that something is missing. Also, please check the screws on the helmet facemasks every few weeks and tighten any loose ones. Please remember to put away all equipment borrowed from the MYO field boxes during a practice or game and close/lock it prior to leaving the field.
- 14. Equipment Drop Off** – 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 games balls will be used as practice balls next year and should be returned, along with the field box key and any unused umpire fees.

MYO Head Coaches Meeting

- 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. Uniforms** - A head coach or designee from each team is required to pick up team uniforms (jerseys and hat for baseball, jersey and visor for softball, shirt and hat for coaches) at Scott's Awards, located at 9044 Cincinnati-Columbus Rd. (Route 42), West Chester, OH (513-777-8456) on or after Saturday, April 11th, 2009. MYO will cover the expense of putting player's name on the back of the uniform shirt at Scott's Awards (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 softball teams can also order coordinating softball shorts and socks directly from Scott's Awards for a fee. In addition, we have other sponsors that are offering discounts for a team's order of baseball pants, socks, belts, etc., so you may want to discuss this option with parents at the very first meeting or practice. You will also receive picture packets and packets of literature from our sponsors, highlighting their businesses. Please distribute all the sponsor literature to team parents, and if a parent is sponsoring your team, please thank them on behalf of MYO.
- 17. Pictures Date – April 24th, 25th and 26th** – Picture packets will be included with the uniform order. This year we are once again having the pictures taken indoors at the Mason Municipal Building off Mason Montgomery Road – rain or shine. Please see the Photography Coordinator at the end of this meeting if you would like to schedule a time slot for your team picture.
- 18. MYO Rainout Number (513) 588-0177** - The MYO rainout number will be used to relay 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 (please use common sense).
- 19. 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 on their behalf.

MYO Head Coaches Meeting

- 20. Coaches Training** – MYO is holding a training clinic for all Baseball and Slow Pitch Softball coaches at Champions Baseball Academy on Sunday, March 22nd, from 7:00-9:00pm. All coaches are highly encouraged to attend, and the clinic should be considered mandatory for all new MYO coaches. The clinic will focus on running a successful practice utilizing basic and advanced drills. MYO Fast Pitch Softball is also holding a training class for Fast Pitch Coaches at Mason Sports Park on March 15th, from 2:00-4:00pm, weather permitting.
- 21. 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.
- 22. 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.
- 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. Keep an eye on the website for updates.
- 24. MYO Opening Day Celebration** – Also new this year will be an opening day celebration tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 26th, 1:00-3:00pm. The main activity is a Pitch, Hit and Run competition, sponsored by Aquafina in affiliation with Major League Baseball. Winners of the local level could advance to a regional competition, then a stadium competition, then a national competition at the 2009 All Star Game. There will also be entertainment and other activities, including possible prizes for full teams that are present.
- 25. Dane Burchett – City of Mason Parks and Rec. Department** – Providing a brief overview of the Mason Parks and Rec. Department.
- 26. League Specific Breakout sessions**
 - Fast Pitch Softball – Room 312
 - Slow Pitch Softball – Room 320
 - All Baseball Leagues – Commons area

MYO 2009 Team Picture Details

- **Team pictures will be taken on:**

Friday, April 24th
Saturday, April 25th
Sunday, April 26th

- **Individual make-ups – (TBD)**

- 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 – Mason Municipal Building (1st and 2nd floor community/class rooms)

- 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
- Amy Behrman, MYO Photography Coordinator, will also e-mail the team picture schedule and related details to all head coaches. Please notify Amy if you have any other questions/concerns - photography@masonryouth.org or 513-754-8883.