

## Nanaimo Minor Baseball Association

### Policies Governing Competitive Baseball

*[approved by the NMBA Board November 12, 2024]*

#### **1. Competitive Baseball General Policies:**

- 1.1. The NMBA Competitive Committee shall have between 3 and 5 members which shall include the Competitive Coordinator, at least one member of the NMBA Executive, and up to 3 additional Board members. Members of the Competitive Committee shall be identified by the Board at the first Board meeting following the AGM.
- 1.2. With the exception of on-field practice evaluation, Competitive coaches must have achieved the necessary NCCP training and certification levels **before** they can be selected to coach a team, unless waived by the NMBA Executive due to coach shortages. Most NCCP training, including free sessions offered as part of the BCMBA Coaches Conference, is offered between January and May.
- 1.3. Competitive teams **must** select a Team Manager to (at minimum) interface with the NMBA Administrator and handle team finances. It is recommended that teams additionally appoint a team Treasurer to handle finances.
- 1.4. NMBA selects team uniforms, including warm up jerseys, practice shirts, hoodies, etc. Competitive teams may not select their own uniforms. NMBA is proud of its brand and identity. The NMBA uniform standard shall make provision for logos of individual team sponsors to be added to approved NMBA apparel.
- 1.5. Parents shall sign commitment agreements when registering players for competitive evaluations agreeing to:
  - Fair play rules
  - Committing to significant season dates such as zones and provincials
  - A code of conduct related to respectful communication with coaches
  - A code of conduct related to respectful treatment of umpires and behavior at baseball events.

Failure to meet commitments will result in:

- First offense: Future player registration fees shall be doubled.
- Second offense: Players in the family shall be ineligible for selection to future competitive teams.

The NMBA Executive shall determine whether an incident constitutes a failure to meet commitments, following application of the NMBA Dispute Resolution Process.

- 1.6. Summer and single-season teams may not commit to hosting a tournament without Board approval. Tournament requests must be presented to the Board at least 2 months prior to the planned tournament date.
- 1.7. Umpires for 15UAA and 13UAAA games should be assigned at least 1 month in advance. If umpires have not been secured by this time, the Umpire Allocator and Team Manager shall take additional measures to find umpires. This may include contacting other associations and/or PBL umps. Unqualified umps or parent umps (even if they are qualified) are generally not acceptable for 15UAA and 13UAAA as the issue frequently creates conflict with the opposing teams.
- 1.8. Competitive coaches and team managers shall not enter their own game schedules in TeamSnap. Schedules are to be sent to the NMBA Administrator to be loaded into TeamSnap. This ensures that field conflicts don't happen and that games are uploaded to the umpire assignor program.
- 1.9. Whenever possible, NMBA relies upon third party independent evaluators.
- 1.10. All NMBA competitive team events (games or practices, including in the cage) must have two adults present, even if only one is a coach. This is to ensure there is a responsible adult on site in the event that the other adult has a medical emergency.

## **2. 15U Competitive Baseball:**

- 2.1. NMBA shall have one competitive 'single-season' 15U team registered at the BCMBA AA level.
- 2.2. The 15UAA team will have paid coaching whenever possible. 15UAA has no 'fair play' rules and paid coaching ensures there are no real or apparent conflicts of interest associated with parent coaching and determining playing time. Paid coach selection and contracts shall be the responsibility of the NMBA Executive.
- 2.3. Players shall be selected to the 15UAA team by the paid coaching staff. A formal player evaluation event must be held at the conclusion of Winter Ball; however, the coaches may draw upon other prior knowledge of player ability and attitude when selecting the team.
- 2.4. The 15UAA team shall roster the maximum number of players allowable by BCMBA rules (currently 15) unless approval for fewer players is granted by the NMBA Executive.
- 2.5. NMBA will allow out-of-catchment players to try-out for the 15UAA team, in accordance with all BCMBA rules and processes.

### **3. 13U Competitive Baseball:**

- 3.1. NMBA will field the number of 13UAAA single-season teams required by BCMBA Rule 8.08 (one team unless 13U registration exceeds 145). NMBA will field one 13UAA Summer team and at least one 13UA Summer team.
- 3.2. NMBA will tier 13U Spring baseball with one 13UAA Spring team to play games in a Vancouver Island interlock and against Vancouver Island Prospects teams, and a 13U House league. Due to BCMBA Rule 9.01, parents should be made aware that players on the 13UAA Spring team will generally carry on to play on the 13UAA Summer team. Only by rare exception and with approval of the NMBA Executive shall a player who played 13UAA Spring not be selected to the 13UAA Summer team.
- 3.3. The 13UAAA and AA teams will roster exactly 12 players.
- 3.4. A primary 13UAAA and AA evaluation event will be held at Arbutus Meadows at or near the conclusion of Winter Ball. Notice of the evaluation date and time will be made available to parents at least 2 months in advance via the NMBA website, Teamsnap email, and posting on social media.
- 3.5. At the discretion of the NMBA Executive and dependent upon field availability, weather conditions, and evaluator availability, NMBA may elect to hold a secondary evaluation process in March, utilizing live game play. In this event, the top 28 players from the primary evaluation shall be selected to participate in the secondary process.
- 3.6. NMBA will allow out-of-catchment players to try-out for the 13UAAA team, in accordance with all BCMBA rules and processes. NMBA will not permit out-of-catchment player selection to the 13UAA Spring or Summer teams. Out-of-catchment players who received a release from their home association to play Spring baseball with NMBA are eligible for selection to 13UA Summer teams.
- 3.7. The call for Coach Applications shall be made in November via the NMBA website, TeamSnap email, and social media and shall be re-broadcasted several times throughout the winter. An online application process shall be utilized.
- 3.8. The 13UAAA Head Coach may be named by the Competitive Committee before evaluations only in the event that the most qualified applicant is the parent of a second-year player who played on the 13UAAA team the season prior. Otherwise, the Head Coach will be selected following primary evaluations, but

before team selection. Whenever possible, the Head Coach shall be the parent of a player who placed among the top 8 players in the primary evaluations.

- 3.9. The 13UAA Head Coach and 13UAAA and AA assistant coaches shall **not** be selected before evaluations are complete. Parents who have applied to coach are encouraged to participate in the evaluation process and winter ball.
- 3.10. The 13UAA Head Coach shall be selected by the Competitive Committee immediately following selection of the 13UAAA team.
- 3.11. The 13UAAA and 13UAA Head Coaches may select their own Assistant Coaches, provided they are qualified and approved by the Competitive Committee.
- 3.12. The players with the top 8 evaluation scores shall be selected to the 13UAAA team. The Head Coach shall select the final 4 players from the players with the next 8 highest evaluation scores. Rationale for selecting a player with a lower score over a player with a higher score must be agreed to by the Competitive Coordinator. If there is not agreement, players will be selected on the basis of their scores only.
- 3.13. In the event that there is not a clear top 8 due to tied scores, the Competitive Coordinator will discuss and agree to an approach to team selection with the Competitive Committee.
- 3.14. The 13UAA team will be selected from the top 8 players who were not selected to the 13UAAA team. Selection of the final 4 players will follow the same process as for 13UAAA.
- 3.15. All players not selected to the 13UAAA or AA team will be notified as such within 2 days of team selection. Players shall be encouraged to register for spring Prospects and try out for 13UA Summer ball.
- 3.16. A new evaluation session will be held for 13UA Summer ball near the end of the spring season.
- 3.17. The NMBA Administrator assigns fields for all 13U competitive games and practices.
- 3.18. Spring practice times for 13UAAA and 13UAA shall be assigned by the NMBA Administrator once the 13U House schedule has been finalized.

- 3.19. Due to the timing by which game schedules are developed and released, the general priority for field assignment for 13U competitive games is in the order of 13UAAA, 13UAA, then 13UA.
- 3.20. Summer practice times for Serauxman Field 1 (SF1) and Serauxman Field 2 (SF2) will be 4-6pm and 6-8pm, Monday to Friday. This ensures 8 practice slots per week, assuming teams don't practice on Mondays (they may if they wish). Practice slots shall be selected by Head Coaches in the following manner:
- 13UAAA picks 2 slots first, then 13UAA, then 13UA
  - Then 13UAAA picks a 3rd slot, then 13UAA picks a 3rd slot
  - Each team should take at least one 6-8pm slot to enable weeknight games during their practice slot.
- This process may mean that 13UAAA and AA have to adjust their practice times from Spring.
- League games always take priority over practices and have priority for SF1 (eg. 13UAAA and 13UA both practice on wednesday nights at 6pm on SF1 and SF2 at respectively; if 13UA must schedule a wednesday night game, their game will be on SF1 and 13UAAA will practice on SF2).

#### **4. 11U/10U Summer Baseball:**

- 4.1. 11U/10U Summer teams shall be composed of 13 players whenever possible.
- 4.2. The 11UAAA roster shall be composed of only second year players.
- 4.3. Player commitment to the zone and provincial weekends is mandatory. Any player who can not commit to zone and provincial weekends is not eligible for selection. Any selected player who later withdraws from either zones or provincial weekends shall be replaced on the roster.
- 4.4. Evaluations take place no later than the third week of May and teams are announced no later than June 1.
- 4.5. NMBA will not permit out-of-catchment player selection to 11U/10U Summer teams, except for out-of-catchment players who received a release from their home association to play Spring baseball with NMBA.
- 4.6. Head Coaches for 11U/10U teams shall be selected by the Competitive Committee after evaluations. Head Coaches may select their own Assistant Coaches, provided they are qualified and approved by the Competitive Committee.
- 4.7. The first-year players with the top 9 evaluation scores shall be selected to the 10UAAA team. The 10UAAA Head Coach shall select the final 4 players from the

first-year players with the next 8 highest evaluation scores. Rationale for selecting a player with a lower score over a player with a higher score must be agreed to by the Competitive Coordinator. If there is no agreement, players will be selected on the basis of their scores only.

- 4.8. The second-year players with the top 9 evaluation scores shall be selected to the 11UAAA team. The 11UAAA Head Coach shall select the final 4 players from the second-year players with the next 8 highest evaluation scores. Rationale for selecting a player with a lower score over a player with a higher score must be agreed to by the Competitive Coordinator. If there is no agreement, players will be selected on the basis of their scores only.
- 4.9. The remaining unselected players with the top 9 evaluation scores shall be selected to the 11UAA team. The 11UAA Head Coach shall select the final 4 players from the players with the next 8 highest evaluation scores. Rationale for selecting a player with a lower score over a player with a higher score must be agreed to by the Competitive Coordinator. If there is no agreement, players will be selected on the basis of their scores only.
- 4.10. An 11UA team may be formed if there are at least 12 unselected players remaining following the selection of the 11UAA team and if an 11UA Head Coach is available. Selection of the 11UA team shall follow the same process as the 11UAA team.
- 4.11. Summer practice times for Gyro Fields 1 and 2, and Serauxman Field 3 will be 4-6pm and 6-8pm, Monday to Friday. This ensures 24 practice slots per week, assuming teams don't practice on Mondays (they may if they wish). Practice slots shall be selected by Head Coaches in the following manner:
  - 11UAAA picks 2 slots first, then 10UAAA, then 11UAA, then 11UA
  - Then each team picks a 3rd slot, if desired, in the same order as above.
  - Each team should take at least one 6-8pm slot to enable weeknight games during their practice slot.

## **5. 9U Summer Baseball:**

- 5.1. The number of 9U Travel teams is determined by the number of players registered for summer season who indicated an interest in travel ball, and the availability of coaches. Players who are not placed on a travel team shall be placed on 9U Local teams.
- 5.2. 9U Travel team rosters shall be composed of 13 players. Both first and second-year players may be selected to Travel teams.

- 5.3. Evaluations will be conducted on one night during the last two weeks of May. Teams shall be announced no later than the first week of June.
- 5.4. When there are multiple 9U Travel teams formed, teams shall be made as evenly as possible. There will be no tiering of 9U Travel teams.
- 5.5. Players will be selected to Travel teams based on evaluation results and ensuring that each team has at least 2 qualified coaches. The Competitive Coordinator will work with the coaches to split selected players evenly between teams.
- 5.6. There shall be no cuts at the 9U level. All registered summer players will play on Travel or Local teams.