

# **Havre American Legion Baseball**

## **Player/ Parent Handbook**



# **NORTHSTARS 2024**

# Havre Northstars Legion A

## Coaching Staff

- Patch Wirtzberger - Head Coach
- Jake Eldridge - Assistant Coach

## American Legion Baseball Organization

- Montana/Alberta American Legion A
- Post #11 Havre American Legion
- Sponsored by Havre Youth Baseball Association

## Montana Alberta American Legion A

- 4 Districts: West, East, South, and North Districts
- North A District Tournament, July 25 - July 28 Hosted in Lethbridge, AB
- Legion A State Tournament, Aug 1 - Aug 5, Hosted in TBD (West)

## Northern A District

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Tri-County Cardinals   | 5. Lethbridge Miners    |
| 2. Havre Northstars       | 6. Medicine Hat Knights |
| 3. Great Falls Chargers A | 7. Vauxhall Spurs       |
| 4. Lewistown Redbirds     | 8. Fort Macleod Royals  |

Full 28 game conference schedule. We will play each team one double header at home and one double header away. We will be traveling to Canada. All players will need passports or passport cards.

## Expectations

- American Legion A Schedule with a District Tournament, State tournament and Regional Tournament .
- Will play approximately 40-50 games.
- Travel provided when available and lodging will be covered for overnight trips.
- Players who are 15 and under that make the A team will be required to play Babe Ruth League.

# Havre Northstars Legion B

## Coaching Staff

- Ben Mader - Head Coach
- Kennedy McKay- Assistant Coach
- TBD- Assistant Coach

## American Legion Baseball Organization

- Montana/Alberta American Legion B
- Post #11 Havre American Legion
- Sponsored by Havre Youth Baseball Association

## Montana Alberta American Legion B

- This is a less regulated version of Legion A. These teams are registered with the State. They will have the same insurance and play by the same rules.
- Great Falls, Tri County, Lewistown and Vauxhall all have Legion B teams similar to ours (ages 13-15).
- Other Canadian teams are hopeful they can field Legion B teams this year, but won't be sure until after their registration period.
- There is no post season tournament, although we are again working toward that.

## Expectations

- Will play approximately 20-30 games
- Travel will NOT be provided. Parents/Legal Guardians are responsible for their players' travel and lodging. Many parents / coaches are willing to take kids to games. Please be courteous and send travel parents / coaches with money to cover expenses for the trip.
- **Coaches expect the players to be on time.**
- All Players on the B team will be required to play Babe Ruth League. No exceptions.
- Some players may be asked to play on both the A & B team throughout the season
  - Coaches will communicate to these players and parents the best they can so parents can plan for travel.

# Northstars A & B

## Summer Activities Activities and Baseball

- Players can attend work, camps, and other events, but you must understand that games and practices missed can result in possible loss of play.
- It is our goal to make sure that kids can play baseball while still working and going to camps, etc. and not have to choose between baseball and those activities.
- Communication early will help the teams prepare for the absence of players. It is required that you let the coaching staff know **IN WRITING** the dates and times that conflict with practices or games. We will want you to submit these dates as soon as you know the dates you will be gone.

## Practice Schedules/Procedures

- Non mandatory off season dugout training sessions are Wednesdays at 7:00 pm and Sundays at 5:00 PM. Check facebook for cancellations and or changes. The coaches will also communicate changes through group messages to the players.
- Tryouts: April 15th-17th **Both Teams.**
- Attendance on practice days is required, regardless of weather.
- If you cannot attend practice due to a conflict of any kind, please call any of the coaches in advance for planning purposes.
- Unexcused absences for practice can result in loss of playing time or other consequences determined by the coaching staff
- Indoor Practices - Players must bring shorts, t-shirt, gym or turf shoes (**NO SLIDES**), hitting and catching gear.
- Outdoor Practices- Players are required to bring the following items (baseball hat, jacket, **long sleeve shirt**, baseball pants, baseball cleats, glove, helmet, bat, running shoes) .

## A Team Practice Schedule

- Practices will be at 5:45 PM. A practice schedule will be given to the players and sent to parents through email.
- Players are expected to be dressed and ready for practice at the starting time (usually 5:45pm).

## B Team Practice Schedule

- The B team will practice one day a week in April (following tryouts) and May.
- After Babe Ruth League is over (usually beginning of June), practices will be four or five days a week, depending on the game schedule.
- Times will vary depending on coach and field availability. A schedule will be given to the kids and sent to the parents via email.
- Players are expected to be dressed and ready for practice at the starting time.

## Insurance

- HYBA carries liability and accident insurance for the players.
- Accident insurance covers only what your primary health insurance will not pay.

## **Travel**

- Players may ride with a parent to away games if it is approved in advance by the coaching staff. Players are not allowed to drive themselves to away games.
- Any player who misses a team bus departure without prior approval of the coaching staff will not play in the next regularly scheduled game and may have other consequences as determined by the coaching staff.
- A player may ride home with another adult if parent permission has been granted in advance. A signature from the parent will be required.
- Players are not allowed to have anybody outside the team organization in their hotel room without prior knowledge and consent of the head coach.
- Players are responsible for keeping their individual space (motel room, bus, dugout, etc.) neat and clean at all times.
- Players will be responsible for any fines or other charges that may arise from damages to hotels. There will also be other punishments and consequences as determined by the coaching staff.
- In the event of an emergency while traveling, players and parents have coach's cell #'s.

## **Conduct on and off the field**

- Vulgar or abusive language will not be tolerated.
- Throwing of bats, helmets, or other equipment by the players is not acceptable no matter the situation.
- Any players who are involved in altercations with teammates, game officials, coaching staff, or opposing players will be subject to suspension or other disciplinary actions as deemed appropriate by the coaching staff.
- Any player who damages equipment or property will be liable for the damages, and will be required to pay for the cost of the damages.
- Any player caught stealing property belonging to the baseball program or any participant will be immediately subject to suspension or other disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the coaching staff.
- All players will stand at attention for the playing of the National Anthem.

## **Uniforms & Physical Appearance**

- Uniforms and hats will be provided for both the A & B teams. Pants, belts and under shirts are the responsibility of the player and must match with the team standard.
- Pants will be white and/or gray long style covering the whole leg with a small navy blue stripe down the side. Examples will be given to the players.
- All players will be required to have a navy blue belt and wear it on game day.
- All under shirts and accessories (sleeves, wrist bands etc.) will be navy blue. Cleats, Batting gloves and fielding gloves are not subject to this color restriction.

**Legion A:**

- Helmets and back packs will be provided by the team. Each player will have their own helmet and backpack that they will be responsible for. If they are lost the player will be responsible for paying to replace it. These will be required to be turned in at the end of the season.
- A navy blue sweatshirt or jacket is encouraged but not required. We usually have a team sweatshirt available for purchase before the season for both the A and B teams.
- All items handed out with the uniform must be washed and returned at the end of the season for all players.
- If a uniform item is damaged or seen as being unusable for the next season, the player will have to pay to replace the item if it was due to neglect.
- If a player fails to return his uniform items at the end of the season a fee to replace the uniform(s) will be enforced and that player will not receive his passport back until the uniform is returned.

**Coaching Philosophy**

- Coaches are hired to perform the full duties entailed with this position, including decisions such as playing time, practice schedules, disciplinary action, and physical conditioning.
- Working as a team is a point of emphasis for HYBA and the Northstars Legion program. This is the foundation for everything that we do. Teamwork supports the success of the team as well as the success of each individual.
- We are in the business of helping teenagers become great young men. That is and has always been one of the main priorities of the program. Good behavior on and off the field and respect for your opponent, teammates, coaches and umpires is expected by everyone.
- Any questions or concerns in regards to coaching decisions on behalf of parents will be addressed in a meeting format with the coaching staff and a HYBA Board member or Legion Committee member present only after the player has discussed the situation with the coach(es).
- There is a solution to every problem and concern. We operate by the open door policy and encourage players to speak to their coaches and handle situations before taking it home.
- We ask that if you are upset with something following a game or practice, please wait 24 hours before contacting a coach or board member.

**Parent Responsibilities**

- Havre Youth Baseball is a non-profit organization that relies almost solely on volunteer help to make things run smoothly. Parents will be expected to volunteer their time to help out with fundraisers, game day operations, concession stands and anything else that may arise throughout the year. Please do your part and help out with these responsibilities.
- Please be supportive of your child, their teammates and the program throughout the season. Positivity goes a long way. The baseball season is a long one and can become quite the grind. Please do your part and support these kids and the program through ups and downs. Negativity can kill progress, so please keep that in mind throughout the season. The coaches will work hard to help these kids become better people on and off the field. Please respect their efforts, and reinforce the lessons that they are learning on the field at home.

## Concession Stand/ Volunteer Hours

- TBD

## Social Media

- Players, coaches and parents are all encouraged to use social media to positively promote HYBA and the Havre Northstars American Legion Baseball Program. Negative social media posts will not be tolerated. Negative social media posts can put a black mark on our program that relies heavily on community support to survive. We encourage coaches, players, and parents who are upset with something happening within the program to schedule a meeting with the coach(es) and a board member to address that issue. We believe that every problem has a solution, and are happy to facilitate a meeting to try and reach that solution. Punishment for violating the social media policy can result in suspensions or removal from the program. Please schedule a meeting before writing a negative post.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Player) have read and understand the above rules, requirements, expectations, and regulations and do hereby agree to adhere to them.

Player Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Havre Northstars American Legion Baseball

## Alcohol and Drug Policy

Each Havre baseball player agrees to remain alcohol and drug free from the date of signature on this form until the completion of the baseball season. Any player who violates this rule will:

- On a first violation, be automatically and immediately suspended for a minimum of 5 games, or 3 double-headers.
- In the chance of a second violation of this rule, the player will be removed from the American Legion baseball team for the remainder of the season.
- If a player who has been removed from the team for one season wants to play the following season he must meet with the Havre Youth Baseball board of directors and coaching staff to be reinstated to the team for the following season. This will take place at a board meeting and be decided upon by a vote.
- If a player has a violation while on a trip with the Havre Northstars Legion Baseball team he will be removed from the team for the remainder of the season.

A player may appeal a violation of the alcohol and drug policy to the Legion committee appointed by the Havre Youth Baseball Association board of directors. However, until the Legion committee makes a decision on the violation, the penalty will be enforced. The Havre Youth Baseball Association board of directors understands the importance of immediately addressing appeals.

As witnessed by the following signatures, all parties acknowledge that they have read, understand, and will abide by the terms of the alcohol and drug policy.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_



## Travel / Passport Card

Player Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

I have a copy of my birth certificate attached to this sheet. And have turned in my Passport Card.

Player Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_ to travel, in the United States and Canada, with the Havre Northstars Baseball team and their coaches for the 2024 baseball season.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Player Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

## Baseball Fees

Baseball is not a MHSA or High School sanctioned sport and is not funded by any sanctions other than Havre Youth Baseball Association. Thankfully we have a great support system from the community that helps fund the majority of the expenses to run these programs through fundraisers hosted by HYBA, Concessions, Season Passes, Apparel Sales and player sponsorships.

It will cost HYBA an estimated \$3,300.00 per Northstar Baseball Player to play baseball this summer. Although the per player expense is \$3,300.00 dollars, we do not ask the players to come up with this amount of money to play baseball. We want baseball to be a fun sport for players and parents and do not want to take away from kids being able to participate. We have great sponsorship and fundraising programs to offset the majority of the expenses and the players fees.

All Legion players will be required to pay a fee of \$250 to the Havre Youth Baseball Association (HYBA). This fee is due with your Legion Sign Up Form by April 3rd. HYBA does have payment options available. Talk with Brian Jenkins or one of the coaches and a payment schedule will be set up. Scholarships are also available if funding is an issue. Please contact Brian Jenkins or any coach for more information on the requirements and how to obtain a scholarship. **This fee can not be fundraised.** It must come from the family or a scholarship approved by HYBA.

**Northstars A players will be required to obtain \$750 each in team sponsorships in addition to the player fee for the 2024 season.** The Galaxy HIT club team sponsorship program will be handed out to each player that makes the roster. This sponsorship program allows the player the opportunity to fundraise the majority of their fees. If a player is unable to fundraise their player fees before May 15th they will be required to pay the remainder or will not play until all funds are paid. Fundraising after May 15th is not permitted and will not be recognized as a sponsorship.

**Northstars B Players will be required to obtain \$450 each in team sponsorships in addition to the player fee for the 2024 season.** The Galaxy Hit Club team Sponsorship Program will be handed out to each player that makes the Northstars B Roster. This sponsorship program allows the player the opportunity to fundraise the majority of their fees. If a player is unable to fundraise their player fees before May 15th they will be required to pay the remainder or will not play until all funds are paid. Fundraising after May 10th is not permitted and will not be recognized as a sponsorship.

\$250.00 Pay to Play Fee Enclosed ☐ Cash ☐ Check (Verified by \_\_\_\_\_) Date\_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand the requirements to fundraise as a team to play American Legion Baseball. I will do my part to make sure the team and program raises the funds needed and understand if I do not do my part it may affect my playing time.

Player Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



## CONCUSSION INFORMATION SHEET

### **What can happen if my child continues playing with a concussion or returns too soon?**

Athletes with the signs and symptoms of a concussion should be removed from play immediately. If the player continues to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to a greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one. This can lead to prolonged recovery or even severe brain swelling (second impact syndrome) with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often fail to report symptoms of injury. Concussions are no different. As a result, the coaches, players and athletes are the key to the athlete's safety.

### **If you think your child has suffered a concussion.**

Any athlete suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete will be allowed to return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several days.

You should also inform your child's coach if you think your child may have a concussion. It is better to miss one game than miss the whole season. When in doubt, the athlete will sit out.

For current and up-to-date information on concussion, visit:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/parents.html>

### **Player/Parent Consent and Acknowledgements**

Player Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Legal Guardian Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Northstars Player Requirements Due on or before April 3rd, 2024**

- o Player's Handbook signed
- o Pay to Play Fee turned in \$250
- o Travel/ Passport Card page signed and their passport with a copy of their birth certificate
- o Drug and Alcohol Policy signed
- o Copy of Schedule (if you are planning on missing games or practices)
- o **Concussion Information Sheet (Needs to be turned in before participation)**

**All returning Northstars A Player Fundraising is due 3/28/24. All other players due on 5/1/2024.**

**I have all of the previous items handed in to my coach.**

**Player Signature \_\_\_\_\_**

**Coaches Signature\_\_\_\_\_**

**\$250 pay to play fee and the legion packet with all supporting documents are due April 3rd after the teams are formed**

**Sponsorships are due by May 1st for new players. March 28th for returning Northstars A players.**