Hello MBA Community,

It sure feels like baseball weather around here- what better time to open Registration for Spring 2020 Baseball! Some of our key volunteers have been working through the summer and fall to make improvements to our 2020 program, and we are excited to share some of the details with you.

**Important Dates:**

* Registration opens Tuesday, November 5th, 2019 - <http://www.moragabaseball.org/registration/>
* Bronco and Pony Evaluations (for Spring 2020 Placement): Saturday, December 7th (rain day Dec 14th)
* Mustang and Pinto Evaluations: Saturday, January 11th, 2020
* Practices Begin: February 1, 2020
* Opening Day and Parade: Saturday, February 29, 2020
* Pinto and Mustang Championships: May 16th (by May 21st if necessary)

**Volunteers**: Please visit our website to see the new board and the key volunteers that have stepped up to help shape our program this year: <http://www.moragabaseball.org/board-of-directors/>. We are still looking for volunteers in key areas – you can indicate interest when you register.

Our goals this year are: 1) expand focus on player development (skills, character and discipline), 2) celebrate our community through sportsmanship and activities, and 3) encourage more Moragans to play this amazing sport.

**Fall Ball Update**: Parent and player feedback on this year’s revamped program has been excellent and we will be incorporating key elements into our Spring program. The coaches created top quality and high energy practice designs for all of the players who were pooled together by age group (vs breaking into individual teams). This cohesiveness allowed the baseball development to flourish and the kids really responded to it! As they were pushed, they demonstrated that their hard work could motivate others around them; a motto emerged, 'You Go, We Go'. You'll hear the kids talking about that this Spring.

**Training for coaches**: We've had some great baseball teaching curriculum developed over the past few years. Moving into the Spring, some of our more seasoned coaches will team with our pro coaches to deliver this curriculum to volunteer coaches and players alike across all of our divisions.

**Pinto and Mustang**: Baseball really gets fun as throwing and catching skills increase. To build these skills, we will institute a more formal and proven program to help the kids learn how to throw and catch at the younger ages. As they get older, this program will incorporate more formal pitching and hitting development.

**Bronco and Pony (Maverick)**: As in the past, the coaches will select members for each of the 11U-14U Maverick Teams. Please register before December 7th to participate in the evaluation day.

**Bronco (Premiere) and Pony (Wildcat)**: We have made significant changes here along coaching and opportunities to play.

**Coaching**: We will have pro coaches scheduled for all of these teams’ practices for the benefit of the players and development and support of parent assistant coaches. Pro coaches will also be on the field for select games and will team with parent assistants to construct line-ups and game strategies on other games. Also, a broader group of pro coaches will be running age-group-specific development days (as we did in fall) which will be common across all age groups (co-mingling the Maverick, Premiere and Wildcat groups) at least twice a month.

**Playing**: We will open the opportunity to schedule an end of year tournament and participation in Manteca Field of Dreams Memorial Day tournament with enough notice so that families can plan. We’ll also pre-announce opportunities for interested Premiere and Wildcat players to play Summer tournament baseball.

**Recruiting Moragans**: We need you all to help us build our enrollment, especially at the younger ages. Please forward this note along to Moragans you think should play baseball and remember girls are welcome and encouraged to play MBA.

**Bronco and Pony Coaches:** We have added another pro coach in addition to our returning coaches from last year - they are all committed to helping our players and parent assistant coaches improve their playing and coaching. We will post their bios online shortly at: <http://www.moragabaseball.org/coaches>

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| CJ Doorn | Head Coach 14U Mavericks; Bronco Premiere |
| Dave Manousos | Pony Wildcats; Bronco Premiere |
| Hal Marty | Head Coach 13U Mavericks |
| Evan Spatafore | Head Coach 12U Mavericks |
| Jon Pluth | Head Coach 11U Mavericks |

### Hitting Lessons: If you want to get a head start on the season, be sure to reach out to MBA hitting coach Dave Manousos at [davemanoos@gmail.com](mailto:davemanoos@gmail.com). Dave is offering 3 x 30 minute lessons for $135. Lesson packages will be good through the spring.

**Registration Fees:** With all of the activity and effort to improve this program, additional coaching and our desire to ensure the financial stability of our organization, you will note our rates have gone up.  They are still competitive with sister organizations in the area and will help continue the momentum we have started this fall.

Please have your child's birth certificate ready to upload when you start the registration process. Here is the Registration Link: <http://www.moragabaseball.org/registration/>

We look forward to your participation in 2020 Moraga Baseball.

You Go - We Go!

Patrick