



# WELCOME TO THE 2018 SEASON

**WABL.org**

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 18 WHO ARE INTERESTED IN PLAYING T-BALL, SOFTBALL OR BASEBALL, PLEASE HAVE THEM CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AT OUR MAILING ADDRESS OR AT [www.WABL.org](http://www.WABL.org)

## WOW! WHAT A YEAR WABL HAD IN 2017! OUR 60TH YEAR

There were many exciting reasons to be a WABL fan. First and foremost, WABL's Softball Program continues to grow and we are very excited about it! In 2017, WABL softball had a total of 10 teams, the most in many years! WABL softball plays in the Community Softball League (CSL) made up of teams from Copley, Highland, Revere and Wadsworth. In 2017, the Junior League RubberDucks brought a runner-up trophy home to WABL! Way to go WABL softball!

WABL's T-Ball Program was again a huge success, not only for WABL, but for the over 175 boys and girls who participated. This was our biggest year for T-Ball in seven years! Thank you to T-Ball Commissioner Jeff Matthews, along with all of the coaches and parents who helped make T-Ball so successful. T-Ball fills up quickly, so make sure you sign up early.

WABL hosted its "Night at the Races" fundraiser in May and it was a huge success, raising over \$11,000 for field improvements and new equipment. The date for the 2018 Night at the Races is May 4th at Tangier's. In only its sixth year, the WABL Night at the Races is quickly becoming a great tradition – we hope to see you there!

The 2017 season was capped off with an outstanding Day of Champions celebration. Congratulations to all of the teams who played that day. Also, congratulations to our Spirit of WABL winners, and finally, thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this event possible.

Last year WABL showed its commitment to our families that we will provide a positive, character learning sports experience for our players. WABL signed a three year contract with the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) and will be providing workshops for our coaches and parents. In year one, we saw an immediate impact on the fields. We look forward to continue to work with the PCA in future years.

The WABL Board and I are eager to start the 2018 season. I personally want to let all of you know that WABL appreciates everyone's time and effort that contribute to a successful season. Our WABL board members are a team of fantastic and hardworking people who make sure the business side of WABL runs smoothly, but we need more help to grow our board and create more committees. The primary areas they oversee include: finances, sponsors, baseball and softball operations, fields, administration, umpires, uniforms, rules, publications, public relations, equipment, insurance, and fundraisers. If you are interested in helping, we'd be more than happy to have you. Just contact us via our website at [www.wabl.org](http://www.wabl.org), call a board member, or just simply check the "WABL Board" box on this year's registration form.

The 2018 calendar of events has changed slightly from last year, so please check it out so that you are aware of when events we have planned take place throughout our 2018 season. WABL Day with the Akron RubberDucks has been an enjoyable event that provides those who attend a chance to see the RubberDucks play and hang out with our WABL players and their families. We are very excited to continue this tradition again in 2018! We provide three tickets for each player in the League, and there are special events provided for our players - the biggest of which is a parade around Canal Park prior to the game. This year, we will again combine our baseball, softball and t-ball teams for this exciting day at Canal Park! Please also watch for the annual golf outing/scramble, featuring 18 holes of golf with lots of fun, food and prizes. This has become a great WABL tradition and is truly a FUNdraiser!

Finally, I want to give two BIG "High 5s" ... first to The Akron Police Department: All of the officers who are along the Day of Champs parade route donate their time to WABL to make the parade happen! And second to Jamie Daniels! Jamie spent 10 years as WABL's VP of Baseball and has decided to hang up the cleats. Nobody understands the amount of time and energy that Jamie put in to the baseball side of WABL over the last 10 years. Thank you very much for the time and dedication that you put into it!

Lastly, I appreciate any feedback (even if it isn't always positive) to help us better our league for the future. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to call or email me or any other board member. Remember, you can find all of the WABL news that you need, including photos, schedules, standings, rosters and much more by visiting [www.wabl.org](http://www.wabl.org) ... and don't forget to "LIKE" us on Facebook by visiting our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/WestAkronBaseball](http://www.facebook.com/WestAkronBaseball).

Sincerely,  
Mike Dies, WABL President, [mikedies@wabl.org](mailto:mikedies@wabl.org)



2017 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS  
2018 REGISTRATION FORMS  
2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
2018 DRAFT DAY INFORMATION

## THANK YOU SPONSORS!

We want to thank all of the sponsors, coaches, parents, grandparents and friends who make WABL possible. Inside you will find a list of all of the 2017 sponsors. Please patronize these businesses that have so generously supported WABL. If you are interested in sponsoring a team for the 2018 season, please contact

**Doug Bryson at By Design Sportswear. 330.867.9029**  
[dkbryson4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dkbryson4@sbcglobal.net)



## 2018 WABL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MIKE DIES	President
CATHY ERISEY	VP of Administration
BOB HEFFERN	VP of Finance
PATRICK GILL	VP of Personnel, Baseball
BETSY BARR	VP of Personnel, Softball
JEFF MATTHEWS	VP of T-Ball
STEVE HOSTLER	VP of Equipment
JOHN HEFFERN	VP of Fields
DOUG BRYSON	VP of Sponsors & Uniforms
JEFF SLOAN	VP of Umpires
SEAN McFALLS	VP of Post Season
VACANT	VP of Web Services
BRENDA HITE	I-League Commissioner
TODD FITZWATER	H-League Commissioner
JIM WEBER	G-League Commissioner
SEAN YOST	F-League Commissioner
STEPHANIE YORK	Public Relations/Communications

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Jamie Daniels, Patti Eickhoff, Jamie Hunt, Kevin Floyd, Steve Milkovich, Rich Morehouse, Jeff Neusser, JP Paxton, Nick Vitale, Keith Wisberger

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT ANY OF THE OFFICERS LISTED ABOVE WITH YOUR COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS, COMPLIMENTS OR QUESTIONS.

## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO

MAYOR DAN HARRIGAN  
AKRON CITY COUNCIL  
WARD 8 COUNCILWOMAN, MARILYN KEITH  
WARD 1 COUNCILMAN RICH SWIRSKY  
FIRESTONE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL LARRY JOHNSON  
LITCHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DYAN FLOYD  
THE CITY OF AKRON POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE DEPARTMENT, AND EMS FOR LENDING THEIR SUPPORT AT OUR DAY OF CHAMPS PARADE  
2017 WABL SPONSOR OF THE YEAR: JIM LARIA, CLERK OF COURTS  
2017 WABL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR: CATHY ERISEY  
THE NORTHWEST FAMILY RECREATION CENTER AND ITS FRIENDLY STAFF  
THE AKRON RUBBERDUCKS  
SAINT SEBASTIAN PARISH  
SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
ALL OF OUR FANTASTIC SPONSORS WHO KEEP US GOING  
ARTISTS INCORPORATED  
POWER MEDIA  
THE CITY OF AKRON RECREATION BUREAU WHICH ISSUES OUR BALLFIELD PERMITS  
SUMMIT COUNTY METRO PARKS FOR THE USE OF CASCADE WABL COMMISSIONERS: TODD FITZWATER, JEFF NEUSSER, JIM WEBER, SEAN YOST, AND BETSY BARR  
THE FIRESTONE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL & SOFTBALL PROGRAMS  
THE FIRESTONE HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN OUR DAY OF CHAMPS PARADE  
THE PARENTS OF ALL OF OUR PLAYERS  
THE COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES FOR ALL OF THEIR TIME AND PATIENCE



## JOIN US AND HAVE A BALL!

Our FUNdraising events help WABL to defray some of the ever-increasing costs, such as field maintenance, usage permits, and new equipment. We hope that these important off-field events continue to grow, so we are working to make them better each year for our fans. Please come and join the fun!

Thanks again and hope to see you there!

## DON'T MISS A NIGHT AT THE RACES



**WHAT:** WABL Night at the Races  
**WHEN:** Saturday, May 5, 2017, 6 pm-10 pm  
**WHERE:** St. Sebastian, Zwisler Hall  
**COST:** \$60 includes a horse, two dinners and drinks.  
( \$20 for just a dinner)

FRIDAY  
MAY  
4

For more information, contact Mike Dies by email at [mikedies@wabl.org](mailto:mikedies@wabl.org) or by phone at (330) 867-4332.

## JOIN US 'FORE' OUR 18TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

**WE ARE ALREADY PLANNING THE 18TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER, SO SAVE THE DATE – SATURDAY, JUNE 16 – on your calendar.** Come join us for a great day of golf, food, and fun – the WABL outing is a great golf scramble for a great cause.

Please refer to [WABL.org](http://WABL.org) for registration forms and sponsor information.

Registration fee includes golf, dinner, beverages – and fun!



SAVE THE DATE | SATURDAY  
1:00 pm check-in, 2:00 pm shotgun start | JUNE 16

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO **ARTISTS INCORPORATED** FOR THEIR DESIGN AND WORK ON OUR NEWSLETTER



## VICE PRESIDENT OF BOYS BASEBALL REPORT

For the past ten years I have been the Vice President of Baseball for WABL. During that time I have had the privilege of working with many talented and dedicated members of the WABL Board. With their help I believe that our organization has been a positive experience for the families of West Akron. It has always been my goal to make baseball fun for every kid that wanted to play and within that fun learn some baseball and life lessons. Hopefully I have fulfilled that goal because it is time for me to hang up my VP cleats. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Vice President and feel confident that my successor Patrick Gill will do a fantastic job leaving his own stamp on the League. Thank you West Akron for a wonderful ten years.

**Jamie Daniels**  
WABL Vice President of Baseball



## H-LEAGUE REPORT

The 2017 H-League season was exciting from beginning to end. In all nine teams, with an average of 12 ball players per team, were competitive top to bottom. The league had a great mix of veteran coaches and first year coaches which combined to bring different strengths and abilities to our teams much like the ballplayers themselves. The ballplayers enjoyed the games through team cheers, good play, and a strong competitive spirit. WABL H-League also competed against Copley and performed outstanding furthering the two communities partnership in youth baseball. The Regular Season Champions were the Orioles. Playoff season was fun and exciting as each team put all their skills together and played their hearts out looking to advance to the next round. The two teams who advanced through an outstanding playoffs were the A's and the Pirates. In a thrilling Championship Game the Pirates topped the A's and became the 2017 WABL H-League CHAMPIONS! Thank you to all the H-League families for supporting their ballplayers, coaches, umpires, and West Akron Baseball & Softball League. We look forward to another rewarding season of player development and wonderful memories.

Yours in Service,

**Todd Fitzwater, WABL H-League Commissioner**



### 2017 H-LEAGUE TEAMS:

A's – Coach Rich Sparhawk  
Sponsored by: Jim Laria, Clerk of Courts  
Angles – Coach Bill Dannemiller  
Sponsored by: Ohio Gasket & Shim  
Cubs – Coach Jeff Berenson  
Sponsored by: Perfection Lawn Care & Landscaping  
Indians – Coach Keith Wisberger  
Sponsored by: The NORKA Beverage Co.  
Orioles – Coach Sean McFalls  
Sponsored by: Judge Jon Oldham  
Pirates – Coach John Milam  
Sponsored by: Ace Mitchell Bowlers Mart  
Reds – Coach Eric Hall  
Sponsored by: Full Spectrum Marketing  
RubberDucks – Coach Jeff Willits  
Sponsored by: Summit Toyota  
White Sox – Coach Tom Dietrich  
Sponsored by: Play It Again Sports

## G-LEAGUE REPORT

I am pleased to report that 2017 was another successful season for G-League!

Our G-League teams again competed not only in WABL, but also in the CBL with teams from Highland, Copley, Revere and Chippewa. This allows our teams to compete with the best of the neighboring communities, and I can proudly say that we held our own against them.

Congratulations to the RubberDucks who were WABL's regular season champion and represented WABL in the CBL playoffs.

The Pirates and the RubberDucks met on WABL Day of Champions, entertaining the large crowd with an entertaining championship game, with the players exhibiting great pitching and defense. Congratulations to the RubberDucks on winning the 2017 WABL G-League Day of Champions game 5 to 1.

Finally, I would like to thank all the coaches, parents, umpires, sponsors, players, and fans for making 2017 another successful WABL season!

**Jim Weber, WABL G-League Commissioner**



### 2017 G-LEAGUE TEAMS:

A's – Coach Steve Bordenkircher  
Sponsored by: Patrick Bravo, Akron School Board  
Indians – Coach David DeFiore  
Sponsored by: Logistic Concepts  
Pirates – Coach Will Christie  
Sponsored by: U of A College of Applied Science and Technology  
Reds – Coach Mike Jones  
Sponsored by: Akron Breakfast Optimist Club  
RubberDucks – Coach Steve Hostler  
Sponsored by: Marshall Oral, Facial & Implant Surgery

## F-LEAGUE REPORT

The 2017 F-League season was a great success. We had four teams in F-League, all with energetic and dedicated coaches! Special thanks to managers Jay Carpenter (Indians), Craig Bowers (A's), Chris Merzweiler (Pirates), and Patrick Gill (RubberDucks) for volunteering their time and energy. Each did a fantastic job and their contribution is much appreciated!

F-League competes in the CBL with teams from Copley, Revere, Highland and Norton. This offers a great opportunity for the kids to play against their peers from neighboring communities. The A's finished the season as regular season champs, and went on to represent WABL in the CBL tournament. The A's fought well, making it to the Championship game where they defeated Norton in an exciting game. They had a terrific season. WABL teams all had great CBL records this year!

WABL also held its own championship game, where the A's defeated the Pirates, who battled their way through the Indians's & Rubber Ducks to make it to the championship game. Both teams left it all on the field and entertained the large crowd that came to watch these impressive teams. All four teams had some great highlights throughout the season and in the playoffs. Many thanks to players and parents for a great season! Finally, congratulations to Russell Buehrle, winner of the Kurt Klein Award.

2018 looks to be another fantastic year!

**Sean Yost, WABL F-League Commissioner**



### 2017 F-LEAGUE TEAMS:

A's – Coach Craig Bowers  
Sponsored by: Tire Source

Indians – Coach Jay Carpenter  
Sponsored by: Miller Presort

Pirates – Coach Chris Merzweiler  
Sponsored by: Hamad Tire Pros

RubberDucks – Coach Patrick Gill  
Sponsored by: Ryan Shaffer, Stouffer Realty

## I-LEAGUE REPORT

As I reflect on the 2017 WABL season, it occurs to me that our family has had quite a ride with this great organization. We started with WABL when our son was a first-year I-League player in 2006; he played all the way through F-League and [so far] three years of high school baseball. My involvement started early, as I joined the board by 2007 and was asked to take the commissioner role for I-League the following year. I am very thankful to have had this opportunity, aided by a strong board and great coaches – and we've made many friends along the way. And yes, learned a lot more about baseball, too!

I can proudly say that I-League is stronger now than it was ten years ago; we've added the Future Stars series, we've modified to more advanced baseball rules, and we recently started a pre-season I-League clinic and family picnic. WABL stands for kids and family first, and I enjoyed my time as a "WABL dad" just as much as my years helping with I-League. My sincere hope is that every player for WABL has found something enriching and positive for themselves and their families, while learning about the game and being part of a team.

The 2017 season was another successful one, with many new coaches helping us steer our way from the cold & wet April practices all the way to the Day of Champions on a hot day in July. I very much appreciate the time and effort that our coaches put forth – they are the ones who work with your kids and shape what becomes their real WABL experience. Please take the time to note the coaches and sponsors (listed here in the newsletter), as they are the most important factors in making a great baseball season.

While I'm passing the I-League role to Brenda's very capable hands, I will remain active with WABL, primarily helping with events such as our Golf Outing Fundraiser. This organization has been very prominent in our lives for the past several years, and I'll continue to help it grow and reach the young players in our community. Again, I'm thankful to be a part of it and to have met so many good people through it. I ask that you consider spending more time with WABL as well – whether it's joining the board or just helping with your child's team. It's a truly rewarding experience.

Thank you!

**Jeff Neusser, I-League Commissioner (former)**



### 2017 I-LEAGUE TEAMS:

Angels – Coach Abe Zayed  
Sponsored by: Marshall Oral, Facial & Implant Surgery

A's – Coach JP Paxton  
Sponsored by: Dermatologic Surgery Center

Cubs – Coach Doug Yoder  
Sponsored by: Amer's West Hill Marathon

Indians – Coach Ben Whitney  
Sponsored by: Barbers West

Orioles – Coach Dave Merrick  
Asst Chris Purcell  
Sponsored by: Firefly Music School

Pirates – Coach Crista Gibson  
Sponsored by: The Eye Opener

Reds – Coach Tom Haller  
Sponsored by: Judge Jennifer Hensal

RubberDucks – Coach Adam Smith  
Sponsored by: Miracle Custom Awards & Gifts

Tigers – Coach Robert Lann  
Sponsored by: Summa Health Orthopedic Institute

White Sox – Coach Tim Tober  
Asst Chris Lee

Sponsored by: The Smithers Group



## VICE PRESIDENT OF GIRLS SOFTBALL REPORT

2017 was a great year for WABL softball girls! We continued to play in the CSL (Community Softball League) with teams from Copley, Revere, Highland and Wadsworth. We had one of our largest numbers of girls participating and were able to form ten teams.

Our youngest league (ages 6-8) is Coach Pitch and we were able to field three teams. Thank you to our Coach Pitch coaches and their assistants for laying down the foundation of teamwork for our newest and youngest WABL girls and getting them excited to play ball.

American League (ages 9-10) also had three teams this past year. Thank you to our American League head coaches and their assistants for continuing to develop our young softball players as teammates and fostering their love of the game. National League (ages 11-12) had two teams this past year. Thank you to our National League head coaches and their assistants for encouraging positive teamwork and developing strong softball players this season. And finally our Junior League (ages 13-14) had two strong teams this year. Thank you to our Junior League head coaches and their assistants for being facilitators for team spirit and cross training these strong and loyal softball players. Congrats to the Junior League RubberDucks for making it to the championship game and finishing as the CSL Runner-Up!

WABL Softball continues to grow by leaps and bounds and I want to continue to have our athletes return season after season. WABL is a recreational league and I want all girls to feel excited to be a part of a team. Win or lose, working together with great integrity while enjoying the game is what I observed the most when watching our WABL teams vs. other teams in our league. I observed a variety of great teammates last season, from the team that brought their dollies to every game to the team that had awesome handshakes for each player. WABL softball girls rise above and play with heart and soul. Thank you parents, for supporting your daughters, their coaches and teammates; teamwork starts at home and we thank you for sending our league some great team members!

### Betsy Barr, VP of Girls Softball

#### 2017 SOFTBALL TEAMS:

Instructional League Argos – Coach Josh Shkolnik

Sponsored by: Nicole Walker for Judge

Instructional League Falcons – Coach Jason Zachardy

Sponsored by: Prime 93

Instructional League Rubberducks – Coach Pedro Avalos

Sponsored by: Bobblehead Addicts

American League Argos – Coach Amy Cullen

Sponsored by: The Village of St. Edward

American League Falcons – Coach Betsy Barr

Sponsored by: Roetzel

American League Rubberducks – Coach Ashley Stewart

Sponsored by: Team Minday State Farm

National League Falcons – Coach Damien Goostree

Sponsored by: Acme Fresh Market

National League RubberDucks – Coach Joe Moxon

Sponsored by: Akron RubberDucks

Junior League Falcons – Coach Brian Simon

Sponsored by: The Black Keys

Junior League RubberDucks – Coach Mike Dies

Sponsored by: Dies Electric

## UMPIRE REPORT

I don't want to wish away the winter months but I can't wait to say, "PLAY BALL!"

The 2018 season brings new opportunities for our organization, and we look forward to training new umpires. We are especially in need of softball umpires. If you or someone you know is interested in umpiring baseball or softball, please contact me, Jeff Sloan, Vice President of Umpires, by email at [jeffrygsloan@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrygsloan@gmail.com). Boys and girls must be 14 years old to umpire. Of course, any new umpire will need a certain amount of training and equipment which will be provided by WABL through me.

When attending a game, please remember that the young umpires are learning and that they are not multi-year veterans; there will be close calls and some that you feel are incorrect. When this happens, I am asking that you consider that it is what and how things are said that will set the tone for the remainder of the game -- and also the quality of our boys and girls' experience with WABL. We all know how important it is for parents, coaches, and umpires to be on the same page. The examples that we set now will go a long way in shaping our boys and girls - not only as competitors, but as people.

In closing, I would like you to know that I am more than happy to discuss with coaches and parents alike the training, attitude, and ability of any of the umpires who work our games.

Thank you all so much for your support and cooperation, and I wish for all of you the very best in our upcoming baseball and or softball season!

**Jeff Sloan, Vice President of Umpires**

## T-BALL REPORT

2017 was a great year for WABL's T-Ball program! The league grew again this year, and we put together 16 teams! Our 2017 league had 14 teams, which means we added about 24 more players this year over the 2017 season. This tells me that the word is getting out there that WABL's T-Ball program is a great experience for the children of West Akron, and people want their kids to experience the game in our league.

Many Thanks for the following coaches for making it fun for the players, and helping to lead a fantastic season: Brian Parana (A's), Steve Bitecofer (Braves), Ben Hoffman (Cubs), Joy Hazly (Marlins), John Cavileer (Orioles), Dan Smith (Pirates), John Conner (Reds), Jeremy Veillette (Tigers), Andy Rhamy (White Sox), Eric Barbour (Angels), Pedro Avalos (Dodgers), Rick Aldridge (Giants), Josh Shkolnik (Indians), Joel Queen (Nationals), Tremain Fields (Rubberducks), and Greg Enright (Rockies). We had a great mix of first-time coaches and veteran coaches. These guys made the season a success!

To our sponsors: Thank You Very Much! We really appreciate your support and hope to see your names on our jerseys in 2018! Spread the word, T-Ball is a great thing for the kids to do!

**Jeff Matthews, WABL Vice President of T-Ball**

#### 2017 T-BALL TEAMS:

A's – Coach Brian Parana

Sponsored by: Kristen M. Scalise, Fiscal Officer

Angels – Coach Eric Barbour

Sponsored by: Play it Again Sports

Braves – Coach Steve Bitecofer

Sponsored by: Swenson's Drive In

Cubs – Coach Ben Hoffman

Sponsored by: The NORKA Beverage Co.

Dodgers – Coach Pedro Avalos

Sponsored by: Bobble Head Addicts

Giants – Coach Rick Aldridge

Sponsored by: Akron Breakfast Optimist Club

Indians – Coach Josh Shkolnik

Sponsored by: Summa Health Orthopedic Institute

Marlins – Coach Joy Hazly

Acme Fresh Markets

Nationals – Coach Joel Queen

Sponsored by: Prime 93

Orioles – Coach John Cavileer

Sponsored by: Full Spectrum Marketing

Pirates – Coach Dan Smith

Sponsored by: U of A College of Applied Science & Technology

Reds – Coach John Conner

Sponsored by: Pavona's Pizza Joint

Rockies – Coach Greg Enright

Sponsored by: Marilyn Keith, Ward 8 Council

RubberDucks – Coach Tremain Fields

Sponsored by: Judge Christine Croce

Tigers – Coach Jeremy Veillette

Sponsored by: Judge Jason Adams

White Sox – Coach Andy Rhamy

Sponsored by: Jeff Fusco, Akron City Council-at-Large

# VICE PRESIDENT OF TOURNAMENTS REPORT

In 2017 WABL decided to turn what used to be the "Americans" tournament team program into a program for the masses. We called it the "Americans" clinic program.

Last year being the first year, we decided to limit it to H-league players. It was designed to give ALL H-league players who were interested, a chance to refine their fundamental skills in a clinic type atmosphere most Sunday afternoons, at no extra cost to their families.

The goal was that by helping individual players improve their play, inherently their teams would improve as well - thus making WABL H-league more competitive all around. We averaged around 15 players a week. And for those who continually gave it their all, the progress showed!

This year we hope to expand the program to G-league players as well. We will build on what we started last season, bringing some of the H and G league coaches on board. This will provide a comfort level to the athletes, as well as providing a continuity of skills being taught throughout the league during the season.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of the Firestone Falcons baseball team for sending us their uniformed players to help in last year's clinics. Their continued support will be much appreciated.

And don't forget...the more you practice, the better you play!

**Sean McFalls**  
VP – Post Season and Tournament

## WABL 2017 SPONSORS

ACE MITCHELL BOWLERS MART  
ACME FRESH MARKETS  
AKRON BREAKFAST OPTIMIST CLUB  
AKRON RUBBERDUCKS  
AMER'S WEST HILL MARATHON  
BARBERS WEST  
BOBBLEHEAD ADDICTS  
BY DESIGN SPORTSWEAR  
DERMATOLOGIC SURGERY CENTER  
DIES ELECTRIC  
FIREFLY MUSIC SCHOOL  
FULL SPECTRUM MARKETING  
GREG SANTOS PHOTOGRAPHY  
H & M LAWN MAINTENANCE  
HAMAD TIRE PROS  
HANNA, CAMPBELL & POWELL  
JIM LARIA, CLERK OF COURTS  
JUDGE JENNIFER HENSAL  
JUDGE JON OLDHAM  
LOGISTIC CONCEPTS  
MARSHALL ORAL, FACIAL & IMPLANT SURGERY  
MILLER PRESORT  
MIRACLE CUSTOM AWARDS  
NICOLE WALKER FOR JUDGE  
NORKA BEVERAGE CO.  
OHIO GASKET & SHIM  
PATRICK BRAVO, AKRON SCHOOL BOARD  
PERFECTION LAWN CARE & LANDSCAPING  
PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS  
POWER MEDIA  
PRIME 93  
RJC COMPUTING  
ROCKNE'S - MERRIMAN ROAD  
ROETZEL  
SHAW JCC OF AKRON  
STANLEY STEEMER  
STOUFFER REALTY, RYAN SHAFFER  
SUMMA HEALTH ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE  
SUMMIT TOYOTA  
SWENSON'S DRIVE IN  
TEAM MINDY, STATE FARM  
THE BLACK KEYS  
THE EYE OPENER  
THE SMITHERS GROUP  
THE VANDEVERE BUNCH  
THE VILLAGE OF ST. EDWARD  
THIRSTY DOG BREWING COMPANY  
TIRE SOURCE  
TRAMONTE DISTRIBUTING  
U OF A COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE & TECH

### 2017 T-BALL SPONSORS

ACME FRESH MARKETS  
AKRON BREAKFAST OPTIMIST CLUB  
BOBBLEHEAD ADDICTS  
FULL SPECTRUM MARKETING  
JEFF FUSCO, AKRON CITY COUNCIL AT LARGE  
JUDGE CHRISTINE CROCE  
JUDGE JASON ADAMS  
KRISTEN M. SCALISE, SUMMIT COUNTY FISCAL OFFICER  
MARILYN KEITH - WARD 8 COUNCIL  
NORKA BEVERAGE CO.  
PAVONA'S PIZZA JOINT  
PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS  
PRIME 93  
SUMMA HEALTH ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE  
SWENSON'S DRIVE IN  
U OF A COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE & TECH



Please like us on Facebook at  
**WEST AKRON  
BASEBALL  
LEAGUE**



# 2018 WABL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REGISTRATION ENDS  
THURSDAY  
MARCH 1

DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
February 10 Sat.	Walk-In Sign Ups/Equipment Exchange Drop off	9:30 am - Noon	Northwest Family Recreation Center
February 21 Wed.	Walk-In Sign Ups/Equipment Exchange Drop off	6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Northwest Family Recreation Center
February 24 Sat.	Walk-In Sign Ups/Equipment Exchange Drop off	9:30 am - Noon	Northwest Family Recreation Center
<b>MARCH</b>			
March 1 Thur.	<b>Mail-In Deadline</b>		
March 17 Sat.	<b>Boys &amp; Girls Tryouts/Draft</b> Refer to wabl.org for specific times for each age bracket	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	Firestone High School – ACT Gym
March 24 Sat.	Mandatory Managers Meeting	9:00 am - Noon	TBD
<b>APRIL</b>			
April 7 Sat.	Practice Starts		
April 28 Sat.	I-League Players Clinic/Welcome Picnic	10:00 am	Hardesty Park Field & Pavilion
<b>MAY</b>			
May 1 Tues.	<b>T-Ball Registration Deadline</b>		
May 5 Sat.	Boys and Girls Games Start		
May 5 Sat.	<b>WABL Night at the Races</b>	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	St. Sebastian, Zwisler Hall
May 19 Sat.	WABL Picture Day (Baseball and Softball)	TBA	Byrider Hall
May 25-28	Memorial Day Weekend - No Games		
<b>JUNE</b>			
June 6 Wed.	T-Ball Coaches Meeting; Rosters Set	6:00 pm	Northwest Family Recreation Center
June 11 Mon.	T-Ball Practice Starts		
June 16 Sat.	<b>Annual WABL Golf Outing</b>	1:00 pm check in; 2:00 pm shotgun start	Good Park Golf Course
June, TBA	<b>WABL Day with the Akron Racers</b>	TBA	Firestone Stadium
June 24 Sun.	<b>WABL Day with the Akron Rubberducks</b>	Parade: 1:00 pm Game: 2:05 pm	Canal Park
June 25 Mon.	T-Ball Picture Day, Mon./Wed.		
June 26 Tues.	T-Ball Picture Day, Tues./Thurs.		
<b>JULY</b>			
July 4 Wed.	Independence Day - No Games		
July 7 Sat.	<b>2018 Day of Champs Celebration</b>	Parade: 11:30 am - Games: 1:00 pm	
July 9 Mon.	T-Ball Games Start, Mon./Wed.		
July 10 Tues.	T-Ball Games Start, Tues./Thurs.		
July 11 Wed.	H- and G-League All-Star Games	7:30 pm	Cascade 1 and 3
<b>AUGUST</b>			
Aug 1 Wed.	T-Ball Games End, Mon./Wed.		
Aug 2 Thurs.	T-Ball Games End, Tues./Thurs.		





**WEST AKRON BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LEAGUE (WABL)**  
 PO BOX 5751  
 AKRON, OHIO 44372-5751



Newsletter design courtesy of Artists Incorporated.



**WABL Board**  
**Jeff Neusser**

Please consider bringing in your used and outgrown gear when you come to register for the 2017 season – and don't hesitate to see what's available!

We'll have donation tubs for this equipment at our open registration events, both for drop off and pick up; you may also email [equipment@wabl.org](mailto:equipment@wabl.org) or text/call 330-310-9363 to arrange to donate or take equipment. We require only that the donated equipment goes to registered WABL players.

**HELLO WABL FANS – and parents of GROWING players!** Each year you are probably seeing your young player outgrow some of their equipment: bats, cleats, gloves. These things are often still in good shape, and you need to find a place to donate it. Well, WABL would love to take it off your hands and to keep it within our organization! We'll collect your used gear and pass it on to younger WABL players in need. Your used gear not only goes to a good cause, but it stays within the WABL family and helps others in our own baseball community!

# EQUIPMENT EXCHANGE

## 2017 SPIRIT OF WABL AWARD WINNERS

- Coach Pitch Softball  
 Louisa Denee
- American League, Dick Mapes Award  
 Lauren Stoller
- National League, Jim Daley Award  
 Ashley Dies
- Junior League, Dick Gross Award  
 Michayla Bloss
- F-League, Kurt Klien Award  
 Russell Buehrle
- G-League, Fred Maligno Award  
 Tate Clevenger
- H-League, Bill Cunningham Award  
 Logan Minutz
- I-League, Tom Floyd Award  
 Chase Hodas

