

Babe Ruth League Formed in 1952; Has Thousands of Teams

Babe Ruth League, Inc., is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, sponsored by The Coca-Cola Company, and is dedicated to the task of developing good citizens by providing properly supervised baseball competition for the 13, 14 and 15 year old boys.

Incorporated in 1952, there are now many hundreds of leagues and thousands of teams in 47 states and five provinces of Canada. During the year 1958 alone, new teams enrolled in the program at the rate of over 25 per week. Unquestionably one of the primary reasons for this success is that the rules and regulations have been established through democratic procedures and with the guidance of professional people such as recreation directors, high school athletic authorities, college baseball coaches, etc., etc.

The foundation of the program is the 13, 14 and 15 year old boys on the standard diamond. Selection of this age grouping on the regulation infield was made originally after several surveys (including a survey conducted with the cooperation of the National Recreation Association) indicated that an overwhelming majority of the professionally trained men and women interested in youth were in favor of this basic concept of the program.

The experience during the past 7 seasons of the thousands of Babe Ruth League teams clearly endorses this basic decision. The physiological development of the 13, 14 and 15 year old junior high and high school age boys dictates the use of the regulation diamond under slightly modified professional baseball rules. The younger boys rapidly adjust to the larger diamond with the assurance that no further adjustment in throwing, pitching, etc., will be needed as they join the high school teams in the older programs.

Babe Ruth League, Inc., is a member of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation; the National Committee for Amateur Baseball, and the National Recreation Association. The National Committee for Amateur Base-

ball includes the membership of the American Association of College Baseball, American Amateur Baseball Congress, American Legion Junior Baseball Program, American Institute of Park Executives, American Recreation Society, Babe Ruth League, Inc., National Federation of High School Athletic Associations and the National Recreation Association.

Require Certain L.L. Equipment

Official Little League rules specify certain playing equipment which each team must have.

According to these rules, each Major team must have at least 12 conventional baseball uniforms. The uniforms, however, remain the property of the league and are only loaned to the players for such a time as the league specifies.

It is also required that each league provide in each of the dugouts at least five protective helmets approved by National Little League Headquarters. The rule further specified that each batter and all base-runners must wear these protective helmets.

Shoes with metal cleats are prohibited but shoes with molded rubber cleats are permitted. All catchers must wear metal, fibre or plastic cup-type supporters. It is suggested by Little League Headquarters that athletic supporters be worn by all the players.

Televising of regular season Little League games or special games is prohibited. The appearance of Little League players in uniform on commercial television programs without express approval of National Headquarters is also forbidden.

Although no admission may be charged at any Little League games, Little League headquarters does permit the taking up of voluntary contributions.

North Farmington Boys Baseball Program Was Organized in 1955

With the rapid residential growth in North Farmington the need for a separate baseball for boys program for that area of the community was deemed necessary.

Therefore, early in 1955 Bill Tilder, Tim McArt, Jim Cate, Jack Sheridan and other interested parties set about the task of organizing such a program.

They received surplus equipment from the Farmington Baseball for Boys organization and set up two leagues of four teams each with games being played at the Bond and Eagle elementary school playgrounds. Considerable help was rendered the organizers of the North Farmington baseball program by Harp Lapham, official of Farmington Baseball for Boys, Inc.

IN 1956 the North Farmington group continued to operate two leagues of four teams each with shirts and caps as well as additional equipment being supplied by the Farmington Baseball for Boys organization.

It was in 1957 that a Little League franchise was taken out for North Farmington Little League, Inc. The boundaries of the new league were set from 11 Mile to 15 Mile roads from Haggerty Road on the west to Inkster Road on the east.

A FOUR TEAM Major League and six team Farm League was formed. Bill Tilder was named first president of the league. With the generous contribution of materials for dugouts, a flag pole and backstops made by Bill Weightman of Franklin Products plus several man-hours of work by several interested in the league, a new playing field was set up at the Bond school.

In 1958 the League was expanded with six Major League teams being formed as well as eight Farm League teams under the direction of President

Bill Tilder. A "C League" was also formed to serve those boys just learning the fundamentals of baseball.

In the fall of 1958 a Women's Auxiliary was formed to assist the men in the operations of the expanding league.

THIS YEAR, 1959, a four team Babe Ruth League was formed with two more Little League Farm teams being added. The name of the organization was officially changed to North Farmington Baseball for Boys, Inc.

Officers of the North Farmington League this year are: Dick Tilford, commissioner; Carl Gustafson, secretary; Ralph Sheets, secretary; Jack Sheridan, president of the Babe Ruth League; Bill Davis, president of the Little League; Jack Vanderwill, president of the Farm League; and Mitch Budzenski, players agent for the Little League and the Farm League.

Officials of the Women's Auxiliary for the 1959 season are: Elaine Beck, president; Vir-

ginia Dunne, vice president; Betty Cate, secretary; and Dorothy Carpenter, treasurer.

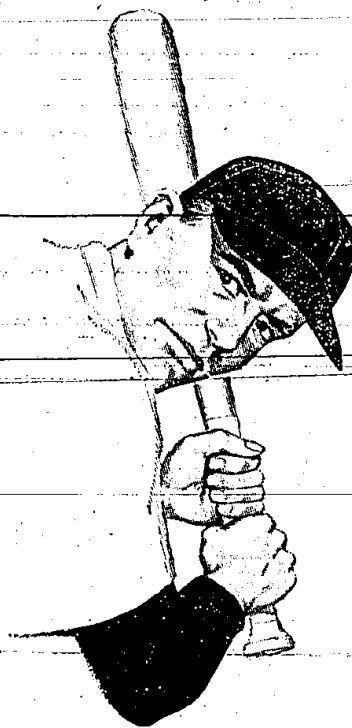
Sponsors of L. L. Teams-N. Farmington

Sponsors of the six Major League North Farmington Little League teams are: Red Sox, National Bank of Detroit, Branch 61; Indians, Gordon Williamson, Inc.; Tigers, Al Karner's-Wilson Dairy; Yankees, Russels Steak House; Orioles, Farmington Township Police Department; White Sox, Twin Pines Dairy.

Two of the sponsors listed for Little League Farm Teams were Jean's Hardy and Peter Pan of Northland.

The World Series of Little League baseball each year brings together the four Regional winners in four days of elimination play at Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Support Baseball for Boys!



When that future Big Leaguer hits a home run this summer, will you be there to see and cheer him? He needs your support and you will never be sorry that you helped him with a cheer and a pat on the back.

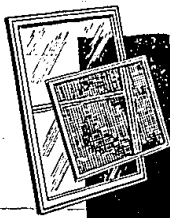
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