



POPs Softball Newsletter



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POPs Softball Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief
Andy Eisner

POPs Softball
Commissioner

Letter from the Editor

I'd like to recount a situation that occurred during a game in which I was a fill-in player a few weeks ago that exemplifies how we should all conduct ourselves in the face of controversy. The situation: 7th inning; 2 outs; my team leading by 4 runs; runners on the corners. A ground ball was hit to SS, who fielded it and ran to 2nd base to get the force out. The umpire called the runner out at 2nd, and the game was over. However, it was obvious that it was a bad call. The base runner, who clearly beat the fielder to the base, had a momentary freak-out, but immediately regained control, shook hands with the opposing team, and then walked over to the umpire, shook his hand and said "nice game".

I knew the base runner, but not well. I now have a tremendous amount of respect for him. He "took the high road" and acted like a mature, well-balanced individual. Think about it – what was going to change at that point? Nothing. What would be gained from hassling the umpire? Nothing. Umpires are human and sometimes make bad calls.

I ask that every one of us keep this high standard of behavior and attitude in mind throughout the playoffs – it'll make it more enjoyable for all.

Thanks.

Andy Eisner
POPs Softball Director of Fun & Editor-in-Chief POPs Softball Newsletter



We continue to grow

by... Keith "Commish"
Pastuch

As we finish another year at POP'S, I'm amazed at the growth this league continues to have. *We must be doing something right!* We already have 2 new teams being formed for next year, and I have been approached by 3 teams "outside" the league to join. Some of you have asked if you can bring your own team in for next year. Like every year, we will continue to expand based on field availability.

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As you know by now you can change teams for next year, if you were not satisfied with your team or manager. We now have a free agent system in place to help you.

New teams will be formed from this year's waiting list, and they will need some players too. So, if you want to change teams email me at:

commish@popsoftball.com, or just let me know on your application for next year.

I started this league for the sole reason of wanting to enjoy playing softball with my friends, at a level I could still enjoy. We will try to do the same for you.

Looking forward to seeing you all at **Fall Ball** and at the **End of the Year Dinner**.

POPSOFTBALL.COM



The POPS website (www.popsoftball.com) is full of useful information on our league. You will find rules, schedules, standings, approved bat lists, rainout information, etc. Please visit the site often for the latest information.

The site is maintained by POPS director Juan Tocabens.

End of Year Dinner

Our 4th annual POPS End of Year Dinner celebration will be held once again at the Oceanside Jewish Center on Wednesday, September 1 at 7:30PM. All championship awards, including the coveted Pastuch Diamonds, will be handed out at the dinner.

As in the past, all POPS players are invited. The cost for all Directors, Managers, as well as the 5 championship teams (40 & Over American, National, Central and 50 & Over American, National) is covered by POPS. The cost for all other POPS players is \$25 – the balance of the cost will be covered by POPS. In addition, spouses, domestic partners, girlfriends, boyfriends, etc. are also invited for the same low \$25 fee.



It promises to be a truly great evening and gives you a chance to have some fun with your fellow POPS players. Last year we had over 150 players and guests attend.

How to sign up? Players on non-winning teams should email POPS Commissioner: Keith Pastuch at commish@popsoftball.com. Please indicate if a guest will be coming so we have an exact count for the caterer. **The cut-off date is August 21.** You can pay at the door that night for \$30.

2010 All Star Games

We will continue our tradition of having POPs All Star games – one for the 40 & Over league and one for the 50 & Over. To make sure the games are competitive, we will have assigned 2 Directors to divide players into fair teams.



The games will be played at Oceanside High School and are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, August 26. The 50 & Over game will start at 7:00 and the 40 & Over game will start at 8:30. For each game, we will try play up to 9 innings (depending on time) to allow ample opportunity for all players.

As usual, we will have our own Billy Bogatz announcing play by play and providing color commentary.

We are all "All Stars", so even if you are not participating in the game, please come down and root your fellow players on!

Play Ball! - Fall Ball That Is!

Last year was our third full season of POPS Fall Ball, and it was again an overwhelming success. The 2010 season of Fall Ball promises to be great as well.

Fall Ball will be an 8 game season, with games being played on Monday through Thursday nights at Oceanside High School. The season will run from 9/7 through 10/29. Depending on interest, there may be separate Over 40 and Over 50 divisions.



We will continue with last year's format allowing summer POPS teams to register and play together in Fall Ball. Individual players can register and will be drafted by teams needing players to complete their rosters. Also, for the 2010 season, we will be allowing 1 or 2 teams from outside POPS to play in fall ball.

The fee to play in Fall Ball is \$60. If you are interested, click here - [Fall Ball application](#) - or go to the POPs website to print an application. **The registration deadline is Friday, August 27** - so don't delay!

Rules Highlights - Playoffs

With the playoffs upon us, please keep these rules in mind. Most importantly, remember the principle philosophies of POPS are to compete, have fun, and not get hurt.

- Commitment line. A commitment line will be drawn half-way between 3rd base and home plate. Once a runner crosses that line they must continue to home plate. If a fielder has the ball while stepping on home plate after a runner has crossed the commitment line, the runner is out at that time – and the rest of the play continues. If the runner re-crosses the line (toward 3rd base), he is automatically out at that time – and the rest of the play continues.
- Playing the field. POPS rules allow for designated hitters, but not for designated fielders. Therefore, players are not permitted to play in the field unless they get up to bat.
- Playoff Penalties for not having a full team.
 - For a team that is 1 roster player short -
 - If a player is brought as a fill-in, they will begin the 2nd and 4th innings with 1 out.
 - If a player is borrowed from the other team (only to play the field), they will start the 2nd inning with 1 out and the 4th inning with 2 outs.
 - For a team that is 2 roster players short -
 - If 2 players are brought as fill-ins, they will begin the 2nd, 4th, and 6th innings with 1 out.
 - If 2 players are borrowed from the other team (only to play the field), they will start the 2nd inning with 1 out, and the 4th and 6th innings with 2 outs.
 - If 1 player is brought and 1 player is borrowed from the other team, they will start the 2nd and 6th innings with 1 out and the 4th inning with 2 outs.
 - Regarding fill-in players -
 - Brought or borrowed players must catch (and not make any defensive plays), play 1st base or 2nd base.
 - Brought players must bat at the bottom of the batting order
 - Brought players must be from the same or a lower division. (For example, an American division player cannot fill-in for a National division team.)
 - If roster players arrive late, they must immediately be inserted into the lineup, and fill-in players are no longer permitted to be used. Penalties are cancelled at that point.



All POPS rules can be referenced in the official POPS Rule Book posted on the POPS website:
http://www.popssoftball.com/PDF_Files/POPSOFTBALL%20RULE%20BOOK%20web.pdf.

Any questions on the rules should be directed to POPS

Baseball Quote



"The difference between the old ballplayer and the new ballplayer is the jersey. The old ballplayer cared about the name on the front. The new ballplayer cares about the name on the back." - Steve Garvey

What's the Baseball Ruling?



- Situation: The batter hits a fair ball. A fielder throws his glove at it and deflects the hit.
Ruling: The batter is awarded 3 bases and the ball is still in play (so he can advance to home at his own risk).
- Situation: The third strike isn't caught by the catcher allowing the batter to run to first, but he doesn't realize the ball wasn't caught and goes back toward his dugout down the third base line. His teammates yell at him to go for first. He turns and runs and gets to first base before the ball.
Ruling: Safe. It's okay as long as the runner does not go into the dugout.