

## MEMO

DATE: February 22, 2010  
TO: Booster Club Representatives  
FROM: Duane P. Foret, Parks and Recreation Director  
RE: 2010 Girls Softball Program – 2010 T-Ball Program

It has come to our attention that many of you were not aware of several changes that have been implemented to enhance our girls' softball program. These changes have come from two years of observing many games and talking to numerous parents and coaches concerning the state of our program. We are truly sorry for any confusion that this may have caused and will work diligently to improve the lines of communication in the future.

Why the change? Numbers per team, skill level, and the quality of coaching per team are inconsistent throughout our program. Some of these are to no fault of anyone, but do vary demographically. Several booster clubs rarely form a softball team and are forced to combine with their neighboring or larger booster clubs in order to allow participants to participant.

We have taken all of this into consideration and began to implement changes for our 2010 Softball Season. The following changes will be implemented for our 2010 Baseball/Softball/T-Ball Season.

### **T-Ball**

- #1 We will split the boys and girls up to have their own separate league.
- #2 We have pushed the cut-off date for girls back until April 30th. This will allow the girls to participate earlier, but some could play T-Ball for 3 years.
- #3 T-Ball cut-off dates for both the girls and boys will be April 30<sup>th</sup> only.

### **7-8 Girls**

- #1 Coach Pitch will be instituted for girls' ages 7 & 8.
- #2 We have seen strides in improvement for our 7 & 8 boys' baseball on both the defensive and offensive side, especially a great confidence builder for our participants and coaches.
- #3 In the past, we have experienced a loss of participation from 7&8 to 9&10 girls due to player self esteem in regards to hitting performance.

### **Softball – Age Groups - 9&10, 11&12, and 13&14**

We will have a parish-wide draft in order to create an equal opportunity and balance throughout the teams. That balance includes: numbers per teams, pitching per team, and the quality of coaching and skill level.

- #1 Softball players will be divided equally by coaches selected by the St. Charles Parish, Parks and Recreation Department. The draft will take place at St. Charles Parish, Parks and Recreation Office and will be done with individuals who are truly engaged at making the experience of playing softball enhanced for all that participate.
- #2 Girls will have four central locations to practice: East and West Bank Bridge Parks, Monsanto Park, and Ormond Park. Your coach will be able to make the transition as unproblematic as possible and will coordinate the site of practice depending on the teams make up. We are prepared to schedule age appropriate times for practice and games.
- #3 Each team will consist of 12 players, but may have some adjustments depending on the total number of participants enrolled.
- #4 Our Parks and Recreation Department will order uniforms for the age groups of 9&10, 11&12, and 13&14 and will have St. Charles Softball on the front of the jerseys. Each booster club will reimburse Recreation for the purchase. We have done this for our Boys American League and have had numerous signs of positive reception.
- #5 Dedicated and enthusiastic coaches who are willing to adapt to these changes will endure a more successful softball season.
- #6 We currently use a similar parish-wide draft in boys baseball, boys basketball, boys fall ball, and both girls and boys soccer. We have had feedback expressing positive experiences with children making new friends.

I hope this will solve some of your apprehensions about our changes. It has been two years since we began our quest of improving our recreational programs and with the help of public input; we believe that we have a greater chance of your child having a more enjoyable experience. Throughout the past two years, we have upgraded and added several new programs. We are truly grateful for our booster club volunteers, including your board of directors and know that these changes will strengthen our softball program and our community.

We have extended our registration for another week until February 26, 2010 to allow parents an opportunity to make a decision based on the facts given in this memo. As we progress through the season, please feel free to contact us with any successes or failures which will help us better serve you and your child. At the end of the day, we don't want to lose sight of your child participating and having a more enjoyable experience.