65th Annual Bergen County & 4rd Annual BIT Baseball Tournaments

Dear Athletic Director and/or Baseball Coach,

Please accept this as notification to apply for an opportunity to compete in the 2024 Bergen County Baseball & BIT Tournaments. Your completed and submitted application implies that your school agrees to abide by all rules and regulations of the tournament as set up by the tournament committee. It is further agreed that all National Federation Rules and Regulations with NJSIAA options be followed.

Enclosed are the necessary forms that are to completed and returned no later than **Sunday, April 28th 2024.** A $250 entry fee payable to the BCCA is due with the entry form. Checks will be returned to schools not selected to the County Tournament. **Checks should be forwarded to Joe Sutera, Tournament Director, 101 New Milford Ave, Dumont, NJ 07628.**

Enter the results of the first 16 games played up to and including <u>Wednesday, May 1st</u>. If you have played more than 16 games prior to May 1st, list only the first 16. If you have played less than 16 games, list all games up to your 16th. **Teams MUST have a 0.500 winning percentage to be eligible for the County Tournament, but there is no winning percentage requirement for BIT Tournament eligibility.** Please enter and submit your roster in numerical order and complete all requested columns.

On **<u>Wednesday, May 1st</u>** the county tournament seeding committee will seed teams from # 1–32. However, the top 24 teams will make the county tournament. Seeds # 1-8 will receive a first round BYE in the County Tournament. Seeds # 25 – 32 will make the BIT tournament. If 32 teams do NOT apply for the county tournament, the remaining teams left will make up the BIT. (Ex. If only 30 teams apply for the county tournament, then only 6 teams would make-up the BIT and the top 2 teams would be awarded a bye). The design of the BIT is intended to encourage at least 32 teams or more to apply for the county tournaments.

You can apply to just the County Tournament, just the BIT Tournament, or BOTH the County & BIT Tournaments this year. If you apply to just the County Tourna-ment, you will NOT be considered for the BIT. If you apply to just the BIT Tournament, you will NOT be considered for the County Tournament. If you apply to BOTH, it is EXPECTED that if you don't make the County Tournament, but you do make the BIT tournament, that you will participate in the BIT and not opt out of participating.

We are also requiring coaches to put their preliminary schedule on a google sheet that will be shared with every Bergen County coach prior to the season by April 1st and re-vised through May 1st.. After the regular   season schedule is made, any changes (games added/deleted/rescheduled), must be added in red with a reason for the change.

Upon completion of the process, the committee will begin notifying the Head Coach or Athletic Director of the teams selected and posted on www.BergenCountyCoaches.org

The selection process is as follows:

1. **Schools with a 0.650 winning percentage or greater with a minimum of 16 games played will gain automatic entry into the tournament. If those teams are <u>ALSO</u> top 16 in OPR they will be receive a guaranteed HOME game for Round 1 (#1-16 seed).** Teams MUST have a minimum 0.500 winning percentage to apply for the County Tournament, but not necessarily the BIT Tournament.

2. **The committee reserves the right to discount any games scheduled to circumvent the selection process with any teams that are not state association members.** The committee also reserves the right to take into consideration any games that were dropped, rescheduled, or added to a team's schedule to affect acceptance or seeding after the team has submitted its original schedule.

3. All other schools that have applied for the tournament will be reviewed by the selection committee for entry into the tournament. The criteria the committee will use for consideration includes # of games, head-to-head match-ups, win/loss record vs other county tournament teams, division standings, and OPR.

   > **OVERALL PERFORMANCE RATIO (OPR) is determined by taking 5 factors into consideration (overall won-loss record, strength of schedule, power point formula, winning percentage vs. teams you have beaten, residual point %).**

4. There may even be a situation where a top 8 team is not awarded a BYE due to the number of games played to try to keep the integrity of the bracket intact.

5. Schools that have not submitted a completed application form, entry fee or voucher, <u>including a completed roster</u> will not be eligible for entry into the tournament.

6. Once the field has been selected, the committee will seed the teams using the same criteria as teams trying to gain entry into the tournament.

7. Upon completion of the initial seeding process, the matchups will be reviewed to ensure that no school plays its first round game (for seeds 9-24) against a team from its own division/league, as requested by the BCCA.

8. In the event that conflicts as defined in paragraph 6 or 7 exist, the committee reserves the right to adjust the seeds. All efforts will be made to maintain the integrity of the higher seeds in the tournament when adjustments are made.

Bergen County Baseball Tournament Dates:

The **First Round** games for the County Tournament will be played on **Saturday, May 4th, 2024**. In the event the entire day is rained out, games will be played on **Sunday, May 5th, 2024**. **THE HOST TEAM PAYS FOR 2 UMPIRES IN ROUND ONE.** The higher seeded team will host the game and be the home team.

*** For the First & Second Round Games ***
Should the higher seeded team be unable to host the game on the originally scheduled date and/or the rain date, the lower seeded team will "HOST" the game but the higher seeded team will still be the "HOME" team and bat second. We will <u>try</u> to have Lyndhurst, Don Bosco, and Wood-Ridge (turf fields w/ lights) be on standby for the originally scheduled date and the rain date in the event that <u>BOTH</u> teams are unable to host the game that day.

The **Second Round** games for the County Tournament will be played on **Wednesday, May 8th, 2024**. In the event that the entire day is rained out, games will be played on **Thursday, May 9th, 2024**. **THE HOST TEAMS PAYS FOR 2 UMPIRES IN ROUND 2.** The higher seeded team will host the game and be the home team.

The **Quarterfinals** games for the County Tournament will be played on **Saturday, May 11th, 2024.** In the event the entire day is rained out, games will be played on **Sunday, May 12st, 2024.** **THE BCCA WILL PAY FOR 3 UMPIRES IN THIS ROUND.** The sites and times for the county tournament games are:

> *North Site:* Don Bosco (11 am & 2 pm)
> *South Site:* Wood-Ridge (11 am & 2 pm)

The **Semi-Finals** games for the County Tournament will be played on **Saturday, May 18th, 2024**. In the event the entire day is rained out, games will be played on **Sunday, May 19th, 2024.** **THE BCCA WILL PAY FOR 3 UMPIRES IN THIS ROUND.** The sites and time for this county tournament game is:

> Northern Valley @ Demarest High School (11 am & 2 pm)

The **Championship** game for the County Tournament will be played on **Saturday, May 25th, 2024**. In the event the entire day is rained out, the game will be played on **Sunday, May 26th, 2024**. **THE BCCA WILL PAY FOR 4 UMPIRES IN THIS ROUND.** The sites and time for this county tournament game is:

> Northern Valley @ Demarest High School (12 pm)

BIT Baseball Tournament Dates:

Wednesday, May 8th – BIT Quarterfinals (Round 1) – 4 games at the **higher seed**
> Thursday, May 9th – BIT Quarterfinals rain-date

Saturday, May 11th – BIT Semi-Finals (Round 2) – 2 games at the **higher seed** *(11 am or earlier)*
> Sunday, May 12th – BIT Semi-Finals rain-date

Saturday, May 18th – BIT Finals (Round 3) – 1 game at the **higher seed**
> Sunday, May 19st – BIT Finals rain-date

Teams that make the BIT will have their $200 application fee **refunded**. All games will be played at the higher seed. All umpires will be paid and game balls will be provided by the higher seed.

Playing Rules and Format

The BERGEN COUNTY BASEBALL TOURNAMENT is a single elimination championship event. Once the brackets have been set, there will be no re-seeding of the tournament.

1. In each game of the tournament, the higher seeded team will be designated the home team and will occupy the first base dugout. In the event a team is playing on its home field, they will occupy their normal dugout.
2. The higher seeded team will wear its home (white/light) jerseys, the lower seeded team will wear its away (color/dark) jerseys. In the event a team does not have home/away jerseys, it is the responsibility of that team to notify its opponent and make sure the opponent wears the opposite color.
3. There will be no batting practice at the tournament sites.
4. Participating teams will be allowed I/O practice prior to the scheduled game not to exceed 10 minutes.
5. Umpiring crews will be assigned by the tournament committee in conjunction with the tournament assignor.
6. Baseballs and umpires for the Quarterfinals, Semi-Finals and Finals will be paid for by the tournament. The home team will provide baseballs for Round 1 games and pay officials.
7. Every tournament game will be played to its conclusion as designated by National Federation and NJSIAA rules.
   a. The 10 run, 5-inning mercy rule will be in effect. Any team leading by 10 or more runs after the losing team has batted in at least 5 full innings will be declared the winner.
   b. In the event a game is halted by inclement weather, darkness or other circumstances that cause play to be postponed prior to its completion, the game will be suspended and will resume at the first available opportunity from the point in the game where the suspension took place.
8. All protests will be handled at the time of their occurrence. The decision of the designated committee member on site will be final.
9. Teams must submit a roster of 25 players MAX on their line-up card to the umpire and opposing team for **EACH** game, although that roster may be different for each game.
10. Coaches will be properly dressed (baseball pants, warmup/jacket/jersey, & hat)
11. Players will be properly dressed (baseball pants, warmup/jacket/jersey, hat and one thin line of eye black (no war paint), even though the NJSIAA may allow it.

Please indicate any conflicts you have between 5/11 and 5/25. We will try to make every effort to work around graduations, however, no exceptions will be made for proms, school trips, etc..

The Selection/Seeding Committee for the County Tournament & BIT will meet on **Wednesday, May 1st at Westwood HS at 7 pm.**

Bergen County Tournament Baseball Committee 2024

Title:	Name/Rep	Cell Phone	Email
Tournament Director:	Joe Sutera	201-523-0602	dsutera@dumontnj.org
BCCA NJIC Liaison	Mike Carcich	201-446-7758	carcichm@nvnet.org
BCCA Big North Liaison	Dan Vivino	551-206-3842	daniel.vivino@wwrsd.org
Historian/Statistician	Jim McConville	551-427-7382	franjimmcc@aol.com

Big North Divisions	Name/Rep	Cell Phone	Email
American	Scott Pappetti	201-983-9849	SPapetti@rpps.net
Freedom	Kurt Hommen	551-804-9541	khommen@tenafly.k12.nj.us
Patriot	Paul Urbanovich	201-320-9869	purbanovich@ramsey.k12.nj.us
National	Tim Byron	551-206-7425	Byron@nvnet.org
United	Mike Rooney	845-323-3538	mikerrooney@gmail.com
Liberty: (Bergen Tech)	Dan Vivino	201-446-7758	daniel.vivino@wwrsd.org
Independence: (Fair Lawn)	Dan Vivino	201-446-7758	daniel.vivino@wwrsd.org

NJIC Divisions	Name/Rep	Cell Phone	Email
Liberty	Frank Salvano	201-245-3996	franksalvano@gmail.com
Meadowlands	Mike Carcich	201-446-7758	carcichm@nvnet.org
National	Patrick Auteri	201-697-1815	patrick_auteri@lyndhurst.k12.nj.us
Patriot	Frank Clark	201-759-3931	frank.clark@mppanthers.org
Colonial (Glen Rock)	Mike Carcich	201-446-7758	carcichm@nvnet.org

The Bergen County & BIT Tournament Preliminary Schedule, Tournament Intent/Signature, & Application have moved to Google Docs/Sheets. These links will be shared and must be filled out by every <u>head coach</u> in Bergen County with the <u>email</u> they provided on the <u>coaches' directory</u>. Please use the links below:

Preliminary Schedule Link
(to be filled out by April 1st and revised throughout the season up to and including Wednesday, May 1st)

Tournament Intent & Signature Link
(to be filled out and emailed no later than 10 pm on Sunday, April 28th to Joe Sutera prior to the Seeding/Selection Meeting on Wednesday, May 1st)

Bergen County and/or BIT Tournament Application Link
(to be filled out by 10 pm on Sunday, April 28th prior to the Seeding/Selection Meeting on Wednesday, May 1st)