

HELPFUL HINTS

Initial Call To Players:

- Player must be called and welcomed to the team the first week of March.
- Remind players about Team Announcement Day: date, time, location.
- Urge attendance, first opportunity to meet teammates and coaches.

Coaches Meetings . . . Pre-Team Announcement Day:

- Essential for League President to hold / conduct.
- Cover items “generic” to BBB Inc. such as role, Expectations, Teach, On and Off Field Behavior, Positive Attitude and Interaction with Players.

Sportsmanship:

- Review “Coaching Calendar” and “Coaches Correspondence”.
- Hand out BB Inc. Coaches Handbook (if current year published). Otherwise, do at Team Announcement Day.
- Review / discuss in some detail appropriate League Rules.
- Encourage excellent Communication and Cooperation among / between coaches and assistant coaches . . . AND parents!
- Encourage / hold periodic meetings / breakfasts throughout the year.
- Promote parent participation and assistance.
- Safety discussion-helmet and equipment rules, on deck area.

Coaches Clinic(s):

- Attendance is to be mandatory.
- League Presidents to ensure attendance.
- Clinics arranged by League(s) by appropriate groupings . . . distinguished by age and skill levels.
- Covering items such a Role, Expectation, Teaching, On and Off Field Behavior, Positive Attitude and Interaction with Players, Sportsmanship.

Teaches the right way to teach our youngsters the game of Baseball.

- Team Announcement Day:
- Introduce all players and coaches.
- Identify helpful parents. Get parents first names and phone numbers.

The Raffle:

- Our annual fund raising event.
- Process and prizes are reviewed and tickets distributed in booklets of 25 at Team Announcement Day:
- Incentives are provided to encourage players to sell a minimum of 25 tickets.
- Individual prizes will be awarded for the most tickets sold.
- Teams selling 500 tickets will receive \$50 towards a pizza party.
- Coaches, or a designated parent, are responsible for distribution of tickets, collection of money, and all related record keeping.
- Uniforms cannot be issued to teams until the coach has turned raffle moneys and unsold tickets into the League President.
- This is a good job to delegate.

Equipment:

- Inspect for safety, teach proper use, check after every game, dry out if necessary.
- See League President for replacements and for appropriate sizing.
- Return after season to League President.

Playing Fields:

Brighton Baseball shares the fields with the Brighton School system and Brighton Soccer. Due to this multiple use and due to the usual Rochester spring weather the fields are not always in the best of condition. Coaches are responsible for the safety of the players as well as the quality of the playing experience. To this end the conditions of the playing fields are an important coaching responsibility:

- Provide volunteer help to prepare the field for play before Opening Day:
 - A field day is usually scheduled on a Saturday morning at the end of April.
 - Each coach must supply two volunteers to help with this preparation.
- Ensure that the field is playable before each game:
 - If the field is wet, use “diamond dust“ and the supplied tools to make the surface playable. League Presidents, along with the umpire will determine if the conditions are unsafe to play.

- Notify the Field Committee if there is a problem with the availability of equipment or drying agent for the fields.

Phone Calls:

- Most communication with players will be via phone calls. Handouts will work only if reinforced with phone calls.

A variety of methods for accomplishing this are available:

- The coach / coaches can do all the calling.
- A phone tree can be established.
- A parent volunteer can handle the calling.
- A team list with open columns can be used to double check.
- Leave messages on machines, be brief and concise.
- Make sure your team has your phone number. Welcome calls.
- Get both parents phone numbers and work numbers if necessary.

Signs - Opening Day:

- Coaches must ensure that a team sign is provided for the Opening Day parade and photo session.
- Signs must include the sponsor's name and be easily read.
- Duo-purpose: recognizing sponsors as such, and identifying teams.
- Sponsors may have a banner you use / consult with team or;
- Arrange for sign to be made (posterboard attached to a 1x2 works well).
- This is a good job to delegate to a parent.

Team Photos:

The coach is responsible for getting the complete team to the picture location on time and keeping them in line so the photographer can get the pictures and move on.

- Individual picture requests by the players must be filled out in advance.
- The players should have checks payable to the photographers.
- Have extra forms available.

Fall League:

- Pass out information before season ends.
- 6-8 Week season starts after Labor Day, Major and Minor leagues only.
- Coaches to rank players to select new teams.
- No practices are required. Not as competitive as summer baseball.
- Encourage players to sign up.

- All games are played on Saturday or Sunday - no week night games.

TOURNAMENT TEAMS

Tournament play is a desirable and beneficial phase of Little League activity. It makes possible a normal climax to regular season play and gives the youth of Brighton a chance to round out their careers in the program with new experiences of travel and associations.

Tournament play will begin as of the date noted on the calendar and is concentrated in an area close to home. Teams play and advance until eliminated. Teams can advance through district, section, state, and regional play that will ultimately decide the field for the Little League World Series.

Brighton Baseball will attempt to field these teams for tournament play:

<u>Baseball</u>	<u>Softball</u>
Minors - Ages 9-10	Majors - Ages 10-12
Majors - Ages 11-12	Seniors - Ages 13-15
Juniors - Ages 13-14	
Seniors - Ages 15-16	

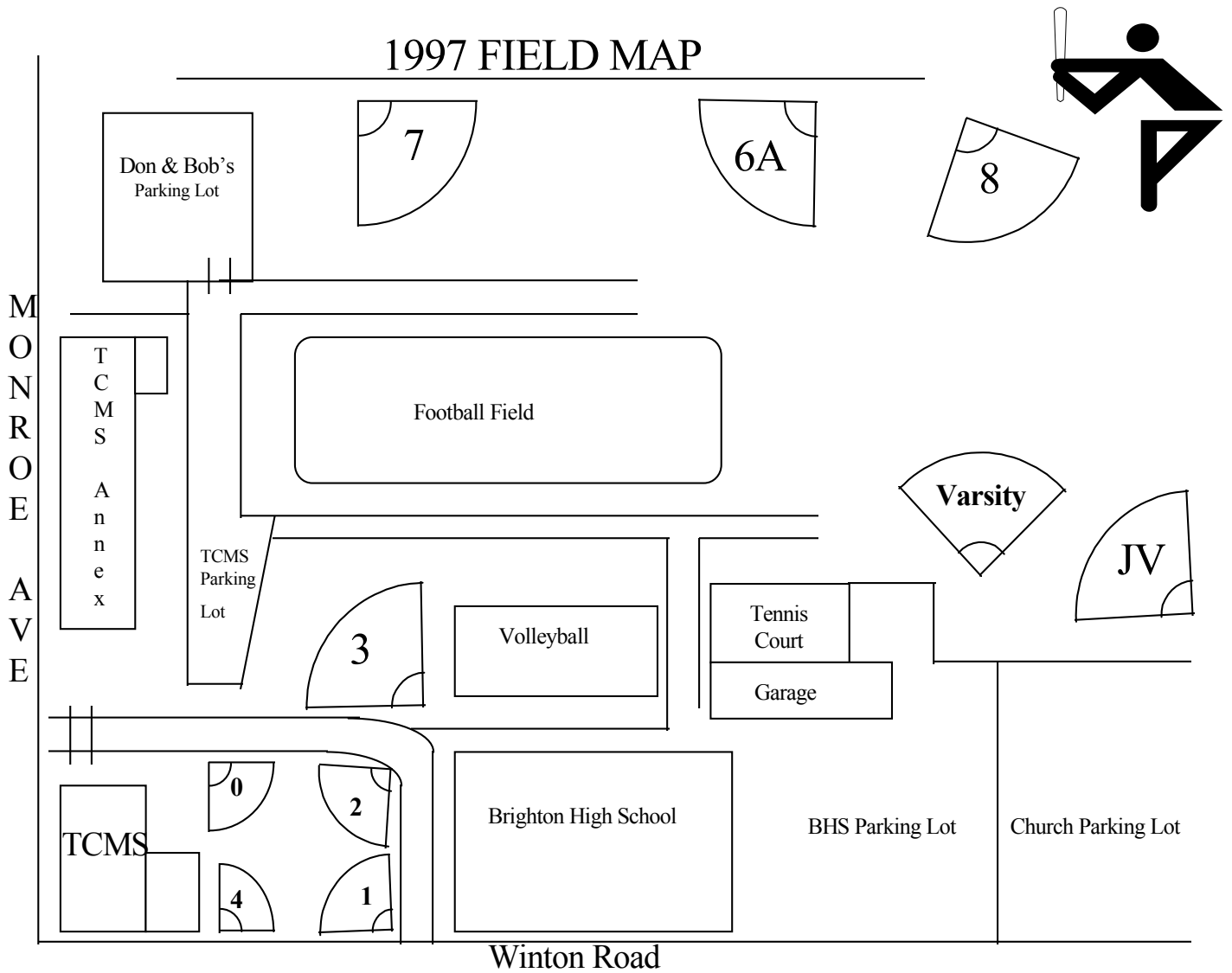
The league's tournament team consists of 14 players who are selected from among all of the teams in the league. Any player who meets the player requirements can try out for the tournament teams.

Playing rules for tournament may vary slightly from those of conventional league competition. For example, a player may pitch in every other tournament game only, and may pitch as many as nine innings in a game.

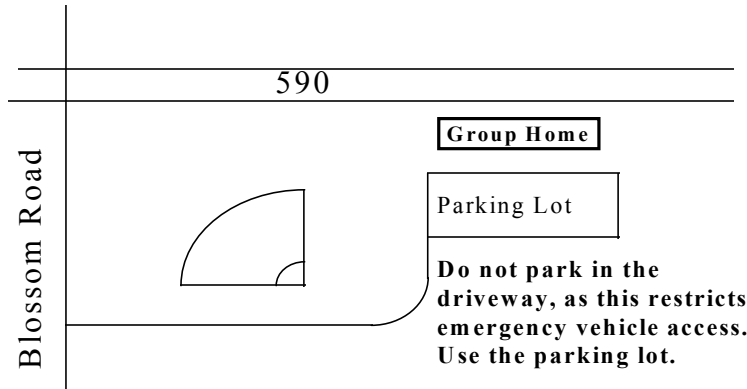
Every team coach in the appropriate leagues should encourage participation in tournament play, especially for those children who were selected as All Stars during the regular season. More information can be obtained from the League Presidents or the Chairman of the Tournament Teams Committee, Rob Wasserman.

FIELD UPDATE

Brighton Baseball has reconfigured a number of fields and will be using new locations this year to accommodate the High School field changes and the renovation of the Twelve Corners Middle School. Brighton Baseball will be playing some games at the Blossom Road Field (just west of I-590) and the Meridian Center Fields. Maps for these fields follow.



Blossom Road Field



Meridian Center

