

June 20, 2006

Coach,

We are looking forward to having you to our annual Firecracker tournament. For 2006, the tournament will feature 4 age groups and 134 of the top teams from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, Florida, and Ontario, Canada.

- **Now updated on our website:**
 - Pool Play Schedule (<http://pa-softball.com/2006/schedule.html#firecracker>)
 - Championship brackets
 - Tournament Rules (<http://pa-softball.com/rules.pdf>)
 - Park Directions (<http://pa-softball.com/directions.html>)

- **12U/14U Format:** Pool play will begin Saturday the 1st with most fields starting at 9:30. Teams will finish playing pool play games on Sunday the 2nd. Most teams will play 3 play games Saturday and 3 more Sunday, but because of an odd number of teams in some age groups, some may have a slightly different schedule. Irregardless, all teams should be scheduled for 6 pool play games – if not contact us immediately. Championship play will begin first thing Monday morning. All teams losing their first game are scheduled for a consolation games, so all teams have at least two Monday games.

- **16U/18U Format:** Pool play will begin Saturday the 1st with most fields starting at 12:00. Teams will finish playing pool play games on Monday the 3rd. Most teams will play 2 pool games Saturday, 3 Sunday, and 2 games Monday. All teams, unless noted, should be scheduled for 7 pool play games – if not contact us immediately. Championship play will begin first thing Tuesday morning. We will be playing straight single elimination.

- **Rain Phone:** In case of inclement weather, the rain phone number will be 717.300.1300. 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. Generally a decision is made around 5:00-5:30 am and a recording is usually up by 6 am. We attempt to call all teams in a timely manner should this occur, but it is your responsibility to check the message.

- **Team Cancellation:** If at any time you find out your team will not be able to participate, please let us 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. Should this happen, we may consolidate the bracket, eliminate forfeits, and have teams who would have received forfeits play each other. In this case, teams will be notified of changes by email.

- **Directions** and addresses for all the parks can be found on our website, <http://pa-softball.com/directions.html> currently no construction along major corridors is known.

- **Concessions/Trash:** Concessions will be available at all parks for the tournament. Please help our field staff by picking up after your team. Any items found during the tournament will be kept at the park concession stand. I have been asked to remind teams that you are not allowed to bring coolers or pets into Heishman's Softball Complex (18&U park).

- **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 made within 48 hours of the tournament 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.

- **Championship bracket seeds** will be available by phone approximately an hour after the last pool play game in your age has been completed. DO NOT CALL US SUNDAY/MONDAY EVENING; you will be called by your field director with your seed. Be sure to leave (1) active cell phone number with the field director at check-in (only 1 number will be called). This number will be called and if not available a message will be left. Championship brackets will also be posted online Sunday/Monday evening. Incoming calls will not be answered until all teams are called with seeds. If you want detailed bracket information you'll need to get it online.
- **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 \$28.50/person for adults (regular \$41.95) on tickets when pre-purchased. More info is available on our website or by calling 717.300.1300.
- **Tournament T-shirts** orders are being taken. See the website for an order form. Team orders only will be taken. Stands may not be set up at all parks, and not all sizes may be available.
- **A Team Picture** will be taken of most teams at the tournament. Samples for ordering will be available on Sunday and Monday under the canopy.
- **All Star Helmets** will once again be attending the tournament. They specialize in custom batting helmets, but they can also airbrush other items. Call Chris at 706-463-2276 for more info. They will be at the 10, 12, and 14U parks during the course of the weekend.
- **Tournament results** will be updated for those who can't be physically present. Daily results will be placed at the tournament homepage: <http://pa-softball.com/2006/firecracker.html>
- **Tournament Awards:**
All age groups (1st place Gold only) – PONY Championship banner
12&U – 1st-4th “Gold” team trophies, 1st-4th “Gold” individuals, 1st-2nd “Silver” team trophy, 1st “Silver” individuals
14&U–1st-4th “Gold” team trophies, 1st-4th “Gold” individuals, 1st-2nd “Silver” team trophies, 1st “Silver” individuals
16&U – 1st-4th “Gold” team trophy, 1st-4th “Gold” individual trophies, 1st-2nd “Silver” team trophies, 1st “Silver” individuals, 1st “Bronze” team trophy, 1st “Bronze” individuals
18&U – 1st-4th “Gold” team trophies, 1st-4th “Gold” individuals, 1st 1st-2nd “Silver” team trophies, 1st “Silver” individuals
MVP medals will be awarded for every game
- **PONY Nationals Berths:**
12U (2), 14U (4), 16U (4) – All bids will be given to teams coming out of the Gold bracket

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 1st!

Yours in Softball,
Greg Barrick