

# **Sauk Rapids-Rice Youth Baseball Association (SRYBA) 2019**



## **Contract Packet**

**“Developing Athletes into Leaders with Character  
and a Passion for Excellence”**

The Sauk Rapids-Rice Youth Baseball Association is a non-profit organization aimed to give kids 15 and under an opportunity to enjoy baseball on a more organized and elevated level. Our association will field teams at different age groups and is affiliated with the Gopher State Baseball League through Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS). Our hope is that all players have the opportunity to play ball with members of their school and community.

### **Coaching Philosophy and Commitment**

The position of coach is very important to the overall success of the Sauk Rapids-Rice Youth Baseball Team's goals and objectives, which are laid out in this packet. Our coaching staff is made up of individuals who have passion for the game and who want to share their knowledge and love of the game with others. These coaches are volunteering their time and effort to develop players who are respectful towards others, and who will represent Sauk Rapids-Rice in a positive manner both on and off the field. We (SRYBA) believe that the best way to have such an impact is for us to rise to a higher level of performance and behavior than the opponent. We play to improve our skills and to win, but understand that mistakes are learning opportunities.

In addition, we believe that our coaches are responsible for all on-field actions. The use of profanity is not allowed and the questioning of calls or interactions with other coaches/players will be done in a respectful manner. Questioning an umpire call is acceptable, but we want to maintain a high level of sportsmanship.

In an effort to help our coaches grow we ask that they make an effort to attend any necessary coaches meetings, team functions, practices and games. Our coaches have been asked to make a huge commitment of their time on a volunteer basis.

### **Commitment to Youth Team Philosophy**

I understand that as a SRYBA Team, we will be involved in competition and practice or training throughout the baseball season. I understand and agree with the goals of SRYBA, which are:

- To provide quality baseball instruction in the following areas:
  - Proper throwing and catching fundamentals
  - Proper infield and outfield fundamentals, including reaction, accuracy, and arm strength
  - Proper hitting fundamentals striving for increased bat speed, control, and power
  - Proper base-running technique, skill, and strategies
  - Proper fundamentals of the catcher's position
  - Proper fundamentals of the various defensive positions
  - Proper pitching fundamentals, focusing on mechanics, speed, control, and fielding the position
  - Proper techniques for other parts of the game such as cut-offs and relays, bunt defenses, backing up throws, base-running, etc.
- To work out, train, practice and compete with the proper attitude, dedication, drive and motivation
- To provide a positive team experience with emphasis on encouragement and teamwork
- To prepare for high school level play

### **In order for our team to meet our goals as stated above, I commit myself to:**

- Maintaining a teachable and flexible attitude...to be a listener and a learner
- Willingly submit to the leadership of the coaching staff who are committed to the development of this team, by following the practices and goals stated in this packet
- Paying the entire amount of my share of the team expenses (fees) before the first workout or practice
- Making my life available for growth through whatever opportunities this team may bring. I am committed to growing in my baseball abilities, personal character, and skills for living

### **The Player Development Objective of SRYBA Baseball**

"Comparable playing time" needs to be an emphasis of SRYBA baseball because we need to develop and expose all of our players to various situations throughout the season. It is impossible to have "equal" playing time but "comparable" playing time is possible and a fair objective. Baseball is unique—if the entire team receives opportunities to grow, develop, and improve individually, the entire team will grow and improve together. There is also an emphasis on "being competitive" which means playing to win, and playing to win means to give it your best effort at all times. If parents, coaches, and players take on this definition of "being competitive" then success will be redefined. In fact, whether we win or lose is not the only way to measure success, but it is a way to encourage players to work hard as a team and to build morale.

While we are still trying to win games, we are doing it as a team by "being competitive". The responsibility of trying to win, "being competitive" and developing a competitive mentality falls on the players. Coaches are there to administrate, direct, and execute the game strategy and to hold players accountable. Coaches are also responsible to provide honest, objective input to help the player reach his or her goals, as well as to help them define their goals.

### **Playing Time Considerations**

With the exception of injuries and excused absences, playing time will be dependent upon reasonable satisfaction of a player's "being competitive" and the effort put forth in practices. If a player fails to meet this expectation, his or her playing time will be affected until he or she shows an improvement in attitude and effort. This change or improvement could be the next day, the next game, or whenever the coaching

staff appreciates improvement. Playing time is not solely dependent on raw athletic ability. It is determined by skills, effort and attitude.

#### **Additional Team Philosophy Factors that Affect Line-Up Decisions:**

1. Demonstration of in-and off-season development
2. Effort at practice (practice is **NOT** an optional activity)
3. Pre-game effort
4. Playing the right people, at the right positions, at the right time (talent and experience)
5. Using key opportunities to develop players (experience at a given position to give depth and develop skills for future situations)
6. NOT arbitrarily inserting players simply to equalize playing time, but rather “comparable” playing time (quality playing time against quality opponents)

It is the Head Coach’s responsibility to provide all coaches, players and parents this contract packet. All coaches, players and one parent per player will sign the contract, indicating their agreement to abide by all rules and policies outlined in this contract. The Head Coach will provide the completed signature page to the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the SRYBA Executive Board before their first scheduled game.

### **Youth Team Player Code of Conduct**

The following Code of Conduct has been established to help each team member develop into a respectful player with good sportsmanship.

#### **Character and Proper Conduct**

- Actions speak louder than words!
- Hustle at all times during games and practices
- Work hard, put forth 100% effort all of the time
- Stay focused, pay attention during games and practices
- Have fun, keep a sense of humor, but know when to be serious
- Take pride in how you approach the game and how you wear the uniform, play sharp, look sharp, be organized, and be on time
- Be confident but not cocky
- Be respectful of coaches, umpires, opposing team members, parents, etc.
- Never give up
- Demonstrate self-control: if you disagree, make an error, or strike out, remain calm and stay in control of your behavior
- Don’t complain about anything such as:
  - Umpire calls
  - Coaches’ decisions
  - Field conditions
  - Weather conditions
- Be positive, not negative or judgmental
- Encourage teammates
- Demonstrate class at the end of a game in both victory and defeat: shake hands with opponents and take pride in your game
- Seek to improve as a player
- Safety needs to be a top priority

#### **Inappropriate Conduct**

**The following behaviors will not be tolerated. Disciplinary action will be taken.**

- Attitude problems
- Back-talking coaches or parents
- Throwing equipment in a display of anger or frustration

- Trash talking opponents
- Critical judgment of teammates
- Leaving the dugout or bench area during a game: players MUST remain in the dugout or bench area during games unless there is an emergency or you receive permission from a coach
- Horseplay or messing around
- Profanity or crude language
- Illegal substance use

**Consequences for above actions and attitudes include:**

- Sent home early from practice
- Removal from a game
- Suspended from an upcoming game(s)
- Some form of physical exercise (i.e. running, push-ups)

These policies are in place for your protection and character development. In light of these principles, final decisions regarding any of the above issues reside with the team's coach(es). Their decision is final.

## **Youth Team Parent Code of Conduct**

The following policies regarding conduct of SRYBA team parents are being established in support of the Player Code of Conduct. We (SRYBA) need parental support and participation in order to successfully achieve our goals. Some of the players will soon be in a position to try out for high school athletics. They need to understand that playing time, positions played, athletic ability, effort and attitude are key ingredients for coaching staff to determine rosters, etc.

### **Parent Code of Conduct & Support**

- Be supportive of and reinforce all elements of the Player Code of Conduct.
- Don't complain about things such as:
  - Umpire Calls
  - Coaches' decisions
  - Playing time
- If you have a problem with anyone on the coaching staff, go to that person before or after a game. No parents are allowed in the dugout, unless invited by a coach for emergency purposes only.
- Please let the coaches instruct, position players, and handle the coaching of the game
- No parents are allowed in the dugout, unless invited by a coach for emergency purposes only, if you wish to help your child's team on a volunteer basis, all parents who are on field must have a background check filed with SRYBA. Parents should contact the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to obtain a release form.

### **Inappropriate Conduct**

**The following behaviors will not be tolerated:**

- Allowing a player to leave the dugout or bench to sit with you (except in an emergency). Make sure you provide him/her enough refreshments for the game prior to the game starting.
- Questioning playing time. High school coaches are not receptive to parent interference in the running of their teams so this will be good practice for what is ahead.
- Critical judgment of or negative talk of coaches, players or umpires
- Substance use on school/city grounds

### **Consequences for the above actions**

More than likely you will be first asked to stop your behavior. This may come from a coach or someone else involved in the SRYBA league. You may be asked to leave the field if you have disrespected an official or coach. If this behavior continues, your son/daughter may be pulled out of a game or temporarily

suspended. If you are dismissed for inappropriate conduct you will be responsible for any outstanding fees and no refunds will be given.

**Sauk Rapids Youth Baseball Association (SRYBA)**  
**Coach/Parent/Player Agreement**

Age Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Level (circle): Community Gopher State Team Color/Name: \_\_\_\_\_

As a **coach** in SRYBA, I have read and understand the SRYBA Contract.

- I agree to abide by, follow, support and promote the rules and guidelines of the Coach's Contract.

Head Coach's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Assistant Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Assistant Coach: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

As a **participant** in SRYBA I have read the SRYBA Contract.

- I agree to abide by, follow, support and promote the rules and guidelines of the Player Contact.

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

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

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As **parent / guardian** of \_\_\_\_\_ (player's name),

- I / we have read the SRYBA Contract and agree to support and promote the philosophy of the association.
- I / we agree to abide by and follow the rules and guidelines of SRYBA.
- I / we also grant permission to allow my child's name, address, phone number, age and other personal information to be used as necessary by SRYBA.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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