



# **TIGER**BASEBALL

**FARMINGTON BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

**PARENT & PLAYER HANDBOOK**

**2026 SEASON - March 1 - July 31**

[www.farmingtonbaseballassociation.com](http://www.farmingtonbaseballassociation.com)

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## FBA BOARD MEMBERS 2025-2026

<b>Travel Director</b>	Responsible for overall travel program; oversees team and coach selection, as well as development of players and coaches. Provides guidance to the board and coaches regarding current rules and regulations. Attends travel-based meetings with MBL and other associations, as necessary.	Anthony Hilden
<b>Community Director</b>	Coordination of the community baseball program. Oversees coaches and players, coordination of community league and tournaments, and attends any community-based meetings with other associations.	Kristy Cranor
<b>Assistant Travel Director</b>	Assists Travel Director on an as-needed basis. At the discretion of the Travel Director, the Asst. Travel Director may be directed to be solely responsible for certain duties. Assistant Travel Director will function as FBA Risk Management Officer & monitors trusted coaches training.	Ryan Jahnz
<b>Assistant Community Director</b>	Assists Community Director on an as-needed basis. At the discretion of the Community Director, the Asst. Community Director may be directed to be solely responsible for certain duties.	Andrew Roberts
<b>Treasurer</b>	Oversees financial assets & expenditures, maintains balance sheets, and maintains financial records.	Brian Laabs
<b>Equipment Director</b>	Responsible for purchase & distribution of equipment.	Tim Vanderline
<b>Hosted Tournament Director</b>	Responsible for managing and coordinating FBA hosted tournaments. Helps with DIBS opportunities, purchasing medals, distributing tournament rules, creating registration on the MBT website.	Angela Mucha

<b>Communications Director</b>	Responsible for communications on behalf of the association, to include pertinent information via email and the FBA website. Organizes agenda items and reporting of minutes from monthly board meetings.	Aimee Morgan
<b>Scheduling Director</b>	Oversees facility scheduling for tryout sessions. Oversees field scheduling for practice, games, clinics, and other events. Oversees process for coaches' MBL scheduling meeting.	Kayla Gillispie
<b>Uniform / Apparel Director</b>	Responsible for purchasing and distribution of team jerseys and hats for community, travel, and legion. Responsible for coaches shirts. Maintains inventory during the off-season. Manages our relationship with uniform vendor, to include apparel orders for members.	Jamie Schmode
<b>Player Development</b>	Responsible for coaches training, including practice plans, team organization, rules and policy review, as well as assisting coaches as a team liaison with parents.	Brandon Chant
<b>Data/Website Director</b>	Responsible for handling and structure of the online registration process for FBA. Maintain and update FBA website, complete player tracking, including birth certificates.	Gina Burmeister
<b>Volunteer Director</b>	Responsible for staffing association tournaments and concession stands. Works with our tournament director to track and create opportunities for volunteers to sign-up using online software.	Cathy Haukom
<b>Travel Tryout Director</b>	Responsible for the organization and coordination of yearly player evaluations for the travel program.	Adam Simon
<b>Umpire Director</b>	Coordinate and manage umpires assigned by FBA for both travel and community baseball games. Director will also work with assigned umpire associations for games not filled by FBA-trained umpires.	Scott Wilson (acting)

<b>Concessions Director</b>	Oversees concession stand operations and products for all hosted tournaments.	Megan Tesmer
<b>Community Age-Level</b>	Assists Community Director and Assistant Community Director with tasks, as assigned.	Lynn Heidbrink Julie Boyum Jen Peterson
<b>At-Large Director</b>	Voting Members of FBA – Duties as assigned by the travel director and community director or can be designated by the FBA board of directors.	Scott Wilson
<b>Team Coaches</b>	Responsible for distribution of practice and game schedules. Responsible for constant development of all athletes on their roster. Responsible for resolving player and/or parent conflicts.	

## TRAVEL ELIGIBILITY

A player is eligible to participate in FBA travel baseball team tryouts subject to the following criteria:

- Players must have completed FBA registration online prior to the posted close of registration and meet the minimum age requirements.
- Players must reside in the district 192 attendance area or live within the City of Farmington.
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any arrears from previous FBA seasons.
- Must meet specified age guidelines.
- If a player wishes to participate with FBA and does not reside in District 192 attendance area a request via email must be submitted to the FBA Travel Director prior to the posted close of registration. The FBA Board will review the request to determine if the player is eligible to participate in the FBA program and will then notify the parent(s)/guardian prior to the closing of the registration process. If the FBA Board approves the request, the petitioning player must submit a waiver from both the athletic association that serves their high school area and from the Metro Baseball League to the FBA Travel Director prior to going through the tryout process.

## Age Level Requirements

**May 1 is the cutoff date for each age bracket.** In some cases, this may not allow a player to try out for a team composed of kids that are in their grade at school. FBA strongly encourages players to play with their grade, when possible.

Players in their respective age groups must not reach the next age before May 1, 2026. FBA instituted a minimum age requirement for all players. **Any player born after August 31, 2017, or that is not in 3rd Grade for 2025-2026 school year, will not be able to register and tryout in 2026.**

The following are the age requirements by level:

- **9U:** Must be 9 (or younger) on May 1, 2026
- **10U:** Must be 10 (or younger) on May 1, 2026
- **11U:** Must be 11 (or younger) on May 1, 2026
- **12U:** Must be 12 (or younger) on May 1, 2026
- **13U:** Must be 13 (or younger) on May 1, 2026
- **14U:** Must be 14 (or younger) on May 1, 2026
- **15U:** Must be 15 (or younger) on May 1, 2026

FBA encourages kids to play with their own school grade. Grades typically align as follows: 9U – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; 10U – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; 11U – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade; 12U – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade; 13U – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade; 14U – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

*Examples of potential age and grade questions / situations are as follows:*

- *A 2<sup>nd</sup> grader who was born on August 20, 2017, is eligible for tryouts at 9U because they meet the age requirement.*
- *A 6<sup>th</sup> grader who was born on May 6, 2015, is eligible to play 11U, however FBA encourages a player in this situation to play with the majority of their classmates at 12U.*

## REGISTRATION / REFUNDS

The annual registration fee established for the 2026 Season is \$625 per player. An early bird special of \$575 per player will be offered. Any registration accepted after the published regular registration period is subject to a \$75 Late Registration Fee per player, no exception. There is a \$50 cancellation fee if a player withdraws their registration before tryouts are held. If a player is not selected for a travel team, a \$75 administration fee is applicable to cover costs for tryouts and the remaining fee will be refunded. No refunds will be granted after tryouts and team

selection. In cases of highly unusual or extenuating circumstances, a waiver of the refund policy may be granted at the sole discretion of the FBA Board. The request must come in writing to the Registration or Travel Director and in no event shall the board be obligated to waive the refund policy. Please note the below medical exception as it applies to refunds.

## Medical Exemption

If the player is medically unable to participate, a note from a doctor indicating that the participant cannot participate is required.

1. If a player is injured prior to any team event, they can receive a 100% medical refund minus \$75 administration fee
2. If a player has participated in a practice, but no games, they can receive a 50% medical refund minus \$75 administration fee
3. If a player has participated in at least one game, there is no refund

## Unpaid Fees

All registration fees are due in full by the date set within the online registration unless specific payment arrangements have been authorized by the Travel Director. Accounts that are unpaid may be subject to special conditions for future payments, as directed by the FBA Board.

## 2026 DIBS

### Dibs Fee/Requirements

There will be a volunteer fee of \$500 **per family** for 1<sup>st</sup> Grade through 14U. The volunteer requirement is **4 credits (DIBs) per player (MAX of 6 credits/family)** for travel and community players and will be tracked through a designated software system. A check will be required **for each family** prior to practices starting. Players will not be allowed to practice until their volunteer check has been submitted. A \$300 Volunteer Buyout option is available **ONLY** during registration. **ONLY** those over the age of 15 may work DIBS shifts. **NO** children under the age of 15 allowed.

### Dibs Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities will be available during Farmington Barnburner hosted Travel tournament(s), Community season tournaments, and a Gopher State tournament a weekend in July. Additional upcoming opportunities are posted on our website. Each task/credit will typically consist of a 1-4 hour shift working concession stands, field preparation, or other baseball program related activities.

Additionally, parents and guardians are respectfully asked to help your player's team during the season. Your player's coach and team manager will determine what is needed. All families that don't have a family member serving as a coach, assistant coach or team manager are expected to help with team needs. This is **not** part of the task requirement and not tracked through the designated software system.

## Unfulfilled Dibs – Cashing Dibs Checks

Your check will be cashed if your volunteer hours are not completed by the end of the FBA season which runs from March 1<sup>st</sup> – July 31<sup>st</sup>. We will send multiple emails if you have not met your requirements prior to cashing your check.

## TRAVEL TRYOUTS

A player must participate in all scheduled tryouts unless the Travel Director and/or Assistant Travel Director grants an excused absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each tryout session.

### Dates / Location

Tryouts will be held Saturday, March 21, 2026, and Sunday, March 22, 2026.

- FIELDING: Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ Dundas Dome 901 Cannon Road South, Dundas, MN 55019
- HITTING: Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> @ TruPlayerz 15641 Canada Circle, Rosemount, MN 55068

Specific fielding / hitting times will be posted to our website closer to the tryout dates.

## Excused Tryout Absences- Injury/Illness

### Process

**All requests must be presented in writing.** Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but are not guaranteed for an excused absence. FBA will do everything possible to accommodate school functions, but the player is still ultimately responsible for attending both tryout sessions.

### Injury / Illness

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury or illness may be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session, ***upon delivery of a doctor's note describing the player's limitations*** to the Travel Director and/or Assistant Travel Director. A player who misses more than 50% of the scheduled tryout sessions due to illness or injury, and provides a doctor's note, will be reviewed and evaluated by the Travel Director, Assistant Travel Director and members of the Tryout Committee.

Players with an injury excused absence who cannot participate in the tryout sessions will be placed in the player selection zone at the level they played the previous season. The head coach will have the option to use one of their selections for this player. The player will not have the option to move up but could potentially be moved down if the excused player is not a coach's selection. Any excused player unable to tryout and who has not previously participated in FBA will be placed at the Single A level only if there is an opening available.

### Unexcused Tryout Absences

A player who is absent from tryouts without being excused may be disqualified.

## Player Evaluation

The tryouts will consist of baseball drills designed to evaluate the player's abilities, attitudes, and positions. A formal tryout guideline has been adopted for use by all tryout evaluators. This guideline, once completed, can be found under the Travel / Tryout Info tab on our website, [www.farmingtonbaseballassociation.com](http://www.farmingtonbaseballassociation.com). The evaluation scores will be the primary basis used to select the players for each team. **It is FBA's policy that all individual tryout-rating sheets will remain property of FBA and will not be distributed. There is no exception to this rule.** Any FBA member found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action as determined by the FBA Board.

A team of impartial evaluators provided by FBA will evaluate every player's baseball skills. The evaluators will be people who are known to possess the knowledge necessary to evaluate a player's skill at a particular level. In addition, **100% of the tryout scores for 2026 will consist of scores from outside evaluators** that are not coaching and do not have players in the FBA travel/community program.

## Player Selection

### Pre-Tryout Score (PTS) (Ages 11-14U)

Coaches for each 2025 travel baseball team were asked to provide a letter grade (A, B or C) for each player based on the player's skill level, coachability, attitude, and baseball IQ. This PTS will be used in conjunction with a player's tryout score to give each player a total sum of points used for a total tryout ranking. The PTS will equal 25% of the player's total possible tryout score. The point total applied to each player's score is based on their performance during the 2025 season, as assessed by their coaches. The total points awarded is a combination of the player's level of play (AAA, AA, A) and letter grade. Each player receives 64 total scores at tryouts, on a 1-10 grading system, with the highest possible score of 640. 25% of 640 points is 160 points, which is the PTS addition given to a AAA – A player. Any player who did not play in Farmington in the 2025 season would have a PTS score of 64 and will be placed in the appropriate pick pool by the Travel Director, Assistant Travel Director and the Tryout Director after watching tryouts. The scale for PTS points is as follows:

- AAA – A: 160
- AAA – B: 144
- AAA – C / AA – A: 128
- AA – B: 112
- AA – C / A – A: 96
- A – B: 80
- A – A: 64

Players will be placed on a team based upon their own merits. If players have played on a previous year's team, their prior commitment and character may also be considered. Roster selections will be handled by the specific age group and playing level head coach working in conjunction with the Travel Director and/or Assistant Travel Director. The top 8 players are locked, and the head coach will complete their 11-13 player roster by selecting 3-5 additional players from the players ranked 9 through 18. This process continues until all teams within a specific age group are selected. Head coaches will only see the tryout scores and group rankings for their specific age and playing level and only within the 18-player range to pick their team.

*PLEASE NOTE: Coaches are not allowed to just pick whichever players they wish from the pick pool. For example: If they are asking to pick player ranked #16 over player ranked #12, they must discuss the reasoning with the tryout committee of why they would like that player from the pick pool. The tryout committee has final say in this decision.*

The number of teams organized at each level will vary depending on the number of players trying out, the number of fields available for each age group and the discretion of the tryout committee and FBA Board. Each team will consist of 11–13 players. When possible, FBA encourages teams of 12 players.

It is the goal of FBA to have roster selections and teams posted to the website by Tuesday night, March 24, 2026. Players who participated in tryouts and were selected will be notified via an email message once teams are posted on the FBA website. Released players will receive email notification ahead of teams being posted on the website. Within 14 business days after team selections, all players who are released will be issued a refund as defined in the Registration / Refunds policy. **Once teams are posted, we ask that parents do NOT contact any board members about team selections until at least March 26, 2026. Even at that time, the Tryout Director/Travel Director will only discuss areas of improvement for your player-they will not discuss scores, where your player scored, or any other player's tryout. Team selections are final and not up for discussion.**

## Player Removal

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a team member solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following specific reasons:

- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the player's responsibilities.
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and/or self.
- Displaying an uncaring attitude that results in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential.
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the team's).

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Travel Director and the player's parent(s) and attempt to correct the situation. The FBA Board Conduct Committee will approve of any subsequent action.

***FBA and the Travel Director reserve the right to make changes to the tryout and selection process under the recommendation and direction of the tryout committee.***

## COACHES

### Coach Selection

Anyone who desires to be a head coach or assistant coach must fill out and submit a coaching application. Interviews, if applicable, for head coach positions and those new to FBA will be held in February 2026 with the Travel Director, Assistant Travel Director, Tryout Director, and any other members of the FBA Board they deem necessary and appropriate in joining them on the coach selection committee.

Primary selection criteria include past baseball coaching and playing experience, personal coaching and human development philosophies, organizational skills, strong moral and ethical characteristics, support of FBA policies/procedures, and the applicant's commitment to devote several hundred hours to the program during the season. Coaches' responsibilities begin with coaches' meetings and assisting with tryouts and end in early August with equipment check-in, season reviews, and recommendations/feedback. If chosen as a coach, a background check will be conducted according to the FBA guidelines.

Head coach candidates are evaluated and ranked by the coach selection committee. A head coach is selected based on their ranking and if they have a child qualifying for that team via the tryout/evaluation process. At the discretion of the coach selection committee, a named head coach does not need to have a child on a team to be selected as its coach.

If there are no applicants/options for head coach at a specific age level during team selections, the team will be selected by taking 12 players in order of evaluation scores. The team will be

posted without a head coach and the parents will be informed of the situation. FBA will work with the parents to try and find a suitable head coach. **If a head coach cannot be found in FIVE (5) days, the team will be disbanded and each player's registration returned minus the published administration fee.**

To provide consistent direction to our athletes and to remove any sense of impropriety during the scheduling of games, practices and tournaments, a coach may only be selected as a head or assistant coach for one travel team during a given summer season. A named head or assistant coach may help coach another team during the season but cannot be named head or assistant coach for that second team except for a team who has a limited number of coaches available. The Travel Director and/or Assistant Travel Director will evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis.

## Coach Removal

Removal of a team coach is a very serious situation and must be dealt with in a fair and open manner. Coaches may be removed for the following reasons:

- Failure to perform duties.
- Conduct detrimental to the player, the team, the organization, and/or the parents.
- Abusive behavior, whether physical or psychological, towards players, parents, opposing players, coaches, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials.

Any coach removed from league or tournament games will automatically receive a one game suspension. Suspension means that a coach cannot attend the game either as a coach or a spectator. If a coach is removed a second time during the season, they will receive a minimum two game suspension AND be placed under restrictions by the FBA Board. Ultimately, the FBA Board will decide on the coach's future involvement in the program.

**\*\*\*\*2026 Levels of play and competitive/fair play will be released at the 2026 Parent Meeting\*\*\*\***

Division	2025 Level of Play (Fair Play League / Competitive Play Tournaments)		
9U	AAA - Fair Play	AA - Fair Play	A - Fair Play
10U	AAA - Fair Play	AA - Fair Play	A - Fair Play
11U	AAA - Fair Play / Competitive	AA - Fair Play / Competitive	A - Fair Play
12U	AAA - Fair Play / Competitive	AA - Fair Play / Competitive	A - Fair Play
13U	AAA - Fair Play / Competitive	AA - Fair Play / Competitive	A - Fair Play / Competitive
14U	AAA - Fair Play / Competitive	AA - Fair Play / Competitive	A - Fair Play / Competitive

**While coaches and teams are expected to abide by the foregoing expectations during league and state qualifying tournaments, all state tournaments shall be deemed Competitive Play, including MBT, MSF and Gopher State tournaments.**

## SEASON OUTLOOK

**The FBA Season runs from tryouts (middle March to July 31 of the given season).** FBA offers a summer season baseball experience, run by volunteers. At times, we will offer events in August-through the middle of March. These events should not be expected and cost additional fees paid by participants.

### Practices / Games

Practices will begin shortly after the team selection (usually indoor practice for the first two weeks of April). League play begins in late April / early May and continues through July, with approximately 14 weekday league games. **A typical week (Monday – Friday) consists of three team events**, which is a combination of practices and league games. Depending on the Metro Baseball League schedule, this will vary on a weekly basis.

## Metro Baseball League

Our association teams that are registered for the current season of Metro Baseball League (MBL) will adhere to the rules established by the MBL, which also follows the guidelines set forth by the National Federation of State High School Associations [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

Please refer to the rules on the MBL website [www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz) for the latest information. Any rule changes will be listed there.

## Tournaments

Each team is registered for three local area weekend tournaments. Teams are free to schedule additional events and attend state tournaments, but the team must cover the costs. In the event of a canceled tournament, FBA will make every effort to reschedule that team for a future tournament, however, no monies will be refunded if a team does not play in three tournaments due to a cancellation.

FBA recommends that coaches discuss with both parents/guardians and their players before deciding to "play-up" a level for a tournament. Should you decide you want to request this, you need FBA Board approval from the travel director to do this. Please contact our current travel director for more information. For example, if the team is currently at the "AA" league level and they want to play a tournament at the "AAA" level, coaches should communicate their intentions with their players, and the parents/guardians. This guideline is not intended to prevent FBA teams from playing-up in a tournament. This guideline is intended to encourage communication between the coaches and the parents/guardians, and their players. **If a team does "play-up" and is awarded a state tournament berth at that level, Metro Baseball League mandates the team must remain at that level for the state tournament.**

## State Tournaments

Post season tournament play (state and national events) is by invitation and depends upon success in qualifying tournaments during the season. Any costs for these are the responsibility of the team and the families.

There are 3 State Tournaments available for the travel baseball teams.

1. "MBT" (Minnesota Baseball Tournaments)
2. "MSF" (Minnesota Sports Federation)
3. "MYAS" (Minnesota Youth Athletic Services - "Gopher State Baseball Championship")

Do not confuse these with the end-of-season playoffs that are hosted by Metro Baseball League (MBL). This end-of-season playoff system includes all the teams who played in the MBL during the summer. It is broken into two or three tiers based upon the team's records during their league play.

There are a few ways to earn a “berth” into the State Tournaments:

- MBT will qualify the top two teams in each Region of the MBL to compete in the MBT State Tournament. If either of these two teams had previously qualified, the berths would then be passed to the third and fourth place teams. Teams finishing lower than fourth place will not be eligible to qualify through the league.
- The MBT may qualify the top team based on points (this encourages teams to play games) in each region of the MBL to compete in the MBT State Tournament.
- There are numerous “qualifier tournaments” during the summer. Many of these tournaments include bids for all three state tournaments. ***When registering teams for their three tournaments, FBA strives to find community tournaments that are verified, state tournament qualifiers.*** The numbers of “berths” available at each tournament are based upon the number of teams entering the tournament. Typically, there are two berths awarded at each tournament, and if the 1st or 2nd place team has previously been awarded a berth, the berth may be passed on to the 3rd or 4th team. (MBT BIDS ONLY)
- The state tournament organizations also allow a team to submit an “At-Large” bid to enter the tournament. The rules for this type of “berth” are included at the applicable website locations.
- **State tournaments are registered for and paid for separately from FBA and are an additional cost to players’ families.**

## Attendance

All players will adhere to the attendance policy below.

All unexcused absences from practices, games, or tournaments will be reported to the Travel Director by the team head coach. They will include the time, date, and reason for absence. Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of playing time. At the discretion of the Travel Director, these absences may be deemed “excused”, and the athlete will be allowed to participate without restrictions. The penalties for a player’s first and second unexcused absences will be determined by the head coach and Travel Director. Multiple absences and their impending restrictions will be at the discretion of the FBA Board. If there are not enough players available for a game, players with these restrictions will be allowed to participate, and the head coach will determine the next available opportunity for them to satisfy the restriction requirements.

## Incllement Weather

In situations involving unfavorable weather, the coach, with guidance from the Scheduling Director and District 192 personnel, will determine if there will be a practice or game. If a field is

unplayable due to weather, the home team coach must notify the other coach as soon as the decision is made. Once play begins, the umpire is responsible for determining whether play should be halted.

In all cases, unless you receive communication from your team's coach, you should appear at the site of the game or practice as scheduled. Weather conditions can vary widely even over short distances, so our policy is to make the decision at the field site. Games and practices will be suspended when lightning is visible. If you (parent/guardian) cannot be present during an event, be sure that your child knows another parent who will be present and with whom they can take shelter if bad weather suddenly threatens.

## Uniforms

Each player that is selected will be responsible for purchasing the FBA approved uniform (*primary jersey, secondary jersey, pants, and hat*). Each player will be assigned a number, which they will continue to use while participating in travel baseball. Information on sizing and price of the approved uniform will be posted to the website prior to the uniform fitting night in mid-January.

Each player will also need to provide black socks, a black belt and a black t-shirt to wear under their jerseys. Additionally, each player must have their own glove, bat and cleats/spikes (***molded for 9U—12U – Metal allowed starting at 13U but please note that many associations will not allow metal cleats on their pitching mounds!***). A hard protective cup is also recommended.

## RULES & REGULATIONS

### Field Dimensions

BASE LENGTHS	PITCHING DISTANCES
9U & 10U – 60'	9U -11U – 46'
11U – 65'-70' (65' RECOMMENDED)	
12U – 67.5'-75' (75' RECOMMENDED)	12U – 50'-54' (52' RECOMMENDED)
13U – 75'-80' (80' RECOMMENDED)	13U – 52'-54' (54' RECOMMENDED)
14U-15U – 90'	40U-15U – 60.5"

### Equipment

#### Shoes/Cleats

- **9U-12U:** Molded cleats. **NO METAL SPIKES ALLOWED!**
- **13U-15U:** Molded or metal spikes

## Bats

For the 2026 MBL/MBT seasons, MBL/MBT will allow the use of both USA and USSSA approved stamped bats in league play and tournament play. The decision is in part to simplify the rules and regulations in both league and tournament play in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. For more information, please refer to: <https://www.mbl.bz/>.

## Lineups

Continuous batting and free substitution will be used in all **9U – 14U (including 14/15A) MBL games**. This rule applies to the AAA, AA, and A leagues.

## Pitching

- **9U – 11U:** 50 pitches per game, 75 pitches per week. **NO CURVE BALLS.**
- **12U:** 60 pitches per game, 85 pitches per week.
- **13U:** 65 pitches per game, 90 pitches per week.
- **14U:** 75 pitches per game, 105 pitches per week.

Please refer to [www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz) for updates and state tournament pitching restrictions.

## Leading Off

- **9U – 10U:** A player may lead off after the ball crosses the plate.
- **11U:** A player may lead off after the ball leaves the pitcher's hand.
- **12U – 15U:** A player may lead off and steal at any time.

## Dropped Third Strike

In the 9U – 11U divisions, the batter may **NOT** advance to first base on a dropped third strike.

## Passed Ball / Wild Pitch

In the 9U division, a runner may **NOT** advance home on a passed ball/wild pitch or errant throw back to the pitcher. A runner may only advance home on a batted ball, walk, hit by pitch, or an attempted play on the runner who is occupying third base.

## Game Length

- **9U – 12U:** Completed games are **FINAL** after **6** innings. Extra innings will be allowed based on weather conditions and sunlight. Time limit for league games is no new inning after 2 hours and 15 minutes. Games started but stopped due to weather conditions are official after 3 ½ or 4 innings.

- **13U – 14U:** Completed games are **FINAL** after **7** innings. Extra innings will be allowed based on weather conditions and sunlight. Time limit for league games is no new inning after 2 hours and 30 minutes. Games started but stopped due to weather conditions are official after 4 ½ or 5 innings. Ties will stand after curfew or darkness.

**Do not risk injury due to darkness.** The 10-run rule will take effect after 4 1/2 innings. Games called for any reason in the middle of an inning will revert to the score at the end of the last completed inning.

## POLICIES

### Code of Conduct

The conduct of our players and coaches is a direct reflection on our program. All infractions reported to FBA or the Metro Baseball League will carry restrictions and/or sanctions to the individuals involved. These restrictions or sanctions will be determined by the FBA Board.

Annually, all parents and players agree to the “FBA Code of Conduct” upon registration. A copy can be printed for your reference from the website under the Travel tab.

### Player Behavior / Misconduct

FBA mandates that all players/coaches/parents represent FBA in a positive manner. Any acts of misconduct will be brought to the Conduct Committee's attention where they will investigate the violation and a penalty(s) associated with the violation. The Conduct Committee will hand down a penalty that may range from a warning, up to and including the loss of eligibility in traveling baseball for that sport season. The Conduct Committee will be made up of the Travel Director, Assistant Travel Director, Community Director, Assistant Community Director and up to two other FBA Board members.

Examples of misconduct include, but are not limited to the following:

- Damage to property while representing FBA (fields, equipment, hotel, restaurant etc.)
- Theft
- Fighting
- Poor Conduct or Sportsmanship

### Suspensions

The FBA reserves the right to suspend any coach, parent, or player who violates the FBA Code of Conduct. Suspensions will be documented and reviewed by the FBA Board. Subsequent violations may result in the player, parent, or coach being removed from the program. All violations must be reported to the FBA Travel Director.

Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game will also be suspended from their team's next game. For example, a player, coach, or spectator ejected from a tournament game will be suspended from that tournament's next game or league game if there are no more tournament games. Further sanctions may be warranted depending upon the behavior. The FBA Board can impose additional sanctions after a review of the situation.

## Background Check

FBA requires all coaches, managers, voting members, volunteers, or hired workers who provide regular service to the organization and/or have repetitive access to, or contact with players and teams to submit a formal BCA Background Check form to the FBA Risk Management Officer (RMO).

The background check application must be maintained by the RMO for all personnel named above, for a minimum of the duration of the applicant's service to the FBA for that year. The background check will be required of all personnel named above prior to assuming his/her duties for the current season. Neither FBA, nor any team within the FBA will permit any person to participate in any manner, whose background reveals a conviction or guilty plea for any crime involving or against a minor. If FBA becomes aware of information, by any means whatsoever, that any personnel named above has been convicted of or pled guilty to any crime involving or against a minor, the FBA will be required to confirm the accuracy of the information. Upon confirmation of a conviction for, or guilty plea to, a crime against or involving a minor, FBA shall not permit the individual to participate in any manner.

The applicant, by submitting a formal BCA Background Check agrees to release and to hold harmless from liability FBA, the officers, employees and volunteers thereof, or any other person or organization that might provide information. Regardless of previous appointments, FBA is not obligated to appoint the applicant to a volunteer position. If appointed, the applicant agrees that, prior to the expiration of his/her term, they may be subject to suspension by the voting members of the FBA for violations of the FBA policies or principals.

## Non-discrimination

FBA will not discriminate against any person, player, or applicant on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

## Concussions

In accordance with state laws, FBA requires all coaches to be trained in concussion information, how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion and procedures to be followed for youth athletes to return to play after an incident. In an effort to comply with the state law, FBA requires all coaches to complete a free online informational training session offered through Trusted Coaches. At the end of the training, a certificate of completion is issued under the trainees' name. This certificate will be retained by the FBA Risk Management Officer and is valid

for a period of three years. Additional information and links to the online training course can be found on our website.

## Parent Conflict Resolution Guidelines

### Conflict Communications Policy

**Unless the issue is regarding player safety, please follow the 24-hour rule prior to addressing any complaints.** Communication should start with the head coach, then FBA age level Coordinator, then FBA Travel/Community Director.

***NOTE:** The Board will limit phone calls to two 30-minute phone calls/conflict.*

*Email communication is also available through: [farlingtonbaseball55024@gmail.com](mailto:farlingtonbaseball55024@gmail.com).*

#### Step 1:

When a player or parent has a question regarding the general policies or procedures of FBA, they should address their questions to the coach of their team.

Choose a time and place that is convenient for both parties involved - not prior to or during a game or practice. Address your questions in an appropriate manner.

#### Step 2:

If a question is not answered satisfactorily and a player/parent feels the need to pursue the matter further, they may contact the FBA Age Level Coordinator. The age level coordinators will be shared closer to the start of the 2026 season and will introduce themselves after team selections. If the FBA age level coordinator deems it is necessary, he/she will contact the assistant travel director/travel director and/or the FBA Board for guidance.

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within 72 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Travel Director or Assistant Travel Director. The Travel Director or Assistant Travel Director will act as a mediator between the player/parent and the coach. All parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution.

#### Step 3:

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within an additional time frame and assistance from the board age level coordinator, it will be brought to the attention of the FBA Board.

The FBA Board will approve a final resolution for this issue at their next scheduled meeting and inform both the player/parent and the coaches involved of their decision within 48 hours after meeting. **All board decisions are final.**

### Conflict Violations

If a parent continues to have conflict and/or violates a board policy or decision we will use the following guidelines:

1. First Violation: Verbal Warning
2. Second Violation: Written Warning – Could Lead to a player/parent with a one game suspension
3. Third Violation: Removal of player and/or parent(s) from FBA for the remainder of the season. Future participation in the association is at the discretion of the FBA Board.

The FBA Board has the right to move forward with any of the above consequences for parent/player behavior. Depending on the severity of the conflict, FBA does not have to give two warning violations to remove to player/parent removal.

## Drug / Alcohol / Tobacco Policy

The FBA mandates that all players shall refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco (including vaping) and/or a controlled substance during the entire season – from the time teams are announced through the last game, practice, scrimmage, or exhibition event of the season. The FBA also mandates that all coaches/parents/fans participating in an FBA scheduled activity (practice/scrimmage/game) should refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco/vaping and/or a controlled substance. Subject to the entire season (player) and FBA scheduled activity (parent/coach), it shall be a violation of this policy for a player/coach/parent to consume a beverage containing alcohol, or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any tobacco/vaping product or controlled substance. Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the Travel Director will investigate the violation. Once a decision has been made, the player/parent/coach will be informed of their ineligibility by written communication from the Travel Director.

- **First Violation:** Upon notification to the Board, the player/coach shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a sport season in which the player/coach is participating, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted. Should the violation not be capable of being served to the fullest extent during the FBA season, the penalty shall carry over into the next season.
- **Second Violation:** The player/coach shall lose eligibility in traveling baseball for that sport season. No exception is permitted. A second violation will be reported to the FBA and may be subsequent grounds for removal as a coach in all of their sports activities.
- **Accumulative Penalties:** Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and continuing throughout the player's/coach's participation in any and all FBA activities.

## Blood Policy

A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment cannot be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual will have to leave the game. (The length of time considered reasonable shall be in the umpire's judgment.) Once the bleeding has been stopped, the player or coach may reenter the game. If

there is a substantial amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual may participate.

## Risk Management

FBA has a great deal of concern about the safety of and preventing the abuse of children. As a non-profit organization, we are interested in the well-being of children; FBA believes you are entitled to know how our organization is addressing these critical issues. It is important to know the defensive measures we will be employing to protect children in our care, as well as the FBA volunteers from these serious problems.

FBA will not tolerate the abuse of any child. We make an active and, we believe, effective effort to prevent child abuse in our programs. We will now attempt to screen our volunteers by requesting that each volunteer complete a FBA Background Check Application, which is processed through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). We will take any allegations of abuse made by children and others very seriously and refer all allegations to local child protection authorities for investigation. We will fully cooperate in those investigations.

A nonprofit youth athletic association has the right, by statute, to request its workers, including volunteers, to submit to a criminal background check performed by the BCA. Minnesota Statutes Section 299C.61-299C.62 establishes a procedure for a "children's service provider" to have a background check performed by the Bureau. The Act does provide that the applicant shall not be required to pay the cost of the background checks. In other words, it is an expense that the organization will have to absorb.

*The Assistant Travel Director will function as the Risk Management Officer for FBA.* The Risk Management Officer will distribute and collect the Disclosure Statements and perform the necessary background checks. Prior to being appointed, the Risk Manager Candidate shall complete and sign a Disclosure Statement that will be used for a background check as described below.

All candidates for positions as FBA Board members, coaches, and assistant coaches shall complete a written or online Disclosure Statement to the appointed Risk Management Officer prior to beginning their work with the FBA participants. The Risk Management Officer shall also have Disclosure Statements completed and signed by any other FBA voting member or volunteer he/she deems necessary due to the person's access to the FBA participants. If a coach candidate or current FBA volunteer refuses to complete and sign a Disclosure Statement, the person's candidacy shall be rejected, or he/she shall be dismissed from any position he/she then holds with FBA. The Risk Management Officer will perform background checks on all candidates at least once every two years. Updated Disclosure Statements will be required every two years.

Under **NO** circumstances can a team practice, play, or meet with a coach or assistant coach who has not had a background check.

In the event an FBA voting member receives a complaint of physical or sexual abuse of an FBA participant, the Risk Management Officer shall report the complaint to the FBA Board and the local child protection authorities, and to the FBA participant's parent(s)/guardian(s).

After a physical or sexual abuse complaint concerning an FBA volunteer has been formally lodged with the local child protection authorities, the Risk Management Officer shall inform the alleged offender in writing that he/she is suspended immediately from all activities within the organization until the complaint is dismissed or is withdrawn.

Decisions by the Risk Management Officer are final.

## RESPONSIBILITIES & RIGHTS

### Parent Responsibilities

Your child's participation in the travel baseball program will require a significant contribution of your time and effort. Parents can contribute many things to support their child, team, and the program.

- Compliment and encourage. Let the coaches handle coaching and criticism.
- Coordinate your efforts to help your child's development with the recommendations of the coaches.
- Support your coaches. Remember that they are responsible for many children in addition to yours and have probably been responsible for the athletic achievements of many athletes before this season.
- Don't compare your child to other players. Be honest with yourself and your child about their abilities.
- Regard each player on the team as your own.
- Keep negative comments to yourself. Express concerns only to the coach and in a straightforward, fair, and objective manner.
- Teach your child to have fun and enjoy competition. Don't tell them that winning does not count because it does, and they know it. Instead, help them to develop a healthy competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Follow the "Parents' Code of Conduct" supported and distributed by FBA.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior. Don't criticize officials, coaches or other parents or players.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of your child and your guests.
- Get your child to, and pick them up from, practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach in advance whenever your child will miss or be late for a practice or a game.
- Provide a copy of your child's birth certificate to FBA.
- Volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible.

## Parent Rights

- Have your child treated fairly and with respect.
- Have your child practice and play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Have your child coached by effective and qualified adult leadership.
- Have your child engage in practice and playing activities that increase their skills and enjoyment of the sport.
- To be fully informed by the coaches with respect to schedules, team philosophies, team rules, and your child's strengths and weaknesses.

## Player Responsibilities

- Players on a traveling team should take pride in their team, and in their community. They must follow the directions of the coaches and must be willing to accept constructive criticism.
- Be attentive and work hard in practice and games.
- Make their best efforts to perform the tasks as directed by the coaches.
- Be a competitor, perform up to their full ability, and contribute to team unity.
- Compliment teammates and let the coaches handle criticism.
- Show respect toward their coaches, teammates, and parents.
- Show respect toward opposing players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Keep their (personal and team) equipment clean and in good repair.
- Maintain a responsible attitude toward their health. Be aware of, and adhere to, the FBA policies on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
- Remember that baseball is a game and keep it in perspective with family, school, and/or activities and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior.
- Remind their parents that they need to be at practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach whenever they will miss or be late for a practice or a game.

## Player Rights

- To participate at a level that matches their maturity and ability.
- To participate in a safe, healthy environment.
- To be treated fairly, with dignity and with respect.
- To have fun in sports.
- To have an equal opportunity to develop your abilities and strive for success.
- To have good coaching; to be taught baseball fundamentals and strong character development.

## PARENT SURVEY & SUGGESTIONS

A parent survey will be distributed at the conclusion of the travel baseball season. All other suggestions for the improvement of our program can be given, in writing, to your coaching staff, or be submitted via e-mail [farmingtonbaseball55024@gmail.com](mailto:farmingtonbaseball55024@gmail.com).