

Juuust A Bit Outside #8

Happy Halloweekend.

If you are planning to play ball starting Monday November 3, please start slowly. Some folks are returning in playing shape as they played all summer. Some might be a little rusty and a bit out of shape. I'm guessing some are just getting out of their recliner after six months. I can tell you from firsthand experience that new guys to the park are eager to impress. My 11 years here have afforded me the opportunity to have almost all the muscle pulls possible from week one hamstring to year 11 severed plantar. So be careful. Most leg injuries start when coming out of the batter's box. Compression shorts are a good idea. Nothing in pre-season really matters. I'm just suggesting that you be cautious in the first weeks of play.

As you know, we are planning to have a vote to decide our pitching situation at our Men's General Meeting on Friday January 2. At this point we are planning to let all the fall ball players play with our old rule and our new rule by alternating weeks. We will start with last year's rule (mandatory 6' screen set 20 feet in front of the rubber with pitchers staying behind the screen after pitching over the top) then alternate to the old rule (optional... 6' screen set at 6 feet from the rubber with pitching from the right or left side of the screen and pitchers retreating to the safety of the screen before touching a batted ball).

The old rule also provided for the pitcher to wear mandatory facemask and shin guards and not use the screen.

All batted balls that hit the screen will be dead balls, not strikes.

For safety at second and third base specifically, slide or give up is a great way to start our Fall play. I am not suggesting that people learn to slide, it's just an option for those who wish to use it. There is no option about running into a fielder in our league. Avoid contact. We will have the no contact issue covered as soon as the Rules and Executive committees meet. Again, I am open to any comments or suggestions on any ball related matters.

Finally, all managers for fall ball and all veterans of the league should help the new guys with our interesting rules: double first base, rope at fence, commitment lines, 150' line, alternate home plate and more.

Thanks, and see you all soon. Go Browns!

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