

IGHBA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

PURPOSE

The Inver Grove Heights Baseball Association exists solely to promote boys youth baseball in the City of Inver Grove Heights.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe the way to create an environment that best serves our purpose is to:

- Acknowledge that our traveling league provides an opportunity for players who have developed the necessary skills to compete at an advance level of competition.
- Emphasize practice time as a means to develop and enhance fundamental skills. (It is recognized that as a prerequisite, the players must possess a level of fundamental skills commensurate with their age group.)
- Encourage friendship and team building activities
- Promote sportsmanship
- Foster leadership skills

REGISTRATION

The IGHBA registration starts in February and concludes the day before player evaluations, unless otherwise specified.

Registration Provisions

- A parent or guardian must sign the registration form for each participating player.
- The governing board may assist with the registration fee due to financial hardship.
- The board may accept late registration ONLY if space is available on team rosters.
- Registration check will be cashed after the close of 2nd registration date.

Player Evaluations

- Players shall be evaluated by an impartial evaluation team which may include the High School coaches, board members, and/or members of outside baseball organizations
- Results of individual evaluations are not part of public record and are not to be shared with any persons outside of the governing board.
- Coaches and parents may request an individual player be moved to a higher or lower age group. Individual requests will be heard by the Governing Board after evaluations.
- In cases of disputed evaluation results, the high and low evaluation numbers (without player names) may be used to validate team make-up.
- In case of an even team situation it will be done per tryout score (both points and percentage) based on totals amongst players in same grade.
- Upon completion of team (s) formation and the public posting of the team (s), refunding of registration fees will not be given until brought to the IGHBA Board for explanation and its review.

IGHBA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

COACHING RESPONSIBILITIES

- Coaches must uphold the purpose and responsibility of the IGHBA as well as adhere to the procedures, policies and guidelines established by the Association Board.
- Coaches may attend all board meetings as a non-voting member.
- Coaches **must** abide by all league and tournament rules.
- Coaches are encouraged to attend and will be reimbursed for attendance at pre-approved coaches clinics.
- Coaches must attend the MANDATORY preseason Coaches meeting and Player development clinics meeting scheduled by the Governing board.
- Coaches need to sign a code of ethics and understand the rules and guidelines.
- Coaches should have a preseason parent meeting to discuss the upcoming season, schedules, practices, and work time expectations.
- Coaches shall treat all players, coaches, officials, and fans with respect in speech, attitude, and behavior at all times.
- Coaches will promptly notify the association board in writing of any player suspension or grievance.
- Coaches must abide by the coaches Code of Ethics as listed below.

IGHBA Coaches:

- Will place the emotional and physical well being of players ahead of any personal desire to win.
- Will remember to treat each player as an individual, remembering the large spread of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- Will provide a safe situation for players at all times.
- Will organize practices that are fun and challenging for all players.
- Will lead, by example, in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players.
- Will learn the rules of baseball and teach these rules to players.
- Will use coaching techniques appropriate for each level of skills taught.

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Practice skills at home to improve. Your effort will be the largest factor in determining how far you can go with your ability.
- Give 100% effort every time you play regardless of your assignment.
- Be a team player. Use your skill in a team effort and always support your team-mates with encouragement.
- Practice good sportsmanship and maintain a positive attitude at all times.
- Learn and abide by the rules of baseball.
- Treat all players, coaches, officials, and fans with dignity and respect in speech, attitude, and behavior at all times.
- Be aware of team schedules and attend all practices, games and other team events. If you cannot attend it is your responsibility to notify the coach.
- Keep yourself fit and advise your coach immediately of any injury, however minor.
- Keep your head up in defeat and keep your pride under control in victory.
- Show appreciation of your coach, parents, and game officials for their efforts in making the program a success.
- Take proper care of your uniform and equipment.

IGHBA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Abide by the IGHBA philosophy as well as adhere to the procedures, policies, and guidelines established by the association.
- Never use tobacco, alcohol, or drugs of any kind.
- Be responsible for your own conduct and its consequences.
- Be aware that your conduct and behavior on or off the field can affect your position on the team.
- Have fun and enjoy the game.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Concessions for tournaments are held to raise monies for the program. All parents are expected to take an active part in these activities.
- Treat all players, coaches, and fans with dignity and respect in your speech, attitude, and behavior at all times.
- Abide by the following MBL parents code of ethics.
- IGHBA Parents:
 - Will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all player, coaches, and officials at every game and practice.
 - Will place the emotional and physical well being of their child ahead of any personal desire to win.
 - Will insist that their child will play in a safe and healthy environment.
 - Will provide support for coaches and officials working with their child to provide a positive, enjoyable experience for all.
 - Will remember that the game is for youth and not for adults.
 - Will do their best to make youth softball fun for their child.
 - Will ask their child to treat other players, caches, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.
 - Will promise to help their child enjoy the youth baseball experience by assisting with coaching, being a respectful fan, providing transportation or wherever else assistance is needed.

COACHES SELECTION

- The coaching selection shall be voted upon by the board. In cases of more than one applicant for a single coaching position, an interview process will be used to determine the best candidate.

EQUIPMENT

- Complete uniforms are to be worn at all scheduled games. Uniforms are NOT to be worn at practices.
- Each coach is responsible for all equipment issued to the team. Parents are responsible for proper care in the cleaning of uniforms. Any additional uniforms must be approved by Association Board.

ELIGIBILITY

- Youth residing or attending school in the city of Inver Grove Heights are eligible for play or with an approved waiver.

IGHBA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Traveling team players are strongly encouraged to participate in school baseball programs wherever applicable.

GRIEVANCE AND DISPUTE RESOLUTION

During the course of a season, occasional disputes or differences of opinion will arise between participants. In order to resolve disputes in the respectful and reasonable manner, participants shall observe the following steps:

- A. The participants involved in the disputed matter shall meet privately and attempt to resolve their differences informally.
- B. If the informal dispute resolution is unsuccessful, any participant may refer the matter to the Association's President.
- C. The President shall again encourage participants to resolve the disputed matter through discussion or other informal means.
- D. A participant may initiate a formal dispute resolution process by delivering a written grievance to the Association President to resolve the disputed matter promptly.
- E. The President shall have final authority to resolve the disputed matter. His/Her decision may not be appealed. The decision does not, however, establish a precedent for future situations. If the President identifies any matters that may require clarification or amendment of the association By-laws or Policies and Procedures, it shall refer them to the full board for consideration.

NOTE: Because of the sensitivity and likelihood of the grievance association with a player suspension, coaches must provide prompt, written notice to the President. The results of actions by the President shall not be part of public record.

TEAM APPAREL

- All team apparel representing IGHBA, worn on or off the field, must be approved by the IGHBA Board.
- All team apparel must have the IGHBA emblem on each shirt IGHBA sponsors.
- Proper Names on jersey only, no nicknames.

TEAM NAMES

- All teams should notify the Association Board of team names.