

**Jackson Area Youth Baseball
Association**



Est 2009



Jackson Area Youth Baseball Association

The Jackson Area Youth Baseball Association with the support of family and community, strives to make a difference in the life of a child by offering an independent baseball/softball program which teaches children the value of sportsmanship, leadership, and personal growth.

Welcome to the Jackson Area Youth Baseball Association. We are a private non-profit baseball association dedicated to providing “baseball for everyone” by teaching the game of baseball, its fundamentals (including teamwork and discipline), and developing player self esteem. Our goal is to provide a positive and encouraging experience for each player at every level. Our desire is for the players to not only enjoy coming to practices and games, but they will also talk to their friends about their experience. We will certainly focus on baseball, but we strive to provide our players with experiences that will far outlast their playing career (which will hopefully end in a long and storied Major League career!)

We would also like to take this time to thank our parents for making themselves and their children available. We understand that time spent at practices, games, clinics, tournaments, etc can be draining. Everyone is busy and it can be difficult for both parents and players to juggle everything. We recognize those inconveniences and we appreciate you consistently getting your player to these events on time and prepared. This is critical to the team’s success and also to a positive overall experience with JAYBA.

We would like to give tremendous thanks to each and every one of our many volunteers. We thank the coaches who give so much of their time and talents to shaping our children. The time it takes to coach a team at any level is enormous. From developing practice plans to managing individual player personalities to managing playing time and game time emotion, we know the efforts and pride that is taken to coach each and every one of our teams. We thank the people who work diligently with Mike Wald to keep our fields prepped and maintained. We would not be able to play on such well-groomed fields if not for the efforts of these volunteers. We also thank the volunteers for their time at our concessions stands at both Action in Jackson and at Town Hall. This is a great service for the players and families that could not be offered without your constant support. This league could not function without the strong and dedicated efforts of each our volunteers.

Lastly, we would like to extend our deepest appreciation to the Town of Jackson for allowing us to use their fields at Town Hall. This league would not be possible without such a remarkable place to practice and play. We are appreciative of the fields, the parking, the concessions space, and also the storage that is provided to us by the Town of Jackson. Also, we thank the Village of Jackson Parks and Recreation for maintaining the fields at Jackson Park and for allowing us access to these fields.

(A special section has been provided in the back of this book for a list of all of our sponsors. They are each wonderful partners who are willing to financially support JAYBA. We would ask that you give each of them special consideration when the opportunities arise.)

The handbook was designed to provide every family with general information regarding JAYBA policies, procedures, important dates, and other helpful information. This handbook will also provide you with a baseline of expectations for you and your player at each level of play. If you require clarification about any of these policies, please feel free to contact any JAYBA board member, or attend any of our board meetings (dates, times, and locations will be posted 2 weeks prior of each meeting.)

We are looking forward to a wonderful 2010 JAYBA season and we are excited that everyone involved can come together to provide such a remarkable service to our players and their families.

Sincerely,
JAYBA Board of Directors

Bryan Pfaff – Chairman
Adam Baker – Vice Chairman
Patrick Rego – Treasurer
Bryan Canfield – Secretary
Jim Ystesund – Assistant Secretary



PROGRAMS

Our baseball programs are aged based programs. In the interest of keeping children playing with the same group of kids they attend school with, our programs base eligibility on each child's age as of September 1st for the upcoming season.

LEVEL ONE BEGINNER: This is the T Ball program. T Ball is designed to expose every youth to the game of baseball by teaching the most basic of skills, including, but not limited to, catching, throwing, base running, and fielding. At the end of every T Ball game both teams should line up, one team on second and one team at home, and hold a relay race. Typically 5 and 6 year olds play T Ball, however exception can be made (with board approval) for 4 and 7 year olds. These teams are split up by the board, who will take into consideration factors including carpooling and playing with certain friends.

LEVEL TWO DEVELOPMENTAL: Rookies, Single A and Minor Girls. These programs are designed to advance the basic skill sets attained at the T Ball level, but incorporate a modest amount of competition including keeping score and an end of the year tournament. All players are to be allowed to try all positions of interest. While all players will be rotated, coaches will be encouraged to begin to develop "skill position" players. The league will err on the side of smaller teams, as we realize that the more touches and at bats a player gets, the greater the chances are that they will develop solid baseball skills.

LEVEL THREE ADVANCED: AA, Senior Boys, Junior Girls, Senior Girls. These programs strive to maintain the mindset of a recreational program, but begin to focus the players more towards a competitive environment. Players at this level will be focused on specific positions. Each player will be given time in practice to develop all of their skills, but this may not translate to playing time at each position.

LEVEL FOUR COMPETITIVE: J-Hawks (U-8, U-10, U-12, and U-14 teams available). The J-Hawk program is designed to give players who are seeking a more competitive outlet a chance to play travel baseball. These "select" teams are tryout based with outside evaluators selecting the players. The primary focus of these teams is to provide a true competitive atmosphere with the top tier players in our organization. The J-Hawks will focus on taking these players to the next level. We will strive to polish their skills and also to teach them a true team mentality. Players must be on an active

roster of a team in Level 2 or Level 3 to be eligible for the J-Hawk program. These games will be weekend tournaments. Each team will participate in 3-5 tournaments over the summer.

Season

The JAYBA baseball season runs from the second week in April until the third weekend in July. Every team is guaranteed at least one hour of practice time per week from the second week in April until the regular season starts. Once the regular season starts, it is the coach's responsibility to find the field and time to practice on. The following is a list of the regular nights of play for each level

A Boys Monday and Wednesday
AA Boys Tuesday and Thursday
Minor girls Tuesday and Thursday
Senior Girls Monday and Wednesday
Rookies Tuesday and Thursday (some Wednesdays)
T Ball Monday thru Thurs (2 nights per week)

The Junior Girls and Senior Boys leagues are affiliated with several other programs in the area. These levels will play different nights each week, and the schedule is set by that leagues official usually by the second week of May, but can be as late as the last week of May.

Game Cancellations

Every effort is made to get the fields ready for play. Field preparation is done exclusively by volunteers who have to complete their regular day jobs and get to the fields in order to prepare them. There will be no determination as to the play ability of the fields until at least 4:30pm the day of the game. The league's website will contact all families via either email or text message if games are cancelled. **NEVER ASSUME A GAME IS CANCELLED, ASSUME WE ARE PLAYING.**

Equipment

The JAYBA will provide, at no additional cost, batting helmets, catchers gear, bats, practice balls, and pants. These items are to be returned to the league at the completion of every season. If you prefer to purchase and utilize personal equipment, please check with your coach regarding any specific equipment regulations. Also, we ask that if your player is unwilling or unable to share this equipment with their teammates that they keep it in their bag rather than with the public equipment during practices and games.

As part of the annual dues, players and coaches will be fitted with team shirts and caps. Players will also be issued the correct colored socks which are theirs to keep.

Registration

The JAYBA will offer online registration from Jan 1 to Feb 6 this year. Families needing in person assistance with registration will be offered at least 1 opportunity to have face to face registration.

Registration fees must be paid in full prior to any player taking part in practices or games.

Anyone who needs special assistance with payments must contact the Treasurer of the league prior to their player being allowed to participate. Any such assistance is kept in confidence.

Coaching

Upon the closing of registration, the Competition Coordinator will evaluate who has volunteered to be Head Coaches and shall attempt to align coaches according to ability and philosophy. This will be done for only the head coach and 1 assistant.

All coaches involved in the JAYBA are expected to take part in the ASEP coaching program. This program teaches not only proper sportsmanship but will also help them to learn how to plan and teach the sport.

Team Splits

The mission of the JAYBA is to provide a fair and balanced program for all players. In keeping with this philosophy, all head coaches (except T ball and seniors) will convene one night in March to hold a draft of all players in the league. Because of this program, it is very difficult to accommodate special requests for carpooling and the like. Please contact the chairman if your child's participation in the league becomes impossible due to this fact.

On the night of the player draft the Head Coach from each team in their respective division shall pick a number and a team name from a hat. This number indicates their 1st round draft position. The draft order shall invert prior to the beginning of each round. That is, the coach who picked last in the first round picks first in the second round.

Player's **names** and **draft numbers** will be visible

- 1) Head coaches will draft out 2-3 assistant coaches.

- 2) In the event that there are left over assistant coaches, they will be dispersed through the draft, and will not be assigned a coaching position.
- 3) All players must be drafted. In the event of an uneven number of players participating in any given level, the draft will continue in the prescribed manner until all players are disbursed.
- 4) Any player who participated in the league the previous year and was evaluated by their coach will have skill level numbers attached to their draft number. The highest number for any one category is 25. When viewing this information, please be aware that everyone evaluates their players slightly differently, and that players grow and change rapidly during the winter, so there is only a certain amount of weight that you should give to these numbers.

Universal Rules

The Universal Rules apply to all leagues (or levels) in the RFYP and JAYLL programs **except the Boys Senior and Junior Girls**. In addition, there are League Specific Rules for each league.

The purposes of the RFYP and JAYLL Softball and Baseball programs are to:

1. Allow the players to have a fun experience playing softball or baseball.
2. Receive instruction in softball or baseball.
3. Experience the benefit of competition.

The program is not run for the benefit of the coaches or the parents of the players. The rules stated below are intended achieve the purposes listed above. Should a situation arise not specifically covered in these rules, or the league specific rules, resolution of the situation should be made keeping the stated purposes in mind **at the discretion of the Board(s)**.

The game schedules will be created once registration is finalized and the number of teams is determined

Rain-Out Policy:

If a rainout occurs throughout the season, it will be the responsibility of the home team to contact the scheduling coordinator and the visiting coach to schedule a make-up. Games not scheduled by the scheduling coordinator will not be counted as official.

General Rules:

1. A player's age is determined by his/her age on September 1 of the current season.

2. Siblings will be placed on the same team unless specifically requested otherwise.
3. Players will not be allowed to play or practice without a valid registration sheet on file with the league. Any use of an unsigned player will result in forfeiture of all games in which that player played.
4. The Home Team shall supply the appropriate game balls.
5. Smoking or drinking of alcoholic beverages by players at the game or in the park will be cause for immediate ejection from the game and may subject the player to disciplinary action, including ejection from the league.
6. Coaches, parents, and other spectators are discouraged from smoking or drinking alcoholic beverages during the games.
7. Cursing of any kind by coaches, players or spectators will result in ejection from the game.
8. Players can be called out or ejected for throwing equipment. This decision is up to the umpire, although umpires should first give a warning unless the incident is intentional or flagrant.
9. A player, coach or spectator who has been ejected from the game will be instructed by the umpire to leave the grounds. An ejected player, coach or fan not complying with the umpire's instructions may cause that team to forfeit.
10. Flagrant, unsportsmanlike conduct from players, coaches, or parents may result in forfeiture of the game. ***Coaches are expected to make an attempt to control unruly parents.***
11. Home team will be considered the first team listed on the schedule. Home team will occupy the first base bench.
12. In the event that lightning is sighted in the vicinity of the field, all players and coaches must leave the field immediately. The game may be resumed when it is clear that there is no further danger of lightning. Best judgment of the umpire and coaches should be used in these circumstances so as not to put any players or coaches in danger. Those games called because of weather will be considered complete if the losing team has batted in at least 4 innings.

Equipment:

1. SHOES: all players must wear Shoes during the game. Players are encouraged to wear softball/baseball leather shoes with rubber or plastic cleats. Metal cleats or spikes are not allowed.
2. GLOVES: Players must wear an appropriate ball-glove when on defense (i.e. only the catcher is allowed to use a catcher's mitt and only the first baseman is allowed to use a first base mitt).
3. CASTS: A player may not play with a restrictive injury supported by a cast, unless written permission from a doctor is provided to the league's governing body. Typical knee and ankle wraps are allowed.
4. JEWELRY: Players are encouraged to remove all jewelry before the game – loose jewelry must be removed. Any exposed jewelry, which is judged by the umpire to be dangerous, must be removed and may not be worn during the game. Players who fail to follow the umpire's decision regarding jewelry could be ejected from the game.
5. It is strongly recommended that all boys participating in any level of baseball wear a protective cup for all games and practice.

Coaching:

1. Games may not be played unless there is an adult coach present at all times. This need not necessarily be the designated head coach.
2. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their team and fans. Heckling is not allowed.
3. Coaches are responsible to stress the basics of the game. i.e.: where to throw the ball in specific situations.
4. Coaches must ask permission of the umpire to enter the field, except to attend to an injured player.

5. The umpire's decision is final on all calls. Coaches should contact the Umpire Coordinator or the League Coordinator to discuss any concerns regarding an umpire's calls.
6. All field times must be scheduled with the Scheduling Coordinator. He must be notified of all make-up game times. He will arrange and notify the Umpire Coordinator of the make-up game time. The Home Coach is responsible for contacting the Scheduling Coordinator.
7. It will be the responsibility of the winning coach to enter the game score on the Richfield Youth Baseball & Softball web site (<http://www.rfyp.org/home/home.asp>). More information will be coming before the season star

Games:

1. There will be a minimum 10-minute grace period after the scheduled start of a game before a forfeit can be called. The coach's discretion should be used before calling a forfeit. Game time limits are measured from the actual start time of the game. EXCEPTION: If another game is schedule on the field, the game must end in time to allow the next game to start at its scheduled time.
2. The intent is for all games to complete the number of innings listed in the appropriate league specific rules.
 - a. Coaches are expected to take steps to ensure that the games move quickly (i.e. assist catchers in putting on equipment, limit the amount of gear the catchers removes, and using a pinch runner for the catcher after two outs. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the 2nd out.
 - b. Allow the following warm-up pitches between innings:
 - i. Five for baseball
 - ii. Three for softball
 - c. Organized position changes, etc.
3. Once an inning is started, it must be completed. Reasons for not completing the prescribed number of innings are limited to:
 - a. Weather – rain, lightning
 - b. Continuation of the game cannot change the outcome (run rule prevents team losing from taking the lead).
 - c. Injuries result in either team not having enough players.
4. Games finishing standard innings at a tie score may play up to a maximum of two extra innings to determine a winner, provided visibility is safe for the players. If after the two extra innings the game is still tied, the game is then considered a tie and it is added to the standings as such. Ties are considered a half a win and a half a loss.

5. Rain-out games are to be made-up by the last scheduled game of the season. The two coaches must arrange a time to play the make-up game. The home coach shall notify the Scheduling Coordinator of the agreed-upon make-up arrangements. If the game is not made up both teams are awarded a loss.
6. Make-up games will take priority over practice times for field usage.
7. Tournament, Play-Off and All-Star games will be scheduled and/or re-scheduled by the Board.
8. Coaches shall deliver the game line-up to the opposing team coach prior to the start of the game. This line-up should show names, uniform numbers, and batting order. The defensive team may appeal batting out of order by the offensive team to the umpire. If the error is discovered while the incorrect batter is at bat, the offensive team may correct the wrong batter at the plate with no penalty, other than the correct batter must assume any balls or strikes already called. If the error is discovered after the incorrect batter has completed his/her turn at bat, but before the first pitch to the next batter, or before the defensive team has left the field, the player who should have batted is out. Any advance, or score made as a result of the improper batter is nullified. The defensive team loses the opportunity to appeal once the pitcher has pitched one legal pitch to the next batter, or the defensive team has left the playing field after 3 outs.
9. A side is retired after 3 outs have been made, or the maximum runs listed in the league specific rules, have been scored in any inning by the batting team.
10. Calling "Time". Calling "time" does not stop a play in progress. Players may request from the umpire that "time" be called after the conclusion of a play in order to get back into position, tie a shoe, talk to the coach, etc. It is up to the umpire to determine whether "time" will be granted.

Batting:

- 1.) The on-deck batter is the only batting team player to be swinging a bat other than the batter. Coaches need only be given one warning, after which an out may be called for the next occurrence from that team. The on-deck batter must be positioned behind the batter while on-deck.
- 2.) If the batter interferes with a play at home plate in an attempt to prevent a likely out at home plate, the batter is out. The runner is also out.
- 3.) Batting helmets will be supplied to each team.

Fielding:

- 1.) Fielders, including catchers, shall not obstruct base paths unless making a play on the ball or attempting to tag a base runner.

Base Running:

1. Two runners may not occupy the same base simultaneously. The runner who first legally occupied the base shall be entitled to it, unless forced to advance. The other runner is out if touched by the ball, or glove holding the ball.
2. Bases left too soon on a caught fly ball must be retouched prior to advancing to succeeding bases. If a runner leaves a base before a fly ball hit by the batter is caught, the defensive team can throw the ball to the base he/she left. The runner is out if a fielder who has the ball either tags him/her as he/she is running back to the base, or touches the base as in a force-out before he/she returns to it. If the runner either stays on the base until the fly ball is caught, or comes back to "tag-up", he/she may advance positions. A runner may also advance in this manner on a caught foul fly ball.
3. When there is a potential play at a base or home plate, and the fielder is attempting to catch a thrown ball, the runner must either make a legal slide or avoid contact. The fielder has the right to be in the base-path to field the thrown ball. The runner is responsible for avoiding contact. If the fielder is not attempting to receive a thrown ball and is in the base path, then the fielder has committed obstruction and the runner is awarded the base or plate. The runner has the right to reestablish his base path by running no more than 3 feet to either side of the base path to avoid contact. If the runner does attempt to avoid contact and there is incidental contact then this is a judgment call by the umpire. If the runner commits malicious contact, the runner is out.
4. A runner hit by, or touching, a batted ball in fair play before a fielder touches it, or makes a play on the ball, is out. This does not apply to a ball that a batter in the batter's box tick-fouls against himself/herself.
5. A runner hit by a thrown ball, is not out as a result of the contact, provided the contact was not intentional.
6. A runner may not run more than three feet from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged out by a fielder with the ball.
7. The runner is out if he/she physically passes a preceding runner before that runner has been put out.
8. The umpire does not have obligation to call runners out for missing bases. Once the ball has been returned to the infield and time has been called, any fielder, with or without the ball, may make a verbal appeal to the umpire on a runner missing a base,

or a runner leaving a base too soon on a caught fly ball. A defensive player with the ball should tag the base missed, or tag the runner with the ball or a glove holding the ball. The defensive team loses the opportunity of putting the runner out if the appeal is not made before the next legal pitch, or before the fielders have left the field.

9. A batter-runner may legally over-run first base and turn either left or right. If there is any attempt to advance toward second base in the opinion of the umpire, he/she is liable to be tagged out.
10. The orange safety base is only for the batter/runner approaching first base. A defensive player cannot record an out by touching the orange safety base.

Umpires

The JAYBA shall provide, for every game played in Jackson, a field and plate umpire for the following levels: Single A, Double A, Senior Boys, Junior Girls, and Senior Girls. Field umpires may be used at the Minor girls and Rookies level, but are not a requirement of the league. All umpires must be at least 12 years of age and must complete at least one training session per year. These training sessions will occur before and during the current baseball year. Any wages earned before completing a training session will be held until all training is complete. Volunteer umpires are encouraged to attend the training sessions.

JAYBA CODE OF CONDUCT

Profanity is strictly forbidden before, during, and after any JAYBA function. Any confirmation of coaches, players, or parents using profane language will immediately result in disciplinary action being taken.

Coaches

Winning is a consideration, but not the only one, nor the most important one. Care about the child more than the game. Remember most children, especially under 12, view the playing a game the same way as playing video games or playing outside, they are here to have fun.

All parents are to be positive role models at all times, showing maturity when conflict arises and handling the conflict in a positive manner

Provide praise when deserved, and avoid public criticism of players, umpires, and parents

Remember that we are a recreational program and some players are here only to try the sport. Maintain a positive attitude with these players, and try to find positive ways to incorporate them into the game.

Keep an open line of communication with your player's parents. If you explain your goals for the team early in the season, parents will be less likely to complain about what is taking place.

Players

Play hard, have fun

Pay attention to your coaches, learn from them

What's good for your team is good for you; you win and lose as a unit

Do your best to show up on time

Show respect for everyone involved. Never argue with, players, coaches, fans, or ump

Spectators

You are the biggest role model in your players life, always be respectful of everyone involved including the other teams coaches and fans.

Taunting and yelling is not permitted at any JAYBA function. Umpires are encouraged to remove you from the facility for violations of this policy.

Respect the dugout as private areas reserved for your player's team only. Only players and coaches are allowed in the dugout from 10 minutes prior to the game until the game has ended and the coaches have released the team for the day.

Discipline

Violations of the leagues code of conduct must be submitted to a Board of Directors member within 24 hours of the action taking place.

Any complaint shall be in written form, stating the date of the action, details of the action, and a signature. The signature must be held in confidence.

First violation: One game suspension

Second Violation: Removal from the league.

In order to be suspended the following procedures shall take place.

Oral notification to the offender.

The offender shall receive an explanation of the event.

A meeting is scheduled between the offender and not less than two board members. Any eyewitness account, in person or in writing, will be considered at this meeting. During this meeting, the offender will be given time to describe their perception of the event. Upon completion of the meeting the offender will be notified within 24 hours of what discipline, if any they will receive. A written transcript of the meeting shall be entered into the JAYBA records but will not be made public. If discipline is determined that will impact the players, a Board of Directors member will contact the Head Coach, an Assistant Coach if the discipline is against the Head Coach, to explain the situation and the Head Coach, or assistant coach as noted above, will disseminate the information to their team. This information is to be kept confidential within the members of the team.

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Each family is required to perform at least 6 hours of volunteer time every year. It is your responsibility to step forward and find ways to fulfill your requirement. For every hour not completed you will be charged \$10.

You can fulfill your commitment through any of the following activities

Coaching

Concession stand work

Field prep

Action in Jackson

Umpiring

Becoming a board member

BOARD MEMBERS

The JAYBA shall have at all times at least 5 Directors. The directors shall consist of (in order of succession) Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Secretary. It is of the utmost importance that all members listed below attend the monthly board meetings.

Chairman: The Chairman is the spokesperson of the league. The Chairman is responsible for setting the agenda for the monthly board meetings, overseeing the policies and procedures for the league up to and including rules and enforcement of said rules, as well as ensuring that the umpires and coaches are mobilized, equipped, and trained for all JAYBA levels. The Chairman is responsible for ensuring the proper supplies and maintenance is preformed for all the utilized parks.

Vice Chairman: The Vice Chairman is the main mobilizer for the league. The Vice Chairman shall oversee the registration process for the league as well as executing the J-hawk tryouts and schedules. The Vice Chairman shall also assemble the coaches for the annual draft of players and the coaches meeting.

Secretary: The secretary shall be the disseminator of league information including the publishing of all board meeting minutes, all league newsletters, and the advertisement of league signup and maintaining the leagues website.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for the leagues finances. The treasurer shall also be responsible for organizing all fundraising materials, and oversee the conducting of all business at the Action in Jackson concession stand and the daily manning of the Town Hall concession stand.

Assistant Secretary: The assistant secretary shall be the league's outreach contact. The assistant secretary shall be present at the Town of Jackson's monthly board meetings as well as the Richfield programs meetings. The assistant secretary shall also be responsible for the procurement of league sponsors and be there contact point for any and all issues sponsors might encounter.