

Englewood Senior Softball readying for 2024 Winter Season

By Staff Report, 1 day ago



ENGLEWOOD — The Englewood Men's Senior Softball League is back in action following a busy summer and active fall.

Open practices for interested players have resumed from 8:30 to 11 a.m. weekdays on the adult softball fields at the Englewood Sports Complex, 1300 River Road, Englewood.

Players should use the Pine Road entrance to the ESC to gain easy access to the fields.

New players are always welcome. Those eligible include anyone turning 60 or older in 2024.

The practice sessions, which run through December, give players a chance to refresh their skills, and prepare for the upcoming tryout draft. The skill level ranges from first-timers to more advanced players, all common goals: to get some exercise, make new friends and have fun.

The league, first established in 1992, attracts players from Englewood, North Port, Venice, Rotonda, Boca Grande, Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda. More than 250 played in the league last winter.

"The league's mission is to create an opportunity for men over 60 to play recreational softball in a safe but competitive environment, regardless of skill level," League Commissioner Mark Johnson stated.

Johnson said despite the impact of Hurricane Ian, the league had a strong influx of players last year, and expects the same this year.

"Our recruitment efforts have really paid off," Johnson said. "We had a record draft last year for the third year in a row. The league's reputation as a fun, competitive, friendly league continues to grow across Sarasota and Charlotte counties. So, come on out and join the fun."

The league has three divisions. The Bronze division is for players typically over 80. The Silver division is for players who have slowed a bit or are not drafted in the Gold division. The Gold division is for players with higher level skills.

Divisional alignment is based primarily on skill level.

“We hold a tryouts draft for the Winter season the first week January to fill out the teams, and then play a 21 game schedule, plus an end of season tournament,” Silver Division Coordinator John Anjos said.

This year’s draft dates are scheduled for Jan. 5-6.

Prospective players can sign up at the league’s website: www.inglewoodseniorsoftball.weebly.com. or find registration forms at Field 1.

The league is supported by local businesses that sponsor the teams, and the list is growing.

“We are very grateful, and loyal, to our sponsors. It helps to supply teams with jerseys, equipment and the cost of renting the fields from the county,” Johnson said. And the nearly 300 players, fans and families frequent those businesses all year long. “It’s absolutely a win-win relationship.”

For more information, visit www.inglewoodseniorsoftball.weebly.com. Registration for the Winter season draft is required and can be done by downloading the form from the league’s website, or by filling out a registration form available at Field 1.

Businesses who may like to sponsor can contact Mark Johnson at 717-982-8456.