



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Rick Cerrone (212) 981-5257
rick_cerrone@dkcnews.com

NEW TOURNAMENT WILL CROWN NATIONAL YOUTH BASEBALL CHAMPION

EIGHT ESTABLISHED YOUTH BASEBALL ORGANIZATIONS TO PARTICIPATE

NEW YORK (June 4, 2008) - Eight top national youth baseball organizations—consisting of more than eight-million participants—have agreed to compete in an annual tournament to crown one "National Youth Baseball Champion."

The four-day "National Youth Baseball Championships" tournament—scheduled to be played in Memphis, Tennessee from August 21-24—will be the initial effort of the "Major Youth Baseball Alliance, LLC." The MYBA is a newly formed company comprised of eight major youth organizations, including AABC (American Amateur Baseball Congress), AAU (Amateur Athletic Union of the United States), Babe Ruth Baseball, Dixie Youth Baseball, NABF (National Amateur Baseball Federation), Pony Baseball, Super Series Baseball of America and USSSA (United States Specialty Sports Association).

The Board of Directors of the Major Youth Baseball Alliance, LLC, will be made up of the highest-ranking officials of the eight participating organizations. They include **Richard Neely**, President, AABC; **Chet Lemon**, National Chair for Baseball, AAU; **Steve Tellefsen**, President and CEO, Babe Ruth Baseball; **Wes Skelton**, Commissioner, Dixie Youth Baseball; **Charles Blackburn**, Executive Director and CEO, NABF; **Abe Key**,

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President and CEO, PONY Baseball; **Mark Mathew**, President and CEO, Super Series Baseball of America; **Don DeDonatis**, Chairman and CEO, USSSA; and **Eddie Einhorn**, Vice Chairman of the Chicago White Sox, who will serve on the Board as Interim Executive Director.

An MYBA Advisory Board will include **Jerry Reinsdorf**, Chairman, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Bulls; **Cal Ripken Jr.**, Member, National Baseball Hall of Fame; **Dr. Harvey Schiller**, President, International Baseball Federation; and **Dennis Gilbert**, Chairman, Professional Baseball Scouts Foundation. Additional Advisory-Board members will be announced at a later date.

Through the Major Youth Baseball Alliance, every young athlete who participates in youth baseball will have the opportunity to win a U. S. National Championship in his or her age group. Until now, these established youth baseball organizations have had their individual champions, but there has never been a Championship Tournament—involving teams from all major organizations—to determine a true National Youth Champion.

"It's all about the kids," said Eddie Einhorn, Interim Executive Director of the MYBA. "We are about inclusion, participation and competition. Organizations with different philosophies have agreed to participate because it's about kids playing baseball. This tournament gives each organization's champion a chance to compete and test its team's skills at the very highest level."

This year's inaugural tournament will feature 10-under and 12-under divisions—which includes more than 100,000 teams—with plans to grow the tournament to include as many as eight different age groups in the future.

Nearly 80 percent of all participants in youth baseball in the United States—more than eight million young players—play in the well-established leagues that make up the Major Youth Baseball Alliance, LLC. In addition, more than 80 per cent of players on the current 40-man rosters of Major-League clubs have played in at least one of the eight organizations in the MYBA.

The city of Memphis, Tennessee, has been selected to host the "National Youth Baseball Championships" through 2010. Games will be played at the 10-diamond Gameday youth baseball complex.

