



# PLAYER / PARENT HANDBOOK 2012

The information provided in this handbook is also available online at  
[www.yanktonbaseball.com](http://www.yanktonbaseball.com)

The Yankton Baseball Association is a 501(c) (3) charitable corporation.

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### **YBA MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the corporation is to provide the following services to the Yankton community.

- (a) To promote, provide funding for, and provide education information for Teener, American Legion and high school club baseball. To provide instruction to the area youth on the fundamentals of baseball including teamwork, sportsmanship, responsibility and to provide equipment and facilities for playing of baseball.
- (b) To engage in any other lawful purpose related to the promotion of, and providing funding for, youth baseball to the extent allowed of non-profit corporations under the South Dakota Non-Profit Corporation Act.

### **HISTORY**

Still compiling info to add here.

**2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President .....Jeff Benjamin .....661-6351.....jjbenji@iw.net  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.... Pat Hauer .....665-5862.....phauer@usd.edu  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.... Jeff Wendte .....660-2384,,..... JeffWendte@kolbergpioneer.com  
Treasurer..... Tom Stotz .....665-3201.....docjulie@midco.net  
Secretary.....Marcia Walter ....660-6564.....mmwalter@iw.net  
Andy Bernatow  
Lesley Hale  
Harold Hoffman  
Brad List  
Sara Marlow  
Rob McClemans  
Brady Muth  
Doug Nelson  
Jason Nelson  
Mike Townsend  
Bruce Ulmer  
Brad Wenande

**BOARD MEETINGS**

The YBA board meets the third Monday of every month at the VFW at 6:00 p.m.

**COMMUNICATION**

YBA plans to use the Yankton Baseball Association website as well as email to provide you with updated information as the season approaches and progresses. Please be sure to check in regularly for updates. [www.yanktonbaseball.com](http://www.yanktonbaseball.com)

**REGISTRATION FEES (AGE AS OF MAY 1)**

- 13-14 year old .....\$250
- 15-18 year old .....\$300
- High School .....\$150 (freshman, sophomore, juniors, seniors only)
- Fundraising Calendar \$100 (5 at \$20 each - when sold you keep the money –this is part of registration requirement)

A 10% discount will be given to families with multiple players.

A copy of player’s birth certificate is needed for any first time YBA player.

To be eligible to play VFW teener ball, first - a player must be 13 by May 1 of the current year. Second - if the age requirement isn’t met and the player has played up an age group for the previous two seasons, he may petition the board for approval to play. Third, if the player doesn’t meet age requirement or playing up requirement, he may petition the board for approval to play. In both the second and third instance, the board has final discretion.

Non-refundable deposit of \$100 must be made at the time of registration with remainder of fee to be paid by high school ball by March 1, 2012 and summer ball by May 1, 2012. Players will not be added to a team until all fees are paid. Late fee of \$25.00 will be added if fees are not paid by dates listed above.

Any registrations received after the stated deadline, need to be approved by majority of board.

**FINANCIAL HARDSHIP**

If player fees prevent any player from participation or the fees create a financial strain in the family, please contact Jeff Benjamin 661-6351, Tom Stotz 665-8073 or Marcia Walter 665-6564. The situation will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**REFUND POLICY**

If a player decides to leave the program on his own accord, there will be no refunds after April 10 for spring baseball and June 10 for summer program. If a player experiences a season ending injury, the refund will be based on the scheduled number of games for the teams season pro-rated to the number of games played prior to when the injury occurred.

**SEASON PASSES**

*Family Season Pass \$100 Individual Season Pass \$75*

This pass is good for all high school, VFW & Legion games including tournaments. Not valid for district, regional or state tournament play.

*Summer Family Season Pass \$75 Individual Summer Season Pass \$50*

This pass is good for all VFW & Legion games including tournaments. Not valid for district, regional or state tournament play.

## **GATE ADMISSION COST**

Adults \$5.00  
Teens \$2.00  
12 and under free

## **TOURNAMENT ADMISSION COST**

3 day tourney....\$5 per day and \$12 for pass  
2 day tourney... \$5 per day and \$8 for pass  
12 to 18 year old.... \$2 per day...under 12 free

## **FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **YBA Countdown Raffle Calendars**

Each player is required to purchase 5 fundraising calendars at \$20 each and when sold player/parent keeps the money. Individuals that purchase the calendars have a chance to win cash in daily drawings during the summer season.

### **HyVee Gift Cards**

YBA sells HyVee gift cards which when used a percentage comes back to the program. Cards are available at First Chiropractic, Midwest Insurance, Paul's Qwik Stop and from Patti Vig.

### **Take a Seat Program**

For \$200 you can have your name proudly displayed on a seat at the stadium. The chair-back chairs are from the former Vet's Stadium in Philadelphia.

### **Signs**

5 year contract @ \$475 per year for 4'x 8' outfield sign  
3 year contract @ \$525 per year for 4'x 8' outfield sign  
1 year contract @ \$250 for 2'x 4' Around the Park sign  
The initial cost of the sign production is included in the first year. Any subsequent changes to the sign that would require a new sign is an additional fee of \$250. After 5 years the yearly fee is \$375 per year and any replacement of the sign due to wear and tear or changes will be born by the YBA.

### **General Membership Donation**

Single \$25 to \$100 Double \$101 to \$250 Triple \$251 to \$500 Homerun \$501 to \$1000 Grand Slam \$1001 and up. Triples, Home runs and Grand Slams may be spread over a 1 to 4 year period.

### **Team Sponsorship**

If interested in sponsoring a team, please contact the YBA board for sponsorship cost. Sponsorship includes the following:

- 1) Business name associated with the team in correspondence/media coverage
- 2) Business logo on the cap/uniform of the team
- 3) Cap and uniform top to the business

- 4) Outfield and Around the Park Sign
- 5) Your “night at the ballpark” at which all your employees admitted at no charge and someone from your business throws out the first pitch
- 6) This contract is for a 3 year period

## **PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

The involvement of parents and family is vital to the baseball program, it is basically impossible to run a quality program without! Parents are expected to help with the following:

- announcing games
- run scoreboard
- take money at gate
- concessions
- clean-up
- rides to out of town games
- fundraising / sell raffle tickets

Team parents are needed for each high school team and the summer teams. The team parent assists the coaches by finding gatekeepers, announcers, and scoreboard operators for all home games and tournaments. For away games, the team parents arrange drivers for the team. **PLAYERS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DRIVE TO AWAY GAMES.**

YBA will provide a \$25.00 stipend to players that have an overnight hotel stay only as it is meant to offset cost of hotel room. If 2 players stay in one room it is recommended that the parent in the room should receive stipends for both players. Parents are not reimbursed for mileage or other meals. Overnight stays are only required if game times prohibit a timely return to and from Yankton and should be avoided if at all possible. Stipend arrangements need to be arranged between the team parent and YBA treasurer.

The YBA, Inc. provides an opportunity for your child to play competitive baseball. The coaches determine playing time and position assignments. If you have a concern, you should address the board member representative assigned to each team. The representatives will be in attendance at the parents' meetings at the beginning of the season. In the past, the YBA has lost good coaches because of excessive parent contacts and complaints.

The YBA strives to provide players with ample practice time and game experience. All players develop at different times. Every parent wants his son to play most of the time, which is natural, but complaints to the coaches will not be tolerated. **PLAYING TIME IS NOT GUARANTEED.**

Generally, we have few or no problems with parents' or fans' misbehaving. However, occasionally a situation does arise where the behavior of a parent becomes unacceptable. Such examples are but not limited to, the following.

1. Taunting of an umpire, coach, league official, or player in a negative manner either verbally or in writing
2. The use of profanity or vulgar language
3. Embarrassing negative remarks aimed at your own player or other players while he is playing a game

4. The use of drugs or alcoholic beverages or under the influence of drugs or alcohol while at a YBA sanctioned game
5. Threatening or aggressive remarks towards umpires, coaches, league officials or fans
6. Physical confrontations with umpires, coaches, league offices, or fans
7. Failure to remove yourself from the field after you have been ejected from the stands
8. Failure to remove yourself from the Park after you have been ejected form the stands
9. Other behavior deem inappropriate

Any such behavior as listed above will be dealt with by the YBA board of directors in the following manner.

1. You will first be warned by the Umpire, YBA coach or Board Member
2. If you continue to present a problem you will be ejected from the park.
3. If you fail to leave the premises, a police officer will be summoned to escort you away from the park.

It is our hope that we do not have to initiate any of the above steps necessary to control parental behavior. Please lead by example.

## **PLAYER EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

The YBA will not be providing players with baseball pants. Players will be responsible for getting their own grey and white pants along with a belt, socks and glove. This does not apply for high school baseball. YBA will still provide jersey, pants and hat for high school baseball. Players will be responsible for belt, socks and glove.

## **MAKEUP OF TEAMS**

The makeup of the teams will be determined once registrations are received. Players may be asked to play up if there aren't enough in one age group to make a team. If so, both the player and parent need to agree.

## **PLAYER PARTICIPATION**

1. **Skipping practice** – any unexcused absence from practice will result in the participant not being able to participate in the next game. An absence due to personal or family illness or emergency must be excused either before or after the absence. An absence due to any other reason must be approved by the coach. All decisions will be made by the players coach. A note or phone call from the parents will generally be requested.
2. **Skipping games** – Any unexcused absence from the game will result in the player not being able to participate in the next game. An absence due to personal or family illness or emergency must be excused either before or after the absence. An absence due to any other reason must be approved by the coach. All decisions will be made by the players coach. A note or phone call from the parents will generally be requested.
3. **Unprepared for practice** – this will be treated as an unexcused absence from practice. This decision will be determined by the player's immediate coach.
4. **Use of Chemical Substances / Tobacco** – Any player who uses, possesses, buys, or sells alcohol, tobacco, or controlled substance will be subject to discipline if seen by the coaching staff
5. **Behavior** – Any throwing of helmets, bats, and lack of respect for coaches or officials, excessive foul language, or any other behavioral action detrimental to the program will result in immediate removal from the game. For the second violation, the player will be immediately removed from that game and **will not** be allowed to participate in the next game. A third violation, the player will be **suspended** for practices and games for one week.
6. **Playing time** – playing time will be determined by the coaches. There is **NO GUARANTEE** of playing time.
7. **Scheduled leave time** – being late for scheduled leave time will result in the player being left home.
8. **Games Requiring Overnight Stay** - no player will be allowed to leave the ballpark or the motel without an adult chaperone during overnight travel. No females, other than a family member or chaperone, will be allowed in the players' rooms unless a chaperone or coach is present at all times.

**Coaches, in conjunction with Yankton Baseball board, have the right to use discretion when dealing with penalties involving the above.**

## **TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR YBA SPONSORED BASEBALL**

### 1. Definitions:

- a. "Suspension" – the exclusion of a student by a coach or Board of YBA from a baseball related activity;
- b. "Expulsion" – the action of the coach or board to terminate a player's membership on a YBA team for a period of time not to extend beyond the end of the season;
- c. "Insubordination"- failure in a single instance to comply with reasonable rules, regulations, policies, orders or instructions given by the coach or board members;
- d. "Habitual disobedience"- a repeated failure to comply on three or more separate occasions with reasonable rules, regulations, policies or instructions given by the coach or board members;
- e. "One week" – shall consist of seven consecutive days;

### 2. Grounds for Suspension:

- a. Any unreasonable behavior or conduct;
- b. An act deemed to be insubordinate by the coach or board;
- c. During the season of practice or play a player shall not;
  - 1) Consume a beverage containing alcohol;
  - 2) Use tobacco;
  - 3) Use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or distribute illicit drugs or any controlled substance;
- d. It is not a violation for a player to be in possession of a legally defined drug specifically prescribed for the student's own use by his doctor.

### 3. Grounds for Expulsion:

- a. Any repeated violation of the grounds for suspension.

### 4. Penalties for Violating section 2. c. of this Policy:

#### a. First violation:

- 1) After confirmation of the first violation, the player shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of the season, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted for a student who becomes a participant in a treatment program.

#### b. Second Violation:

- 1) After confirmation of the second violation, the player shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive games or six weeks of the season, whichever is greater.
- 2) If, after confirmation of the second violation, the student on his own volition shows evidence that he has sought and received counseling from community agency or professional individual, such as a school counselor, drug counselor, medical doctor, psychiatrist or psychologist, the player may be certified for reinstatement after minimum of three weeks.

#### c. Third Violation:

- 1) After confirmation of the third or subsequent violation the player shall lose eligibility for the next twelve consecutive games.
  - 2) If, after confirmation of the third or subsequent violation, the player on his own volition becomes a participant in a chemical dependency program or treatment program, the player may be certified for reinstatement after a minimum period of six weeks. Written certification must be issued by the director or a counselor of a chemical dependency treatment center.
5. Hearing Procedure:
- a. If a suspension or expulsion from baseball is anticipated because of a player's violation of a rule, regulation or policy, the coach or board of the YBA shall give oral or written notice to the player as soon as possible after the discovery of the alleged violation, stating the basis for such suspension.
  - b. The player shall be given the opportunity to answer the charges during a hearing.
  - c. When a player is suspended following the hearing, the parent shall be given oral notice of the decision and the rule violated. A written notice shall be sent to the parents confirming such action.

## **YBA COACHING DUTIES**

Following is an outline of duties and recommendations for coaches of the Yankton Baseball Association.

1. Have a parents meeting as soon as possible. Tell the parents your philosophy on coaching, practice expectations and playing time. Inform them of your travel rules and punishments.
2. Provide each player with game and practice schedules. Keep individual statistics for players. Document players' attendance at practices and games. Submit a game report to the media including the P & D, Observer, KYNT, and KVHT.
3. Issue uniforms and equipment. Collect all uniforms and equipment at the end of the season. Your last paycheck will not be issued until the above is turned in.
4. If there is a change in the schedule you must coordinate field and travel before adding or deleting a game. Make sure you inform your team parent, the Optimists for concessions and radio stations about any changes. Make sure that you call ahead to confirm your game date and time.
5. Complete player registration and team rosters for state officials, coordinate all with the YBA and legion or VFW officials.
6. Document your hours coaching, games, traveling, practicing and all expenses related to coaching. Turn your expense receipts in to the YBA.
7. Be at all practices. Absences should be approved by the board or a board rep. If a practice is cancelled, please give ample notice to players/parents especially for the younger teams who do not drive.
8. **When driving to and from games, please drive responsibly and adhere to the rules of the road. We don't need an accident to occur which was the result of carelessness.**

### What to do with an unhappy parent.

1. Talk to the parent(s) with a neutral board member at a meeting. Do not discuss matters in front of the players.
2. Have a team meeting if issues affect the team.

### Player Misconduct

1. Minor infraction: playing time, punishment to be determined by coach at practice.
2. Major infraction: playing time, punishment to be determined by coach at practice.
3. Make sure that you document any misconduct.

### Playing Time

1. 13-14 year olds: this is a time to develop players. Make time as equal as possible. The YBA wants to keep the players. Make the game fun. As the season comes to the end with tournaments play to win.
2. 15-18 year olds: make playing time as equal as possible. These divisions need to qualify for tournaments so play pertinent games accordingly.

**Yankton Baseball Association**

**PLAYER PARTICIPATION AND PARENT/GUARDIAN  
APPROVAL FORM**

**Name of Player** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the Yankton Baseball Member handbook and agree to adhere with information presented within while participating in YBA baseball.**

**I also understand there is an inherent danger in baseball.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Player**

**Having read and understand the Yankton Baseball handbook, I hereby give my consent for the above named player to represent his team in YBA baseball, provided he adheres to these rules.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Parent or Guardian**

**Yankton Baseball Association**  
**COACHES APPROVAL FORM**

**Name of Coach** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the Yankton Baseball Member handbook and agree to adhere with information presented within while coaching YBA baseball.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Coach**