

Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association

WAYBA



Parent-Player
Handbook 2024

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Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association (WAYBA)

General Information

Name: Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association (WAYBA)
Corporate Status: Non-Profit Corporation 501(c)3 status
Established: 1989
Address: 1503 Minnesota Drive
Funding Source: Fundraising, Fees
Facebook: Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association (WAYBA)

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WAYBA Mission Statement:

The mission of the Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association (WAYBA) is to provide a competitive baseball experience for Worthington area youth and the greater community. We strive to provide baseball players ages 8-18 an experience that promotes sportsmanship, instruction, teamwork, discipline, integrity, respect for, and enjoyment of the game of baseball.

WAYBA Program Goals:

The WAYBA Organization Will

- Create an environment to learn and play baseball while having fun
- Provide scholarship opportunities for players in need
- Organize a club-wide winter training program of 1 day per week from February through March
- Provide coaches that subscribe to the mission of the club
- Provide administrative infrastructure sufficient to allow coaches to coach

The WAYBA Teams Will

- Play a regular season in a competitive league
- Participate in 3-5 competitive tournaments
- Participate in a structured indoor winter training program

The WAYBA Coaches Will

- Exhibit good sportsmanship on and off the field
- Create a positive culture of team success
- Have previous competitive baseball experience
- Balance player development goals with competitive goals
- Strive for all players to play a significant amount of the proportionate playing time available
- Communicate schedules and more to parents
- Be supportive of all players on the team.

The WAYBA Players Will

- Recognize that baseball comes after family, schoolwork, and being a good community citizen
- Exhibit good sportsmanship on and off the field
- Respect all players not only on the team but also opposing teams
- Communicate issues with the coaches at appropriate times
- Participate in winter training when they are not participating in other sports

The WAYBA Parents Will

- Support coaches with playing time decisions
- Positively support all players on the team
- Offer to support the club in various volunteer opportunities
- Communicate positively with coaches while affording players the opportunity to be the primary source of communication.

Team Rules:

Certain conduct is expected of ALL WAYBA players on and off the field. Failure to follow the rules can result in suspension or removal from the team. The Coaching staff and Board of Directors will determine the penalty. The purpose of this set of rules is to establish a standard for the players, parents, and coaches.

Player Expectations:

- Keep your grades and all school work at a minimum of average (C) standard;
- Show good behavioral qualities at all times – both on and off the field;
- Behave to your parents' standards;
- Respect your teammates;
- Respect your opponents;
- Respect your coaches;
- Respect the Umpire;
- Demand the best from one-self;
- Improve one's baseball skills based on Coaches direction;
- Practice one's skills outside of regular practice;
- Help teammates to improve;
- Attend all practices and games;

- Notify the Coach if you are unable to attend a practice or game;
- Notify the Coach of any illness or injury;
- Be on one's best behavior in the community or any other activity not associated with baseball.

Player Requirements:

- No Alcohol
- No Drugs
- No Profanity
- No Violence – to teammates, opponents, at school, etc.
- Always keep temper under control
- Unsportsmanlike behavior in league play, tournaments, and/or practices will not be tolerated

Failure to follow these requirements may result in an immediate suspension.

Parents Code of Conduct Pledge

- I shall set an example of sportsmanship for my child to follow
- I shall emphasize Team-play to my child
- I shall not criticize the Umpire
- I shall not be a spectator-coach
- I shall remember that not everyone can play at one time
- I shall remember that equal playing time is not promised
- I shall not be critical unless willing to work to correct the problem
- I shall remember that the Board of Directors and Coaches are volunteers
- I shall volunteer whenever possible

What is Expected of Parents:

- Attend your child's games
- Be a supportive parent for the Association, Coaches and Team
- Communicate with the Coach only in appropriate ways
- Cheer for all players on the team
- Be a positive Role-Model

- Be there for your child, whether successful or struggling for success
- Respect and support team volunteers and Umpires
- Understand that the game is difficult to learn and play
- Look for opportunities to work with your child on the basic skills of the game
- Be positive and supportive whether your teams win or lose
- Be a model of good sportsmanship
- Never use negative comments to either team or players

What WAYBA and the Coaches Expect from Parents

- To come and enjoy the games
- Cheer to make all players feel important
- To allow the Coaches to coach and run the team
- To contact the Coach know of any sickness or injury immediately. No exceptions.
- To not question the leadership and training particularly during games. All those involved in the game will make mistakes, including the Coaches
- Do not yell at the Coaches, the players, or the Umpires. We are all responsible for setting examples for our children. If we eliminate negative comments, the players will have an opportunity to play without any unnecessary pressures and will learn the value of good sportsmanship
- If there is a question regarding the strategies or leadership, please do not do so during game-play or in the presence of the players or fans. Phone numbers of Board of Directors has been provided in this handbook.
- Help is always needed. Please consider providing your services.

What You Should Expect From Your Coaches:

- To be on time for all practices and games
- To be as fair as possible in play time although equal play time is not guaranteed as this is a competitive baseball association
- To do their best to teach the fundamentals of the game
- To be positive and respect each player as an individual
- To set responsible expectations for each player and the season
- To teach players the value of winning and losing
- To never yell in a derogatory fashion at any player of the team
- Show sportsmanship towards all Coaches, players, and Umpires at all times

WAYBA is an organization of volunteers. There are NO paid positions, except for Umpires, and even then it's just a token of appreciate in comparison to their time and expertise. Each person gives of their time and effort to make a positive experience for all the players of the team.

The WAYBA Board of Directors and Coaches spend a great amount of time year-round to administer and organize the teams and overall Association. Coaches also spend a large amount of time in both the pre-season and season for practices and games. They are giving of their experience and time. Please respect this sacrifice.

Parent-Coach Communication:

Parenting and coaching are each difficult vocations. Understand each other's roles and following the proper channels of communication will enable parents and Coaches to effectively work together to provide a meaningful experience for the players while they are participating in WAYBA baseball.

Coaches should communicate the following to the parents:

- Their philosophy of coaching, both generally and specific to the sport
- Location and times of practices and games
- Expectations of the players of the team
- Team rules and repercussions for violations – see Team Rules
- Injury and emergency medical procedures

Parents should notify the Coaches of any health issues concerning your player. Please let Coaches know well in advance of any schedule conflicts.

At the core of any good relationship is trust. It is important to understand there may be times when things do not go the way athletes, parents and Coaches wish. There may be times when it is difficult for parents to understand how playing time is allotted, why people are playing certain positions, strategy, etc. It is imperative that parents and players trust that the Coaches are the individuals with the players on a daily basis in practice and competition and therefore will make judgments decisions based on what they feel is in the best interest of the team. Playing time, players' positions and strategy, must be left to the discretion of the Coach. If you have a concern to discuss with the Coach, there is a process. The proper order of communication is to meet or call the Coach directly.

It is important not to confront a Coach before or after a game or practice. These can be emotional times and not best for resolving conflicts. A 24-hour waiting period is a must to address any concerns.

Should the concern not be resolved using this process a parent may contact a Board of Director for further discussion.

Sportsmanship:

Although WAYBA believes in competition, we will compete fairly and respectfully with our opponents. Coaches, players, and spectators must recognize their conduct plays an important role in establishing the reputation of the team and WAYBA. Our positive actions can contribute directly to the success of not only the team but the Association as whole.

Sportsmanship includes being appreciative of all good plays by both our team and the opponent. Players must display good sportsmanship and follow the rules of competition in every contest in which they participate. If not, players may be suspended from participation for a period of time.

Any destruction of WAYBA property due to emotional outbursts will be required to be replaced at player's expense.

Assumed Risks:

Providing a safe environment for practice and competition is a priority of everyone involved in the WAYBA program. Every step is taken to ensure the safety and well-being of all players. However, players and parents must be aware that certain risks of injury are inherent in athletic participation. Accidents ranging from mild to severe may occur. It is mandatory that a consent form be signed by the parents or guardians of all athletes BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN WAYBA. By signing the medical form, parents and guardians acknowledge the risks associated with playing competitive baseball and give consent to medical treatment.

Player Safety:

WAYBA is very concerned with player safety and has initiated many safety precautions to protect your child. Players are required to wear batting/running helmets, all players are required to wear athletic supporters. Catchers are required to wear full protective gear (chest protector, shin pads, mask, cup and helmet).

Volunteer Hours:

All families of WAYBA are required to volunteer 10 hours of time for concessions. A \$100 deposit in the form of a check is required for all families. This check will not be cashed if your family puts in the required 10 hours.

Emergency Procedures:

For health-related emergencies, parents will be notified as soon as possible. The Coach should inform the parents as to the type of injury, the extent of the injury, what has been done to treat the injury and whether further medical attention is recommended. It is important always to err on the side of caution.

If a player has been taken to the doctor or hospital, parents will be informed of the exact location and phone number. The purpose of the Medical Form is so that emergency treatment can begin, if necessary, until the parents arrive.

Transportation:

Transportation to games, practices, scrimmages and tournaments are the responsibility of the parents of each player.

Fees: What do they cover and when are they due?

- Participation in weekly practices.
- Participation in league and tournament play.
- Purchase of awards for home tournament.
- Purchase of bats, catcher's gear, and batting helmets to be used by any WAYBA player.
- Does NOT include uniform (pants, jersey, hat, glove, cleats).
- Does NOT include cost of travel or meals during travel.

Fundraising:

Fundraising occurs through selling Local Business Discount Cards. Additional fundraising by the Board of Directors includes obtaining business sponsorships and writing grants. Money gained through fundraising, sponsorships, and grants provide for those expenses above and beyond tournament fees

and basic equipment. These monies provide for field maintenance such as fence, batter box, and pitching mound repairs; Lyme and chalk for fields; mowing, etc. In addition, business expenses such as photocopying, printing, postage, etc. are included in expenses.

Assistance from ALL parents is expected for running concessions during home games and tournaments for ALL WAYBA teams including VFW and Legion.

Participation Requirements and Forms:

No player may participate in any portion of WAYBA unless all required forms have been turned in.

These forms include the following:

- Participant Information Form
- Parent/Player Handbook Form
- Medical Form

Player Attendance:

Baseball is a TEAM Sport. Notify the Coaches of any absences as soon as you become aware of them. Last minute changes can be very difficult to accomplish. To be late for or miss a practice hurts the entire team (and will cut into your child's playing time). Missing or being late for games/practices without giving your Coach sufficient notice is UNACCEPTABLE. At the beginning of the season WAYBA will provide you with information/calendar about upcoming tournaments and functions. WAYBA will try to let you know about upcoming events as soon as possible to help accommodate your schedule.

Player Eligibility:

Academics, Parental Consent and Sportsmanship will determine a player's eligibility.

Parental Consent:

Players must get signed permission to participate from their parents or guardians on a form provided by WAYBA.

Playing Time:

While every effort will be made to provide playing time for all team members, WAYBA will not jeopardize the collective efforts of the team in order to provide playing time to an individual. Since WAYBA is a competitive baseball organization, EQUAL PLAYING TIME IS NOT GUARENTEED. Playing time can be reduced or taken away due to disciplinary issues, lack of practice, participation or injury. The Coach will communicate clearly to the player and the player's parents prior to the next scheduled game, what discipline issues occurred that resulted in a loss of playing time.

Pre-Season Parent Meeting:

WAYBA will conduct a pre-season meeting to include parents (players are welcome but not mandatory) and coaches. Program philosophy as well as expectations will be shared. Parent-Player handbooks will be distributed and discussed at this meeting. Attendance is required at this meeting. If unable to attend this meeting please notify one of the Board of Directors.

Calendars:

Calendars will be provided to each family with a TENTATIVE schedule for the spring and summer. This will include fundraiser activities, practices, league and tournament-play.

Spectator Behaviors at Games:

Shouting at an opposing batter or taunting any member of any team or making negative comments has no place in youth baseball. You will be asked to leave the game and/or areas. Verbal or physical aggression expressed toward your player, opposing players, volunteers or other spectators will not be tolerated. WAYBA will NOT tolerate any spectator back-talk to Umpires. You will be asked to leave the area immediately if you are verbally or physically aggressive with Umpires.

Required Forms:

The following forms are required by WAYBA and must be submitted to the Coach of your team PRIOR to being allowed to practice or play.

Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association (WAYBA)		
Player Participation Form		
PLAYER INFORMATION		
Player Name:		Age:
DOB:	Weight:	Height:
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:
Email Address:		
PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN INFORMATION (If different from above)		
Name:		
Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:
Primary Email:		
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION		
Emergency Contact Person:		Relationship:
Address:		Phone:

Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association (WAYBA)	
Parent-Player Handbook and Team Rules Agreement Form	
Signature of this form indicates you have received the Parent-Player Handbook and agree to adhere to all the Team Rules outlined therein, and on this form.	
PLAYER EXPECTATIONS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep grades within a minimum of average (C) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show good behavioral qualities at all times
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behave to your parent's standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect your teammates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect your opponents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect your Coaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the Umpire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand the best from yourself
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve baseball skills based on Coaches directions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice skills each week outside of practice or game
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your teammates improve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend all practices and games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the Coach if you are unable to attend a practice or game
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify the Coach of any illness or injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be on your best behavior in the community and any time not associated with baseball
PLAYER REQUIREMENTS:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No drugs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No profanity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No violence (to teammates, opponents, at school, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always keep temper under control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect WAYBA property
Failure to follow these requirements may result in immediate suspension.	
Required Signatures	
I have read and understand my expectations and requirements as a: <small>(signature constitutes acceptance of the rules and penalties)</small>	
Player Signature:	Date:
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:
Parent/Guardian Signature:	Date:

**Worthington Area Youth Baseball Association
(WAYBA)**

Player Medical Information

Player Name:		Age:
DOB:	Height:	Weight:
Family Doctor/Clinic:		Phone:
Health Insurance Provider:		
Policy Number:		Group Number:
Health Issues:		
Allergies:		
Prescriptions:		
Other Concerns:		

Please note the information contained on this form will remain confidential with the WAYBA Board of Directors and the player's individual Coach(es).

I give WAYBA authorization to provide minor first aid to my child. I give WAYBA permission to seek medication attention for my child in my absence

(Parent Name - please print)

Parent(s)/Guardian Signature

Date