



**Buckhead
Baseball**

ALL STAR PROGRAM MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the All-Star program at Buckhead Baseball is to field teams of players that serve as the best representatives of our league through the teams' competitiveness, sportsmanship, and teamwork.



2018 - 2019 Executive Board

- **Ryan Levenson – President**
- **Walt Deriso – Past President/Advisory**
- **Tommy Tidwell – Vice President/Incoming President**
- **Fraser Gough – All-Star Commissioner**
- **Jon Balch – LDC**

2018 - 2019 League Development Committee (LDC)

- **Jon Balch – Head of LDC**
- **Bobby Mitchell**
- **Jason Schultz**
- **Matthew Woods**

2018 - 2019 All-Star Committee

- **Fraser Gough – Head of All-Star Committee**
- **Michael Rollauer**
- **Frank Lankford**

Program Administrator/Registrar – Jennifer Rogers



- **22 teams total, ~250 players**
- **Targeting four teams per age group from 8U to 12U (Braves, Bucks, Bombers and Bulldogs) 7U has 2 teams (Braves and Bucks)**
 - Historically, most age groups have had three teams, we have added a fourth when there was interest.
- Roster Size – 11-12 depending on team
- Rosters listed on website



Team Selection Process

- Nominations by managers only in advance of selection date
 - A player can be nominated by the manager of another team as well
 - The managers job is to nominate the most deserving players on their team.
 - Nominations are Cross Checked with the Parent Survey
- Coaches are encouraged to watch play throughout the season and in particular towards the end of the season.
 - Game reviews and player highlights are shared between coaches throughout the spring. Managers begin to highlight “watch list” kids via daily game updates to Commissioner and Coaches
- Selection is done by successive rounds of closed ballot voting by all team managers of a given age group.
 - Once a team reaches its roster limit of players, those players not yet selected are eligible for the next team and the closed ballot voting starts again.
- It is a democratic process where no single person is hand picking a team and no player is on a roster unless they meet the minimum number of required votes.
 - Important to note that selection is overseen by League Commissioner, All Star Committee and League Board members

League:	Draft Date:	Nomination Deadline:
Rookie	Thursday, May 2 - 7:45pm	Tuesday, April 30
A	Wednesday, May 1 - 7:45pm	Monday, April 29
AA	Sunday, April 28 - 8:00pm (after Majors)	Friday, April 26
AAA	Friday, April 26 - 6:00pm	Wednesday, April 24
Majors	Sunday, April 28 - 5:00pm	Friday, April 26



Playing Time

- **The summer season does not have rules similar to those of the spring season**
 - There are no minimum play requirements nor rules regarding infield vs outfield play
- **Depending on the composition of skill on any given team, playing time in the field or in the batting line up can vary between players**
 - There are players that are accustomed to playing infield that will play outfield, that were the primary pitcher or catcher on their spring team that will not be in either rotation
- **It is important for you as a parent to know where your player will thrive and place him/her in the situation that is best for him/her**
 - Every year we have parents that opt for their child to play on the Bucks instead of the Braves or Bombers instead of the Bucks
- We know making one team over another can be a delicate situation. We need the parents to set expectations accordingly. Making any All-Star team is an accomplishment.
- **Note also that there will be a “All-Star Participation Survey” email that will have (1) an expression of interest in playing during the summer, (2) indication and commitment of availability and duration of availability and (3) an acknowledgement that if your son is going to be selected as the 9, 10 or 11 player of a given team, would they rather play up or down.**
 - *We want to emphasize #3 is an important and understandable consideration for families, however please also appreciate that as the players progress in any sport, the equity of play varies and is also an important aspect for children to maximize their role on any given team, regardless of playing time. Our kids are playing sports to learn life lessons of teamwork and competition and summer baseball provides an opportunity for this and an opportunity for all kids to elevate their skill level, regardless of how much they are playing SS.*
 - **The survey was due yesterday, but remains open for any parent that has not filled it out yet. It will remain open until tomorrow at noon.**



Tournament Path

- The league works very hard each year to help direct the tournament path that might be best suited for each team to maximize competitive play, but please understand that the same tournament can vary from year to year depending on the number and quality of the teams that choose to enter.
- **Expect to play tournament's each weekend from Memorial Day to approximately July 4th weekend.**
 - Dizzy Dean State Tournaments for all age groups begin around 6/21 or 6/28 and will last roughly a week if you go the distance. Do not be surprised if it gets extended a day or two in the event of inclement weather
 - A non Dizzy Dean path will culminate the weekend before July 4th with an out-of-town trip
- The All Star Committee works actively with parents and coaches leading up to the season to craft the path



- Coaches selected by All-Star committee with input from League Commissioners and previous year feedback (if available)
- 7U, 8U and 9U all teams are coached by parents
- 10U, 11U and 12U – **the league attempts to secure non-dad** coaches for each Braves and Bucks team with the Bombers and Bulldogs in each group coached by parents. **Below is the current status of the non-dad coaches for this group.**

	Braves	Bucks
12U	Bret White	OPEN
11U	Gip Johnston	Derek Little
10U	Kade Cullefer	OPEN



Practice Time & Scheduling

- **If your child is selected for an All Star team expect that he/she will be practicing every day except for days that the team is playing in a tournament.**
 - Every year we hear complaints that there was a surprise that parents needed to immediately get a player to practice and that you do not know what the following week's practice schedule is. Expect it every day and sometimes on short notice.
 - With up to 4 teams in some age groups and tournament schedules for pool play not released until days before, schedules will frequently change.
- *Knowing that it is coming does not change the force of the impact but provides you the ability to brace for it*
- **The practice schedule may take a bit of time to publish as each team and coach have their own individual requests that are difficult to juggle**
 - Do not be irritated with the league that the practice schedule is not out
- *Again, expect that your player has a baseball commitment every day from Memorial Day to fourth of July*



Duration of Commitment

- **When your child is selected for a summer team it is a wonderful recognition for them**
 - The expectation is that baseball is the primary time commitment above all else. It is understandable for families that may not want to make this commitment, but it is **EXTREMELY** important for your interest and commitment as a family to be communicated in advance of the selection process.
- **Players are expected to be present for every practice and every game of every tournament**
 - This is a big commitment and families do it every year, in full.
- *A player that is unable to make practices and games due to other commitments or travel is not only impacting the team on which he or she was selected, but has also taken a spot from a child more willing to commit to that team.*
- **At the other end of the spectrum, this is not a year round travel program**
 - The season ends around Fourth of July
 - For the younger teams, this typically coincides with the Dizzy Dean State Tournament
 - For the older teams, the season often culminates in an out-of-town trip.
- *The league does not support extensions of the summer teams beyond the July 4th weekend (w/ the exception of teams that chose to play the Dizzy Dean National tournament if they finish as a state Champion or Runner-Up)*
 - At the end of every summer season we get phone calls about extending the season
 - The season must come to a conclusion for the health of the players as well as for other reasons such as not creating the obligation for some to play because they feel like they have to.



- **Summer Play 5-6 week of intense play.**
 - **6 + days a week**
 - **4 days of 2 hour practice**
 - **3 days of games per week with potential all day schedules.**
 - **20+ hours a week of field time.**
- **Arm Health**
 - **We are implementing an 85 pitch limit in any one day for Buckhead teams**
 - **Watch Additional Reps – Wall Ball, Bull Pens, Camps, etc.**
 - **Be parents. If your kid is hurting say something.**
- **Hydration**
 - **Tournaments can last 3 or more games a day**
 - **95 degrees**
 - **Please stay hydrated and make sure to take care of your players**
 - **Sitting at the country club pool all day sucking down cokes and swimming followed by a 2 hour practice is dangerous. Be smart.**



- **Cost is the largest hot button issue because youth sports are expensive**
 - In fact, it is typically a surprise just how expensive they are.
 - For those of us whose children play baseball, we are fortunate as Georgia has some of the best baseball in the country within an hour drive of Atlanta.
 - Kids that play high level lacrosse, soccer, golf and others sports must get on a plane on a week to week basis increasing cost 2, 3, 4x what travel baseball in Atlanta costs
- **In response to parent feedback, the league has taken partial control of the expense situation through the registration fee that covers the basic uniform package that we recommend (as well as miscellaneous expenses associated with field maintenance)**
 - For the younger age groups, you should expect an incremental \$600-\$1000 of direct expense for the six weeks without travel
 - Covers uniforms, tournament entry fees and miscellaneous things like dugout Gatorade, meals between games and family get-togethers.
 - For the older age groups that travel you should expect the season to cost \$2500-\$5000 comprised of direct expense for the uniforms. tournament fees, hotel accommodations (if traveling out of town), and non-dad coaches expenses (travel and coaching expenses), although this can be reduced by sharing rooms.
- *These are great experiences, but they are not cheap, so if that influences your decision, please fully deliberate prior to putting your child up for consideration. These concerns should be included on the survey.*



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FINAL THOUGHT

**We are here to serve the players
first and foremost**



Thank you for your time