

## Timeline of Events MERBL 2017

1) There will be a "100 Inning Fundraiser Game" on Saturday, May 20th, in Collinsville. This is not mandatory, but if you want to hold your Saturday practice as a participant, this would help the overall MERBL program. It is fun, and you could win auction items. As with everything that we do, food items will be collected. There will be a fee for each 2-hour time slot. I will send out more information as we get closer.

2) Obviously, not every team will be ready to play on the same day. However, I would like to get some games played before June 1st, if possible. This gives us a better chance of completing our summer schedule.

I have some dates already reserved for some games in Collinsville, starting as early as Monday and Tuesday, May 22 & 23. Also on Thursday, May 25th and Tuesday the 30th. I will also use Thursday, June 1st. If you have a team that wants to get started on any of these dates, we can make it happen.

I consider Saturday, June 3rd, the official "Opening Day". Hopefully we can have everyone playing, somewhere, on this date.

3) The "19th Annual All-Star Game" will be played on Saturday, June 24th, at Fletcher Field. Friday night will be used for the "Last Year Player Game" if we need it. Saturday morning the "Home Run Derby" and other contests will be held. The "Jaycee Field" is already reserved for this date. Much more to follow.

4) Would like to end the regular season by Thursday, July 20th. This date is tentative. We need to get Playoffs started while teams still have players available.

5) Fall Ball will be offered, as well. I would like to be able to start by the middle of August.

### I. Something New for 2017

I am expecting 18-22 teams. It may be the time to divide into two leagues: The "National" and "American".

Rather than decide by location, I am suggesting dividing each location so that Collinsville, as an example, would have two teams in each, Troy could have 3 or 4 in each, Dupo would have one team in each, etc.

As an example: I would put the odd number (C1 & C3) in the "National"; and (C2 and C4) in the "American".

I have a sample alignment scenario, with coach names (as I know them) listed here. My intention would be to keep the two oldest teams in separate leagues. At this time, I believe that to be T3 and C2. NOTE: This would be our "All-Star Game" alignment.

## National League

T1 Dugan.

T3 Linenfelser

T5 Biagi

T7 Lindow

C1 Romanich

C3 Kamp

D1 Beggs

OF1 Portz

B1 ??

M1 Falbe

M3 ??

## American League

T2 James

T4 Lambert

T6 Tonn

T8 ??

C2 Mullins

C4 Yates

D2 Stanberry

OF2 ??

B2 ??

M2 ??

CO1 Hill?

## II. Scheduling

This will be a 16 game season for everyone except Belleville. Belleville teams will play a 14 game regular season.

The teams cannot play everyone. I can schedule 16 games with 16 different opponents; if you have a team that you would like to have a "home-and-away" rivalry, I can do that. I could schedule more games within your league, if that is desired. I just cannot do something different for each team. We will have to decide.

If we have good weather, and you want more games (assuming you have played all of your scheduled games), that can be an option. However, this will be at your expense. There may be a few opportunities to play exhibition games with teams from other communities. This is something that I am always working on. I am very proud of our program, as well as your individual programs. I enjoy showing it off to other communities. These games would also be at your expense.

### III Playoffs

We would have two sets of Playoffs taking place at the same time. Each league would have a single elimination format until we get to the last 2 teams. We would have a 3 game, best two of three, to determine each league champion. The two winners would meet in our 1st annual "MERBL World Series". This would be a 3-game series.

PLEASE NOTE: Someone has to pay for these extra games. Discussion will follow.

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MERBL

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