

USABL Fall 2015



This meeting will serve as a forum to organize and plan for the operation of a successful Fall program. It is an opportunity for the league to express its ideas and concepts for the upcoming season as well hear suggestions from its members.

The purpose of the USABL is to operate a league with structure and organization toward the primary goal of providing its members with a level playing field based on skill level and limited travel. The USABL is totally committed to getting players prepared to play at the next level and beyond!

With all of the different baseball opportunities offered today, choices can be confusing. One of our biggest priorities is to make sure you are playing more than just a season of scrimmages. The objective is providing competitive play with a division champion to be awarded at the end of the season.

Team age is the same as it was in the Spring. We do not call the age groups by the next age or new age until Spring 2015. *Example: If your team was 11U in the Spring or Summer you will remain 11U in the Fall.*

USABL offers the following age groups: 7, 8, 9, 10 46/60, 10 50/70, 11 50/70, 12U 50/70 12 60/90, 13U, 14U, 15/16, 18U and 18 & Over.

Thanks for coming and we look forward to another great Fall Season!

League Contacts:

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- **Divisions:**
Teams will be placed in divisions based on location and strength of team (rating & prior team history). Typically there is an American Division, Central Division, & National Division. For larger divisions there will also be a Continental Division.
- **Schedule:**
 - 9 Regular Season Games + 1 Guaranteed Playoff Game
 - 7U – 13U – Saturdays Only
 - 14/15 & 15/16 will have their choice of Saturday or Sunday
 - 18U will play on Sunday.
 - Regular Season will be over 7 weeks.
 - This means two double headers for many divisions.
 - Some of the weaker divisions we will go with 1 double header and may ask for one weekend to be Saturday & Sunday vs. the same opponent. If that is an issue you can turn it into a DH.
- **Regular Season Dates (Saturday Program):**
 - 9/12, 9/19, 9/26, 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24,
- **Potential Playoff Dates:** (Will depend on your division/age group)
 - 10/31, 11/1, 11/7, 11/8
- **Double Header:**
All divisions will be scheduled for at least 1-2 double header. We will not know your double-header date until we begin to formulate the schedule towards the end of March. We need to consider field availability and umpire availability when scheduling double headers. If you cannot play on a certain date let us know in advance so we can at the very least try to avoid a DH
- **Playoffs:**
Game #10 for all teams will be a seeded playoff game. The entire playoffs will be a single elimination event. Your team will continue to play until they receive a loss. We play down until there is a divisional champion (i.e. American East Champion)
- **League Fee:**
 - 7U Team Fee -- \$1000
 - 8U-12U Fee -- \$1370 team fee (unlimited roster)
 - 13/14 – 15/16 -- \$1395 team fee (unlimited roster)
 - 18U (16/18) = team fee of \$1485
 - Cerbo = Contact us for pricing
- **What does the USABL league cover?**
 - We set the divisions based on skill level and location
 - Create each individual team's schedule
 - Assign and pay independent umpires weekly
 - Distribute League Baseballs
 - Provide insurance
 - Stay on-call during game time to field any problems that may arise all while continuously updating the website with baseball news, scores and standings (typically less than 24 hours of the game being played). With over 400 games being played every weekend, you can imagine how much time and effort goes into each 10-game season.

- **What are teams responsible for?**
 - Getting a home field if possible
 - Uniforms and equipment
 - Outside of those two things you just show up & play!
- **Home Field:**
 - All teams should try to secure a home field. A home field however is not required for entrance into the program. Teams with a home field will have more games scheduled at their field and will probably have less travel.
- **Rules:** Located on the website and in the scorebook.
- **Website:** USABL.COM
- **Online Registration/Roster:**

All teams (parents) will now be required to fill out the online player registration this season. The only thing that will be published on the website is the players name and date registered.
- **Rating:**
 - **1 Rating:** You should have a very weak team. There should be very few 1 rated teams. 1 rated teams would be “C” level teams, which can be compared to rec teams.
 - **2 Rating:** You should be a weaker “B” level team or a stronger “C” level team. If you have one pitcher that is decent, it could bring your team from a 2 to a 3 or 4 rated team.
 - **3 Rating:** You are a “B” level team. If you are not a “B” level team, you should be a 4 or 5 rated team. No “A” level teams should be a 3 rating unless you are a *very* weak All-Star Caliber team.
 - **4 Rating:** You are an “A” level team. You have an All-Star Caliber team.
 - **5 Rating:** You are a strong “A” level team and can challenge any team with confidence.
- **Insurance:**
 - The insurance will cover the players, coaches and umpires. It is a accident policy & two million-dollar liability policy. You will have liability coverage and an accident policy, in case of injury. The league does not offer primary health insurance coverage.
 - This insurance is for our program only. You cannot transfer the insurance policy to any other league or tournament. We are not an broker.
 - Injured players must first go to their insurance carrier for compensation. Out of pocket expenses will then be paid by our carrier. Coaches must report injuries as soon as possible to the league office. Coaches and or the injured player’s parents will be E-mailed claim forms to complete. These forms must be completed and then sent to the league for presentation to the carrier.
- **No Guest Player Policy:**

Please note that the USABL does not have a guest player policy. You may however add players at anytime during the regular season. Players added must still complete the online registration form and pay the league fee unless your team already paid the team fee. When a team pays the team fee they will

not have to pay an additional league fee to add players. All added players must still qualify for the play-offs (5 games or 21 innings)

- **Estimated Timeline:**

- **August 12th:** Process all teams
- **August 13th-20th:** Make sure all teams registered will have a team.
- **August 21st – 24th:** Analyze all teams ratings, prior team history, and locations. Divisions are not simply done on rating alone. A great deal of time and effort goes into analyzing this information to formulate proper divisions.
- **August 23rd -25rd :** Divisions will be posted. It is possible some age groups may be posted earlier. Teams will receive an e-mail when your division is posted. Additionally teams will receive a 2nd e-mail when they will be able to pick up baseballs from Athletes Alley.
- **August 24rd – 26th:** As divisions are being posted we need to leave time to manipulate the divisions as needed. What we do not want to do is begin the schedule and post it then have a team move, drop out etc. and have to recall schedule a bunch of times. We will also formulate your division's manager contact list to be used for USABL game communication only. This list should not be used to solicit teams for events and tournaments. If you receive solicitation e-mail from one of our teams let me know so we can control it. We have received complaints in the past that teams have used their team list for other purposes.
- **August 26th – 31st:** We will be working around the clock to get you the entire schedule. Along with making sure all teams are doing the online player waivers. The first schedule will be released via e-mail, then shortly after it will be uploaded to the website.
- **August 31st – September 11th:** We will not only be working around the clock to fine tune the entire schedule posted on the website for every age group/division, we will be making sure everything is set for opening day (umpires, fields, times, all rosters uploaded in etc.)
- **September 12th – Opening Day!**

- **Special Request:**

We have an overwhelming amount of scheduling and special request. We will try our best to accommodate all teams special request. Some special request may take some legwork from you to work it out with your opponents. For example if Team A request AM games and Team B (the home team) can only get their field permit for PM games something needs to give to get the game played. Furthermore in some cases coaches and players that coach or play on multiple teams/sports may have to choose in some cases. Please remember it is about getting the games played. Rescheduling because of one player or coach should never be a factor. Another common request that can make scheduling very difficult is to keep certain teams home on the same date either because of sharing players, coaches, or so the snack stand can be utilized to its full potential.

Keep in mind USABL needs to make sure all teams have the proper amount of games scheduled, proper amount of home games, and when you play a opponent twice we have to make sure you are home/away once. If you have more then one cross over game we have to make sure you play a different cross over opponent each game. We will try our best to accommodate all special requests, but sometimes it may not be possible to work out considering the above logistics.

Important League Reminders & Information:

- Once paid in full you will be able to pick up baseballs from Athletes Alley, 483 Broad Street, Shrewsbury, NJ 07702. Please be prepared to give Athletes Alley your team name, age group, and manager's name for them to release baseballs.
- It is the winning team's responsibility to report the score after the game. Preferably e-mail the scores.
- It is the home team's responsibility to cancel the game in case of rain. That means getting in touch with the other team and with the USABL office to cancel umpires.
- Each team shall supply two baseballs each. If more are needed it is the home teams responsibility.
- If for some reason the umpires are late or do not show please send an e-mail or call the office. Please check the parking lot before calling.
- All game time or field changes must be made by Wednesday night. Any change that comes after Wednesday night we cannot guarantee umpires.
- In case of rainout, cancellation, or any other conflict please get together with the other coach to see what date and time can work to make the game up. Also note we are more than willing to be the middleman on trying to reschedule a make up but most of the time things go smoother and faster if you reach out to the other team directly.
 - If the game is canceled for whatever reason please let us know so we can cancel umpires and update the schedule.
- You will receive 1 point for a loss, 2 for a tie and 3 for a win.
- Please check the schedule every week before your game to make sure everyone is on the same page and nothing has changed (home field, time etc.). It is also encouraged to reach out to your opponent before every game to make sure everyone is on the same page.
- Please remember to carry a set of the USABL rules with you at all time. This way if there is a rules conflict with the other team or umpire it can be solved on the spot at the field.
- If you cancel a scheduled game for any other reason other than field conditions you put the league and the other team in a bad spot. It is up to your team to work around your opponent's availability to get the game rescheduled. Once you get the game rescheduled please contact us so we can update the schedule and get umpires.
- You cannot change divisions once the first game is posted
- Please remember to include your age group and team name in e-mails.

- Please have all registration forms, rosters e-mailed, and registration fees paid by August 15th

Age Groups

****We use your Spring 2015 age in the Fall. Whatever age you were in the Spring you remain for the Fall.****

Special Age Group Notes:

- 13U you are allowed two league age 14's on your roster
- 14U you are allowed two league age 15's on your roster
- 15/16 is really 16U. However most teams are 15U teams. Any team with majority 16's usually plays in the 16/18 programs unless it is an extremely weak team.

USABL Fall Leagues

- **7U, 8U, 9U, 10U 46/60, 10U 50/70, 11U 50/70, 12 50/70, 12U 60/90 13U, 14U, 15/16 Saturday Leagues.**
 - 9 regular season + 1 guaranteed playoff game
 - This is what 90% of our teams are registered for.
- **14/15, 15/16, 16/18 and 18 & Over Sunday League**
 - 9 regular season + 1 guaranteed playoff game
 - 14/15 & 15/16 have their choice to play Saturday or Sunday.
- **16U Elite and 18U Elite Wood Bat -- Invite Only Leagues -- Sunday Double Headers**
 - 12 game season
- **10U 50/70, 11U 50/70, 12U 60/90, 13/14, 14u Double Header League**
 - 5 double headers short season.

7U Age Group Fall 2015

USABL is again putting on our 7U Fall program. This will be our 6th season offering the 7U Fall Program. It has been a huge hit and for this Fall we have been getting a tremendous amount of interest from teams all over the State since we are the only program to successfully offer a Fall 7U Program.

The 7U program is used to ease kids into competitive travel baseball by building experience so they are more prepared for more competitive play at the 8U and 9U level. 7U teams will be placed in a division based on location and rating when possible.

We have modified the pitching rules for the 7U program. The first 2 and last 2 innings will be coach pitch while the 3rd and 4th inning will be player pitch.

Where are the teams located?

We have teams ranging from as far North as Wayne, NJ as far west as Bucks County PA and as far south as Barnegat, NJ. We put teams in divisions based on your teams location at the 7U level. We try to keep the travel to 30 minutes or less for your away games.

- Games are on Saturdays only.
- 1 umpire in the field
- Team fee is \$1000 (includes baseballs, umpire, and insurance)
- Half the games are at your home field and half at your opponents home field.
- The first 2 and last 2 innings will be coach pitch while the 3rd and 4th inning will be player pitch
- It is a 9 game regular season + at least 1 playoff game (all teams make the playoffs)
- All players must be 7 years old or younger on 4/30/2015. It is possible they turn 8 on or after 5/1/2015.
- Direct link to the 7u rules: <http://usabl.com/usabl/rules/#bottom>

Any questions or interest please e-mail brian@usabl.com

USABL Sanctioned Tournament

****These below tournaments do not conflict with the USABL season.**

Tournament Highlights

- **Labor Day Classic**

- 130+ teams as of 8/4
- Multiple Skill Levels
- North Brunswick Community Park (Newly Renovated Complex)
- Manalapan Rec (Professionally maintained fields)
- Labor Day Weekend



- **1-Day Columbus Day Bash**

- Already 60 teams registered
- Does not conflict with USABL season.
- Multiple Skill Levels
- Marlboro LL
- 7U – 13U – Sunday, 10/11
- 14U – 15/16 – Saturday 10/10



- **1-Day Frazier Halloween Havoc**

- Tournament does not conflict with USABL season.
- Multiple Skill Levels
- Toms River East LL and Toms River Varsity School Fields
- 7U – 13U – Sunday, 10/18
- 14U – 18U – Saturday 10/17



To hold a spot for any of these tournaments or events please e-mail
bschif@usabl.com