

Hello Current, and New, WCBA Families,

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who took the time to attend our feedback meeting, complete a survey, and share your thoughts about the future of WCBA Baseball. We had approximately 55 participants attend the meeting, both in person and online, and received 88 survey responses. Your feedback played a significant role in helping us shape our plans for the 2027 season.

After reviewing all comments, suggestions, and survey results, the Board has developed the following plans for the upcoming season.

Director of Baseball Operations

After careful consideration, the Director of Baseball Operations position will be discontinued beginning with the 2027 season.

Coaches

We will begin identifying coaches for all age levels over the coming weeks.

- Watch for upcoming information on how to volunteer as a coach.
- Each team will have:
 - 1 Head Coach
 - 1 Assistant Coach

To help ensure a positive experience for all players, coaches will be required to complete:

- A criminal background check
- Winter coaching training sessions

We greatly appreciate the volunteers who make our program possible and look forward to building an outstanding coaching staff.

Registration

We anticipate opening registration on **October 5, 2026**, following our Annual Board Meeting on **October 4, 2026**, when registration fees will be finalized and approved.

Winter Workouts

Based on feedback from families, winter workout sessions will no longer be included as a mandatory registration expense.

Instead:

- Winter workouts will be offered as an optional add-on.
- Families who choose not to participate will not be required to pay for them.
- We plan to expand winter workout opportunities for players from **8U through Varsity**.
- We are also exploring options for **TeeBall and 6U** athletes.
- Our goal is to keep winter workout fees around **\$100 per participant**.
- Sessions are expected to run from **January through March**.

Registration Timeline

- Regular registration will remain open through **December 31, 2026**.
- Beginning on January 1, registration will move to a late registration period and will include an increased fee.
- Late registration is expected to remain open through **February 2027** (subject to adjustment following the Annual Meeting).
- Once registration closes, only extenuating circumstances, such as a family moving into the district, will be considered for additional registrations.

Player Assessments

For divisions that utilize assessments, we will be making several changes for the 2027 season.

Most importantly, **assessments will be completely free of charge.**

Assessments will be conducted by coaches within each division and will focus on baseball fundamentals, including:

- Fielding ground balls
- Throwing accuracy
- Pitching
- Catching
- Hitting (using machine pitching rather than only soft toss)

Weather permitting, players may also participate in short scrimmage-style games to allow coaches to evaluate in-game performance.

Following assessments, coaches will use the collected information to build balanced and competitive teams. Additional roster-building guidelines may be implemented and will be communicated as they are finalized.

Please note: Players who do not attend assessments will be placed into the final selection group during roster formation.

Team and Roster Formation

Tournament/Travel Teams

WCBA will begin to support tournament and travel teams under the following guidelines.

Being sponsored by WCBA provides teams with:

- Coverage under WCBA's insurance policy
- Access to WCBA fields (scheduled through WCBA)

- Eligibility for VFW-sanctioned qualifying tournaments and State VFW Tournament placement based on competition level

Teams choosing to operate independently may still do so. However, those teams will be responsible for:

- Securing their own insurance coverage
- Reserving field space through the city, subject to availability and rental fees
- Providing proof of insurance when required

Independent teams wishing to participate in State VFW Tournaments will compete within the Open Class structure.

Requirements for WCBA-Sponsored Teams

To qualify for WCBA sponsorship:

- At least 70% of the roster must reside within the West Central School District.
- Players must be registered and actively participating in the WCBA Recreation Program.
- Players must participate in at least 50% of scheduled recreation games.

In addition:

- Coaches must complete WCBA background check requirements.
- Teams must review and agree to the WCBA Code of Conduct.
- Teams are responsible for locating and registering for their own tournaments.
- Teams may design their own jerseys, but jersey designs must be submitted to WCBA for approval before ordering.

Tournament Registrations

As we look ahead to the 2027 season, teams will be responsible for registering and paying for any tournaments they choose to attend. This change helps keep overall program costs lower and allows families who prefer to participate only in recreational baseball to do so without additional tournament expenses.

The only tournaments that teams will be automatically registered for are the end-of-season league tournaments.

Please Note: Players who participate on a Tournament/Travel Team will still be required to compete in the year-end league tournament with their recreational team. This helps ensure all teams can finish the season together and celebrate their hard work throughout the year.

Rec Teams Without a Tournament/Travel Team

If your team does not have a Tournament/Travel Team, but players are interested in additional tournament opportunities, we encourage you to connect with other recreational teams to see if they have openings for guest players. This can be a great way for athletes to gain additional experience and enjoy more time on the field.

If you need assistance getting connected with other teams, please reach out to the WCBA. We are happy to help provide contact information and support players in finding opportunities that fit their goals and interests.

Division Information

TeeBall

- No changes from the 2026 season
- Target team size: 7 players

6U

- No changes from the 2026 season
- Target team size: 10 players

8U

- Target team size: 11 players
- Teams will be formed through a coach draft from the list of registered players.
- No player assessments will be conducted.
- This process will remain the same as the 2026 season.

10U and 12U

- Target team size: 12 players
- Players will participate in free assessments.
- Coaches will draft teams based on assessment results.

Sub-JV

- Target team size: 12 players
- Players will participate in free assessments.
- Rosters will be developed based on number of players and skill level.

JV and Varsity

- Target team size: TBD (Depends on number of players signed up and skill level).
- No outside tournament team sponsorships will be offered at these levels.
- Players will participate in free assessments.
- Rosters will be developed based on number of players and skill level.

A Note on Player Placement

One of our goals for 2027 is to ensure players are placed at the level that best supports both their development and enjoyment of the game.

For Sub-JV, JV, and Varsity divisions, players will be placed based on their current competition level rather than being assigned to a team solely to fill roster spots. If the majority of players are best suited for Sub-JV competition, we will place them there to maximize development and create the most competitive experience possible.

This may mean that certain levels do not field a team in a given season, while other levels may have multiple teams.

Our priority is creating an environment where players can continue to grow, compete, and enjoy the game.

Thank You

We know there are many opinions on how youth baseball should operate, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who took the time to share their feedback. While not every suggestion can be implemented, every comment was considered as we worked through these decisions.

We are excited about the direction of the program and look forward to another great season of baseball in our community. Thank you for your continued support of WCBA and the young athletes we serve.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at wcbassoc@gmail.com

WCBA Board of Directors