

Welcome

Welcome the Waseca Youth Baseball Association. This handbook is used to help familiarize parents and players with our program. The handbook is used to help answer frequently asked questions pertaining to the in house and traveling baseball teams.

Mission Statement

It shall be the purpose of the Waseca Youth Baseball Association to provide the youth of Waseca and the surrounding area with the opportunity to participate in organized and supervised baseball. The Association will operate by the policy that for all participants who come to practice, will have the opportunity to participate in games. The Association shall not discriminate against participants, coaches or member regardless of their sex, creed, race, heredity, marital status, or otherwise, but shall consistently protect the best interests of the participants, coaches and/or members and uphold the laws of the appropriate jurisdictions whether local, state, or federal.

Goals

It is our goal to provide the skills necessary to be successful students and productive community members. Waseca Youth Baseball Association values participation and competition that build self-esteem through determination, focus, commitment, teamwork, honesty, loyalty and sportsmanship. We want our participants to develop life skills while building a tradition of respect for their program.

1. Develop baseball skills
2. Develop character
3. Develop teamwork
4. Establish and maintain a work ethic
5. Have a competitive high school, VFW and legion baseball team EVERY year
6. Have fun

Philosophy

1. **FUNDAMENTALS** – We believe that we are teachers first and coaches second. From our perspective the purpose of youth sports is to HAVE FUN and develop skills. Winning is not an overriding concern with us at our lower levels. At the older ages, winning takes on a more prominent role. We ultimately judge success, equally, from the combined perspective of winning, skill improvement, character development, sportsmanship and teamwork.

All players should be given a chance to succeed. We also believe that not all players can succeed at all positions during their course of development; our coaches have a goal of helping players experience success. The players that work the hardest, put the most time in, and have the best attitude often earn the opportunities in front of those that do not do those things. Our philosophy on playing time varies with the age groups.

We want to provide every player with kinesthetically sound skills that will enable him to compete successfully. We break each skill into smaller components and teach it in short, repetitive sessions, constantly building upon each subcomponent until the entire skill is taught.

2. **ATTITUDE** – A critical and frequently overlooked part of preparing athletes for competition is mental preparation. It has often been said that baseball is 90% mental. This is a game designed to challenge failure. We attempt to make every player feel he is a part of something bigger than themselves. This attitude is developed by practicing with your teammates on a daily basis, by sweating, working, and traveling and having fun together as a team.
3. **ORGANIZATION** – The key to bringing all these vital elements together in the limited time available is organization. There is no substitute for organization. An integrated practice plan is essential to ensure all the basics are covered before the players participate in games. Communication lines with parents and the community are essential to the success of our program.
4. **MOTIVATION** – Perhaps the most important consideration for a coach is motivation. Great coaches provide their players with incentives to grow. We encourage players to go beyond themselves to experiment and take risks. This is the most demanding responsibility for a coach. Every player reacts to different stimuli and has different motivations for playing the game. The successful coach must know what motivates every player and provide that motivation in abundance. There is no “one” motivational technique that works every time with every player. It must be player specific. The coach must be able to excite every player to want to work hard. Hard work will produce commitment and commitment will produce success. Success builds greater motivation and it soon becomes an ever-expanding process resulting in victory.
5. **GOALS** – Goals are essential in any competitive event. They are the yardsticks for measuring levels of success. Goals allow the players to focus their efforts. Without goals, hard work is usually wasted on non-productive ventures. Goals are like the targets for great marksmen. With them, the greatness of a marksman is easily determined. Without them, his abilities may never be fully realized. Every player should be actively involved in establishing individual and team goals. Once established, they must be internalized as the ever-present motivation for hard work.

Parental Expectations

1. Parental involvement. Night coaches, traveling team coaches, concession stand workers, tournament directors, fans. Come out and support your kids!
2. Let coaches know if your child will not be at practice or a game due to vacations, events, camp, etc.
3. Make sure the player is on time for games and practices.
4. Pick up the child promptly after every event for safety purposes.
5. **League Baseball**-Bring all problems or concerns to the board immediately. No grumbling in stands or talking behind backs.
6. Pre-game meals; high in carbohydrates. Avoid sweets and sugar-based products before and during games.
7. No sideline coaching during games. Stay away from dugouts during games. Let the coaches' coach and the kids PLAY!
8. Take care of hydration needs for the players prior to the game.
9. Always be positive. Praise efforts-not results.
10. Be positive role models for the kids.
11. Take it easy on the ump's; they do the best they can. This is especially important during in-house games. Baseball players ump our in-house games. Criticism directed at in-house ump is not acceptable.
12. Learn and understand our goals.
13. Support the organization.
14. Support the coaches and players.
15. Parents are responsible for sharing Parental Expectations with extended family members/friends that may be watching/supporting at either an in-house game or traveling baseball game.

We appreciate and thank you for all of your efforts in making our program a successful one. If you have any questions contact our President.

Player's Team: _____

Player's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Player Expectations

1. Hustle at all times
2. Hard work
3. Be at all practices on time
4. Be coachable
5. Be a team player
6. Good sportsmanship (shake hands with other team after games, never make excuses for losses-only losers make excuses, never harass other players about beating them when you see them in school or elsewhere, accept the umpires and coaches decisions.)
7. On field procedures – no throwing or hitting until told to do so, meet on bleachers at the beginning of your practice to take attendance, listen when the coaches are talking.
8. Follow direction of coaches
9. Pants need to be worn for all practices and games
10. Shirt and jerseys need to be tucked in during games
11. Be at games 20-30 minutes before they start
12. Let coaches know ahead of time if you won't be at a game or practice
13. Stay in dugouts during the games, no eating hot dogs, etc. during games, wait until after the game or between games

We appreciate and thank you for all of your efforts in making our program a successful one. If you have any questions contact our President.

Player's Team: _____

Player's Name: _____

Player's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Coach Expectations

1. The game is for your players, not for your personal gratification or position.
2. Create a mental attitude that requires maximum effort at all times.
3. Be positive in your approach and eliminate fear of failure
4. Control your temper and encourage rather than berate.
5. Never sacrifice the dignity of a player in the face of defeat.
6. Sportsmanship must take precedence in victory or defeat.
7. Set a positive example when interacting with umpires. Criticism directed at any ump is not acceptable.
8. The team must have pride in itself and respect for their opportunity to participate and for their coaches and teammates.
9. Accept only mistakes made through maximum effort. Do not accept errors caused by lack of effort.
10. Create an understanding that players achieve success through mental and physical preparation.
11. Make a concentrated effort to be a positive influence on a player in the game of baseball and in the game of life.

League Baseball

Philosophy: to provide kids in the area an opportunity to play baseball.

To emphasize the skill development involved in learning the game of baseball at multiple positions.

Players: must participate on the team nearest to where they reside or attend school. No All-Star or Rogue teams. EXCEPTION: Any player who tried out and was cut from the team nearest to the residence or school will be allowed to participate with the team next nearest to residence or school.

In order to participate in a MSF State Tournament, you will have to compete in a minimum of four regularly scheduled league or tournament games with the team whose roster you are on. Lack of four games played due to injury or illness is not an exception.

Age Divisions:

Age	Deadline	Teams Split	Rulings
10 U	Born on or after May 1, 2010	A/B	MBT/MSF
11 U	Born on or after May 1, 2009	A/B	MBT/MSF
12 U	Born on or after May 1, 2008	A/B	MBT/MSF
13 U	Born on or after May 1, 2007	A/B	MBT/MSF
14 U	Born on or after May 1, 2006	A/B	MBT/MSF
VFW (16 U)	Born on or after June 1, 2004	One Team	MN VFW Baseball
Legion 18 U	Born on or After January 1, 2002	One Team	American Legion Baseball

Players may only be on one team roster in each age group. A player can be on the rosters in different age groups. Meaning an 11 year old can be on an 11U roster and a 12U roster, but they cannot be on 2 different 11U rosters.

Electronic rosters will be required of teams. Rosters are due at time of registration; coaches should carry a copy of the roster with them to each game.

Practice is mandatory. If the player will miss practice they need to notify the coach.

Player Removal

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a team member solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following specific reasons:

- Failure to attend practice/games
- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the players responsibilities.
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and/or self.
- Displaying an uncaring attitude, this results in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential.
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the teams).
- Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior.

****Coaches have the ultimate authority in suspending players for the specified reasons.**

The following steps will occur in the removal process:

1. The coach shall first meet with the player in an attempt to correct the behavior at hand.
2. The coach must discuss the situation with the board (send a detailed email to a board member), and the player's parents and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion would include an objective description of the behavior and of the intended discipline.
3. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must notify the board, who must approve any further action. The board must take action within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the board.

We are volunteer coaches, and work hard to make baseball a fun and rewarding experience for our youth. Please help us by volunteering, displaying good sportsmanship, and being positive of your child's development, team, and coach's. Thank you!