



Babe Ruth League, Inc.



A Non-Profit Tax-Exempt Organization for 4 to 18 Year Old Players

Website: www.baberuthleague.org

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: 1770 Brunswick Pike, P.O. Box 5000, Trenton, NJ 08638
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September 14, 2007



The Honorable Louise Williams Bishop, Chairman
PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Children & Youth
Room 326 Main Capitol Building
P. O. Box 202192
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Representative Bishop:

Chief Executive Officer
President
STEVEN M. TELLEFSEN

Chief Financial Officer
Executive Vice President
ROSEMARY SCHOELLKOPP

Vice President
Operations & Marketing
JOSEPH M. SMIEGOCKI

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Commissioner
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Burlington, CO

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Evansville, IN

GORDON WELBOURNE
Surrey, BC, Canada

Babe Ruth League, Inc. is headquartered in Trenton and has over 1,000,000 players participating in 57,000 teams in 9,200 leagues. Over the years, the success of our baseball and softball programs has been, first and foremost, due to our volunteers in states across the country and around the world. In Pennsylvania, Babe Ruth League, Inc. charter's over 350 leagues, 2,500 teams and 35,000 players.

Let me state from the outset that all of Babe Ruth League's volunteers, from the local league Manager to the Chairman of the 17-member International Board, are dedicated to the betterment of youth and their safety, while at the same time producing better baseball and softball players.

Given our unprecedented involvement in the youth games of baseball and softball, Babe Ruth League, Inc. is concerned with your bill that would ban aluminum bats from the games in Pennsylvania. Specifically, as an international organization, we are concerned that the bill labels aluminum bats – and therefore our sport – unsafe.

From our viewpoint, Babe Ruth League provides opportunities for children aged 4 to 18 to play baseball in a structured, supervised and safe environment that promotes sound values like sportsmanship, teamwork and dedication. In adopting our league rules, in establishing standards for the game and in all planning for our organization, the primary consideration is the welfare of our participants. Babe Ruth League, Inc. would not permit the use of aluminum baseball bats if they were a safety risk to our players. The fact of the matter, aluminum baseball bats have been good for youth baseball and do not represent a safety issue to our participants.

While participation in our program has steadily increased over the past several years, our records indicate no significant rise in the number of claims per team per year, nor has there been an increase in the dollar amount of claims. In the past three years loss dollars per participant and loss dollars per claim have remained stable. The data from our insurance carrier does not support the theory that players are at an increased risk of injury due to the use of non-wood bats.

Regardless, injuries in baseball and softball can and do occur; but statistically, baseball is a safer sport than many youth activities and sports. Babe Ruth League, Inc. constantly reviews our rules and safety issues, and we feel there is no reason from our data and experience to change our bat rules.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Tellefsen
President/CEO

SMT/tc

cc: Jim Darby, Easton Sports