



[www.fortheloveofthegame.org](http://www.fortheloveofthegame.org)

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January, 2017

Dear Coach or Manager:

This year will be the 23<sup>rd</sup> Freeport International Baseball Invitational and we are so hoping to have a team from your country attend. In the past we've had teams from Mexico, Puerto Rico, France, Germany, Netherlands, Israel, Japan, Australia and of course Canada. It would be a wonderful experience for your team members and adults who accompany them.

It will again be a Wooden Bat Tournament. The dates for 2017 year are July 17 - 22. Usually we don't play games on Monday, July 17, but it is a day when teams can do some practicing, see some local sights, get settled in. The managers meet that evening at the field in Freeport. By the way, games are played at several fields and all of them are close to the Allegheny River and north of the City of Pittsburgh in western Pennsylvania. International teams do not have to pay an entrance fee.

These are some of the other things we do for our visiting international teams: If you fly into the Greater Pittsburgh Airport, we will pick you up there on a bus and deliver you to the Freeport area - either a motel or a host home (more on host homes later in this letter). If you fly into New York City and take the Mega Bus to Pittsburgh, we can meet you at the bus stop. We will bus you to and from games each day - you could expect to play 2 games a day. Depending on the Pittsburgh Pirates schedule, we may be able to obtain discounted tickets for you. We are currently thinking it would be good if visiting teams would go to a game on Sunday or Monday, July 16 or 17 - by doing so it won't interfere with our game schedule for Freeport International. You will have the opportunity to play in the USA vs. World game which finishes the week Saturday evening, July 22 (followed by fireworks). This is not an all-star game, but each international coach or manager will have the opportunity to place a few players on the World team. Some other events - on Thursday of that week we have the Sonny Westerman Oldtimers' Game at the Freeport field. Sonny is the founder of Freeport International. There will be former MLB players in attendance, playing and/or signing autographs, and most often a few

former Pittsburgh Steelers (our beloved football franchise). Saturday morning there is a 5K race run in Freeport that is locally popular. It's a little too early to give you a definitive schedule, but this will give you an idea of how the week would go.

Now, regarding host homes. I do think your players would get a better feel for American life by staying in host homes. Host homes will take at least 2 players and will give them a place to sleep, use of a bathroom, of course, wash the uniforms, and any other laundry, and feed breakfast and often another meal during the day, and provide snacks as well. Host homes will be provided on a first come basis, so early registration will help to insure that your team can be hosted in homes. Coaches/managers often prefer to stay at a motel rather than a host home, and that is your choice. If so, you might want to consider renting cars or vans for ease of transportation. You may also rent vans to transport the whole team if that is your preference.

And finally, we added softball to our tournament a couple years ago, so if you have any softball teams in your area who might like to participate, please pass this information on to them. The softball tournament will run the same dates as the baseball tournament. Information on the Junior Tournament is also included.

We look forward to you and your team being a part of our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual event. Please keep in touch and let us answer any questions you might have.

Cordially,

*Chuck Sarver*

Chuck Sarver, President  
Freeport International Baseball Invitational

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Enclosures: Registration/Motel Information; Schedule of Events; Softball Letter and Registration Form, Junior Tournament Information

FREEPORT INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL INVITATIONAL IS NOT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST ITEMS