

June 20, 2007

Coach,

We are looking forward to having you to our annual Independence Day Firecracker tournament on June 29-July 1. For 2007, the tournament will feature 4 age groups and 72 of the top teams from throughout the East Coast and Canada.

- Now updated on our website (www.pa-softball.com) and also enclosed in our tournament mailing:
 - Tournament Schedule & Championship Brackets (<http://pa-softball.com/2007/schedule.html#firecracker>)
 - Tournament Rules (<http://pa-softball.com/rules.pdf>)
 - Park Directions (<http://pa-softball.com/directions.html>)
- **Format:** Pool play will begin Friday, June 29th with most fields starting between 9-10 am. Teams will finish playing pool play games on Saturday the 30th. Most teams will play 3 pool games Friday and 3 more Saturday. While I've gone over brackets several times, please make sure your team is scheduled for 6 pool play games – if not please let me know. Championship play will begin first thing Sunday morning. Teams losing their first game are scheduled for a consolation game, so you'll have at least two Sunday games.
- **Inclement Weather:** In case of inclement weather, we will have our automated phone system call your team contact number should there be any changes (we can only have 1 number on our system). We will also attempt to keep the rain hotline (717.300.1300) updated. Please appoint only one person per team to access this number. Generally a decision is made around 5:00-5:30 am and a recording is usually available by 6 am. We will call teams as soon as a decision is made. An email will also be sent to the contact person when possible and/or updates will be made on the website in case of rescheduled games.
- **Team Cancellation:** If at any time you find your team will not be able to participate, please let us know ASAP to be considered for future tournaments. If/when a team cancels, all teams scheduled to play them will be notified if a replacement team cannot be found. Should this happen, we may consolidate the bracket and have teams with forfeited games play each other. In this case, teams will be notified of changes by email. We will eliminate forfeits when given sufficient notice. Changes will be noted in bold on brackets.
- **Directions** and addresses for all the parks can be found on our website, <http://pa-softball.com/directions.html>. Currently the only known construction is off the Marion exit (Exit 10) of I-81. Some teams get off the exit to take the back way to St. Thomas from the South, but unless it's completed before then, you may have to take an alternate route. You cannot get off exit 10 due to construction on the bridge over I-81.
- **Concessions/Trash:** Concessions will be available at all parks for the tournament. I think you'll find the food to be very reasonably priced with a variety of menu items. The concessions at tournaments are one of if not the biggest fundraiser of the year for many of the local youth leagues hosting us on their fields. Please help our field staff by picking up after your team. Presently coolers are allowed at all parks...please don't be the team that ruins it for everyone else (also alcohol is prohibited at all parks). Any items found during the tournament will be kept at the park concession stand. Check at the concession stand for lost items or following the tournament, email me regarding any unfound equipment and we will try to locate it for you.

- **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 any changes are made within 48 hours of the tournament and affect your Saturday morning start time you will be notified by phone. Any other changes will be made by email and posted online. To see if you have the most up to date brackets, check the "Last Modified" mark on the bottom left of the page to make sure it matches your copy. If there are changes to a bracket due to rain or a team dropping at the last minute, updated brackets will be made available at check in. **Changes to the original schedule will be marked in bold.**
- **Championship brackets/seeds:** Unless a different number is given at least 72 hours PRIOR to the tournament, the number listed above as your team contact # will be called with seeding information by our automated phone system with seeding information. This number will be called and if not available a message will be left. Brackets will also be posted online and coaches will be emailed brackets once pool play games are completed and championship brackets have been finalized. Coaches should check the pool play results posted at the game site before leaving each day. Once seedings are released, all seeds become final. **Score slips are kept by the umpire. Each team should sign to verify the winning team and score following each game. It is a good idea to also check your scores at the end of pool play to confirm what the umpires have submitted is accurate.**
- **Consolation Games:** By entering this tournament, you have agreed to the particular tournament format established for this event. **This event includes consolation games for those who lose their first round of games on championship day.** In the past, we have had some teams leave without playing this game. Should you leave without playing this game your team will not be invited back for subsequent events in the same calendar year or the same event during the next calendar year. If both teams are agreeable to not playing this game and the site director has been made aware and approves it, only then are you not liable to play this game. Not having players is not an acceptable excuse.
- **Hersheypark** is a major attraction in the area with over 60 rides, shows, a zoo and Chocolate World.. Once again the park has given us a great discount group ticket price of \$30.00/person for adults (regular \$45.95) when pre-purchased using the online order form. More info is available on our website or by calling 717.300.1300.
- **Tournament T-shirt** orders are being taken. Only team orders will be taken in advance. This is a good way to assure your sizes are available. T-shirt stands may not be set up at all parks, and not all sizes may be available at the tournament. Pre-orders must be in a week prior to the tournament. See the website for an order form
- **Team Pictures** will be taken of most teams at the tournament. Samples for ordering will be available on Saturday or Sunday under the canopy.
- **Tournament Awards:**
All age groups -PONY Championship banner, MVP medals every game
12&U – 1st-2nd team and individual trophies, 3rd place plaques for semifinal losers
14&U– 1st-4th Gold team and individual trophies, 1st place Silver trophy and individuals, 2nd place plaque
16&U– 1st-4th Gold team and individual trophies, 1st place Silver trophy and individuals, 2nd place plaque
18&U– 1st-4th Gold team and individual trophies, 1st-2nd place Silver plaque
- **PONY Nationals Berths:**
12U (1), 14U (4), 16U (4), 18U (2)

If you have any questions, feel free to email me: director@pa-softball.com or call (717) 300.1300. I'm looking forward to a great tournament and look forward to seeing you on the 8th!

Yours in Softball,
Greg Barrick
Tournament Director