

To Carver Youth Baseball Parents,

Over the past few years in particular the Carver Cranberry League has made efforts to ensure the growth and stability of our in-town Recreational Youth Baseball League. In 2007 we decided to change our affiliation for our 5-12 year old children from Little League to the Cal Ripken division of Babe Ruth Baseball, Inc. In doing so we were able to make many changes that 'fit' our town better and gave us more control as a community to develop a league for our children based on our needs.

Such changes over the past few years have been

- Added a 4 year old entry level to help our growing community with an earlier entry age.
- Added an 8 year old Travel Summer Baseball to the existing 9-12 year old Travel program.
- Hosted both District tournaments & regular tournaments for Summer Baseball at various age levels.
- Expanded our 4-12 year old program by almost 20% within that 3 year period.

We feel our collective efforts in the past few years have reaped tremendous results for us as a town and we continue to try and make it better for our children going into the 2010 season and beyond.

In keeping with our league philosophy we have asked Eastern Mass Babe Ruth (13-15 year old age level) for our own official charter for the upcoming 2010 season. With this we intend to build our 13-15 year old program to make it more 'inclusive' with the rest of our youth. We feel that we have too big of a 'drop off' of children at the age of 13. One reason we feel is because of the absence of continuity with the League when a child turns 13. Some of our parents know that Babe Ruth is an option, but our effort is to make sure this transition is an easy one for every parent. For example, our 13, 14, and 15 year old group combined representing Carver in the current Gateway Babe Ruth system comprised a total of 36 players. We had almost 50 children in our 12 year old group alone this same year.

This dramatic drop off paired with the elimination of the Middle School Baseball program has brought us to the point that we need to have a better plan for our children playing baseball and accelerated the need to move forward by asking for this Charter in Carver. Not much will change for the children that played in the Gateway Babe Ruth system this past year except for the teams we are allowed to play against in the spring. We will actually be able to play additional surrounding Towns such as Plymouth, Middleboro, Halifax, Plympton and Kingston. We will be able to add more Carver players to the Summer League system as we will enjoy having our own Town of Carver officially represented in the various Babe Ruth district tournaments for the first time in many years. We will be able to add competitive tournament play along with a Suburban League schedule, making summer baseball for the 13-15 year old group similar to the current summer baseball enjoyed by our 8-12 year old players. We will also be able to offer our spring Babe Ruth players a significantly reduced registration rate this initial 2010 season without the need for fundraising.

We understand that changes such as this will raise questions and concerns. We as a Board of Directors ask for those to be directed to us. We have included a self addressed post card with an area for questions and a return email address section. We will add information to our [CarverBaseball.com](http://CarverBaseball.com) website and keep a FAQ section available for common questions not answered here.

Thanks to all for your time and efforts to help us build this system and retain more Carver Youth on the Field.

Dave Bellando, President

Carver Cranberry League,

BR MA District 7