



2018 Bennington Athletic League Baseball Programs

The Board is committed to providing an opportunity for each child in the Bennington School District to pursue the ability to play baseball regardless of the child's ability level. As part of this commitment, we want to provide opportunities to children at every level. In that regard, the Board continues to assess what needs to be done in order to maintain a solid baseball program without losing those players who desire to play more competitively. This format provides an outlet for those families and children that desire to be more competitive, but also want to play with friends and classmates. We would love to have more people become involved in the organization as we move forward.

2 Divisions: Badger Blue, Badger White

Badger Blue:

1 Team at each level: 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U (Age as of 4/30/2018), If there is sufficient depth of players and interest at any age level, we may consider having more than one team.

- 11-12 players per team
- Teams will be responsible for scheduling own games.
- Number of games:
 - Approximately 20 games at 10U/11U/12U (plus tournaments)
 - Approximately 25 games at 13U/14U (plus tournaments)
 - Tournaments:
 - 10u – 3-4 tournaments
 - 11u – 4-5 tournaments
 - 12u – 5-6 tournaments
 - 13u – 6-7 tournaments
 - 14u – 6-7 tournaments

Dates for Tryouts:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
10U, 12U, 14U	July 6, 2017 July 11 – rain date	BAL Complex	5pm to 8:30pm
11U and 14U	July 12, 2017 July 13 – rain date	BAL Complex	5pm to 8:30pm

- **Cost: (please note that uniforms will be paid for separately in Nov-Jan and the cost will be an additional \$135-\$230 depending on the player being new or a returning Badger Blue player)**

- o 10U - \$440 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o 11U- \$440 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o 12U - \$440+ uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o 13U - \$560 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o 14U - \$560 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o \$100-\$250 Deposit once selected for team, due by August 1, 2017 online via www.balonline.org.
- Additional balance to be paid by monthly payments via online credit card.

Cost Includes:

- Field Maintenance and Preparation for 10-12 Home Games
- Umpires for 10-12 Home Games (1 umpire for 8U-12U / 2 umpires for 13U-14U)
- Insurance
- Field prep for weekday home games
- Catcher's Gear and Baseballs
- USSSA Team Registration
- Registration of USSSA Sanctioned Tournaments

Note: Uniform will be purchased separately by parents. The costs are estimates as we are going with a new vendor but should be close. For a new player it will include 2 jerseys with name/number, 2 pants, individual helmet, ball cap, belt and socks. For returning players, some of the uniform will be optional if we continue with the same brand and last year's uniform still fits. Parents can also purchase any additional items as they desire.

o If the team determines they would like to play in additional tournaments that the original cost does not cover, the team will have to raise the money separately. Any additional or premium uniform items such as bags, warm-ups, sweatshirts, etc. would be optional equipment as decided by the team at an additional cost to the parent and must be approved by BAL in advance. BAL provides opportunities each year for the team to purchase. Please contact the Fundraising Director.

Badger White:

8 year old (8U) –

9 and 10 year old (10U)

11 and 12 year old (12U)

13 and 14 year old (14U)

- 10-12 players per team
- 8u teams will play in-house with all games being played at the BAL Complex
- 10u, 12u & 14u will play in the Two Rivers League. Schedules are determined at a scheduling meeting held between representatives from each participating city. Teams will play regular season games and an end-of-season tournament.
- 12-20 Regular season games, depending on age level
- BAL will pay for one tournament put on by teams in the Two Rivers League or a similar tournament. (e.g. Wahoo, Yutan, Arlington).

• **Cost: (please note that uniforms will be paid for separately in Nov-Jan and the cost will be an additional \$30-50 depending on the player being new or a returning Badger White player)**

- o 8U - \$105 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o 10U - \$115 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o 12U - \$125 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)
- o 14U - \$135 + uniform per player (uniform to be paid in Nov-Dec timeframe)

Cost Includes:

- 1) Team equipment – balls, team helmets
- 2) Insurance
- 3) Umpire fees
- 4) (1) Tournament entry fee including pre-paid gate fees for tournament

Note: Uniform will be purchased separately by parents. The costs are estimates as we are going with a new vendor but should be close. For a new players it will include 1 jerseys with name/number, ball cap, belt, and socks. For returning players, some of the uniform will be optional if we continue with the same brand and last year's uniform still fits. Parents can also purchase any additional items as they desire.

- If the Team determines they would like to play in additional tournaments that the original cost does not cover, the team will have to raise the money separately. Any additional or premium uniform items such as bags, warm-ups, sweatshirts, etc. would be optional equipment as decided by the team at an additional cost to the parent and must be approved by BAL in advance. BAL provides opportunities each year for the team to purchase. Please contact the Fundraising Director.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can kids outside of Bennington try-out?

A: NO. Only kids that live within the Bennington School District and attend school in Bennington Public Schools are eligible to tryout. The board will take names of other non-resident kids that are interested if we cannot field a team. If we are short, the Board will look at a COOP with another town or conducting a private try-out with non-resident kids to fill the team.

Q: Is my child expected to make each game and practice if trying out for a Badger Blue team? What if we have a vacation planned?

A: **YES.** This is a commitment! You are signing a player commitment form upon acceptance to the team. If you cannot make the practices, games, tournaments, then please do not sign up for Badger Blue. There is more flexibility and greater numbers at the White level. Given there are only 11-12 players on a Badger Blue team, all are needed in case of injury and to ensure cohesive team performance. We tell parents to not schedule any vacation until after the state tournament in late June or mid July. The coach will be able to give you a schedule once set. If your child is consistently absent, they may sit the bench or be removed from the team.

Q: Will there be player development year round?

A: That is up to the individual coach. They will let you know what they have planned. The coaches do know that most kids are multi-sport players and will schedule around or accommodate absences in the off-season. BAL does not have an indoor facility, so the school gyms will be used as available and if the team decides to rent UBA, Strike Zone, etc...that will be an extra cost on their own and decided as a team. BAL will also list private coaches on the website as well as try to arrange free or reduce cost clinics for ALL players. The board has a Director of Coach/Player Development, who will be working closely with all coaches and kids to develop them all to their potential. At the end of the day, while BAL will do everything it can to provide opportunities, practice, and mentoring, it is also up to the parent to take the time to individually develop their child.

Q: What will the Tryout assess?

A: Each Player will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Infield

Outfield

Hitting

Pitching (indicate in registration if you are trying out as a pitcher)

Catching (indicate in registration if you are trying out as a catcher)

Base Running (Speed)

Athletic Ability

Each player will be given a number. Please do not wear anything that has your family name on it. Evaluations are point system ranked with overall scoring from multiple evaluations making final ranking for players during tryout. Overall athletic ability and skill/ability at each station are part of the overall evaluation.

Q: Who will conduct the tryouts?

A: Each tryout will be evaluated by 3 individuals that are not a parent or coach of that age division. They will primarily be BAL coaches, High School coaches, other outside individuals

with baseball expertise, or board members. Given that it take almost 16 individuals to run a tryout, it is not possible to have all evaluators be from outside of Bennington. The VP of Baseball organizes and runs the tryouts.

Q: When will we know the results?

A: You will be notified by the VP of Baseball no later 1 week from the tryout date. Do NOT believe any other information you hear from coaches or parents on the results. Only the VP of Baseball will communicate any results. If your child tried out as a pitcher, the VP of Baseball will tell you how your child ranked. For example, if your child was the 3rd best pitcher, but made the Badger Blue team on other criteria, it would be explained to you that your child made the team, but may not get to pitch much, if at all. Thus, you may have the decision to play on the Badger Blue team and not pitch much, OR play on a Badger White team and pitch frequently.

Q: Will I be able to see my child's scores?

A: We will provide you, upon request, your child's scores compared the average of the Badger Blue Team by each criterion so that you can determine what you child needs to work on.

Q: How will the coaches be selected?

A: The Board will select coaches for both the Badger Blue and Badger White teams. We continue to evaluate and receive feedback in our annual June survey from the parents before any determinations are made. Parents that are interested in coaching teams in 2018 should let the Board know via the 2018 Coaching Preference Registration Link before June 20, 2017. Even if your child is not participating in tryouts or the skills assessment, you can still indicate your coaching preference. The Board will select coaches for the Badger Blue at the June Board Meeting. Badger White coaches will be selected in the Spring.

Q: How many coaches will the teams have?

A: The Board will select the Badger Blue HEAD COACH by June 25 (or as soon as possible after that date) and will post at www.balonline.org . After tryouts are conducted and the team is determined, the Badger Blue team head coach can have up to 3 additional assistant coaches that he/she will pick. Badger White team head coaches can have 1 additional assistant coach. All coaches will fulfill any DIBS requirements. The Direction of Player/Coach Development will be working closely with the coaches to give them valuable training and information.

Q: Do I need to register or just show up for Tryouts? Does everyone try-out? Or just if you want to be on a Badger Blue team?

A: In order to be eligible to tryout, you must pre-register through the 2018 Try-out registration link by June 25, 2017. No walk-ups allowed.. Please make sure to register in advance on website.

Q: What if we cannot make the tryout date?

A: Unfortunately, your child will not be able to try-out with the group for the Badger Blue team for 2018. We set the try-out dates a year in advance so that families can plan around the dates. The head coach of the Badger Blue team will have discretion on the last couple of players and can opt to give your child a private try-out at their discretion. There is no

guarantee for a private tryout. Current season statistics can be used in lieu of a private tryout.

Q: Can my son try out for an upper level (e.g. 12U) or conversely, can my son try out for a lower level (e.g. 11U) in case he doesn't make the higher-level team?

A: Yes to the first, if he is eligible per the chart below. Your child may try out for one level above their current age, provided that it allows them to stay with their grade. This will allow for a child to play with their grade/friends. If your child would also like to be considered for the lower team (e.g. 11U), the head coach of the Badger Blue team will have discretion on the last couple of players and can opt to give your child a private try-out at their discretion or utilize the try-out scores. There is no guarantee for a private tryout. BAL recommends that he try-out for the team he would most like to play on.

BADGER BLUE BASEBALL							
Baseball Age as of 4/30/18	Grade '17-'18 School Year	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U
8	3rd Grade	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
9	3rd Grade	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
9	4th Grade	Eligible	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
10	4th Grade	Not eligible	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
10	5th Grade	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
11	5th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
11	6th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
12	6th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible
12	7th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Not eligible
13	7th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Not eligible
13	8th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible	Eligible
14	8th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible
14	9th Grade	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Not eligible	Eligible

Q: Once my child has made the Badger Blue team, do they have to tryout every year?

A: The board will review our program every year, but generally, yes. We will conduct tryouts for the entire team, every year. In some cases the board may allow the older Blue teams to host tryouts for only open positions. This will be determined after a review of our league numbers, potential kids, season/career statistics, and discussion with coaches.

Q: Will we have enough players to have a Badger Blue team at every level?

A: The goal is to have a Blue team at every level, but it is going to depend on numbers and quality of players. The board is committed to making the teams compete at the level that will be best to develop the kids. It does no one any good to be put into a level in which they can't compete.

Q: How will Badger White teams be determined?

A: The board is asking for coaches to identify themselves via the 2017 Coaching Preference Registration link on www.balonline.org by June 20 if they are interested in coaching or

assistant coaching a Badger Blue or Badger White team. The coaches for the Badger White team will not be finalized until the Spring. The Badger White teams will be selected through a draft, with the exception of the coaches' kids who will be with their parent. The draft will typically occur in early March 2017.

Q: What if I have more questions?

A: Please submit them to the VP Baseball, Neil Stier at neil.stier@gmail.com