



A letter from the President

Greetings from the St. Peter Baseball Association (SPBA), and welcome to our new website. It is a work in progress, so please bear with us as we figure it out.

We have a Mission Statement on the landing page. Please read all of that, along with the Parent expectations, etc. You can learn a lot there. That being said, I'm going to go out on a limb, and give some of my views. I am about the most reachable President you can have. My email, rguappone.spba@gmail.com goes straight to my phone. I will answer you within 24 hours, usually sooner. Please don't be afraid to reach out. I take the responsibility greatly, and I hope that you and I both want the same experience for your child on the baseball field. It is the greatest game ever invented, and it's the most loved by America's youth. Our goal is to take the eagerness of the children, add instruction and experience, and create a love for the game that will last them a lifetime. Whether your son will be the star of the varsity team, play college ball, go to the big leagues, or never make the AA team, it makes no difference to us. We want EVERY child to love the game, to play the game, regardless of skill level. That's why we have A and AA teams. That's why the league is set up the way it is, so there's a spot for everybody!

Now, here's a reality check. There are going to be kids that absolutely love the game of baseball, and are not going to be that good at it. They are going to play for a few years, try hard, and determine that it's not their thing. There are also going to be parents that think their son is the second coming of Joe DiMaggio, but will never play varsity ball. It's a sad realization to many. It's also a reason that my phone rings so often during the season. "The coach hates my son." "There is no reason Billy should be playing 2nd base and my Jack's in right field, the coach has it out for him." "Seriously, Tommy's batting 8th? He's the best hitter I've ever seen."

Remember that reality check? Here's another. The coach doesn't hate your son. The coach doesn't have it out for your son. If your son is showing up for practices, trying his best, paying attention, cheering on his teammates, and doing what's asked of him, I can assure you that the coach likes him. You know what's not helping? The way you complain to your son about the Coach on the ride home. You saying things like, "well, you'd have won that game if you were playing 2nd base today." "I can't believe how inept your Coach is!" Those things don't help at all!

You know what it does do? It does a couple of different things.

It makes your son think his coach doesn't know what he's doing. It makes your son disrespect the coach. It makes him go to practice and say, "Well, my Mom said this." It spreads like a

bacteria in the dugout, to the parents, and to the team. All the sudden, baseball isn't fun anymore.

Secondly, it makes people not want to give up their valuable time to Coach. You know what, we don't pay Coaches. They volunteer! They give up half of their summer to coach your son baseball. Without them, there'd be no youth baseball. Our Coaches are committed to teaching the players the game of baseball. Please be a part of the positive environment. Do not be that bacteria that ruins the game for your son.

You will see several changes going into 2020 for St. Peter Baseball, and all for the better. It's a learning curve, and each year we take steps to improve the program. I'm excited for the upcoming year, and all the excitement it will bring. Please consider volunteering to coach or help going forward. We were a bit short handed last year, and we would hate have to completely scratch a team, just because we don't have a coach for it.

Thank you very much, and we'll see you all at registration on February 8, 2020 at 8:30AM, Community Center!

Sincerely,

Ron Guappone-President, SPBA