



2019 AABA House Leagues Information

www.aababaseball.org

Alexandria Area Baseball Association (AABA):

The AABA Baseball association is a non-profit local baseball league that is overseen by a board comprised of volunteers from within the Alexandria community. Each board member typically serves a 3 to 5 year term. The association has evolved since its inception (in the 1980's) to its present form which typically consists of (Qty 30) teams made up of 3rd through 9th grade players. All the leagues are fast pitch with pitchers throwing from a mound (leagues do not use a pitching machine or a batting tee) with the regular season starting in early May and operates through the middle of July with the playoffs and championship games being completed typically by the end of July.

The association operates a website (www.aababaseball.org) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/aababaseball/>) that is updated with each team's roster, the team's record, official game schedules, playoff brackets, practice times, Etc. The website also has links reflecting the active board members contact info as well as links to the specific league rules being implemented for a given age group. Once our season begins, the website will be updated with weather related announcements, game times, locations for regular season play, any pending makeup games, and season ending playoff /championship schedules. The official schedule is not created until the quantity of teams participating has been determined. Number of teams varies each season depending on participation.

AABA House Leagues:

The AABA places participants into the appropriate league based on their grade level (determined by the grade they were in during the current school year) versus their actual age. These leagues are participatory type programs and pending the creation of a waiting list, all players will be placed on a team regardless of their experience or talent level.

Northwood's League: Made up of this year's third and fourth graders. Team names reflect the Northwood's League (collegiate age) that our local Alexandria organization used to participate in. These teams play on the Woodland Elementary School fields as well as at Fillmore Park. This league plays on Monday and Wednesday nights with game times scheduled for 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM. Each team will be playing approximately 12 to 14 regular season games and participate in a mid-season (Summer Classic) tournament held over one weekend (typically the last weekend in June) pending the development of the schedule, available fields and the cooperation of the weather).

Minor League: Made up of this year's fifth and sixth graders. Team names reflect the Minor League associated with professional baseball organizations. These teams will also play on the Woodland Elementary School fields as well as at Fillmore Park. This league plays on Tuesday and Thursday nights with game times scheduled for 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM. Each team will be playing approximately 12 to 14 regular season games and participate in a mid-season (Summer Classic) tournament held over one weekend (typically the last weekend in June) pending the development of the schedule, available fields and the cooperation of the weather).

Evaluations: Player evaluations for the Northwood's and Minor leagues are typically scheduled on a Saturday before or by mid-April. Evaluations will be held inside or outside at a board chosen location depending on weather and space available. Players participating in the evaluations will be grouped into groups of 5 and escorted through the evaluation process. Each participant will be assigned a number for the ease of our evaluators to score the players on their current skill level and technique(s). Players will be ranked based on their skill level in each section. Evaluated sections are as follows: Infield, hitting, pitching, outfield, and running.

The sole purpose of the evaluations is to create equal teams as much as possible in each division giving each player opportunities to participate. Evaluations are a one day event with no makeup dates.

If a participant is unable to attend the tryout date set by AABA due to a conflict, injury or illness, the AABA board will need to be notified. The board can be contacted via the email addresses found on the website (www.aababaseball.org). However, all participants must have their current registration completed and appropriate financial obligations (registration fees) paid prior to the registration deadlines.

Players not able to participate in evaluations will still be selected on a team however they be added to the bottom of evaluation list. During the coaches draft the coaches' will be asked to rank the non-evaluated players in a sector. Sectors typically are as follows: top 25, top 50, top 75, top 100, and etc.

An evaluator is someone who has sufficient baseball expertise, in AABA's judgment, to evaluate the skills of the player-candidates. The AABA will decide, within its sole and absolute discretion, which it will use as impartial evaluators to judge the baseball skills of its participating players. It has been a common practice within the association to utilize the coaches of the Minor league teams to evaluate the Northwood's League participants and the Northwood's League coaches as the evaluators of the Minor League participants.

Evaluation information is to remain **confidential**.

Qty of Teams Fielded: The Northwood's & Minor leagues are currently capable of supporting (Qty 13) teams in each league (reflective of the current equipment and team jerseys we have in inventory). The maximum head count in each league has been limited (in the past) to 169 player participants (13 teams w/13 players). However, the board strives to keep the quantity of players per team to 11 or 12. Depending on the actual quantity of participants, we will add or eliminate teams being fielded for a given season. Where it gets tough is when the head count could warrant an expansion to the league but in doing so would create teams with only 10 players on a team. With families taking vacations & etc. (which often occurs at some point during the season), teams with several players absent on a given week could create a forfeit situation. For this reason, we often have a small waiting list for late registrants. The quantity of teams being fielded & quantity of players being placed to each team is one of the many functions the AABA board members address each season.

Make up Games: Cancelled games due to in climate weather will be posted on the AABA webpage and Facebook page by 2:00 PM the day of the scheduled games. Games will be rescheduled by a board member functioning as the Director of a particular league. Make up games would typically be scheduled for the immediate Friday of the same week but could possibly be schedule on a weekend if warranted by both teams. If weather causes a significant amount of rain outs, it could be possible that not all the makeup games will be rescheduled prior to the end of the season.

Playoffs & Championship Game: Teams will be seeded based on their performance during regular season play. The regular season operates on a point system where each team earns 2 points for each win and 1 point for any ties. The league may be subdivided to divisions with the teams with the most points in each division earning a divisional champion tee shirt. At the conclusion of the regular season, the association board will create a single elimination playoff bracket with the teams being "seeded" based on the points earned regardless of which division they were in. All teams will participate in the playoffs with the final four teams facing off for the 1st through 4th place finishes for each league. Awards will be provided to the 1st through 3rd place finishers after completion of the playoffs.

Major League: Made up of this year's seventh and eighth graders as well as any ninth graders who have chosen not to participate in the Junior Legion baseball program. These teams will play on the Discovery Middle School fields. This league typically plays on Tuesday and Thursday nights with game times scheduled for 5:00 PM (Discovery West), 6:00 PM (Discovery East) and 7:00 PM (Again on Discovery West). Each team would be playing approximately 12 regular season games (pending the development of the schedule, available fields and the cooperation of the weather).

Qty of Teams Fielded: The Major leagues are currently capable of supporting (Qty 8) teams in the league (reflective of the current equipment and team jerseys we have in inventory). Depending on the actual quantity of participants, we will add or eliminate teams being fielded for a given season. Where it gets tough is when the head count could warrant an expansion to the league but in doing so would create teams with only 10 players on a team. With families taking vacations & etc. (which often occurs at some point during the season), teams with several players absent on a given week could create a forfeit situation. The quantity of teams being fielded & quantity of players being placed to each team is one of the many functions the AABA board members address each season.

Evaluations: Evaluations for the Majors are typically scheduled for the last week or the following week after the conclusion of spring school sports schedule.

Evaluations will be held inside or outside at a board chosen location depending on weather and space available.

Players will be ranked based on their skill level in each section. Evaluated sections are as follows: Infield, hitting, pitching, outfield, and running.

Players participating in the evaluations will be grouped into groups of 4 to 5 and escorted through the evaluation process. Each participant will be assigned a number for the ease of our evaluators to score the players on their current skill level and technique(s).

The sole purpose of the evaluations is to create equal teams as much as possible in each division giving each player opportunities to participate. Evaluations are a one day event with no makeup dates.

If a participant is unable to attend the tryout date set by AABA due to a conflict, injury or illness, the AABA board will need to be notified. The board can be contacted via the email addresses found on the website (www.aababaseball.org). However, all participants must have their current registration completed and appropriate financial obligations (registration fees) paid prior to the registration deadlines.

Players not able to participate in evaluations will still be selected on a team however they be added to the bottom of evaluation list. During the coaches draft the coaches' will be asked to rank the non-evaluated players in a sector. Sectors typically are as follows: top 25, top 50, top 75, top 100, and etc.

An evaluator is someone who has sufficient baseball expertise, in AABA's judgment, to evaluate the skills of the player-candidates. The AABA will decide, within its sole and absolute discretion, which it will use as impartial evaluators to judge the baseball skills of its participating players. It has been a common practice within the association to utilize the coaches of the Minor league teams to evaluate the Northwood's League participants and the Northwood's League coaches as the evaluators of the Minor League participants.

Opening Day of Competition: The Majors season does not start until after the middle school (Jr High) baseball season has completed.

Considering that most of the players have already been participating in the middle school program, the teams immediately start regular season play within a week or two of the middle school program coming to conclusion.

Make up Games: Will be rescheduled by a board member functioning as the Director of the Major league. Make up games would typically be scheduled on Mondays or Wednesdays but could possibly be schedule on a Friday or weekend if warranted. If weather causes a significant amount of rain outs, it could be possible that not all the makeup games will be rescheduled prior to the end of the season.

Playoffs & Championship Game: Teams will be seeded based on their performance during regular season play. The regular season operates on a point system where each team earns 2 points for each win and 1 point for any ties. The league will award a regular season champion tee shirt to the team with the most points earned during regular season play. At the conclusion of the regular season, the association board will create a single elimination playoff bracket with the teams being "seeded" based on the points earned. All teams will participate in the playoffs with the final four teams facing off for the 1st through 4th place finishes. Awards will be provided to the 1st through 3rd place finishers after completion of the playoffs.

AABA Registration & Participation Fees: The 2019 registration information is available on the website (www.aababaseball.org).

We have moved to an on line electronic registration process. The 2019 season registration fee is \$125.00. This fee is reduced to \$85.00 for each additional sibling(s) also participating in any of the house leagues. Siblings will be placed on the same teams.

AABA League Rules: The current rules each league operates under are available on the website (www.aababaseball.org – specifically look for a link for the rules located under each league). These rules are updated from time to time with items being modified, added or clarified as needed. Please note that each league currently has a set of rules that govern the specifics regarding how an official game is played, specifics regarding the fielding / batting positions as well as any limits regarding the participation in those positions. The rules are not intended to be all inclusive, but to specifically address what is unique to the age group for a given league. When not clarified, the association would default to the National High School rules governing baseball prior to making a ruling / interpretation.

Baseball Bats: With the recent changes in technology, many other leagues (such as Little League, Babe Ruth, as well as within our High School programs), have adopted the USSSA 1.15 or USA rated bat rules. All bats used in AABA game situations will need to have the USSSA 1.15 or USA stamp to be legal. The AABA provides each team with two of these bats. No souvenir wood bats are allowed for use in any of our leagues.

AABA League Provided Gear: The league provides the team jerseys, player's caps and a team equipment bag with catcher's gear, helmets, baseballs, and a couple bats for use during the season. It is usually best to wait to see what team your player will be drafted to prior to purchasing other items as most teams prefer to be color coordinated for pants and/or socks. Please note that shoes w/metal spikes are not allowed in our Northwood's & Minor leagues.

Parent / Guardian Provided Equipment: Baseball and batting gloves, pants, socks, athletic protector (catcher's must wear), shoes/spikes (non metal spikes except for Majors) and if desired, player owned baseball bat(s) & catchers gear. The coaching staff will be responsible for evaluating the condition of player owned gear such as bats and catchers gear for fit, functionality and safety.

Player Draft: This event is hosted at a sight selected by the board typically one of the schools and is **NOT** attended by the parents or the players. The volunteer coaches and AABA board members will meet at this time and participate in an organized process to select or "draft" players to the teams. The purpose of the draft is to create equal teams in each league containing similar player talent levels. There are a number of draft rules that try to assure that this occurs and the evaluation information is to remain confidential. Coaches select players for their teams based on their knowledge of the players or the results of the evaluations. Pending the creation of a waiting list, all players will be placed to a team regardless of their experience or talent level. The results of the player's draft (the team's rosters) will be posted on the website. The head coaches will then be tasked to initially contact each of their drafted players for introductions & provide details regarding their first practice.

Coaching Staff: AABA board members and coaches are not compensated – the association is currently run by volunteers. AABA board members will recruit the head coaches for each of the teams prior to the drafting of the players. The AABA board members will inquire of the parents / guardians of the registered players for any interest in assuming this responsibility. Head coaches will be responsible for the recruiting of volunteers to fill support needs such as the assistant coach, scorebook and statistics record-keeper and a parent coordinator to assist with the managing of any team related activities as well as the collecting and sharing of the teams contact information. No predetermined coaching staffs are allowed. A coach must draft the player in order for his/her parent to coach with them. Coaches will be required to take and pass all Trusted Coaches required trainings.(AABA offered trainings)

Coaches are expected to have their registered player(s) (sons / daughters) be evaluated prior to the draft. This is due to the "forced" picks that occur during the draft process. A "forced" pick situation will always occur because it is intended that the coaches registered player(s) will be drafted directly to the coach's team. It is just a question as to when this will occur during the drafting process. With the desire to keep the talent levels on each team as even as possible, the evaluation data collected will aid the board in determining where the coaches player(s) will be "forced picked" as we move through each round of the draft process. This process allows for the drafting of players with a little more talent & experience prior to encountering the "forced pick" scenario. The "forced pick" scenario will occur in a draft round where the coaches registered player(s) name would be listed with other players of similar playing ability.

Practice Schedules: Upon the drafting of the players to each of the teams, the coaches will then contact each player and set a practice schedule before regular season begins. They will also provide any specifics regarding the preferred colors of the teams for their pants, socks, Etc. The players will receive their jerseys & caps at one of their practices. The coaches are responsible for scheduling practices and coordinating with the parents / guardians on all team related subject matter. It is anticipated that each team will have at least two practices schedule prior to the start of regular season play.

UMPIRES: Umpires are typically local youth past and present players ages 13 to 18. (18+ for the majors when possible) The AABA umpire coordinator is in charge of the umpires. If you have any complaints or concerns please contact the umpire coordinator listed on the AABA website and not the umpires directly. Reminder these umpires are just like the players they all have different skill levels and are doing their best to make the best judgement call.

Photos: We are currently working with a photographer to provide team and individual photo packages. More details will follow.

Fundraising: Each year the AABA board searches for different ways to help keep player fees from increasing, budgeting to maintain/purchase new equipment, pay for field maintenance costs/fees, yearend award costs, and the extra costs needed to run the Mid-Summer Classic tournament. To help with these extra fees/costs the AABA board for 2019 has selected to partner Adrenaline Fundraising to help support these extra costs. Adrenaline Fundraising is being utilize by several surrounding baseball organizations and was recommended to the AABA board. Quick explanation on the program is each player will be given a packet of 20 discount cards to sell. The discount cards are good to use at local area businesses for discounts/specials on food and services. Players have a chance to earn prizes/cash with each certain number of discount cards they sell. Players will have two weeks to sell their cards. Nick from Adrenaline Fundraising will have a booth set up at the evaluations handing out cards to each player and explaining the details.