



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to ECABF's 2024 Spring Season! We are excited to have your child with us!
Please read all the following for important information.

SKILL ASSESSMENT & DRAFT:

This year's Skill Assessment will be on **Sunday 2/25** in the Lincoln High School Big Gym.

Times are as followed:

Farm (7-8) – 130-230

Minor (9-10) – 245-345

Little League (11-12) – 4-5

Though this is not a mandatory event, it is strongly encouraged to attend.

Please enter through the **J** doors, these doors are located in the rear of the high school, attached to the staff parking lot. We ask for you to kindly sign the kids in at the table in the hallway. You are welcome to stay, however you will be asked to refrain from inside the gym itself. Each assessment will take roughly an hour.

Please have your child wear an older t-shirt as we may need to use safety pins to attach numbers to their shirts; this is used to identify them. We also ask for them to wear sneakers, a ball hat, and bring their own baseball equipment (glove, bat, batting helmet, etc). There will be equipment available, however it is found the assessment will be easier, and more comfortable, for the kids if they are already familiar with the equipment they're using.

The kids will be assessed and scored in the following areas: Catching, Fielding, Hitting, and Throwing. There will also be a Pitching assessment for the Minor and Little League levels.

Once the assessment is complete, the kids will be sent into the hallway, you can meet them there or tell them to meet you outside.

The coaches will then draft the kids into teams. Please allow up to a week before hearing from the league regarding rosters.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact: **Joe Nardone** – ECABF President – 724-766-4026 – joseph.a.nardone@gmail.com and/or **Brian Schuster** – ECABF Commissioner – 724-651-0188 – amishboy1987@comcast.net

CLEARANCES:

Your child's safety is very important to us. No one will be allowed on any field or in the dugout without proper clearances provided. Many clearances are active for a few years. Act 34 & Act 33 should be obtained and a copy should be turned in. You can either Google Act 34 & Act 33 or find the links under Coaching Requirements on the league website.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact: **Joe Nardone** - ECABF President - 724-766-4026 - joseph.a.nardone@gmail.com and/or **Brian Schuster** - ECABF Commissioner - 724-651-0188 - amishboy1987@comcast.net

PRACTICES:

Quantity, Times, Day of Week, and Location of Practices are dependent upon your child's coaching staff and level in which your child plays. The coaches will choose practices based on the availability of their level's designated field and then schedule the practice through the ECABF Schedule Facilitator, who will then post it through GameChanger. If you are having difficulty accessing GameChanger, after rosters have been posted, please notify your coach. GameChanger should be the main point of contact for your team (with the exception of TeeBall).

Download the [GameChanger](#) app through your AppStore/PlayStore

CANCELLATIONS of PRACTICES:

Cancellations of practices will be handled by your child's coaching staff. They will be considering the weather and the safety of your child, while also assessing the condition of the field. They will be in contact with you in a reasonable amount of time if a practice should be canceled.

UNIFORMS/EQUIPMENT

As in previous seasons, each player will be provided with a jersey and hat. Distribution of these items are provided prior to Opening Day by your child's coaching staff.

It will be at the discretion of your child's coaching staff the color of the pants, socks, and belt the team will wear. Please contact your child's **Head Coach** with any questions.

The league provides each team with baseballs, catching and fielding equipment, though catchers can use their own.

Each player will be responsible for supplying their own glove, bat(s), cleats, batting helmet, water bottle, etc.

Also, items such as batting gloves, sliding shorts, sunglasses may be useful accessories but not necessary and are at the discretion of you and your player.

ELLWOOD CITY FIELD LOCATIONS:

- o Freidhoff Field (Minor and Little League) : 590 Foch Street Ellwood City

*Parking is on Joffre Street, across from HS Baseball Field

Not permitted to park on Foch St or within Nico's, you will be ticketed!

- o Freidhoff Grass [the area between the Freidhoff Field and the HS Football Field] : 590 Foch Street Ellwood City (TeeBall only) *Parking is on Joffre Street, across from HS Baseball Field

Not permitted to park on Foch St or within Nico's, you will be ticketed!

- o old Ewing Park School (TeeBall practices only) : Large Triangle at Pershing Street & Adams Avenue Ellwood City
- o Rosannah (TeeBall and Farm) : 93 Garden Ave Ellwood City
- o Sheeler (TeeBall, Farm, and Minor) : 201 Hazen Avenue Ellport
- o "the Hole" (All Levels) : 4 Ellport Avenue Ellport aka Robert E Rodgers Memorial Park

FIELD PREP DAY

Before each season, each field (listed above) will require their own Field Prep Day.

There is always plenty of work to be done, and your help is greatly needed!

Dress appropriately (old clothes, boots, work gloves). Also shovels, rakes, and wheelbarrows are always appreciated.

At this time, no Field Prep Days have not been scheduled for 2024.

If you would like to help with a Field Day, please contact **Jeremy Beemiller** - ECABF Vice President - 814-494-8809 - jsbeemiller@gmail.com, **Brian Schuster** - ECABF Commissioner - 724-651-0188 - amishboy1987@comcast.net, **Joe Nardone** - ECABF President - 724-766-4026 - joseph.a.nardone@gmail.com, and/or **Jody Welsh** - Fundraiser Coordinator - 724-709-1112 - jody_welsh1980@yahoo.com

OPENING DAY

As tradition, our spring season begins with our Opening Day ceremony. Opening Day is normally on a Saturday in early to mid April, depending on expected start date of games, along with considering when Easter takes place. Opening Day includes a parade with all teams from TeeBall through Little League. If their schedule allows, the high school team will participate in the festivities. After singing of the National Anthem and a greeting from the Mayor, the teams will be announced and pictures will be taken.

If weather permits, shortened games will occur following on Freidhoff field.

Opening Day 2024 has been canceled. Sorry for any inconveniences this might have caused.

If you would like to help with any of the activities, whether with planning or helping during Opening Day, please contact **Jody Welsh** - Fundraiser Coordinator - 724-709-1112 - jody_welsh1980@yahoo.com and/or **Joe Nardone** - ECABF President - 724-766-4026 - joseph.a.nardone@gmail.com

PICTURES

Spring Picture Day has been scheduled for **Tuesday April 16th and Sunday, April 28th**. A Make-Up picture day will be announced at a later date. All members of the team will need to be present in order to be in the team picture.

Your teams' picture set date and time will be provided to your head coach and will be placed on GameChanger.

Order forms will be provided to your coaching staff prior to picture day, and additional forms will be available on picture day.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact: **Linsay Sukits** - Operations Director - 724-622-8777 - lj.leavens@gmail.com and/or your child's **Head Coach**

GAMES (Farm-Little):

As Game Schedules are provided by the Lawrence Co. League, the following information is based on assumption. At the current time, no schedules have been provided to the ECABF regarding the Spring 2024 season.

With that, we have been told the games will follow the same pattern as previous seasons:

- Minor plays weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays
and
- Farm & Little play weekly Tuesdays and Thursdays

This is to make call-ups possible.

During the Spring season, there is a high likelihood of having Friday evening games. Saturday and Sunday games have not been done in past Spring seasons and are highly unlikely to happen this season. We will alert the coaches immediately if these games show up on the schedule.

Farm - Little plays a mixture of games on our home fields (addresses listed above listed under ELLWOOD CITY FIELD LOCATIONS) and away field (addresses listed at the very bottom of this document under LAWRENCE CO. FIELD LOCATIONS)

Games will, most likely, have a start time around 6PM; with the possible addition of 8PM on Fridays. Once the school year ends, it is likely there will be 8PM games on any night of week.

As in past seasons, we are expecting a 18-game schedule this season, with games starting **the week of April 22nd**. The End of the Season Tournament, aka Playoffs, is stated to tentatively start **the week of June 17th** [Playoffs will be at the discretion of your child's coaching staff].

Again, this is all based on assumption. **All is subject to change.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact: your child's **Head Coach** and/or **Linsay Sukits** - Operations Director - 724-622-8777 - lj.leavens@gmail.com

EARLY BIRD REC TOURNAMENTS

We have been informed that Lawrence County will be holding Early Bird Tournaments this year.

These weekend long events will occur on the following tentative dates:

- Farm 8U @ Wilmington : April 19th – 21st
- Minor 10U @ Union : April 26th – 28th
- Little 12U @ Laurel: May 3rd – 5th

More information regarding these Tournaments will be provided as they are provided to the ECABF.

If you any questions or concerns regarding this, please contact **Joe Nardone** – ECABF President – 724-766-4026 – joseph.a.nardone@gmail.com, **Brian Schuster** – ECABF Commissioner – 724-651-0188 – amishboy1987@comcast.net,, and/or **Linsay Sukits** – Operations Director – 724-622-8777 – lj.leavens@gmail.com

GAMES (TeeBall):

Games are likely to begin mid/late May; however practices may begin as early as early-April. This will depend on your child's coaching staff.

TeeBall plays opposite days of the week as Farm, to make call ups possible *(however both are likely to play on Fridays).*

Assuming the schedule would follow as previous Spring seasons, TeeBall would play weekly on Monday, Wednesday, and/or Friday.

In past Springs, TeeBall has had anywhere between 10–14 games depending on the amount of teams.

TeeBall games can be scheduled at Freidhoff Grass, Rosannah, and *possibly* Sheeler.

The TeeBall season normally runs until the end of June.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact: your child's **Head Coach** and/or **Linsay Sukits** – Operations Director – 724-622-8777 – lj.leavens@gmail.com

TEEBALL PARTICIPATION NIGHT:

TeeBall Participation Night is a weeknight evening event after the end of the Spring season, most likely after the 4th of July, in which the TeeBall teams come together to recognize the youngest players of the league. This event can be 2–3 hours long, depending on the number of TeeBall teams. The TeeBall players will be announced on Freidhoff Little League Field, play one "inning" on the field, and one "inning" batting, and will receive a trophy.

Attendance is not mandatory, but the kids like to hear their names over the loudspeaker and play under the lights on the "big field". *More Information will be provided in June.*

GAME CANCELLATIONS

The cancellation of a game will be an agreement upon the Home and Away Head Coaches. They will discuss whether the game can be delayed or if it will be rescheduled to a later date and time. At that point, the schedule facilitator, the umpire(s), and concessions coordinator will be notified. The concessions coordinator will then notify any volunteer(s) signed up for that specific date and time. GameChanger will notify cancellation through app and email. Coaches will also notify their teams.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact: your child's **Head Coach; Brian Schuster** - ECABF Commissioner - 724-651-0188 - amishboy1987@comcast.net; and/or **Linsay Sukits** - Operations Director - 724-622-8777 - lj.leavens@gmail.com

ALL-STARS:

ECABF '24 TryOut Form

For 2024 All-Star format will be:

- One team per age group from 7U-12U
- Players must be registered by the end of Spring Registration and attend a tryout to be held on **February 18th** at Diesel Sports Complex Cranberry Twp.
- Players must play the Spring '24 season for ECABF team and will try out for the age group they are in for the Spring '24 season
- Indoor practices will be held weekly through the remainder of the winter and then continue during the spring season
- Each team will play in between 3-6 tournaments depending on age group.
- We will be hosting a home All-Star tournament for each age group.
- There will be a fee associated with playing All-Stars; but each individual team will have the ability to do their own fundraising to offset this cost and even possibly raise additional money for additional things as they see fit (ex more tournaments, team bat bags, team helmets, etc)

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact: **Adam Carter** - All-Star Coordinator - 304-639-4231 - acarter0421@gmail.com and/or **Chris Weisz** - ECABF Board Member/ECHS Varsity Coach - 724-312-3416 - chrisweisz23@yahoo.com

ALL-STAR TOURNAMENTS

- ❖ Little League:
 - As many do not know, Ellwood City has the 2nd longest running Little League Tournament in the United States. This year, it will hold its 73rd Annual tournament, and begin on **July 22nd**. It will also hold its 23rd Annual Home Derby. More information regarding the tournament can be found at **<https://ellwoodcitybaseball.com/little-league-tournament>**

- Help is always requested, as this is a week-long event. Please contact either **Mr. Don Mancini** - dmancini@zoominternet.net and/or **Jody Welsh** - Fundraiser Coordinator - 724-709-1112 - jody_welsh1980@yahoo.com to fulfill your Volunteer Fee
- ❖ **Minor & Farm:**
 - We are starting new traditions this year with our 1st Annual Ellwood City 7U-10U Tournaments. These weekend long events will occur on the following tentative dates:
 - 7U Early Bird (Farm) : April 5th - 7th
<http://72.26.101.61/TournamentDisplay.aspx?a=2535>
 - 8U Firecracker Classic (Farm) : July 5th - 7th
<http://72.26.101.61/TournamentDisplay.aspx?a=2534>
 - 10U Mid-Summer Classic (Minor) : July 12th - 14th
<http://72.26.101.61/TournamentDisplay.aspx?a=2536>
 - Again, help is always requested, please reach out to **Jody Welsh** - Fundraiser Coordinator - 724-709-1112 - jody_welsh1980@yahoo.com and/or **Adam Carter** - All-Star Coordinator - 304-639-4231 - acarter0421@gmail.com

FUNDRAISERS

We appreciate and encourage all participation. Fundraisers help keep registration costs down while providing our children with quality equipment.

● **Night at the Races**

- N@tR is scheduled for Saturday, March 16th at the SOI in Ellwood City.
- **Doors Open** : 6PM **Races Start** : 7PM
Casual Attire. Adults ONLY!
- **\$25 per Horse.**
 - Minimum purchase of 1 Horse, prior to the event, gets Admission to Event, Video Horse Racing, Buffet Dinner with Desserts, Soda/Water, Cash Bar, 50/50, Pull Tabs, Reverse Card Raffle, Chance to win various Local Business Gift Cards.
- **\$20 at Door** - Purchase of Horse will not be available however betting will still be available, Video Horse Racing, Buffet Dinner with Desserts, Soda/Water, Cash Bar, 50/50, Pull Tabs, Reverse Card Raffle, Chance to win various Local Business Gift Cards.
- **Night at the Races Horse Purchase Form** Able to purchase up to 4 horses per Google Form.
- **Volunteers are greatly needed to run these events.** Please reach out to the ECABF Parent Organization on Facebook or **Glenn Nicklas** - 724-971-6495 - gnicklas33@me.com or **Jody Welsh** - Fundraiser Coordinator - 724-709-1112 - jody_welsh1980@yahoo.com for further information

- **Annual Spring Fundraiser :: Johnny's Pepperoni Rolls**

- Each roll is \$5. Each family will need to sell at least a minimum of 10 pepperoni rolls or you can opt out and pay \$25 per family. All money will be due no later than March 10th. All checks need to be made out to ECABF [Cash is also acceptable]. The form will be sent through email. If you do not have access to a printer, we are at the Ellwood City Family Center (311 College St, EC) Sunday 2/11 and Sunday 2/18 from Noon until 3:30PM, along with at the Skills Assessment at the Lincoln HS Big Gym on Sunday 2/25 from 1P-5P to pick up the form. If you are unable to make it to these locations during these times, please reach out to me, Jody Welsh at 724-709-1112, to make other arrangements.
- The fundraiser will run until Sunday, March 10th. All checks need to be made out to ECABF [Cash is also acceptable].
- We will be over at the Ellwood City Family Center (311 College St, EC) Sunday 3/3 and Sunday 3/10 from Noon until 3:30PM if you would like to drop off the fundraiser there. If you are unable to make it to the Family Center during these times, please reach out to me, Jody Welsh at 724-709-1112, to make other arrangements.
- You will need to meet us at Johnny's pizza on Tuesday, April 2nd from 4PM-6PM to pick up your pepperoni rolls. If you cannot make it, you will need to contact me, prior to 4/2, to make other arrangements to pick them up.
- ❖ Again, help is always requested, please reach out to Jody Welsh - Fundraiser Coordinator - 724-709-1112 - jody_welsh1980@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEERS

ECABF is a volunteer organization. To make an organization this size meet the needs of our kids, many hands to complete many tasks are needed. If each family puts in a little time, then we have an organization that everyone enjoys.

Volunteer opportunities include working the Concession Stand, Coaching, Opening Day, working a Field Day, or Fundraiser Distribution.

With that, two volunteers are needed at each of the concession stands, during each game, almost every day of the week. We will have both Freidhoff and Rosannah Concessions open this season. Please sign up online at [SignUp](#) to fulfill your volunteer fee.

→ You will have until the Little League Tournament to have the opportunity to regain your volunteer fee, however **DO NOT WAIT, the volunteer fee does not rollover to the next season.**

If you have any issues signing up or would like to offer your time, please contact **Jody Welsh** - Fundraiser Coordinator - 724-709-1112 - jody_welsh1980@yahoo.com

****Important Note to Volunteers:****

Once you have completed your volunteer work, please be sure to sign the volunteer sheet at the place in which you're volunteering. This is the list that is used to refund your volunteer fee.

Your volunteer fee will be refunded back onto the credit card you used to pay for registration approximately 3-4 weeks after you have volunteered. **[Coaching volunteer fees will be refunded after a coach completes the season]** If you have questions about your refund, please contact **Jeremy Honsaker** - ECABF Treasurer - 724-494-1682 - honsakerjeremy@yahoo.com

SPONSORS

We would like to thank the following sponsors for supporting our league. Please let these businesses know you appreciate their support!

McElwain Motors
Hungarian Home
WesBanco
Lion's
Wolves
DeCaro
Moose
Nalco
P.J. Construction
Beth Hazen Insurance
Mario's Giant Eagle

Saxon Club
Tomon Funeral Home
Venezie Sporting Goods
Breaking Bread
Laszlo's Plumbing
National Grind
Pangonis Chiropractic
Treehouse Speech
Young's Agency
Ellwood City Forge
Hoffmeier Self Storage

SAFETY & HOUSEKEEPING

A few reminders:

- Please keep an eye on your email for information that might pop up throughout the season.
- **There are monthly Board Meetings. All are encouraged to attend. Those interested/are Head Coaches, your attendance is mandatory. If you are unable to make a meeting, please have one of your assistants come in your place.**
- There will also be a text message option too, once TeeBall registration is finalized in late March. Please keep an eye on your email for the set up code.
- Please remain present during the duration of your child's practice/game, especially those children who are in TeeBall and Farm.
- Please remember to take your personal items (water bottles, chairs, etc) and your trash with you when you leave the field. If you are missing something, check the concession stands.
- No parking is permitted within Nico's parking lot or on Foch street. Those cars will be ticketed.
- Please be aware of handicapped parking. There is limited parking for those who are handicapped, please leave those spaces available.
- ECABF News and Pictures can be on :
 - ◆ <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/default.aspx?portalid=53703>
 - ◆ <https://ellwoodcitybaseball.com/home-1>
 - ◆ <https://www.facebook.com/ellwoodcitybaseball>
 - ◆ <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551517762386>

If you have questions or comments, you are encouraged to talk to one of the Board Members or email us at ellwoodcitybaseball@gmail.com

We welcome any suggestions on how to make our league better.

Sincerely,

ECABF Board Members

Brad Welsh Curt Agostinelli Anthony Frasier
Mike Widmaier Nick Mancini Craig Mills Chris Weisz

ECABF Elected Officers

Joe Nardone, President
Jeremy Beemiller, Vice President
Wally Gagric, Secretary
Jeremy Honsaker, Treasurer
Brian Schuster, League Commissioner
Adam Carter, All-Star Coordinator

LAWRENCE CO. FIELD LOCATIONS

- **Laurel** : CJ LONG SPARTAN PARK - 2946 Pennsylvania 388 New Castle, PA 16101
- **Mohawk** : Mohawk Baseball Fields in North Beaver Twp - 3175 Ross Drive New Castle, PA 16102
- **Neshannock** : Pearson Park - 179 Pearson Park Dr., New Castle, PA 16105
Neshannock : Walmo - 113 Buena Vista Way New Castle, PA 16105
- **New Castle** : Deshon - Deshon Road, New Castle, PA 16101
New Castle : Dean Park - 411 Taylor St., New Castle, PA 16101
- **Shenango** 2550 Ellwood Road New Castle, PA 16101
- **Union** 1941 Municipal Dr., New Castle, PA 16101
- **Wilmington** 4006 Pennsylvania 208, New Wilmington, PA 16142