

LaFayette Township Youth Sports -----March 2009

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

<http://www.lafayettetownship.org/Sports%20Assoc.html>

or..... Registration forms available at the town hall

NEW THIS YEAR-JUST DROP IT OFF AT TOWN HALL.

Drop off your forms during town hall hours, or slip your registration in the town hall mail slot by the door.

**March 12th and 16th Walk-in SIGNUP Day at the townhall
5:30 to 7:30.**

SIGNUP DEADLINES

Spring Soccer		March 17 th
Softball	8U, 10U, 12U -----	March 17 th
	14U, HS -----	April 30 th
Little League Baseball		March 17 th
Babe Ruth Baseball		April 30 th
T-Ball (co-ed)		April 30 th
Tennis		June 1 st

NEW RESTROOMS & CONCESSIONS PLANNED

The Youth Sports Advisory Board is in the early planning stages of constructing a new multi-purpose building. The structure will contain a large concessions area and indoor restrooms. Two building options are being evaluated by the Lafayette Sports Committee. The first option is a new building with a large concession stand area, new indoor restrooms, a storage room, and covered picnic areas on two sides of the building. The second option is similar to the first but also contains a center meeting room and a larger storage room. The new shelter will be located in the northeast corner of the existing parking lot near the soccer fields and softball field and where the smaller concession stand is currently located.

Conceptual floor plans and estimated costs for the two building options have been completed and are being reviewed by the sports committee. The floor plans will be available for public review at the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for April 14th 2009. Public input on the two plans is welcomed.

TEAM SPONSORS—THANK YOU

Funding our township youth sports program relies greatly on the team sponsorship donations. In 2008 alone, \$8,375 was collected and used to provide and enhance sports opportunities for our youth. Sponsors are a very important link to making all of these programs work. If you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring a team, the cost is \$150. We also offer sign sponsor space on the Little League field. Call Bruce at 715-723-9912

Youth Sports Program Advisory Board

Meetings 1st Sunday every month at town-hall. THE PUBLIC IS WELCOMED.

Bruce Kyes, Softball	President	225-9912
Brian Smits, Softball	Vice President	720-1516
Bob Lane, Soccer	Secretary	723-6257
Dave Linse, Baseball		720-0246
Scott Faris, Soccer		726-1314
Shane Arneson, At Large		726-2209
Darwin & Gerri Dutter, At Large		379-2755
Rob & Wendy Krumenauer, Baseball		726-0821

Town Board Supervisor Sue Lane 723-6257

HAVE FUN AND LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS

This has been the MOTTO of our youth sports here at LaFayette. We want our kids to have a positive experience while enjoying the fun and thrills of playing organized sports. We strive to give each kid generous opportunities to learn and play to their full potential.

SOCCER U6, U8, U10, U12 Boys & Girls

Spring Soccer runs May 2nd to Mid June. All games are at Saturday AM. Coaches will arrange practice times. LaFayette soccer attracts many young players from Chippewa and the surrounding communities. Our coaches focus on promoting the fundamentals.

GIRLS FASTPITCH SOFTBALL 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U, HS

LaFayette plays in the Chippewa Valley League. Other towns include Seymour, Altoona, Cadott, Eau Claire, Stanley, Menomonie Thorp, & Bloomer. Half of the games are home and the other half are away. The games are competitive, but the league's special rules foster player learning and participation.

8U, 10U, & 12U games begin in late April and ends in Mid-June. 14U & HS League begins in June and end in late July.

WEEKEND TRAVEL TEAMS may be offered.

BOYS LITTLE LEAGUE Spring &/or Summer

Coach pitch 8U, Minors 10U, Majors 12U
Minors and Majors will play in the Chippewa League. Games will be played at home or at other local fields. The regular season starts in late April and ends in late June. After the spring league, we can join in and play summer ball with the X-League.

Coach pitch teams will schedule and play other local teams in the area.

BABE RUTH SUMMER BASEBALL

Our Babe Ruth Program is setting up teams for 13 to 18 year olds. Practice starts in May with games twice a week in June and July. We play other Babe Ruth teams like Cadott, Altoona, Thorp, Stanley, Mondovi, Osseo and Hallie. EVERYBODY plays ... register with your friend and play on the same team! Step up to the plate and REGISTER NOW through April 30th ... to take advantage of the Early Bird fee of \$50. BATTER UP!

T-BALL 4, 5, 6 YO (based on 4/09 birthdays)

LaFayette is a great place to introduce your new player to the wonderful game of baseball. T-ball season runs June to July with one or two games per week. Games are limited to 50 minutes.

We are seeking a summer Groundskeeper and a Recreation Director.

Applications available at the hall.

POSITIVE COACHING / POSITIVE PARENT FANS

It is so important for COACHES AND PARENTS to put youth sports in proper perspective. Your players are just learning the game; they are not pros. Kids have enough pressure and adults don't need to be adding more. Youth sports are supposed to be fun. A successful youth coach is defined not in terms of a win-loss record, but in how many kids return to play next season.

If you take the fun out of the sport, you will take the kid out of the sport. Here is a checklist of what you can do positive;

- Praise kids for participating—they are not just sitting at home
- Look for positives and make a big deal out of them.
- Stay calm, mistakes are learning opportunities.
- Have reasonable and realistic expectations.
- Use respect; AVOID put-downs, sarcasm, and ridicule.
- Remind kids not to get down on themselves.
- Remember not to take yourself seriously during the game.
- Maintain a “Fun is #1” attitude with laughter & humor.
- Emphasize team, and help think “WE” instead of “ME”.
- You are a role model of good sportsmanship:
 - Winning without gloating
 - Losing without complaining
 - Treating opponents & officials with fairness, generosity, & respect

Darwin and Gerry Dutter will be promoting Positive coaching with our volunteers and teams this year. They have a number of materials on the subject which they will be sharing.

2008 Financial Summary

	Gross	Expense	
Concessions	4,772.25	3,894.64	
Sponsor income	8,375.00		
T-Ball Registration	2,715.00		
Spring Soccer Registration	7,460.00		
Baseball Registration	3,495.00		
Softball Registration	4,080.00		
Fall Soccer	3,345.00		
Tennis Registration	320.00		
Late Fees collected	510.00		
Uniforms		6,957.03	
Officiating expenses		4,250.00	
Clinic expenses		451.00	
Field upgrades/maintenance		16,091.95	
Equipment		1,496.38	
Office supplies		664.80	
Tournament expenses		590.00	
Membership fees		180.00	
Misc charges		208.84	2008
NET	35,072.25	-34,784.64	287.61
Savings Account Balance	10,400	estimated	
CD Balance	11,300	estimated	

EXPANDED SPRINKLER SYSTEM The grass will be a lot greener on the softball field thanks to the new in-ground sprinkler system. Basically, the soccer field system was expanded to cover the field's grass. *Pudenz Irrigation designed system and installed the underground piping. The system expansion cost \$7,500.*

PORTABLE OUTFIELD FENCE The softball field was originally designed for adult slowpitch with a 275' fence. For girls fastpitch, the outfield should be between 185' to 230'. To fix this, a portable poly mesh fence designed for outfields was bought and installed. Our field is now the proper 200' size without eliminating the original 275' field. The new fence practice space behind the fence. The fence was \$950 and it will last many years.

SOCCER 'SMALL SIDED GAMES'

LaFayette plays soccer in a style known as 'Small-Sided Games'. This is still the basic soccer—only with smaller teams on a reduced sized field. LaFayette first tried 'Small-Sided Games' in 2005 and stuck with it since. The advantages are many including:

- More ball touches by each player equals **more chances to improve skills during game situations**. Player confidence is enhanced with more kicks.
- The smaller field creates a faster and more exciting game. Players learn to make **less-complicated decisions** to play.
- The smaller fields reinforce **accuracy and efficiency**. Long booming kicks are replaced by clean passes.
- Coaches are able to give more attention to **individual players**. Players get quality instruction and realize their importance on the team.
- Players have to be **more involved playing the game**. Offense and defense skills are enhanced with the faster paced game.
- The closer field also means **more opportunities to score goals!** This just adds to the excitement players & fans. Finally, kids just have lots of fun. Who'd argue with that?

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

It is my pleasure to be “well involved” with our youth sports program here in LaFayette. We are planning to do much this year. With a great group of board members, I look forward to getting a lot done. Our 2009 priorities:

1. With so many using the township park, we have a great need for the essentials like drinking water, acceptable restrooms, and a proper concessions area. Our sports board has made it clear that we want something beyond 'just functional' or something to just get by with. We want a facility that is going to be really nice and last a long time.
2. Next, our youth baseball program can use a boost. We would like to hear from parents and coaches as to what we can do to get make this work better.
3. Finally, I would like to see our youth sports organization be more open to its constituents. We need your involvement and ideas to make this work.