

WILBRAHAM BASEBALL COMMITTEE

DECEMBER, 2015

OUR MISSION

The mission of Wilbraham Baseball is to communicate to the children of our community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, hard work, and respect. To those ends, we are committed to coaching proper fundamentals and fostering competitive playing opportunities for all skill levels. We will create an enjoyable, high-energy, safe, and supportive environment so that each child is given the chance to develop, progress, and grow.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE PROMISE

In adhering to the principles and goals within their Mission Statement, the volunteers of the Wilbraham Baseball Committee promise that they will work to ensure the best youth baseball experience available for all Wilbraham Baseball Players.

THE COMMITTEE PURPOSE

The Baseball Commissioner (President) serves as chairman of the committee, which includes eight (8) members who serve as members of the Baseball Committee. The committee also consists of a vice commissioner (VP), Secretary and a Treasurer. All officers have been voted to their positions by a majority of the committee.

The Wilbraham Baseball Committee is charged with planning and overseeing the town baseball program. The committee will determine program policies and procedures, and will serve the baseball program to help set its direction, clarify and interpret procedures, and provide feedback on issues that present themselves within the organization. Its purpose is to provide a broad-based sounding board for critical decisions within the baseball program and to guide and assist the recreation department with recommendations and direction to help support the mission statement.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The members as of December, 2015 are:

- Bob O'Neil - President
- Frank Weyant – Vice President
- Paul Cyr – Secretary
- Neil Nordstrom - Treasurer
- John Duke
- Jamie Gouin
- Chris Hill
- Vacant
- Vacant

The Committee members will hold their position for a minimum of two years. After the two year term is completed, the member may be voted in for an additional two year term. They may also voluntarily resign their position at that time. Special situations may also, with committee approval, result in member movement.

Elections of new members –

When a member leaves the committee, the request will be made through the Recreation Department and local advertising in papers or via Recreation Department mass emails for interested individuals to forward their related resume. The selection will take place within the Wilbraham Baseball Committee, final candidates brought to the Recreation Department. The candidate will be reviewed for their ability to honor the Mission Statement, be in good standing with the Recreation Department, express a desire to participate and be a Wilbraham (or possibly a Hampden resident) resident. Final selection will be made by the Recreation Department.

Chain of Command –

Each baseball age division will have a WBC member Division Lead. The lead focuses on tasks and issues related to that age division. Age division communications flow into the WBC through the division lead. Communication and issues are handled within the WBC, back out to the age division via the division lead. Where communication and issues cannot be solved within the WBC the WBC President and Officers will solve with Recreation Department involvement.

Summary for the Recreation Commission –

The WBC will create a summary highlighting the current state of the Wilbraham Baseball Program. This summary will be delivered upon request by the Recreation Department for submission to and for the Recreation Commission’s use.

The committee will also:

1. Set and oversee youth baseball tryouts and evaluations at each level of competitive ball.
2. Oversee Recreation Baseball.
3. Assign coaches to lead competitive teams at each level. No more than 2 coaches assigned to any on team.
4. Field, handle and resolve situations and complaints that develop from Wilbraham Baseball operations that cannot be handled at the team/coach level. Provide age Division Leads for initial communication resolution.
5. Oversee and supervise WBC – sponsored player and coaches clinics.
6. Drive and foster youth baseball in Wilbraham. Focus on fun for all age groups.

1. TRY-OUTS (PLAYER EVALUATIONS), SEE “WBC EVALUATION & DRAFT GUIDELINES”

Signups will be in the fall for competitive players. Signups will be in the spring for recreation leagues (tryouts times will vary by age group).

- a. All tryouts are to be held by the WBC including independent evaluators, and a grading system will rank player ability. All players will be given an equal chance of making a team.
- b. The goal is to form at least one “A” team in each league each season, with the option of adding a second “A” team based on the number of players, talent pool.
- c. After the WBC and independent evaluators grade each player, the committee will choose coaches from the list of qualified coaches. Once the coaches are chosen they will be given the results of players evaluations and participate in a draft to fill their rosters.
- d. Teams that are formed will be able to stay as a team the following year if the head coach is staying in the same age group. The draft will occur as discussed above and that coach will have the opportunity to complete his roster. When a player is drafted by a team, he or she could remain with that same team until they reach the next age group (the baseball committee reserves the right to remove players from particular teams at the specific request of parents/player. The coach has the option to retain or not to retain the player during his second year in the same age group.) The coach that is moving to a higher age group will be reevaluated (See Section 3d) and subjected to the coach selection guidelines herein.

2. RECREATION BASEBALL

- a. Recreation baseball will have a home in Wilbraham. Sign-ups will be in the spring and teams will be formed.
- b. Players who choose not to be evaluated for a competitive team, or who do not make a competitive team will automatically be entered into the recreation program.
- c. Coaches will be assigned from within each team. Coaches will be subject to the same rules as those listed below.

3. COACHES

- a. Each team will be assigned 2 coaches, one head coach and one assistant coach.
- b. Coaches will be selected after the player evaluation process is completed but prior to the draft.
- c. A head coach can/will retain his position for two years, or while he coaches inside of one age group.
- d. After teams are established, helper coaches can be added to the team from within the team.
- e. Once a head coach moves up to the next age group, he/she will be re-evaluated as a coach. The re-evaluation will be based on prior years coaching, knowledge, ability to communicate with players and parents and on his behavior as a coach, both on and off the field. If approved by the committee and the recreation department, he will be a candidate to coach in the next age group.

4. COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTES

The committee is on board and available to handle any baseball operations complaints, ranging from but not limited to:

- a. Coaching selection
- b. Player Evaluations
- c. Behavioral issues
- d. Draft selection
- e. Program cost
- f. Volunteer issues

For each age division, a WBC committee member Division Lead will be assigned to oversee the teams and act as the first point of contact for any questions, issue or complaints that may arise from a parent or coach that cannot be solved within the scope of the individual team. Coaches and parents each age division will be provided with the name and contact information for their WBC contact. When an issue is received, it will be addressed by the appropriate WBC Division Lead within a reasonable time period. If the issue cannot be immediately resolved, it will be brought before the WBC for action and resolution within an appropriate time period. If a resolution still cannot be achieved, it will be forward to the Parks and Recreation Department for further review within a reasonable time period. *The committee will insulate the Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee wherever possible.*

5. CLINICS

- a. Players:
 1. First priority is to make sure we have quality coaches that develop quality players; wins and losses are secondary.
 2. We will be adding winter clinics to provide all levels of baseball players the opportunity to grow, develop, and improve their baseball skills. This will provide an opportunity (OPTIONAL) for all players to improve their baseball skills in the off-season if they so wish.
 3. WBC clinics are available for Wilbraham & Hampden based players who are playing under the Wilbraham Recreation program.
- b. Coaches:
 1. One goal of the committee is to develop a consistent method of instruction as to the teaching of fundamentals. We believe that these clinics will contribute to that goal.
 2. The committee commits to hosting at least one annual coaches clinic.

6. DRIVE AND FOSTER YOUTH BASEBALL IN WILBRAHAM. FOCUS WILL BE TO MAKE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE , CREATING A FUN ATMOSPHERE FOR ALL PLAYERS.

- a. We will always make sure we are doing what is best for all the players; we have hundreds of kids in our baseball program.
- b. We will not make reactionary changes to appease the players that are **not** under our Recreation Dept's jurisdiction and then upset the hundreds in our program.
- c. Long-term goal is to make Wilbraham Baseball one of the best baseball programs in Western Massachusetts, from Tee Ball to High School.
- d. Recreation and competitive players all need to be put in the best situation to play baseball effectively based on their level in order to provide the opportunity to celebrate and develop a passion for the sport of baseball.
- e. With every decision we make, we will make sure to do what is best for all kids in the baseball program from recreation kids to the competitive kids, always keeping in mind the mission statement.
- f. Create an atmosphere where baseball is fun, and players are excited to return each year to baseball.