



The Scoreboard

Richmond Boys Fastball Association

November 2007



Message From the President

This year was a successful year for Richmond at the Provincial Championships. Every one of our teams that were in the provincials, medaled! Starting with our Midget 'C' Team who took the Gold in Kamloops; to our Pee wee 'A' team who took the Silver in Abbotsford; to our Squirt 'B' team who took Gold in Richmond; to our Squirt 'C' team who took Gold in Richmond; and finally, to our Mite Select team who took Gold in Fleetwood. RFA was the most dominate association in B.C. Congratulations to all those hardworking players and coaches; you should be as proud of your achievements as we are.

From a participation point of view we maintained our numbers which is good news in some ways but disappointing in others. When looking around the Province and comparing the RBFA, to other Fastball associations and at several other sport associations, we feel we have a good program. We still need to continue to reach out to the new players to join us. We also need to reach out to the new Canadians to join our dynamic sport. We have, however, continued to see too high a dropout rate among players in the transition from Jr. Mite (7-8 yr olds) to Mite (9-10 Yr olds) . We will be looking for guidance from coaches, parents and players in the fall to see if changing the program at Jr. Mite is the answer to help retain more players.

Congratulations to our Field personnel, Scorekeepers, Concession crew, Team parents, RBFA umpires and Tournament organizers for running a first class Squirt B&C Provincial Championship this past July at Palmer. This was a unique and challenging new format and RBFA shone as hosts once again. For 2008 we are bidding on the A/B & C Pee wee Championships with the hope of sending a Richmond team to the Westerns. We are also proud to acknowledge that the BC Summer Games Zone team made up of select players from the western Lower Mainland is so far an all Richmond team. As we head into our 30th something season (could be 33rd or more), we are looking to continue to improve and grow our sport for the boys. Please remember that the RBFA is you, our members and your board is looking for you help and input to continue our great and proud tradition. Step up however you can as every little bit helps.

Congratulations again to all on another great season,
Bill Merrell

The Minis and the Jr's

Last year I had the opportunity to work with the Minimite division to try to smooth the transition for new players and coaches into the dynamic sport of Fastball. I had a lot of fun watching the Mini-Mites learning and playing - the way only they can. I enjoyed lending a little advice from my previous two years coaching Minimites and watching you coaches step up to the challenge.

I saw a level of parent engagement with the Minimites that was not only impressive but instrumental in making their season a success. I also enjoyed watching a group of new coaches develop and make a real difference to a group of new ballplayers. The 2008 season is fast approaching and I'm looking forward to being involved and helping out in whatever ways I can.

In addition to my time with the Minimites, my team and I were introduced to our first year at the Jr Mite level – playing a more structured game with many more of the games rules. It was fun working with the kids and watching them pick up some of the thinking side of the game. With lots to learn, for both the kids and myself, I'm looking forward to the new season and another round of fun on the field. I hope to see all of the new coaches out there again this year.

In addition, some of you parents showed me that your coaching skills are dying to jump onto the field and we're always looking for new coaching talent. In addition, we're also looking for good constructive feedback so don't hesitate to let us know what you think works well and what could use some tweaking. Stay tuned for information on preseason clinics, for both players and coaches. See you out there.

Jesse Houle
Jr. Coordinator
RBFA





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The Umpire in Chief:

This will be my first year as UIC and second as an "official" umpire. I've been hanging around RBFA for about 9 years now and thought I'd move from coaching to officiating as our previous UIC, Wayne Harper had to resign due to health issues which, at this time I'm pleased to report, are much improved. Wayne has kindly agreed to be of assistance during the transition. The RBFA will be sponsoring a Level 1 Clinic this year and we hope to have advance online registration. We will also have an introductory program for new umpires as well. Please check into the RBFA website in mid to late February for additional details. My objective is to maintain the high standard of officiating that the RBFA is known for, and to recruit and develop all umpires to higher levels.

John Doyle, RBFA UIC

2008 Registration and Nintendo Wii Draws

Registrations for the 2008 season are now being accepted. The early registration fee deadline is January 11th 2008, after which regular season fees will apply. There will be three in person registration dates available:

January 12th at Minoru Pavilion from 11am to 3pm

January 20th at Minoru Pavilion from 12pm to 4pm

February 20th at Southarm Community Centre from 6pm to 8pm

In addition, with your paid registration your name will automatically be entered for a draw for **3 Nintendo Wii's**. There will be an early bird draw for one Nintendo Wii held on January 13th for those that registered prior to January 12th and another draw for 2 Wii's on February 29th for those registered prior to February 21st. Remember that you can pay online at www.rbfa.ca by Mastercard or Visa. Additional registration forms can also be downloaded and mailed in to the address indicated.

***Added Bonus: If you register **online** prior to February 21st you will receive a bonus entry for the chance to win the Nintendo Wii's.



Spring Pitching Clinics Registration Deadline January 9th

Once again the RBFA will be offering all new and experienced up and coming pitchers of all ages the opportunity to hone their skills in pitching clinics. Clinic runs on Sundays for 1PM to 5PM starting *January 13 and ending March 16* (a total of 10 sessions) at Westwind School on Kingfisher Drive. Clinics will be taught once again by Andrew Fenton. Sessions are run in ½ hour time slots, and classes will be limited to 6 players. Coaches will be given preferential time slots if they register 4 or more players at the same time.

Extra time *may* be allotted to older, more experienced pitchers. (more than a ½ hour of instruction). Please indicate the range of time you are available from 1PM to 5PM to assist us in arranging the classes better. If you put in only one time slot you may end up in a class with players several years younger or older. There will also be a late clinic (4 sessions) running starting *Feb 24th and ending March 16th*. These late clinics will be accommodated if there is room available and the fees have been paid in advance. Choice of time will limited to available time slots. If you wish to participate please download the form from the RBFA website (rbfa.ca) and provide us with the information listed. For more information please contact Andrew Fenton at 604-307-5488.



Visit the RBFA website at www.rbfa.ca





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Message from Softball BC

The BC Summer Games are being held in Kelowna July 24-27, 2008. The venue being used for our event is the Kinsmen Quad Plex, commonly known in the softball community as the Mission Complex. Softball BC is looking for volunteers to do:

1. scorekeeping (scorekeeper & helper)
2. field prep and maintenance (3 people per diamond)

If you or anyone you know would like to participate in either of these roles, please contact Ann Holmes at 250-542-9696 or involved2@shaw.ca

2008 Board Members

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|-----------------------------|------------------|
| President: | Bill Merrell |
| Vice President + Registrar: | Praveen Johal |
| Treasurer: | Mairi McNamara |
| UIC: | John Doyle |
| Equipment Manager: | Doug Zukowsky |
| Grounds Manager: | Al Menzie |
| Sr. Division Coordinator: | Berny Schulz |
| Jr. Division Coordinator: | Jesse Houle |
| Member at Large: | Michael Weaver |
| Member at Large: | Marshall Shields |
| Past President: | Drew Tablotney |

Upcoming Events

January 9th: Deadline for pitching clinic registration

January 11th: Deadline for early registration discount

January 12th (Sat): RBFA registration at Minoru Pavilion from 11am to 3pm

January 20th (Sun): RBFA registration at Minoru Pavilion from 12pm to 4pm

February 20th (Wed): Late registration at Southarm Community Centre from 6pm to 8pm

Week of March 24th: Season begins

The Batting Cage

After a year and a half of negotiations with the City and School board, we finally have our batting cage operational and on budget. Thank you to all of the volunteers for digging the trench, hanging the net, laying the rubber and even building the shed. Special thanks to Bill for supplying the cable. Please remember when using the batting cage – Safety first and have fun.

Open Gyms

Coaches or parents; would your son be interested in attending open gyms to get a jump on spring training? We can get gyms for coaches and players to be able to use for preseason training to get the kinks out and start working on skill development and player evaluations. If you are interested please email to Drew at amtab@telus.net or fax to 276-2943. Gyms times would be in the evening during the week, and are available starting mid January.



Visit the RBFA website at www.rbfa.ca

