

PARENTS GUIDE



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide a fun baseball program for players between the ages of 4 and 12 in the Hopkins/Minnetonka and surrounding area. Players of all skill levels are welcome, and will be encouraged to develop a love of baseball through quality instruction that emphasizes teamwork, good sportsmanship, development of baseball skill and strategy, and showing respect for self and others.

Big Willow makes baseball fun! Games are played at beautiful Big Willow Park, just west of the intersection of Minnetonka Boulevard and Hopkins Crossroads.

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Get to Know the Website & Dibs

Our website is where you will find lots of news links, calendar of events, registration, standings, and a whole host of other information. The website is also where you will find “Dibs” to help you sign up for concession shifts.

The following is a step by step guide to “following” your specific team’s calendar.

Following Your Team's Calendar

There are two ways to follow team calendars – this year we recommend utilizing the Sports Engine app/feed especially for those that have multiple kids or one kid on multiple teams. We will show you below first the Sports Engine way and then how to do via our Bigwillowbaseball.com site.

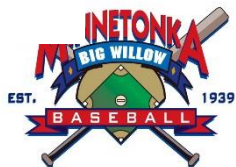


#1

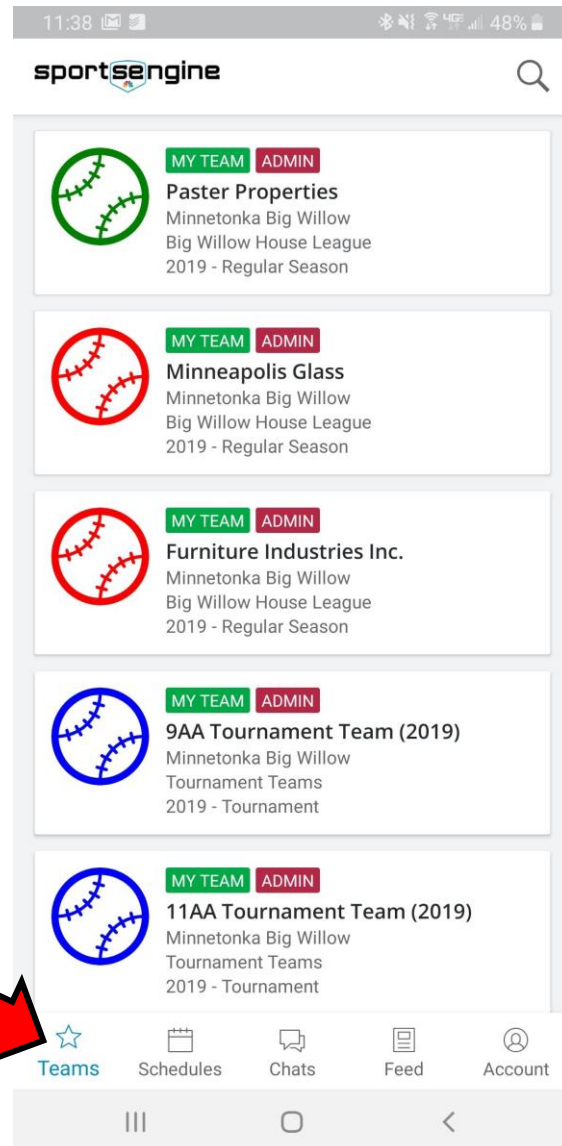
If you haven't already, download the SportsEngine App. It's a fabulous way to communicate, let your coach know if your child is coming, export the schedule to a calendar and more - reminder, same login as how you registered your child for Big Willow in the first place.

APPLE: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/sportsengine-team-management/id499597400?mt=8>

ANDROID: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.sportngin.android&hl=en_US



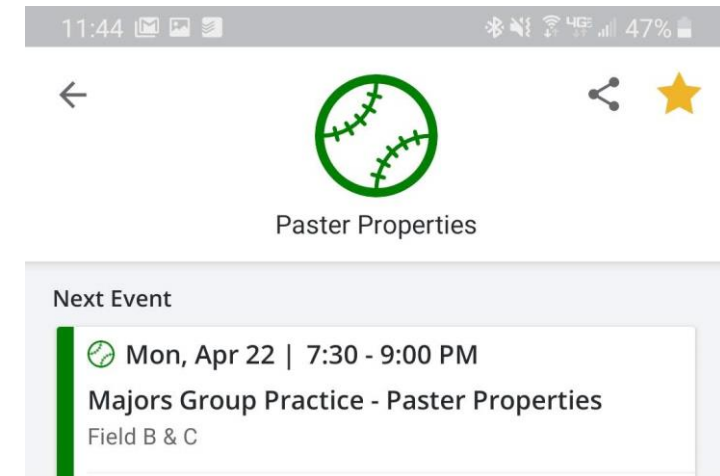
Following Your Team's Calendar



#2

Select "Teams"

Once Logged in, verify that all of your kid(s)' teams are on your "Teams" page. You will have a green "MY TEAM" next to the team name. Click on the team name and make sure that the yellow star in the upper right hand is selected so that you are "following" the team.



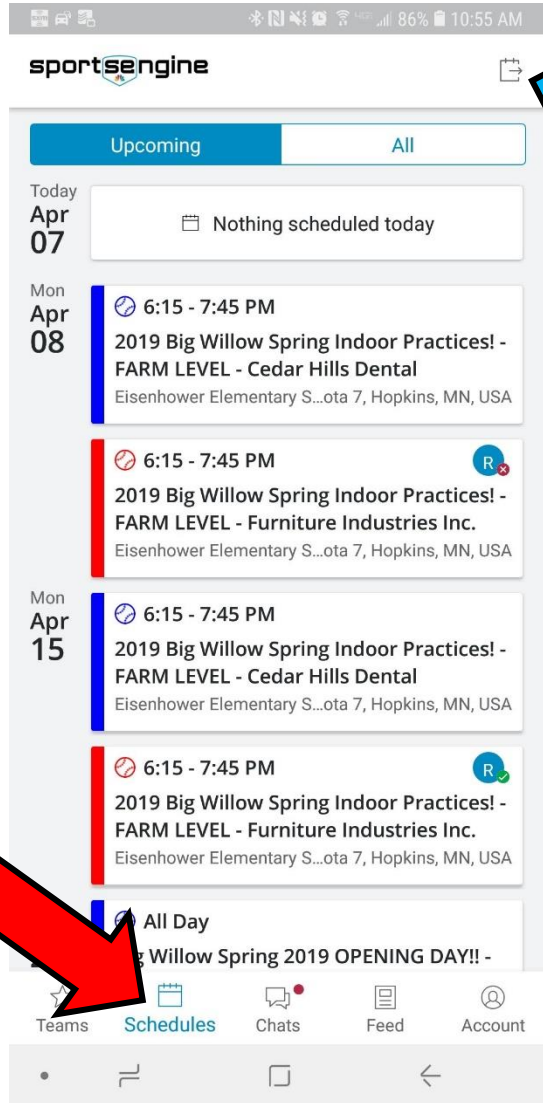
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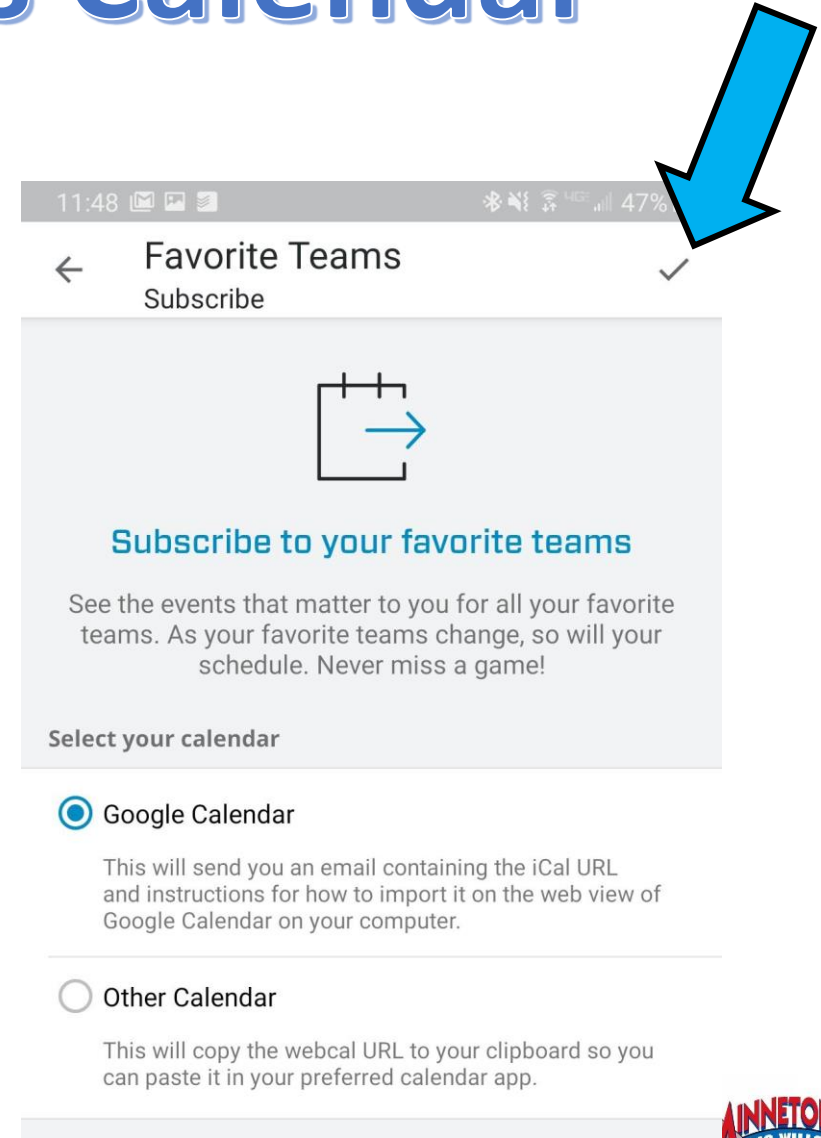
Following Your Team's Calendar

#3

Click "Schedules"



Then Click the icon in the top right to export to your calendar



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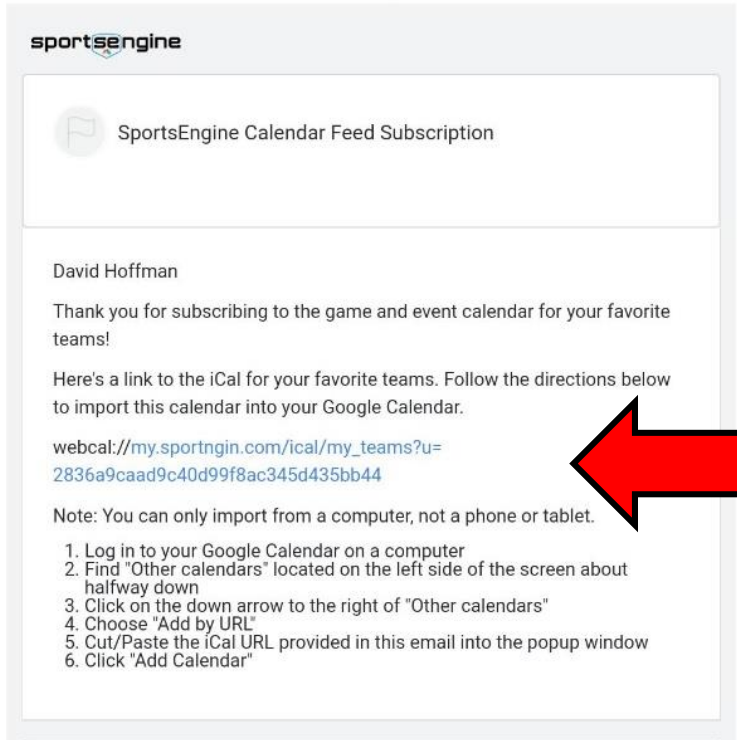
Following Your Team's Calendar

#4


Add to your calendar.
For those that have multiple kids or teams, this will be extremely helpful as all events will import as one calendar

SportsEngine Calendar Feed
Subscription Inbox ☆

 SportsEngine 10:57 AM
to me ▾



sportseengine

 SportsEngine Calendar Feed Subscription

David Hoffman

Thank you for subscribing to the game and event calendar for your favorite teams!

Here's a link to the iCal for your favorite teams. Follow the directions below to import this calendar into your Google Calendar.

webcal://my.sportngin.com/ical/my_teams?u=2836a9caad9c40d99f8ac345d435bb44

Note: You can only import from a computer, not a phone or tablet.

1. Log in to your Google Calendar on a computer
2. Find "Other calendars" located on the left side of the screen about halfway down
3. Click on the down arrow to the right of "Other calendars"
4. Choose "Add by URL"
5. Cut/Paste the iCal URL provided in this email into the popup window
6. Click "Add Calendar"

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Following Your Team's Calendar

YOU MAY ALSO CHOOSE TO JUST USE our website which allows you to quickly add your team's calendar to your phone, computer, tablet, etc. The following steps will show how to subscribe to the "iCal" feed for your team. In this example, we will be showing as if your child were on the "Farms" "Cedar Hills Dental" team. The steps will be the same once you select your individual team and your coach has started to enter games/practices.

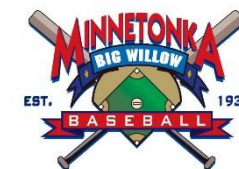
#1

Go to "Teams", "House League", and your division (in this example, Farms)

The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with 'Teams' selected, leading to a dropdown menu where 'Farm' is highlighted. A red arrow points to the 'Farm' option. Below the menu, the main content area features a banner with the team logo and the text 'PLAYING BASEBALL AND HAVING FUN SINCE 1939'. Underneath, there is a section for 'UPCOMING EVENTS' with a table showing dates from Monday 4/9 to Friday 4/13. The table indicates 'no events' for all dates. To the right, there is a countdown timer for 'OPENING DAY STARTS IN...' showing 19 days, 23 hours, 17 minutes, and 48 seconds. At the bottom, there are links for 'VIEW ALL', 'RSS', and 'ICAL'.

MON 4/9	TUE 4/10	WED 4/11	THU 4/12	FRI 4/13
Farm indoor group practice Monday, 6:15pm CDT-7:45em CDT	no events	no events	no events	no events
Majors indoor group practice Monday, 7:45pm CDT-9:15em CDT				

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Following Your Team's Calendar

The screenshot shows the website for Minnetonka Big Willow Baseball. At the top, there is a dark blue navigation bar with the text "Minnetonka Big Willow" on the left and menu items: Home, Teams, Calendar, News, Resources, About Us, Dibs. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with "FARM" and a dropdown arrow, followed by links for "Highland Bank", "Cedar Hills Dental", "Ambassador Press", and "Farm TBD Black". A red arrow points from the "Calendar" link in the top menu to the "Farm" dropdown in the secondary menu. The main content area features a large banner image of baseball players in blue uniforms holding trophies. Overlaid on the banner is the "MINNETONKA BIG WILLOW EST. 1939 BASEBALL" logo. Below the banner, the text "PLAYING BASEBALL AND HAVING FUN SINCE 1939" is displayed. To the right of this text is a dropdown menu for "Regular Season (May-June) 2018". Below the banner, the breadcrumb "House League > Farm" is shown. The main heading is "Farm", with sub-headings "HOME" and "STANDINGS". The main content area is titled "FARM TEAMS - 2018 ANNOUNCED" and contains introductory text about player evaluations and team assignments.

#2

Click team name

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Following Your Team's Calendar

Home Teams Calendar News Resources About Us Dibs

FARM > Highland Bank > Cedar Hills Dental > Ambassador Press > Farm TBD Black

PLAYING BASEBALL AND HAVING FUN SINCE 1939

Mobile Team ID: 1997133
Share this Team >

Regular Season (May-June) 2018

House League > Farm > Cedar Hills Dental

Cedar Hills Dental

HOME ROSTER STANDINGS PHOTOS VIDEOS POSTS

CEDAR HILLS DENTAL CALENDAR

APR 26 Test Practice - Farms - Cedar Hills Dental
Thursday, 6:00pm CDT - 7:30pm CDT FIELD B
Tag(s): Cedar Hills Dental

VIEW ALL | RSS | ICAL

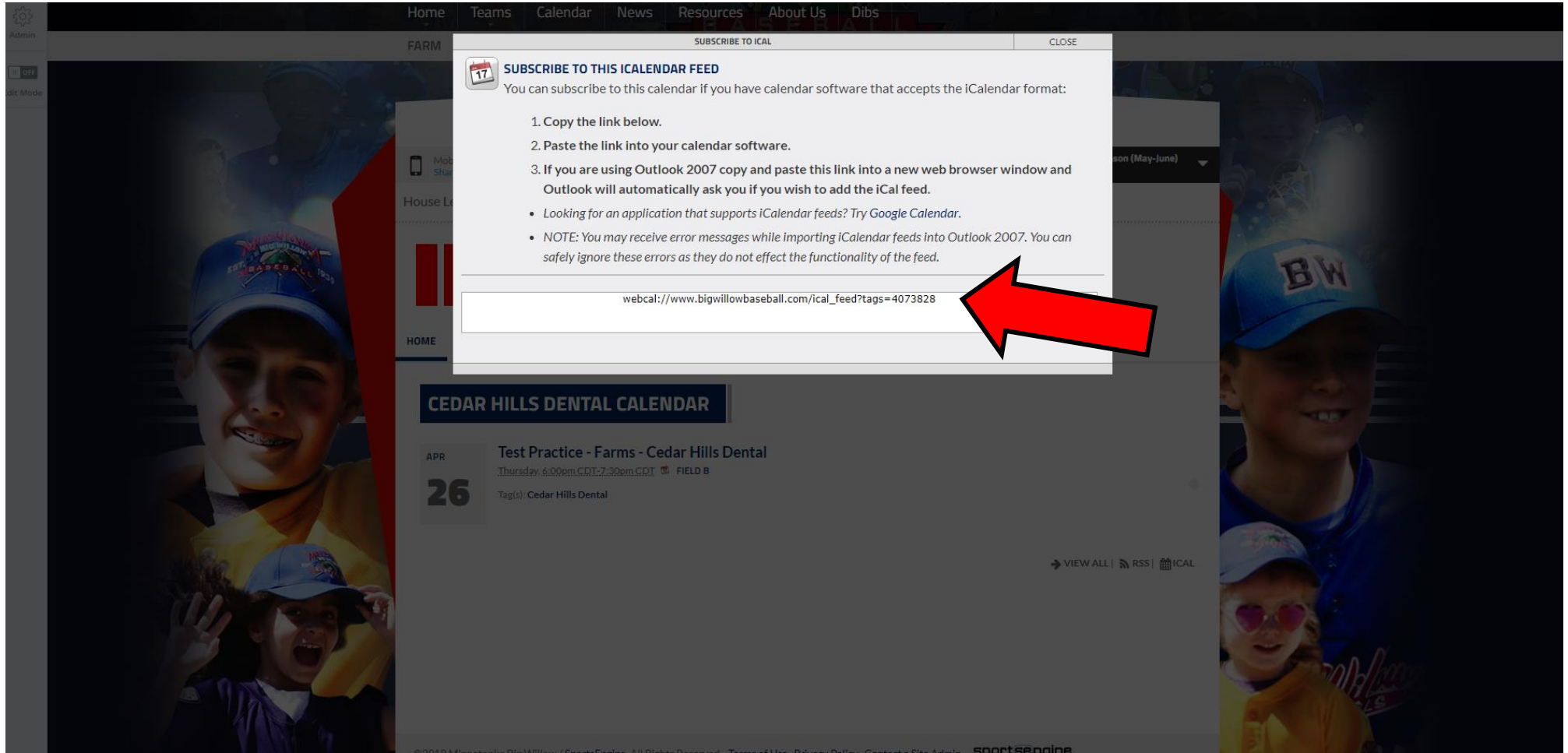
Subscribe to RSS Feed

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#3

Click "ICAL"

Following Your Team's Calendar



The screenshot shows a website interface with a navigation menu (Home, Teams, Calendar, News, Resources, About Us, Dibs) and a main content area. A modal dialog box titled "SUBSCRIBE TO THIS ICALENDAR FEED" is open, providing instructions on how to subscribe to the calendar. The instructions include: 1. Copy the link below. 2. Paste the link into your calendar software. 3. If you are using Outlook 2007 copy and paste this link into a new web browser window and Outlook will automatically ask you if you wish to add the iCal feed. A red arrow points to the URL: `webcal://www.bigwillowbaseball.com/ical_feed?tags=4073828`. Below the dialog box, a calendar entry for "CEDAR HILLS DENTAL CALENDAR" is visible, showing a test practice on Thursday, April 26, from 6:00pm CDT to 7:30pm CDT at Field B.

#4

Copy the entire address

Following Your Team's Calendar

#5

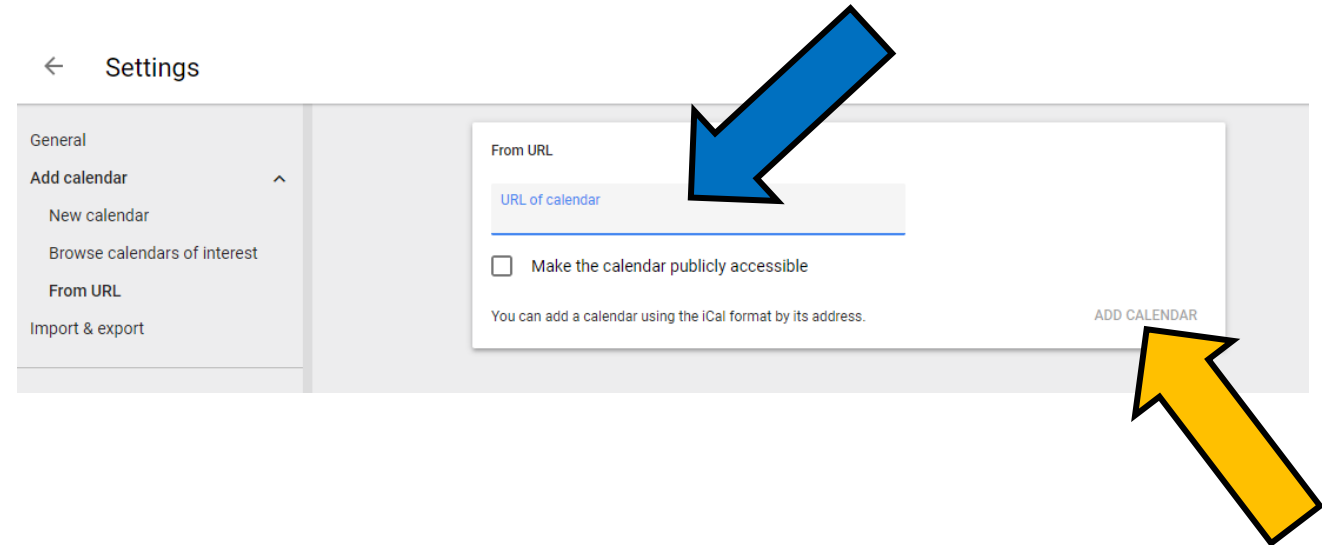
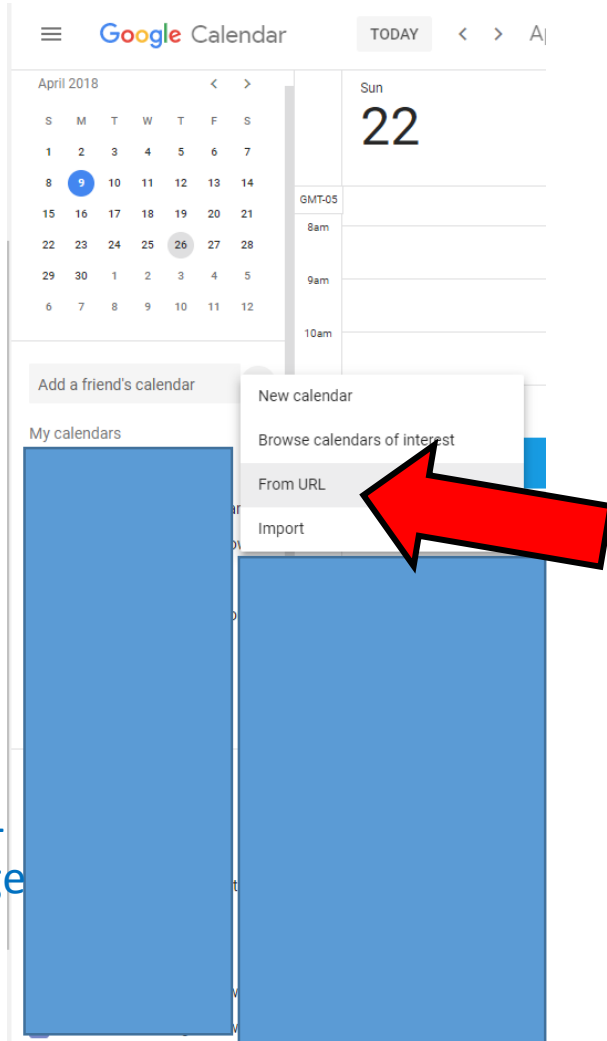
Click "Add a friend's calendar, then

"From URL"

Paste the copied URL from the previous page

Click "Add Calendar"

THAT'S IT!!!



This is an example adding to Google Calendar

Similar actions can be taken for

Apple: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT202361>

Microsoft Outlook: <https://support.office.com/en-us/article/import-or-subscribe-to-a-calendar-in-outlook-com-cff1429c-5af6-41ec-a5b4-74f2c278e98c>

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Email, Twitter, & Facebook

EMAIL: Big Willow will send important messages via SportsEngine to your registered email. If there are two adults who wish to receive emails, please make sure to enter that under player registration. Coaches may also choose to utilize email as the main form of communication with teams, so please make sure to keep an eye on your inbox!

TWITTER: Some say it's the greatest form of mass communication invented to date. Some say it's a vortex of evil trolls. For us, it's just a tool to keep you up to date on the latest and greatest and also for **instant weather updates**. Please consider following Big Willow on Twitter (apps for all smartphones are free, as is the website) https://twitter.com/BWBaseball_Mtka (Note that with both Twitter and Facebook, our latest post will show up within five minutes on the homepage of bigwillowbaseball.com)

FACEBOOK: We will also post event updates and other announcements on Facebook. We plan to share lots of pictures throughout the year. <https://www.facebook.com/Minnetonka-Big-Willow-Baseball-333911709962564/>

If for any reason you do not want your child appearing on the Big Willow Facebook Page, please contact bwbaseball2018@gmail.com



What Gear Should I Get My Player?

#1

Below is a required/recommended list of items at each level of Big Willow.

Big Willow will provide each player with a baseball hat and jersey in the Spring and a jersey for Summer Ball for their team.

REQUIRED:

All players, at all levels, must have their own glove

FARMS/MAJORS-

*Baseball pants or sweatpants required (coaches of each team may make recommendations on color for a uniform look, but it is not required you purchase that color). There is sliding in sand in baseball, so shorts are not appropriate attire. If you do buy pants, we recommend buying two pair as sliding and general baseball play create holes!

*Protective athletic cups are **required** at Juniors, Farms and Majors to avoid injury.

JUNIORS/MITES

* Baseball pants specifically are not required, but sweatpants or other athletic pants ARE. No shorts on the field.

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#2

RECOMMENDED:

FARMS/MAJORS-

- * While not required, many kids have their own bat. At these ages, height and strength disparity is greater so while the team will have a few bats to share, it is recommended your child bring their own bat.
- * Cleats are highly recommended as they help with traction in the field and running the bases. A child cannot participate with open-toed shoes of any kind, but can participate with tennis shoes.
- * A personal baseball helmet is also recommended but not required. We have a few helmets for each team that can be shared. Many parents opt to get their child a helmet of their own for sizing and health purposes.
- * If you don't have a water bottle, it is recommended that you get your child one and **WRITE THEIR NAME ON IT!**

JUNIORS/MITES

- * All of the above for Farms/Majors with the following adjustments
- * A protective cup is recommended but not required at Mites level
- * For Juniors, some people choose to have their own bats. For Mites, we recommend utilizing the bats Big Willow provides as they will outgrow them quickly!
- * For Juniors, cleats are recommended to help with running as well. For Mites it is not necessary but up to the parents if they would like that extra traction.
- * For helmets, same as above, discretion of parent.

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Player Attendance

As anyone who's ever coached a kids' baseball team will tell you, last minute notifications create huge challenges in putting together a lineup. At Big Willow, this is especially true for Farms & Majors (in these instances, if your child's absence creates a shortage of players, the coach will have to "call up" from the league below. As much time as possible is critical to find a call-up).

We understand that last minute illness, etc., happen, but as soon as you know your child will not be at a game, **please**, inform your child's coach. This also helps for supervision purposes as the coach will not be looking for your child.

Weather Status

Coaches will send emails ASAP after receiving word of cancellation, but we again **encourage you to follow us on Twitter**. As noted before, the website will also show the posts within five minutes. The Board will make determinations based on local forecasts, field conditions, and intensity of wind/rain.

Coaches

All coaches at Big Willow are **volunteers** and almost always a parent of one of the players. Please remember that they will do their best and need the support of the parents on the team. If for some reason you are having issues/concerns that you cannot address directly with the coach, please contact president@bigwillowbaseball.com

Family Game Attendance

We are a community that prides itself on an uplifting, positive, supportive atmosphere. We have to remember that this is kids' baseball and the #1 goal is to have fun! We kindly ask that you support the teams and not shout at the umpires (who also are trained, but not full-time professionals!). If you have a concern with anything happening during the game or with the umpiring, please speak with your team's coach after the game.

“Build Each Other Up”

Dear Parents/Coaches,

At Big Willow, not only do we strive to provide great baseball programming, we work to foster a positive environment for all players. For this reason, we will be using a league-wide mantra throughout practices and games. Please have a talk with your players/kids that their job whether in the dugout or on the field is to build each other up. This is applicable both on and off the field.

Let's create a culture of mutual respect and responsibility for our actions among players. If you have any questions, please see your division coordinator.

Thanks!

Safe Sports Act Compliance

Our league has always been about creating a safe environment for our players and their families. The recently passed legislation is being followed and all Board Members have taken the necessary training. Coaches will also be educated and informed on what it means to provide a safe environment on the team.

One key note for all families is that COACHES **MAY NOT** DRIVE CHILDREN, OTHER THAN THEIR OWN, HOME FROM PRACTICE/GAME/OR TOURNAMENT. Please do not ask and please make arrangements for your children to and from the field.

If your child's coach is a family friend, etc., you **MUST** email president@bigwillowbaseball.com with the coach on the copy informing them of your consent to allow them a ride home **PRIOR** to practice/game/tournament, otherwise the Coach **shall not** provide a ride home.

We have not had issues before this new rule, rather it is a requirement now by law that we must follow.

Concessions

For those without exemptions (i.e. Head Coaches) all families are required to assist a few times in the concession stand. Note that not only is a great service to have during games to get food and drink, it's also a way we are able to keep the costs of field maintenance and registration down. Please - eat, drink, and support Big Willow Baseball!

2018 FAMILY VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS (SPRING SEASON)

# OF PLAYERS	VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENT	DEPOSIT REQUIRED	BUY OUT AMOUNT
1 Player	6 Hours (2 shifts)	\$150.00	\$150.00
2 or More Players	9 Hours (3 shifts)	\$300.00	\$300.00

After each game the kids will get a “treat ticket”. This ticket is good for **one hotdog** or **\$1 value at the concession stand**.

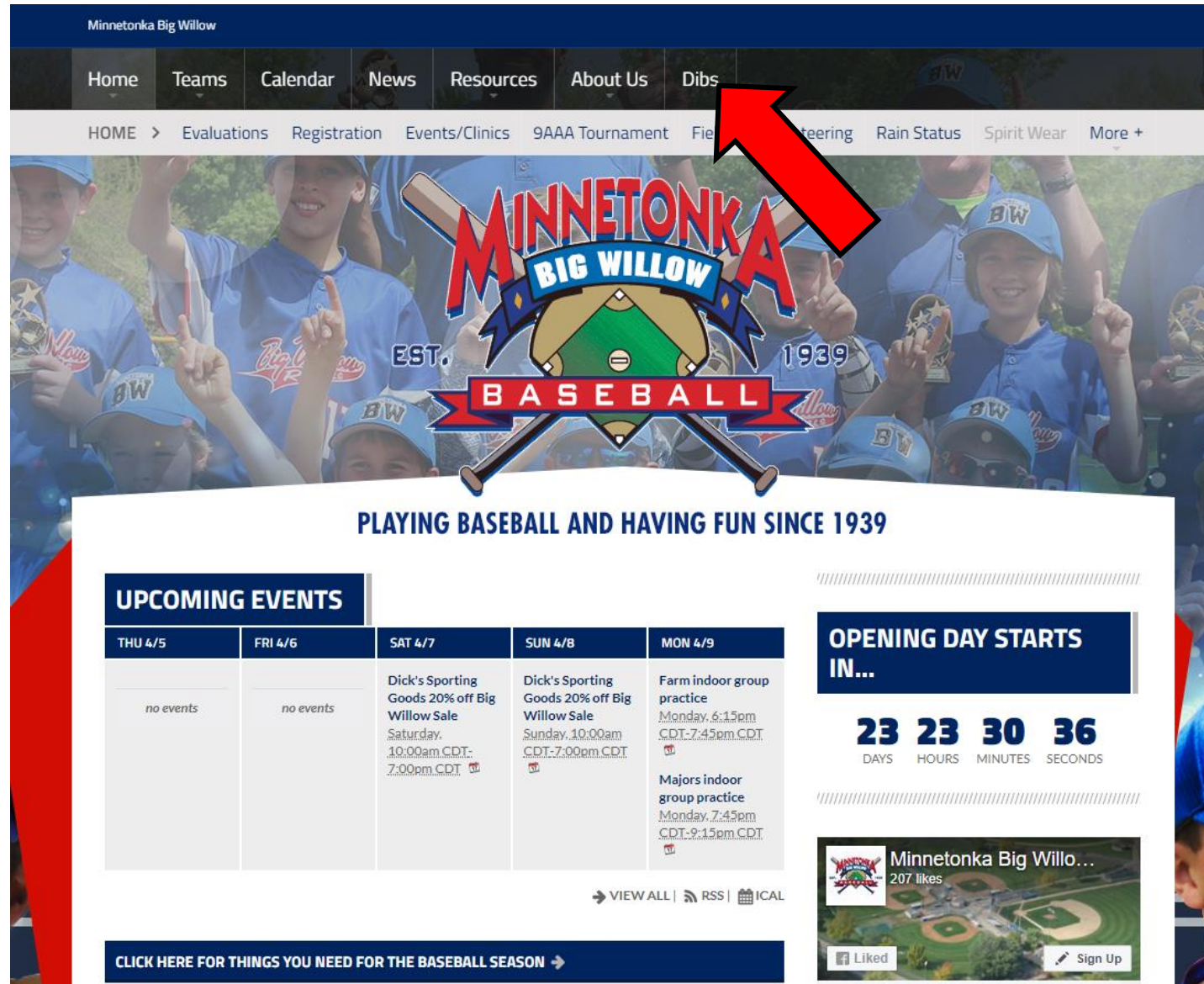
Make sure to be on time for your concession shift and know that there are lots of instructions as well as concession “veterans” that will help you with everything you need to know. You can sign up for concession shifts utilizing “[Dibs](#)” on the website. The following slides show a step by step process of signing up for a DIBS session.

Dibs

#1

CLICK ON
“DIBS”

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Minnetonka Big Willow

Home Teams Calendar News Resources About Us **Dibs**

HOME > Evaluations Registration Events/Clinics 9AAA Tournament Fielding Rain Status Spirit Wear More +

MINNETONKA BIG WILLOW EST. 1939 BASEBALL

PLAYING BASEBALL AND HAVING FUN SINCE 1939

UPCOMING EVENTS

THU 4/5	FRI 4/6	SAT 4/7	SUN 4/8	MON 4/9
no events	no events	Dick's Sporting Goods 20% off Big Willow Sale Saturday, 10:00am CDT - 7:00pm CDT	Dick's Sporting Goods 20% off Big Willow Sale Sunday, 10:00am CDT - 7:00pm CDT	Farm indoor group practice Monday, 6:15pm CDT - 7:45pm CDT Majors indoor group practice Monday, 7:45pm CDT - 9:15pm CDT


[VIEW ALL](#) | [RSS](#) | [ICAL](#)

OPENING DAY STARTS IN...

23 23 30 36
DAYS HOURS MINUTES SECONDS

Minnetonka Big Willow...
207 likes
Liked Sign Up

[CLICK HERE FOR THINGS YOU NEED FOR THE BASEBALL SEASON](#)



Dibs

#2

**CLICK ON
“CONCESSIONS
VOLUNTEER
SHIFTS”**

Minnetonka Big Willow

Home Teams Calendar News Resources About Us Dibs

Minnetonka Big Willow Dibs Sessions

ACTIVE ARCHIVED

Dibs is an online tool that helps keep members organized by providing a platform to assign and claim responsibility. Site members can browse Dibs Sessions below and claim responsibility for Dibs Items. Members then complete Dibs Items to fulfill their Dibs Session requirements.


DIB SESSION	ATHLETE	PROGRESS
You have no Dibs Sessions.		

AVAILABLE SESSIONS

DIB SESSION

- 2018 Concessions Volunteer Shifts
- Evaluations (3/17/18 @ Eisenhower Gym)
- Evaluations (3/18/18 @ Eisenhower Gym)
- Board Members Only** Check-in Table Event Coverage

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#3

Dibs

FIND AN UNCLAIMED SESSION THAT FITS YOUR SCHEDULE AND CLICK ON “CONCESSION STAND”

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The screenshot shows the 'Dibs' website interface for '2017 CONCESSIONS VOLUNTEER SHIFTS'. The navigation bar includes Home, Teams, Calendar, News, Resources, About Us, and Dibs. The page title is '2017 CONCESSIONS VOLUNTEER SHIFTS'. Below the title are tabs for 'LIST VIEW' and 'CALENDAR VIEW'. There are filter options for 'Has Date/Time', 'Has no Date/Time', 'From', 'To', 'Location', 'Category', 'Credit Value', and 'Status'. A 'FILTER DIB ITEMS' button is present. The page indicates 'PAGE 1 OF 7' and 'Displaying Results 1 - 30 of 182'. A table lists the shifts with columns: ITEM, CREDITS, LOCATION, ATHLETE, FULFILLER, STATUS, DATE/TIME, and CATEGORY. A red arrow points to the first row, which is 'Unclaimed'.

ITEM	CREDITS	LOCATION	ATHLETE	FULFILLER	STATUS	DATE/TIME	CATEGORY
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/02/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	Jose		Claimed	05/02/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	Noa		Claimed	05/02/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/02/2017, 7:00pm CDT - 10:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/02/2017, 7:00pm CDT - 10:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/02/2017, 7:00pm CDT - 10:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	Josh		Claimed	05/03/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	Henr		Claimed	05/03/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/03/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/03/2017, 7:00pm CDT - 10:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/03/2017, 7:00pm CDT - 10:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	-	-	Unclaimed	05/03/2017, 7:00pm CDT - 10:00pm	-
Concession Stand	3	Concession Stand	Aida		Claimed	05/04/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm	-



Dibs

#4

**CLICK ON
“CLAIM THIS
DIB ITEM”**

Minnetonka Big Willow

Home Teams Calendar News Resources About Us Dibs

David Hoffman My Dibs: View all of my currently claimed DIB items.

Dibs > Go to Session... > Concession Stand

CONCESSION STAND
05/02/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm
Location: Concession Stand
Dib Session(s): 2017 Concessions Volunteer Shifts

[Claim this DIB Item](#)

Credit Value: 3
Credit issued upon completion.

Status: Available
This DIB Item is available to be claimed.

Cancellation Prohibited: 1 day
This DIB Item can no longer be canceled without contacting the Admin.

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#5

Dibs

PUT YOUR NAME AS “FULFILLER NAME”

ENTER YOUR PHONE AND EMAIL

CLICK, “CLAIM THIS DIB”

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The screenshot shows a web interface for claiming a 'DIB' item. The main heading is 'CLAIM "CONCESSION STAND"'. Below this, a question asks 'Are you sure you want to claim responsibility for this DIB Item?'. The form contains the following fields and values:

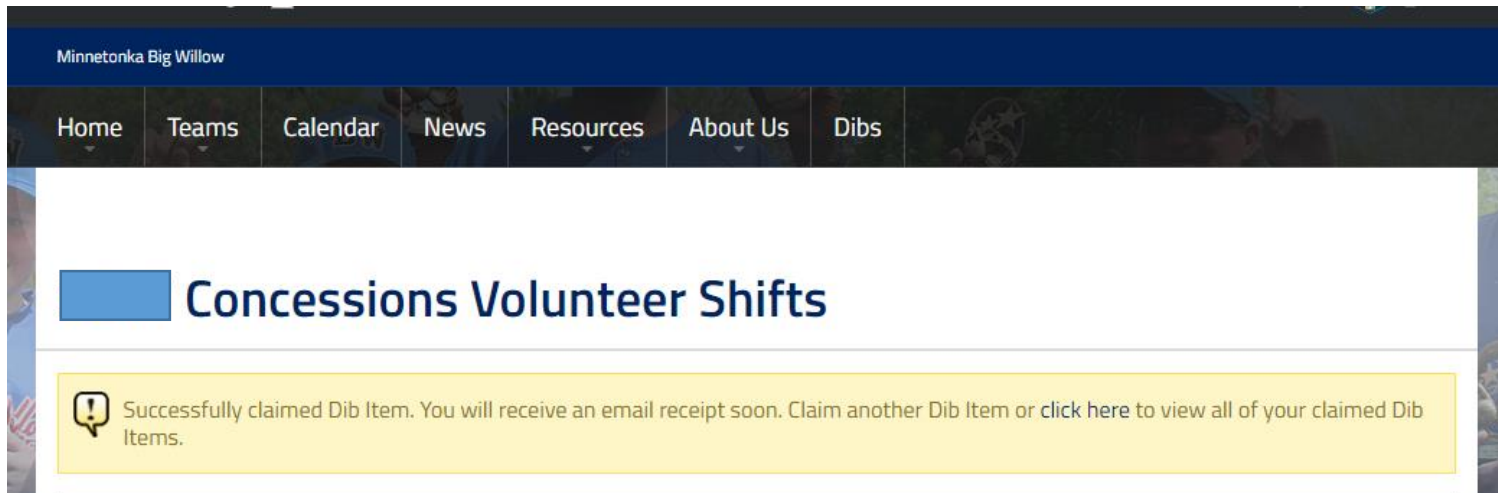
- DIB Item: Concession Stand
- Date: 05/02/2017, 5:00pm CDT - 8:00pm
- Credit Value: 3.0
- * Athlete: [Redacted]
- * DIB Session: Concessions Volunteer Shifts
- * Fulfiller Name: Brian Dozier (with a sub-note: 'First and last name of person who will complete the DIB item.')
- Fulfiller Phone Number: 612-GO-TWINS
- Fulfiller Email Address: BrianD@notarealemail.com

A red arrow points to the 'Claim DIB Item' button at the bottom right of the form. Below the form, a note states: 'Cancellation Prohibited: 1 day. This DIB Item can no longer be canceled without contacting the Admin.'



Dibs

ALL DONE!



Minnetonka Big Willow

Home Teams Calendar News Resources About Us Dibs

Concessions Volunteer Shifts

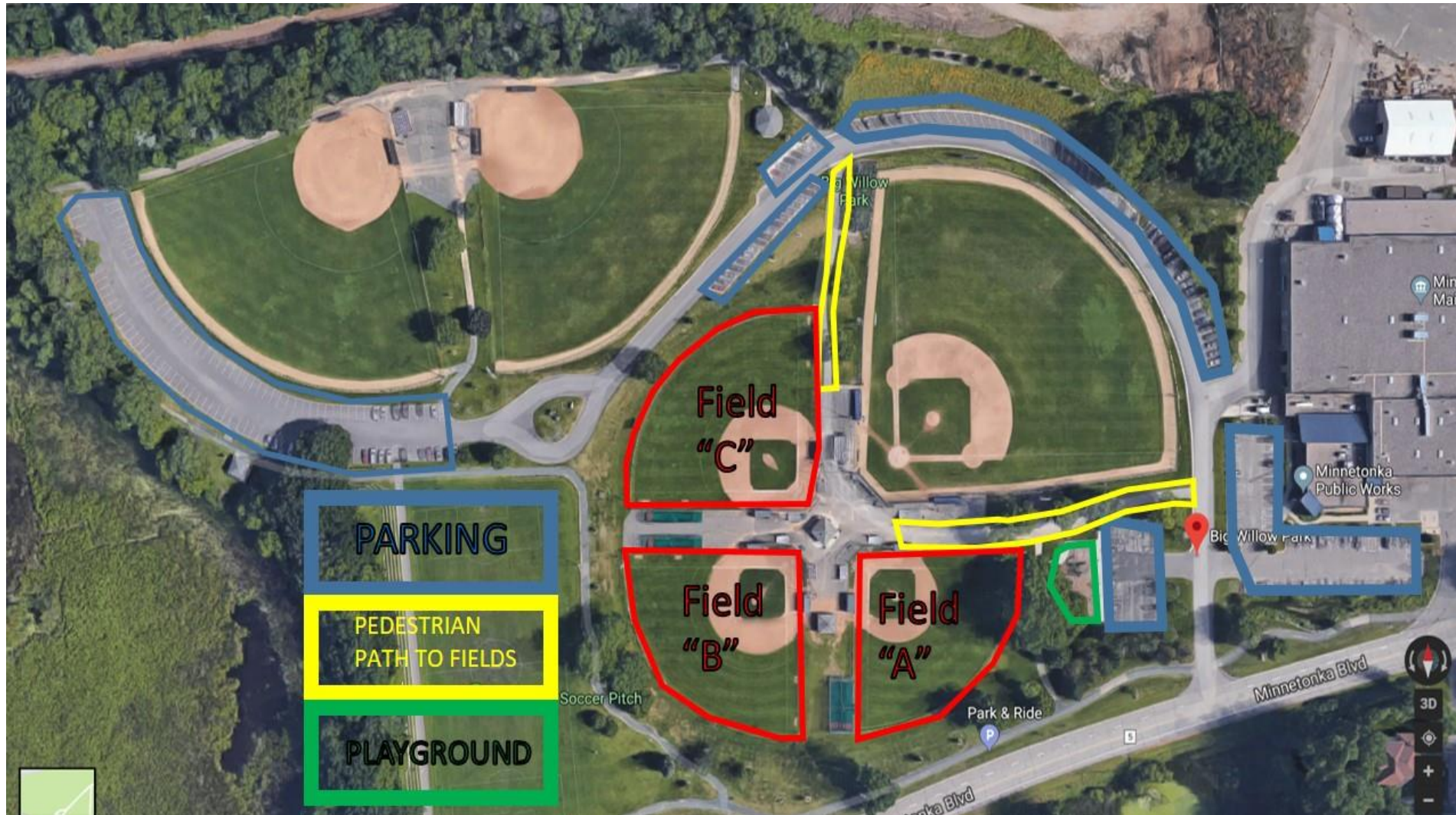
! Successfully claimed Dib Item. You will receive an email receipt soon. Claim another Dib Item or [click here](#) to view all of your claimed Dib Items.

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PARK MAP

Big Willow can get busy at times, but the park has plenty of parking. Please see the map below for where to park and the location of our awesome **ALL-AGES** playground:



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