

CHASKA  
HAWKS TRAVEL  
BASEBALL



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# BOARD INTRODUCTIONS

 <b>GREG Riggs</b> President (Officer) 	 <b>JESSICA Beekman</b> Secretary (Officer) 	 <b>MICHAEL Bosl</b> Treasurer (Officer) 
 <b>JODI Lewis</b> Communications & Social Media 	 <b>ERIKA Spande</b> Registration Director 	 <b>TRICIA Thrasher</b> Apparel Associate 
 <b>JAYSON Bisbee</b> Travel Director 	 <b>CURTIS Pavlicek</b> Travel Associate 	 <b>JENNA Cruz</b> Tournament Director 
 <b>JULIE Bresser</b> Youth League Director 	 <b>BOB Brophy</b> Youth League Associate 	 <b>RHIANON Pankake</b> Community League Director (11-14u) 
 <b>JEFF Pierce</b> Umpire Director 	 <b>JEFF Spande</b> Equipment 	 <b>TONY Lane</b> Grounds 
 <b>MELISSA Coddington</b> Dibs Coordinator 	 <b>SHANNON Storie</b> Fundraising Director 	 <b>KARI Moore</b> Fundraising Associate 
 <b>SAM Koktan</b> Concessions Director 	 <b>MANDY Randall</b> Concessions Associate 	 <b>OPEN POSITION</b> Fall Ball Coordinator 
 <b>SEAN Bogolin</b> Webmaster 		



# PROGRAM DETAILS



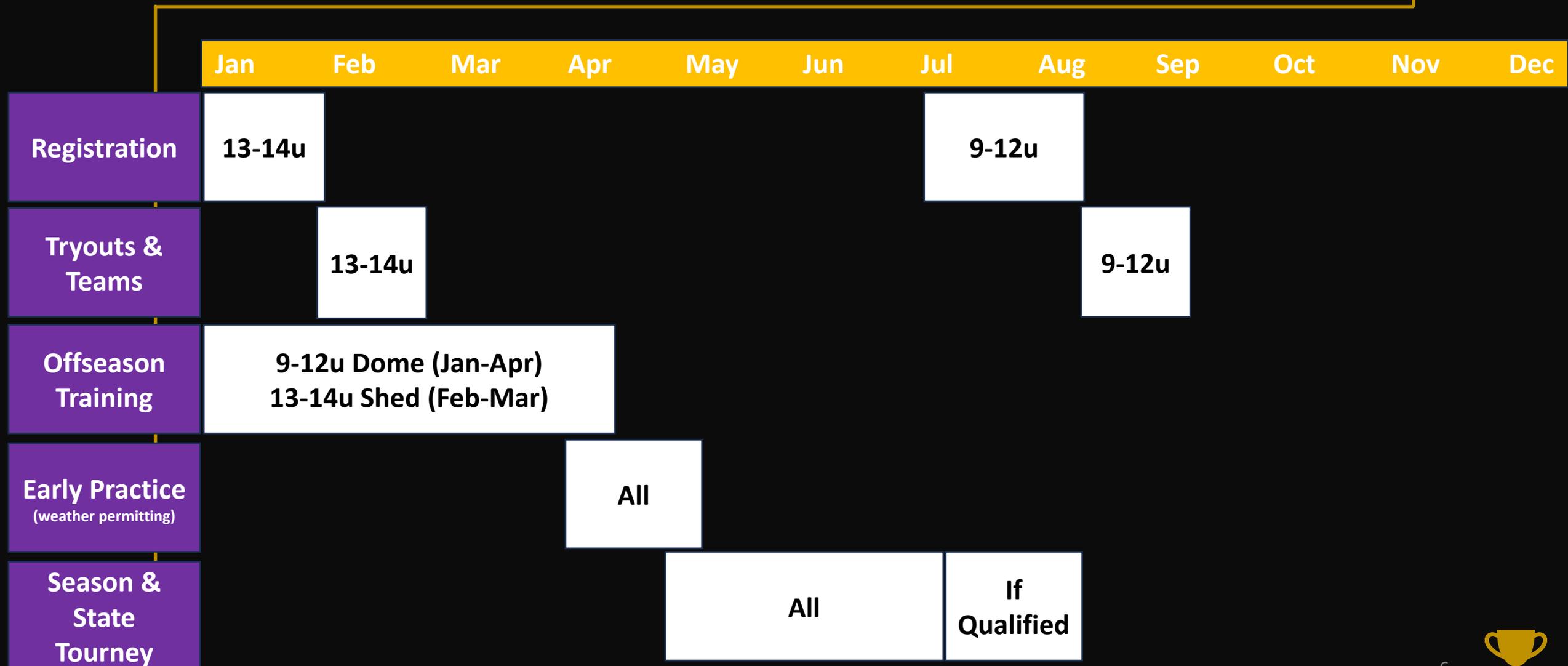
# SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM PRIOR YEAR

- Travel registration fees
- Tryout stations/evaluation process
- Team creation process
- Team dome time/space
- Player evaluation
- Coaches evaluation

*This is a highlight of some of the changes to the program from the previous year. Continue to read through the slides for more detail.*



# PROGRAM TIMELINE



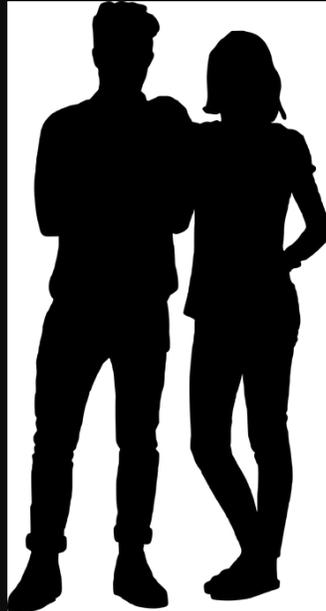
# POLICIES



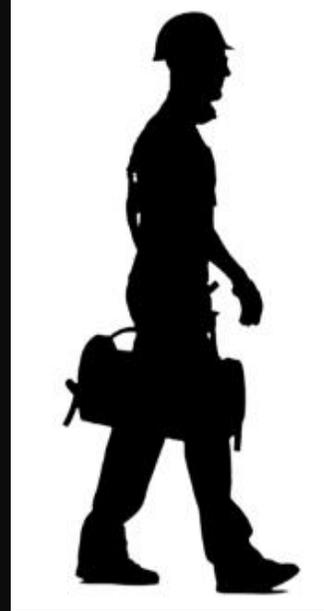
Player Code  
of Conduct



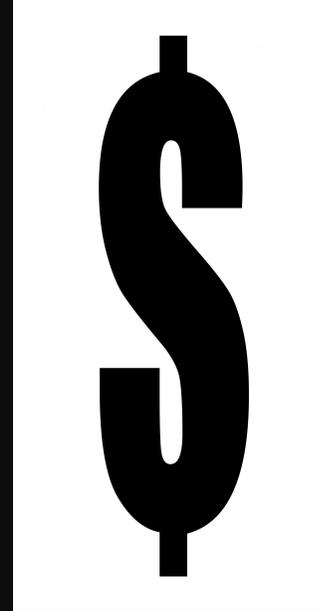
Player Game  
Etiquette



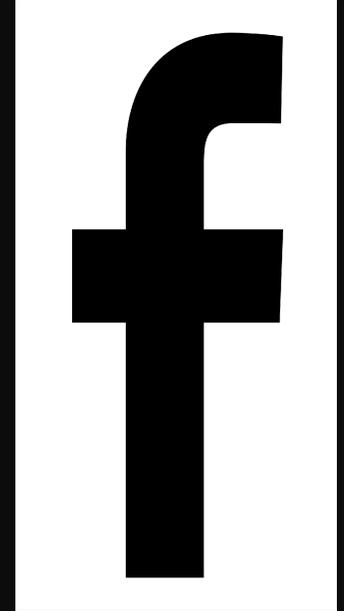
Parent Code  
of Conduct



Volunteer  
Policy



Refund  
Policy



Social Media  
Policy

CBA policies can be found on our website and also included as part of your annual registration process.

Click Here >>> [Documents \(playballhawks.com\)](https://playballhawks.com/Documents)



# LEVELS OF PLAY & AGE GROUPS

*CBA plays as part of Metro Baseball League (MBL), which governs our rules of play, regions, and team administration.*

## LEVELS OF PLAY

- AAA: The highest competitive level
- AA: Intermediate level
- A: The intermediate level designed to be a developmental, yet competitive league until players are ready to advance to a higher level
- No interlevel play between “AAA”, “AA”, and “A” leagues



## AGE GROUPS

- Grades 3rd to 9th play with their school grade, unless they reach the next age group before May 1.
- CBA strongly believes players should be playing with their same age peers, so “playing up” is not permitted.
- Birth certificates required for all players and tournaments

CLICK HERE >>> [MBL/MBT - Home](#)



# LEVELS OF PLAY & AGE GROUPS

*CBA plays as part of Metro Baseball League (MBL), which governs our rules of play, regions, and team administration.*

## AGE GROUPS / BIRTHDAY RANGE

For the **2026** season, player birthday must be between...

- **9U : May 1st, 2016 - April 30th, 2017**
- **10U : May 1st, 2015 - April 30th, 2016**
- **11U : May 1st, 2014 - April 30th, 2015**
- **12U : May 1st, 2013 - April 30th, 2014**
- **13U : May 1st, 2012 - April 30th, 2013**
- **14U : May 1st, 2011 - April 30th, 2012**



# 2026 FEES & VOLUNTEER DEPOSIT

## FEES



### 9U-12U:

- **\$650** fee includes 2 jerseys, hat & tournament registrations.

### 13U-14U:

- **\$650** fee includes 2 jerseys, hat, tournament registrations.

All registered players will incur a Tryout fee of \$45

Registration fee does **NOT** include State Tournament fee(s) if your team qualifies; team would be responsible for paying on their own

## VOLUNTEER DEPOSIT



- **\$450 pending** Volunteer deposit will be processed at the time of registration if the family opts in and will look to volunteer throughout the season (A “Buyout” option will also be available). All Volunteer payments will be processed through SportsEngine. An initial \$1 charge will be assessed with the remaining amount being a pending charge.
- The pending charge will only be processed if volunteer requirements are not completed.
- All volunteer shifts to be claimed and administered through DIBS portal
- Detailed Volunteer Policy >> [CLICK HERE](#)



# PLAYER & PARENT COMMITMENT



Travel baseball requires a significant time commitment from players, coaches, and parents.



Every player's presence is important; each player is expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Both League Games and Tournaments are typically held within the metro area; Upon the coaches discretion, a "travel tournament" requiring a hotel stay could occur. Coaches are advised to discuss the travel tournament with their team before registering to ensure everyone agrees to the added expenses to play in the travel tournament



Unexcused absences may result in playing time reduction at the discretion of the Head Coach. Continued commitment issues will be brought the CBA Board for evaluation and possible disciplinary action. Out-of-season sports and club baseball are never considered excused absences.



Transparent and proactive communication with your Head Coach is important to get ahead of any known schedule conflicts



CBA ALLOWS players to double roster on club baseball teams. Carefully consider the time commitment required to be on 2 traveling teams when making this decision! Club baseball should never be prioritized over your CBA team.



# TRYOUT PROCESS

## Intent

- The goal of tryouts is to place players on the team in which they will be **most successful**. In addition to physical performance, we view success as building confidence and providing opportunities to develop. Team placement is a snapshot in time, not a life sentence. We want players to develop their abilities AND love for the game!

## Timing:

- Tryouts are held over 2 days and scores are averaged. We try to avoid conflicts with in-season sports, but this is an extremely difficult feat:
  - **9-12u: Mid Aug-** Allows us to see players fresh from prior season. Allows for team training/activities over the offseason
  - **13-14u: Late January/Early Feb-** Allows players to grow and build strength over the offseason before we evaluate them

## Closed Tryouts

- To eliminate distractions and allow players to focus, we restrict spectators. Those permitted during tryouts are:
  - Board members to help facilitate tryouts and drills; they do not participate in drills for their children's age, nor are they involved in scoring
  - Prior/current coaches and volunteers by invite; facilitate drills when child's age group is not present

## Evaluators

- Hired evaluators: Chaska Baseball Association hires Chaska High School coaching personnel, with no affiliation to our youth program, to provide unbiased scores for every player. Evaluators stay at a given skill station for the entire age group to drive consistency in scoring across players
- Players are randomly assigned a "Pinny Number" to maintain anonymity



# TRYOUT STATIONS

## HITTING



40%

There are 2 hitting stations. Front toss and machine pitch. Each station will typically be in a batting cage. Players will get 6-8 pitches per station. Evaluators are looking at players' overall swing mechanics, contact, power, and timing. Hitting is a large part of the overall score.

## INFIELD



20%

Players will field 5-6 ground balls from shortstop and/or third base and make a throw to first base. Evaluators are looking at players' fielding mechanics (footwork, receiving ball, transfer) and the accuracy & strength of the throw. Infield is an important part of the overall score.

## OUTFIELD



20%

Players will field 4-5 fly balls from a predetermined starting point in the outfield. Balls are sent from a machine (or coach), and the distance depends on the age group. Evaluators are looking at players' approach in catching fly balls and the accuracy & strength of the cutoff throw.

## RUNNING



10%

Players will get 2 opportunities to run around the bases. Evaluators will be looking at how players demonstrate their speed. Proper technique will be evaluated and if done correctly will lead to faster times.

## THROWING



10%

Players will throw 6-8 pitches from the mound into a strike zone/net. Evaluators are looking for pitching/throwing mechanics, arm strength, and consistency across throws.



# TRYOUT STATIONS 13/14U

The 13/14U group will take part in the same Hitting, Infield, Outfield, and Running stations, but will have a choice to be evaluated in either Pitching or Catching for one of their stations (choose 1). At this age, players are beginning to have more position focus, so they can choose the option that best shows off their strength. Both stations have the same weight.

Players can bring catching gear if they choose, or a set will be available for use.

## CATCHING



## THROWING



10%

Players will have 6-8 different pitches thrown to them as a catcher, and will also need to complete a throw to 2nd and a pickoff attempt. Evaluators will be looking at form, quickness, and throwing accuracy. Players choosing this option need a protective cup during tryouts.

Players will throw 6-8 pitches from the mound into a strike zone/net. Evaluators are looking for pitching mechanics, arm strength, and consistency across throws. 13/14 players will be asked to throw 2 changeups to demonstrate change in velocity.



# TRYOUT ATTENDANCE

- Attendance at both tryout dates is expected and required. Seeing players on both dates allows us to develop a more holistic picture of their strengths and gaps.
- “Life Happens”: If you have an unavoidable conflict, you must notify the Travel Director, in writing, to seek an excused absence.
- In the event your player misses 1 day of tryouts, CBA will utilize 1 day of results and incorporate feedback from Coach Evals and prior tryouts.
- The only circumstance in which a player can miss both tryout days is:
  - Injury or illness (documented with doctor’s note)
  - Family emergency (funeral, sudden illness of caregiver)

One Day Missed (excused)	Both Days Missed (excused)	One or Both Days Missed (unexcused)
- Use 1 day of results, supported with coach feedback forms and prior eval scores	- Use last year’s eval with 10% reduction of total score and placed within “pick zone” of given team - Cannot move up a level	- Will not be rostered unless open spot on lowest level team within player’s age group



# TRYOUT SCHEDULE & REMINDERS

9U-12U Tryouts held at Chaska  
Community Park

13U & 14U Tryouts held at Chaska  
Athletic Dome

**AUG 16**  
**Day 1**

9U - 8:30am-10am  
10U - 10am-11:30am  
11U - 11:45am-1:15pm  
12U - 1:15pm-2:45pm

**AUG 17**  
**Day 2**

12U - 8:30am-10am  
11U - 10am-11:30am  
10U - 11:45am-1:15pm  
9U - 1:15pm-2:45pm

**JAN 22**  
**Day 1**

- 13U - 6:00pm-7:30pm
- 14U - 7:30pm-9pm

**JAN 29**  
**Day 2**

- 14U - 6:00pm-7:30pm
- 13U - 7:30pm-9pm

## Reminders:

- High School staff completes the evaluations of each player
- Leadership, being a good teammate, hustle and attitude is equally important
- Previous travel or Club hats and clothes are not allowed
- Bring helmet, glove, bat and water bottle
- No metal cleats are allowed in the dome (when tryouts are in dome)



# PLAYER RANKING

1

During tryouts, all scores are electronically entered into the scoring matrix each day by the evaluators using the Pinny Number

2

Scores are averaged across both days using the station weightings and Pinny Numbers are ranked from top to bottom (highest to lowest score)

3

Pinny Numbers are replaced with the corresponding player name revealing full player ranking and scores that are confidential to the CBA.



# CREATING TEAMS

1

Head Coaches for each team are chosen by the Selection Committee based on communicated interest, player rank, previous coaching history, previous coaching feedback, etc... and are then invited to meet in person with the Selection Committee to review player rankings (**No players scores are ever revealed to coaches**).

2

Beginning with the top team the highest ranking 6 players from the tryouts will be locked, and the head coach for that team can make a case to swap “unlocked” players (ranked 7-12) with other players from the **pick zone (13-18)**. (exception: significant, documented coachability issues from prior season).

3

The Head Coaches within the same age group will be able to leverage each other for feedback, as well as have the previous years player evaluation to make final roster decisions.

4

Once the top team is finalized the process repeats for remaining teams, with the next/top 6 being locked and the coaches discretion to select from the next ranking 12 players.

## Why Have a Pick Zone?

1. To address a specific need/gap in proposed lineup
2. To move up a player with documented track record

- ✓ Case must be supported by previous coach feedback and evaluation scores
- ✓ Selection Committee has final decision rights



# CREATING TEAMS

6

Once final roster decisions have been made, any remaining players are contacted and offered to play in other CBA programs such as Chaska's Community or Inhouse leagues

7

Travel Teams are communicated ideally within about two weeks from the completion of tryouts. Head coaches can then begin team communication and identifying Assistance Coaches/Team Managers.

Each age group will have a AAA, AA, and A depending on tryout numbers.

8

Off season practice begins in January!

**Note: No tryout process is perfect.** CBA puts an extensive effort into creating a fair and impartial tryout process, and are constantly evaluating ways to improve.

PLEASE wait **48 hours** after team announcement before contacting with feedback or questions



# COACH SELECTION

## New Coaches Will:

- Complete application and interview with coach selection committee.
- Coaches are evaluated on:
  - Past coaching experience and feedback
  - Playing experience
  - Organizational skills
  - Moral and ethical characteristics

## All Coaches Will:

- Indicate coaching interest within player's annual registration
- Attend coach meetings and trainings during offseason
- Assist, as needed, with offseason player development
- Complete Safe Sport process (background check, concussion & abuse awareness certification)

Player tryout rankings/teams will determine coach final assignments

CLICK HERE >> [www.playballhawks.com/coaches](http://www.playballhawks.com/coaches)

# UNIFORMS & EQUIPMENT

**CBA  
Provides:**

## Uniforms

- 2 jerseys (Home & Away)
- Fitted Hat

## Equipment

- Catcher's Equipment
- Tees/Hitting net
- Practice/game balls
- Game Mgmt Supplies

**Player  
Provides:**

## Uniforms

- Pants (white w/ black piping)
- Black socks and belt

## Equipment

- Glove
- Bat, batting gloves, helmet
- Cleats, cup



# UMPIRES

CBA is proud to offer a program to recruit and develop our own pool of umpires! This is a great way for players (14+) to continue learning the game and develop leadership skills. Adults are also welcome to enroll. We take treatment of umpires seriously, and expect players, coaches and parents to treat them with respect and help them grow!



## 9-12u:

- Use CBA umpires
- 1 ump for 9-11u games, 2 umps for 12u



## 13-14u:

- Use MN Umpires
- 2 umps for all games



# PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

CBA continues to make a SUBSTANTIAL investment (time & monetary) to support player development over the offseason. Players need to take accountability to improve over the offseason. We strongly encourage you to utilize this time, as your winter schedule allows with other activities.

## 9-12u

- Sundays Jan-Apr
  - Open Cages
  - Age-group training (stations) in dome & D-Bats
  - Dedicated Team time in Dome & D-Bats

## 13-14u

- Sundays Jan-Apr
  - Open Cages
  - Age-group training (stations) in dome & D-Bats
  - Dedicated Team time in Dome & D-Bats



# PLAYER AND COACH EVALUATIONS

CBA conducts annual evaluations on players and coaches so the information can be used to drive decisions for the following year.

## Player Evaluations

- Upon completion of the season each member of the team coaching staff will have an opportunity to fill out an evaluation form ranking the skills of each player. This is valuable information that's made available to the coach during the team selection process the following year.
- Player evaluations are only available during this time. Otherwise, kept confidential.

## Coach Evaluations

- Upon completion of the season each family on the team will have an opportunity to fill out an evaluation form for each member of the coaching staff. This is kept confidential and a summary of the information will be communicated to the coaches. CBA will use this information to drive coaching decisions for the following year(s).

