



Licking Heights Youth Association

WHATS NEW FOR SOFTBALL IN 2010

LHYA Members,

Welcome to the 2010 LHYA softball season! I am pleased to announce some exciting news and additions to our softball program.

The LHYA has renewed our lease of Foundation Park with the City of Pataskala and the Parks and Recreation Board for our 2010 season. Foundation Park is a three diamond facility with full concession area, shelter house, restrooms, and playground area. The LHYA would like to thank the City of Pataskala and the Parks Board for once again allowing us this wonderful opportunity. We look forward to offering our programs to not only the Licking Heights and Watkins school districts but our neighboring communities.

In an effort to support the development of the softball players in our community we have extended our programs to offer more divisions for 2010. New this season, we will be offering girls 6U tee ball, 14U COGFP softball, 16U tournament softball, and The Challenger Softball division.

Our new girls tee ball is in an effort to better prepare our young ladies making the jump from tee ball to softball. This new division will be played very similar to the existing tee ball rules, only with a softball and an emphasis on softball fundamentals. This will be a self contained division requiring a minimum of four teams.

The new 14U division is an additional 14U option for this season. In 2009 our 14U ladies only had the opportunity to play on a select try-out team. This new division of 14U will play in the COGFP recreational league and will be open to all young ladies under the age of 14 as of January 1st. This is a great opportunity for players wanting to continue on with competitive play without the cost of select softball.

For the first time ever the LHYA has included a 16U division. This division is designed to give our high school players an option to continue their softball endeavor at the conclusion of their school season. This is an opportunity for those wanting to improve their softball skills and continue play throughout the summer. The 16U division will be a tournament travel team playing in several tournaments in the greater Columbus area.

We are very proud to announce the start of the Challenger Softball Program in association with the LHYA. This is a *coed* program designed for youth ages 4-18 who are intellectually, developmentally, or physically disabled. Challenger softball is open to all regardless of their disability. Play in this division will be a "buddy ball" system; a "buddy" is designated to each player on the field to help during practices and games, should one be needed. Even if a child is physically able to throw or catch a ball, all are encouraged to play, their "buddy" is there to help. It's all about the experience of being on the field and part of a team. A "buddy" may be a softball or baseball player from our other divisions, a coach, parent, family member, or a volunteer member of our community. The Challenger Program is a self contained league that will be starting play on Sunday afternoons in June. Look for upcoming news and information regarding registrations for this program soon.

I look forward to an exciting season and hope to see you all at the field! As always please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at Director-Softball@lhya-sports.org.

Yours in Softball,

Courtney Reams
Director of Softball
Licking Heights Youth Association