

Crystal Lake Babe Ruth Baseball

January, 2012

Baseball 2012 Starts RIGHT NOW!



Important Dates:

Registration	Feb 4 & 11
Manager Orientation	March 8
New Player Try-outs	March 11
13TT & 14TT Try-outs	March 18
Parent Night	April 10
First Aid Clinic	April 12
Picture Night	April 25

Check online calendar at:

www.clbr.org

Sponsorship Opportunities

Available

See Page 2

While we're still a few months away from the first pitch, the 2012 Summer Baseball season is underway! There's a lot of work to get done before that first pitch and it all starts with registration. Two walk in sessions will be held on **February 4 and February 11 at Main Beach** in Crystal Lake from 9am until noon.

Inside this issue you will find everything you need to know about our different divisions, registration dates for the 2012 baseball season, Babe Ruth Tournament teams, tryout dates, and opportunities on how you and your family can become involved with CLBR this summer. All registration forms can be

downloaded at www.clbr.org

CLBR's unique format of mixing different age levels allows varsity high school and college players to join with first year teammates in a fun-filled, learning environment. Our program has more high school players than any other local program and is the only one available to these age groups that gives an opportunity to all players of every skill level. All of our programs and leagues stress fun and learning above winning and losing to create lasting memories and friendships that will last the player and their family a lifetime.

On Line Registration: New This Year!

Go to www.clbr.org and click on where it says Register Players Online - That will take you to a page to choose which league.

The registration fee for this is \$5 more than in person. Players that register online will receive a CLBR OFFER Fundraising card for free (the cost of these is normally \$5 and can save a family hundreds of dollars a year). There is also an additional charge of 5% +\$1 for the use of a credit card and for the use of the system.

Payment is made through PayPal but users do not need a PayPal account to use the online registration.

After registering and payment is made, they will receive a payment confirmation by email. They will also receive an email from the league within a few days with additional information.

Year Round Programs Offered

Since its beginning in 1960, Crystal Lake Babe Ruth has grown from a 5 team summer recreational league to a year round program with over 40 teams and 500 players.

We now offer three levels of competition for players 13 to 18 years of age. The **Prep League** is a great transitional, instructional league only for 13 year old players to let them get used to a larger field and new rules. The **Major League** helps prepare players for the high school level. The **Senior League** allows players to continue their careers in a league setting into their college years.

Fall Ball has been very popular as it gives players a chance to continue playing games almost until the snow flies. We even offer **Winter Workouts** to help players stay in shape and develop their skills in the off-season.

CLBR also has higher-level **Tournament Teams** for the 13, 14, and 15-year-old age groups. These teams offer the most skilled players a place to showcase and improve their skills at some of the best tournaments in the country.

Lippold Park Improvements for 2012

*To volunteer time or
donate materials for
our improvement
projects,*

Contact Jim Sabo at
www.jsabo@clbr.org

What will be new at Lippold Park this year? Crystal Lake Babe Ruth is constantly working at keeping the Mickey Sund Complex at Lippold Park as the best fields in McHenry County.

Recently we removed the old concession stand trailer and will be installing a new larger facility in its place. The new concession stand will be much larger and have upgraded food preparation equipment and refrigeration. Additionally, for the comfort of our volunteers, the new stand will have air conditioning.

Other ongoing projects include dug out roofs, new fencing and new score boards on the Prep fields.

We will also have several other noticeable projects that will improve the playing experience as well as the safety of the fields.

Crystal Lake Babe Ruth and the Crystal Lake Park District are committed to making Lippold Park a better, safer, and more enjoyable experience for all players and fans. This involves a large amount of time and money from local companies, families, volunteers, and others.

All field improvement projects are funded directly by the league. If you can assist or volunteer please contact the board at board@clbr.org

Sponsorship Opportunities for 2012

- v ► **Teams:** 29 summer teams in three divisions.
- **Banners:** Advertise your business on the outfield fence.
- **Score Board Banners:** Multi-year sponsorships available.
- **Donations:** Donate time, supplies or money.

Contact any board member below or check our website www.clbr.org

Babe Ruth 2012 Board of Directors

President	Jim Sabo	jsabo@clbr.org	Player Agent	Marc Sabo	msabo@clbr.org
VP-American	Rick Reilly	rreilly@clbr.org	Player Agent	Justin Banaszynski	jbanaszynski@clbr.org
VP-National	Wes Dallmann	wdallmann@clbr.org	Player Agent	Mike Barber	mbarber@clbr.org
CoVP-Prep	Al Gilson	agilson@clbr.org	Secretary	Susan Zacher	szcher@clbr.org
CoVP-Prep	Steve Brainerd	sbrainerd@clbr.org	Treasurer	Kevin Schroeder	kschroeder@clbr.org
VP-Senior	Mike Faber	mfaber@clbr.org	Board Member	Jim Zacher	jzacher@clbr.org
			Board Member	Mike Chmiel	mchmiel@clbr.org

Additional board member contact information is available on the CLBR website.

Playing Options for 13 Year Olds

First year players in the CLBR who are 13 years old will have a number of playing options. They may participate in the **Prep League, designed for 13 year olds only** to help them transition to the Major League field sizes and rules. They may instead play in the **Major League** where they will play

with 14 and 15 year olds, or they may choose to do **both** (discounted fees are available if you play both leagues). Additionally, for those whose competitive abilities allow, they may tryout for the 13 year old **Tournament Team**.



Prep League, 13 Year Olds Only

- ❖ For 13 year old players only
- ❖ Played on a field with 80 foot bases and 54 foot mound
- ❖ Plays a full league schedule (last season 18 games)
- ❖ Games begin in mid May and continues through the end of July
- ❖ Features an end of season double elimination playoff to determine the City Champion.
- ❖ Major League Baseball playing rules, most notable are leadoffs, steals, balks, pitching limitations, and guaranteed playing time.
- ❖ Each player receives a new batting helmet as part of registration.

Major League, Ages 13, 14, and 15

- ❖ Consists of players 13 to 15. (usually has one to three 13 year olds per team)
- ❖ Returning players in the Major League return to the same team to help build tradition and lasting friendships.
- ❖ League rules closely monitor the age breakdown per team to help keep competitive balance within the League
- ❖ Pitching limitations and guaranteed playing time for all players
- ❖ Continuous batting order
- ❖ Played on a Major League size field with 90 foot bases and 60' 6" mound
- ❖ Features games played at beautiful and historic Veteran Acres
- ❖ Features night games at Lippold Park (Still the only place in Crystal Lake with a full size lighted baseball field)
- ❖ Games begin at the end of May to accommodate any players on local High School teams.
- ❖ Double elimination tournament at the end of the regular season

Senior League, Ages 16, 17, and 18

- ❖ Rosters consist of 14 or 15 players aged 16, 17, and 18
- ❖ Continuous batting order
- ❖ Consistent weekly schedule to accommodate working players
- ❖ Games begin at the end of May to accommodate any players on local High School teams

Prep and Major League
Tryouts
13 year olds and New 14
and 15 Year Old Players

March 11, 2011
11:30am to 7pm

Prairie Ridge
High School

Individual times will be
assigned at registration

13 and 14 Year Old
Tournament Team
Tryouts

March 18, 2011

Prairie Ridge
High School

Tryout information will be
available at registration

Senior League
16, 17, 18 year olds
And
15 Year Old
Tournament Team
Tryouts

TBA

Tournament Teams for ages 13, 14, and 15

- ❖ High-level tournament team at the 15, 14, and 13 year old age groups
- ❖ Players go through a tryout and only the best Babe Ruth players are invited to play
- ❖ Tryouts dates will be announced at registration and will be held for all 3 tournament teams in the spring with all roster spots open. All players must try-out.
- ❖ Teams in the past have traveled to tournaments in Rockford, Chicago, Quad Cities, Indianapolis, Detroit, Orlando, along with many local tournaments.
- ❖ Teams play an additional 15-30 games including various tournaments
- ❖ The team members and sponsors raise funds for the Tournament teams. No League funds are used to support these teams.
- ❖ Players continue to play on their in-house team to share the tournament team training and experience with the rest of the League.



Fall Leagues, 3 age levels: 12, 12-14, and High-School

- ❖ Fall Leagues begin in late-August and continue through mid-October
- ❖ Prep League is for 12-year-olds, plays on a mid-size field and includes instructional clinics
- ❖ Major League is for 14, 13, and 12-year old players on a full size field and features night games
- ❖ Senior High School League is a wood bat league

Winter Workouts

- ❖ Winter Workout is a 3-4 month long program that focuses on many aspects of the game
- ❖ Hitting, pitching, throwing, and base running are stressed in a variety of practices and clinics
- ❖ Workouts begin in November and continue until High School tryouts in March
- ❖ Practices run 1 to 3 times a week and the schedule can be worked around other sports and family obligations
- ❖ We utilize indoor facilities such as Crystal Lake Central High School's field house, Prairie Ridge High School and Player's Choice Academy locations in both Lake in the Hills and Huntley.

Babe Ruth Age Chart

USA Baseball, the governing body over all of amateur baseball, dictates the date that determines a player's age for the 2012 season. A player's **league age** will be determined by his/her age on May 1, 2012. See the chart below to determine your 2012 baseball age.

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth--League age indicated at right												
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	AGE
1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1998	1999	1999	1999	1999	13
1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	1997	1998	1998	1998	1998	14
1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1996	1997	1997	1997	15
1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1995	1996	1996	1996	16
1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1994	1995	1995	1995	17
1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1993	1994	1994	1994	18
1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1993	1993	1993	19

**Saturday
February 4th**

9am until 12 noon

And

**Saturday
February 11th**

9am until 12 noon

**Main Beach
300 Lake Shore Drive
Crystal Lake**

CLBR Registration 2012

Crystal Lake Babe Ruth serves players from 13 to 18 years of age (see 2012 CLBR Age Chart inside.) Our boundaries include all of McHenry County!

Here are some reminders to help you with our summer league registration:

- ❖ You may register on one of these dates: February 4 or 11 at Main Beach in Crystal Lake, or you may register on-line.
- ❖ Registration is for ALL levels of CLBR.
- ❖ Forms can be downloaded and filled out before registration.
- ❖ All new players to Babe Ruth, regardless of age level will need to bring a birth certificate to verify their age and must try-out.
- ❖ The 1st Saturday and early morning are the least crowded times if you choose to register in person.

On registration day **all players** will need to fill out the following: **registration form, emergency medical form, volunteer form, uniform size form and a code of conduct form.** All forms can be downloaded from our website:

www.clbr.org

Some of the information you will need in order to complete the registration process is emergency contact numbers, doctors' names and phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and uniform sizes.

All 13 year olds and new players to the Major League will receive information about tryouts at registration. Tryouts for the Prep league (13's only) will be held on March 11 at Prairie Ridge HS from 11:30am to 7pm. Major league (13's and 14's) tryouts will be held on March 11 at Prairie Ridge HS from 2 to 6 pm.

If you are unable to attend one of the registration days, please visit www.clbr.org to complete the on-line registration.

2012 Registration Fees (per player)*

Prep League** (13 yr old)	\$210
Major League (13-15 yr old)	\$210
13 yr Prep & Major League	\$370
Senior League (16-18 yr old)	\$230

* If additional players from the same family register, they will receive \$15 off registration.

** Each Prep league player receives their own new batting helmet as part of registration.