

The Dugout Chatter

8/29/2020



The Julington Creek Baseball (JCB) organization is pleased to announce our first JCB Board message to our parents known as The Dugout Chatter.

Youth baseball continues to grow and prosper in northwest St. Johns County. JCB is our community's competitive recreational baseball program, proudly affiliated with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken baseball. JCB's goal is to provide recreational baseball opportunities for all skill levels, economical choices to our valued community families, and FUN for everyone.

First, thank you for choosing JCB as your baseball program of choice. Since the early August elections, your 2020-2021 19-member Board have been very busy. We have nine new Board members, and everyone is working hard for a great fall 2020 season and beyond. If you see them at the fields or at the grocery store, please thank them for volunteering their time for your player.

Recently, player evaluations went very smoothly considering the approximate 550 Cal Ripken Division aged players we have this fall. Thank you to our coaches who herded cats last weekend. It was not easy but was very efficient and successfully executed. The player drafts have been occurring this past week and practices start next week. You should have received a call or email from you player's manager. If not, please reach out to the appropriate [JCB Commissioner](#).

This fall, JCB's Advanced Baseball (JCC) workouts are being held twice a week for 200 kids that were selected by evaluations. Our Advanced Baseball division continues to actively train and participate in tournaments to improve our players ability and knowledge by playing competitively at a higher level of baseball. These types of workouts helped five of our 2020 summer All-Star teams win Cal Ripken State Runner-up honors, our Babe Ruth 13U State Runner-up achievement, and our JCB 8u and 6uB teams winning the State Championship for Julington Creek Baseball.

As we return to the fields, we do want to share some recommendations as they relate to the current health environment. Everyone should follow the County's current safe distance guidelines. We are asking our coaches to do their best to keep players separated in the open-air environment. This includes keeping baseball bags separated, not sharing equipment or water bottles/drinks, hand sanitizing, and not using County park's water fountains. Please bring plenty of fluids; it is hot out there. We respectfully ask our fans to please follow the County's separation guidelines while attending practices and/or games.

If you have not done so already, we invite you to explore our JCB webpage (jcbaseball.org). Our Info/About webpage includes several topics that are helpful to new and veteran baseball families:

Coaches Corner, Health and Wellness, Field Care, and more. We gladly share this information with our JCB families and other organizations who could use assistance.



Is your teen looking for volunteer hours this fall? Teens can assist in our concession stands and earn valuable volunteer hours. With limited volunteer opportunities available, we want to go beyond the baseball diamond to help our community teens to get the volunteers hours they need. **Opening day is September 26th**, and if you son or daughter would like to volunteer for concessions, please reach out to our [Concession Director](#), Kim Patterson. We also have paid opportunities for Jr. Umpires. You can sign up on our [JCB webpage](#) or contact our [Umpire Coordinator](#), Ray Wilkins.

The JCB Board wants to reiterate our continued message that JCB will not align, partner, or be managed by a for-profit company. This would not be in the best interest of our talented and experienced coaches and players and is not economical for our families in these challenging financial times. In addition, being managed by a for-profit company could significantly jeopardize our 501c non-profit status and the County fees JCB pays per player. Our position is families have choices in this baseball community and we support your decision to choose the right baseball organization for your player.

JCB is working on several initiative programs that will be beneficial to our JCB players, coaches, families, and the baseball community as a whole. We are seeking improvements in our concession stands and the development of an online store. JCB will continue to be active on our FaceBook page and continue working with the County on improving field conditions. Coaches of our Advanced Baseball workout program will be pursuing scrimmages against other local advanced teams and we will seek to continue having free baseball-related clinics hosted by local professionals.

In the future, JCB is considering hosting a baseball tournament with net proceeds going to the important Field of Dreams program which allows children with intellectual or physical disabilities the opportunity to play baseball. We also would like our community baseball players to have some fun in a skills competition event (baserunning speed, relay drills, HR derby, and more). A tournament and skills competition are big undertakings and we will probably need help from our JCB families to be successful.

Your 2020-2021 Board are volunteers. Your coaches, scorekeepers, and Team Moms are all volunteers. We love our players, our community, and the game of baseball.

GO JCB!!!!

When you have a moment, "Like" us on [FaceBook](#) for future JCB announcements.