

June 24, 2004

Welcome,

We look forward to having you to our annual Independence Day Firecracker tournament on July 3rd-5th. For 2004, the tournament will feature 5 age groups and 104 teams from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, Delaware, Ohio, West Virginia, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and even Michigan!

- **Online** you will find:
 - Pool Play Schedule
 - Championship brackets
 - Tournament Rules
 - Park Directions
 - Skills Competition Information
- **Format:** Pool play will begin Saturday the 3rd beginning at 9:00 am. All teams will play 3 games on Saturday. Teams will finish playing pool play games on Sunday the 4th by playing 3 more pool play games. Pool play games will end Sunday afternoon. The skills competition will precede the tournament on Friday evening. Championship play will begin Monday the 5th at 9 am. All teams will play at least 2 games on Monday.
- **Timeline:**

Friday 9:00 am	College Showcase Camp (Registered players only)
Friday 7:00 pm	Skills Competition (Heishman's)
Saturday 9:00 am	Pool Play Begins
Sunday 7:00 pm	Pool Play Concludes
Monday 9:00 am	Championship Play Begins
- **Check In:**

Age Group	Site
10&U	Fayetteville
12&U	Guilford Complex
14&U	Green Village
14&U	St. Thomas
16&U	Lower Allen
16&U	Shippensburg Univ.
18&U	Heishman's
18&U	Plainfield Park

****Please check in near the concession areas at the above mentioned parks BEFORE your first game. Please bring a current PONY roster, proof of insurance, and copies of birth certificates to check in. We DO NOT need copies of any of this information – you only need to present it (no copies needed). If you have a problem, please contact your field director the day(s) of the tournament. They should be easily spotted as they have "Tournament Staff" on their shirts in big letters. DO NOT call me for seeding. Your field director will take down a number to contact you once ALL pool play games are complete. Teams playing the last round of games are encouraged to stay at the fields a few extra minutes to get their seeding at that time.**

- **Rain Phone:** In case of inclement weather, the rain phone number will be 717.243.3956. Please appoint only **one person per team** to access this number. The recording will be kept current and include any changes or cancellations if they happen. An email will also be sent to the contact person

should anything happen and updates will be made on the website in the case of heavy rain or other conditions. (<http://pa-softball.com/2004/firecracker.html>).

- **Team Cancellation:** If at any time you find out your team will not be able to participate, please let me know ASAP to be considered for future tournaments. If a team cancels, all teams scheduled to play them will be notified if a replacement team cannot be found.
- **Directions** and addresses for all the parks can be found on our website,
 - <http://pa-softball.com/directions.html>
- **Tournament Hosts:** Several teams will be helping host this particular tournament. These teams have done a lot of work to prepare for this tournament to ensure you have a good time. Please support these teams by cleaning up after your selves at the various parks, and by taking advantage of the reasonably priced foods they offer at the various concession stands.
- **Skills Competition:** Preceding the tournament will be a skills competition at Heishman's Softball Complex. The competition is something unique we do that consists of a number of team oriented events. Some of the skills include hitting, pitching, catching, base running, etc. The event will begin at 7:00 pm on Sunday. All teams are strongly encouraged to attend. Individual awards will be presented to the winners. **All teams have a sign up sheet (enclosed).** Fill out the sheet and bring it with you. We will be giving instructions at 7:00 pm and the competition will begin shortly after.
 - **Directions to Heishman's**
 - Follow Interstate-81 to Newville (Exit 37). Turn on route 233 North toward Newville for 2.5 miles. Fields are visible from the road.
- **Pool play brackets** are enclosed and are also posted online. Any changes to the brackets will be emailed to the contact person and also posted on the website. If it affects your Saturday morning start time you will be notified. To see if you have the most up to date brackets, check the "Last Modified" mark on the bottom left of the page. If there are changes to a bracket, updated brackets will be made available at check in.
- **Tournament results** can be found on our website at the conclusion of the tournament at
 - <http://pa-softball.com/2004/firecracker.html>
- **Hersheypark:** Quite a few teams that have entered tournament will be attending Hersheypark, a nearby theme park that has over 60 rides and does catered picnics. The park has given us a discount rate of \$26./person (regular \$37.95) on tickets when pre-purchased. More info on the website. Teams have found Hershey's catered meals to be a fun team activity.
- **Tournament T-shirts** orders are being taken (form enclosed). Any extra shirts will be available at the tournament, however, they may not have all sizes. Shirt orders may be emailed or faxed in (717.243.3956). Payment must be received on pre-orders by next Wednesday, June 31. Team orders of 10 or more will get a free shirt. Pre-orders will only be taken for team orders.
- **Tournament results** will be updated daily for those who can't be physically present. Daily results will be placed at the tournament homepage: <http://pa-softball.com/2004/firecracker.html>
- **A Team Picture** of every team will be taken at the tournament. Samples will be available on Sunday and Monday. All coaches will receive a free 8x10 team photo on me!

- **All Star Helmets** from Georgia will also be attending the tournament. This is their second year coming to our tournaments. They specialize in custom batting helmets, but they can also airbrush other items and they carry novelty goods.
- **Fun stuff to try at night:**
Chambersburg – Mall w/ cinema (Exit 20 - Scotland), Cluggies (batting cages, go karts, golf)–Exit 16
Shippensburg–Links of Olde Scotland (driving range, batting cage, mini golf, etc)–Exit 27?–Fayette St.
Newville – Old fashion drive in movie theatre (near main complex off I-81 – turn North on 233 1 mile)
Carlisle – Cinema 8 (I-81, exit 47), Sports Emporium (I-81, Exit 52–golf, batting cages, karts, etc)
- **Carlisle Fireworks Display:** Saturday July 3rd – 9:30 pm at the Carlisle Fairgrounds. (717-243-4515)
 - 1000 Bryn Mawr Rd, Carlisle, PA 17013
 - **From Route 81 coming from the North:**
Exit 52 for Route 11 South
Travel 2-1/2 miles then turn right on Clay St.
 - **From Route 81 coming from the South:**
Exit 44 to Plainfield
Follow the red and white Carlisle Fairgrounds signs
Bear left onto College St.
Turn right onto "G" Street to Clay St.
- **Chambersburg Fireworks Display:** Sunday July 4th – Dusk at Memorial Park. (717-261-3275)
 - 1151 McKinley St, Chambersburg, PA 17201
 - From Interstate-81, Exit 30 (Lincolnway/Rt. 30)
Turn onto Rt. 30 West for about .2 mi. Quickly move into the left turn lane (A Ponderosa Restaurant is on your left) as you will need to turn left at the first light onto Stouffer Ave. At the first stoplight (1/4 mi) on Stouffer, turn left onto McKinley Street and go a hundred yards. Turn right into Memorial Park Dr.
- **Tournament Awards:**
 All age groups – PONY Championship banner, Tournament MVP, MVP medals every game
 10&U - 1st/2nd team trophy, 1st/2nd individual trophies
 12&U – 1st-3rd team trophy, 1st/2nd individual trophies
 14&U – 1st-4th team trophies, 1st-4th individuals, 1st-2nd “Silver” bracket team plaque
 16&U – 1st-4th team trophies, 1st-4th individuals, 1st-2nd “Silver” bracket team plaque
 18&U – 1st-4th team trophies, 1st-4th individuals, 1st-2nd “Silver” bracket team plaque
- Please take a look at the enclosed brackets, making sure your team is scheduled for all 6 pool play games on Saturday/Sunday.

If you have any questions, feel free to email me: greg.barrick@pa-softball.com or call (717) 243.3956. I'm looking forward to a great tournament and look forward to seeing you on the 3rd!

Yours in Softball,
 Greg Barrick