

July 7, 2017

Managers, Coaches and Parents,

Decatur American will begin registration for the 2017 Fall Ball Season on Friday, July 7th and will continue through Monday, August 7th for children ages 7-12. Fall Ball is divided into two leagues, developmental and competitive, where numbers permit. The developmental league is primarily focused on preparing players for the league they will be advancing to. Neither scores nor standings are kept in the developmental league and the games follow the Fall Ball rules in the Decatur American Local Rules. The competitive league will follow Dixie Youth and Local Spring Rules, standings will be kept, and a league winner declared. The competitive league will play a season opening tournament. The ages 7-8 (AA) will play coach pitch. All games will be played on weekdays (excluding Wednesdays and typically Fridays) with the exception of tournament games.

The cost of the competitive league is \$75 per player and the cost for the developmental league is \$65 per player. * Please note, if there isn't enough interest for developmental, we will do a tiered competitive bracket, but the cost will be the same, (\$75).* Once a team is completed, managers will turn in player registration forms, copy of birth certificates, and registration fee during the registration period. The manager must include a Volunteer Application and a signed copy of the Decatur American Coach's Creed for you and every coach on your team. We will use the Volunteer Application Information to perform a background check on all managers and coaches. These files can be found on our website, <http://www.decaturation.com/> under the downloadable files section. You will also need to complete and have your coaches complete the Heads Up Concussion Training. The link for this training is: http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/online_training.html. Upon completion of this training, each person will need to print your certificate. Your printer must be ready to print this certificate, as you can not save it and print later. If you have already completed the concussion training this year (2017), there is no need to complete again. You must have a copy of your certificate. These 3 items must be included with your registration packet. Team registration packets are to be mailed to Decatur American Baseball P.O. Box 5203, Decatur, Alabama 35601. The registration form will be available on our website at www.decaturation.com in the downloadable files.

The registration will take place as a team, not individual players. It is each individual parent/kid's responsibility to find a team to play with. Ask your manager and coaches from your Spring team, your friends, other parents that you've played with in the past, etc. For those who are wanting to play and can not find a team, a list will be populated to distribute to the managers who do not have a full roster. This in no way guarantees your child a spot on a team. **DO NOT MAIL IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AND MONEY TO ASK TO BE PLACED ON THIS LIST.** This information will need to send in with the team you are playing with.

The competitive league will start with a Tournament on Friday, August 18th-Saturday, August 19th. The regular season for the Instructional league will begin on Monday, August 21st and Competitive league will begin on Monday, August 28th. Please note, these dates are tentative until all teams are registered and weather permitting.

If you plan to manage a team, please mark your calendar for the Manager's Meeting on Sunday, August 13th at 4 p.m. The meeting will take place at Flint Fields. We ask that every manager attend this meeting.

If you are planning to manage a Fall Ball team, please let me know as soon as possible by sending me an email to emily.gardner@charter.net . Please include which age group and the level of competition. Feel free to pass this information along to anyone in another league that you feel might be interested in playing.

Sincerely,
Melissa Carter
Communication Director
Decatur American DYB