

# **Kaukauna Youth Baseball Bylaws**

(Amended February 2025)

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## **I. Purpose, Mission, Foundation**

- A. Mission: Kaukauna Youth Baseball is a program of service to the youth of our community. It shall provide physical facilities, volunteer manpower and the resources to outfit a healthy activity in a wholesome atmosphere. We are dedicated to helping children become good and decent citizens through our training and leadership. We support the development of our youth by nurturing their setting of goals and by establishing the foundation for teamwork and fair play. The core of Kaukauna youth baseball is our board of directors who administer the operation of our program. The other segment of our program is made up of youngsters, coaches and parents. The two components provide significant benefits to all youth who participate. On the premise that because of their participation, graduates of our program are now better prepared and equipped for the future, we must move ahead by improving and expanding the benefits to the many kids yet to join our program.
- B. Emphasis is placed on skill development, individual improvement, self-confidence, and teamwork, with the ultimate goal being continued progress toward the next level of play.
- C. The program shall be open to participants residing within the boundaries of the Kaukauna Area School District, or to participants who attend school within the boundaries of Kaukauna Area School District.

## **II. Board Members/Board of Directors/Finance**

- A. The program shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of volunteer personnel

1. There are five voting members on the Board of Directors: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Registrar/Records
  - a) These five members ultimately vote with input from the entire Board
2. Member Elections
  - a) Elections for positions on the board will be held annually in September. To be elected, a nomination must take place. Voting position elections require a "second" nomination from another attendee
  - b) Interested members may nominate themselves or be nominated for these positions, with the exception of the President role, which must be nominated by someone else
  - c) If multiple candidates are interested in a position, attendees will discuss candidates and needs of the role without the candidates present
3. Any expenditure considered non-operational shall be brought forward for discussion by the Board of Directors and voted upon by the voting members

### III. Field Decorum/Conduct

- A. The actions of players, coaches, umpires, and league officials must be above reproach.
- B. Coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players and for maintaining discipline and order on the field and in the dugout during KYB baseball-related functions
- C. All players shall be on their bench, in the dugouts, or in the bullpen while their team is at bat. When their team is on defense, the reserve players shall be on their bench, or in the bullpen
- D. Fans and parents will be held accountable for their actions by the Director on Duty. Complaints about fan and parent conduct shall be reported to the President, Vice President, or Travel Director
- E. Coaches will be held accountable for their actions by the KYB Board of Directors. Each situation reported will be reviewed and handled as quickly as possible. No reported situation will be overlooked
- F. No one at any time during the course of the game may swing a bat outside of the fence surrounding the playing field.
- G. Two adult coaches shall be permitted to coach the bases when and only when there is an adult or coach in the dugout.
- H. Except to take their place in the coaching box, adult coaches may not come onto the field without permission of an umpire.
- I. No games may be protested
- J. The use of alcohol or tobacco in any form is prohibited on the field, benches, or dugouts by anyone
- K. Bat boys will not be allowed for safety reasons

- L. Any issues with unsportsmanlike conduct, obscene language, or unnecessary/aggressive physical contact may result in a disqualification from the event and/or ejection from the facility.
- M. Ejections will result in an automatic disqualification for the next game as well
- N. Any disqualification/ejection must be reported to the KYB President by the coach on the same calendar day.
  - 1. Both the coach and the player will appear before an ad-hoc KYB committee appointed by the president for review and determining a penalty. All attempts will be made to issue a ruling within 24 hours of the meeting. No attendance at KYB events will be allowed to occur until a ruling is made final.
  - 2. Committee will be composed of the 5 Board of Director members (at least 3 must be present).

#### IV. Safety

- A. All participants **must** be covered by health insurance. In no way, shall the league be expected to carry any insurance for the participants.
- B. All participants, including coaches, players, Directors and other volunteers, participate at their own risk, and Kaukauna Youth Baseball bears no responsibility or liability of any kind or nature whatsoever for any claims of injury damage to property or monetary damages of any kind or nature whatsoever arising from or associated in any way with participating in any KYB activities.
- C. No games or practices shall be held when weather or field conditions are not good, particularly when lighting is inadequate
- D. Playing areas should be inspected frequently for holes, damage, stones, glass and other foreign objects
- E. During practice and games, all players should be alert and watching the batter on every pitch
- F. During warm up drills, players should be spaced so that no one is endangered by wild throws or missed pitches
- G. Equipment should be inspected regularly, making sure it fits properly and of good condition
- H. Batters must wear protective helmets during batting practice, as well as during games. Bats may only be swung inside the cages, in the batter's box, and in the on deck circle. Male catchers must wear protective supporters at all times with a protective cup.
- I. Players must not wear watches, rings, pins or other metallic items. Pitchers may not wear anything white on their pitching arms, batters gloves on any hand and cannot wear sunglasses unless prescribed.
- J. Catchers must wear a facemask with shin guards any time they are warming up a pitcher
- K. Shoes with metal spikes or cleats are prohibited for 12u and under. Shoes with molded rubber cleats are permitted

- L. At no time should "horseplay" be permitted on the playing field or in the dugout
- M. The last two teams of the evening are responsible for filling in holes on pitcher's mound and in the batter's box, and for putting bases away
- N. All injuries must be reported to the coach who, in turn, must report the injuries to the Kaukauna Board of Directors or Director on duty. (This rule pertains no matter how small the injury may seem.)
- O. The Coach or Coach's representative shall stay after games and practices until all kids are picked up or leave the park
- P. Delayed games because of lightning will not resume until 30 minutes after the last sighting of lightning or thunder
- Q. No unorganized or unsupervised play after league games.

## V. League

- A. All attempts will be made to have a Board Member assigned to a position in attendance for all games. Contact information will be readily available in the concession stands as needed
- B. Two or more qualified persons must be available to supervise or coach each team during games or practice. There shall be one adult in the dugout or at a reasonable distance at all times during a game.
- C. Jr Legion and Legion Baseball Divisions shall be governed by the rules of play set forth in the Legion Baseball League.
  - a) Jr Legion and Legion teams are selected by the coaches.
  - b) All play rules are governed by the league the teams play in.
  - c) An additional 16U Legion team may be created based on the number of players and talent.
  - d) Legion team may be created based on the number of players and talent
- D. The makeup of our 13-18 year old groups typically consist of one Travel team and one AA team per age group, along with combined 13/14 year old A teams.
  - 1. This configuration can vary each year based on talent level or number of players. KYB Board of Directors will make this decision based on input from coaches and family members of the respective age groups.
  - 2. KYB will make all attempts to keep as many kids playing as possible by allowing up to 3 A teams. More than 3 teams at this level would need to be discussed and approved by the KYB Board of Directors prior to evaluations taking place.
  - 3. Player cuts may be necessary in order to keep roster sizes balanced. See Travel guidelines for how cuts are managed.
  - 4. AA and A teams will play league baseball through Fox Valley Youth Baseball League. Rules for that league are governed through the league and available on their website (<http://www.fvybl.com/rules.htm>)

5. Travel teams are governed by the game play rules established at each tournament they're playing in (see Travel section for further information)

#### E. 5-12 Year Old Divisions

1. The league shall provide a jersey and equipment for the season. Any league owned equipment shall be returned at season's end. This rule excludes personal equipment purchases such as gloves, pants, hats, socks, batting gloves, bats etc. (All bats must be Little League approved.)
2. Any player participating in Kaukauna Youth Baseball 5-12 league is required to pay registration fees set forth by KYB
3. A fundraiser may be required for 7-12 year old leagues. Details and specifics of this fundraiser may vary from year to year and will be finalized during a Board meeting with input from others
4. Late Registrations
  - a) If roster sizes allow, late registrations will be allowed-this will be determined the night of the draft
  - b) These players would be placed on teams to balance roster sizes, and the placement will be random
  - c) Players that sign up after the registration deadline may be assessed a \$20.00 late registration fee
5. Players unable to pay registration fees due to financial hardship shall contact the board of directors for other arrangements.
6. All rules for each league shall be posted on our website and shared with coaches prior to the season starting
7. Supplemental Playing Rules
  - a) Every player must play at least two complete innings by the end of the fourth inning. Team that makes an infraction will forfeit the game of the infraction.
  - b) There shall be open substitution. Players are allowed to enter or re-enter the game at any time. (batting order remains the same)

#### F. Drafts

1. All 5-12 league draft teams will be selected via a draft process after the evaluation process takes place
2. Draft order for 7-12 year old leagues will be determined by coaches votes. 5-6 year old draft order will be determined by luck of the draw
3. All drafts will follow a modified snake draft format, where the first teams to pick will receive the first pick in the first round and the first pick in the second round. There may be exceptions to this at younger ages.
4. Players that miss the evaluations will be picked at the end of the draft, if not selected in the 1st round. The exception is that each team will have one preselected player, indicated on the night of the draft, that can be selected in any round.

- G. Pairings for tournaments will be done once each team has completed their listed games. Tournament seeding tiebreakers are based upon:
  - 1. Head to head results (if applicable)
  - 2. Number of runs allowed
  - 3. Number of runs scored
  - 4. Coin flip

## VI. Travel

- A. Roster Selection/Evaluations
  - 1. Players shall be evaluated by a team of evaluators. Each player will be evaluated based on fielding, throwing, hitting, running, attitude, commitment, dedication, and other intangible factors. Evaluators will consist of the previous season's coaches, high school coaching staff, and other coaches / board members not affiliated with the specific age group. Evaluations will be collected and a summary will be compiled and distributed to the individual coaches. Individual ratings will be anonymous to all other than the Travel Director and President
  - 2. Any cuts if necessary, and specific team placement, will be based upon anonymous voting by coaches, under the direction and supervision of the Travel director
  - 3. In scenarios where team assignment is declined for one reason or another, coaches voting would come back into play. In the event it cannot be settled by this, coaches would be allowed to revote between the players in question.
  - 4. Number of teams, composition of teams, and number of tournaments is established and set forth according to the Travel Program Framework. Alterations to team composition or schedule must be approved by the travel director and board of directors.
  - 5. Players will try out for the age level to match their grade, unless there's a birthdate-related exception needed. These exceptions must be approved by the KYB President and Board of Directors
- B. Teams will play tournaments selected by the Head Coach of the team
- C. Coaches are expected to give every team member meaningful play time during the course of the season based on a player's ability, attitude, attendance (practice & game) along with game situation.
- D. Travel teams may call up players if they do not have enough players to fill a team for a particular tournament
- E. All KYB Travel players are required to play in KYB leagues. Their travel age will match the league they play in
- F. Players that accept roster positions on travel teams are expected to show dedication and commitment to Kaukauna Youth Baseball.

## VII. Coaches

- A. All coaches and volunteers must have registered online for the purpose of completing a current background check. Additionally, all coaches and volunteers are required to complete online training in accordance with the Federal Safe Sport Act
- B. Coaches will be selected through an application and/or interview process. Individuals interested in coaching a team, who believe they meet our criteria, should submit a coaching application via online registration.
- C. Travel
  - 1. If two or more qualified individuals are interested in coaching travel baseball, a committee chosen by the Board of Directors shall interview the interested coaches. Coaches will be selected based upon previous coaching performance, communication, parent feedback, and qualifications listed below. Final approval of head coaching assignments will be made at the sole discretion of the committee chosen by the Board of Directors. Assistant coaches will be selected by the Head Coach that's been assigned, with approval from the Travel Director. based upon a discussion between the head coach and the travel director.
- D. Coach Qualifications. All candidates for Coach positions must meet the following requirements:
  - 1. Demonstrates a knowledge of baseball, baseball skills and knows how to pass this knowledge on to his or her players.
  - 2. Exemplifies high moral and ethical qualities.
  - 3. Shows good sportsmanship and expects the same of their players.
  - 4. Maintains discipline and expects the same of their players.
  - 5. Properly supervises practices and games, and manages the administrative functions of the team.
  - 6. Makes an attempt to develop each player's skills so that each player is able to play more than one position on the team.
  - 7. Availability during pre-season and in-season activities (practices, games, etc).
- E. Coaches are expected to give every team member meaningful play time during the course of the season based on a player's ability, attitude, attendance (practice & game) along with game situation.

## VIII. Amendments

- A. These preceding regulations govern the conduct and operation of the Kaukauna Youth Baseball program
- B. Rule changes, once discussed, will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval

- C. The Board of Directors or a committee assigned by the Board of Directors shall meet at the end of every playing season to review the rules, regulations, and policies of Kaukauna Youth Baseball and to suggest any changes which may improve the program.
- D. These bylaws may be reviewed and/or updated regularly to ensure they meet the program's needs.

## IX. Version Control

- A. 04/2021: Amended
- B. 02/2025: Major Version Drafted-updated structure, changes to language