

League Parents:

It is with great excitement that we announce a strategic partnership between Westgate Hills Baseball/Softball and Brookline Baseball & Softball for the 2015 season. This partnership will provide a better experience for the players in both leagues. There will be more teams playing at each age-level, and kids in both leagues will have the opportunity to play on a wider array of well-maintained fields in Havertown. We are also pleased to announce the plan, to be implemented after the close of the 2015 season, for our two leagues to merge into a unified league. After careful consideration it was decided that the new unified league would retain the name of Brookline Baseball & Softball, as a means to simplify logistics and administration by assuming the name of the currently larger league. The Westgate Hills name will live on in perpetuity as a Division along with a Brookline Division where the younger children in our Tee-ball, Farm, and Rookie Leagues will continue to practice and play at their respective neighborhood fields. All other divisions in the new league will have access to all league fields - Police Fields, Genthert Field, Westgate Park, and Chatham Elementary School.

The merger decision was not taken lightly by either party. It was instead the result of months of deliberation, planning, and preparation. In the end, a merger was determined to be the best path forward for the children in both leagues and for the future of baseball and softball in Havertown. This advance notice is in the spirit of transparency and to support the collective efforts required to achieve our goal. The merger will permit us to establish and accomplish many things together. Most notably:

- More teams per age division playing on multiple fields, to enhance the regular season experience for our players and parents
- More efficient and effective use of our many playing fields and practice facilities
- Greater purchasing power for equipment, supplies, and field-related investments
- A larger and more diverse talent pool for our tournament and travel teams - along with the possibility of fielding additional post season teams
- Improved coaching development programs
- More effective and enjoyable fall and winter baseball/softball programs

While there are many details to be worked out between now and the start of the 2016 season, this season's partnership will afford us all the opportunity to get acclimated to and prepare for the exciting future of baseball and softball in Haverford Township. A committee from each league will be appointed to prepare all of the details required for a smooth transition to a unified league. One of the primary orders of business will be to host an information session for all interested parents and volunteers. Complete merger details will be discussed at that time. Because the launch of the 2015 season is both leagues' current top priority, the information session will be scheduled at the end of the 2015 season.

Until then, updates related to merger activities will be shared independently through each league's existing communication platforms (web sites, Facebook, newsletter, emails, etc.).

Please join us in celebrating the many positive aspects of our decision by supporting each other in the spirit of good baseball and softball as we play our fully integrated schedules this year.

Sincerely,

Brookline & Westgate Hills Executive Boards