

# Brandon Valley Baseball Association – Player Transition Document

## 1. Rookies (ages 5 & 6) to Machine Pitch (ages 7 & 8) –

**Rules** - The leagues are very similar. The main difference is the players will hit from a pitching machine not a coach throwing the ball.

**Fields** – Games and practice will take place at McHardy Park, Aspen Park and Valley Springs.

**Team Selection** - Players are selected to teams by a random computer draw. We do our best to make sure each player has multiple players from their grade school on their team.

**Uniform/Equipment** – The BVBA supplies a hat and jersey for each player along with batting helmets, catching gear, baseballs and bats for each team. Each player is asked to purchase and wear grey baseball pants.

**Registration & Registration fees** – December 15<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>. \$100.00.

**Coaches** – All coaches are volunteer coaches and have to clear a sex offender background check.

**Approved Bats** - <http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm>. Tee ball bats are required for this age division. The BVBA issues league approved bats for this age division.

## 2. Machine Pitch (ages 7 & 8) to Little League Minors (ages 9 & 10) -

**Rules** - . In Little League Minors the kids pitch. The league follows the Little League rule book.

**Fields** – Games and practices will take place at Aspen Park. The field dimensions are 46' pitching rubber and 60' bases.

**League Team Selection** - In Little League Minors the teams are selected by a draft process according to the Little League rule book. Each player is given a player rating by their previous seasons coach. The player rating we believe is the best the way to try and even the talent out throughout the league rather than having one or two dominant teams. These player ratings are not shared with anyone besides the league coaches, league director and league representative. If these ratings are shared with the public all coaching privileges are taken away.

**BVBA Travel Teams (9u – 12u)** – All players participating in the BVBA Little League Recreation League ages nine and above are also eligible for BVBA Travel Teams. BVBA youth travel teams play under the South Dakota Class A Baseball Organization and are eligible to play in the State Tournament. Team placement for travel team is determined by an evaluation. The evaluations take place in March and are administered by the BVBA Legion and Jr. Legion Coaching Staff. The goal of the BVBA concerning travel team is to give every kid that wants to play travel team the opportunity to play and field as many teams as possible at each evaluation level (9u – 12u).

Player will not be cut if numbers warrant. The BVBA will make every effort possible to find your player a travel team if they are interested in travel baseball. The teams are determined by each player's skill level. Players must play in the recreational in house league to be eligible to play BVBA travel team. All teams are coached by parent volunteers. The team's schedule is determined by each team. The BVBA provides a budget amount for tournaments for each travel team. If it exceeds registration budget the team is expected to pick up the additional cost.

**Uniforms & Equipment** – The BVBA issues hats and uniforms to each player along with catching gear, batting helmets and baseballs for each team. Bats are not provided but each team always

has plenty of bats. Each player is asked to purchase and wear grey baseball pants. If you player decides to play travel team extra expense can accompany these teams. Many team chose to purchase a different and jersey for these teams. The BVBA has uniforms available but most teams chose to not use them.

**Bats** – For league play all bats must be Little League approved. The guidelines are located on the Little League website. <http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm>.

For travel team all bats must be approved by South Dakota Class A Baseball.

[https://websites.godaddy.com/blob/fa2654c4-7f1b-4cd9-ba07-c313742d3d32/downloads/1bhvshmm9\\_166798.pdf?164c7497](https://websites.godaddy.com/blob/fa2654c4-7f1b-4cd9-ba07-c313742d3d32/downloads/1bhvshmm9_166798.pdf?164c7497)

**Registration & Registration Fee** – December 15<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>. \$120.00 per player for league play. 9u & 10 travel teams - \$120.00. 11u & 12u travel teams - \$150.00.

3. **Little League Minors (ages 9 & 10) to Little League Majors (ages 11 & 12) -**

**Rules** – Little League Minors and Majors are governed by the same rule book. The rules are very similar just the ages of the players change. One difference is the players in this league are eligible for the BVBA Little League All Star Team which is selected on June 15<sup>th</sup>. This team is determined by a two day evaluation and league coaches rating scale. The tryout is conducted by our Legion and Jr. Legion Coaching Staff. This is team that competes for the opportunity to go to the Little League World Series in Williamsport. There is additional cost to each family if the team qualifies for State, Regional and World Series play.

**Fields** – Games and practices will take place at Aspen Park and Valley Springs.

**Coaches** - All teams including the Little League All Star Team are coached by parent volunteers.

**Bats** - Bat guidelines are located on the Little League website.

<http://www.littleleague.org/learn/equipment/baseballbatinfo.htm>

**Registration & Fees** – Opens December 15<sup>th</sup> and closes on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Little League Majors Registration fee is \$120.00. 11u & 12u travel teams \$150.00.

4. **Little League Majors (ages 11& 12) to 13u-16u Class A Baseball -**

**Rules** – South Dakota Class A Baseball doesn't offer an in house recreation league. We suggest if your player is looking for an in house recreation league that you contact the Sioux Empire Baseball Association. All BVBA teams competing at 13u, 14u & 16u play all their league games against other communities and in weekend tournaments. In 2017 we offered 4 teams at the 13u, 14u & 16u level (13u team, 14u team, a combined 13/14u team & a 16u team). Each teams' roster consisted of either 13 or 14 layers. The 13u & 14u teams were determined by an evaluation (similar to the youth travel team tryouts) process. These evaluations take place in early March. The 16u team is determined by the Head Legion Coach. He assigns players to a team once the spring season is complete. During the season player movement can take place. The 13u, 14u & 16u teams will play 45–50 games with 2-3 practices per week. The combined team will play 30-35 games and practice 2 times per week. As stated earlier these teams travel to away games and weekend tournaments. The association will provide bus transportation when a driver and the bus are available. The bus is rarely available for these age groups. For most games these teams have to travel with parents to the away games. The 13u, 14u & 16u teams will have at least one overnight tournament. Each team starts its season Memorial Day

weekend and ends with a State Tournament the first weekend of August.

**Fields** – These teams will play and practice at Aspen Park and Valley Springs.

**Coaches** - All teams are coached by paid coaches assigned by the Big Field Director of Baseball. These coaches generally are college baseball players or former college baseball players.

**Uniforms** – The BVBA issues two jersey uniforms for each player. A \$200 deposit check is collected at the beginning of the season and returned when the uniforms are returned at the end of the season. Also at 13u baseball and older steel cleats are legal.

**Bats** - All bat rules for 13u, 14u & 16u are located in the attached link. Bats are not provided.

[http://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/fa2654c4-7f1b-4cd9-ba07-c313742d3d32/downloads/1blguffk7\\_748711.pdf](http://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/fa2654c4-7f1b-4cd9-ba07-c313742d3d32/downloads/1blguffk7_748711.pdf)

**Registration & Fees** – December 15<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>. For 13u – 16u baseball the registration fee is \$350.00 and each player must purchase \$150.00 in raffle tickets. These are optional to sell but are required to purchase.

#### 5. **14u Baseball to the High School Spring Season** –

**Rules** – All players Freshman – Senior enrolled in the Brandon Valley School District are eligible to play high school baseball. This season takes place in the spring and the activity is not sponsored by the South Dakota High School Activities Association even though a State Championship is played for. The High School season is governed by the South Dakota High School Baseball Association. **The main difference between playing High School football, basketball, wrestling, track, etc....and baseball is the taxpayers of Brandon don't pay for the activity. Your players cost to participate is covered by you.**

**Teams** - The BVBA offers three teams for the spring season (Freh/Soph, Jr. Varsity and Varsity). As stated earlier the Varsity Team competes for a State Championship and each player has the opportunity to earn a varsity letter.

**Length of Season** - The season starts with practice in early March and the State Championship game is Memorial Day weekend. Each team generally plays 20-25 games in the spring season.

**Coaches** - All teams have paid coaches. A bus is provided to away games when available.

**Registration and Registration Fees** – Registration opens up November 1<sup>st</sup> and closes January 20<sup>th</sup>. The fee for high school baseball is \$450.00 and each player can participate or opt out of the cookie dough fundraiser.

#### 6. **BVBA Fall Baseball Program** -

**Programs offered** – The BVBA offers a Jr. & Sr. Fall Baseball program. The Jr. program consist of players in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades with no Little League eligibility remaining. The Sr. program consist of players in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. If Little League players are interested in fall baseball we encourage registering for the Augustana University Fall Baseball League.

**Length of Season** – The season starts in late August and runs through the second week of October. Each team practices twice a week (Tuesday and Thursday) and games are played on the weekend. Generally the Jr. team plays 6-8 games with one tournament and the Sr. team plays 10-15 games with two tournaments.

**Coaches** – The program is administered by our Head Legion Coach and he is responsible for hiring the coaches.

**Registration & Registration Fees** – August 1<sup>st</sup> – August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The BVBA offers two types of registration for Fall Baseball. Part time player (player participating in another fall sport) registration fee is \$120.00. Full time player registration fee is \$170.00. No fundraiser required.

**7. BVBA Camps and Clinics -**

A. Winter Workouts – Open to all 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Baseball workout with our varsity coaching staff. The workouts run from early January until late February. These take place at Legends Hitting Facility in Sioux Falls.

B. Little League Hitting League – Open to all Little League Minors and Majors players. The league is on Sunday afternoons in January and February. This league is coached by our varsity coach and varsity players.

C. Skills Camp – This league is open to all players ages 9-14. This league works on all skills of the game. Offense and defense. This league is coached by our varsity coaches. This league takes place on Sunday afternoons in February and March.

D. Youth Skills Camp – This one day camp is coached by our varsity coach and players. It's open to all players ages 5 – 12. This camp takes place in May.