



Chantilly Youth Association
Babe Ruth & Travel Baseball

Presentation to Parents

January 2005



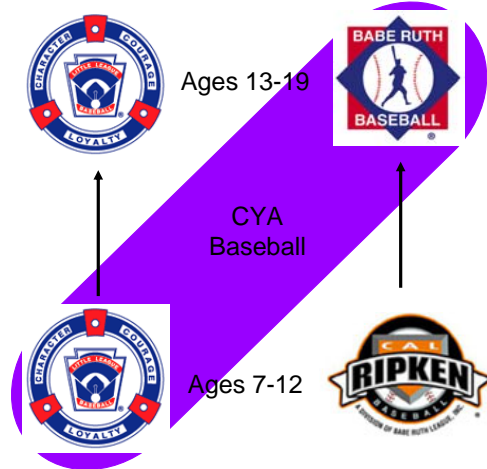
Agenda

- What is Babe Ruth Baseball?
- How is the program structured w/in CYA?
- What are the objectives of the CYA travel baseball program at this level, and how is it structured?
- Are there other benefits?
- What other changes are coming our way?



CYA Baseball

- CYA migrated from Sr. Little League to Babe Ruth Baseball several years ago
- For ages 13-15, we are part of GHBRL
 - Consists of two leagues: Chantilly and Herndon/Reston
- For ages 16-19, we are part of NFCSBRL
 - One league for Chantilly, Herndon, and Reston

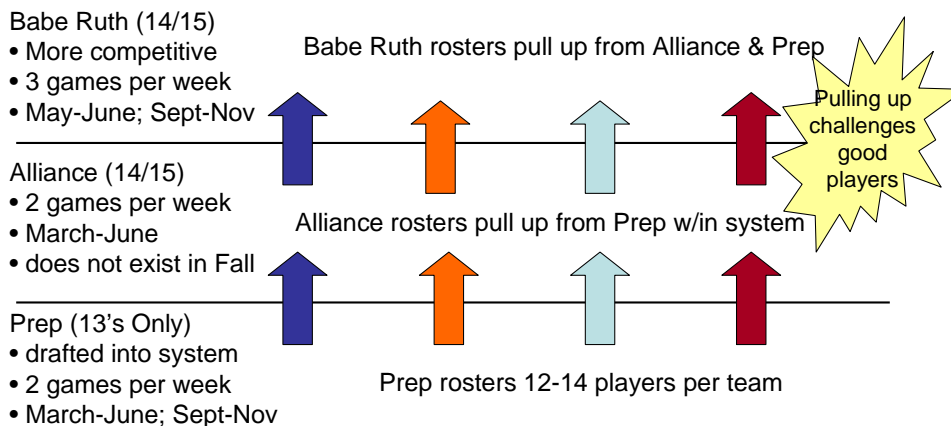


Talking points:

- Move to Babe Ruth was done for **flexibility**: rosters, all-stars, travel.
- **Flexibility** is driven by enriching opportunities for developing players
- Emergence of travel baseball is in response to community demand, but is unnecessary given Babe Ruth structure
- Having said that, we (the CYA Baseball community) have seen some very tangible benefits of sponsoring travel baseball
- CYA Little League is within Little League District 10 (<http://etamz.active.com/valldist10/index.cfm?>)
- CYA Babe Ruth is within Babe Ruth District VII (<http://www.vababeruth.com>)



CYA Babe Ruth Baseball Structure







Talking points:

- We are organized into four (4) systems. Each system has a System Manager, and operates three divisions: Prep, Alliance, and Babe Ruth.
- Prep consists of just 13 year olds. This allows these players to adjust to the 90' diamond without too much self-awareness and peer pressure. The game is very different as compared to Little League, and the players need a "safe" environment to learn and adjust. The Prep season consists of 2 games per week (one during the week, and one on Saturdays) for approximately 12-14 games. Season begins mid-April, and ends before school lets out.
- Alliance consists of 14 and 15 year olds. There is a big difference in the physical maturity between and 13 year old and a 15 year old. If nothing else, the speed of the game is increased. The Alliance season consists of 2 games per week (one during the week, and one on Saturdays) for approximately 12-14 games. Season begins mid-April, and ends before school lets out.
- Babe Ruth consists of more competitive 14 and 15 year olds. There is a big difference in the physical maturity between and 13 year old and a 15 year old. The speed of the game is definitely increased – pitching speed, running, thinking. The Babe Ruth season consists of 3 games per week (two during the week, and one on Saturdays) for approximately 12-15 games. Season begins mid-May (after high school JV sports end), and ends before school lets out – (about a 5 week season).
- Tryouts: only for Prep players. Once drafted by a system, players remain in that system unless they ask to be moved.
- Players from Prep can be pulled up to Alliance games to fill roster spots on a schedule or game-by-game basis
- Players from Alliance and Prep can be pulled up to Babe Ruth to fill roster spots on a schedule or game-by-game basis
- Although not illustrated Sr. Babe Ruth consists of 16-19 year old players. Teams play 3 games per week, and sometimes double headers and includes about 12-15 games. The season begins after the Varsity season ends (after school is out) and last only about 5 weeks). We also adjust schedule so as not to conflict with American Legion games.



CYA Babe Ruth All-Stars

- CYA Babe Ruth has a wonderful record of promoting our teams and players through the All-Star Tournament process.
- CYA Babe Ruth sponsors the following All-Star teams each year:
 - 13U: best 13U players, 2nd in district to 
 - 14U: best 14U players, 2nd in district to 
 - Alliance: best alliance players not chosen for 14U or 15U All-Stars, 2nd in district to 
 - 15U: best 15U players, 2nd in district to 
 - 16U: best 16U players, won VA, end at World Series
 - 17U: best 17U players, CYA hosting Southeast Regional
 - 19U: best 19U players, won VA, end at Southeast Regional
- CYA Sr. Babe Ruth teams have been to World Series twice, and almost always win the Virginia state title.
- Player visibility at these tournaments is more noteworthy than you might think. HS and American Legion coaches are watching at this level.

Other notes:

- The McLean/Great Falls Babe Ruth organization has high turnout, and is successful in the post-season.
- The Potomac Generals represent the travel system complement to the McLean/Great Falls Babe Ruth program.
- Like the Potomac Generals, our CYA travel teams, with a few adjustments, flow directly into our all-star teams.
- Coaches can also be the same for travel, Babe Ruth, and All-Stars



CYA Travel Baseball Structure

- We created a new system for select players; using the Potomac Generals as our model.
- The CYA Raiders represent the travel system within the CYA Baseball program.
- It began as a 13-15U set of select teams within CYA Baseball, and has extended to younger and older age groups.
- The purpose of the 13 and older Raiders teams is to prepare players for High School baseball – specifically Oakton HS and Chantilly HS.
- Preparing our teams for the All-Star tournament is a secondary objective.
- We may have up to two (2) Raiders teams for 13U.
- There are other models such as the South County Hawks and Vienna Mustangs that we chose not to emulate.



System Manager: Pete Gentile
Varsity (Fall only): Dave Gould
JV (Fall only): Paul Caffi
15U: Pete Gentile
14U: Patrick Gardill
13U: Curtis Rakosi

Talking points:

- We looked at many models for introducing travel baseball into the CYA program. Since it is OUR program, as members YOU can help us choose how best to make this happen going forward. We need to regularly assess our policies such that we continue to structure a program that our members want, and that still satisfy the overarching objectives of CYA.
- Thus, we created the a travel program for baseball – called the CYA or Chantilly Raiders.
- Travel baseball, however, is unlike travel programs for other CYA sports. For example, pitching is unique to baseball and must be closely monitored. We have policies in place to address this. Since the inception of the Raiders at the 13U and above levels, has a player become injured due to over-pitching, or overuse of the arm.
- We have a set of “guiding principles” that assist us in conducting our travel baseball program.



CYA Travel Baseball Guiding Principles

- The CYA Babe Ruth Board will govern the Raiders as another “system”
- We will remain part of CYA, and we recognize the benefits
 - Fields
 - Insurance
 - Enriched opportunities
 - Community involvement, contributions, and relationships
- All players must be within the boundaries for CYA Baseball.
- Players must play on a Babe Ruth team in the Spring, but not in the Fall.
- Doing something within the community and for our future baseball players is important to us.

Talking points:

- Fields:
 - EDS, Poplar Tree, Greenbriar, CHS, OHS, Herrity
 - If you choose not to participate w/CYA Raiders, how far are people willing to drive to practices? Springfield?
- Insurance:
 - More than just games, transfers to tournaments, covers transportation
 - Outside insurance for the same coverage would cost a considerable sum
- Enriched Opportunities:
 - Flexibility to create program specific to your needs
 - Each team can establish their own comfort level in terms of number of games, tournaments
 - Each team can depend on CYA Babe Ruth to look out for the best interests of each player, and to take an active role in their baseball development (i.e. system concept: helping one another).
 - More teams, means more opportunities to develop skills across positions, and better understand the game. This is not a time to specialize.
 - Playing on more than one team is good for the players, albeit more work for the parents.
 - We began by playing every other Sunday, and one tournament. Each team will gauge their own thresholds.
 - CHS and OHS coaches watch Raiders games, thus increases visibility with high school coaches
- Community Involvement:
 - CYA is active in our local community and politics. We acquire & develop fields, we contribute money and effort to improve our local baseball facilities: especially those at OHS and CHS.
 - We nurture relationships with OHS and CHS baseball coaches, and encourage special clinics for travel players. We also encourage OHS and CHS coaches to attend travel and all-star games.
 - We help OHS and CHS a lot. Helped OHS build new infield last year, helping CHS do it this year. Donating batting cages, hoods.
- Player Eligibility:
 - CYA Babe Ruth has the same boundaries as Chantilly Little League (American & National) combined.
 - We want to promote CYA players. CYA becomes a value added reason to want to live in our area vs other communities.
 - Spring: we want to give players a greater chance to develop their skills and recognize that players mature physically at different rates and times.
 - Fall: we recognize that players participate in other sports when baseball is not in season, but still want to encourage some participation.



FAQ

- What is there a value in playing on more than one team?
- How will the league govern pitching, and what assurances do we as parents have that our son will not hurt his arm?
- We enjoy the challenges of travel baseball, but aren't sure we really want to play house. Why should our son play Babe Ruth baseball also?
- How do we protect against burn-out?
- What else can we do to help our son prepare himself for high school baseball?
- What improvements is CYA Babe Ruth making to our community?
- How much does it typically cost to play AAU baseball?

•Value of more than one team:

- Playing on one team creates one dimensional players. Despite a coaches best intentions, players get pigeonholed into one or two positions in the field. Coaches are busy, have a lot of objectives to meet, they do their best, but this is what usually happens).
- Do not assume at this age that your player is playing a position that they will play in high school.
- Playing on these teams for different coaches offers more opportunities to learn the game from different perspectives.
- The kids enjoy playing house league because its fun. They are happy to raise the bar once a week to play better baseball, and strive not to disappoint themselves and their parents, and playing house is an outlet to let them enjoy the game with their friends, and also excel.
- Your son will be a leader on his house team and that is great for his overall development. He gets to share his knowledge and skills with other players who aren't as experienced.
- He can play and develop in other positions that he doesn't get to play regularly in travel – pitching is the most common example.
- It's an ego boost and confidence builder.
- He has the opportunity to move up into Alliance and Babe Ruth with older players. This is KEY – the more talented 14 year olds get rostered Babe Ruth. This means they play a season on a team with players who just finished their high school JV season. This is a great opportunity, and really raised the level of play.

•Pitching:

- We govern pitching through constant communication and close monitoring amongst the coaches in our program.

•Burn-out:

- If you fear burn-out will result from playing too many games, realize, that most if not all AAU teams play 50 game seasons, not counting practices – a 6 day a week schedule is common. If you play CYA house and Raiders you can expect the following:
 - A. preseason – one house practice per week, plus one Raiders practice a week
 - B. season – two house games per week, one Raiders practice, and one or two Raiders games depending on what the team wants to do. This is a 4 day per week schedule rather than 6 days.
- We believe our approach balances the objective to help your son get more and better baseball without getting them burned out or hurt.

•What else can we do?

- Realize CYA has close ties to the high school programs at OHS and CHS.
- In the fall our players have the benefit of being coached by Caffi (WT Woodson) and Bradford (Fairfax).

•Community Involvement:

- Building infields at OHS and CHS, donating batting hoods, etc.
- Leaving a better baseball facilities for the next group behind us

•Costs:

- CYA: house \$150, travel \$200, all-stars \$100 = \$450
- AAU: typically \$1300



Winter Workouts

- CHS – Virginia Baseball Club (VBC) new facility in Chantilly near Pepsi plant (<http://eteamz.active.com/baseballcamp/index.cfm?>)
- OHS – MVP (<http://mvpbaseball.cc/index.html>)
- Hitting – Farris Baseball (<http://www.farisbaseball.com>)
- Pitching – Farris Baseball (<http://www.farisbaseball.com>)
- CYA – CHS on Sundays in the wrestling room across from basketball court (<http://www.chantillyyouth.org>)