



Fastpitch Softball Parent Information  
2024 Season

# AGENDA

- Introduction of Becker Blast Softball Association (BBSA) Board
- Communications
- League Information Overview
- Overview by Level
- Equipment Requirements
- Evaluation Expectations
- Tournament Expectations
- Behavior Expectations
- Fundraising
- Upcoming Events
- Misc.
- Questions



# INTRODUCTIONS- BBSA

- BBSA Board
  - President - Josh Humphrey
  - Vice President/8U Coordinator - Tim Kuklok
  - Secretary/Communications - Tammy Dickinson
  - Treasurer - Craig Gross
  - Volunteer Coordinator - Jennifer Achman
  - Tournament Coordinator - Curt Kelly
  - Concession Managers - Chantel Wiedewitsch and Christine Thompson
  - Equipment Manager - Ben Johnson
  - Advisor to the Board - Jason Baune



# COMMUNICATIONS

- BBSA softball sends emails that will target the association as a whole or specific groups of players (i.e. pitchers, catchers, specific age levels, etc) primarily using our Gmail email address.
- Periodically we will send communications through Becker Schools Community Education and Sports Engine.
- Coaches and/or Team managers will email teams directly with info on practices, games & tournaments using their own personal email accounts.



# Uniforms

- 8U-12U Uniforms -
  - Uniforms are the Becker Blast
- 14U Uniforms
  - 14U uniforms are the Northern Blast

New players to the BBSA will be assigned a number from the board. This will be their number while playing in BBSA Softball.

Numbers are assigned so that there is not a chance for duplicate number in the age groups. This will also allow for previous years uniform to be reused as backups multiple years, provided they fit and are in good condition.



# OVERVIEW BY LEVEL

- 8U:
  - Play league games with teams from surrounding communities (Big Lake, Monticello, Zimmerman, Princeton, Elk River and others).
  - Games will be on Wednesdays starting in mid May and go thru mid/late June.
  - Teams will play in the Rookie Roundup Event in June

*Practices are determined by coaches once teams are formed*



# OVERVIEW BY LEVEL

- 10U and 12U:
  - Registration numbers determine how many teams will be formed at each age group.
  - We will play in the Big West League and play level will be determined after evaluations.
  - Practices will start in April field conditions permitting and weather permitting. Games will start late April early May
- 14U
  - Registration numbers determine how many teams will be formed.
  - We will play in the Big West League and play level will be determined after evaluations.
  - Games start mid May as school ball is still being played.

*Practices are determined by coaches once teams are formed*



# League Information

- Our 10U-14U teams play in the Big West League of MN Softball
- See the Minnesota Softball and Big West Links for more info.
  - <http://fastpitch.mnsoftball.com/bigwest>





# PLAY UP POLICY

- The Softball board reserves the right to move any player up to the next level to cover any specialized needs in accordance with program objectives.
- Requests from a player to play-up to the next level will be marked on registration form. If missed on registration, an email must be sent to [beckerblast@gmail.com](mailto:beckerblast@gmail.com) prior to the close of registration.
- Player must attend the evaluation with her current age level. In addition, the player must also attend the evaluation with the next age level.
- 12U and 14U players must place in the top 33% of the next age level in order to qualify to play up.
- It is our goal to have players playing in their age group.
- An 8U player is eligible to move up a level if they try out at the 10U level and score in the top 50% at that level. A player that is completing the 3rd grade has the option of playing at the 10U level.



# EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Girls **MUST** provide their own helmets
  - Helmets must have a facemask
  - Chin straps are optional
- Gloves are needed
- Optional equipment: (not required)
  - Bat
  - Fielding face mask (**Highly Recommended**)
  - Cleats (14U and up metal cleats are allowed)



# EVALUATIONS 10U thru 14U

- **Evaluations for the 2025 season will be held this fall, date TBD** at the Becker School Fields.
- Outside evaluators will be brought in. No Becker Blast coaches will be involved with scoring any of the girls.
- Hitting, fielding (grounders and pop ups), throwing, and pitching (if applicable) will be evaluated.
  - Bring bat, helmet, glove and water. Extra bats will be available for use if needed.
- 8U - no evaluations are needed unless they are trying up to 10U.
- Exact times for evaluations will be communicated prior to that date. Please arrive early to get your evaluation number and be ready to go when it is your time. If you are trying to play up, you will need to check in and go through evaluations for each level of play.
- Evaluations are closed to parents.
- It is our goal to not have to do any make-up evaluations. Please contact the BBSA at the [beckerblast@gmail.com](mailto:beckerblast@gmail.com) email to discuss.



# Becker Blast Softball Field Location

Our home field is at the Becker High School softball complex located next the Middle School.



# TOURNAMENT EXPECTATIONS

- 8U:
  - One to two weekend tournament (It is up to coaches if there are more.)
  - One Rookie Roundup tournament June 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - 8U Rookie Roundup tourney will be hosted at Becker and all our 8U teams are required to be there.
- 10U/12U/14U:
  - Typically two to three weekend tournaments (It is up to coaches and teams).
  - All teams will be entered into Becker Blast Freedom Days Tournament the weekend of June 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>
  - 1-2 additional tournament for each team TBD
  - 10U/12U - State Qualifier; June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>/Locations TBD
  - 8U/10U/12U - State Tournament (if spot earned); June 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Locations TBD
  - 14U - State Qualifier; July 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>/Locations TBD
  - 14U - State Tournament (if spot earned); July 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Locations TBD
  - National tournaments (if earned) typically have some additional player costs for pins, costumes, gift bags, hotels, and transportation.



# BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS

- Cheer for everybody on the team, not just your child.
- Model appropriate behavior.
- Be respectful to the Umpiring crew assigned.
- Know what is suitable to discuss with a coach.
- Know your role.
- Be a good listener and a great encourager to your child.



# CONFLICT ESCALATION POLICY

- Wait 24 Hours after the game to discuss any issues.
  - In person or phone call is preferred over email/texting.
- Allow time for any changes discussed to happen.
- If needed, after discussing the issue with the coach and giving time for change, call or meet with BBSA President (contact information on website).
- If unresolved, next step would be to address the full BBSA board at next BBSA meeting if applicable or a separate meeting can be arranged.



# Fundraising

- Never Give Up Fundraising is the Blast partner
- Dates for this year's fundraiser
  - Kickoff Sunday March 17th - Becker fieldhouse
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Check-In Wednesday March 27th - Email to the Becker Blast
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Check-In Sunday April 7th - Email to the Becker Blast
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Check-In Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup> - Email to the Becker Blast
  - Final day turn in Sunday April 21st - Becker fieldhouse lobby
  - What does fundraising do for us?
    - Field improvements.
    - Off-set uniform costs and allows us to keep registration fees low.
    - Helps to pay for various training clinics.
    - Helps replace aging equipment and/or buy new equipment.
  - Fundraising at this time is optional, but we highly encourage every player to participate





# UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monday April 8th - Big West Coaches Meeting
- Friday April 12th - Strike Out Cancer Games
- Saturday April 13th - Field Clean Up Day
- Sunday, April 21st - Fundraiser card and money turn-in
- Equipment checkout by coaches - April 13th
- April - practices can begin (dependent on field conditions)



# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

- The success of our program depends on our volunteers. Helping with concessions, tournaments and various other needs allows us to keep our fees as low as possible.
- When we do not have enough volunteers available, especially for the tournaments we host, we hire outside workers. We would rather have your time than your money - please volunteer!
- DIBS sign-up will be open on the Becker Blast website - [www.beckerblast.com](http://www.beckerblast.com)
- Volunteer opportunities include:
  - April 13th - Field Clean Up Day
  - TBD- Becker High School Varsity Tournament: (grilling and concessions)
  - June 8th - Becker 8U Rookie Round-Up (field prep, check-in/information desk, grilling and concessions)
  - June 14<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> - Becker Blast Freedom Days Tournament: (field prep, check-in/information desk, Skills competition grilling and concessions)
  - During home league game nights: concessions



# MISC

- Social media- positive parent and athlete postings
- Youth (13-18yrs old) umpires for games NEEDED. This is a paid position. Instructions will be provided. Contact the Becker Blast ([beckerblast@gmail.com](mailto:beckerblast@gmail.com)) and we will get you in touch with area organizer.
- Please email us your photos to post on website, Facebook and submission to The Patriot Newspaper
- Fall softball -
  - 8u and up age groups
  - Starts around the 2nd week in August and runs through end of September (excluding Labor day weekend).
  - Games are on Saturdays or Sundays based on age group.
  - Practice schedule is determined by coach.



# Becker Blast Softball Apparel



- Becker Blast will have links available on our website for apparel purchase.



# REMINDERS FROM YOUR CHILD

I am a **KID**.



It is just a **GAME**.

My coach is a **VOLUNTEER**.

The officials are **HUMAN**.

**NO** college scholarships  
will be handed out today.

## THANK YOU AND ENJOY THE GAME!

## QUESTIONS?

Contact The Becker Blast Board  
[beckerblast@gmail.com](mailto:beckerblast@gmail.com)