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

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January, 2018

Dear Coach and/or Manager:

This year will be the 24th Freeport International Baseball Invitational and we are hoping to honor Ralph (Sonny) Westerman who was the founder of this event. Sonny passed away just days before our event last year and we did not have enough time to put together an occasion during the Invitational to honor him. So this year, at various times, there will be special events held in his honor. We hope that we will have lots of teams, especially teams who have participated in the past from other countries, as well as from various parts of the United States participate. As you probably know, 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. Depending on the fields available, we will be limiting the number of teams to 32 to 40. Please read over the enclosures carefully and call or email me if you have any questions. On another positive note, registration remains the same as it was in 2017 - teams who play 8 to 10 games will pay \$300 and teams who play 3 to 4 games will pay \$200.

Among other inquiries, this year we have interest from Russia and Japan.

It will again be a Wooden Bat Tournament. We hope to be able to provide a few complimentary bats to each team. The dates for this year are July 16 - 21. Usually we don't play games on Monday, July 16, 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.

The schedule will be made up during the week of July 9 and we appreciate an indication from your team as to how many games you would like (we cannot guarantee a number, but would like an idea and also need to know if there are days you will not be available to play.) All these items should be included on the registration sheet that is included in this mailing.

Remember that players will not be permitted to take the field without proof of insurance coverage. Also, please send a copy of your policy with your entry fee.

The attached Schedule of Events will give you an idea of events currently in planning stages. The registration form asks for two cell phone #'s. We would prefer to have one of them be the phone # of the team captain as teens always have their phones with them and turned on! This is essential to quickly reach teams in the event of a rain delay or cancellation or to offer you the opportunity to fill in for a team that must cancel. I know that your captains likely aren't named yet, so we will give you an additional opportunity to report the cell phone numbers during the later mailing as well as update us on days you are available to play.

We are hoping to have a girls' softball tournament the same week. If you have any contact information for girls' softball teams who may be interested, have them contact Dave Brestensky, at 724.525.9078 or [dmb5@consolidated.net](mailto:dmb5@consolidated.net). Plans are nearly in place for a Junior Tournament which would be held on Friday and Saturday. Let us know of your interest and we will provide details to you.

We look forward to you and your team being a part of our 23rd annual event.

Cordially,

*Chuck Sarver*

Chuck Sarver, President

Freeport International Baseball Invitational

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Enclosures:

Registration/Motel Information

Schedule of Events

P.S. If you are no longer involved in baseball in your area, please pass this information on to someone who is. Thanks very much.

FREEPORT INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL INVITATIONAL IS NOT  
RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST ITEMS