

Please Join us for a Special Baseball Event:

(B4B) BASEBALL FOR THE BLIND
Franklin Senior League Field
211 Pond Road, Rt. 207
Franklin, CT 06254

Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021
2 p.m.
(Rain Date: Sunday, Oct. 17)

FREE ADMISSION; OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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Joseph Landolphi, a senior at Parish Hill High School and a former SFC baseball player, will be coaching the Connecticut Chargers baseball team as part of his Senior Year Capstone Project. His team will be blindfolded and will play against a blind/visually impaired baseball team, the New York Lions.

The game's purpose is to raise awareness for this sport, with the goal of creating a Baseball for the Blind League in the United States and ultimately having a team qualify for participation in the Paralympic Games. At the present times there are teams in Italy, Cuba, Panama, France, Germany, United Kingdom, and the United States.

Background about the coach of the New York Lions and Baseball for the Blind:

The first game of Baseball for the Blind was played more than 25 years ago in Bologna, Italy. In the Italian version of Baseball for the Blind, players hit a "sound" ball, which contains chimes inside. Players run the bases by following the sound of wooden clappers being hit behind each base.

In the outfield, the players stop the ball by dropping their bodies and moving around to find it. The ball is then thrown to a base or target with a sighted assistant calling for and catching the ball.

There are no pitchers or catchers. Instead, batters hold the ball in one hand and hit it with the other. A team consists of five blind players, one sighted player, and a sighted defensive assistant.

The most difficult part is running from third base to home plate, as there is no sounding device on that base line, and the player needs to come within three feet of the plate, or he is called "out." The Italian Baseball League for the Blind now has eleven teams in different regions throughout Italy.

Hall of Fame Baseball Coach Donald Landolphi has been working with the blind since 2014 in Brescia, Italy. Since then, he's been trying to increase interest for the game in the U.S.

In 2015, with the support of the New York Adaptive Blind Baseball League and co-founder Thomas DeRosa, Coach Landolphi introduced American players, coaches, and volunteers to the Italian version of adaptive baseball.

For his dedication to helping visually challenged individuals gain a love for baseball, Coach Landolphi recently received the AIBXC Honor Award while coaching the NY Rockers baseball team in Italy.

With the assistance of the Franklin Recreation Commission, SFC Little League (Sprague, Scotland, Franklin and Canterbury), and the New York and Franklin, CT Lions Club, this event is open to the public, and free of charge. We look forward to seeing you, and thank you in advance for your support for Coach Joseph Landolphi and the Connecticut Chargers!

For more information contact:

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