

Norris Baseball Association
Player/Coach/Parent Handbook



OUR MISSION

Provide Norris youth the opportunity to develop skills, sportsmanship, teamwork, and a sense of Community while competing at the **highest** level.

OUR VISION

Prepare Norris youth Baseball players with experiences that allow each to become better players, teammates, and members of the community.

MESSAGE TO THE PARENTS

Parents are asked to be supportive of the players and coaches. Trust your coach in making decisions for the team and leave the coaching to them.

We encourage communication! If you have any concerns, please speak with your coach. We are all volunteers and do this for the love of the game and the kids. We do ask that you wait **24 HOURS** before addressing your coach, out of anger or frustration. **NEVER** address your coach in such a manner with your player present.

Parents are also encouraged to practice with children on their own time, using your coaches' suggestions to work on improving individual skills. Interaction with players during games and practices is strongly discouraged, so that players can give 100% of their attention to their coaches and their teammates. Only positive cheers and words of encouragement are appropriate during games from parents, who are required to remain seated in the bleachers away from the dugout.

There will be no tolerance of criticism or arguments with umpires. Games can get very intense, which can be fun and exciting, whether they are wins or losses. We ask that everyone work to make that intensity fun and not uncomfortable.

Norris Baseball Association (NBA) Program Guidelines
(NBA Board reserves the right to make changes to these guidelines)

Team Formation and Roster Guidelines

The Norris Baseball Association (NBA) is committed to providing a positive and growth-oriented environment for young athletes. **Our primary objective is to form at least one team at each age level from 8U through 14U, structured to support both competitive play and developmental progress.**

While we strive for roster continuity from season to season, changes may occur based on player evaluation, team needs, and individual development. Some players may move up or down from the prior year's team to better support their growth and the organization's overall goals. The NBA Board of Directors retains full authority over all roster decisions and player placements.

Program Structure (NBA Board reserves the right to make changes to these guidelines)

A. Teams (8U–14U)

All NBA teams from 8U through 14U will be classified as **Competitive Teams**, but team structures allow for differentiation between levels of competition and development:

“A” Teams – Competitive Focus

- Composed of players who demonstrate advanced skill, game awareness, and a high level of effort, coachability, and sportsmanship.
- Playing time is **not equal** and will be based on performance, attitude, commitment, and positional fit.
- Players may be limited to one or two primary positions to increase consistency and mastery.
- Strategic and situational baseball is emphasized alongside advanced skill development.
- Annual tryouts and evaluations determine team placements; no positions are guaranteed from year to year.

“B” Teams – Developmental Focus

- Designed for players who are still building foundational skills or gaining experience in more competitive settings.
- Emphasis remains on development through increased reps, broader positional exposure, and instructional focus.
- Playing time is **not equal**, but effort, improvement, and attitude are heavily weighted in coaching decisions.
- Players may rotate through more positions than on “A” teams to facilitate all-around growth.
- Tryouts and evaluations determine placement each season; returning players are not guaranteed a roster spot.

Note: Players returning from the previous season's NBA teams may be given consideration during team formation, but all final rosters are based on current-season tryouts, evaluation data, and coaching input.

B. Team rosters for **7U–13U** will be determined by the **Board of Directors**, with input from:

- **Coach evaluations**
- **Tryout performance**
- **Previous season performance**
- **Player attitude and coachability**
- **Team composition needs**

C. Playing Up:

- I. A player's age, based on being born on or after April 30th, determines his eligibility to participate in many tournaments and which team he may try out for.
 - https://www.ussa.com/docs/2021/ussa_bb_rules_2021.pdf
- II. Players **WILL** be allowed to move up a level to play with classmates.

D. Team Specific Rules

- I. Teams Home Fields include the below and most likely will change season to season based on numbers of teams in the NBA program.
- II. Teams will have all Home Games located at their home field.

Home Field
Cortland (Small Field)
Roca
Sprauge
Cortland (Big field)
Hallam

III. Indoor Practice

- Indoor practice is held at Impact two nights a week for approximately 1 to 1.5 hours from January through March.
- Players and their families have unlimited access to Impact throughout the entire year. The cost for membership is included in the NBA season fees.
- Impact is open first come first serve March through the end of December.

IV. Outdoor practice

- Outdoor practice is held at the Home field two nights a week from late March through July.
- Practice times can last 1.5 to 2 hours depend on coaches availability and choice.

V. Game / Tournament Allotment:

- Each Team has an allotted amount of Games and tournaments based on their age
- Below is an example of the number of home games and tournament allotment. This is an example, and is subject to change season to season.

Team	Regular Home Game Allotment	Tournament Money Allotment
7U	5	Up to \$1,000 total (about 2 tournaments)
8U & 9U	8	Up to \$2,000 total (about 3 tournaments)
10 & 11U & 12U	10	Up to \$3,000 total (about 5 tournaments)
13U & 14U	12 – 14	Up to \$4,000 total (about 6 tournaments)

VI. Player Playing Time:

- NBA allows Coaches and Assistant to evaluate player playing time in games and tournaments based on skill, effort, sportsmanship, and coachability.
- Coaches may choose to reduce a player's game time if they are not regularly attending practices or for other reasons; however, coaches should openly communicate to parents to ensure good understanding of the circumstances.
- **Equal playing time is NOT required during the season;** however, we encourage communication between players, coaches, and parents. Reference Message to Parents.

E. Fundraising and Player Fees

- I. To meet our financial needs and responsibilities, we are asking for your help. As a tax-exempt organization, we rely on donations from parents and local businesses as well as periodic fundraisers. Your help and support in the fundraising efforts, finding sponsors and opportunities to promote the NBA can really help make this a memorable experience for the players.

II. Player Fees are Tiered by Playing Age

Team	2026 Season Fee (Subject to change per season)
7U	\$750
8U & 9U	\$950
10U, 11U, 12U	\$1,050
13U & 14U	\$1,100

- Team and Player fees cover team expenses during the “official” season.
- Additional expenses parents may incur for hotel/gas should be expected frequently traveling to and from games or playing in tournaments.
- Expenses include (but are not limited to):
 - Tournament entry fees
 - Umpire costs for home games
 - USSSA insurance
 - Player equipment costs

- Field costs (upkeep and maintenance as well)
 - Team equipment costs (balls, gear, mounds, tees, etc)
- Player uniforms included in fees:
 - Two jerseys (white and blue)
 - One pair of socks (solid red)
 - One pair of pants
 - Belt (red)
 - Hat
- Travel fees will not cover the cost of any activity not pre-approved and/or any activity that takes place outside of the “official” travel season.

F. CODE OF CONDUCT

I. Coaches:

I will be a positive role model for the players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, as well as by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event. I will read, understand and abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Norris Baseball Association (NBA). I will be on time and be prepared for games and practices, thereby setting an example for my team. I will only use eligible and properly rostered players for any and all league, playoff and tournament games. I understand violation of this regulation is cause for immediate relief of managerial responsibilities. I will be responsible for the conduct and control of baseball players and fans. I will always maintain good sportsmanship with my players, parents and the opposing team. I will not smoke, chew tobacco products, drink alcoholic beverages, or use profanity or any illegal substance on the baseball fields or in the presence of the baseball teams during the progression of scheduled league games and practices. I understand that pursuant to the code of ethics for youth, managers and coaches who engage in the use of or distribution of illegal substances shall be suspended from participating in the NBA. I will not conduct myself in a manner that damages the NBA's reputation or public perception.

_____ Coaches Signature

II. Players:

I will wear my uniforms and practice attire properly. I will be fully dressed from the time I get to the field until the time I leave. I will wear proper baseball attire for all games and practices. I will not participate in swearing, name-calling, or razzing other players. Even if the other team is razzing us, I will not get involved in this type of activity. I will control my emotions at all times. I will be a player that will think and then act, not the other way around. I will not throw my helmet, bat, glove, or anything in the dugout. I understand this will not be tolerated and I will be disciplined if I do it. I will treat all officials, opposing coaches and players with respect. If I have nothing positive to say, then I won't say anything at all! I will never throw balls or swing bats unless a coach is supervising the activity.

III. Parents:

I will do my best to get my player(s) to games and practices on time. I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event. I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures. I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence. I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability. I will teach my child that doing one's best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance. I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition. I will refrain from making negative comments about the coaches in my player's presence. I understand that this plants a negative seed in my player's head that can negatively influence his motivation, performance and overall experience. If I have a problem with one of the coaches, I will request a conversation or meeting with the coach to discuss the situation. I will observe a 24-hour rule to discuss issues to allow a "cooldown" period so emotions can be controlled. I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

_____ Parent Signature Player Signature

NBA BASEBALL BOARD

Mitch Holt - President

Tyler Loos - Secretary

Alanna Morse – Treasurer

Cody Behrends - Board Member

Nolan Whalen - Board Member

Luke Smith - Board Member

Sean Bartholomew – Norris High School Head Coach / Advisory Member

Scott Kohout - Norris High School Assistant Coach / Advisory Member