

The Bullpen

Published Periodically By, For and About Boardman Community Baseball

Volume 27

March 2026

Number 1

Welcome to Boardman Community Baseball

As Opening Day approaches, plans are under way to make this an exciting and memorable season for you and your children. This newsletter contains important information and dates regarding the upcoming season. **PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE SECTION PERTAINING TO YOUR CHILD. FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AT facebook.com/boardmanbaseball**

BCB is pleased to offer the following programs:

Boys Programs - Ages 4 to 18:

- **4, 5 & 6-year-old boys** play **MUSHBALL**: (Coed) Basic skills taught, coach pitch, tee used if needed, emphasis on learning and having fun.
- **6, 7 & 8-year-old boys** play **MINOR**: Basic skills taught, coach pitch emphasis on learning and teamwork.
- **8, 9 & 10-year-old boys** play **JUNIOR VARSITY**: Players pitch and are assigned according to draft and skill level.
- **10, 11 & 12-year-old boys** play **VARSITY**: Players assigned according to draft and skill level.
- **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION: 13-yr-olds**: 50ft mound 70ft bases, District League. Will need 30 players to offer. See page 4.
- **13 & 14-year-old boys** play **TRI-T PONY/LL Jr. Lg.** Play in surrounding communities and the Fields of Dreams.
- **15 thru 18-year-old boys** play **TRI-T COLT**. Play in surrounding communities and at the Fields of Dreams.

Any questions regarding Boys Programs, please contact the league office at 330-758-2123 or Vice President of Boys, Tom Harris at 330-881-6766.

Girls Programs - Ages 4 to 15:

- **4 & 5-year-old girls** play **MUSHBALL**: (Coed) Basic skills taught, coach pitch, tee used if needed, emphasis on learning and having fun.
- **5, 6 & 7-year-old girls** play **ROOKIE**: Basic skills taught, coach pitch, tee used if needed, RFI ball used.
- **8, 9 & 10-year-old girls** play **JUNIOR VARSITY**: Basic skills taught, players pitch and assigned by draft and skill level. Play in surrounding communities and the Fields of Dreams.
- **10, 11 & 12-year-old girls** play **VARSITY**: Players assigned by draft. Play in surrounding communities and the Fields of Dreams.
- **13 thru 15-year-old girls** play **TRI-T PONY/LL Jr. Lg.**: Play in surrounding communities and the Fields of Dreams.

Any questions regarding the Girls Programs, please contact the league office at 330-758-2123 or BCB President Chad Miller at 330-717-6981.

League Age Determination:

The BCB age is the age of your child as of **08/31/26** for **BOYS** and **12/31/25** for **GIRLS 4-15- yrs-old**. Due to Little League rules BCB will strictly observe the age rules. All players must reside in the Boardman School District, attend a school in BCB's boundary map or obtain a LL Waiver. **FOR 2026 TRI-T PONY/COLT BOYS AGE DETERMINE DATE WILL BE APRIL 30, 2026. CONTACT BCB AT 330-758-2123 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Late and Final Registration:

Boys ages 8-14 and girls ages 7-12, can still register and tryout until Saturday, March 14, 2026. Boys ages 15-18 can register up to May 15, 2026. All other players can still register on a space available basis depending on division and number of teams. Registration is available online at www.boardmanbaseball.com.

For more information please call 330-758-2123.

A \$25 LATE REGISTRATION FEE WILL BE ASSESSED FOR REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER February 13, 2026.

Dates For Your 2026 Calendar

March 14.....	Boys/Girls tryouts (7-12-yr-olds) Sluggers - South Ave Ext. See times on Pages 2 and 3.
March 23-26.....	Varsity/JV/Minor Girls/Boys Player Drafts
March TBD.....	PONY A & B Players Division Draft
April 18.....	Team Mom Meeting 10am Fields of Dreams
Late April.....	PONY Boys Opening Day
April 27.....	Opening Day Varsity and Junior Varsity Girls and Boys
April 28.....	Opening Day Mushball, Boys Minor, & Rookie Girls
May 7.....	Picture Day — RAIN DATE MAY 8th
May 9-10.....	Classic Tournaments Boys Travel Tournament
May 15-17.....	Sluggers Softball Travel Tournament
May 23-24.....	Classic Tournaments Boys Travel Tournament
May 29-31.....	Classic Tournaments Boys Travel Tournament
June 5-7.....	Atlantic Coast Boys Travel Tournament
June 15-18.....	Varsity/Junior Varsity Boys/Girls Playoffs begin
June 19-21.....	Sluggers Travel Softball Tournament
June 26-28.....	Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship Tournament
June 22-July 9.....	Little League District-2 Softball/Baseball Tournaments
July 5-12.....	Little League-10U, 11U & 12U State Softball Tournaments
July 18-24.....	Little League-12U-Major State Baseball Tournament
August 2.....	BCB Golf Outing-Mill Creek- 1pm Shotgun/Scramble



Payment Plans:

Optional Payment Plans are available, See BCB registration for info. Call BCB with questions at 330-758-2123.

WE DO NOT TURN AWAY ANY CHILD BASED ON THEIR ABILITY TO PAY.

Website and Online Registration:

You may register online at www.boardmanbaseball.com. This year, our website will list schedules, scores, rainout dates and much more. Thanks to Jeff Wilson and Dean DeMain for their help with the Sports Connect website. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD AT THE GIRLS/BOYS TRYOUTS. YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE. THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.**

BCB Policies:

ALL 10, 11 & 12-YEAR-OLD BOYS AND 10, 11 & 12-YEAR-OLD GIRLS MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO TRYOUTS ON MARCH 14, 2026.

Those who do not, will be on a waiting list to play in Boardman Community Baseball this season. ALL players in this age group must participate in tryouts. Those who elect NOT to participate in tryouts will be drafted to a Varsity or JV Division team. Those boys who cannot attend the March 14 tryouts must contact their player agent to be excused.

PLEASE COME EQUIPPED WITH A GLOVE, HELMET AND BAT TO TRYOUTS, IF POSSIBLE. BATS WILL BE AVAILABLE.

Major Boys & Girls Draft:

BCB OPERATES UNDER ONE LITTLE LEAGUE CHARTER - BCB LITTLE LEAGUE. THE DRAFT SYSTEM FOR THE 2026 SEASON WILL BE A RE-DRAFT OF THE VARSITY/JUNIOR VARSITY/MINOR BOYS AND VARSITY/JUNIOR VARSITY GIRLS DIVISIONS. THERE WILL BE 6-7 TEAMS IN ONE DIVISION FOR THE BOYS VARSITY AND 1-3 TEAMS FOR THE GIRLS VARSITY DIVISION. Boy's & Girl's managers will observe ALL players trying out. Following tryouts the managers will draft players to their respective team. All drafted players should receive a phone call from the manager within 48 hours of the draft dates on March 23-26, 2026.

Boys 4 thru 12:

All 4 & 5-yr-old boys will be assigned directly to a Mushball team. Six & 7-year-old boys will be assigned directly to a Minor Team. Coaches pitch at the Minor level. Previous evaluations will be reviewed for 7 thru 8-year-old boys to ensure that the talent level is evenly distributed amongst the teams in each division.

All 8-yr-old boys will be considered for the Minor Draft. 8-yr-old boys have the option of being considered and entering the Junior Varsity draft and can tryout (see below the time by age). Any 8-yr-old that is not drafted to a Junior Varsity team will be drafted to a Minor team.

10-yr-old boys have the option of being evaluated and entering the Varsity draft (see below the time by age). Any 10-yr-old that is not drafted to a Varsity team will enter the Junior Varsity draft.

Any 11-yr-old player not drafted to a Varsity team will enter the Junior Varsity draft.

All 12-yr-old players will be drafted to a Varsity team unless parents make a specific request to play in the Junior Varsity Division.

BOY'S tryouts will be held on **SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026.**

Saturday, March 14 at SLUGGERS-SOUTH AVE. EXT.

9-yr-old Boys.....	Saturday, March 14.....	10:00 AM
8-yr-old Boys trying out for JV....	Saturday, March 14.....	10:00 AM
10-yr-old Boys.....	Saturday, March 14.....	12:00 PM
10-yr-old Boys trying out for Var.	Saturday, March 14.....	2:00 PM
11-yr-old Boys.....	Saturday, March 14.....	2:00 PM
12-yr-old Boys.....	Saturday, March 14.....	4:00 PM

SLUGGERS REQUESTS THAT ONE PARENT ATTEND TRYOUTS AND IF POSSIBLE NO SIBLINGS (UNLESS TRYING OUT) TO LIMIT CONGESTION INSIDE.

Parents: please call the appropriate player agent regarding any questions you or your child may have regarding this process. Our divisions of play are set based on skill and ability levels, not necessarily age. With that being said, if you have a child that you feel needs to be in a lower or higher division than their age permits, please reach out to the appropriate player agent and our board will consider your specific situation.

Please plan to be at Sluggers AT LEAST 15 minutes before your scheduled time. All **BOYS DIVISIONS** player drafts will be held March 23-26. All drafted players should receive a phone call from managers within 48 hours of the draft; please do not call league officials or player agents before that time. Call a player agent if you do not receive a call from a manager by March 28, 2026.

Boys Player Agents:

Mushball Division:	Ralph Rivera	330-506-2634
Minor Division:	Joe Marzano	330-518-6764
Junior Varsity Division:	James Ramunno	330-518-4374
Varsity Division:	Tony Provenzale	330-565-9343
50/70 Division:	Tom Harris	330-881-6766
Pony Division:	Dean DeMain	330-507-9295
Colt Division:	Tom Gay	330-770-7725
Vice President Boys:	Tom Harris	330-881-6766

Boys 13 thru 18:

PONY LEAGUE/LL JUNIOR LEAGUE (AGES 13-14-YR-OLDS):

This year in the PONY/LL JR. Leagues, players will be allowed to play in other Leagues (i.e. Class B 14U) while playing in the PONY/LL JR. Leagues. The COLT League will also allow play in other leagues.

Managers are NOT required to give these players any special consideration.

There will be at least 2-3 teams in the PONY/LL JR. Leagues, all participating in the Tri-T/LL & Jr. Leagues for 2026. There will be an A and B Divisions with the number of teams in each division to be determined. The divisions will be based on players ability. Managers will pick their teams at the March draft. Each team will consist of 13-15 players. Non-drafted and non-assigned players will go into a player pool for possible future participation. PONY/LL JR. season will begin in late April. For more information, call PONY Player Agent Dean DeMain- 330-507-9295.

COLT LEAGUE (AGES 15-18-YR-OLDS):

BCB's COLT League program continues to grow with play at the Fields of Dreams. BCB continues to offer the COLT League program to boys ages 15-18.

We are accepting applications for qualified managers and registrations for players.

Our goal is to have a program that teaches the finer points of baseball, is highly structured, disciplined, and allows an opportunity for all team members to participate.

THE DEADLINE FOR MANAGER APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 15, 2026 AND PLAYER REGISTRATION IS MAY 15, 2026. If you are interested in managing, please contact BCB as soon as possible by calling the BCB office at 330-758-2123. For more information, call Vice President of Boys Tom Harris at 330-881-6766 or COLT Player Agent Tom Gay at 330-770-7725.

Girls 5 thru 15 Fast-Pitch:

All 4, 5, 6, & 7-year-old girls will be assigned directly to a Mushball or Rookie team, coach pitch. **All 8-12-year-olds** should attend tryouts at the times listed below. All JV and Varsity division players will be drafted onto teams.

****ONLY 7-8-YEAR-OLDS TRYING OUT FOR THE JUNIOR VARSITY DIVISION SHOULD ATTEND TRYOUTS.****

Girl's tryouts will be held on **Saturday, March 14, 2026**.

7-10-yr-olds.....Saturday, March 14.....8:30 AM
11-12-yr-olds.....Saturday, March 14.....9:15 AM

The player drafts will be held March 23-26. This draft is for managers and ONE established coach only. All drafted players should receive a phone call from managers within 48 hours of the draft; please do not call league officials or player agents before that time. If you have not received a call by March 28, 2026 call your player agent.

TRI-T PONY tryouts will be announced if needed. A notice will be mailed to each player regarding tryouts if held. Any questions, contact President Chad Miller at 330-717-6981.

Parents: Please call the appropriate player agent regarding any questions you or your child may have regarding this process. Our divisions of play are set based on skill and ability levels, not necessarily age. With that being said, if you have a child that you feel needs to be in a lower or higher division than their age permits, please reach out to the appropriate player agent and our board will consider your specific situation.

Girls Player Agents:

Mushball Division:	Ralph Rivera	330-506-2634
Rookie Division:		
JV Division:		
Varsity Division:		
Tri-T Division:		
President :	Chad Miller	330-717-6981

Requests:

We will not be able to honor requests by parents for their sons or daughters to be placed on a particular team or with particular players or managers. Little League Baseball recommends that all players at the Varsity, JV, Minor, and Mushball divisions go back to a pool after each season to be placed on a new team the next year. The goal is that players will make new friends and have new opportunities.

SAFETY AND SKILLS ISSUE REQUESTS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE LEAGUE. PLEASE CONTACT THE PLAYER AGENT FOR YOUR DAUGHTER OR SON'S AGE GROUP OR THE VP OF GIRLS OR BOYS TO DISCUSS.

Challenger Division:

We are excited to announce the 37th season of our Challenger Division; a program designed for physically & mentally challenged youth, age 6 thru 22. If you know anyone who would like to take part either as a player, coach or volunteer, please contact Laura Elder at 330-207-9234 or Jenn Krawchyk at 330-503-5564. The Challenger season will start on June 2, 2026. Picture day will be announced. If you are interested in being a "BUDDY" for a Challenger Player contact Laura or Jenn or the BCB office at 330-758-2123.

Volunteers:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have volunteered their services. Boardman Community Baseball is an adult, volunteer work project, constructed, supervised and assisted by parents who desire to make its benefits extend to their children. **BOARDMAN COMMUNITY BASEBALL COULD NOT EXIST WITHOUT YOUR HELP.**

Complex Field Days:

During the next two months, we will be preparing the fields for play. If you can spend some time helping us, contact Greg Krieger at 330-565-3114 or check the "Work Party Hot-Line" at 330-758-2123. Each Team will have a mandatory workday where they will need to have 2 representatives present to work. Please plan to participate when your manager asks for volunteers.

Umpiring:

Anyone interested in umpiring at the Varsity and JV level for both Boys & Girls should contact Fred Mootz at 330-559-5164 or Chad Miller at 330-717-6981. All of our umpires are offered training and with the number of games we play at the Varsity and JV level it takes many individuals to assure coverage for each game.

Again this season we are forming our own umpiring crews to work our Varsity and JV Boys and Girls Divisions. Umpires would be paid for services rendered. Please contact BCB if you are interested in becoming a registered umpire for BCB 330-758-2123 or Chad Miller.

UMPIRE CLINICS:

BCB and District 2 District Administrator Chet Cooper will conduct umpire clinics this spring. Contact Fred or Chad for clinic dates.

Team Moms:

A great way to participate is to volunteer as a "TEAM MOM". If you would be interested in helping this way, please let your manager know, or if you would like more information, call Valerie Jones at 330-501-2933 or vlrjns@aol.com. You can register to become a Team Mom for your team through the BCB registration site and your account. The Team Moms meeting will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10AM AT THE FIELDS OF DREAMS ADMIN. BLDG.

Intermediate 50/70 Division:

For 2025 BCB is still waiting to hear if Ohio District 2 will be offering a League for this Division. For more information call **Tom Harris - 330-881-6766**.

Team Sponsors & Signs:

A great way to support Boardman Community Baseball is to sponsor a team, especially if your child is on the team. Support can also come in the form of an outfield or scoreboard sign. Please contact **Rick Schafer at 330-507-3598 for team sponsors and Donnie Nameth for fence or scoreboard signs at 330-233-1400. A Sponsor Form is available at the BCB Website- www.boardmanbaseball.com.**



Fundraising:

In our continuing effort to raise funds to support our baseball programs and our complex, Boardman Community Baseball needs your help to make our fundraiser a success.

Our goal is to raise \$25,000 dollars via our fundraiser. BCB is a private self-supporting operation that receives no financial support from the township, county, state or federal agencies. The main source of income to support our facility and operations is the hosting of tournaments and the annual fundraiser that we ask each player (up to two per family) to participate in. Again this year we have included the fundraiser in the registration fee.

The cost of the fundraiser is \$50/player. We will supply each player with \$60 worth of DISCOUNT CARDS with community business discounts. After players sell all of their cards, it will actually serve as a \$10 discount on the cost of your registration fee. We THANK YOU in advance for your support of the fundraiser and we hope your player will sell the discount cards to take advantage of the \$10 discount. Cards will be mailed to players home starting the beginning of March.

New LL Residency Rule:

In 2014 Little League changed the residency boundary rule regarding where a player lives and the Little League they can play in. Each Little League organization has a boundary map by which their players must reside to play in said league. If a student attends a school that is within the league's boundary that player can play in said league regardless of their community residence. Proof of attendance is required from the school's administration. Schools included within BCB's Boundary Map include Volney Rogers, Kirkmere Elementary, St. Charles, St. Christine and Valley Christian School.

A Little League waiver may also be applied for to play at BCB. contact BCB at 330-758-2123 or Little League District Administrator Chet Cooper at 330-518-3977 for more information.
FOR 2026- ALL 4-7 YEAR OLDS MAY REGISTER AT BCB REGARDLESS OF WHERE THEY LIVE WITHOUT A WAIVER. SIBLINGS MAY ALSO PLAY WITHOUT A WAIVER.

Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship Tournament:

The 23rd Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship Tournament will be held June 26-28, 2026. The Tournament raises funds for the Chuck Schafer Scholarship and Boardman Community Baseball. Age divisions will include 8U, 9U, 10U, 10-11U, 11-12U divisions for boys. A discount will be offered to BCB teams entered into the tournament. For more information contact Mike Trell at 330-509-8110 or miketrell27@gmail.com or Rick Schafer at 330-507-3598 or rschafer@packerthomas.com.

Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship:

The Chuck Schafer Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2025-2026 academic years. Scholarships will be available to graduating students. Criteria includes: (1) senior status, (2) accumulative GPA of 2.75, (3) participated in BCB for 5 years in the baseball or softball program, (4) complete application and essay. Scholarship applications will be available at Boardman High School, Cardinal Mooney High School, Ursuline High School or online at www.boardmanbaseball.com. The application deadline is May 1, 2026. For more information, contact Rick Schafer at 330-507-3598.

Golf Outing:

A Fields of Dreams 30TH Anniversary Golf Outing will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2026 at Mill Creek Park Golf Course. The Outing will be a Scramble with a shotgun start at 1:00pm. Funds raised will benefit the Fields of Dreams. Please mark your calendar and put your foursome together for a great day of golf to benefit the fields. More information will follow. SEE YOU AT THE CREEK!

2026 Tournaments:

In 2026 ten tournaments will be held at the Fields of Dreams. Volunteers will be needed for all of the events. Please call Chad Miller at 330-717-6981 if you can help with gate, parking, officer of the day and other activities. Dates include:

May 9-10	Classic Tournaments Boys Tournament
May 15-17	Sluggers Softball Tournament
May 23-24	Classic Tournaments Boys Tournament
May 29-31	Classic Tournaments Boys Tournament
June 5-7	Atlantic Coast Baseball Battle at the Border
June 19-21	Sluggers Softball Tournament
June 26-28	Chuck Schafer Memorial Scholarship Tournament
June 22-July 9	LL District 2 Baseball/Softball Tournaments-TBD
July 5-12	Little League State Softball Tournaments
July 18-24	Little League State Major Baseball Tournament

