

## 2018 Baseball Program

The Oley Valley Youth League Baseball Program covers several age groups including smash ball (6 & under), rookie (8 & under), minor league (10 & under), major league (12 & under) and senior baseball (13-17). Last year we had over 150 kids participate in our baseball program distributed among all of the teams. We also supported the Sr. & Jr. Legion programs through Patriots Post 217.

The 2017 season was a huge success, both during the spring and fall baseball seasons, which is the direct result of the numerous volunteers throughout the program. We are looking forward to the return of last season's volunteers and would love to see some new faces becoming part of our baseball family in 2018!

Smash ball (6 & under) is where it all begins and there is NO registration fee to participate. Smash ball uses dense foam balls and bats with coaches pitching to the players with the idea geared toward building confidence for first time players who may not be ready for a hard ball being thrown or hit to them plus development of quicker swings without the tee. We need to make sure smash ball is FUN for the kids but we must keep in mind that it is also a very important stage in their development.

The rookie program (8 & under) is a great developmental league. For 2018, we will again be offering a significantly LOWER registration fee with the hope of increasing the number of kids at this level. The kids will be facing live coach pitching and begin to run the bases a little more aggressively. Our teams play league games in house and also against Antietam, Fleetwood and Brandywine. In addition, we will once again host our rookie tournament, which we won in 2016, and we will play in a few other tournaments as well. In 2018, we will participate in a machine pitch tournament at Brandywine which exposes the kids to their first experience of competitive ball. The key benefit is there are MANY opportunities for the kids to play A LOT of baseball at this level to gain experience and improve their skills.

The minor league program (10 & under) has offered a lot of opportunities to players over the years. Our teams played league in house and against Kutztown, Fleetwood and Brandywine and hope to continue to do the same in 2018. In addition, we have tryouts for a Jr. Diamond team as well as a tournament team. The Jr. Diamond team plays two games each weekend beginning in early April and finishing up in late May. The tournament team begins play in early June and finishes up in early July. The competition that we face in the Jr. Diamond league and tournament play is by far the best competition around. Kids that played league ball, Jr. Diamond ball and tournaments have played up to 40 games in a season!! Oley has once again begun to establish itself around the county as a baseball force at this level and again offers MANY opportunities for the kids to play.

The major league program (12 & under) is a great step in the progression from the minor leagues to older age groups. In 2017 the major league team competed in the Keystone League against teams from Muhlenberg, Fleetwood, Kutztown and Brandywine. This league was very competitive and went a long way in developing fine baseball players who are now ready to move up to senior baseball. The 2017 teams finished strong in the Keystone League and our 12-under tournament team placed in our two tournaments last season. The tournament teams that we offer require not only a commitment from each player, but also a commitment from the parents. We will also have our own tournament for each age group and parent commitment is necessary to ensure we pull off the BEST tournament around.

The Senior Baseball program has evolved throughout 2017 and we are excited for the 2018 season to begin. In 2018, we will not only have the Sr. & Jr. Legion baseball teams, playing games at the OVYL, but also a Jr. Legion prep team consisting of 13 year olds and a 15U team with players from both Oley & Brandywine. We are continuing our active discussions with the Patriots Post 217 & Brandywine, which will result in even more coordinated efforts beyond 2018!

We will start winter workouts in the OVMS gym in January/February and they will continue through the end of March. We are looking forward to the 2018 baseball season and continuing the tradition of Oley baseball! If you have any questions or would like to offer your help to the baseball program, please email me at [mlrbaseball20@gmail.com](mailto:mlrbaseball20@gmail.com) or visit the OVYL website at [www.ovyl.org](http://www.ovyl.org). We can't wait to get it started up again for 2018!

Mike Reinert, OVYL Sr. Baseball Commissioner John Cappellano, OVYL Jr. Baseball Commissioner

## Basketball

Basketball season has begun! We are happy to announce that we have 155 children participating in our basketball program this year. The players will be divided into the following 14 teams based on age and gender:

- Kindergarden-2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 2 coed Teams
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls: 2 Teams
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade boys: 4 Teams
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls: 1 Rec Team and 1 Travel Team
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys: 2 Rec Teams and a JV and Varsity Travel Team

Starting in January, all teams except for the K-2<sup>nd</sup>, will play at least 10 games this season against other schools in the county.

OVYL will host 2 tournaments this season. The first is the Boys JV and Varsity Travel Tournament which will be held January 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. On February 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> we will host a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Boys and Girls tournament. These are huge events for a basketball program. Save the dates and please volunteer your time to help make both tournaments a success. More info will be given out as we near the tournament dates.

We are very excited about this season and are happy to have you and your children in our program. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact us.

Maryann DeBalko and Christi Fegely  
OVYL Basketball Co-Commissioners

## Field Hockey

Happy Holidays!

Look for field hockey registration information in the spring for the Fall 2018 season

Kelly Williamson  
Field Hockey Commissioner

Spring soccer registration is now open on the Youth League website. The age groups will stay the same as this past fall. We will have clinics for the U8 age group hosted by student athletes from the high school girls and boys teams. The clinics will be held on Saturday mornings on the high school turf field starting March 24 through April 14. The registration for the travel team age groups will end on December 31. Please visit the Youth League website for additional details regarding the travel team season.

Our soccer committee is looking for additional volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please send me an e-mail.  
Matt Adukaitis, Soccer Commissioner, [madukaitis@gmail.com](mailto:madukaitis@gmail.com)