



LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
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For Immediate Release

BIG THINGS START SMALL...



New York, NY, August 15th, 2021 – Saturday, October 16th, 2021, 02:00 PM, NY LIONS Blind Baseball Team plays against the “Connecticut Chargers” sighted team whose players will be blindfolded during the game as if they were blind. The game will take place at the Franklin Senior League Field, 211 Pond Road, Rt. 207, Franklin, CT 06254.

As someone once said, “In Baseball keeping your eyes on the ball is crucial”. Yet for the blind, listening to the sound of the ball and the sound that emanates from the bases is a challenging and liberating feeling of great accomplishment.

The NY LIONS Team was formed pre-Covid-19 by the Financial District Lions Club, with a mission to motivate the blind and visually impaired community to play the Italian Adaptive Baseball for the Blind and support AIBXC (“*Associazione Italiana Baseball Giocato da Ciechi*, a credited associate of the World *Associazione Italiana Baseball Giocato da Ciechi Baseball and Softball Federation “WBSC”*) in the formation of more B4B teams in the United States and withing Lions Clubs International and promote this form of baseball in the future Paralympics.

*It is important for you to know that this form of baseball is much different from ‘Beep Baseball’, which is popular in the USA for 50 years, and **that one does not interfere with the other.***

The ball is a regular size baseball that contains six holes with two nickel-plated brasses with jingle-type bell inside. The blind players self-bat (no pitcher is involved), catch the ball and run towards the bases where sighted volunteers are using sounds as a navigation device (beeping at first base and clapping at second and third bases). Each team consists of five blind players, one sighted player and one sighted defensive assistant who also serves as base coach at second or third base when the team comes to bat.

The match in Connecticut will be against a sighted baseball team formed by Joseph Landolphi, a senior at Parish Hill High School and former SFC baseball player as part of his Senior Year Capstone Project. The sighted team “Connecticut Chargers” will be blindfolded when playing with NY LIONS’ blind/visually impaired team. The game in Franklin Ct. is hosted by the *Franklin Connecticut Lions Club* and all are invited to come by and see them in action competing against sighted baseball team playing blindfolded.

With the continues support and dedication of Coach Donald Landolphi, Hall of Fame College Coach and the Financial District Lions Club, more teams of this kind are expected to be formed next year by the Lions Clubs in the counties of Suffolk and Nassau and upstate New York in Albany/Saratoga Springs.

The Connecticut media posted information about this game of one of their own in their community:

<https://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-news-ct-baseball-for-the-blind-20211013-2plossfbkzdmdbgu7rq1tnnhy-story.html>



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Team is ready to officially represent the United States and Lions Clubs International in competition against countries where this game is presently played: Italy, Germany, France, England, Spain, Cuba, Bangladesh, Australia, and Argentina.

We look forward to the support of New Yorkers, the MLB organization, the Italian American community in the USA, and Lions Clubs International.

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