



BASEBALL

HANDBOOK 2026

The Yankton Baseball Association is a 501(c) (3) charitable corporation.

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Approved by Board of Directors:

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MISSION & BOARD INFORMATION

YBA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the corporation is to provide the following services to the Yankton community.

1. To promote, provide funding for, and provide education information for South Dakota Class A, American Legion, and high school club baseball.
2. To provide area youth instruction on baseball fundamentals including teamwork, sportsmanship, responsibility and to provide equipment and facilities for playing baseball.
3. To engage in any other lawful purpose related to the promotion of youth baseball to the extent allowed of non-profit corporations under the South Dakota Nonprofit Corporation Act.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Refer to Appendix A

BOARD MEETINGS

The YBA Board meets monthly, or as needed.

Date and location to be determined prior to each meeting.

COMMUNICATION

YBA uses the following to provide information: website (www.yanktonbaseball.com), email (yanktonbaseballassociation@gmail.com), and social media (<https://www.facebook.com/YanktonBaseballAssociation/>, [@YBABaseball](https://twitter.com/YBABaseball) (Twitter)).

YBA REGISTRATION & FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Registration Fees: *Refer to Appendix B*

YBA will give families with multiple players a 20% registration fee discount.

Parent/Guardian must provide YBA a copy of the player's birth certificate the first time a player registers.

Eligibility requirements to play CLASS A Baseball:

1. a player must be 13 by January 1 of the current year.
2. if the age requirement is not met, the player may petition the board in its sole discretion for approval to play.

Parent/Guardian must provide YBA a \$100 non-refundable deposit at registration time with the remainder due by the deadline specified below.

The payment deadline for high school baseball is February 1. The payment deadline for summer baseball is April 1. Players will not be added to a team until all fees are paid.

A late fee of \$50 will be assessed to fees not received by the deadline.

The board must approve any registrations received after the stated deadline.

Parent/Guardian must provide YBA a \$500 check, made out to YBA, before the player's first game. The player will not play until YBA receives the check. The check will be torn up and not cashed if the player fulfills all mandatory obligations relating to the youth tournament. If the player does not fulfill all mandatory obligations, the check will be cashed.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP:

A scholarship program is available for developmental league participants needing financial assistance. The board must approve scholarship applications. Scholarships are not available after the registration deadline. After the YBA Board approves the scholarship and all registration fees have been received, YBA will credit the scholarship to the participants. If the scholarship does not fulfill the needs of the applicant, YBA will determine additional assistance. **NO player will participate until all requirements are met.** If player fees prevent any player from participation or the fees create a financial hardship on the family, please contact the President via email at yanktonbaseballassociation@gmail.com. YBA will evaluate each situation case-by-case.

REFUND POLICY

YBA will not issue a refund if a player voluntarily leaves the program after April 10 for spring baseball and June 10 for summer program. YBA will make a proportioned refund based on the number of games played to games scheduled if a player experiences a season ending injury.

ADMISSION & SEASON PASSES

Refer to Appendix C & D

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

Refer to Appendix E

EXPECTATIONS/ CODE OF CONDUCT

Parent/Guardian, family, and other spectator involvement is vital. YBA cannot run a quality program without assistance from these people! YBA expects parents/guardians to help with the following:

1. Announce Games
2. Run Scoreboard
3. Take Gate
4. Work Concessions
5. Clean Stadium
6. Drive Players
7. Fundraiser

A team parent is needed for each high school and summer team. Team parents assist the organization by finding gatekeepers, announcers, and scoreboard operators for all home games and tournaments. For away games, team parents arrange team drivers and hotel rooms, if needed.

PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DRIVE TO AWAY GAMES.

YBA provides a \$50 stipend to players when there is a required overnight hotel stay. Parents are not reimbursed for mileage or meals. Overnight stays are only required if game times prohibit a timely return to Yankton and should be avoided if possible. YBA will determine required overnight stays. The team parents and the YBA Treasurer will arrange stipends.

YBA provides an opportunity for players to play competitive baseball. The coaches determine playing time and position assignments. YBA strives to provide players with ample practice time and game experience, which serve as opportunities for coaches to evaluate players.

Complaints to the coaches will not be tolerated. Playing time is not guaranteed. If anyone has an issue with their child's participation in the YBA baseball program, there is a mandatory "24-hour Cooling Off Period" in place. Then you can discuss the matter with the head legion/varsity coach or director of operations. If the issue is not resolved to your satisfaction, you may then contact the YBA president and request a meeting with the Board.

PARENT, FAMILY, AND SPECTATOR EXPECTATIONS

Generally, we have few or no problems with parents, family members, or spectators. Occasionally, a situation does arise where a parent, family member, or spectator's behavior becomes unacceptable. A non-exhaustive list of examples include the following:

1. Taunting an umpire, coach, league official, or player either verbally or in writing;
2. Using profanity or vulgar language;
3. Using derogatory or intemperate remarks and cheers;
4. Making negative remarks aimed at YBA or opposing players or coaches;
5. Using or being under the influence of drugs or alcoholic beverages while at a YBA game;
6. Using threatening or aggressive remarks towards umpires, coaches, league officials or fans;
7. Confronting umpires, coaches, league officers, or fans;
8. Failing to leave YBA premises after being ejected.

VIOLATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Unacceptable behavior will be immediately dealt with by:

1. An umpire, YBA coach, or board member issuing an individual a warning;
2. An umpire, YBA coach, or board member ejecting an individual;
3. Law enforcement removing an individual from the premises; or
4. YBA enforcing harassment and trespass statutes.

Parents/Guardians should inform family members and spectators associated with their player that they must abide by this Handbook when attending YBA events.

YBA hopes that we do not have to initiate any of the above steps to control the behavior of parents, family, or spectators. Please lead by example.

PENALTIES FOR CODE OF CONDUCT VIOLATIONS

First Violation:

The individual must view a National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) sportsmanship video and will be suspended for 2 weeks or 2 contests (including at least 1 home contest), whichever is greater. If the contests are on the road, YBA will notify opposing organizations of the penalty and ask their help in enforcing.

Second Violation:

The individual will be required to view the NFHS sportsmanship video again and will be suspended from YBA events for one calendar year.

Third Violation:

The individual will be banned from all YBA events indefinitely.

Failure to complete any steps will lead to the next violation's penalty.

The YBA board will review incident investigations and complaints. YBA will not consider anonymous reports. The YBA board will make referrals to law enforcement in appropriate circumstances.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Using social media to downgrade, belittle, or speak negatively of players, coaches, umpires, or baseball program is subject to a code of conduct violation.

PLAYER INFORMATION, EXPECTATIONS, & EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Players are responsible for obtaining their own white pants along with a red belt, red socks, cleats, and glove. YBA will provide jerseys, hats, team bats, catchers equipment, and batting helmets.

MAKEUP OF TEAMS

The head legion//varsity coach will determine teams with the director of operations' approval after registrations are received. Players may be asked to play at a higher level than their current age group. If so, both the player and parent must agree.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION

1. **Skipping Practice:** The player will be suspended from the next game for any unexcused absence from practice. The coach must excuse an absence due to personal or family illness or emergency before or after the absence. The coach must approve an absence due to any other reason. The coach will make all decisions. The coach requires a note, phone call, or message from the parents.
2. **Skipping Games:** The player will be suspended from the next game for any unexcused absence from a game. The coach must excuse an absence due to personal or family illness or emergency before or after the absence. The coach must approve an absence due to any other reason. The coach will make all decisions. The coach requires a note, phone call, or message from the parents.
3. **Unprepared for Practice:** The coach may treat unpreparedness as an unexcused absence from practice.
4. **Use of Chemical Substances / Tobacco:** The YBA board will discipline any player who uses, possesses, buys, or sells alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substances.
5. **Behavior During Games and Practice:** The coach will remove any player exhibiting behavior detrimental to the program/team that shows a lack of respect for players, coaches, and officials. For the second violation, the coach will immediately remove the player, and the player will be will be suspended from the next game. For a third or subsequent violation, the player will be suspended from practices and games for one week.
6. **Playing Time:** The coaches will determine playing time. Playing time is **NOT GUARANTEED**.
7. **Scheduled Leave Time:** If the player is late for the scheduled leave time, the player may be left home.
8. **Games Requiring Overnight Stay:** No player will be allowed to leave the ballpark or the motel without an adult chaperone during overnight travel. No females, other than a family member or chaperone, will be allowed in the players' rooms unless a chaperone or coach is present at all times.

Coaches, in conjunction with Yankton Baseball Board and the Head Legion/Varsity Coach, have the right to use discretion when dealing with penalties involving the above.

TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR YBA SPONSORED BASEBALL

1. Definitions:

- a. "Suspension" means the coach or YBA board has excluded a player from baseball related activity;
- b. "Insubordination" means the player has failed, in a single instance, to comply with reasonable rules, regulations, policies, orders or instructions given by the coach or board members;
- c. "Habitual disobedience" means the player has repeatedly failed to comply on three or more separate occasions with reasonable rules, regulations, policies or instructions given by the coach or board members;
- d. "One week" means seven consecutive days;
- e. "Contests/games" means a singular calendar day consisting of all the games scheduled for that day. For example, a double header consists of one contest or one date.

PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING TRAINING RULES:

Players must abstain from alcoholic beverages, tobacco, nicotine, illegal drugs, misuse/abuse of drugs, and medical cannabis to participate in YBA events. Throughout the calendar year, including the months when there are no YBA events, the following rules apply to players in the YBA. If the player violates the rules, the player will be suspended from all YBA events. The player must complete the season during said suspension, or the suspension will not be considered "as served" and the player will be required to complete the suspension before being able to participate in any other season. If the offense occurs out of season, the suspension will begin when the next baseball season begins, unless the suspension is served in a Yankton School District (YSD) sanctioned sport. All YSD imposed suspensions will carry over to YBA activities if the suspension is not fulfilled in a YSD activity. Suspensions may carry over from YSD to YBA, from YBA to YSD, and from YBA-to-YBA activities if the suspension cannot be fulfilled in the current season. Players on suspension may practice with a team under the coach's supervision but cannot dress for or participate in games. The player shall be present on the sideline/bench during games unless the coach or YBA board determines otherwise. If the coach or YBA board determines the player's presence at practices and/or games is creating a disruption, YBA may take additional actions. If a player remains violation free for 12 consecutive months, he will receive a "clean slate." The Board also reserves the right to determine appropriate consequences for a criminal or civil violation or behavior that has been determined detrimental to the YBA program. YBA will notify the YSD of all rules infractions and penalties imposed.

First violation: The player will be suspended for 14 consecutive calendar days, the next two consecutive contests, or two weeks of the season, whichever is greater. YBA will not grant an exception to a player who participates in a drug addiction or alcohol treatment program.

Second Violation: If the player's second confirmed violation is within 12 months of the prior violation, the player will be suspended for 42 consecutive calendar days of competition or six contests, whichever is greater, even if the present activity ends and the next activity begins.

If the player on his own volition shows evidence that he has sought and received counseling from community agency or professional individual, such as a school counselor, drug counselor,

medical doctor, psychiatrist, or psychologist, the player may be certified for reinstatement after a minimum of three weeks at the YBA board's sole discretion.

Third Violation: If the player's third confirmed violation is within 12 months of a previous violation, the player will be suspended for one full calendar year from the date of the violation, even if the present activity ends and the next activity begins. At the YBA board's sole discretion, the suspension may be reduced to 84 consecutive calendar days or ten contests, whichever is greater, if the player participates in an assessment with a certified chemical dependency counselor or completes an accredited intensive prevention or treatment program and provides evidence to YBA. If the suspension is reduced to 84 consecutive calendar days, or ten contests, whichever is greater, the suspension may carry over to the next activity or the next school year.

YBA COACHING DUTIES & EXPECTATIONS

An outline of duties and recommendations for YBA coaches is as follows:

1. The head legion/varsity coach will organize a parent meeting. At this meeting the coach will discuss coaching philosophy, practice expectations, and playing time. Parents will also be informed of travel rules, expectations, and consequences for rules violations.
2. Provide each player with game and practice schedules and keep individual statistics for players.
3. Issue uniforms and equipment. Collect all uniforms and equipment at the end of the season. YBA will not issue their last paycheck until uniforms are returned.
4. If there is a change in the schedule that adds or deletes a game, the coach must first contact the legion coach for approval; then coordinate field and travel; inform the team parent, the Optimists for concessions, *Press and Dakotan*, and radio stations.
5. Confirm game time and location with the opposing team before every game, home or away.
6. The head legion/varsity coach will complete player registration and team rosters for state officials.
7. Save and turn in your receipts on expenses related to coaching to the head legion/varsity coach or the YBA Treasurer.
8. Be at all practices. Absences should be approved by the board, board president, or head legion/varsity coach. If a practice is canceled, ample notice must be given to players/parents especially for the younger players who do not transport themselves.
9. When driving to and from games, coaches will drive responsibly and adhere to the rules of the road.

What to do with an unhappy parent:

1. Do not discuss matters in front of the players.
2. Parents have been advised to talk to head legion/varsity coach or director of operations.
3. Have a team meeting if issues affect the team.

Player Misconduct

Coaches will determine discipline based on the circumstances. Coaches are to contact the legion coach to determine appropriate sanctions in accordance with the Handbook.

Playing Time

1. 13-16 Year Olds: YBA strives to balance a competitive atmosphere with player development. Players earn playing time by meeting the expectations of the coaching staff. This includes, but is not limited to, attitude, effort, being a good teammate, and other expectations outlined in this Handbook or relayed to the players at games or practices. YBA wants players to have fun while learning the game of baseball and being a part of something greater than themselves.
2. 17-18 Year Olds: YBA aims to compete at the highest level possible. The coaching staff determines playing time based on a non-exhaustive list of ability, attitude, effort, being a good teammate, and other expectations outlined in this handbook or relayed to the players at games or practices. YBA wants players to have fun while learning the game of baseball and being part of something greater than themselves.

Appendix A

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

First	Last	Role	Email	Cell
Frani	Kieffer	President	fkieffer@gmail.com	(605) 760-2019
Tony	Beste	1st Vice President	Tony.Beste@k12.sd.us	(605) 690-5813
Kevin	Gokie	2nd Vice President	KGokie@astecindustries.com	(605) 660-6749
Tom	Stotz	Treasurer	bckcker@gmail.com	(605) 665-3201
Peyton	Mueller	Secretary	peytonmueller55@gmail.com	(605) 660-2150
Kendra	Frick	Member	kendra.frick83@gmail.com	(605) 760-1151
Jason	Nelson	Member	Jason.nelson@mountmarty.edu	(605) 660-9701
Steve	Sager	Member	swsager@yahoo.com	(605) 660-9107
Josh	Teichroew	Member	joshua.teichroew@mountmarty.edu	(605) 660-7508

Appendix B

REGISTRATION FEES

** Fees include the \$100 calendar fundraiser.*

Summer: \$750 (all levels)

High School: \$500 (Freshman to Senior)

Both: \$1,150 (Freshman to Senior)

20% Discount per Family

Appendix C

SEASON & SUMMER PASSES:

Season Pass is good for all YBA spring and summer games including tournaments. The season pass is not valid for district, regional, or state tournament play.

Family Season Pass: \$125

Individual Season Pass: \$100

Seniors 65+ Couple: \$100

Seniors 65+ Individual: \$75

Summer Pass is good for all YBA summer games including tournaments. The summer pass is

not valid for district, regional, or state tournament play.

Family Summer Pass: \$100
Individual Summer Pass: \$75
Seniors 65+ Couple: \$75
Seniors 65+ Individual: \$50

Appendix D

GATE ADMISSION COST – Non-tournament

Adults \$7
Senior \$5
Teens \$2
12 & Under: Free
All Yankton Students: Free

GATE ADMISSION COST – Tournament

Adults: \$10
Senior: \$7
K – 12 Students: \$5
Pre-K: Free
All Yankton Students: Free

*State and Regular tournament gate fees are subject to change.

Appendix E

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES:

YBA Countdown Raffle Calendars

Each player is required to purchase 5 fundraising calendars at \$20 each. If the calendars are sold, the player/parent keeps the money. Individuals who purchase the calendars from players/parents have a chance to win cash in daily drawings during the summer.

HyVee Gift Cards

YBA sells HyVee gift cards which return a percentage to the program. Cards are available at the gate or by contacting Tom Stotz 605-661-2340.

Appendix F

Code of Conduct

I am the parent/guardian of _____, a member of Yankton Baseball Association (YBA), and will adhere to the following standards:

- I will do everything in my ability to help my child adhere to the Player Code of Conduct.
- I will invest and commit my efforts toward my child's improvement as a baseball player, teammate, and person at the standards of a highly competitive athlete and highly motivated person.
- I will notify the team coach if my child will be missing an event in a timely manner to be considerate to the rest of the team.
- I understand missing a practice or game, even if with prior notice, means my child may be subject to some kind of repercussion. The repercussion could be extra running, altered playing time, position in the batting order, or whatever the coach deems appropriate.
- I understand my child is required to show up ready to play every time he is at the field. All players will have their uniform on properly, and will have all of their equipment at each scheduled event.
- I will lead by example before, during, and after each team function regarding my conduct, behavior, and healthy choices.
- I will not, at any time, use foul or inappropriate language while attending YBA events.
- I understand umpires' decisions are non-debatable. I will not argue umpires calls during or after YBA competition.
- I will treat coaches, other parents, spectators, players, umpires, and opponents with the utmost respect always.
- I will not go in or near the dugout during any competition. If anything needs to go to my child, I will direct its transfer through the coach.
- I will refrain from degrading players and coaches.
- I will not instruct players during games or practices.
- I understand that parent help is expected.
- I will be accountable for the actions of anyone I bring with me to YBA events, and I will ensure they follow this Code of Conduct.
- If I have an issue with my child's participation in the YBA baseball program, I understand there is a mandatory "24-hour Cooling Off Period" in place and I can then discuss the matter with the head legion/varsity coach or director of operations. If the issue is not resolved to my satisfaction, I then may contact the YBA president and request a meeting with the Board.

If I fail to abide by these rules or the YBA Handbook, YBA may impose sanctions as noted in the Handbook. YBA will not refund registration fees or other expenses to players and parents for not adhering to these rules and the YBA Handbook.

YBA reserves the right to make exceptions to these rules at any time, for any reason. Refer to the whole YBA Handbook for additional information and clarification.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

PRINTED Parent/Guardian Name Date

PRINTED Parent/Guardian Name Date