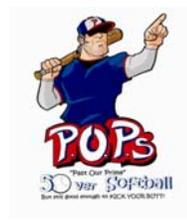


POPS Softball Newsletter



May 2013

Volume 6, Number 1

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POPS Softball Newsletter

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From the Editor...

The 2013 POPS softball season has begun and has gotten into full swing (no pun intended - okay, pun intended).

Our first game at Oceanside HS was met with non-functioning lights on the first base side of the field. After some quick rescheduling for the rest of that week, we were able to resume our normal schedule beginning with the second week. That is because OHS provided three portable spotlights for us. The custodial staff comes out each night and starts them up for us, and then comes back when we are finished to turn them off.

Why would they do this for us? Because they know POPS and how our league gives back to our communities. Each year we give scholarships to graduating seniors of POPS players, we give to families in need during the holidays, and this year we gave to families devastated by superstorm Sandy.

What could be better? We get to play softball in a competitive, yet relaxed environment, and at the same time do some good in our communities.

Let's get out there, play some ball, and above all, have fun!

Thank you.

Andy Eisner, Director of Fun & Publicity, Editor-in-Chief
POPS Softball Newsletter



by...
**Keith "Commish"
Pastuch**



Welcome to the 15th season of POPS 40 & Over Softball. We boast almost 650 players enjoying their

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POPS Website Links

[POPS Homepage](#)
[Schedules](#)

[Standings](#)

spring/summer just like little kids all over again.

POPS Fall Ball is also growing. Last year we had 12 teams with over 150 players. I am already being approached by POPS players and outsiders about bringing in new teams for this year. In 2012, we started the POPS Father-Son League, which was a big success. Many new POPS Players and POPS kids are anxious to get in on the fun for 2013, and returning players are excited for another season and what should be a more competitive league.

POPS has become more than just softball. It is a venue for new friendships, camaraderie, after game gatherings, and socializing. It's a great night out filled with competitive, fun softball. Businesses have grown due to connections and networking within the POPS family. A new POPS Business Network is being formed to help in this regard. If you would like your business to be displayed on our website...contact me (commish@popssoftball.com).

Helping out the communities we play in, from giving scholarships to graduating high school seniors to helping families in need during the holidays, is essential in securing the great fields we play on and is a wonderful way to help out others. Last year alone we gave out over \$4,000 to many affected by Hurricane Sandy - all thanks to the POPS Charity Game, run by one of our own...Mike Callahan.

We are now playing 5 nights a week on some of the best fields on Long Island. We have become the envy of most leagues and its one of the reasons we have a waiting list each year.

I implore each of you to maintain dignity, act as a roll model for the young adults, wives and kids who come to watch and cheer you on. Have fun, play hard, but remember you are 40, 50 or 60 something. This is softball. We count on our players to behave appropriately and cannot let anyone spoil that reputation for POPS. It is our demeanor and maturity and concern for our players' well being that sets us apart from other leagues. It is because we do not tolerate player's acting-out that POPS attracts so many new teams each year.

Lastly I want to take this time to thank so many of you who make this league run so smoothly. It all starts with the POPS Board of Directors who meet all year to decide how to run things more efficiently, are the eyes and ears of the league, and make sure all games run smoothly. The managers do a tremendous job getting teams formed and then putting in the extra effort providing leadership and direction. And a HUGE thanks to all of you... the players.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on the fields in 2013.

[POPSOFTBALL.COM](http://www.popssoftball.com)



The POPS website (www.popssoftball.com) is full of useful information on our league. You will find rules, schedules, standings, approved bat lists, rainout information, etc. Please visit the site often for the latest information.

The site is maintained by POPS director Juan Tocabens.



POPS Goes Social!

In order to help us communicate happenings (like the upcoming Charity Night) and developments (like rainouts) as effectively as possible, POPS has created a Facebook presence!

To join our Facebook group, simply -

- 1) Log on to Facebook (or create an account if don't already have one)
- 2) Go to the page "POPS 40 & Over Softball, Inc." - you may have to enter the entire name.
- 3) Like us.

After that you should get notifications and important announcements from POPS. Together with the POPS website and communications from the Board and managers, you will be sure to be up to date on all POPS-related information.

2 Leagues, 5 Divisions

POPS consists of 2 leagues - 40 & Over and 50 & Over. In order to ensure a competitive environment for all, each league is comprised of divisions - 3 for the 40 & Over league, and 2 for the 50 & Over league. The breakdown of these leagues and divisions, by team, is as follows -

40 & Over League

American Division		
Calagna	Carra	Hughes
Callahan	S. Cohen	Intrabartola

National Division		
Arm	Kalan	Realmuto
H. Cohen	Kronenberg	Rothwell
Eisner	Longo	
Gallub	Pastor	

Central Division		
Arnone	Epstein	Lashinsky
Bogatz	Feeley	Schilero



50 & Over League

American Division		
Ferrante	Sklar	Wexler
Pastuch	Spataro	

National Division		
Barnofsky	Goldsheid	Smith
Ciccione	Maley	Troiano
Coy	Meyers	
Dowd	Simicich	

2nd Annual POPS Charity Game



As you know, POPS gives back to our communities in a number of ways, including by donating to local charities and giving to needy families for the December holidays. For the second year in a row, long-time POPS player Mike Callahan is organizing a charity softball event with ALL proceeds going to needy families in our communities.

Last year, 70 POPS players participated in 3 games and a good time was had by all. Over 100 players made a donation and the game raised over \$3,800 through player entry fees, raffles, and concession stand proceeds. This money was donated to needy families and those severely impacted by superstorm Sandy - including many POPS players. Click [here](#) to see a couple of the thank you notes we received from people we helped out - this is what makes it all worthwhile. This year's event will be held **Friday, June 28 at Oceanside HS** - read about it [here](#). The idea is simple - POPS players are welcome to play in exchange for a donation - the suggested donation is \$25 per player. Full POPS teams can play or individuals can sign up and POPS will make up teams.

Players wanting to take part in this very worthwhile event, or those wanting simply to donate, should contact their manager or Mike Callahan by email (mcallahan123@gmail.com) or phone ([516-526-7833](tel:516-526-7833)).

Please come out and support this POPS charitable event. Bring your wife or girlfriend (but not both), your kids, your pets, your ex-con uncle - the more the merrier!

What to Watch For...



There are lots more POPS happenings to come during 2013. Here are some things to watch for - details will be provided in future newsletters.

- Scholarships/Charitable Donations. Our POPS annual scholarship night will be held Wednesday, June 12 at 6:30pm at the Merrick Public Library. All are welcome to attend the ceremony.
- Father-Son League. Based on its overwhelming success, the POPS Father-Son league will return for its second season, again to be played one night per week in the fall. Stay tuned for details.
- POPS Business Network. A network of goods and services by and for POPS players. Deal with people you trust and keep your business in the family. Anyone interested should contact the Commish at: commish@popssoftball.com



We
not

Rules Highlights

all know that POPS has certain rules that differ from traditional (young man's) softball. These special rules have been put in place for safety reasons - remember, the principle philosophies of POPS are to compete, have fun, and get hurt.

The official [POPS Rule Book](#) is posted on the [POPS website](#).

Only one rule changed from 2012 to 2013 -

- Players thrown out of a game. If a player is ejected from a game, his team will take an out every time that player's place comes up in the lineup. (No outs will be taken for players who are suspended for an entire game.)

A reminder of the forfeit and substitute player rules for the regular season -

- Forfeits. A team must have at least 8 players for each game, including as many fill-in players (i.e., registered POPS players who play for a team other than the opponent) as needed. A team that has 7 or fewer players/fill-in players for a game, forfeits that game, and will be penalized as follows - (i) they will play their first playoff game with 1 out in the 2nd and 4th innings, and (ii) they will pay a \$100 team fine to POPSOFTBALL.
- Penalties for using fill-in/borrowed players. A team that uses 1 fill-in player or borrows 1 player from the opposing team will begin the 2nd and 4th innings with 1 out. A team that uses 2 or more fill-in players or borrows 2 players from the opposing team (or borrows 3 players for a 50 & Over game) will begin the 2nd, 4th and 6th innings with 1 out.

Any questions on the rules should be directed to POPS Director of Rules, Keith Davidoff (keithdavidoff@aol.com).



Bats

POPS Bat Rule

The following bats are considered ILLEGAL (i.e., not permitted) - all other bats with an ASA stamp are permitted.

- "Double Wall" bats, OR
- Bats on the ASA Non-approved bat list - click this link to see the list: http://www.asasoftball.com/about/build_batlist_one_page.asp

Any questions on this should be directed to POPS director of rules, Keith Davidoff(keithdavidoff@aol.com).



Triple Play!

Yes, this early in the POPS season there has been at least one triple play!

One of the highlights for me so far this year was to witness a 50 & Over teammate of mine hit into a triple play. We had bases loaded with no outs when he hit the dreaded ground ball up the middle - the fielder (Rick Botwinick) tagged the runner leaving second, stepped on second base and threw to first. End of inning, end of rally, end of chance for a comeback (we

lost).

(I promised not to mention the batter's name, but he is a bald, vertically challenged member of the POPS Board of Directors, whose 91 year old father comes to most games.)

If you see a special play during a POPS game, please let me know and I'll try to get it into a future newsletter.