



**BLAINE AREA TRAVELING BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**Policies Manual – 2026 Season**

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## I. INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Blaine Area Traveling Baseball Association (“BATBA”) Board of Directors (“Board”), welcome to BATBA Traveling Baseball! We strive to provide an environment of healthy competition in which players develop their baseball skills and self-confidence. We want our players, coaches, parents, fans, and volunteers to enjoy the experience of participating in traveling baseball. Serving families living within the boundaries of Blaine High School (“BHS”), BATBA is a volunteer-driven organization that offers competitive AAA and AA traveling baseball to age groups 9U-14U. We compete in the MYAS Gopher State Baseball League.

This manual is our program guide and provides important information about our program. Further information is located at our [www.BATBA.org](http://www.BATBA.org) website.

### Mission Statement

BATBA’s mission is to help our athletes develop basic and advanced baseball skills and provide them with the opportunity to compete against teams with players of similar abilities. Our traveling baseball program promotes good sportsmanship, pride in community, and enjoyment of the game for all. Preparing our players mentally and physically for the high school baseball experience is a foundational premise of the program.

### Board of Directors

The BATBA Board consists of elected volunteers charged with operating our traveling baseball program in a safe and responsible manner. They serve on internal committees and lead several key projects throughout the year. BATBA Board meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of each month. Dates and location are subject to change and shall be posted on our website. Parents and/or participants are encouraged to attend if interested. There shall be an open forum at each meeting for member input. Please contact a board member prior to the meeting for location details. The President is the tie breaking vote.

Position	Name
President	Lindsey Hanson
Vice President	Marc Bjorklund
Treasurer	Lindsey Kirkham
Marketing & Communications Director	Ryan Busch
Traveling Director (9U & 11U)	Erik Peterson
Senior Advisor & Traveling Director (13U)	Chris Coleman
Travel Director (12 & 14U)	Chris Cazin
Tournament Director	Steven Miller
Assistant Tournament Director	Josh Eernisse
Assistant Tournament Director	Don Bonitati
Equipment & Scheduling Director	Denielle Sanders
Volunteer/Registration Director	Jenna Coquette
Social Media & Co-Fundraising Director	Beth McWilliams
Spirit Wear & Co-Fundraising Director	Katelyn Glowacki

## II. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Calendar – Key Events

Event	Month	Location
9U-14U Tryouts Registration	August	<a href="http://www.BATBA.org">www.BATBA.org</a>
9U-14U Head Coach Selections	August	Blaine Baseball Complex
9U-14U Tryouts & Team Selections	August	Various locations
9U-14U Registration #1	September-October	<a href="http://www.BATBA.org">www.BATBA.org</a>
Election of Board Members	October	Board Meeting Location
9U-14U Registration #2	January	<a href="http://www.BATBA.org">www.BATBA.org</a>
Winter/Spring Training	February-April	National Sports Center & The Ball Park
Games Begin	April	Various locations
Blaine Tournament	May	Various locations
Playoffs and State Tournaments	July	Various locations
Field Improvements	August	Various locations

### Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in BATBA subject to the following:

1. Complete and paid-in-full registration.
2. Player is in good standing (no active Code of Conduct, Risk Management, or Disciplinary Policy issues) and participates in the tryout process.
3. Residency – Player must reside within the boundaries of BHS (Anoka Hennepin School District 11) or have a clear path to attend BHS. For purposes of clarification, 9U-14U home-school and private-school players are eligible provided that their primary residence is within the boundaries of BHS.
4. Petitions – Special circumstances may arise that require a family to petition the Board for eligibility. Each petition is unique and shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. To initiate a petition a member must submit an email to the BATBA Board President. The Board may consult with MYAS on any petition.

**Eligibility Exceptions/Clarifications:** Players shall be evaluated for the age level in which they are registered. Players may play up to their grade level. Players are not allowed to be rostered on any other team from May 1 through the last game of the travel season (except for 14-year-old players participating on BHS teams). Any exceptions shall be voted on by the board and be handled on a case-by-case basis.

### Age Requirements

We follow Gopher State Baseball League (“GSBL”) age requirements as described below; the birthday cutoff date is May 1st:

Division	Age Requirement
9U	Must be at least 8 on or after May 1st <b>AND</b> must be 9 (or younger) on May 1st
10U	Must be 10 (or younger) on May 1st
11U	Must be 11 (or younger) on May 1st

12U	Must be 12 (or younger) on May 1st
13U	Must be 13 (or younger) on May 1st
14U	Must be 14 (or younger) on May 1st

### 9U-14U Head Coach Selection Process

- In early August, all 9U-14U Head Coach candidates must submit an on-line application for the age group they are interested in coaching.
- If the current Head Coach applies, they may be offered the Provisional Head Coach position for the next season after the current season summary discussion with their Traveling Director. Other candidates may be interviewed by a BATBA Board selection committee if necessary.
- Provisional Head Coaches shall be selected prior to tryouts.
- To be named Head Coach of a AAA team, the Provisional Head Coach's player must finish in the top 15 in the Skills Tryout as described below. To be named Head Coach of a AA team, the Provisional Head Coach's player must finish in the top 30 in the Skills Tryout.
- Provisional Head Coaches shall be confirmed by the BATBA Board as the Head Coach based on the criteria above and before any Callback Session is scheduled. If a team is named without a Callback Session, the Head Coach shall be confirmed simultaneously with the publication of the team roster. If the Provisional Head Coach's player falls outside of these parameters, the Provisional Head Coach shall no longer be considered a candidate to become Head Coach and a new Head Coach shall be selected by the BATBA Board.

### Tryouts

After Provisional AAA Head Coaches have been selected, the tryout process shall begin. All players must participate in the Tryouts Process.

Exception: If a player can't participate in any portion of Tryouts due to illness, injury, or other significant reason, the player's family must petition the Board for team selection consideration. If the petition is approved, the President and applicable Traveling Director must approve the player's placement on a team.

### Evaluators

Tryout evaluators are selected to assess each player's skill using the BATBA tryout scorecard. Evaluators shall not assess any age group which includes a family member. Evaluators shall commit to assessing every pool for their assigned age group.

### Team Selection

Team selections are made by the assigned Head Coach for each respective team (who may also consult with their Traveling Director). Tryout rankings are made available only to the Head Coach, Traveling Directors, President, and Vice President. Score cards are not available to parents/players.

Tryouts Process (9U – 14U): The tryout process consists of the following two parts:

- Skills Tryout(s) – The Skills Tryout pools/times shall be posted on our website no later than the Wednesday before the Skills Tryouts. Tryout evaluators shall assess each player's skills and determine a score based on pre-determined criteria. These scores shall be forwarded to the Traveling Directors for verification and ranking.

- Callback Session(s) – Provisional Head Coaches shall review the Skills Tryouts rankings and select a group of up to 18 players for a Callback Session. Callback Sessions offer player performance feedback for team selection use.

### **Team Selection (9U – 14U):**

The most important outcome of our tryouts process is to place players at the appropriate level of play. All teams must have a minimum of 11 players on their roster and any proposed exceptions to roster size must be petitioned and approved by the BATBA Board. If tryouts indicate there is enough player ability to compete in traveling baseball, we shall attempt to field both “AAA” and “AA” teams at each age group, assuming there is sufficient field capacity. The number of teams that are formed at each age level is determined at the sole discretion of the Board.

The team selection process consists of the following:

- The top 15 ranking players from the Skills Tryouts shall be invited to participate in the AAA Callback Session. Up to eighteen (18) players may participate; all must be ranked in the top 21. A player outside of the top 21 must be petitioned for by the Provisional AAA Head Coach and approved by the Traveling Directors.
- Teams shall field a minimum of twelve (12) players. Exceptions must be approved by the BATBA Board.
- The AAA team is formed from players at the AAA Callback Session. Head Coaches may use prior traveling season feedback from both AAA and AA as a consideration in their selection process.
- The AAA Callback Session players that are not selected to the AAA team will automatically earn a spot on the AA team but may be asked to attend the AA Callback Session.
- All AA Callback Sessions shall consist of players ranked in the top 30. In a scenario where two (2) AA teams are created at one age level, such AA Callback Session shall include players within the top 42 scores. A player whose score falls outside of these parameters must be petitioned by the Provisional AA Head Coach and approved by the Traveling Directors.
- Drafts: In the event where the BATBA Board approves having multiple AAA or AA teams, a draft may occur by the Provisional Head Coaches after conducting the Callback Session. Team selection review and approval is by the Traveling Director. The Board reserves the right to select teams by alternative means other than a draft based upon the specific situation.
- Roster Adjustments: If a roster opening occurs on an AAA team, the AAA Head Coach may fill this spot with a AA player or elect to leave the spot unfilled. The resulting open roster spot on the AA team may be filled with another AA player or a player not selected at tryouts. Only the Traveling Director notifies MYAS of changes.

### **Registration, Volunteer, Uniform, and Tournament Fees**

**Registration Fees.** These fees cover a variety of expenses including but not limited to: GSBL league fees, BATBA administrative fees, facilities maintenance costs, umpires, and equipment. To help cover other program investments like player development and field improvements, there are recoverable fees:

**Volunteer Fees.** BATBA relies on volunteers to support our Traveling Baseball program. The Volunteer Fee per family is collected electronically at the same time as Registration Fee #2. If a family meets their six (6) hour volunteering requirement, the Volunteer Fee will be returned. If the family does not meet the complete volunteering requirement of six (6) hours, these funds shall remain with BATBA to pay for paid workers in the upcoming season.

Registration and the associated fees to participate in traveling baseball is a three-part process:

1. Tryout Fee: A non-refundable tryout fee shall be paid on-line in advance of the tryout before a player will be allowed to participate in tryouts. After the posted tryout fee deadline, any late registrations, or walk-ups shall be assessed a late fee in addition to the tryout registration fee.
2. Registration Fee #1: After tryouts, players selected to a team shall have until the date communicated by the BATBA Board to pay the initial registration fee which is considered a player commitment payment.
3. Registration Fee #2 and the Volunteer Fee: Typically takes place in January before uniform fittings and winter practice begins. The second registration fee is the final fee due as part of registration. Uniform selection and purchase are separate from Registration #2.

### Breakdown of Fees for a Typical Season

Fee Type	Approximate Due Date*	Fee Per Player
Tryout Fee	August (Prior to Tryouts)	\$50
Late Tryout Fee (if applicable)	August (Assessed to any registrations received after the tryout registration deadline)	\$75
Registration Fee #1	September-October (After Team Selection)	\$250
Registration Fee #2	January (Prior to Uniform Fitting and Winter Practice)	\$50
Volunteer Fee	January (Prior to Uniform Fitting and Winter Practice)	\$250 (Fee Per Family)
Uniform Fee	January (Prior to Uniform Fitting and Winter Practice)	~\$225
Tournament Fees	To be determined by each individual team	~\$150-\$250
*Exact fee due dates shall be determined by the BATBA Board and communicated on our website. The timeframes above are provided for reference purposes only.		

**Tournament and Additional Costs.** BATBA does not register our teams in tournaments as we believe this is a team decision. The costs for these tournaments are an additional team expense and costs vary. If a team earns a berth and registers in a state or national tournament, there will be additional costs for those as well. These costs, including gate fees, are paid for by our teams. Most BATBA teams register for 3-4 qualifier tournaments and 1-2 state tournaments and pay for these fees via a team slush fund.

### Uniforms

We strive to provide high-quality, reasonably priced uniforms that perform well in a variety of weather conditions. Families pay for uniforms separately from registration fees and deal directly with the vendor on sizing and payment. Only approved uniforms supplied by BATBA may be used in both league and tournament games. Only Board approved sponsorship logos may appear on any portion of the BATBA uniform. BATBA hosts uniform fittings in January/February and players are highly encouraged to attend to ensure a proper fit.

Every player at each age group shall have a unique uniform number. This eliminates issues as players may move back and forth between AAA and AA teams through the years. It also helps with possible roster adjustments.

## Equipment

Team equipment is comprised of equipment bags, catcher’s gear, baseballs, training balls, L-screens, and first aid kits. All BATBA provided equipment shall be returned to the Equipment Director at the end of each season. Equipment may not be altered.

- Players must provide their own bat, glove, athletic protector, batting helmet, and cleats (please refer to applicable league and/or tournament rules for acceptable types of cleats in each age group/situation).
- Bats: Please consult the MYAS website for the latest information regarding approved bats. Follow this link and go to the Documents section: [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org).

## Baseball Fields

BATBA is fortunate to have access to several baseball fields. Every year we review the condition and playability of these fields with Blaine City Staff and may choose to jointly invest time and materials in them.

As it concerns pride in our communities, we expect our players and families to keep the fields well-maintained and common areas free of trash.

Baseball Field Addresses:

Field	Address
Airport Fields	2130 105th Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55449
Aquatore Park	9191 Lincoln St NE, Blaine, MN 55434
Blaine Baseball Complex	1150 Paul Pkwy NE, Blaine, MN 55434
Blaine High School	12555 University Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55434
Cloverleaf Park	650 99th Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55434
Lexington Athletic Complex	4286 121st Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55449
Jim Peterson Athletic Complex	12302 Cloud Dr NE, Blaine, MN 55449

## Blaine Baseball Tournament

The Blaine baseball tournament is a key fundraising event for our organization. We typically register 80+ teams from the Twin Cities and beyond to participate. That equates to over 760 players and a couple thousand family members at our tournament, all in one weekend in May. Planning typically begins 6-months prior to our tournament. To effectively run a tournament of this size, we rely heavily on volunteers and community partners. It is crucial for our organization that the families in BATBA support this event by volunteering their time. Each year the Board reviews and approves what age levels to host in our tournament – a key factor being field availability.

## Coaching

The task of selecting our head coaches is a critical job that sets up the entire season. Because of its importance, BATBA may utilize a Selection Committee to interview candidates for the following attributes:

- Commitment
- Ability to teach
- Positive mindset
- Organization skills
- Communication skills

- Conflict management

### **Annual Coach/Manager/Board Evaluations**

At the end of each season, a survey is sent to all families soliciting feedback on all aspects of our baseball program. Traveling Directors put together a season summary, including relevant de-identified parent/guardian feedback of the coaching staff and manager, to each Head Coach. The Traveling Director does not share the source of the evaluations, but rather share an anonymized summary of the feedback. The Board believes coaching continuity is very important for player development and we actively seek to retain coaches that develop player abilities and have had success on the ballfield.

### **Coach Development**

Coaches are expected to develop their knowledge of the game and improve their player development skills. BATBA recognizes the importance of having qualified and dedicated coaches; therefore, we invest in our coaches' development through mentoring and coaching workshops.

## **III. BATBA POLICIES**

### **Commitment Policy**

BATBA requires a traveling baseball commitment from March through July. If you anticipate numerous conflicts with games/practices due to camps, vacations, or other activities then traveling baseball may not a good fit for your family. It is unfair to committed teammates and dedicated coaches if a player misses more than a couple of games/practices, for other than medical needs or very specific family matters.

Guidelines for absences:

- Excused absences: Illness or injury; family emergency; family vacation communicated two weeks in advance; community service; school/religious activities, etc.
- Unexcused absences: Forgot; out-of-season sports activity; couldn't get a ride; two or more family vacations. The consequences for unexcused absences may be included but are not limited to reduced playing time in games. The authority to enforce consequences for unexcused absences resides solely with the Head Coach and is fully supported by the BATBA Board. Please see the Discipline Policy for more information.

### **Code of Conduct Policy**

BATBA has adopted the GSBL Code of Conduct Policy. The ideals of good sportsmanship, respect, and an environment free of drugs, tobacco, and alcohol are fully supported by the BATBA Board. Players, coaches, and parents are required to abide by the GSBL Code of Conduct and sign it prior to league play.

Any violation may result in temporary or permanent banishment from any MYAS sponsored event. The GSBL Code of Conduct Policy may be found at [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org).

### **Fair Play Policy**

BATBA's Fair Play Policy encourages a balance between development of player abilities and competitive results. Stronger emphasis is placed on development in the younger levels, but it should always be considered regardless of age group. Players and parents should understand that there are circumstances

that shall prevent perfect execution of the policy such as a 10-run rule being imposed, weather-shortened games, absences from games or practices, and disciplinary factors. Coaches are instructed to take these circumstances into consideration and make every effort to execute the spirit of the policy by the end of the season.

- League Play:
  - 9U-13U players should expect to play at least 3 defensive innings in every league game and at least 50% of all innings played in a season. Every effort should also be made to sit each player once, prior to a player being sat for a second time. Similarly, players should not sit for three innings until all eligible players have sat for two.
  - Age levels 14U and above may choose to follow 9-man baseball rules and innings played are based on merit. As alluded to before, 14U and above coaches should endeavor to get all players into at least 50% of league defensive innings.
- Tournament Play:
  - 9U-13U players should expect to play in at least 50% of all tournament innings.
  - 14U and above tournament inning playing time are performance based and are the sole discretion of the Head Coach.

### **Volunteer Policy**

BATBA depends on our membership being involved in various activities throughout the year. BATBA Board Members volunteer hundreds of hours throughout the year to successfully manage our association. For each team we field, the Head Coach, three Assistant Coaches and a Team Manager volunteer significant time and shall receive volunteer credit for their efforts.

For the balance of our membership, we require each family to volunteer six hours of their time at either field improvement events, the BATBA tournament, uniform fitting, team pictures or another volunteering opportunity throughout the year.

BATBA is a long-term partner with Challenger League which is Little Leagues adaptive baseball program for individuals with physical and intellectual challenges. BATBA players are expected to volunteer with their team to support at least one Challenger League Game held at the Blaine Baseball Complex. Scheduling options will be provided to Head Coaches, and each team shall sign up to be athlete “buddies”. Teams may sign up to volunteer for more than one game.

### **Financial Policy**

BATBA’s Financial Policy exists to provide clarity on financial practices and provides transparency to our membership in how the BATBA Board manages our membership’s funds. We follow all financial requirements for a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

#### **Budget:**

The Treasurer of BATBA Board creates an operating budget at the beginning of our baseball year in October. This budget is reviewed and approved by the BATBA Board. Income sources are player registration, the Blaine Baseball Tournament, donations and sponsorships. Expenses include, but are not limited to league fees, developmental investments, equipment, umpire costs, tournament costs, field improvements, and overhead costs (insurance, website fees, Trusted Coaches membership, etc.)

**Financial Updates:**

Budget and cash flow updates are provided monthly by our Treasurer at Board meetings. The Annual Financial Summary is reviewed at our annual meeting.

**Improvements**

To support our mission of developing baseball players that can successfully compete at the highest levels, we must plan for investments in our facilities, fields, and equipment. We have an ongoing 3-year plan that identifies facilities and fields in need of improvement and equipment that supports player development. These investments vary in magnitude, so we look to fundraising activities, donations, sponsorships, and grants to provide the needed resources.

**Financial Assistance**

BATBA extends financial aid to families in need of registration fees assistance. Additionally, BATBA may organize efforts for families to earn registration fee assistance in the form of volunteer work. Families seeking financial assistance are required to submit a Fee Reduction Form to a BATBA Director for a confidential BATBA Board review. This form may be found on our website in the Forms tab.

**Donations**

BATBA is very thankful for donations made to our program. Please contact our Treasurer to find out how to donate and ensure donations are properly handled.

**Sponsorships**

BATBA may seek out sponsorships for our entire membership's financial benefit. This activity must be approved by the BATBA Board and properly handled by the Treasurer.

**Grants**

BATBA may apply for grants to fund significant investments in our facilities or program.

**Team Fundraising**

With Board approval, teams are allowed to raise funds for regional or national tournaments. Fundraising monies must be deposited with BATBA and then dispersed accordingly. Please contact our Treasurer for more information and proper handling of funds.

**Risk Management Policy**

BATBA's Risk Management Policy exists to support player, coach, and spectator safety and wellbeing. The policy addresses specific topics regarding personal safety and welfare.

**Severe Weather:** BATBA follows MSHSL guidelines regarding Lighting/Threatening Weather:

*"Prior to the start of a contest, the Head Coach is responsible for determining whether or not the conditions present a threat to the safety of participants and spectators and shall determine whether or not the contest shall begin. Once a contest has begun either the umpire(s) or the Head Coach may postpone or suspend a contest and cannot be overruled by the other party. When in doubt, err on the side of safety. When considering resumption of an athletic activity, the MSHSL recommends that everyone should wait at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lighting or sound of thunder before returning to the field."*

**Trusted Coaches Program:** Board Members, Head Coaches, and up to three (3) Assistant Coaches per team are required to participate in this program. National background checks, concussion training, first aid and positive coaching technique training are all aspects to this program. Mandatory concussion training is valid for three (3) years.

**Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse is physical contact that intentionally causes or creates a threat of bodily harm or personal injury. Physical abuse does not include physical contact that is reasonably designed to coach or demonstrate a baseball skill; examples are teaching a hitting stance, demonstrating fielding positions, and communicating with players by touching in a non-threatening manner.

Any person who believes they have been a victim of physical abuse or has any knowledge or belief of conduct that could be considered physical abuse, must report the alleged act(s) immediately to a BATBA Board Member. The BATBA Board shall take immediate action, at its discretion, to protect members of BATBA and shall investigate immediately. The BATBA Board may choose to contact local authorities if necessary. Upon proof of violation of this policy, the violator(s) shall be either suspended or permanently banned from BATBA. The BATBA Board has the final authority on this decision.

**Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse can take many forms like, but not limited to bullying, harassment, exclusion and intimidation. These destructive behaviors, either received directly or indirectly (for example, by email, texting, or social media), shall not be tolerated by any member of BATBA. See Discipline Policy below.

**Substance Abuse:** Regardless of quantity, a player shall not:

- use a beverage containing alcohol
- use tobacco in any form
- use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance (including steroids).

The rule applies to any portion of the baseball season. It is not a violation for a player to be in possession of a controlled substance specifically prescribed for a player's own use by their doctor. If a player is found breaking this policy, the following penalties shall be assessed

1. First Violation: The player shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a season, whichever is greater. No exception is made for a player entering a chemical dependency treatment program.
2. Subsequent Violations: The player shall lose eligibility for the remainder of the traveling season. If a player enters a chemical dependency treatment program, the player must be certified for eligibility in BATBA only by the director or counselor of the treatment program.
3. Penalties shall be cumulative throughout the player's participation in BATBA.

## Discipline Policy

### Player Discipline Policy

The Player Discipline policy applies to all BATBA players. The BATBA Board reserves the right to impose disciplinary actions which are more severe than required by BATBA's Player Discipline Policy if a player is

removed from a game by an umpire. Players shall be disciplined, suspended, or removed from a team following violations of the GSBL Code of Conduct ([www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org)).

First offense:

- The Head Coach shall verbally warn the player and keep a record of offense, the player's name and the date.
- The Head Coach may choose to bench the player for an inning, the rest of the game or send the player home, depending upon the severity of the offense.
- The Head Coach has the discretion whether to notify the players parents/guardians of the verbal warning.

Second offense:

- The Head Coach may bench the player for the rest of the game or send the player home and suspend the player for future games.
- The player's parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be informed by the Head Coach of the offense and the reasons for any disciplinary actions taken.
- The Head Coach shall notify the appropriate BATBA Traveling Director.
- The BATBA board shall keep a record of the offense, the player's name and the date.
- The BATBA Traveling Director shall notify the BATBA Board President of the offense, and any disciplinary actions taken.
- The BATBA President or Vice President shall contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the involved player and explain the severity of the offense(s) and that any further offense(s) may result in the player's removal from the team.

Third offense:

- The Head Coach shall suspend the involved player and notify the appropriate BATBA Traveling Director of the third offense.
- The Traveling Director shall notify the BATBA Grievance Committee and request a hearing to consider removing the player from the team.
- The Traveling Director shall contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the player.
- The BATBA Grievance Committee shall facilitate an in-person meeting, which shall include at a minimum, the following participants: s the player, the players parent(s)/guardian(s), the coach, and the BATBA Grievance Committee members. During the meeting, all participants will have an opportunity to share information. A ballot vote by BATBA Grievance Committee members shall be conducted to determine if the player will be removed from the team.
- If the BATBA Grievance Committee votes to remove the player from the team, the BATBA Board President shall notify the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the removal and provide the supporting reasoning for the Board's decision.
- Any player that is removed from a team pursuant to this policy may apply for reinstatement in any subsequent season.

### **Coach Discipline/Suspension/Removal**

Discipline of a coach, especially a Head Coach, is a very serious matter and resides within the sole discretion of the BATBA Board. The following policies/procedures will be referenced in the event of an issue brought to the BATBA Board's attention regarding a Head Coach/Coach.

- Grievance Policy (see below)
- Gopher State Discipline Policy (revised annually and available online at [www.MYAS.org](http://www.MYAS.org))

- In the event a coach engages in egregious acts or behaviors, the BATBA Board reserves the right to unilaterally motion to review the offending parties conduct and administer discipline without the regard of the policies described above.

### **Grievance Policy**

When a player or parent has a question regarding the policies of BATBA, they should address their questions to the Head Coach of their team. If a question is not answered satisfactorily and a player/parent feels the need to pursue the matter further, they may contact the Grievance Committee via an email to the Board Secretary - but should do so only after exhausting all reasonable efforts with the coach and his/her assistants. The Grievance Committee shall consist of the following Board Members: President, Vice President, the applicable Traveling Director, and other senior Board Members, as applicable. If a Board Member who is on the Grievance Committee is the subject of the grievance, the written complaint should be submitted directly to the President (and if the grievance is related to the President, then it shall be submitted directly to the Vice President). Any Board Member who is the subject of a grievance shall not be permitted to participate on the Grievance Committee.

When a player or parent has a concern about the handling of the team or an individual player, they should:

1. Adhere to the "24 Hour Rule" which requires a player/parent to wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach on the matter. Or vice versa if a coach has an issue with a player/parent.
2. Choose a time and place that is convenient for all parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and approach the situation in an appropriate manner.
3. If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within 72 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the BATBA Grievance Committee. At this time, the Grievance Committee shall act as a mediator between the player/parent and the coach. All parties involved shall meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution. The Grievance Committee shall communicate in writing with the BATBA Board any mediation steps and the outcome of that mediation. Any emails submitted to the Grievance Committee shall include a brief overview of the situation or issue, and a recommended solution, if available.
4. If mediation is unable to resolve the issues and all the above steps have been followed, the Grievance Committee shall inform both parties in writing within five (5) days that the complaint has been referred to the BATBA Board of Directors for a Special Meeting. Best efforts shall be made to have a meeting with the impacted parties within ten (10) days following the receipt of any complaint. The decision(s) of the BATBA Board shall be prompt and final.

If a Board Member is the subject of the grievance, a written complaint should be submitted directly to the BATBA President.