

WHITPAIN RECREATION ASSOCIATION



First Quarter, 2011

Hello from WRA!

Welcome to the inaugural edition of Whitpain Recreation Association's Quarterly Newsletter (almost certain to be a collector's item some day!)

The purpose of the newsletter is to improve communication between the association and the community. It will help keep parents updated on logistical issues such as registration deadlines, will provide a venue for stories and "color commentary" about the various programs, and will hopefully assist in WRA's mission to serve the parents and children of Whitpain Township.

Whitpain Recreation is an all-volunteer association helping thousands of local children participate in the following sports:

[Baseball](#) [Basketball](#) [Field Hockey](#) [Soccer](#)
[Softball](#)

[WRA Website](#)

[Baseball Registration](#)

[Softball Registration](#)

[Field Hockey Registration](#)

*We exist solely because of the efforts of dozens of volunteers, including (but not limited to) board members, commissioners, coaches, equipment managers, referees and web managers. We intend to use the newsletter to highlight the efforts of our various volunteers, and in this first issue we send a virtual shout out to our new web team, who will be instrumental in operating the new software system that serves as the basis for our web page, registration, team building, scheduling, and this newsletter. **Special thanks to the web team!**:*

*Joe Smallberger Kristin Scott David Frank
Sagar Dukle Kathy Reilly Sumita Mehta
Jennifer Yamamoto Michele Zimmerman
Aili Lazaar Pam Hyland Gus Richardson*

*This newsletter is a work in progress, and we hope that it will evolve and improve as time goes on. If you have any suggestions, comments, or complaints (inconceivable!), please contact Pat Foley:
pfoley@rwbaird.com*

Volunteering

*Speaking of volunteers, WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
Come out to help in any way you can. Contact one of the league chairs for help in matching your availability and interests with a role in WRA:*

Baseball:

Mike Basile, mbasile6@aol.com

Basketball:

Michael Burns, mburns6556@verizon.net

Field Hockey: (Co-Chairs)

Rich Fry mrfry22@yahoo.com

Lance Eichert, hhockeycat@aol.com

Intramural Soccer:

Tom Shea, wrasoccer09@comcast.net

Travel Soccer:

Jim Dandy (Boys), James.dandy@highpoint-solutions.com

Mike Weber (Girls): mi_weber@yahoo.com

Registration Information

Basic Registration Instructions:

Reminder- Please use your parent Login and password before registering your children so their prior information will be carried into new registrations.

If you have never logged in before, please select [Create Account](#) first, and then proceed to Registration (see registration link near top of main web page).

Currently Open Registrations:

Spring Tee Ball, Baseball & Softball (OPEN!)

Click [Baseball](#) or [Softball](#) for program information and to register.

Registration Deadline: March 31st

*******Note: Player evaluations are being held on the following dates, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm, at Ambler Sports Academy on Maple Road in Ambler: Saturday, February 5th and Saturday, February 12th***

Questions: Mike Basile, mbasile6@aol.com

Field Hockey (OPEN!)

[Click Here to Register](#)

Registration Deadline: Feb. 3rd

Cost: Whitpain Township \$60, Wiss School District \$70, Out of District \$85

Late Fee: After Feb 3rd \$25

Questions:

Rich Fry mrfry22@yahoo.com

Lance Eichert, hhokeycat@aol.com

WRA Codes of Conduct

WRA provides the main athletic platform for literally thousands of Whitpain Township children. WRA is one of the most important and influential organizations which touches our children's lives. WRA is

a stand-alone, non-profit organization, and is not a part of the Whitpain Township municipal government. How the coaches and parents behave at practices and games is vitally important to the fulfillment of WRA's mission. WRA is founded on the principle that good sportsmanship and character development are more important than winning a game or achieving an individual athletic goal. WRA requires that all players, coaches and parents comport themselves in a manner that is consistent with these principles.

WRA has adopted Codes of Conduct for players, coaches and parents/guardians attending WRA events. The Codes are posted on the WRA website and can be viewed by clicking on [this link](#). Very briefly stated, nobody is permitted to insult a player, taunt an opponent, argue with or berate an official or an umpire or otherwise behave in an unsportsmanlike manner while attending a WRA event.

The overwhelming majority of our WRA family behaves in an exemplary manner at all times. However, this past year, there were a couple of isolated incidents of parents and/or coaches violated the Code of Conduct by openly confronting officials and opposing coaches. This will no longer be tolerated. Everyone is encouraged to carefully read the Codes of Conduct. Everyone is required to comply with the letter and the spirit of the Codes. Individuals who violate the Codes will have to answer to WRA's Vice President of Operations, and prompt, decisive corrective action will be taken.

This is supposed to be fun, and it's supposed to be all about the kids. Let's take control of our emotions and keep it positive.

Thank you.

-Dan O'Brien, WRA President.

In Fond Remembrance of John Brady

Unfortunately, our first newsletter marks the passing of John Brady, a shining example of the kind of longtime volunteer that makes it possible for the WRA to complete its mission year after year. John passed away suddenly in late December at the age of 59.

John served on the WRA board from the late 1980's until the mid 1990's. He served as the Vice President of Equipment for many years also worked on the Basketball and Baseball committees. In the late 1980's there was a turnover of quite a few members of the board and John recruited a number of people to get more involved in the program at the board level. His efforts helped sustain leadership within the organization at a juncture when the programs really started to expand.

All 3 of John's children, Marissa, Matthew and Stephen participated in soccer, basketball and baseball/softball intramural and travel programs in the 80's and 90's which led to all 3 being varsity athletes in the late 90's until 2002 at Wissahickon High School. John coached at the intramural level and then went on to be an assistant coach for travel softball in 1990 and 1991. He then first assisted and become head coach for the travel

soccer program throughout the 90's. As a result of his interest in soccer, he passed the referees test and went to referee soccer throughout the area at the Club level as well as PIAA.

The WRA extends its sympathies to his wife Diane and their 3 children and thank them for all that John did for our program.

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