



Hopkins Baseball Association

2026 Parent Meeting

Agenda

- 1 Welcome
- 2 Introduction to HBA & 2026 Rules
- 3 Levels of Play
- 4 Evaluation & Team Selections
- 5 Player Development
- 6 Registration & Fees
- 7 Sponsorships/Fundraising/Volunteering
- 8 Q & A

HBA Basics

- Community-based program for ages 13-18 - Players must attend Hopkins public schools or attend a private school within the Hopkins school district boundaries

- Primary feeder for Hopkins High School Baseball (13-15U)

- No-cut program – all registered players placed on a team

- Feeder programs: Big Willow Baseball Association, Glen Lake Mighty Mites, Golden Valley Little League, Hopkins Area Little League, Hopkins Youth Baseball Association

- Volunteer-led organization of parents passionate about baseball - we love the game and want to see more kids playing



Annual Season Calendar

- Fall Ball / Club**
Aug–Oct
Fall games and tournaments
- Winter Training**
Jan–Feb
HBA Clinics & Workouts at facilities like Tier 1 Performance. Sundays 4-9pm, hitting focused, \$25 per session
- Evaluations & Team Selection**
March (13U/14U March 7-8, 15U in April)
Preseason team practices begin after selection
- League Games & Tournaments**
May–July
13U/14U start around May 1st, 15U starts after HS season. State & House Tournaments, Fall Ball Registration Opens
- Postseason Play**
July–August
State tournaments and championship play



Philosophy & Levels of Play

- **Development-first approach with competitive opportunities**
Focused on development, growth, fun, and winning.
- **Travel teams at 13U, 14U, and 15U**
AAA is the highest level of competition in the state.
- **Multiple levels (AAA, AA, A) based on skill and development**
Target roster size is 12 players per team.
- **Expectations increase with level of play**
AAA has the highest level of expectations.
- **Regular season games vs. other local travel teams**
Competitions held within the MBL.
- **Tournaments and Playoffs**
3-4 tournaments plus state tournaments and MBL playoffs.
- **Season commitment**
Expect 4-6 days of baseball per week during the season.

Evaluations – Purpose & Process

Place players at appropriate developmental level and build balanced teams across levels.

Evaluations conducted by college-level players – 2 independent evaluators at each station.

Evaluate skills, athleticism, effort, and coachability.

Multiple data points used – no single drill determines placement. This includes evaluation scores, feedback from feeder program coaches, HBA coaches, and previous season coaches.

Team Selection Committee Composition: AAA Head Coach (identified before evaluations), Player Development Board Member, Board Member without kids in the program (ensures objectivity).

Committee Oversight: HBA President (non-voting) oversees fairness and consistency of the process.

Committee Process: Decisions are made collaboratively, and AAA Head Coaches consult with the HBA Player Development Committee throughout the process.





Evaluation Dates & Team Selection

1

13U & 14U: March 7–8 at URW Sports Complex. Players should bring glove, helmet, bat & wear athletic attire. NO METAL SPIKES

2

15U: April in coordination with Hopkins Legion at TBD location

3

Uniform sizing will happen during check-in at evaluations

4

Teams posted as soon as possible after evaluations - 15U teams announced with Hopkins Legion team announcements

5

Contact Chris Vogtman at cvogtman@gmail.com if your player has a conflict with scheduled evaluation time

6

Parents may request Zoom meeting with placement committee to discuss placement

7

Meetings are informational to explain how placement decision was made – placement changes are unlikely

8

Final roster decisions remain with the committee

Player Development & Expectations

- Practices emphasize fundamentals and growth - structured reinforcement of baseball fundamentals with advanced instruction and skill development
- Players expected to show effort, respect, and sportsmanship - arrive on time, proper uniform and equipment, perform to potential, work hard
- Players must show proper respect to coaches, teammates, umpires, and opposing players
- Parents expected to support coaches and players positively - encourage but don't insult opposition, support not criticize coaches, refrain from coaching from sidelines
- Parents must refrain from open criticism of umpires or opposing players/coaches - speak privately with head coach if issues arise
- Codes of conduct available on HBA website - violations may result in parent being asked to leave park or player suspension/dismissal
- No alcohol, tobacco products, or controlled substances at games or practices



HBA Rules for 2026

Pitching Rules – Follow all MBL pitch count rules for league play and align with tournament rules for MBT and Gopher State

Bat Rules – Both USA and USSSA bats allowed for MBL League Games/MBT Tournaments/GSTC/MSF Tournaments. Complete bat rules at www.hopkinsbaseball.org

Equitable Play Rules – Apply to all players on all HBA rosters

Defensive Playing Time: Each player must average 3.5 innings per game defensively for all games the player is available to play

Plate Appearances: The ratio of plate appearances (PA) from the player with the most PAs to the player with the fewest PAs shall not exceed 5:3

Birthday Age Cutoff – April 30, 2026 (same as it has been)

Age Based Playing Rules – Allowed one time age/grade adjustment



Registration & Fees



Online registration required to attend evaluations - register at www.hopkinsbaseball.org. Age based on April 30, 2026



2026 Fee: \$750 either payable upfront or in four installments. HBA will require all parents to authorize the full registration amount at time of registration



If registering after an installment milestone date, prior installment amounts will be taken at time of registration



Includes: MBL league and playoffs, fees for three regular season tournaments and one state tournament, rented facility costs, shared equipment (baseballs, catcher's gear, etc.), insurance, field costs, jerseys and hat (players keep)



Does NOT include: Baseball pants (white with royal blue side stripe), royal blue belt, royal blue socks, bats, gloves, and other individual player equipment



No refunds granted after tryouts conclude - HBA Board may consider exceptional circumstances for partial refund



Scholarship opportunities available - email John Kuhl at john@nexlineglobal.com



Volunteering Opportunities



HBA is volunteer-led

Coaching (10 teams x 3 coaches = 30 coaches needed), coordination, board roles needed



Coaching Opportunities

For all teams. AAA Head Coaches selected before evaluations, AA & A Head Coaches selected once rosters are identified



Team Coordinators

Help with logistics and communication



Field Prep & Maintenance

Volunteers needed before/after games



HBA Board Membership

Roles currently open are Treasurer, Sponsorship & Fundraising, Fall Ball Coordinator, Senior League Coordinator



Thank You

For your time and support - we are passionate about baseball and want to see more kids playing

Sponsorships & Fundraising

Youth sports takes money to put on a quality program - We are self-funded and rely on fees, sponsorships, and fundraising to fund our annual budget of around \$90K

If you own a local business, please consider a sponsorship:

\$300 Bronze Level

\$500 Silver Level

\$750 Gold Level

Our board is actively looking for new fundraising opportunities

Our goal is to add fundraising events that are impactful:

- Try to avoid kids selling things
- Partner with local businesses when possible

HBA clothing/wearables/gear purchasing opportunities available

Fundraisers will be communicated via email, coaches, and website

Your support directly impacts the quality of our program and helps keep costs manageable for families



**HOPKINS BASEBALL
ASSOCIATION
FUNDRAISER**

June 20th - All Day

LTD BREWING CO.
725 MAINSTREET - HOPKINS

20% OF THE DAY'S PROCEEDS GO TO HBA!!



Questions?