



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

NORWALK TO UNITE YOUTH BASEBALL PROGRAMS

Norwalk, CT – FEBRUARY 15, 2024 – Norwalk Youth Baseball, acting as an informal umbrella organization, is proud to announce an agreement and new, unified program design to unify and enhance the baseball experience for the youth of Norwalk. This initiative will leverage the long-standing history and success of Little League while maintaining the robust framework of Cal Ripken Baseball, keeping both charters active and thriving. By strategically aligning citywide teams, coaches, and sponsors for the spring and travel seasons, this new approach will mark a significant step towards creating a cohesive and comprehensive development program for all young baseball players in the city. The Rowayton Little League extension will also be part of this collaboration.

"This initiative represents an exciting evolution in Norwalk's youth baseball landscape, drawing on the rich traditions of Little League and the competitive edge of Cal Ripken Baseball to offer something truly special for our players," said Rob Riddell, President of Norwalk Little League.

The plan includes doubling the number of travel tournament teams in the spring and summer, a testament to the initiative's commitment to expanding competitive opportunities. Central to this strategy is the introduction of an Intermediate division for players aged 11-13, which will utilize 50/70 fields, bridging the developmental gap to the larger high school and travel baseball fields.

"By blending the strengths of both Little League and Cal Ripken Baseball, we're poised to provide our youth with expanded opportunities for growth, competition, and enjoyment of the game, unifying all of Norwalk, with less limitations," noted Vinny Mangiacopra, President of Norwalk Cal Ripken Baseball.

This season will serve as a pilot, with the goal of streamlining and formalizing efforts based on season outcomes and feedback received. It's an opportunity to fine-tune the collaboration between the various baseball programs across Norwalk, ensuring that the initiative meets the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders.

Ryan Mitchell, Varsity Baseball Coach at Norwalk High School, emphasized the broader implications of the initiative, "This collaborative approach not only prepares our athletes for the competitive demands of today's high school baseball expectations, it also fosters a sense of unity and pride within the Norwalk baseball community."

Registration for the spring season is now open, and Norwalk Youth Baseball is actively seeking sponsors to support the expansion of teams, improvement of facilities, and overall enhancement of the baseball experience for Norwalk's youth. While the goals are ambitious in scope, all parties involved are confident in its potential to transform youth baseball in Norwalk for the better.

"We're excited to embark on this journey, leveraging the legacy of Little League and the strategic vision of Cal Ripken Baseball to create a vibrant, inclusive baseball program that serves every young player in Norwalk," said Steve Buckett, Varsity Baseball Coach at Brien McMahon High School.

For more information on Norwalk Youth Baseball, registration details, sponsorship opportunities and player scholarships please visit norwalkyouthbaseball.com or contact:

Norwalk Youth Baseball

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