



WHITPAIN RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Helping to instill the ideals of sportsmanship,
teamwork and respect in our local youth - Since 1963

WRA Quarterly Newsletter

July 13, 2015

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 Field Hockey News
- 3 Baseball Tournament Sponsors
- 4 EPYSA Grant for Centre Square Park
- 5 Field Hockey Clinic
- 5 How to Sponsor a Team in WRA
- 6 Background Screening Updates
- 7 Baseball/Softball Sponsors
- 7 Annual Membership Meeting
- 8 Sport Chair Opening for IM Basketball
- 8 WRA Day at the Union
- 9 TeamWALL Updates/Features
- 10 Blue Bell Camp
- 11 Our Sport Offerings
- 11 Upcoming Events
- 11 Volunteering

Message from the President

Summer is here and we are nearing the end of our calendar year. It has been fun and exciting as we watched our athletes play their hearts out to great success. From soccer to basketball to baseball and softball to field hockey, each season has seen expanded programs and well-deserved championships. We have welcomed new Board Members and volunteers at all levels. This past year has truly been a success.

Over the summer, we continue to root on our travel programs and wish them ongoing success. We also turn towards expansion of our facilities this coming September. As most of you know, we eagerly await the opening of Center Square Park, which will be the new home of WRA's travel soccer program and the permanent home of WRA. Over the next couple of months, more information will be provided for the Opening Day Ceremony, which will take place on Saturday, September 12th.

All of our members and volunteers are invited and we hope to see each and every one of you at the complex as we open the fields. Besides the speeches and thank-you's, there will be food, music, fun and, of course, soccer games. As part of the Pomp and Circumstance, we will also have a formal groundbreaking for the construction of the new Field House, which will be WRA's permanent home. As with all endeavors of this magnitude, we not only thank those who have contributed thus far, but appreciate the support we will receive going forward. It is, after all, the support of our members that allow us to provide programs and facilities at the highest level.

If you have not already been to Center Square Park, I urge you to do so. The Park is not only the "Crown Jewel" of Whitpain Township, but also it will be a significant part of WRA for years to come as we continually improve our programs. As a Board, we could not be more excited to see our future taking shape. In that regard, I invite every member to continue or consider participating in our programs, whether it is as a Board member, coach or official. We are only as good as the volunteers who keep us moving forward and it's no secret we have the best volunteers around.

On a final, personal note, I want to thank all of you for making this year so positive and enjoyable. When I took on the role of President last September, I was eager, but nervous due to the sheer size of our organization. I quickly learned that an organization like ours is dependent upon each and every volunteer, player and family. From the Board, who made my transition from Secretary to President so seamless, to the Chair people, coaches and everyone else who participated in WRA, you have my heartfelt gratitude in making this the best year ever for WRA. But, it is only a sign of things to come and I look forward to what we have in store for the coming year. I hope to see you all at Opening Day at Center Square Park so I can thank you personally and we can enjoy the upcoming year together.

On behalf of the entire WRA Board, I thank you all for your continued support.

Very truly yours,

Marshall Bleefeld
WRA President

Don't forget to register for WRA sports [to Play](#), [Volunteer](#) or [Sponsor a team!](#)

*

Whitpain Parks and Recreation

Online registration for programs like summer camp and other events and activities in the community.

Check out and bookmark their website:
<http://www.whitpainrec.com>

Field Hockey News:

The 2015 Spring Outdoor Field Hockey season concluded with tournaments on May 17. The Senior Division gold medal winner was Team 5, sponsored by Peditria Healthcare for Kids and coached by Mary Beth Stefanowicz and Page Gilmore. The Intermediate Division gold medal winner was Team 4, sponsored by RE/MAX Achievers Real Estate and coached by Karen Missimer and Lauri McCallum. The Junior Division gold medal winner was Team 5, sponsored by Elliott Greenleaf Law and coached by Heather Hoover and Mary Jo Elliott. The Instructional Division teams concluded their season on May 10 with a round-robin tournament with medals for all participants.

Congratulations to high school seniors Lauren Marolla, Brianna Miles, and Rachel Zimmerman. All were recipients of Shining Star awards for students who have coached for three or more seasons. The Field Hockey Committee thanks the numerous coaches, assistant coaches, and game-day volunteers for their time and dedication to the success of this program.

Watch for Indoor Field Hockey 2015-16 registration to begin in September. Indoor field hockey is played on Monday nights at the Field House at Germantown Academy and is for players in grades 3 – 12 (non-varsity for 10th, 11th, and 12th). Games will begin in late November 2015 and run through mid-February 2016.



Junior Division Champs (above)



Intermediate Division Champs (above)

Senior Division Champs (below)



Special Thanks to our Baseball Tournament Sponsors

Cal Ripken District Tournament

June 25 - June 29

Sponsored By:



FAP CONTRACTORS, INC.



Fox Rothschild LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Wisler Pearlstine, LLP



WRA Travel Soccer is awarded an Eastern PA Youth Soccer Association (EPYSA) 2015 Development Grant for Centre Square Park

In June 2015, EPYSA announced that WRA Travel Soccer was awarded an \$8,000 Development Grant. Since its inception in 2013, EPYSA has provided up to \$75,000 to youth soccer organizations like ours who are committed to improving their fields and facilities to support the growth of youth soccer.

WRA is proud that our Centre Square Park (CSP) project was recognized by the EPYSA Development Grant committee this year from among more than 20 other soccer club submissions. When the funds are distributed, they will be used to purchase goals, nets, anchors and corner flags to outfit two of the new fields at CSP for our teams.

Via the Development Grant, EPYSA has given the WRA Travel Soccer program a huge vote of confidence. As we approach the official opening of CSP this fall, we would encourage all of our families to consider a contribution that may help WRA provide top-notch facilities for our youth soccer players for years to come. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can contribute, please contact a Travel Soccer Committee or WRA Board Member.



Field Hockey Clinic

Katie O'Donnell (center), Blue Bell native, U.S. Women's National Team member, and 2012 London Olympian, instructs players at her K16 field hockey clinic on Sunday, May 3. This clinic, and an earlier session, was organized by the WRA Field Hockey Committee.



How to Sponsor:

WRA is always looking for Sponsors for our teams. What a great way to get your organization's or business's name out in the community by supporting our kids. (Note: Travel Soccer and Travel Basketball do not offer sponsorships for team jerseys)

Your Business or Organizations name can be proudly displayed on our player's uniforms worn at all WRA Games the team you sponsor participates in!

For the nominal price of \$175 per team, we can put your sponsorship to print. In return you will receive acknowledgement at the end of the season from WRA in the form of a certificate, plaque award and/or team photo proudly displaying your business or organization.

INSTRUCTIONS to get started sponsoring today:

Register online at www.wrasports.org

1. Click on the 'Click Here to Login\Register' box.
2. Click on the 'Register to Play/Participate' box.
3. Select yourself (an adult) as the registrant; then click on 'Register Now' button.
4. Then click on 'Register' button under the Sport you want to Sponsor and complete the Checkout process.

Want to pay by check? Simply fill out the [web form by clicking HERE](#), print and mail the form with your payment

Background Screening Update

Existing process the past several years....

With our existing integration between our Registration system vendor, SportSignup, and their vendor, Backgroundchecks.com, we have been able to almost seamlessly pull results back into our Registration system when a WRA volunteer clears the requirements the WRA Board has set forth for approval of any volunteers working directly with children in our sports.

We sometimes get questions about how safe it is to provide your SSN and Date of Birth (DOB) through our providers. SSN and DOB information is required to help us determine if you are an adult or child and for better matching of search results when running Background Checks. Here is more information on the security of background check processors: "As a trusted member of the National Association of Professional Background Screeners and with FCRA compliance, our background check system is under strict legal oversight and respects everyone's privacy. Our case management wizard can guide you through any open case—easily communicate with registrants, document actions, and disqualify a registrant due to their check."

<http://www.sportssignup.com/fcra>

If you are a Soccer coach in Intramural and Travel Soccer, the Leagues WRA competes in also requires background checks to be processed through EPYSA (Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer) as well. More information can be found here for this annual clearance:

<http://www.youthleaguesusa.com/epys/15-16/RiskManagement.html>

Additional process introduced this year by the state of PA....

Over the past year, new legislation has been amended to the PA law on the reporting, investigation, assessment, prosecution and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases. As a result, WRA now is required by law to include another layer of background check screening through the State's systems to qualify our volunteers. This requirement is renewable every three years and went into effect on July 1, 2015. More information can be obtained on the State's website: <http://keepkidssafe.pa.gov/index.htm>

- Prior to July 25, 2015, there is \$10 fee for two of the State background checks; PA State Police Record Check and a Child Welfare Clearance. These fees will be waived by the state for folks that start their check after July 26, 2015. For WRA volunteers needing assistance with the fee prior to July 25th, contact your Sport Chair.
- The third State Background Check requirement is a waiver that you attest you have lived continuously in the State of PA for the past 10 years. If you haven't, then you need to complete the FBI Fingerprint Background Check process at a fee of \$27.50. For WRA volunteers needing assistance with the fee, contact your Sport Chair.

To help the couple members of the WRA board that review and handle Background checks for our organization, we have provided this website for our volunteers to submit their paperwork for review in a safe and secure manner. <https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/emf/WRA/Backgroundcheck>

Complete information on WRA's Screening Policy and instructions for the new PA policy can be found on our website at: <https://wra.sportssignup.com/site/ClientSite/article/661911>

Thanks to our Baseball and Softball Sponsors for another great year!

morphotek
Elliott Greenleaf Law
Harry's BlueBell Taproom
BJS Hardwood Floors
Electronic Security Solutions
Incentive Systems
Talk It Up Speech
GR8-Danes
Cardiology Consultants of Philadelphia and Blue Bell
Hamilton Lane
Berger Henry ENT Specialty Group
Main Line Sound and Video
Republic Bank
Air Tight Heating and Cooling
Elliott Greenleaf Law
Addesso Marble and Granite
AML Portraits
LoStracco Masonry
dRemodeling
Penn Christian Academy
Miss Joan's Little School
Carmine's Italian Grill
AML Portraits
Stephen J. Labroli, Esq.
Dog Town 309
Ross Family
Mark R. Strang D.M.D.
JKJ Benefits
Simply Skin by Jeannine
InSourceNow
Leonard Sciolla
Modell's
PJ Whelihan's
Whitpain Police Association
Head First Baseball
Carmine's Pizza
Michael Addesso Marble and Granite World, Inc.

Public Notice – Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Whitpain Recreation Association (WRA) will be held on Sept 9, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in the Whitpain Township Building Conference Room A. Elections will be held to fill vacancies existing on the WRA Board of Directors. The general public is invited to attend.

Sport Chair Opening for Intramural Basketball

WRA is looking for a special Volunteer that is passionate about youth sports and providing a great experience for our kids and volunteers in our organization.

As Chair for Intramural (IM) Basketball, you will be the 'CEO' for intramural and Clinic Basketball in Whitpain Township. If you are looking for new challenge working with a great group of volunteers, please contact our VP of Operations, Patrick DiNicola at pmdinicola@verizon.net

Rain cannot stop WRA Day at the Union!

June 27, 2015



The Robison Family



PPL Park - Chester, PA



The Kull Family

On June 27, 2015 many WRA families braved the deluge of rain to visit PPL Park in Chester, PA in support of our home town Union. The Union played the Montreal Impact to a 2-2 draw on a surprisingly resilient field considering the conditions. Because of the weather, the Union offered group ticket holders a chance to see the US Open Cup match on June 30, 2015 for free - tickets and parking. Many of our families were able to return to watch the Union pull out a tough 2-1 victory over the MLS regular season eastern conference leading DC United to advance to the Quarterfinal round of the tournament.

As the first fundraiser of its type, WRA sold 77 discounted tickets for the event and received an additional 3 tickets in donations from one of our families. This helped the Travel Soccer Program raise nearly \$400 from the event that will be used to offset operating costs this coming fall. Thank you to all that purchased tickets!

Stay tuned for the next WRA Day at the Union!

WRA TeamWALL Updates!

Just a reminder of the availability of our TeamWALL and additional features now available for mobile devices!

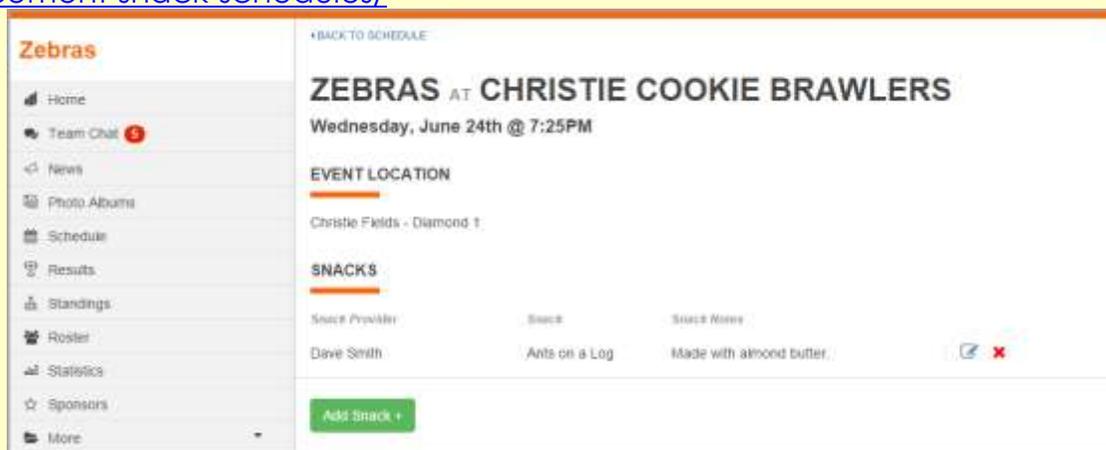


This is a free download, though use may incur fees for airtime with your cell phone provider. The NEW TeamWALL mobile app is the ultimate tool Coaches need to manage their SportsSignup created Teams. **Parents and Players will love it too!** They'll be able to take advantage of many of the same TeamWALL features as Coaches, so they too will have the latest Team information in the palm of their hand, including maps, standings, team chat and other important updates.

TeamWALL updates introduced in June 2015:

1. Snack Schedules

Now you can setup your team's snack schedules via the TeamWALL application. Read more about this feature here: <http://supportblog.sportssignup.com/2015/06/24/sportssignup-feature-enhancement-snack-schedules/>



2. TeamWALL Visual Defaults

Administrative users are now able to set the look and feel for all their teams' websites, by including banners/background images, and website colors. Read more about this feature here: <http://supportblog.sportssignup.com/2015/06/29/sportssignup-feature-enhancement-teamwall-visual-defaults/>

3. Upload Player ID Images:

Parents and Coaches are now able to upload player ID images from their roster on the TeamWALL. PLEASE NOTE: WRA's privacy policy does not allow the sharing a child's photo along with their name on any publicly accessible website or printed materials. For coaches, you must have the parent's approval to upload an image of their child to be viewed by the team members on the TeamWALL as part of the roster listing. Parents can only upload their child's image via their Family account. Read more about this feature here:

<http://supportblog.sportssignup.com/2015/06/26/sportssignup-feature-enhancement-upload-player-id-images-from-teamwall/>

DIRECTOR • THOMAS R. HARRIS

215-646-4444

BLUE BELL

Camp

BOX 444
BLUE BELL, PENNSYLVANIA
19422

8 week program
Monday – Friday
9:00 am – 3:30 pm
June 22nd – August 14th, 2015
Boys and Girls ages 5 through 11
www.bluebellcamp.net
bluebellcamp@comcast.net

Continuously family operated since 1946, Blue Bell Camp offers children a complete program of exciting and in-depth instruction during the summer. The camp is located in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania on fifteen magnificent, highly shaded acres with a creek, pond, aviary, well-manicured playing fields, golf course, mahogany cabins, and heated swimming pool. Our mature, adult teaching staff coaches our campers in small groups of 8 - 10 children during forty-minute periods.

Our comprehensive 8-week instructional program allows our campers to learn in a non-competitive atmosphere that promotes confidence, independence, and leadership and provides a well-rounded experience. Offering instruction in many different activities allows each child to gain knowledge in multiple areas and gives them the ability to specialize in the future. We feel it is essential to set the foundation for children to be prepared for a variety of choices following their formative elementary school years.

For 70 years, Blue Bell Camp has provided a traditional and wholesome day camp experience that promotes team play, self-esteem, integrity, and sportsmanship in a fun and safe environment. Each of the following 22 activities is taught by our staff made up entirely of professionally certified school teachers and coaches who specialize in their field:

| | | |
|---------------|------------|------------------------|
| Baseball | Archery | Ceramics |
| Basketball | Fencing | Chess |
| Football | Fitness | Drama/Music |
| Hockey | Golf | Nature/Animals/Science |
| Lacrosse | Gymnastics | Pioneering |
| Soccer | Karate | Riflery |
| Track & Field | Tennis | Woodshop |
| | Swimming | |

Volunteering

We exist solely because of the efforts of dozens of volunteers, including (but not limited to) board members, commissioners, coaches, equipment managers, referees and web managers.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Come out and help in any way you can. Contact one of the league chairs for help in matching your availability and interests with a role in WRA:

Baseball/Softball: Mike Basile, mbasile6@aol.com

Intramural/Instructional Basketball: OPEN, contact [Patrick DiNicola](#) for more information if interested in this position.

Travel Basketball: Chris Hynes, chris.hynes@vertexinc.com

Field Hockey: Pat Guaglianone, patguag@msn.com
Lisa Becker, lbecker58@hotmail.com

Intramural Soccer: Dave Frank davidwfrank@verizon.net

Travel Soccer: Patrick Bailey, bailypat13@comcast.net



Visit us on Facebook!

Upcoming Events

Month of July:

- Travel Soccer practices begin
- Baseball Tournament Season ends

Month of August:

- Intramural soccer teams finalized and practices begin (1st grade and up)
- Fall Baseball Registration Begins

Month of September:

- Intramural Soccer Season Begins for Pre-K and up
- Co-Ed Fall Baseball Registration ends and season begins
- WRA Board Annual Meeting
- Indoor Field Hockey Registration Begins
- Travel Basketball Tryouts and Registration begins
- Intramural and Instructional Basketball registration begins
- Travel Soccer fall season begins

Our Sport Offerings:

Baseball

Spring Intramural for kids ages 5 to 12 years old as of April 30, of the current year.

Spring Boys Travel teams for kids' ages 13 to 19 years old.

Spring Tee Ball for 5 and 6 year old boys/girls.

Fall Intramural Baseball for kids ages 8 to 11 years old as of April 30 of the current year.

Basketball

Instructional Basketball for experienced & new boys/girls in grades 1 to 3.

Intramural Basketball for Boys in Grade Levels 3 to 12 & for Girls in Grade Levels 3 to 8.

Travel Basketball For Boys age 9-13 years old & Girls ages 9-12 years old.

Field Hockey

Winter program: (3rd grade thru 11th grade)

Registration begins in September

Programs running December thru early February.

Spring program: (1st grade thru 11th grade)

Registration begins in December

Programs running mid-March thru early May.

Soccer

Fall Intramural - Boys and girls ages 4 to 18

Travel - Boys and girls ages 7 to 18

Softball

For Boys & girls ages 7 through 12.

Centre Square Park is currently open for patrons from dawn to dusk for **walking trail use only**.

All fields will remain closed as the grown-in and root establishment process continues; until September 12th for Opening Day of the Park, more information to follow



Coming September 12, 2015 for WRA Travel Soccer