

Harrisburg Baseball Association

12U Baseball



Important Dates

December 1
Travel Registration Opens

December 15
Rec Registration Opens

December 30
Travel Registration Closes

January 3
Indoor Training Begins

March 15
Rec Registration Closes

March 25
Player Skills Assessments

April 9
Rec Practice Begins

April 23
3rd Annual HBA Day

April 30
Games Begin

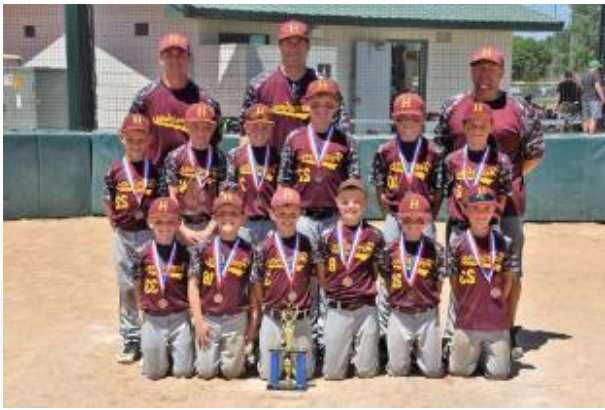
WHO ARE WE?

Harrisburg Baseball Association (HBA) is a non-profit organization committed to teach the game of baseball and softball in a fun, competitive and instructional atmosphere. We are focused on improving the ability of every player while enhancing the experience for every family. Our efforts create a passion for the game that will last a lifetime.

Players ages 4 to 18 have the opportunity to participate in baseball and softball in a variety of levels including the most competitive travel programs for highly skilled baseball players to recreational programming for players of all abilities. Our organization has grown to provide programming for over 800 players each year, all of whom reside within the boundaries of the Harrisburg School District. Over 65 teams participated in the HBA in 2017.

Our organization has continued to adapt to our community's needs as we will continue to create programming to satisfy the demands of players of all skill levels.

www.harrisburgtigersbaseball.com



Come Grow With Us

In line with the growth in the southern corridor of Sioux Falls, as well as Harrisburg proper, our program has grown over 126% in the past 7 years, from 398 participants in 2011 to an expected 900 plus in 2018. As an association tied to the fastest growing school district in South Dakota, we are projecting additional growth of over 50 to 60% over the next 5 years. With unprecedented growth, Harrisburg School District (HBSD) enrollment has quadrupled from 897 in 2003 to over 4,600 in the fall of 2017, a rate exceeding 11% a year for more than a decade.

PLAYING BASEBALLRIGHT HERE IN HARRISBURG.....

With the growth of the HBA and our school district, it's a great time to play baseball right here in Harrisburg, **for** your school and **with** your classmates. In the past, it was common for kids to migrate to other programs in Sioux Falls and other communities. With boundary rules and recruiting guidelines in place, there is no better time than now to jump into Harrisburg Baseball. We have a lot of great things going on as we continue to advance our programs and facilities. Be a Tiger!

MORE INFORMATION?

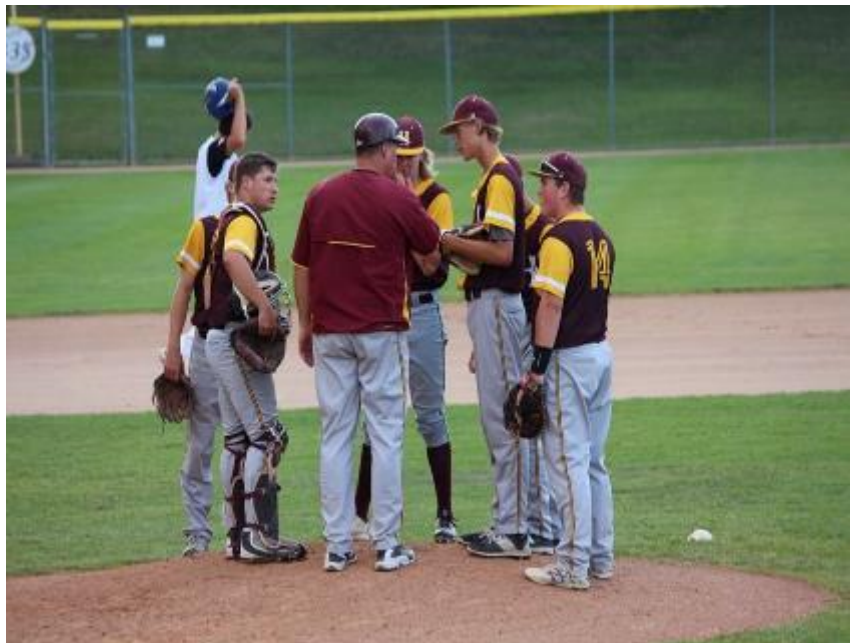
For more information on HBA programs, as well as sponsorship opportunities and to get involved, please contact:

John Ratzloff
Executive Director
605-261-1324

john.ratzloff@k12.sd.us

Facility Improvements and Field Advancements

The HBA, in cooperation with the Harrisburg Foundation, City of Harrisburg and the Harrisburg School District, continue efforts towards facility and field advancements. The coming months will include a capital campaign supporting the advancement of championship baseball and softball fields, in addition to continued youth field development.





12U BASEBALL

The **Harrisburg Baseball Association (HBA)** has different programs to provide baseball opportunities to those ages 9 through 12. Many players and parents are looking for recreational opportunities while some may desire weekend travel or tournament baseball.

Little League Baseball (In-House)

The HBA Little League program includes a league for the 9-10 *Little League Minor* and 11-12 *Little League Major* age combinations. Open player registration will take place and lead to teams being sorted based primarily on position need and skill, along with consideration for school of attendance. Team practices will begin around mid to late April with seven weeks of games running May through the end of June. All players participating in the HBA *Little League Major* program will be eligible for selection to the **Little League All-Star Team**.

- Registration: December 15th, 2017 through March 15, 2018
- Per Player Cost: 9-10(\$140.00) / 11-12 (\$150.00)
- Player Evaluation: Sunday, March 25th
- Practices/Games:
 - Practices: April 10th through April 26th
 - Games: May 1st through June 28th

Travel Teams

Again, in 2018, the HBA will be endorsing travel teams at the 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U age ranges. In lieu of tryouts and team formations, the association will endorse teams that are comprised of students attending school within the Harrisburg School District (HBSD) and or the Harrisburg Little League boundary. Assembled by parent coaches, these players will be required to participate in the HBA Little League during the week while extending play with their travel teams on weekends. This program will include Winter workouts in February, continuing through the South Dakota "A" Baseball State Tournament in mid- July.

- Team Registration: Accepting team registrations beginning December 1, 2017
- Per Player Base Cost: \$200 (Includes HBA Little League registration fee)
- Indoor/Off-Season Training Cost: \$500 (11 and 12U) / \$300 (9 and 10U). This fee is your membership to the HBA hitting facility and includes workouts and team hitting/pitching lessons with HBA coaches and staff
- Practices and Games: Mid April through Mid July



Little League All-Star Team

Again in 2018, the HBA will honor its participation in Little League by sponsoring a team in the 11-12 Little League District Tournament with an opportunity to play in the Little League State Dakota Regional Tournament in Rapid City, SD.

This team will be assembled through Little League Guidelines on or around June 15th through a nomination process. *Eligibility will include:* Those players that attend school within the Harrisburg School District and participated in the HBA Little League program. Thirteen (13) Players will be selected for the final team.

How Do I Sign Up My Travel Team?

I Have a Team or I am Putting a Team Together: If you are interested in assembling a travel team, contact Rodney Drake (816.729.5866) or John Ratzloff (605.261.1324). For those without a team that interested in Travel baseball, the HBA will effort to assist in pairing players with prospective teams.

South Dakota Travel Baseball Birthday Cutoffs
 SD "A" Baseball uses a January 1 cutoff.
 Your age on January 1 of 2018 will be your Travel Team age.
Little League Baseball Birthday Cutoffs

Little League Baseball Birthday Cutoffs

LL will use an August 31st cutoff for 2018 with most current 12 year olds grandfathered in. Match month (top line) and box with year of birth. League age indicated at right.

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2008	2008	2008	2008	9
2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2007	2007	2007	2007	10
2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2006	2006	2006	2006	11
2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2006	2005	2005	2005	2005	12
				2005	2005	2005	2005					12
2005	2005	2005	2005					2004	2004	2004	2004	13

Travel Baseball Q & A

What does my fee cover? – The \$200 registration fee covers your HBA (In-House) Little League Registration and all that it entails. Players are provided a hat and jersey for this 10 week program that includes a 12 game schedule in addition to season tournament.

The Indoor/Off-Season Training Fee (12U=\$500 and 10U=\$300) will provide your access to the HBA hitting facility for schedule open hit/workout times and individual team practice times. Our instructors will be available during these practices.

For travel, your coach/team will provide necessary equipment. In addition, *Scheels Field* at Endeavor Elementary will serve as the Travel Team practice field. Player fees will assist in covering field maintenance costs and related expenses.

Is there a practice schedule? – **Indoor and off-season practices (January – March) will include a minimum of 2 structured practice times per week, either with an individual team or with your age group. In addition, open hit and pitch times will be available. In-season,** the HBA will provide access to a field for weekly team practices at your coach's discretion. In addition, travel teams will have the ability to attend weekday practices and skills clinics with HBA coaches and staff, in-season and during off-season training at the HBA Hitting Facility.

What is the game schedule like? – The travel team game schedules will be determined by the coach based on player availability and the cost of tournament entry fees. Typically, teams compete in weekend tournaments in addition to the In-House league but following the HBA league season, weekday games may be scheduled. Teams may travel out of state for tournaments, but a majority of the tournaments are local. In general, the tournaments start in late April and conclude in early August. On average, travel teams compete in 2-3 tournaments per month.

Why Travel Baseball? – The HBA views travel baseball as an opportunity for “more” baseball at the younger age levels. Playing travel baseball represents the interest and commitment of players and families to develop baseball skills beyond what occurs in summer recreational league play. It is natural that playing in tournaments will provide development through additional competitive experiences for the players. However, proper instruction of baseball fundamentals will play a more important role to the player enjoying the game and being successful in the future and is the area the HBA wants to emphasize the most for travel baseball.

I don't have a travel team. Can I sign up for indoor and off-season training?

If you do not have a travel team to play on or you are just interested in participating in indoor and off-season training to support your recreation experience, you can still sign-up for the training program. If interested, the HBA will work to try and find a travel team for free-agent players.

Payment? - Parents will have the option of paying for the program up-front or by participating in a monthly payment program.

- 11-12U - \$200 at December Registration. \$100 per month (January – May)
- 9-10U - \$125 at December Registration. \$75 per month (January – May)

For most, it will sound like a very significant investment and understanding the value will be very important. As a community based non-profit, the HBA is extremely conscious of the cost component for its programming. This amount is only intended to cover the costs of resources that are being provided.

Who is providing the training and support to our coaches and players?

Juan Thomas has joined the HBA full time as Director of Player Development and will be assisting with training at all age levels. For those of you who don't know Juan, he enjoyed a 20+ year professional baseball career that reached the AAA level. He has significant youth coaching experience and is great with the kids. He was very impactful to our program last year working with 13u to 18u players. Also, Alex Fink will be joining the program as a coach in the Legion program and assisting with player development at the youth level. He was a standout at Augustana University and played independent professional baseball last summer. He too has significant youth coaching experience and has returned to Sioux Falls to coach and teach full time.

Where does indoor training take place?

The HBA will be using the indoor practice facility (The Big Musty) again this year. Dedicated for use by only the HBA, having our own facility will allow the time and space for team practices as well as "open gym" time for extra training. The HBA has made a longer term commitment with this facility and it will be available all year long starting in mid-November to youth travel players and older players in our program.

How does the cost for this program compare to other programs?


The HBA feels that the travel program is a value. When a former Harrisburg program was in existence, fees were \$700/per player for two practice sessions per week with no coaching help or access to fields. A current private Sioux Falls program has a solid training component but charges approximately \$1,200 for training with only some availability to their paid coaching staff and only scheduled access to the Sanford Field House. Many of these programs also have very limited access to fields. It also should be noted that last year HBA travel teams were not charged for use of the indoor training facility. Part of this year's fees will be to offset the hitting facility lease.

More to come...As the HBA grows the objective will be continued expansion of training resources and facilities. For example, we are optimistic about the possibilities of starting construction of 5 additional fields in Harrisburg next Spring and hope to share more details soon. We are excited for the future of baseball and softball in Harrisburg. Thank you for supporting Harrisburg baseball!

Baseball Bat Rules

Baseball bat rules vary from level throughout the various leagues. A change in Bat rules will be adopted for 2018 by most leagues around the country. The HBA and South Dakota "A" Baseball will not require the transition for 2018 rather will allow a transition to these bat rules for 2019. Players will have a choice to maintain baseball bat rules from 2017 or to utilize the new bat rules for 2019. If you are looking to purchase a new bat, you may want to consider purchasing a bat that can be utilized in 2019. For an approved Bat List, follow this link: <https://usabat.com/>.

USSSA youth baseball will NOT be implementing this rule change to the bats. If you play on a travel that is playing in a tournament governed by USSSA, you can continue to use the bats marked with the 1.15BPF stamp.

Age	2019 Required Bat Stamp	2018 Bat Allowances
9U -12U Travel Baseball		No wooden Bats allowed. Can use USSSA 1.15 marked -10 bats. Bat barrel must not be more than 2 1/4". Can use new USA stamped baseball bats required for 2019. -10 with USA stamp with 2 5/8' barrel.

Community Based Partnerships "Working Together to Achieve"

GET INVOLVED

The HBA is in the process of outlining our aggressive capital campaign which includes the development of indoor and outdoor facilities, along with investments in training and instruction. To get involved and to learn more about this project, contact:

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