



Fastpitch Softball Parent Information
2018 Season

AGENDA

- Introduction of Becker Blast Softball Association (BBSA) Board
- Fundraising
- Communications
- League Information Overview
- Overview by Level
- Equipment Requirements
- Evaluation Expectations
- Tournament Expectations
- Behavior Expectations
- Upcoming Events
- Misc.
- Registration Fee Breakdown
- Area Registration Comparison
- Questions



INTRODUCTIONS- BBSA

- BBSA Board
 - President - Lee Croal
 - Vice President/8U Coordinator - Tim Kuklok
 - Secretary - Erin Hunter
 - Treasurer - Shaylene Otteson
 - Volunteer Coordinator - Danny Enerson
 - Tournament Coordinator - Todd Engeldinger
 - Concession Manager - Michelle and Jay Bartlett
 - Communications Coordinator - Jennie Cook
 - Equipment Manager - Eric Sherman
 - Advisor to the Board - Jason Baune



Fundraising

- Adrenaline Fundraising is the Blast partner
- Dates for this years fundraiser
 - Kickoff Tuesday March 6th - Becker fieldhouse
 - 1st Check-In Tuesday March 13th - Email from the Becker Blast
 - Final day turn in Tuesday March 20th - Becker fieldhouse lobby
 - Prizes for selling 10 cards, 20 cards & the most cards. The age group that sells the most cards will be given a pizza party hosted by the Becker Blast Board
 - What does fundraising do for us?
 - Replace Dugouts and other field improvements.
 - Off-set uniform costs and allows us to keep registration fees low.
 - Helps to pay for various training clinics.
 - Helps replace aging equipment and/or buy new equipment.
 - Replace and add scoreboards for main complex fields.
 - Fundraising at this time is optional, but we highly encourage every player to participate
 - Additional fundraising - Teams are allowed to do their own fundraising once the season starts to raise funds for additional tournaments or for other tournament expenses



COMMUNICATIONS

- BBSA softball sends emails that will target the association as a whole or specific groups of players (i.e. pitchers, catchers, specific age levels, etc) primarily using the beckerblast@gmail.com Gmail account.
- Periodically we will send these communications through the Becker Schools Community Education email accounts.
- Coaches and/or Team managers will email teams directly with info on practices, games & tournaments using their own personal email accounts.



League Information

- We are starting the second year of playing in the Big West League under Minnesota Softball.
- See the Minnesota Softball and Big West Links for more info.
 - <http://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com>
 - <http://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/bigwest>



Uniforms

- 8U Uniforms - Jersey and shorts are included in the registration fee.
- 10U thru 14U Uniforms - In 2018 all players are required to purchase a new uniform. In subsequent years jersey and/or pants will be purchased separately as needed.
- New players to the BBSA will be assigned a number from the board. This will be their number while playing in BBSA Softball.
- Numbers are assigned so that there is not a chance for duplicate number in the age groups. This will also allow for previous years uniform to be reused as backups multiple years, provided they fit and are in good condition.
- 16U/18U - In 2018 all players are required to purchase a new uniform. In subsequent years jersey and/or pants will be purchased separately as needed.



OVERVIEW BY LEVEL

- 8U:
 - Play league games with teams from surrounding communities (Big Lake, Monticello, Zimmerman, Princeton, Elk River and others).
 - Games will be on Mondays and Wednesdays starting in mid May and go thru mid June.
- 10U, 12U and 14U:
 - Registration numbers determine how many teams will be formed at each age group.
 - We will play in the Big West League and play level will be determined after evaluations.
 - Practices will start in early April as long as field conditions are good and weather permitting. Games will start week of May 1st (10U and 12U) Week of May 22nd (14U) and end July 6th - 8th (10U and 12U) July 21st - 22nd.



OVERVIEW BY LEVEL

- 16U/18U:
 - Teams will be registered in appropriate league for their level of play.
 - Registration numbers will determine number of teams at each level.
 - Games will start Week of June 4th and end July 21st - 22nd.
 - More information to come as we develop this level.



PLAY UP POLICY

- The Softball board reserves the right to move any player up to the next level to cover any specialized needs in accordance with program objectives.
- Requests from a player to play-up to the next level will be marked on registration form. If not marked there then an email must be sent to the BBSA @ beckerblast@gmail.com.
- Request must be received 7 days before the evaluation date.
- Player must attend the evaluation with her current age level. In addition, the player must also attend the evaluation with the next age level.
- The player must place in the top 33% of the next age level in order to qualify to play up.
- It is our goal to have players playing in their age group.
- An 8U player is eligible to move up a level if they try out at the 10U level and score in the top 50% at that level. A player that is completing the 3rd grade has the option of playing at the 10U level.



EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Girls **MUST** provide their own helmets
 - Helmets must have a facemask
 - Chin straps are optional
- Gloves are needed
- Optional equipment: (not required)
 - Bat
 - Fielding face mask (**Highly Recommended**)
 - Cleats (14U and up metal cleats are allowed)



EVALUATIONS 10U thru 14U

- **Evaluations are on Tuesday March 6th, 6-9PM** at the Becker High School Fieldhouse.
- Evaluation forms are posted on the Becker Blast website.
- Outside evaluators will be brought in. No Becker Blast coaches will be involved with scoring any of the girls.
- Hitting, fielding (grounders and pop ups), throwing, and pitching (if applicable) will be evaluated.
 - Bring bat, helmet, glove and water. Extra bats will be available for use if needed.
- 8U - no evaluations are needed unless they are trying up to 10U.
- 14U - 6:00PM, 12U - 7:00PM and 10U - 8:00PM. Please arrive early to get your evaluation number and be ready to go when it is your time. If you are trying to play up you will need to check in and go through evaluations for each level of play.
- Parents may drop off and return at scheduled pick up time. Evaluations are closed to parents.
- Apparel- Majestic Creations will be onsite with apparel order forms.
- It is our goal to not have to do any make-up evaluations. Please contact the BBSA at the beckerblast@gmail.com email to discuss.



EVALUATIONS

- 16U/18U:
 - More information to come on teams and evaluations.



Becker Blast Softball Field Location

- All teams play at the Becker High School softball complex located next the Middle School.
- Links to surrounding community fields can be found on the website.



TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS

- 8U:
 - One weekend tournament (It is up to coaches if there are more.)
 - One year end league tournament June 9th.
 - 8U end of season tourney will be hosted at Becker and all our 8U teams are required to be there.
- 10U/12U/14U:
 - Two to three weekend tournaments (It is up to coaches and teams).
 - All teams will be entered into Becker Blast Freedom Days Tournament the weekend of June 15th to 17th
 - 1-2 additional tournament for each team TBD
 - 10U/12U - State Qualifier; June 23rd-25th/Locations TBD
 - 10U/12U - State Tournament (if spot earned); July 8th-9th Locations TBD
 - 14U - State Qualifier; July 14th-15th/Locations TBD
 - 14U - State Tournament (if spot earned); July 21st-22nd Locations TBD
- At beginning of the season the coach may ask for parent interest in registering for additional tournaments. Additional tournament entries would be at the cost of the players and coaches.
- National tournaments (if earned) will be at the cost of the teams. BBSA will help cover gate fees.



TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS

- 16U/18U teams:
 - State Qualifier, July 14th & 16th, Locations TBD
 - State, if qualify, July 22nd & 23rd, Locations TBD
 - Nationals - team decision, team funded

National tournaments (if earned) will be at the cost of the teams. BBSA will help cover gate fees.



BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

5 signs of a nightmare sports parent.

- Overemphasizing sports at the expense of sportsmanship.
 - Keep emotions in check, particularly during the contest.
- Having different goals than your child.
 - Have the parent and athlete create a list, vastly different lists can be a red flag.
- Treating your child differently after a loss than a win.
- Undermining the coach
 - Young athletes need a single instructional voice during games.
- Living your own athletic dreams through your child
 - Signs of this include the parent taking credit when the child does well and when the game seems to mean more to the parent than the child.
- <http://www.thepostgame.com/blog/more-family-fun/201202/what-makes-nightmare-sports-parent>



BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

5 signs of an ideal sports parent.

- Cheer for everybody on the team, not just your child.
- Model appropriate behavior.
- Be respectful to the Umpiring crew assigned.
- Know what is suitable to discuss with a coach.
- Know your role.
- Be a good listener and a great encourager to your child.



CONFLICT ESCALATION POLICY

- Wait 24 Hours after the game to discuss any issues.
- In person or phone call is preferred over email/texting.
- Allow time for any changes discussed to happen.
- If needed, after discussing the issue with the coach and giving time for change, call or meet with BBSA President (contact information on website).
- If unresolved, next step would be to address the full BBSA board at next BBSA meeting if applicable or a separate meeting can be arranged.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Early registration open through March 5th
 - After March 5th and before April 1st -\$25 late fee will be applied
 - After April 1st - \$50 late fee will be applied
- Evaluations
 - Tuesday March 6th, 6pm-9pm
 - BHS Field House
- Team announcements week of March 11th this will be posted on the website (Tentative)
- Fundraiser turn-in March 20th
- Equip checkout (practices can begin) April 8th



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Gopher Game Day Saturday April 18th
 - Players free, adults/kids \$4 with pre-sign-up and payment.
 - Sign-up and payment info posted on website in April
- Becker High School Varsity Tournament Saturday May 5th



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

- The success of our program depends on our volunteers. Helping with concessions, tournaments and various other needs allows us to keep our fees as low as possible.
- When we do not have enough volunteers available, especially for the tournaments we host, we have to hire outside workers. In the past, the amount we pay for outside help comes very close to matching the amount of cashed volunteer checks. It is our hope that we will have more volunteers and less of a need to cash volunteer checks. In other words, we would rather have your time than your money.
- DIBS sign-up will be open after evaluations on the Becker Blast website.
- Volunteer opportunities include:
 - May 5th - Becker High School Varsity Tournament: (grilling and concessions)
 - During home league game nights: concessions
 - June 9th - Becker 8U Rookie Round-Up (field prep, check-in/information desk, grilling and concessions)
 - June 15th - 17th Becker Blast Freedom Days Tournament: (field prep, check-in/information desk, Skills competition grilling and concessions)



MISC

- Social media- positive parent and athlete postings
- Youth (13-18yrs old) umpires for games NEEDED. This is a paid position. Instructions will be provided. Contact the Becker Blast (beckerblast@gmail.com) and we will get you in touch with area organizer.
- Please email us your photos to post on website and/or send into the newspaper.
- Fall softball -
 - 8u and up age groups
 - Starts around the 2nd week in Aug and runs through end of Sept Excluding Labor day weekend. Games are on Sundays, except the last two weekends are on Saturday.
 - Teams are not organized by the Blast but we will hold an informational meeting before sign-ups need to happen. We will also supply team equipment if needed.



Area Registration Comparison

| Association | Registration Fees | | | | Added Uniform | Added Fees |
|-------------|-------------------|----------|----------|----------|---|---|
| | 8U | 10U | 12U | 14U | | |
| Becker | \$70.00 | \$180.00 | \$180.00 | \$180.00 | \$50 (\$25 for Jersey \$25 for Pants Socks free) | |
| Community A | \$65.00 | \$150.00 | \$175.00 | \$175.00 | 75 (\$45 for Jersey \$30 for Pants Socks Free & \$6 for Belt) | Paid Coach \$100 to \$200 |
| Community B | \$65.00 | \$135.00 | \$185.00 | \$185.00 | Jersey \$50 | |
| Community C | \$90.00 | \$265.00 | \$265.00 | | \$30 (Jersey only) | |
| Community D | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$68 (10U and 12U) - \$107 (14U) | Required Fundraising |
| Community E | \$125.00 | \$250.00 | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | | |
| Community F | \$95.00 | \$225.00 | \$225.00 | | Extra Cost | |
| Community G | | \$300.00 | \$300.00 | | | |
| Community H | \$200.00 | \$309.00 | \$309.00 | \$309.00 | Extra Cost | |
| Community I | | \$240.00 | \$390.00 | \$390.00 | | |
| Community J | \$95.00 | \$230.00 | \$280.00 | \$280.00 | | |
| Community K | \$75.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$250.00 | \$100 (Hats, Jersey, Pants) | \$60 per player (\$100 family max) mandatory Fundraising fees |
| Community L | \$125.00 | \$230.00 | \$230.00 | \$230.00 | \$70 uniform cost | \$50 Fundraiser fee |



2017 Registration Fee Breakdown

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| League Fees | \$3,930.00 |
| Tournaments | \$4,800.00 |
| Umpires | \$2,565.00 |
| Equipment | \$4,415.00 |
| Events (Clinics, Tryouts) | \$2,793.00 |
| Field Maintenance | \$3,941.00 |
| Scholarships/Family Discount | \$2,160.00 |
| Administration | \$5,219.00 |
| | \$29,823.00 |
| Total # of Players | 115 |
| Cost Per player | \$259.33 |

***** Shortage of cost per player is cover by fundraising. *****



Becker Blast Softball Apparel



- Fan apparel is available year round on our website.
- Becker Blast works with Majestic Creations out of Becker for our apparel. Feel free to work with them directly for custom orders.



REMINDERS FROM YOUR CHILD

I am a **KID**.



It is just a **GAME**.

My coach is a **VOLUNTEER**.

The officials are **HUMAN**.

NO college scholarships
will be handed out today.

THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE GAME!

QUESTIONS?

Or Contact Lee Croal
beckerblast@gmail.com
320-492-8869