

December 15, 2020



Dear Rohnert Park Cal Ripken Parents and Players,

The 2021 Baseball registration season is here and we all may be looking forward to baseball just a little more this upcoming season. The COVID-19 Pandemic stripped us of a 2020 season that so many of us were looking forward to. For some, it would be the final time we would walk out onto the field as a baseball player in Cal Ripken. For some, it would be the last time we would get to coach our child in a game we grew up loving and passing the love of the game down to them. For some, we missed out on the cool spring nights, listening to the crack of a bat and the cheers from the stands. For some, we missed out on our first chance to learn the game of baseball and to dress up in a full uniform and play on a big field. But for all that we missed in 2020, we hope to make up for it in 2021!

It is our hope as a board that we come back better and stronger than ever before. As a league, we look forward to the future and look forward to the foundation of what baseball does for our community ... brings us back together. The Board of Directors wants to extend a warm welcome to our returning baseball families and all the new families to our League and our community. At a time when children have many sports and activities to choose from, we are thrilled that so many boys and girls between the ages of four and twelve have chosen to play baseball in Rohnert Park. Rohnert Park Cal Ripken has been providing a positive environment for the development of sportsmanship, character, and athletic skill among our baseball youth for the past thirty-one years. Our program puts an emphasis on fundamentals, participation, development, teamwork, safety, family involvement, and fun. All while developing an appreciation and love for the game of baseball. As parents, we know what a thrill it is to see your child play for the first time and watch them grow and improve through the years. These are memories that we all cherish, and we are pleased that you too will enjoy watching your children learn baseball and grow as part of the Rohnert Park Cal Ripken family.

Our plan for this upcoming spring season is twofold:

- First, we are opening signups for the 2021 Spring Rec. Season. Currently, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not cleared for competition in Sonoma County. If this changes we will be excited to draft teams and begin competition. To make this process as smooth as possible we will need to already have a completed registration process. There are no charges for signing up on the waitlist for the spring season, but if we are cleared for competition those who have committed to playing will be charged the appropriate registration fees. These fees will be due prior to the draft and players will not be assigned to a team until full payment is processed.
- Second, we are currently cleared to host camps and get our players out on the field. With this in mind, we will be holding multiple two-week camps throughout the spring. These camps are designed to ensure our players continue to develop even though we cannot take the field for competition.

Camps include: **1.** Off-Season Conditioning (*Starting 1/19/21*) **2.** Baseball Fundamentals (*Starting 2/9 & 3/2*) **3.** Strength, Speed, & Agility (*Starting 3/30*) **4.** Pitching & Defense (*Starting 4/21*) **5.** Advanced Hitting (*Starting 5/11*) - plus 5 two-week sessions of Cal Ripken Quick Ball Camps for our younger players between the ages of 4 – 6.

[These Camps are filling up quickly, so register today](#)



How can you help?

Rohnert Park Cal Ripken is 100% self-funded and 100% run by volunteers. None of the board members, managers, coaches, or other volunteers receive any compensation for their countless hours of work.

Our income comes entirely from registration fees, fundraisers, snack bar sales, and sponsorships. Our expenses include uniforms, equipment (catchers gear, baseballs, etc), field use permits, utilities, taxes, insurance, field maintenance (we do not receive money from the city for this), and umpire fees. It comes down to our parents, board members and volunteers to put in the effort, like those in the past, to continue to raise funds for the League's financial needs.

DONATE

Rohnert Park Cal Ripken is a 501(c)3 organization and your donation may be tax deductible. Donations of cash or check are always welcome, but we also can use things like gift cards to Costco, Smart & Final, Lowes, or Home Depot. You can also sponsor a player whose family cannot afford the registration fees.

Donations also come in the form of our fundraisers. Participate in our fundraisers, whether they be League-wide events that we have grown accustomed to every year (i.e. Home Run Derby, opening day) or new efforts we may do for the first time. Please come to all the fundraising events and participate. Also pass along information regarding fundraising to family and friends who may not be part of the League but are willing to support your player. Every little bit helps and many of the fundraising events are opportunities to build upon player and family camaraderie. For more information about making a donation please contact our league Treasure, [Lynn Rhode](#).

SPONSORSHIPS

We need new sponsors for our 2021 season to help bridge the gap in funding due to the COVID-19 pandemic and our normal revenue generating streams. Do you know a local business owner who is interested in supporting their community and/or our players within the League? What about a restaurant your family visits regularly, a salon you have been visiting for years, a local mechanic, realtor, or that contractor/repair man you recommend to all your neighbors?

Contact [Marie Rodnick](#) with any questions or ideas for sponsors.

VOLUNTEER

Rohnert Park Cal Ripken would not exist without volunteers. It is our volunteers that make our League great and we call upon everyone to help. Volunteering your time only goes to further the betterment of the players within our League, so please don't be shy -- just ask any Board member or coach, "How can I help?", as help comes in many forms, from very small roles to much larger ones. No matter how you volunteer, we are confident you will find it is one of the most satisfying things you can do for your kids. It takes good people throughout this area to make this League work and come together. Please consider becoming part of the team and volunteer when and where you can. Lend a hand and get involved. It truly takes a community. We just ask that you have a heart for kids and are open-minded and have a good perspective on what we are trying to accomplish. We are extremely grateful to the parents who take on additional volunteer jobs beyond these commitments.

Volunteering saves us money, especially for jobs that we otherwise need to pay for, like umpires and repair services (field maintenance, etc.) Have time and want to help, but not sure how? Please contact our Director of Operations [Jeff Tatman](#).



The Board is constantly working to improve our league and make it the best it can be for the kids in our community. As such, our primary goals this season are transparency, trust, and to always improve on communication. With that in mind, hopefully this welcome letter will address questions we have received about the league, financials, and volunteer commitments.

Our League is truly a one-of-a-kind place to make and share memories with kids, families, and friends. We are constantly reminded by members of this great community of the numerous memories and friendships that have been created in and around our league. Constantly, we hear people tell stories about their time in Cal Ripken. This is also evident by the past players who are now playing baseball in college, umpire in our league, or who come back to volunteer or mentor young players in our league. It is this commitment by the members of this community that have made Rohnert Park Cal Ripken truly one of the best places for our youth to learn and play baseball.

We are set for another fun and exciting baseball season. Although it may look different this year, we are confident there is no better place for a family to experience baseball. Your children will always remember their time and experiences in Cal Ripken, and we look forward to seeing you all out there on the field being a part of Rohnert Park Cal Ripken!

Sincerely,

Rohnert Park Cal Ripken Board of Directors

