

Harrisburg Baseball Association 2019 - Travel Baseball



Important Dates

December 1
Travel Registration Opens

December 15
Little League Registration
Opens

December 30
Travel Registration Closes

January 3
Indoor Training Begins

March 15
Little League Registration
Closes

March 30
Player Skills Assessments

April 15
Little League Practice
Begins

May 13
Little League Games
Begin

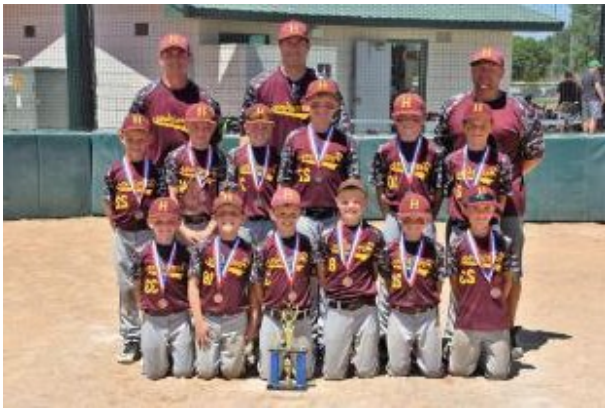
WHO ARE WE?

Harrisburg Baseball Association (HBA) is a non-profit organization committed to teach the game of baseball and softball in a fun, competitive and instructional atmosphere. We are focused on improving the ability of every player while enhancing the experience for every family. Our efforts create a passion for the game that will last a lifetime.

Players ages 4 to 18 have the opportunity to participate in baseball and softball in a variety of levels including the most competitive travel programs for highly skilled baseball players to recreational programming for players of all abilities. Our organization has grown to provide programming for over 1000 players each year, all of whom reside within the boundaries of the Harrisburg School District. Over 82 teams participated in the HBA in 2018.

Our organization has continued to adapt to our community's needs as we will continue to create programming to satisfy the demands of players of all skill levels.

www.harrisburgtigersbaseball.com



Come Grow With Us

In line with the growth in the southern corridor of Sioux Falls, as well as Harrisburg proper, our program has grown over 126% in the past 8 years, from 398 participants in 2011 to over 1000 in 2018. As an association tied to the fastest growing school district in South Dakota, we are projecting additional growth of over 12% a year over the next 5 years. With unprecedented growth, Harrisburg School District (HBSD) enrollment has quadrupled from 2377 in 2011 to nearly 4,800 in the fall of 2018, a rate exceeding 11% a year for more than a decade.

PLAYINGRIGHT HERE IN HARRISBURG.....

With the growth of the HBA and our school district, it's a great time to play baseball right here in Harrisburg, **for** your school and **with** your classmates. In the past, it was common for kids to migrate to other programs in Sioux Falls and other communities. With boundary rules and recruiting guidelines in place, there is no better time than now to jump into Harrisburg Baseball. We have a lot of great things going on as we continue to advance our programs and facilities. Be a Tiger!

MORE INFORMATION

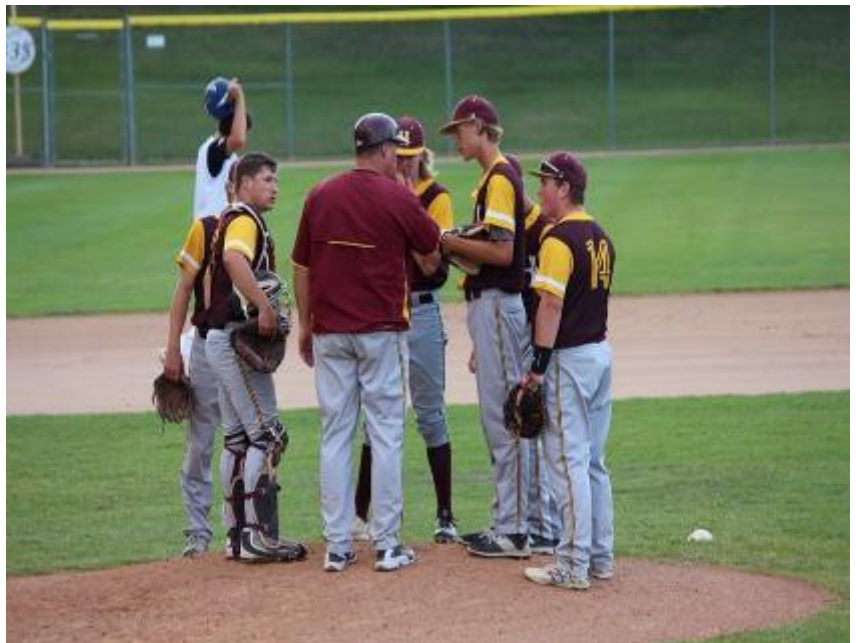
For more information on HBA programs, as well as sponsorship opportunities and to get involved, please contact:

John Ratzloff
Executive Director
605-261-1324

john.ratzloff@k12.sd.us

Facility Improvements and Field Advancements

The HBA, in cooperation with the Harrisburg Foundation, City of Harrisburg and the Harrisburg School District, continue efforts towards facility and field advancements. The coming months will include a capital campaign supporting the advancement of championship baseball and softball fields, in addition to continued youth field development.





Little League Baseball

The **Harrisburg Baseball Association (HBA)** has different programs to provide baseball opportunities to those ages 9 through 12. Many players and parents are looking for recreational opportunities while some may desire weekend travel or tournament baseball.

Little League Baseball (In-House)

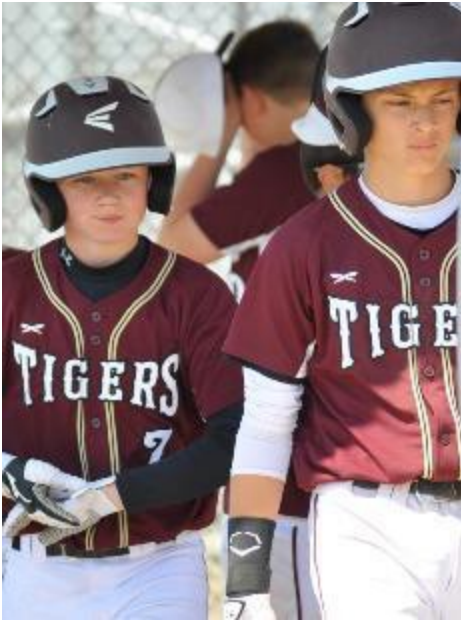
The HBA Little League program includes a league for the 9-10 *Little League Minor* and 11-12 *Little League Major* age combinations. Open player registration will take place and lead to teams being sorted based primarily on position need and skill, along with consideration for school of attendance. Team practices will begin around mid to late April with seven weeks of games running May through the end of June. All age eligible players participating in the HBA *Little League Major* program will be eligible for selection to the **Little League All- Star Team.**

- Registration: December 15th, 2018 through March 15, 2019
- Per Player Cost: 9-10 Minors (\$145.00) / 11-12 Majors (\$145.00)
- Player Evaluation: Sunday, March 31st
- Practices/Games:
 - Practices: Begin the week of April 15th
 - Games: Begin the week of May 13th

Travel Teams

Again, in 2019, the HBA will be endorsing travel teams at the 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U age ranges. In lieu of tryouts and team formations, the association will endorse teams that are comprised of students attending school within the Harrisburg School District (HBSD) and or the Harrisburg Little League boundary. Assembled by parent coaches, these players will be required to participate in the HBA Little League during the week while extending play with their travel teams on weekends. This program will include Winter workouts in February, continuing through the South Dakota "A" Baseball State Tournament in mid- July.

- Team Registration: Accepting team registrations beginning December 1, 2018
- Per Player Base Cost: \$200 (Includes HBA Little League "In-House" registration fee)
- Indoor/Off-Season Training Cost: \$500 (11 and 12U) / \$300 (9 and 10U). This fee is your membership to the HBA hitting facility and includes:
 - Team practices, team hitting/pitching lessons with HBA coaches and staff. Specific schedules will be tailored and set up through each travel team coach.
 - Open hit and facility access to the HBA Hitting Facility



Little League All-Star Team

Again in 2019, the HBA will honor its participation in Little League by sponsoring a team in the 11-12 Little League District Tournament with an opportunity to play in the Little League State Dakota Regional Tournament in Rapid City, SD.

This team will be assembled through HBA and Little League guidelines the week of June 17th through a tryout process. *Eligibility will include:* Those players that attend school within the Harrisburg School District and participated in the HBA Little League program. Thirteen (13) Players will be selected for the final team.

How Do I Sign Up My Travel Team?

I Have a Team or I am Putting a Team Together: If you are interested in assembling a travel team, contact Rodney Drake (816.729.5866) or John Ratzloff (605.261.1324). For those without a team that interested in Travel baseball, the HBA will effort to assist in pairing players with prospective teams.

South Dakota Travel Baseball Birthday Cutoffs
 SD "A" Baseball uses a January 1 cutoff.
 Your age on January 1 of 2018 will be your Travel Team age.

2019 Little League Age Chart **FOR BASEBALL DIVISION ONLY**

Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2009	2009	2009	2009	9
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	10
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	11
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	12
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	13

Note: This age chart is for **BASEBALL DIVISIONS ONLY**, and only for 2019, Spring and Fall.

Travel Baseball Q & A

What does my fee cover? – The \$200 registration fee covers your HBA (In-House) Little League Registration and all that it entails. Players are provided a hat and jersey for this 10 week program that includes a 12 game schedule in addition to season tournament.

The Indoor/Off-Season Training Fee (12U=\$500 and 10U=\$300) will provide your access to the HBA hitting facility for schedule open hit/workout times and individual team practice times. Our instructors will be available during these practices.

For travel, your coach/team will provide necessary equipment. In addition, *Scheels Field* at Endeavor Elementary will serve as the Travel Team practice field. Player fees will assist in covering field maintenance costs and related expenses.

Is there a practice schedule? – **Indoor and off-season practices (January – March) can include structured practice times per week, either with an individual team or with your age group. In addition, open hit and pitch times will be available.** In-season, the HBA will provide access to a field for weekly team practices at your coach's discretion. In addition, travel teams will have the ability to attend weekday practices and skills clinics with HBA coaches and staff, in-season and during off-season training at the HBA Hitting Facility.

What is the game schedule like? – The travel team game schedules will be determined by the coach based on player availability and the cost of tournament entry fees. Typically, teams compete in weekend tournaments in addition to the In-House league but following the HBA league season, weekday games may be scheduled. Teams may travel out of state for tournaments, but a majority of the tournaments are local. In general, the tournaments start in late April and conclude in early August. On average, travel teams compete in 2-3 tournaments per month.

Why Travel Baseball? – The HBA views travel baseball as an opportunity for “more” baseball at the younger age levels. Playing travel baseball represents the interest and commitment of players and families to develop baseball skills beyond what occurs in summer recreational league play. It is natural that playing in tournaments will provide development through additional competitive experiences for the players. However, proper instruction of baseball fundamentals will play a more important role to the player enjoying the game and being successful in the future and is the area the HBA wants to emphasize the most for travel baseball.

I don't have a travel team. Can I sign up for indoor and off-season training?

If you do not have a travel team to play on or you are just interested in participating in indoor and off-season training to support your recreation experience, you may still be able to sign-up for the training program.

Payment? - Parents will have the option of paying for the program up-front or by participating in a monthly payment program.

- 11-12U - \$200 at December Registration. \$100 per month (January – May)
- 9-10U - \$125 at December Registration. \$75 per month (January – May)

For most, it will sound like a very significant investment and understanding the value will be very important. As a community based non-profit, the HBA is extremely conscious of the cost component for its programming. This amount is only intended to cover the costs of resources that are being provided.

Who is providing the training and support to our coaches and players?

Kris Regas has joined the HBA full time as Director of Player Development and will be assisting with training at all age levels. For those of you who don't know Kris, he enjoyed several years of professional baseball. He has significant youth coaching experience and is great with the kids. Kris has been very impactful to area programs at the 18U level. Joining Kris will be Juan Thomas, Josh Merrigan and Alex Fink. These coaches have all played professional baseball and have coached at levels ranging from high school and legion to Division I college baseball.

Where does indoor training take place?

The HBA will be using the indoor practice facility (The Big Musty) again this year. Dedicated for use by only the HBA, having our own facility will allow the time and space for team practices as well as "open gym" time for extra training. The Big Musty is a long term commitment and it will be available to players once they have registered for travel baseball.

How does the cost for this program compare to other programs?


The HBA feels that the travel program is a value. When a former Harrisburg program was in existence, fees were \$700/per player for two practice sessions per week with no coaching help or access to fields. A current private Sioux Falls program has a solid training component but charges approximately \$1,200 for training with only some availability to their paid coaching staff and only scheduled access to the Sanford Field House. Many of these programs also have very limited access to fields. A portion of your fees help offset the hitting facility lease.

More to come...As the HBA grows the objective will be continued expansion of training resources and facilities. For example, we are optimistic about the possibilities of starting construction of 5 additional fields in Harrisburg next Spring and hope to share more details soon. We are excited for the future of baseball and softball in Harrisburg. Thank you for supporting Harrisburg baseball!

Baseball Bat Rules

Baseball bat rules vary from level throughout the various leagues. A change in Bat rules will be fully adopted for 2019 by all leagues around the country. The HBA and South Dakota "A" Baseball will follow the full transition to USA stamped baseball bats for both Little League Minors and Majors. South Dakota "A" Baseball sanctions all tournaments in South Dakota, including the State Tournament. If you are looking to purchase a new bat, you will want to consider purchasing a bat that can be utilized in 2019. For an approved Bat List, follow this link: <https://usabat.com/>. To make it simple, for all of 12U baseball, any USA bat, any drop, and any length 32" and under will be accepted.

JSSSA youth baseball will NOT be implementing this rule change to the bats. If you play on a travel team that is playing in a tournament governed by USSSA, you can continue to use the bats marked with the 1.15BPF stamp.

Age	2019 Required Bat Stamp	2019 Bat Allowances
9U -12U Travel Baseball		Can use new USA stamped baseball bats required for 2019. Any drop and any barrel size. No longer than 32 inches.

Community Based Partnerships "Working Together to Achieve"

GET INVOLVED

The HBA, along with the City of Harrisburg and the Harrisburg Foundation, are outlining an aggressive capital campaign that will support 5 new baseball and softball fields. This complex will be located behind the High School and blend future neighborhood growth. We have also invested heavily in training and instruction for the 2019 season.

To learn more or get involved, please navigate to the HBA website and contact any member of our Board of Directors or contact **John Ratzloff, Executive Director**, at **605.261.1324**.

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