

Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association

WELCOME!

**Parent Athlete Coach (PAC) Meeting
2026**



Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association

AGENDA

- General Board Information & Organizational Updates
- Uniforms & Spiritwear Store
- Parent/Family Expectations
- Umpire Training
- 2025 Survey Recap
- Treasurer's Report
- Sponsorship & Fundraising
- Website, Apps & Resources
- Communications
- Fields, Facilities & Equipment
- Program Development
- Guest Speaker- Nick Hetland
- Player & Coach Development
- Volunteer Requirements
- Tournaments
- 2026 Key Dates
- 12U opportunities and Cooperstown team fundraising
- Closing Statements and Q&A



2025-2026 Board Members

Voting Members

President - Kyle Dreger

Vice President - Jeff Brioschi

Treasurer - Matt Loskota

Secretary - Katy Strub

Tournament Director - Jon Weber

Tournament Operations - Jennifer Johnson

Fundraising Director - Susie Maxey

Volunteer Coordinator - Cassie Salsberg

Field Supervisor - Tim Jensen

Program Development - Tracy Zeimet

Coach Development - Josh Leonard

Player Development - Mike Perron

Equipment Director - Nate Tennessen

IT Guy - Bryan Rahn

Communications Director - Christy Simmons

At-Large - Eric Anderson

Paid/non-voting Members

Field Coordinator - Stephanie Bidelman

Concessions Manager - Molly Tennessen



BTBA Mission

The mission of BTBA is to create a positive, rewarding experience for the serious baseball player by helping them further develop their baseball skills and understanding of the game in preparation for high school level play and beyond. This is achieved through competitive play with other organizations while focusing on the fundamentals of baseball, strong mechanics, good sportsmanship, and respect for others.

BTBA is committed to providing its players with a safe environment and the best baseball experience possible through quality volunteer guidance, equipment, and facilities.



Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association

Uniforms

- We will let you know as soon as uniforms are in.
 - Remember we need the Dibs deposit or Buyout check to release uniforms.

Spiritwear Store

- Coming soon! We will communicate as soon as it opens.



Parent/Family Expectations

BTBA CODE OF CONDUCT

The BTBA requires all coaches, parents and players to sign a code of conduct. Please review the code of conduct with your player and return signed documents to your team manager or head coach.

<https://www.btba.org/assets>



Parent/Family Expectations

Player: Fun!, Sportsmanship, Winning and Losing.

Parent: Praise and Positivity for your player, let coaches coach!

- Remember, they play for fun and to learn/grow.
- They learn from you with adversity.
- Model the behavior you want to teach. More is caught than taught.
- Positive support for all players, we are a team!



Umpire Training Opportunities

Interested in umpiring?

- 14 years and older are eligible.
- www.mnumpires.com
- Reach out to Jeff Brioschi to learn more vicepresident@btba.org
- Upcoming trainings:
 - March 29 (9am-noon) in Minnetonka (High School level training)
 - April 11 (9am-noon) in Savage (all levels)



2025 Parent Survey Results

(130 responses)

My child had fun playing baseball.

- **94.6%** strongly or somewhat agreed. ('24: 98.6%, '23: 84.6%)
- 4.6% strongly or somewhat disagreed. ('24: 1.4%, '23: 11.7%)

My child was placed on the appropriate team based on their skill level relative to the skill level of their teammates.

- **88.5%** strongly or somewhat agreed. ('24: 83.8%, '23: 84.5%)
- 7.7% strongly or somewhat disagreed. ('24: 10.8%, '23: 9.9%)

My child felt welcomed and like they were a part of the team.

- **93.1%** strongly or somewhat agreed. ('24: 95.9%, '23: 85.6%)
- 4.6% strongly or somewhat disagreed. ('24: 1.4%, '23: 8.1%)

My child grew and improved as a baseball player this season.

- **84.6%** strongly or somewhat agreed. ('24: 87.8%, '23: 74.1%)
- 9.2% strongly or somewhat disagreed. ('24: 5.4%, '23: 17.3%)

How much did your child's baseball skills improve this season?

- **53.1%** believe their child's baseball skills improved either significantly or noticeably. ('24: 68.9%, '23: 50.6%)
- 38.5% believe their child's baseball skills improved at least somewhat. ('24: 25.7%, '23: 38.9%)

As a parent/family member, I think the baseball season was a positive experience for my child.

- **83.8%** strongly or somewhat agreed. ('24: 91.2%, '23: 75%)
- 10.8% strongly or somewhat disagreed. ('24: 4.1%, '23: 20%)

As a parent/family member, I enjoyed the baseball season.

- **83.1%** strongly or somewhat agreed. ('24: 90.5%, '23: 73.5%)
- 8.5% strongly or somewhat disagreed. ('24: 4.1%, '23: 19.1%)

Overall, how would you rate your child's experience this season?

- **80%** rated their child's experience as awesome or good. ('24: 87.8%, '23: 74.5%)
- 6.9% rated their child's experiences as poor or not good. ('24: 2%, '23: 14.3%)

What is the likelihood your child will play with BTBA in 2026?

- **78.5%** reported their child is definitely or likely returning to BTBA in 2026. ('24: 88.5%, '23: 72%)
- 5.4% have a child who will have aged out of the program before 2026. ('24: .7%, '23: 4.3%)



Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Matt Loskota

Treasurer@BTBA.org



Sponsorship & Fundraising

Fundraising - Susie Maxey

- Sponsors - Banners @ Hrbek, Website Logos, Tournament, etc.
- Meat Raffles - VFW
- Bingo Nights - Nine Mile Brewing
- Vendors - Maui Wauai, Rise Up Nutrition

Contact - fundraising@btba.org



Sponsorship & Fundraising

NEW THIS YEAR!

Family Business Option

- Special pricing just for Bandit families
- Would love to have our fields showcase Bandit family businesses.
- Contact me if you are interested in hearing more about this option.

Contact - fundraising@btba.org



Sponsorship & Fundraising

Scheels Coupon

As one of our sponsors, Scheels is offering a 20% coupon from March 7 - March 15.

SHOP IN-STORE

SHOP ONLINE

20% OFF

BASEBALL EQUIPMENT, BASEBALL
CLEATS, BASEBALL CLOTHING,
ACCESSORIES & SPORTS MEDICINE ITEMS



81100409800260027010110992



SCAN QR
CODE TO SHOP
THESE DEALS

OR GO TO
SCHEELS.COM/
TEAM-BASEBALL

LOGIN INFO

CODE: C5QZPFXNVK

TEAM NAME: BTBA26

Discount applied to full priced items before tax charges.
Cannot be combined with any other sale, discount, offer, team discount or used for gift cards.
See store for exclusion details.

SCHEELS 8301 FLYING CLOUD DR
EDEN PRAIRIE, MN 55344

OFFER VALID 3/07/2026 - 3/15/2026

Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association

Website, Apps and other tools

- Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association - btba.org
 - Calendar, Volunteer and Coach Resources, etc.
- facebook.com/BloomingtonBandits
- SportsEngine
- GameChanger (app)
- TourneyMachine (app)
- Metro Baseball League - mbl.bz/



Bloomington Traveling Baseball Association

- Use communications email communications@btba.org
- You should receive an acknowledgement reply within 48 hours.
- Send pictures from the season to put on the website and facebook to communications email.



BTBA Fields & Field Crew

Fields

- BTBA uses 26 City owned fields
- Five are used for games only: Hrbek (5-8) and Dred 1
- Six are used for Tournaments only
- Fields are designated by age group due to varying field size configurations
- Maintenance on practice fields is done 1x/week by the City of Bloomington

Field Scheduling/Coordinating

- Lead by Stephanie Bidelman, coaches will manage their practice schedules throughout the season based on age appropriate fields and availability
- Rain outs/reschedules will be communicated by Stephanie as soon as possible
- Live file will show field availability all season long - coaches inform Stephanie to make changes to practice schedules

Field Crew & Responsibilities

- BTBA employs 15+ mostly Bloomington young adults to prepare fields for games
- Fields are raked, bases are set and foul lines are chalked
- Field ownership update - New in '26, The City of Bloomington will likely maintain Dred Scott Fields - we will have confirmation later in March

Field Closing Decisions:

- Hrbek & Dred: City owns final decision
- All other fields, BTBA Field Crew, BTBA Tournament Director, and Fields Director make the decision if the fields are playable

Field Condition issues can be reported to:

- On-site Field Crew
- Field Director - fieldimprovements@btba.org
- Tournament Director (during tournament play)



Fields, Facilities & Equipment

Equipment

- BTBA provides equipment for teams:
 - Catchers gear, balls, books, training tools (nets, tees, fungos, etc.)
- BTBA provides equipment for fields:
 - Chalkers, box templates, mounds and rakes.
 - L-nets, pitching machines, 9 pocket pitching zones.
- Coaches let us know if you have needs other than what is issued.
- Team gear has been issued to some teams already. Coaches, if you don't have gear yet reach out to Nate Tennessen - nate.tennessen@btba.org



Program Development

Director of Program Development - Tracy Zeimet tracy.zeimet@btba.org

Player Development - Mike Perron mike.perron@btba.org

Coach Development - Josh Leonard josh.leonard@btba.org



Program Development

Program Expectations

- Utilize data from feedback surveys to enhance player & coach development.
- Create a sustainable and consistent timeline of key dates.
 - Planning for winter clinics, try on events, PAC meeting, team selection etc.
- Strengthen relationships with supporting organizations (High School Teams/MBL).
- Create a unified vision for Coach and Player development to strengthen the program.



Guest Speaker

NICK HETLAND

Lead Pitching Instructor - Nevers Larkin Baseball

Nick is an Apple Valley Native who found his way through Junior College in Clarendon Texas, ending up in the SEC Ole Miss Rebels. His drive combined with the passion for the game of baseball continues to be the inspiration that provides young athletes the environment to learn, grow, and build confidence not only on the field but more importantly, off the field.



Player Development

Player Expectations

- RSVP for practices and games. Show up on time and ready to go.
- Attendance may impact playing time.
- Focus on what you can control: preparation, attitude, effort.
- Respect your teammates, coaches, opponents and officials.
- Have fun ***playing*** baseball.
- Great players are made outside of practice. Make time to work on building your skills.



Player Development

Player Training

- BTBA funded:
 - Four, 90-minute pre-season rentals at The Cages for every team.
- BTBA is currently hosting winter workouts clinics for all age groups.
 - One and a half hour long clinics focusing on proper mechanics.
 - BTBA coach lead stations.
 - Stations change each session which include, hitting, fielding, catch play, etc.
- Creating age development benchmarks
 - Starting at 9U through high school
 - Gathering feedback from BTBA & High School Coaches



Player Development

Schedule Expectations

- Likely at the field 4-6 times per week, especially in weeks with tournaments.
 - Typically ~14 league games: ~7 home, ~7 away.
- Could play 1-3 games in a day on tournament weekends.
- 9u play 3 regular season tournaments and potentially 2-3 state tournaments.
- 10u-15u play 4 regular season tournaments and potentially 2-3 state tournaments
- Let your coaches know of planned absences as early as possible.
- Let your coaches know of unplanned absences as soon as possible.



Player Development

***NEW* Rest Day Regulations/Table – MBL league and playoff games only**

(All ages: pitchers may not pitch 3 consecutive days)

9-11U

1-20 pitches = 0 days rest

21-40 = 1

41-55 = 2

56+ = 3

Daily Limit: 50 pitches

12-13U

1-25 pitches = 0 days rest

26-40 = 1

41-55 = 2

56+ = 3

Daily Limit, 12U: 50 pitches

Daily Limit, 13U: 65 pitches

14-15U

1-25 pitches = 0 days rest

26-40 = 1

41-60 = 2

61+ = 3

Daily Limit: 75 pitches

- Days of rest are measured in calendar days; not 24-hours.

MBT and MBL pitch counts are tracked independently. Coaches should always keep arm health at top of mind.

Rules are subject to change at the discretion of MBL/MBT.



Coach Development

General Information

- 22 head coaches, 58 assistant coaches to guide 22 teams through the season.
- Coaches are volunteers working hard to provide a positive experience for your child.
 - Coaches: communicate, have a plan, and build a community where everyone is there for the same goal.
 - Parents: work together with the coaching staff; communicate and ask questions. Don't assume the worst.
- Coaches may be held responsible for parent behavior at games.
- End of year evaluations of players is critical to the draft/team selection process the following year.
 - Focus: it's about the players. Their placement is an individualized process, where the feedback provided (along with tryout scoring) is used.



Coach Development

Coach Training

- Already conducted three BTBA sponsored coach orientation sessions this year.
- Already hosted a Parent/Coach clinic sponsored by Minnesota Twins and Metro Baseball League.
 - Great resource for parents, not just coaches.
- Upcoming pitching clinic for coaches, led by Kyle Dreger (March 29)
- Upcoming Metro Baseball League Spring Coaching Clinic (April 11)
 - Paid for by BTBA.
- Concussion, Child Safety and Background Checks through [Trusted Coaches](#).



Coach Development

Coach Resources

- Head Coach Checklist.
- Shared Documents: Lineup sheets, pitch tracking, etc.
- <https://www.mbl.bz/> has a lot of information re: dates, rules, etc.
- Support from Coach and Player Development (Josh, Mike, Kyle).
- Coach and Team Manager Resources - <https://www.btba.org/assets>



Coach Development

Head Coach Expectations

- Create and maintain a safe and welcoming environment for the kids to learn new skills and have **FUN** playing baseball.
- Regularly provide families with the information they need to be engaged with the team and their child's growth.
- Before the season starts, share your philosophy/style with parents and players.
 - Stick to it throughout the season, or communicate changes.
- Set reasonable player and parent expectations.
 - Practice and game attendance, position rotations, behavioral.
 - Age and level will factor into these.
- Read and understand the rules for your age (parents, too!).
 - MBL league games: <https://www.mbl.bz/pages/rules-home-mbl>
 - MBT tournaments: <https://www.mbl.bz/pages/rules-home-mbt>
- Head and Assistant Coach roles cover 6 DIBS.



Coach Development

Team Manager Expectations

- Collect hard copies of Concussion and SafeSport training certificates.
- Collect player birth certificates.
- Maintain a binder with certificates for use at tournament check-in.
- Facilitate team/parent meetings.
- Create hotel reservation blocks for out of town tournament.
- Work closely with the head coach to ensure you are providing appropriate support for their team.
- Reference shared resources for full list of duties and responsibilities.
 - Coach and Team Manager Resources - <https://www.btba.org/assets>
- Covers 6 DIBS.



Volunteer Requirements

Dibs-Volunteer Hours to Help Run Tournaments

- 6 DIBS need to be completed *per player*.
- Buyout is \$300 to cover hiring staff for the duties needed.
- \$300 deposit check to ensure you complete your DIBS, cashed at end of season if your DIBS are not completed.
- In the week before your scheduled shift, you will receive an email with instructions about your shift.
- Pay attention to your emails for weather delays that might impact your shift during the weekend.
- The Schedule for May home tournaments and first weekend in June will be released by the End of the month on website.
- Have to wait for DIBS schedule for State Tournaments and August Classic as we get those schedules from MBL.

Concessions

- This is one of our biggest fundraisers for the Organization.
- We employ approximately 15-20 teenagers to run.
- We ask for parents to sign up to grill (counts towards DIBS).

We Host 9 Weekends of Tournaments that have 24-48 Teams



Other Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Roles that cover 6 DIBS:

- Board Members
- Coaches(1 HC and 3 AC per team)
- 1 Team Manager per team
- 1 Home Tournament Manager age/level. For example, for 12AA we only need ONE tournament manager, not TWO.



Tournaments

Home Tournaments

Hosting duties: Tournament tables and grilling - way to fulfill DIBS

Locations: Hrbek, Kelly, Valleyview, Dred

Communications: Duties via email, Jenn/Cassie or Jon on weekends

State Bids: MBT and Gopher

Rain: City has a say, umpires, fields, scheduling

Tourney Machine App: follow your team - all updates

Any Issues/Concerns: Say something to a volunteer, Jenn, Cassie, or Jon



Tournaments

Away Tournaments

Behavior: Remember you are representing Bloomington

Hotels: Team Manager in charge of reserving rooms

Locations: Coaches got to pick in 2026 (any age group can choose to even go out of MN for a tournament)

Communication: Most associations use tourney machine app

Feedback: Let us know which ones you like or dislike



2026 Important Dates

BTBA Important Dates

Metro Baseball League Important Dates

- April 7, 2026: Phase I initial league scheduling opens.
- April 9, 2026: Phase I scheduling ends; all league games should be scheduled on MBL site. TENTATIVE.
- April 11, 2026: MBL Coaching Clinic
- April 20, 2026: First eligible date for league games. TENTATIVE.
- June 30, 2026: Last date for league games. TENTATIVE.
- July 5, 2026: Playoff brackets released; host coaches must schedule home games ASAP. TENTATIVE.
- July 6-9, 2026: MBL League Playoffs begin – Rd 16 and Quarterfinals.
- July 10-12, 2026: MBT State Tournament Weekend (10AAA, 11AAA, 12AAA, 13AAA, 14AAA, 14AA, 10A, 12A, 13A, 15A).
- July 13-16, 2026: MBL League Playoffs – Semifinals.
- July 17-19, 2026: MBT State Tournament Weekend (9AAA, 9AA, 10AA, 11AA, 12AA, 13AA, 15AA/AAA, 9A, 11A, 14A+).
- July 21-23, 2026: MBL League Playoffs – Championship Games (at various sites).
- July 31- Aug 2, 2026: The August Classic.
- **August 3, 2026 - Tryouts for 2027 BTBA Teams**



2026 12u out of state tournaments

This year we have four 12u teams traveling to play out of state tournaments. Three teams are playing at Field of Dreams in Dyersville, IA and one team is traveling to Cooperstown Dreams Park in Cooperstown, NY.



RIB DINNER



and SILENT AUCTION



for the
2026 BANDITS COOPERSTOWN TEAM



\$15
per plate

Includes:

- ½ Rack of Ribs
- Coleslaw
- French Fries

\$3.50

Domestic tap
& rail drinks

To ensure quantities, purchase tickets in advance:

- Contact Cooperstown Families or
- Email bloomingtoncooperstown2026@gmail.com
- Day of, limited tickets will be available

FRESH BAKED GOODS!
With additional donation

SILENT AUCTION!
Bid online or at the dinner

Saturday, March 28 • 12-7pm
Bloomington VFW – 311 W 84th St

Scan the QR code to
donate or bid on
silent auctions at our
GiveButter Campaign



BLOOMINGTON
BANDITS

Big ticket items!

\$600 Value - Total Wine Class for you and **20 of your closest friends and family members.**

15% off purchases for all attendees



Big ticket items!



And there's more?!

- Amazing fresh baked goods!
- If you are into sports we have you covered!
 - Training for the kids (MSA, Nevers Larkin, The Cages, USA Prime, Brower Baseball)
 - Tickets to sporting events
 - Golf simulator
 - Lawn care
 - Trip to the zoo
 - RenFest
 - The list goes on and on!!!



Thank you for your time and support!



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