

## **BVBA Intra-Program Player Movement**

### **I. Purpose:**

To establish a process by which players may be moved within BVBA programs based upon need and/or skill level.

### **II. Scope:**

The process within this proposal applies to the VFW through Legion (“competitive”) programs, ages 13 through 18. The understanding herein is that there are certain roster deadlines and requirements specific to both the VFW and Legion programs, with each deadline and/or requirement subject to change by their governing bodies from year to year. Subject to BVBA approval, this proposal will take effect beginning the 2011 baseball season.

### **III. Background:**

In the past, there has been no formal process by which players could be moved up or down within the competitive programs during the baseball season, often leading to unnecessary and inappropriate involvement by parents and uncertainty of the paid coaching staff. While the BVBA strives to establish good team balance at the beginning of each season, certain situations may arise, such as injuries and player absence, that could lead to one or more teams being short of players for 1) the remainder of the season 2) an upcoming tournament or 3) one or more games.

Furthermore, the BVBA understands that when parents register their son to play VFW or Legion baseball, they are typically registering them for a particular team, and paying a significant registration fee in the process, and their wishes, as well as the wishes of the player, need to be taken into account before, during and after any player movement.

Also, the BVBA recognizes that all VFW and Legion teams are important, and that the experience of a 13 year-old VFW player and a Legion player are equally important and that player movement can impact the playing of experience of many youth not just the one being moved. The BVBA also recognizes that its paid coaching staff, along with the Director of Baseball, are best equipped to understand and manage any player movement situation.

### **IV. Goals:**

The goals of this proposal are to provide a clear understanding of the roles of coaches, parents, players and the BVBA in this process.

### **V. Proposed Process:**

Should a situation evolve whereby a VFW or Legion coach feels that he will be short of players and unable to play a regular season or tournament game, he should immediately contact the Director of Baseball. The Director of Baseball, in consultation with the head Legion coach and the VFW coaches, will evaluate the situations of the other teams, including their schedules, and suggest options and alternatives in terms of players who could be moved to the affected team. The goal would be to find a way for the affected team to play their committed games while not impacting another team any more than necessary. At no time should parents on the affected team be calling or talking with parents or players on a lower team asking them to move up to a

different team. That communication should only come from the DOB or the coaches involved, after they have reached a mutually agreeable conclusion. Then, the player and his parents should be given the invite to play up and be told how long that assignment is likely to last. The player and/or his parents will then have the right to turn down that player movement request for any reason.

Furthermore, the goal of this process shall be to only move players between teams if absolutely necessary, or to enhance the playing experiences of participants in the VFW and Legion program in a positive manner, such as moving up a player who is demonstrating outstanding ability at his current level and would like a greater challenge. It would not be appropriate, for example, for the Varsity VFW Major team to call up a player from the Varsity VFW Minor team for a long term assignment to sit the bench and not be given an opportunity to develop. If a player is to be moved up, it should be with the assurance that he will be playing and will be able to continue to develop his skills. The BVBA feels that coaches know the needs and situations of their teams the best, and that communication regarding player movement needs to be addressed by those coaches, and the DOB.

In order for this program to work, coaches must do a good job of knowing the playing situations of the members of their team. It is not acceptable, for example, for a coach who has failed to survey his players about their playing status for a weekend tournament, to call the DOB or another coach on a Thursday night and request a player be moved to his team for a Friday game. That will only cause the DOB to question that coach's organizational skills.

All VFW and Legion head coaches are paid for their services, which includes a basic amount of organizational skills, and the BVBA trusts that they will know, as much as possible, the playing status of their players and will communicate with the DOB and each other to avoid any situations that would lead to the cancellation of scheduled games due to a shortage of players. Of course, injuries and unforeseen circumstances will also arise, and these will be looked upon in a different manner, but the process of communication between the coaches and the DOB will still remain the same.

*Revised February 2011*