

Becker Blast Softball Association By-Laws

(Updated September 18, 2023)

Article I: Name

The name of the association is the “Becker Blast Softball Association,” hereinafter referred to as “BBSA”, “Northern Blast” or the “Association.”

Article II: Philosophy

It is the purpose of this organization to achieve the following:

- A. To provide an organized, recreational softball program for all players.
- B. To provide an enjoyable and memorable experience for players.
- C. To develop softball skills and to gain appreciation and knowledge of the game.
- D. To develop good sportsmanship.
- E. To develop the qualities of citizenship and leadership through the game of softball.
- F. To promote physical fitness for the players.
- G. To promote a good working relationship with the local community.
- H. To instill a feeling of pride in our youth for doing the best they can do regardless of whether they win or lose.

Article III: Eligibility

- A. Any female resident of the Becker School District that is 18 years of age and under is eligible to play as allowed by ASA rules.
- B. If the need arises for more players, we may accept applicants from other communities on a first come, first serve basis until filled.
- C. Birth certificates are required to upload to MN Softball website before the first game or the player is not allowed to play until it is uploaded. This will be verified by the board.

Article IV: Registration and Fees

- A. Participants must register prior to the start of each season during the published dates as established by the Becker Blast Softball Association. Late registration will be allowed at the discretion of the Association.
- B. Registration and equipment/uniform deposit fees will be established annually for each participant at the discretion of the BBSA and are required to be paid at registration, unless a request has been made to the committee due to extenuating circumstances.
- C. Fees cover the costs of participation including but not limited to league fees, tournaments, umpires, equipment, and field maintenance and the salary of the youth sports director (Community Education).
- D. Parents who complete the role of head coach or assistant coach (max 3 per team) will have the registration fee of one player refunded at the end of the season. Coaches must complete a coaching application to be eligible for selection by the committee.
- E. Cancellation/Refund Policy: Any participant, who after completing the registration process and/or being placed on a team roster subsequently quits or no longer participates in team activities without a valid reason as determined by the board, shall no longer be eligible for the refunds of registration fees. Along with this, the participant(s) will no longer be considered in good standing and ruled ineligible for team registration for the entire season. Valid reasons for non-participation after registration will include, but are not limited to, season ending injury, family relocation, or similar events that are beyond the player's control.

Article V: Age Qualifications

- A. Teams will be established in each of the six (6) age classifications: 8 and under, 10 and under, 12 and under, 14 and under, 16 and under, and 18 and under.
- B. The age qualifications as set by the ASA are:
 - 8 and under: Players are 8 or younger as of August 31st of the previous year.
 - 10 and under: Players are 10 or younger as of August 31st of the previous year.
 - 12 and under: Players are 12 or younger as of August 31st of the previous year.
 - 14 and under: Players are 14 or younger as of August 31st of the previous year.
 - 16 and under: Players are 16 or younger as of August 31st of the previous year.
 - 18 and under: Players are 18 or younger as of August 31st of the previous year.
- C. A player of a younger age classification may request to play in an older age classification with the following criteria:

- a. See also, Article XV.
- D. Players who have played above their age classification the previous year will be grandfathered into that age bracket the following year without trying out. (ex. a 13- year old that tries out and makes a 16 and under team will not be forced to try out for 16 and under again the next year, even though they are still only 14U.)
- E. A player of an older age classification may NOT play in a younger age classification.

Article VI: Parent/Player Expectations

A. Parents:

- a. Each family will pay a volunteer donation to be determined by the Committee prior to the new season. When that family has completed the appropriate amount of volunteer hours as set by the Association, their donation will be returned at the end of the season.
- b. Parents that serve as a head coach, an assistant coach, or a executive committee member are not required to pay the volunteer donation.
- c. Parents should ensure that their daughters are on time for practices and games, unless there is a valid excuse.
- d. Parents should attend all games if possible and exhibit good sportsmanship.
- e. Parents or executive committee members who exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct towards spectators, umpires, coaches, players, board members, players at any team functions, or other parents, will not be allowed to attend games. If a parent or executive committee member does attend a game and someone reports them, the umpires will ask the parent(s) to leave. If they refuse, the police will be called.

B. Players:

- a. The player's first responsibility is to the team, she must attend practice to play and follow the rules of the team.
- b. Players should be reminded that they represent our community and should do so with pride and good sportsmanship.
- c. Only approved ASA uniforms can be worn by the players during official games.
- d. Players will sign a Code of Conduct form and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of said Code.

Article VII: Coach Selection/Expectations

- A. All coaches are volunteers and must submit an application.
- B. Head coaches are required to attend a coaches' clinic.
- C. A background check will be filed on each applicant.
- D. Head coaches can choose their assistant coaches with committee approval, using the same guidelines as head coaches.

- E. The coaches' first responsibility is to the players. The coaches' objective will be to help all players learn the fundamentals of fastpitch softball and develop to their fullest potential.
- F. Coaches must act responsibly and carry on the traditions of good sportsmanship.
- G. Coaches may be disciplined for the following reasons:
 - a. Intoxication
 - b. Consuming alcohol or illegal drugs during a BBSA sponsored event
 - c. Abusive or disorderly conduct or language
 - d. Any coach whose continued participation is deemed detrimental to the welfare of the Association may be removed from the team upon a majority vote of the BBSA committee.
- H. Coaches must complete all courses required by ASA/USA Softball or the appropriate sanctioning body.

Article VIII: Membership

- A. The BBSA plays under the Big West Fastpitch League for levels 10U and over.
- B. Any individual who supports, with a paid registration fee, the objectives of this Association may become a member, subject only to compliance with the provisions of the by-laws. Membership in this Association will be available without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, marital status, national origin, or handicap.
- C. Membership in the Association shall be on an annual basis. Any player will be admitted to membership at the annual BBSA registration. Membership will be granted only after completing a registration form and submitting the required registration fee. After this has been completed the player and her parents' become members of the Association.
- D. The softball coaches at Becker High School are considered advisors and are therefore members of the Association (see Article X). They are not required to pay dues.
- E. Only members of the Association shall be eligible to vote at the annual election and serve in any elective position. Only one vote is allowed per family at Association meetings.
- F. A player may not maintain dual membership and/or participate for another fastpitch association that competes against the BBSA.
- G. An individual without a registered player may request committee approval for membership in the association.

IX. Executive Committee and Elections

- A. Leading our Association is a nine-member Executive Committee. This committee must have a minimum of two thirds of the positions filled by members of the association and all positions must be elected by ballot of the membership at the annual meeting. If an

Executive Committee member has to be removed because of improper conduct, a majority vote of the Executive Committee is required. All Executive Committee members shall serve a two-year term. Odd years 5 members are elected and even years 4 members are elected, if a member leaves in the middle of term the board fills the position for the remainder of that term. After being elected, committee members will be appointed to one of the following positions: president, vice-president, communications director, treasurer, volunteer coordinator, concessions supervisor (2), tournament director, and equipment director. The requirements of each position are as follows:

a. President:

1. Duties

- a. Preside over all meetings of the membership, and special meetings of the executive committee.
- b. Submit an annual report to the members of the Association.
- c. Authorized to sign all checks, drafts, or notes of the association under the direction of the Executive Committee.
- d. Work closely with the school athletic department and the City of Becker. Coordinate player evaluations and team selections.
- e. Coordinate parent meeting.
- f. Attend league directors' meetings (Minnesota Softball and Big West League).
- g. Provide general guidance to the Association.
- h. Responsible for maintaining the website and sending emails to Blast participants any and all required information.
- i. Post the annual meeting times to the website and email out to association members
- j. Coordinate Fall Ball

b. Vice President:

2. Duties

- a. Perform the duties of the President in his/her absence and any other duties assigned by the Executive Committee or the President.
- b. Complete the remainder of the President's term if the President either resigns or leaves the Association.
- c. Liaison for 8U teams.
 1. Work closely with all leagues in which BBSA 8U teams as participating
 2. 8U game rules
 3. 8U game schedules
- d. Responsible for all aspects of the 8U annual tournament.
- e. Attend league directors meetings (Minnesota Softball and Big West League) in the absence of the President.
- f. Liaison for coaches.
 1. Coaches training.
 2. Concussion training.
 3. Background checks
 4. Umpire information
 5. Making sure coaches attend league meetings

c. Communications Director:

3. Duties

- a. Keep the minutes of all meetings.
- b. Responsible for all correspondence.
- c. Report on the minutes of the preceding meeting at each Association meeting.
- d. Send out all notices and official correspondence
- e. Provide an agenda for all scheduled meetings.
- f. Attend league directors' meetings (Minnesota Softball and Big West League) in the absence of President or Vice President
- g. Work with Community Education Youth Sports Director on field and umpire schedules for home league games.

d. Treasurer:

4. Duties:

- a. Maintain custody of all funds of the Association and deposit such funds in the account designated by the Executive Committee.
- b. Maintain all finances and keep an accurate set of books.
- c. Pay all bills of the Association.
- d. Submit a report at the annual meeting to the membership.
- e. Authorized to sign all checks, drafts, or notes of the Association.
- f. Report to the Executive Committee at each meeting as to the financial condition of the Association.
- g. Responsible for arranging and maintaining adequate insurance coverage for the Association.

e. Volunteer Coordinator:

5. Duties

- a. Responsible for training all volunteers.
- b. Responsible for finding volunteers to fill all needs at Association sponsored tournaments or events.
- c. Responsible for staffing the concession stand.
- d. Assist the Tournament Director with the annual tournament.
- e. Coordinate team pictures for all teams

f. Concessions Supervisors (2):

6. Duties

- a. Responsible for stocking the concession stand
- b. Setting prices of concessions.
- c. Responsible for managing the sale and purchasing of merchandise in the concession stand.
- d. Responsible for cleaning the concessions area after all events.
- e. Assist the Tournament Director with the annual tournament.

g. Tournament Director:

7. Duties

- a. Responsible for publicizing all tournaments and other events that are sponsored by the Association.
- b. Responsible for all aspects of the tournament including but not limited to: procuring facilities, procuring teams, procuring

- umpires, merchandise, and those things necessary to make our tournament successful.
- c. Helping coaches with navigating MN Softball Website with tournament and registration process
- h. Equipment Director:
 - 8. Duties
 - a. Responsible for maintaining the inventory of the Association.
 - b. Report on an annual basis to the membership the state of our equipment. Make recommendations to the quantity of equipment needed for the coming season.
 - c. Responsible for ensuring that all teams receive the proper equipment. Collect and inventory all equipment at the end of the year.
 - d. Track uniform needs and numbering for all teams.
 - e. Host field prep class for all coaches
- B. Committee Member Registration Fees
 - a. Each Executive Committee Member is allowed free registration fees per season.
- C. The members of the Executive Committee will be elected by a written ballot at the annual meeting of the Association. There is only one vote per family and no family may hold more than one office during a given year. The top vote getters in the election will assume office immediately.
- D. In the event that an Executive Committee member resigns or is removed, or if a position remains unfilled after an election, the executive committee will accept applications to fill that position for the remainder of the term. The Executive Committee will accept applications for a minimum of seven (7) days before appointing someone to fill that position. A majority vote of the Executive Committee will be required to appoint an Executive Committee member.
- E. If a Committee member misses four meetings in a year (October to October) it may warrant a meeting to discuss the issue of absenteeism. Dismissal of the Committee member at that time is an option but not required. The absences will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Article X: Advisors

The softball coaches at Becker High School are considered advisors to the Association. The responsibility of the Advisors shall be to insure consistency between the goals of the Association and that of the school softball program. Active Advisors (actively attending meetings) are considered voting members of the Association and need not pay the general membership fees. Advisors are not Executive Committee members; however, they may be voted to Executive Committee positions. The Advisors are responsible for advising the BBSA committee on and coordinating players clinics.

Article XI: Meetings

- A. The annual meeting of the Association shall be held each fall; the date shall be set by the Executive Committee. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss the past season, identify improvements needed for the upcoming year, vote on by-law changes, and elect new Executive Committee positions. Members elected at the annual meeting shall be a part of the Executive Committee immediately.
- B. Regular meetings of the Association shall be held at least six (6) times per year, this includes the annual meeting. These meetings will be used to discuss the ongoing activities of the Association. Any member of the Association or outside organization may request to have a relevant topic placed on the agenda in advance of a scheduled meeting. Topics should be presented to the Secretary or President at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting.
- C. The Executive Committee shall meet in private session to discuss and vote on the following: team selection, coach selection, or any topic not deemed appropriate for public knowledge.
- D. In addition to these meetings the Executive Committee may hold a special coaches meeting.
- E. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority on and shall govern deliberations of meetings except where they may be modified by the recommendation of an Executive Committee member and the approval of the majority of Executive Committee members present.
- F. The Treasurer will make the Association's financial report available at all regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

Article XII: Code of Conduct

Handling of questions, concerns, and problems should always begin at the team level. There should be an interaction between the player/parent and the coach before the situation is brought to the Executive Committee. If the above interaction cannot take place or does not solve the conflict for any reason, the Executive Committee should receive a written notification of the situation. At that point the Executive Committee will make a decision as to how the conflict will be resolved.

Article XIII: Funding

- A. All money collected by BBSA for registrations and uniforms will be deposited in the BBSA softball account
- B. All money fundraised by the Association will go into the BBSA account. Money may be raised by any of, but not limited to, the following: Becker Blast softball

tournament, concession stand sales, working and organizing other tournaments, and apparel sales. The Committee will approve all expenses before spending.

- C. All individual team fundraising requests must be brought to the board via email with a written response from the board within 72 business hours.

Article XIV: Uniforms

- A. The player's family is required to purchase a uniform that is selected by the Association.
- B. The Association will recommend and assist in quantity discount buying of all uniforms.

Article XV: Team Selection

- A. The BBSA will do its best to form teams with a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 13 players. If a team with more than 13 players must be formed, a meeting with families will be held to discuss the situation.
- B. Teams at 10 and under levels will be selected based on a skill assessment for all players. If there are enough players for 2 teams, they will be divided into a first and a second team based on skill assessments. If there are enough players for 3 or more teams, there will be a first team and the remaining players will be split into even teams.
- C. Teams at the 12, 14, 16, and 18 and under ages will be selected based on a skill assessment for all players. If there are enough players for 2 teams, they will be divided into a "First" team and a "second" team based on try-outs. If there are enough players for 3 teams, there will be "First" team, "Second" team, and "Third" team. If there are enough players for 4 or more teams, there will be a "First" team, "Second" team, and remaining players shall be split into even numbers.
- D. Skill assessment will be judged by impartial adults/coaches from communities outside of the Becker School District whenever possible.
- E. Teams will be placed into leagues based on MN Softball recommendations, board and coach input, previous year's finish, and any other information deemed pertinent. The goal is to place teams in a league where they will have success, but also be challenged.
- F. The Association will not place players on teams based on any reason other than skill, unless that player makes a request to the Committee and is able to demonstrate extenuating circumstances which require specific placement. The Committee may then make a change in placement based on a majority vote. Players will not be placed on a "First" or "Second" team based on anything other than skill assessment.
- G. A 10U-16U player is eligible to move up a level if the following conditions are met:
 - a. The player completes evaluations for both levels;
 - b. The player must score in the top 33% of the higher level.

- c. 3. Must indicate a desire to move up a level at registration.
 - d. 4. Must demonstrate emotional maturity for the older age classification
- H. An 8U player is eligible to move up to 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.
- I. Players will be assigned teams in the manner listed below.
 - a. Teams will be formed by a team selection committee that will include executive committee members, past coaches from the previous seasons and advisors.
 - b. On “First” teams the players with the top 6 tryout scores will automatically be placed on the “First” team, the rest of the team will be formed by the selection committee. The team selection committee will consider the following factors when selecting remaining players: tryout scores, softball experience, knowledge of the game, position needs and any other factors deemed appropriate
 - c. If a “Second” team is being formed at an age level, the 6 remaining players with the highest tryout scores will be placed on the “Second” team. The rest of the team will be formed from the remaining players by the selection committee
 - e. On all other teams, the players will be based on even teams by a team selection committee that will include the following people: committee members, the past seasons coaches, and advisors. The goal of the team selection committee will be to create teams that have equal ability to be successful and will consider the following factors: try out scores, softball experience, and knowledge of the game, position needs, and other factors deemed appropriate.

Article XVI: Northern Blast

- A. At the 14U, 16U, and 18U levels the executive committee reserves the right to invite out of association players to tryouts if it is deemed necessary to provide the best experience for the current association players.

Article XVII: Fall Ball

- A. The BBSAA will organize fall ball at the conclusion of the summer season
- B. Fall ball is designed to be less intense than the summer season and is a great opportunity for new players to try the sport, players moving up and age level to be introduced to that level and returning players to continue to develop their skills.
- C. Fall registration fees will be set by the executive committee each year.
- D. The fall ball season will have the following approximate timeline
 - a. 2-week registration window in mid-late July

- b. Teams will be formed by early August
- c. Practices will be 1-2 times per week beginning in early August and running through the end of September
- d. Games will be doubleheaders on Saturday or Sunday beginning in late August and running through September
- e. Fall ball will conclude with a 1-day state tournament in late September

Article XVIII: Miscellaneous

Everyone participating in the development of youth softball through the BBSA shall act in a responsible and appropriate manner. In the event of a loss, damage to property, or causes of action resulting in the injury of any person, it shall be the policy of the BBSA that all officials involved in the action whether Executive Committee members or volunteers assisting shall be held harmless provided the action taken was made with the exercise of usual judgment and care, under circumstances then prevailing which people of prudence, discretion, and intelligence exercise in their own affairs.

Article XIX: Amendments to By-Laws

These by-laws may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote of the members present at the annual meeting. By-laws shall be reviewed on an annual basis.