

Hopkins Minnetonka Babe Ruth

Commitment Guidelines

This document is presented to ensure each player and his/her family understands the level of commitment expected for each level of play. It is important for players and families to be committed to the entire season at every level of play.

Players are encouraged to participate in the training that is offered throughout the course of the calendar year. If you are playing at the Travel or Tournament level you should expect to train during the off-season (your competition is). The higher the player's aspiration, the more priority off-season training must have. During the playing season(s) ALL players are expected to make baseball practices and games their sports priority.

Regardless of the season, conflicts with practices and games will arise. Our hope is that players and families in HMBR will work hard to avoid these conflicts. This can be accomplished by planning and discussions with coaches of all sports and leaders of other activities you're involved in. The more practices and games you participate in, the stronger player you become and the stronger your entire team becomes.

Please read the specific level(s) description that applies to you.

Prep League (13 year olds)

- Emphasis is on skill development in a competitive and fun environment.
- Expect a combination of 3 events (games and or practices per week).
- Season begins with practices in early April and a weekend of "season opener" scrimmage games the 3rd weekend in April.
- There will be 18-20 games played along with a championship tournament at the end of the season, concluding about July 13th.
- Inter-league play with Minnetonka Babe Ruth to be included.
- Players are eligible to play as "call up" players in the Major Leagues.
- Following tryouts, teams are organized by a draft process to ensure balanced competition.
- Plan to have Prep league of about 6-8 teams depending on final registration. Minnetonka Babe Ruth expects to have a similar number of teams.

Major League (14 &15 year olds)

- Emphasis is on skill development in a competitive and fun environment.
- Expect a combination of 3 events (games and or practices per week).
- Season begins with practices in early April and a weekend of "season opener" scrimmage games the 3rd weekend in April.
- There will be 18-20 games played along with a championship tournament at the end of the season, concluding about July 20th.
- Following tryouts, teams are organized by a draft process to ensure balanced competition.
- Plan to have 2 leagues (about 10-12 teams total) depending on final registration.

Tournament Teams

- Players are selected following the “season opener” scrimmage games.
- Players have a primary commitment to their Prep or Majors League team. They may not opt out of that responsibility.
- Teams represent HMBR and compete against other communities in 3 tournaments, and are eligible for a state tournament if qualified or invited. State tournaments in 2008 are scheduled for late July.
- Expect one additional practice per week, but Prep and Majors games take priority.
- 13 year olds will have 2 teams, one competing at the “AA” level and one competing at the “A” level - assuming final registration interest level and player ability.
- 13 year old teams play with continuous batting rules.
- 14 and 15 year olds will each have one team competing at the “AA” level.
- There may also be one team of 14 and 15 year olds combined competing at the “A” level – assuming final registration interest level and player ability.
- 14 & 15 year old Tournament teams play 9-man batting order.

Travel Teams

- Players are selected following the tryouts in early March.
- Focus is on advanced skill development and consistent quality play.
- Travel team players may not participate on Prep, Majors, or Tournament teams.
- Separate teams are for each age group (13, 14 and 15 year olds).
- 13 year old team plays continuous batting order.
- 14 & 15 year old teams will play 9-man batting order.
- Expect 3-5 practices per week before the start of the season and 1 or 2 practices per week during the season. This may differ for the 15 year old team since many players may also participate on school (9th or 10th grade) teams.
- Teams compete at the “AAA” level in the Metro Baseball League (not Babe Ruth).
- Teams play 1 to 3 Metro Baseball League games during the week.
- Teams participate in 4 tournaments plus a state tournament if qualified or invited.
- Season ends at the end of July.