

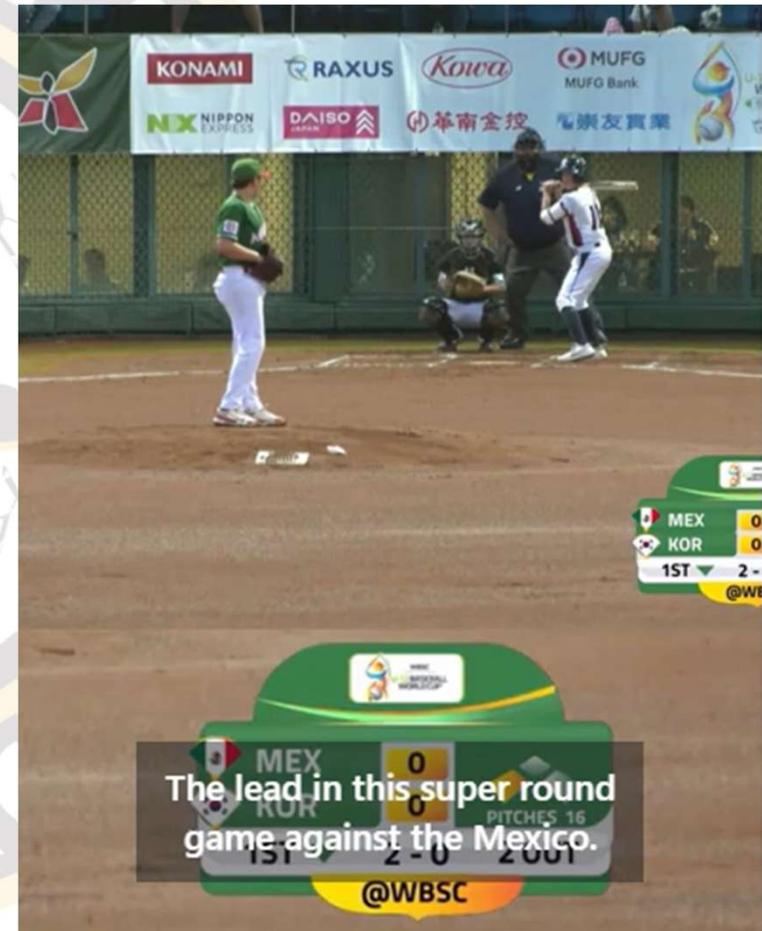
The logo is circular with a yellow border. Inside, the word "ZEELAND" is written in white capital letters along the top arc, and "LITTLE LEAGUE" is written along the bottom arc. In the center, there is a stylized grey and yellow letter "Z" superimposed over a white baseball with grey stitching.

Zeeland Little League Coaches Meeting

February 23, 2026

Approach

- Teach kids how to handle failure/losing
- Teach kids how to handle winning
- Foster environment that kids WANT to be there
- The kid you coach today will be a totally different athlete at 14-18 years old.



Approach

The sign of a great Little League coach won't be found in trophies or wins, but rather the number of kids who sign up to play again the next year... that means their coach created an environment that made the game fun for those kids.

- Darren Fenster

Math

Division	2025	2026
Rookie Ball	55	22
Baseball Tee Ball	123	135
Baseball Coach Pitch	108	118
Baseball Advanced Coach Pitch	103	104
Baseball Single-A	133	92
Baseball AA	99	113
Baseball AAA	80	102
Baseball Majors	84	79
Softball Tee Ball	57	65
Softball Coach Pitch	75	75
Softball Advanced Coach Pitch	0	43
Softball Minors	65	46
Softball Majors	60	58
TOTAL	1042	1052

Administration

- ZPS Background Check
 - Only needed if you have not coached at Zeeland Rec in 25-26
- Concussion Certification
 - Only if you have not coached for Zeeland Rec in school year 2023-2026
- JDP Background Check (email coming later in March)
- Instructions to complete these will be emailed out

Team Sideline



Brandon L

Home Registration Youth Sports Coach Information Officials/Game-Day Staff Resources About Us Sign Up for Text Alerts

ZR ZEELAND RECREATION

Welcome to Zeeland Recreation
Check back for important updates!

SATURDAY 2/21 8:00 AM 6th Grade Boys B6 ZE 3 - Warriors vs HPS - Lakewood Con... BB ZC Gym 1	SATURDAY 2/21 9:00 AM 5th Grade Girls G5 2 vs West Ottawa 1 BB Creek Main 1	SATURDAY 2/21 9:00 AM 5th Grade Girls Hamilton vs G5 3 Ham HS 1	SATURDAY 2/21 9:00 AM 5th Grade Girls HC - Paint A Pot vs West Ottawa 2 Holland West	SATURDAY 2/21 9:00 AM 6th Grade Girls Fennville vs G6 2 CAC #1	SATURDAY 2/21 9:00 AM 6th Grade Girls Hamilton 2 vs HC - SuFISHient Sp... Ham HS 2	SATURDAY 2/21 9:00 AM 6th Grade Girls HPS - Mi Favorita vs Saugatuck Black River	SATURDAY 2/21 9:30 AM 3rd/4th Boys B347 - Hot Shots vs B3418 BB Adams Gym	SATURDAY 2/21 9:30 AM 3rd/4th Boys B341 - Hot Pickles vs B344 - Cinderella Men BB Lincoln Gym
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ZEELAND RECREATION

Team Sideline

- Rosters
- Schedules
- Communication
- Enter scores
- See umpers
- Mobile App



Team Formation

- Slowly eliminated drafts and had ZLL put together teams
- Draft Issues
 - Focus on making the “best” team when the goal is to have them all equal
 - Bias and manipulation of scores during TFP
 - Experienced coaches had advantage over new coaches
 - Coaches draft players earlier than needed to make sure a family member or friend was on team

Team Formation

- For 2026 Season, ZLL plans to put together all teams
- Team Formation Practice information still essential in this
- Fewer coach evaluators needed – coaches can evaluate OR help run drills
 - Would prefer ZLL Members be freed up to do evaluating
- Process for requesting a player for your team will be sent in later email
 - Request is for friends and family, NOT the best player in the league
 - Depending on situation, there is a chance request can't be granted

Team Formation Practice

- Come at your Division time(s)
 - Feel free to help any other divisions you want
- Get evaluation sheet if you want to score players
- Coaches that want to help run drills will be split at stations
- Each player will get a hitting and fielding score
- Players that pitch will get a pitcher score
- Evaluations used for final division placement and teams

A (Group 1) Field

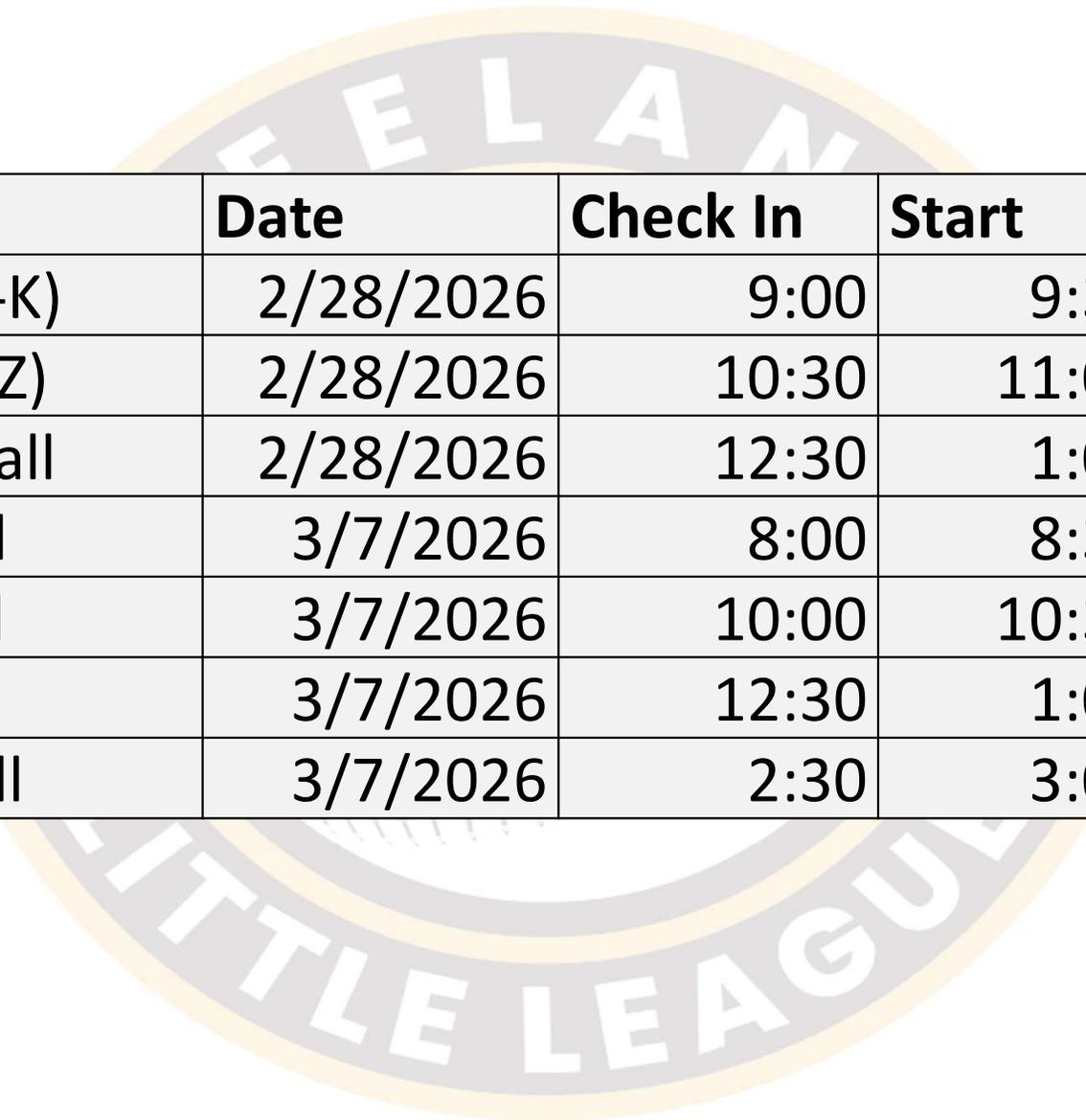
#	Notes	#	Fielding Score (1-10)	#	Notes	#	Pitching Score (1-10)
1		1		1		1	
2		2		2		2	
3		3		3		3	
4		4		4		4	
5		5		5		5	
6		6		6		6	
7		7		7		7	
8		8		8		8	
9		9		9		9	
10		10		10		10	
11		11		11		11	
12		12		12		12	
13		13		13		13	
14		14		14		14	
15		15		15		15	
16		16		16		16	
17		17		17		17	
18		18		18		18	
19		19		19		19	
20		20		20		20	
21		21		21		21	
22		22		22		22	

A (Group 1) Hitting

#	Notes	#	Score (1-10)
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	
21		21	
22		22	

Team Formation Practice

- Players get a bib number as they check in
- Roll Call
- Break kids into groups
- ½ Groups on field, other 1/2 cages
 - Field does fielding and then pitching
- Groups rotate through each station
- One big switch and repeat



Division	Date	Check In	Start	Finish
AA Baseball (A-K)	2/28/2026	9:00	9:30	11:00
AA Baseball (L-Z)	2/28/2026	10:30	11:00	12:30
Single-A Baseball	2/28/2026	12:30	1:00	3:00
Minors Softball	3/7/2026	8:00	8:30	10:30
Majors Softball	3/7/2026	10:00	10:30	12:30
AAA Baseball	3/7/2026	12:30	1:00	3:00
Majors Baseball	3/7/2026	2:30	3:00	5:00

Team Formation

- Email is sent once roster is uploaded into TS
 - I will also email coaches to let you know
- Next step, EMAIL YOUR TEAM
 - I will send a “template email” for you to fill in blanks
- Give them your contact info and preferred contact method
- Verify family contact info
- Ask to give you a heads up on dates they know they will miss
- Set up a snack/drink sign up (or assign a “team parent”)

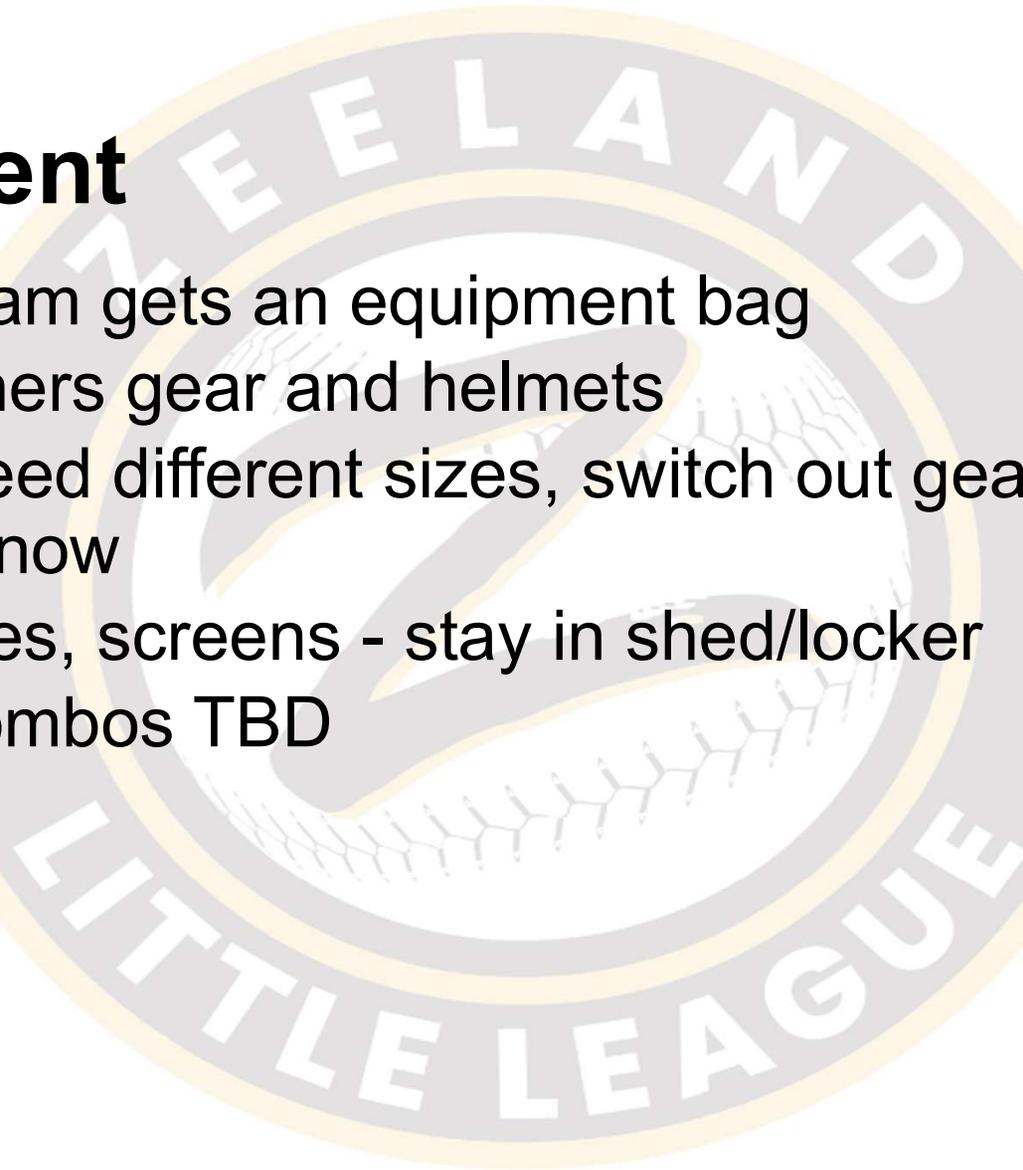
ALL TEAMS ON SITE BY MARCH 13

Equipment

- Each team will get a bucket of practice balls
- Game Balls will come from UMPS
 - They are in the shed, but please let umps bring out
- Used game balls should be split between teams and added to practice bucket after games
- Fields will have less practice balls available

Equipment

- Each team gets an equipment bag
 - Catchers gear and helmets
- If you need different sizes, switch out gear from shed or let me know
- Bats, tees, screens - stay in shed/locker
- Shed combos TBD



Safety

- ZLL Site -> Coaches -> Safety
- First aid kits at each field
- CONCESSIONS DOESN'T HAVE ICE
- Incident report to Zeeland Rec



Uniforms

- Uniform pickup will be at Zeeland Rec in early April
 - Will send email when ready (4/13)
- I will email coaches a roster with sizes
- Names on Shirts?
 - ZLL cannot afford to put names on shirts
 - Multiple companies can do it, just reach out
 - Usually about \$5 per shirt

Rules

- Equal Playing Time



Rules

Equal Playing Time

The information below does NOT pertain to the position of pitcher. More information on pitchers is in the next section.

- All players are in the lineup and hit in every game
- The lineup should be different each game such that players are in a different spots in the lineup throughout the season
 - Coach Pitch and Tee Ball teams change their lineup each inning
- Each player must play a minimum of one inning in an infield position each game
- All players should be on the bench for an inning before any player is on the bench for a second inning
 - The exception to this rule is for a player that is pitching multiple innings, he/she must spend an inning on the bench when done pitching if every other player on the team has already spent an inning on the bench
- Zeeland Little League provides templates for coaches to pre-plan their lineups and field positions for each game in order to fulfill these requirements

Rules

Pitchers and Equal Playing Time

The pitcher is an important position in Little League. The pitcher controls the pace and action of a game. An inexperienced pitcher that is unable to throw strikes can cause a detriment to all players in the game. Although walks are part of the game, excessive walks can lessen the experience for everyone.

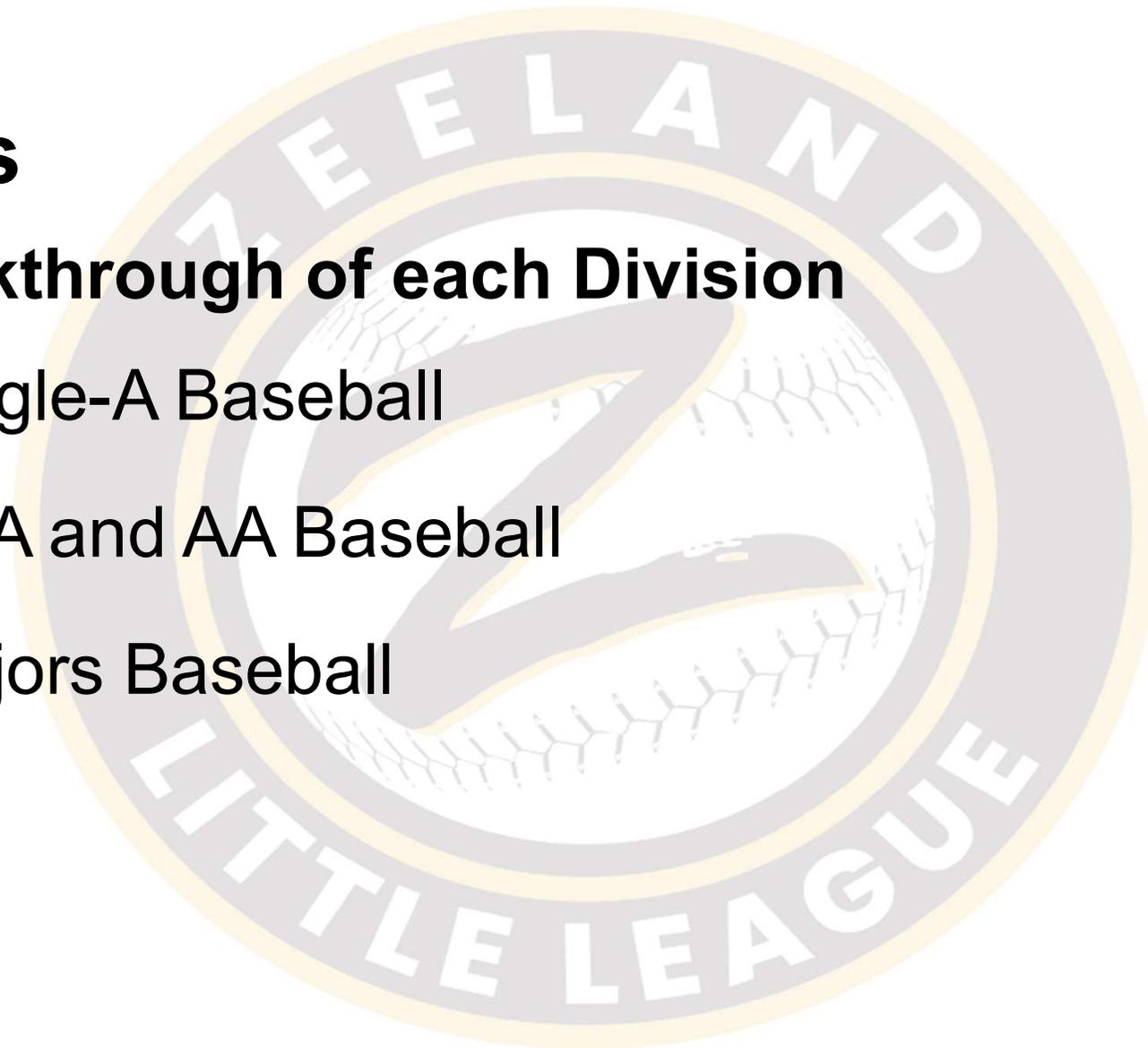
- All pitchers must abide by the pitch count rules set forth by Little League
- The amount of innings pitched through a season will NOT be equal amongst every player on the team that wants to pitch
- Coaches may, and are encouraged to, give more pitching opportunities to players that show more consistency in throwing strikes
- If a pitcher is struggling to throw strikes, coaches may replace the pitcher at their own discretion.
 - We recommend coaches make a change at pitcher after 4 walks in an inning especially for an inexperienced pitcher
- Pitchers that perform better in games will pitch more often than pitchers who are less consistent.

Experience in pitching in games is important for player development, but it cannot be the only time a player that wants to pitch is working on pitching. Players are encouraged to work on pitching at practice and at home.

Rules

Walkthrough of each Division

- Single-A Baseball
- AAA and AA Baseball
- Majors Baseball



Unwritten Rules

- NO intentional walks
- Calling off the dogs
- Manipulating Time



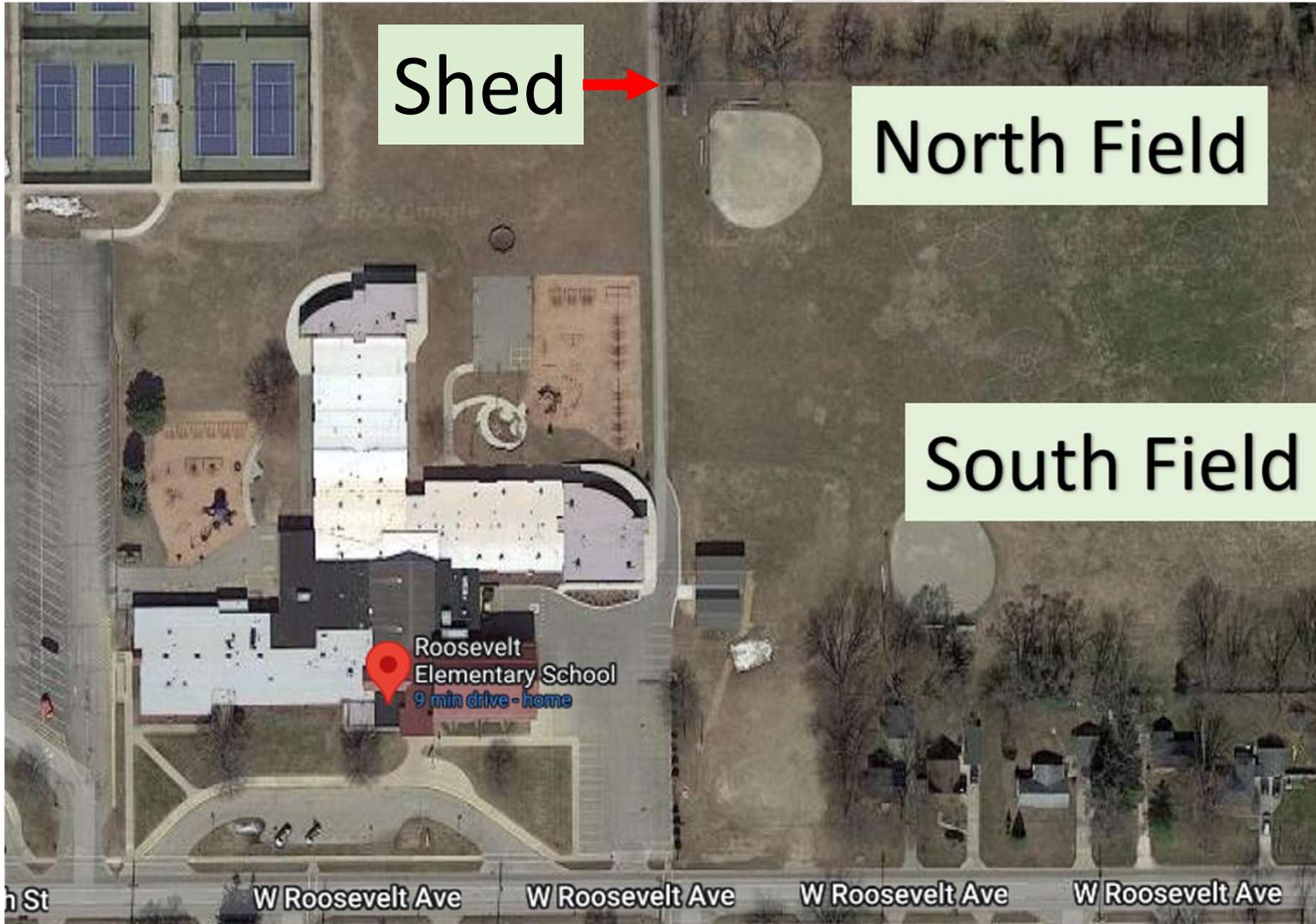
Weather Policy

- ***TRY*** to make decisions by 5:00PM
- Final decision will come from either Brett, Mande, or Brandon via email and app
- If something comes up mid-game = DELAY
 - Be smart and use your best judgement
 - Mid-Practice = you can delay or cancel
 - If you get message from us to cancel, SHUT IT DOWN!
- There is such a thing as too hot
- Weather policy emailed out before practices start

Scheduling



Division	# Teams	Days of the Week	Location
A-Baseball	8	M/Tu/W/Th/F/Sat	Roosevelt
AA-Baseball	10	Tu/Th/F/Sat	Kaat Quincy (practice only) Roosevelt (practice only)
AAA-Baseball	9	Tu/Th/F/Sat	Kaat Quincy (practice only) Roosevelt (practice only)
Majors Baseball	7	M/W	Kaat Quincy (practice only) Roosevelt (practice only)



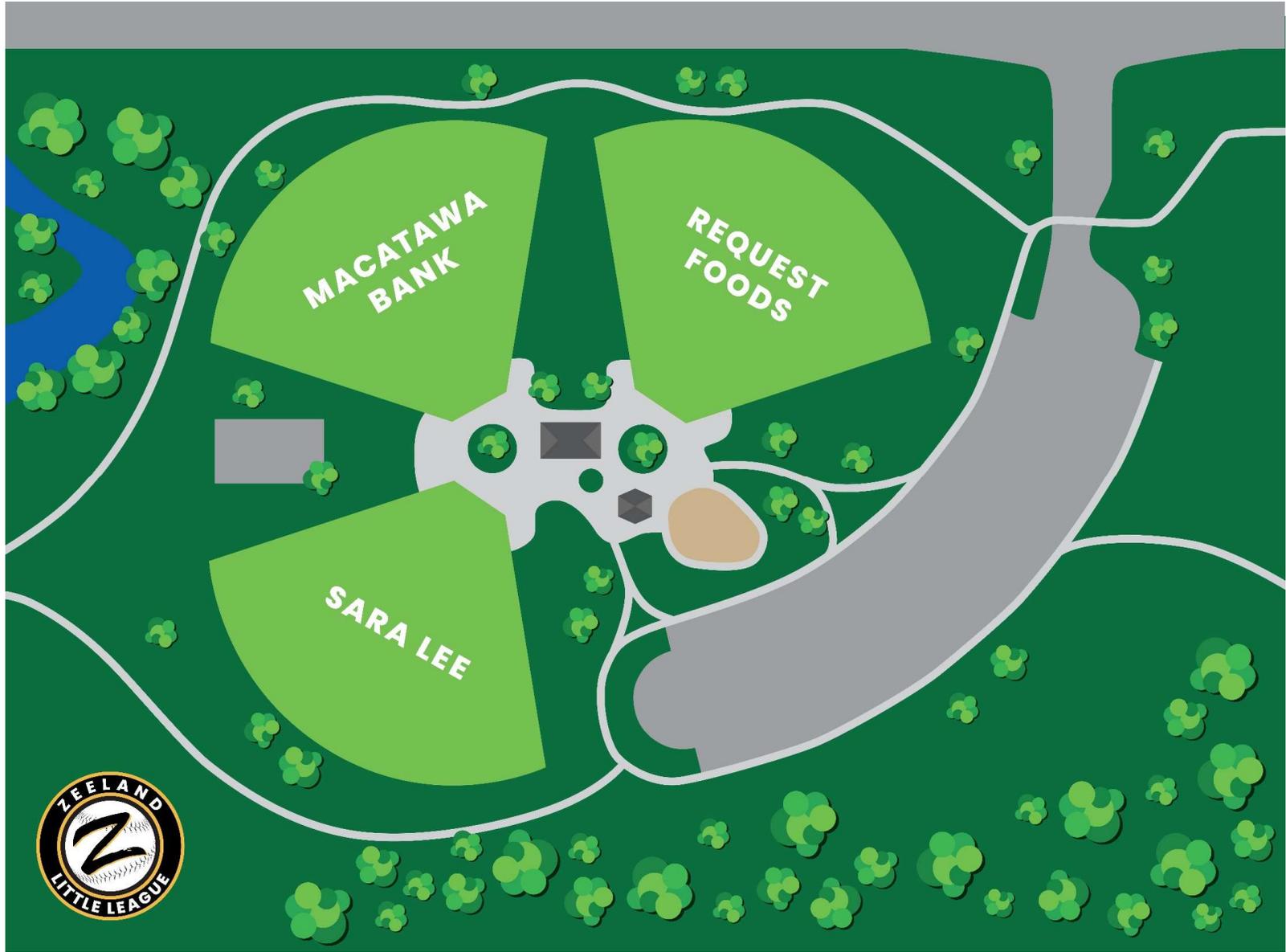
Shed

North Field

South Field

Roosevelt Elementary School
9 min drive - home

h St W Roosevelt Ave W Roosevelt Ave W Roosevelt Ave W Roosevelt Ave



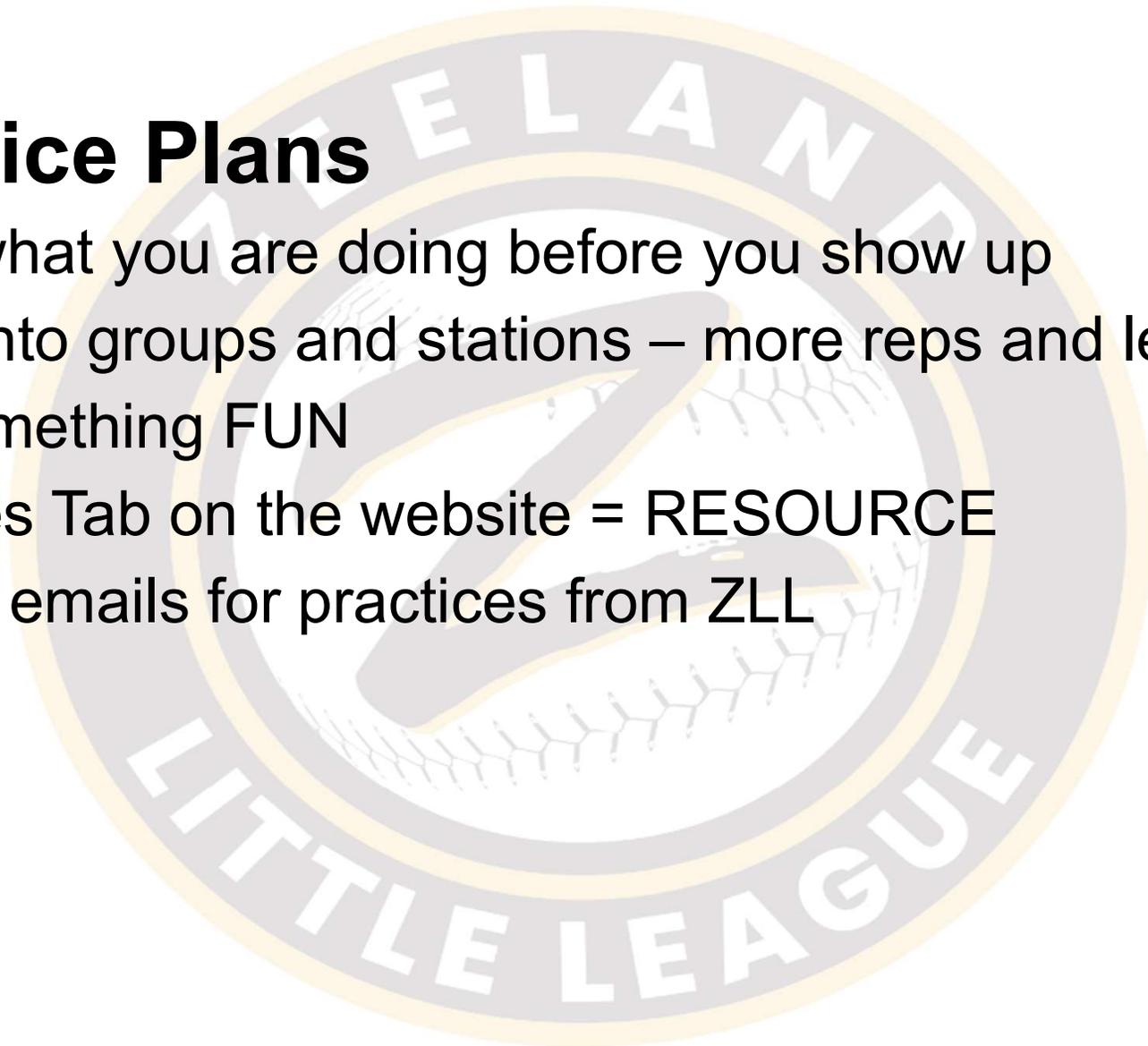


Practices

- Practices are built into schedule
- Start March 23
 - Spring Break week – scheduled but cancel if needed
- Practice blocks are 90 minutes
 - A-Baseball – first practices are 60
- Practice may be scheduled with another team
 - If location is FIELD - team starts on field for 45 minutes
 - If location is CAGE - team starts in cage for 45 minutes
 - Switch halfway
 - Talk with other coaches and adjust if you want
 - Option - Mix in a scrimmage

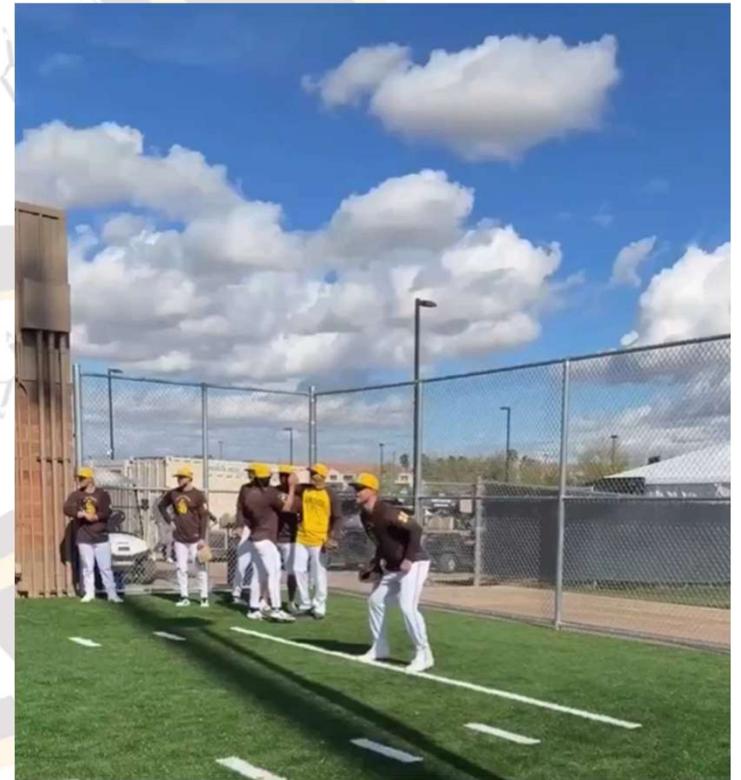
Practice Plans

- Know what you are doing before you show up
- Break into groups and stations – more reps and less waiting
- Add something FUN
- Coaches Tab on the website = RESOURCE
- Weekly emails for practices from ZLL



Practice Recommendations

- First practices – keep it light and get to know the players
- Light pitching work
- Incentives and competitions
keep kids engaged
- Less talk, more action



Adding Practices

- You can request additional Practices
 - We may cancel your practice in order to schedule a makeup game
- Instructions will be emailed and on the TS site
- Start with your “Home Fields”
- If nothing available, contact me and I can give you options
- Saturday afternoons are almost always open

Multi-View

Select Date

	10:00 AM	12:00 PM	02:00 PM	04:00 PM	06:00 PM	08:00 PM	10:00 PM
Adams Ele.					Practice: H& Practice: Li		
CAGE - Request					Practice: Astros		
CAGE Legion					Practice: Peppers		
CAGE Macatawa					Practice: Rays		
CAGE Ray Schaap					Practice: Bandits		
CAGE Sara Lee					Practice: Mets		
Drenthe Park					Practice: Ja Practice: St		
Lawrence Street					Practice: H&		

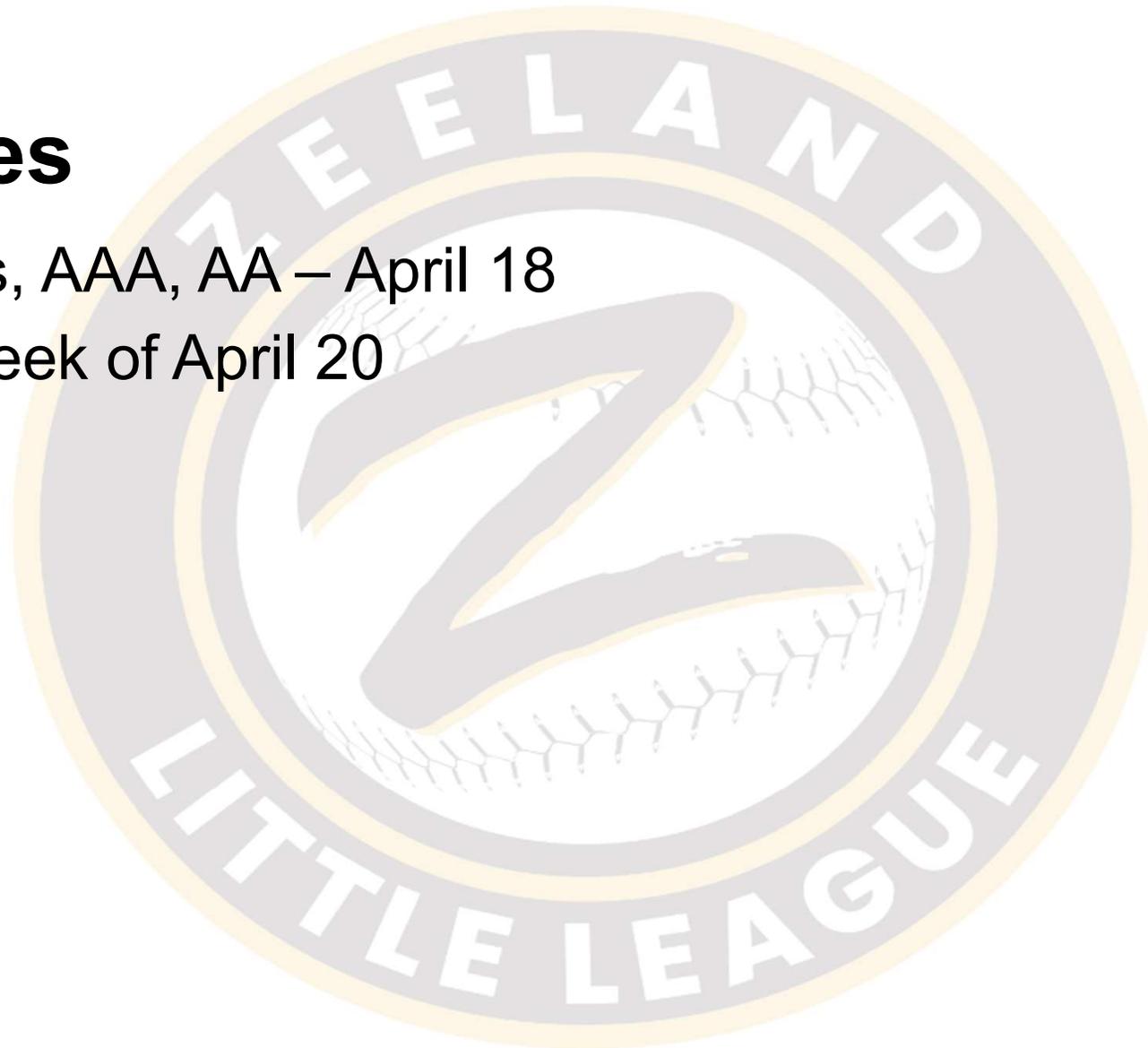
Double-click an orange block to view details

White space is "open"

Orange space is "used".

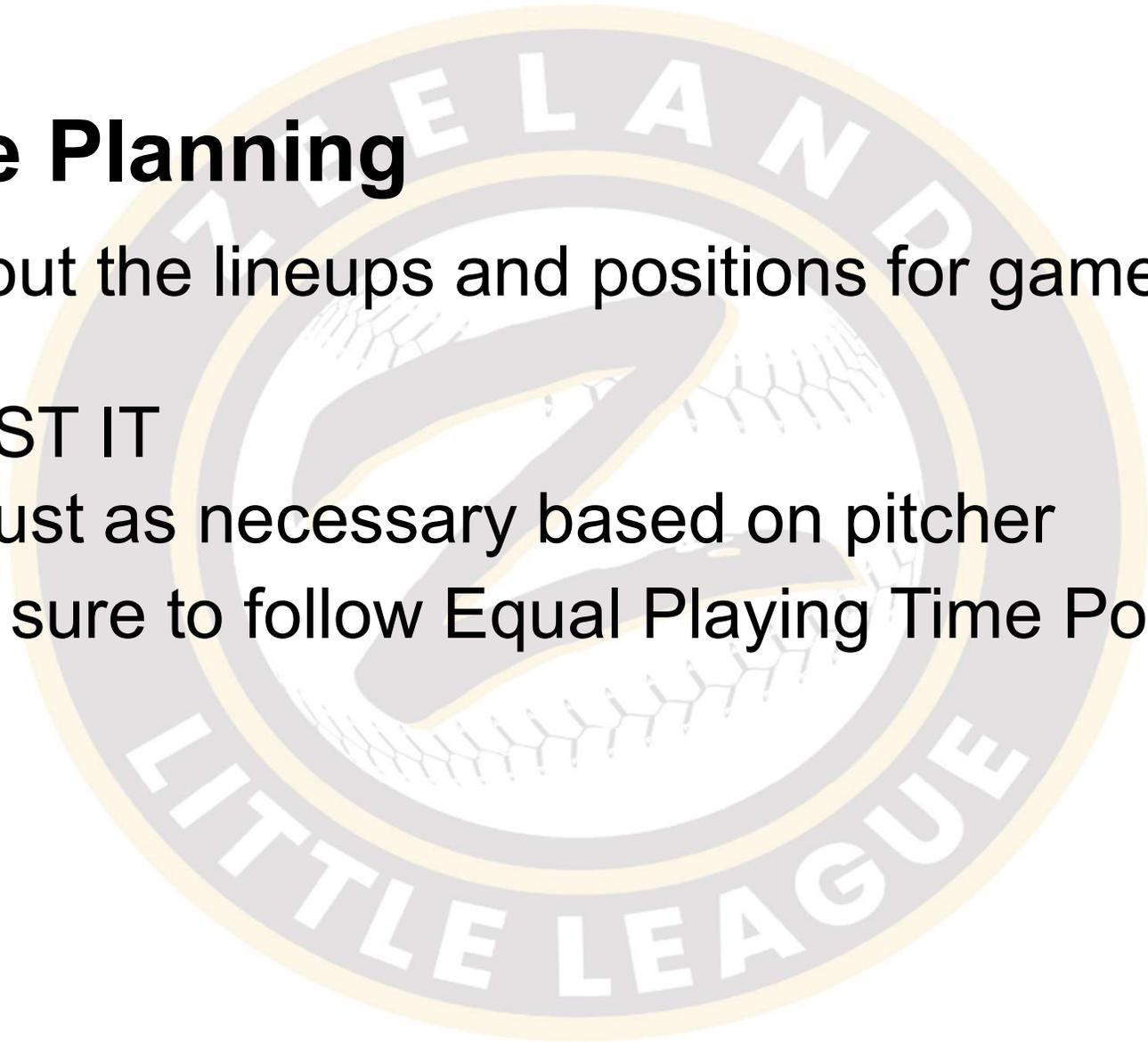
Games

- Majors, AAA, AA – April 18
- A – Week of April 20



Game Planning

- Plan out the lineups and positions for game – ZLL SITE
 - POST IT
 - Adjust as necessary based on pitcher
- Make sure to follow Equal Playing Time Policy



TEAM: _____

ZLL Positional Chart

	Player Name	Inning						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								

Positions:

1B	2B	SS	3B
LF	LCF	RCF	CF
RF	C	P	Bench



TEAM: _____

ZLL Positional Chart

	Player Name	Inning					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Palmer	RF	CF	2B	2B	CF	
2	Ellie	C	C	SS	P	P	
3	Cassie	1B	1B	CF	1B	1B	
4	Oaklie	SS	3B	1B	3B	3B	
5	Natalie	P	2B	C	C	C	
6	Aleah	CF	SS	Bench	SS	SS	
7	Ava	Bench	P	P	LF	2B	
8	Ayla	LF	LF	3B	Bench	LF	
9	Parker	3B	Bench	LF	CF	RF	
10	Clara	2B	RF	RF	RF	Bench	



Positions:

1B	2B	SS	3B
LF	LCF	RCF	CF
RF	C	P	Bench



Pitcher Planning

- Pitchers should NOT be going max pitch count in 1st half
- Keep Pitch Count with Tracking Sheets
 - Know who is available to pitch
- MY PLAN:
 - First 2 games, 1 inning max
 - Next 4 games, 2 inning max
 - Final 4 games, 3 inning max
 - Playoffs, pitch count limits





PITCH COUNT SHEET

_____ vs. _____

Date _____

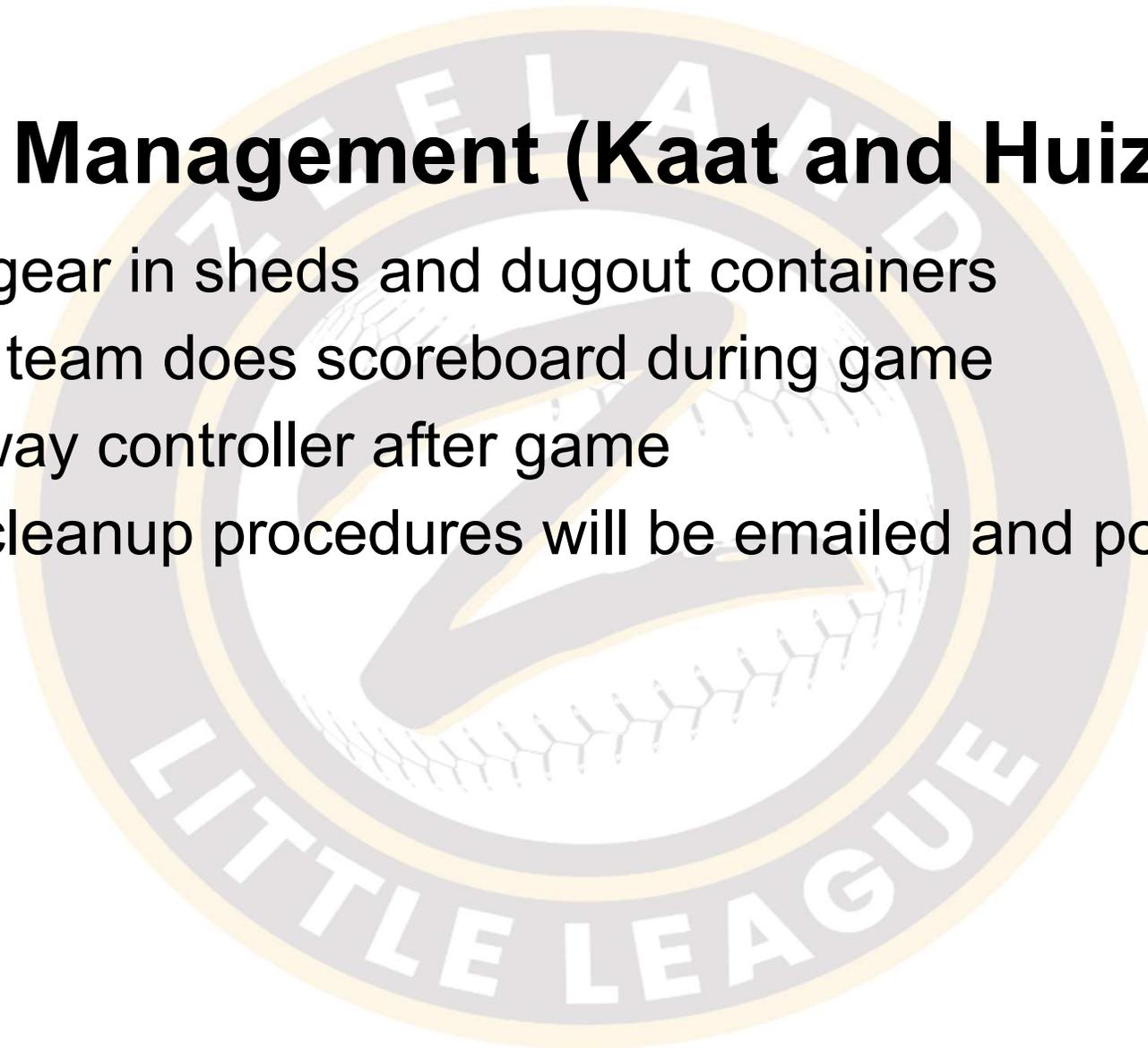
Player Name	Number/Age	Rest	Number of Pitches																			
		NO REST	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		1 DAY REST	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35					
		2 DAYS REST	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50					
		3 DAYS REST	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65					
		4 DAYS REST	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80					
				86	87	88	89	90														

Player Name	Number/Age	Rest	Number of Pitches																			
		NO REST	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		1 DAY REST	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35					
		2 DAYS REST	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50					
		3 DAYS REST	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65					
		4 DAYS REST	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80					
				86	87	88	89	90														



Field Management (Kaat and Huizenga)

- Extra gear in sheds and dugout containers
- Home team does scoreboard during game
- Put away controller after game
- Field cleanup procedures will be emailed and posted

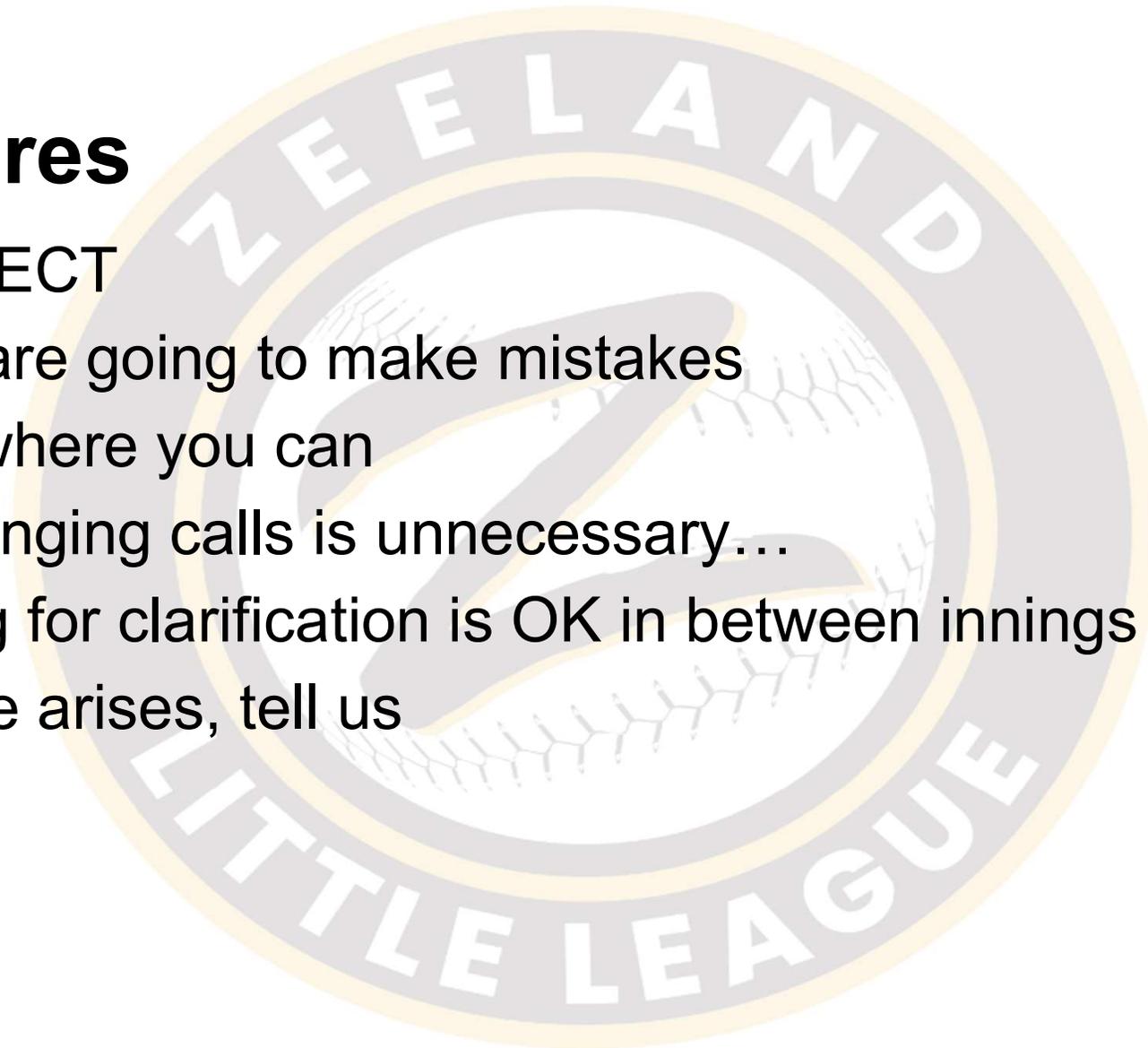


Subs

- Short on players? Get a sub
 - You can play a game with 8 (we do NOT want forfeits)
 - Sub cannot pitch and can only catch if approved by ZLL
- View Sub List under TEAMS tab on website
- Find a player in an equal or lower division not playing
- Start at top of list and work down!
- Reach out if you need help.
- REPORT SUBS to Brandon
 - That way we can move player to bottom of list

Umpires

- RESPECT
- They are going to make mistakes
- Help where you can
- Challenging calls is unnecessary...
- Asking for clarification is OK in between innings
- If issue arises, tell us



Umpires

- If no-show...
 - Check for POOL UMP
 - Check other fields...if they have 2 get 1 for you
 - Call Brandon
- If we know you will have 1 or 0 ump before game, we will let you know
- You can also see who is umpiring on the schedule!
- **Please report any umpire no-show**

Kaat Day and Gentex Games

- For all divisions present
- Players vote for teammates to represent their team
 - I will email a voting form in May with a deadline
- Teams are formed like a traditional MLB All Star Game
- Games are scheduled in early June (day/time TBD)
- Allowing coaches to use more discretion for last pick

Post Season Games

- Single-A Baseball – no “postseason” but last game at Kaat
- AA and AAA Baseball – Tournament with 2 games guaranteed
- Majors Baseball – Tournament with Holland LL?



All-Stars

- Tryouts to be announced
 - 12U, 11U, 10U
- All coaches invited (encouraged) to attend and evaluate
- Use what you saw during season and at tryout to rank players
- Rankings are put together and create All-Star team
- Manager Applications by May 1

Extra Coaches

- OK to ask parents to help at practice and games as long as ZLL Coach is present
- If someone else wants to help be a COACH, they must sign up on the coaching form
- Should never have a situation that someone is running a practice or game and NOT a signed up ZLL Coach



**THE TEAMS
(as of now)**

Baseball

A



Team	Coach	Coach	Coach
1	Doug Hearit	Adam Pittman	Ryan Hansen
2	Dustin LaButte	Aaron Huizenga	
3	Brett Geertsma	Cody Stewart	
4	Clayton Sommers	Jesse Bazan	
5	Steve Rice	Brad Van Hoven	
6	RJ Vandermate	Matt Tibbe	
7	Keith Chandler	Andrew Carr	
8	Steve Oele	Sean Dobberstein	Jonathan Jordan

Baseball

AA



Team	Coach	Coach	Coach	Coach
1	Tyler Huizenga	Lucas Fantin	Bob Driesenga	
2	Shannon Zoerhof	Tyler Zoerhof	Adam Hopkins	Zach VanSetters
3	Krystyna Delfgauw	Ryan Krusell	Luis Gomez	
4	Gage Westhouse	Kevin Kloosterman	Maxwell Nykerk	
5	Nathan Mulder	Jordan Hanges		
6	Dan Zomerlei	Zachary Tamminga		
7	Vincent Doyle	Curtis Redder	Colin Craig	
8	Jeff Hofman	Mike Lucas	Dave Hoeker	
9	Mitch Cook	Michael Bennett		
10	Josh DeJong	Ryan Golembiewski	Brian Cochran	

Baseball

AAA



Team	Coach	Coach	Coach	Coach	Coach
1	Brandon LaRosa	Karen LaRosa			
2	Dave Duimstra	Joe Baillargeon	Mitch Scholten		
3	Josh Musser	Dave Abberger	Joel Walters		
4	Joseph Ulberg	Robert Diller			
5	chad whitehouse	Dustin Nienhuis	Micah Schreur		
6	Stan Syrek	Wyatt Tooker	Adam Hopkins	Eric Boersma	Joshua Dalman-Hoeve
7	Jon Klunder	Jordan Sligh	Sam Mehrtens		
8	Mike Amaya	Randy Schafer	Chris Zoerhof	Bob Raven	
9	Brian Cochran	David Klyn	Brooke Smeckert		
10	Adam Glupker	Tim Nelson	Brendan Volkers		

Baseball

Majors



Team	Coach	Coach	Coach
1	Jared Fantin	Mitch Scholten	Nick VanHuis
2	Bryce Huffman	Bret Wilstead	
3	Dustin VanderTuin	Sid VanderTuin	
4	Alan Doornbos	Aaron Gruppen	Nate VandeGuchte
5	Joe Baillargeon	Dan Zomerlei	Dave Duimstra
6	Gage Westhouse	Bob Driesenga Jr	Stephanie Huizinga
7	Bill Machiele	Joe Windsor	Brent Scholten



THANK YOU

PLEASE PUT THE CHAIRS AWAY

Head to Cityside Gym