

**SAUK RAPIDS - RICE
YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
HANDBOOK**



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Mission and Philosophy

The Sauk Rapids-Rice Youth Baseball Association is a non-profit organization aimed to give kids 5-16 an opportunity to enjoy baseball on a more organized and elevated level. Our Association will field teams at six different age groups and is affiliated with the Gopher State Baseball League through Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS) and Central Minnesota Baseball League (CMCBL). Our hope is that all players have the opportunity to play ball with other members of their school and community.

Board Members

SRBYBA Board Members are making a commitment of time and effort to improving the quality of baseball for the communities of Sauk Rapids and Rice. Board Members are expected to attend at least 80% of monthly meetings and at least two special events per year. They are expected to be active participants in discussion and voting and are expected to keep the best interest of the Association in mind when making decisions. Board Members are expected to hold themselves to high ethical and moral standards in all situations. Board Members who are not meeting these standards will be dismissed from the Board and player fees will be charged.

Elections

The Board will hold open elections in September of each year and terms start in October. Open Board positions will be posted on the Association's website and will also be made available at Fall Evaluations. Any person interested in open positions should contact the Board Secretary via email or sign-up at Fall Evaluations. Additional nominations may be taken from the floor at the Annual Meeting. The following positions will be made available upon term completion for elections at the September meeting:

- Vice President (4 year term progressing to president after 2 years, elected on odd years)
- Secretary (2 year term, elected on odd years)
- Treasurer (2 year term, elected on even years)
- Communications and Media Coordinator (2 year term, elected on odd years)
- Field Maintenance Coordinator (2 year term, elected on even years)
- Evaluation Coordinator (2 year term, elected on odd years)
- Volunteer / Umpire Coordinator (2 year term, elected on even years)
- Equipment Coordinator (2 year term, elected on odd years)
- Scheduling Coordinator (2 year term, elected on even years)
- Coordinators are required at each age group (Tee Ball, Coach Pitch, 9 CMCBL, 10/11 CMCBL, 12/13 CMCBL, 14/16 CMCBL, and Gopher State). (1 year term)

The position of Gambling Manager shall be appointed by the Board. The CMCBL Coordinator position shall be appointed to an existing Board Member by the Executive Board. If there are no interested Board Members, duties shall fall on the President and/or Vice President.

Any interested person is eligible to apply to a Board position. All Board Members and SRBYBA Association Members are eligible to vote. For those who are unopposed for an elected position, a simple majority vote from existing Board Members is required to continue in that position. Voting will be done using confidential ballots. A simple majority will win the vote.

Board Member Compensation

The Charitable Gambling Manager will receive a yearly stipend of \$8,000.00. The Assistant Gambling Manager will receive a yearly stipend of \$7,000.00. No other Board Member will receive a monthly or yearly stipend of any kind.

In appreciation for their time and commitment to the Association, all Board Members will receive free registration for any and all children they have in the Association.

Board Meetings

Board meetings will be held once per month January - October, unless otherwise determined. The date, time, and / or location of the meeting may be changed as needed to facilitate a greater Board Member and / or Association attendance. The date, time and location of the Board meetings will be posted on the Association website. Board meetings will be open to the public.

Voting

During monthly meetings, voting will be held using parliamentary procedure. Each Board Member in attendance may cast a single vote for the topic on which the Board is voting. A Board Member may abstain from voting, and is encouraged to do so if he / she has a conflict of interest. A simple majority will carry the vote. Association Members not on the Board are not allowed to participate in voting, except for yearly elections.

There may be time sensitive situations that require a Board vote which arise outside of the Board meetings. If a vote is required before the next scheduled Board meeting, e-mail or other forms of messaging may conduct a vote. All Board Members will be copied on all e-mails or messaged to ensure transparency throughout the Board.

If an individual petitions the Board, a closed vote will occur to allow the Board Members to vote freely outside the presence of the petitioner. Only Board Members will be allowed in the room for discussion on the vote on that topic. Closed-door discussion and voting are considered confidential.

Fall Evaluation Policies

Player evaluations will be used to determine which players comprise the GSBL teams and which players comprise the CMCBL teams. Player evaluations/tryouts will also be used to help evenly distribute talent amongst the CMCBL teams to promote a competitive balance. All eligible players are encouraged to attend tryouts, regardless of skill level or level they wish to play.

Player evaluations will be held between the end of the playing season and winter. Holding evaluations at this time allows team building and organization.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to participate in evaluations, a player must:

- Be a registered member of SRYBA
- Attend school or live within the boundaries of the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District
- Have paid all applicable fees
- Meet age guidelines specified by Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS)
(Players must be in 2nd Grade or turning 9 by May 1st of the year in which he/she will be playing)
- A player from another town that chooses to evaluate and participate within the SRYBA and gets a waiver must play at least 1 year at the CMCBL level before being eligible for a sport on a Gopher State Team

Process

Adequate notice will be given to potential tryout participants. Communication will be sent to all registered Association members in Crossbar, advertised through the Association website, and through social media platforms.

Players will be required to pay a non-refundable \$25.00 deposit and complete their registration in Crossbar 1 day prior to attending evaluations. Any outstanding balance from the previous year (including unworked volunteer hours) must be paid before the player will be allowed to participate in evaluations, unless other arrangements have been made with the Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator.

When the player arrives for evaluations, he/she will be identified by a number assigned at the tryout session. The number given to each player is determined by the order in which the player arrives to check in (first player to arrive is #1, second to arrive is #2, third is #3, etc.). A player must not wear clothing from a prior year's travelling team, for example Gopher State, Mash ect., use anything identifying him/her as a previous traveling player, or wear any article of clothing with his/her name imprinted on it.

Evaluators will be selected by the Board, and may include coaches, parents, members of the local baseball community, or professional evaluators. The evaluators will be people who are known to possess the knowledge necessary to evaluate a player's skill. The Board will make every attempt to select evaluators who are impartial. Evaluators will not be related to any of the tryout participants involved in their assigned age level. If an evaluator is/was a coach or parent in the Association, he/she will not be allowed to evaluate level(s) which he/she has just completed coaching or the evaluation level(s) his/her player(s) will participate in. Every effort will be made to avoid having Board Members evaluate players to avoid speculation of favoritism or bias. In the event that the Board is not able to secure enough outside evaluators, Board Members will assist with tryouts, including evaluation of players. The above rules apply to Board Members who are evaluating players.

Players will be evaluated, at a minimum, on the skills of throwing (strength and accuracy), fielding ground balls, catching and tracking fly balls, and hitting. Other skills may be evaluated as deemed appropriate by the Board. Players will be given an opportunity to practice each skill prior to being evaluated and will not be evaluated on their practice. Players will also have the opportunity to perform each skill several times while being evaluated. Evaluators will score each player on that player's overall performance (technique, position, footwork, accuracy, strength, balance) for that skill, and not on each individual repetition. Written comments may be included to help support the score given.

All evaluation sheets/scores are confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside of the Executive Board, including, but not limited to, players and/or parents. Any violation of this will be addressed at the following Board meeting and dismissal from the Board can occur.

Parents and/or spectators are not allowed at evaluations and request that after you have signed your player(s) in that you leave the premises until their evaluation is completed.

Players will be placed on a team based on their own merits (skills, athletic ability, hustle, enthusiasm, and coachability).

There are two main factors when selecting players for teams. First the evaluation scores will be used to select players. In cases where players have the same evaluation scores, written player evaluations from the previous year(s) coaches may be used to differentiate player ranking. The second input is from the previous year coaches. This may include ranking players along with other important information such as the player's ability at certain positions, attitude and sportsmanship.

After evaluations, the executive Board will look at the evaluation scores of players in each age division, and will invite at least the top 18 players to the callback. The callback is another chance for players to showcase their skills in front of the GSBL coach. Players and their parents have the right to decline this option and be put on a CMCBL team. The players within the top 6 of evaluation scores are automatically qualified to be rostered on the GSBL team within their age group. In the event of a tie of the 6th highest score, only the players who have scored in front of that tie will be automatically included on the GSBL roster. The coach will complete the team with coach's picks. All GSBL teams are required to roster no more / no less than 12 players. Any consideration to the amount of players rostered must be presented to the Board by the GSBL coach and voted on. The GSBL coach will be responsible for contacting the players on the team to verify desire to play on the team and to provide a final roster to the Board. Once the finalized roster is turned into the Board, all families will be notified. Any grievances regarding evaluations must be submitted in writing to the Board.

Any player who is not invited to callback and/or not placed on a GSBL roster will be placed on a CMCBL team.

Registration

Players must register by completing the online registration on the SRYBA website. If the player(s) participated in Fall Evaluations, you will be given a code for the \$25.00 credit per player that was registered. This code will be emailed to the email address that was provided at time of Fall Evaluations.

Age Requirements

Players must register at Grade Level and must be at the age of 5 by May 1st of the playing season. Parents may petition the Board to have their player play at their age level instead of their grade. Age levels are determined by his/her age as of May 1st of the playing season. If the player chooses to play with their grade, they must play with that group for the duration of their time in the Association. Please reference MYAS website for further details.

Fees

Pre-K and Kindergarten- Tee-Ball and Coach Pitch Baseball	\$50.00
3 rd Grade and Older- Central Minnesota Community Baseball League (CMCBL)	\$200.00
Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) / Travel	\$300.00

Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL)

The Gopher State Baseball League is a competitive travel league for ages 10-14 year olds that will play a 16-game schedule, with a post-season playoff ending in July. Gopher State requires additional travel, expenses and tournaments.

Coach Selection

Primary selection criteria include past baseball coaching, playing experience, personal coaching and human development philosophies, organizational skills, strong moral and ethical characteristics, support of traveling baseball and SRYBA policies/procedures.

While it is important that a traveling team coach has expertise in the sport, it is just as important for the coach to have the welfare of the individual players and the players' character and confidence development foremost in mind. Even a person of integrity, sincerity, and high idealism needs other qualifications such as the ability to remain even-tempered under pressure, the ability to discover ways to impart his/her knowledge to each individual player, and the ability to understand children, to relate to them and be sensitive to their developmental requirements.

The Board will seek volunteers to coach at each age level. The executive Board will select the head coach from the list of eligible volunteers and will issue final approval of the coach selection. Head coaches will be selected for the GSBL teams prior to the GSBL rosters being completed, as each head coach will need to make the final selections for their team. The head coach for GSBL teams must have a player finish in an automatic spot to be considered for the head coaching position; if this is not possible, the E-board will discuss coaching options moving forward. GSBL coaches' responsibilities begin in September with completion of the team roster. Responsibilities of tournament selection and registration, league meetings, and organization of practices begin in January. Responsibilities end in August with equipment turn-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

Games and Practices

GSBL players will begin team practices indoors after January 1st. Gym time may be reserved through the scheduling coordinator. The cost to reserve the gym will not be covered by the Association unless the opportunity to use the gym at that time has been extended to all players in the Association.

Games for GSBL teams will begin near the end of April or beginning of May depending on weather and field conditions. The regular season runs through May and June and playoffs begin in July.

GSBL teams are expected to participate in a minimum of 2 tournaments with a maximum allowed of 3. Registration fees for tournaments, including gate costs, are covered by the Association up to \$500 per tournament. Registration or gate fees exceeding \$500 must be covered by the parents of the teams. Additionally, travel expenses such as hotel are covered by the team families.

Additional tournaments may be entered at the coach's discretion but will not be covered by the Association. Post-season tournament play is by invitation only and depends upon the team's success in qualifying tournaments during the regular season. If a team earns a berth to a state tournament, the Association will cover the cost of the registration to the tournament following the same limits as stated above. A team may use one of their tournament registrations to buy in to a state tournament if they do not earn a spot. Cost limits are the same as for regular season tournaments. SRYBA will only pay for the GSBL Tournament of Champions and the MSF State tournament. MBL and out of state tournaments will not be covered by the Association.

Playing Time

Minimum playing time for the 10-13 year olds will be four (4) defensive innings per six or seven inning game. Some situations, such as expired time limit or 10-run rule, may prevent this from happening. The starting lineup for 10-13 year olds will provide an opportunity for every player to have a place in the batting order. At the 14 year old level, coaches are encouraged to find playing time for all players, but playing time is not guaranteed and only nine players will be in the field and in the batting order to start the game. It is possible that players may sit out an entire game at the 14-year-old level based on coach's discretion. Positions for each player is at the discretion of the coach.

Determining Level of Play

GSBL teams will be encouraged to play at the AAA level for each age. However, the coach of the team may request to play at the AA level if he or she has a legitimate concern about the team's ability to compete at the AAA level. For example, a team that did not win a game or had many games shortened by a mercy rule the year before at the AAA level may be allowed to play at the AA level. The purpose of playing at a lower level is to give the players more repetitions and promote skill development that they may not receive playing at a higher level and having games shortened by the mercy rule. Final approval will be issued by a Board vote.

If the Board determines sufficient talent exists to field a second team at a particular age level and there is interest from parents of those players, the Board may elect to field that second team. Majority vote will be required to approve this second team.

Injured Players

In the event a GSBL team has injuries and does not have enough players to field a team, the coach of the team will be allowed to select players as either short-term or long-term replacements for the injured player(s). When the injured player returns from the injury, he/she will return to the GSBL team. The coach will determine if the replacement may remain on the team or not. Per MYAS rules, the replacement will remain on the team's roster for the remainder of the season, even if he/she does not continue to play with the GSBL team. Players who are not registered with SRYBA will not be allowed to be used as replacements for any reason. In the event a replacement is necessary, the coach of the team must contact the President of SRYBA and alert him/her to the situation. The President must then contact MYAS to make the addition to the GSBL team's roster.

Central Minnesota Community Baseball League Teams (CMCBL)

Teams

The number of teams will be based on the total number of registrations at each level (TBall, Coach Pitch, 9 year olds, 10-11 year olds, 12-13 year olds, and 14-16 year olds). Players 9 years old and older will be divided in a manner to promote competitive balance in the league. Requests for a player to be on the same team as another player will be considered, but competitive balance will be a priority over the request and such requests cannot be guaranteed.

Coach Selection

All coaches in the Association will coach on a volunteer basis. The Board will solicit volunteers at each age level to be head coaches. Every effort will be made to allow those who would like to be a head coach to hold that position. Priority will be given to those who have been head coaches in the past, followed by those who have been assistant coaches. If there are not enough volunteers to be head coaches, then the Board will ask those who have requested to be an assistant coach to take on a head coach position. Coaches' responsibilities begin in April with team formation, practice organization and equipment check out. All coaches' responsibilities end in August with equipment turn in, season reviews, recommendations / feedback and performance evaluation. T-Ball and Coach Pitch coaches will begin in May.

Games and Practices

CMCBL practices will begin shortly after team formation in April and will be scheduled by the team's coach. Players who are in the 7th and 8th grade may begin practices as late as June to accommodate the school middle school baseball schedule.

League play begins in May and continues through July.

All teams will play in the year-end tournament for their age level. The Association will pay for entry fee for this tournament. Additional tournaments may be entered at the discretion of the team's coach. The team will pay for entry fee for such tournaments. Other than the year-end tournament, any other post-season tournament play is by invitation only and depends on the team's success in qualifying tournaments during the regular season.

Playing Time

Minimum playing time for 5-16 year olds will be four (4) defensive innings per six-inning game. Some game situations, such as expired time limit or 10-run rule, may prevent this from happening. Every player in attendance will be included in the batting order. Exceptions to playing time may be made at the coaches discretion if a player misses practices and/or games.

Positions

Coaches are strongly encouraged to position players at multiple positions, both infield and outfield, while being mindful of safety, throughout the season. Players may be prevented from playing certain positions due to risk of injury. For example, a player who has difficulty catching the ball might not be asked to play catcher or first base, or a player who has difficulty throwing the ball might not be asked to pitch. However, if a safety issue does not exist, a player should not be prevented from playing multiple positions simply due to lack of skill.

General Policies

Equal Opportunity

We will not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, gender or national origin.

Attendance

Practice is important for individual skill development and development of team concepts/play. Every player's presence is important and is expected. Unless otherwise exempted by the coach, all players are expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Excused absences will be granted for school and religious events. However, it is expected that the coach will be notified in advance of any absences. Unexcused absences may result in a reduction of playing time.

Fields

All teams will play games on fields of a size appropriate for their age and skill level. Practices may be held on any field or in any location deemed appropriate by the Scheduling Coordinator.

A rake and hand drag will be kept at or near all fields for field maintenance reasons. Coaches are encouraged to help groom the field following practices and games and should require their players to assist. This includes raking areas that require raking (especially pitcher's mound, home plate and baselines), picking up garbage and placing tarps on pitching mounds for appropriate fields.

Field maintenance such as mowing, weeding, and field repair will be completed by the Field Maintenance Coordinator with occasional help by coaches / parents / players. There are also tractors located in numerous sheds that can be used to drag fields.

When attending games or practices, please be considerate. Park your vehicle appropriately, drive safely, pick up your trash (including inside dugouts) and keep your children off other people's property.

Uniforms and Equipment

SRYBA will supply hats and the following equipment:

New league approved game baseballs, practice baseballs, catcher's helmet and mask, catcher's chest protector, catcher's shin guards, catcher's glove, bats, first aid kit, tees, and scorebooks. SRYBA requires players to have their own helmet for safety and sanitary reasons. Game jerseys will be provided for players in the CMCBL. GSBL players will be required to purchase their own jersey.

Players must provide their own glove, pants, socks, belt, shoes, and personal protective equipment.

Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes.

The wearing of athletic supporters with a hard protective cup is required for all male players. All players are encouraged, but not required, to use cleated baseball shoes. Players ages 5-12 can use shoes with hard plastic or rubber cleats. They are not allowed to use metal cleats. Players ages 13-14 are allowed to use metal cleats.

Bats

Aluminum bats are allowed for all levels of play. GSBL and CMCBL teams will need to follow specifications for bats as outlined by Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS) and local league requirements. It is the player's responsibility to check bat requirements prior to purchasing a bat. It is the coach's responsibility to ensure bats meet all such requirements.

Bats are an item of equipment, like gloves, which need to be fitted to the individual player. Parents should consult coaches and specific league rules before purchasing bats.

Equipment Abuse

Under no circumstance will the abuse of equipment be tolerated. Umpires and coaches are instructed that each instance of equipment abuse will result in that player sitting on the bench for the remainder of that game. At the umpire or coach's discretion, one warning may be given.

If the abuse of equipment results in damage to the equipment, that player and/or his parents will be held responsible for reimbursing the cost of replacement. Players may be suspended from play until reimbursement is made.

Repeat offenses may result in suspension for multiple games up to and including the remainder of the season.

Umpires

While our expectations of the quality of umpiring may be high, we must always exercise patience, understanding, good sportsmanship and respect for their efforts. The character of our players, coaches, fans and community will be gauged by the message the umpires carry out to the baseball community statewide. Umpires will be assigned to games through an outside Association contracted by the SRYBA.

Complaints / Grievances

SRYBA's philosophy is that baseball should be a fun and rewarding experience for all concerned: players, coaches, spectators, and officials. We strive to maintain this environment. We expect all participants to act with courtesy to other participants. We will not tolerate any lack of conduct or sportsmanship by any participant. If you have a complaint against player, coach, spectator and / or officials, please address this with the SRYBA Board.

The process of handling a complaint and / or grievance:

- Complaint / Grievance must be received by email to the Association email
- All complaints / grievances will be addressed to the entire Board
- The Board will investigate the complaint and render any decision or disciplinary action
- All affected parties will be notified in writing of the results, disciplinary action, and appeal rights

Any issues that a parent, player, and /or coach may have regarding SRYBA and the policies must be addressed with the Board and handled in the same manner as a Complaint / Grievance.

Coaching Staff

There will be a maximum of three registered coaches and one team manager for each team. The head coach for each team is responsible for determining who his/her registered coaches / team manager will be and notifying the appropriate coordinator of his/her decision. Registered coaches and managers will be exempt from the required volunteer hours as the Board realizes and appreciates the time and commitment each coach is providing to the Association.

Coach Removal

Removal of a team coach / team manager is a very serious situation and must be dealt with in a fair and open manner. Reasons for a coach removal may include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to perform duties
- Conduct detrimental to the player, the team, the organization, or the parents
- Abusive behavior, whether physical or psychological towards players, parents, opposing players, coaches, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials
- Conduct or behavior based on the Criminal Background Check

Criminal Background Check

Criminal background checks are mandatory, no exceptions, for Head Coaches, including but not limited to, Assistant Coaches, Team Managers, and any other party that will be on the field during games and/or practices.

Criminal background screenings will be conducted by an outside, third party who specializes in such work. This is executed to protect the children who participate in organized baseball and related activities with SRYBA.

No other personal information (i.e. work history, financial or credit history) is part of the screening. All information regarding the criminal background screening will remain with the SRYBA executive Board.

In the event information surfaces via the background check, the President and Vice-President will be notified and it will be brought to the attention of the executive Board. The executive Board will review the data and determine coaching eligibility. All information is strictly confidential and will not be made public under any circumstances. All criminal history screening documentation will be promptly destroyed. The decision of the executive Board may be appealed for the purposes of clarifying facts or explaining extenuating circumstances. This appeal must be done within 90 days from the date on the Release Form for Criminal History.

The following is a list of offenses prohibiting an applicant from participation as a coach under SRYBA-offenses including, but not limited to, the following:

- Assault (including, but not limited to, aggravated, domestic and sexual)
- Kidnapping
- Crimes against Children (including abandonment, abuse, endangerment, pornography, possession or promotion of pornography, enticement, solicitation, sale or purchase of, injury to or indecency)
- Murder / Homicide / Manslaughter
- Manufacture of, Delivery of, or Possession of a controlled substance or illegal drug
- Indecent Exposure
- Prohibited Sexual Conduct
- Prostitution
- Rape / Sexual Abuse

Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Vaping Policy

SRYBA mandates that all players and coaches participating in an activity shall refrain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and/or other controlled substances.

It shall be a violation of this policy for a player and coach while participating in a SRYBA activity, to use a beverage containing alcohol. They may not use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any controlled substance.

It shall also be a violation of this policy for any player to be charged by law enforcement personnel for a drug or alcohol offense at any time during the SRYBA season (from the first day of tryouts through the final SRYBA sponsored activity of the year). Any offense by a player during his time shall be treated in the same manner as if it happened during a SRYBA activity.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention and a decision has been made, the player or coach will be informed of his ineligibility by a written letter from the Board President.

First Violation: Upon notification by the Board, the player/coach shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of the baseball season, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted.

Second Violation: The player/coach shall lose eligibility in SRYBA for the remainder of the season. No exception is permitted.

Accumulative Penalties: Penalties shall be considered accumulative throughout the player's/coach's participation in SRYBA.

Blood Policy

A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If treatment cannot be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual must leave the game. Once the bleeding has been stopped, the individual may reenter the game. If there is a substantial amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before reentering play.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather the coach shall determine if there is a practice. At games, the home team's coach will determine whether or not the game will be started. Once the game has started, the umpire is responsible for determining when play should be halted. In all cases, players should report to the place of the practice or game unless you receive notification from your coach.

Games and practices will be halted when lightning is visible. Players will be removed from the field and may not return to the field until there has been no lightning for at least 30 minutes.

If you, as a parent, are not able to be present during an event, be sure your child knows another adult who will be present and with whom he/she can take shelter if bad weather suddenly threatens. League cancellations will be posted on the SRYBA website and sent out through email and social media. Each coach is encouraged to contact his/her team members to alert them of the cancellation.

Behavior

The highest standards of sportsmanship will be expected from the players, parents, coaches, umpires and spectators.

Conduct that will not be tolerated includes verbal abuse, tantrum-like acts, profanity, physical aggression on or off the field, and acts intended to cheat the spirit of the rules or to intimidate the umpires. Umpires may use their discretion whether to issue a warning or to immediately eject the violator from the game. The umpires and/or coaches are responsible for reporting all incidents to the Board. Subsequent violations may result in suspension from play or attendance. If a player is ejected from a game for any reason, he/she is automatically suspended for the following game as well.

If a parent or player has a problem with the performance of an umpire, he/she should direct concerns to the team's coach. The coach represents the SRYBA program and should be the only person communicating with the umpires. One of the objectives of the program is to teach respect for the officials and the proper procedure for dealing with any problems with the umpires.

Unless playing in the field, at bat, on base, on deck, warming up to pitch or coaching, all players shall remain in the dugout or on the bench. It is mandatory that each batter, on deck player, runner, player in a coach's box, or non-adult bat/ball shagger on the field, wear a batting helmet that meets safety standards.

Spectators are restricted to the areas that are "out of play" and away from the benches. Parents are only allowed on the field or in the dugout at the invitation of the coach for emergency purposes.

Suspension / Dismissal of a Player From Team

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a player solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following reasons:

- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the Code of Conduct
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and /or self
- Displaying an uncaring attitude which results in not applying oneself, thus, hurting the team's competitive potential
- Failure to work within a team environment, placing self-interest before the team's
- Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior
- Violation of the Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Board and the player's parents and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion should include an objective description of the behavior and the intended discipline. If this attempt fails, the coach must notify the Board who will decide on further action.

Volunteer Requirements

In order to provide an outstanding baseball experience to all members of the Association, much work is required both on and off the field. In order to provide safe and functional equipment, well-maintained and safe fields, good-looking and comfortable uniforms, and an opportunity for all kids to play baseball at a level that is consistent with their abilities, fund raising and maintenance activities are required on a regular basis. In order to involve all members of the Association and to help keep the cost to play baseball reasonable, SRYBA requires assistance from parents and players to help with field maintenance, fund raising, and organizing and running Association functions.

Each family with players between the ages of 9 and 16 will be responsible for a total of 1 volunteer event each season, regardless of the number of children they have in the Association. Families of players in the Coach Pitch or Tee-Ball program are also encouraged and invited to participate in volunteer activities but are not required to.

Events will start after the evaluations in the fall and run through the following summer. Hours will reset each year after player evaluations/tryouts.

For each volunteer event that is not completed, the family will be charged \$250.00. The reason for the charge is not to raise additional funds for the Association, but rather to encourage families to be part of Association functions and distribute the workload across multiple people. The fee for unworked volunteer hours from the previous year will be collected before a player will be allowed to attend evaluations. For those with extenuating circumstances, are unable to pay for unworked volunteer hours, or those otherwise deemed appropriate by the Volunteer Coordinator, an offseason payment plan, or completion of volunteer hours after the deadline may be allowed.

Volunteer opportunities will be relayed to members of the Association through the Association's website and through social media. The Volunteer Coordinator will keep an up-to-date record of the number of volunteer events each family has completed. Volunteer opportunities may include, but are not limited to Spring Clean Up, Fall Clean Up, Field Maintenance, Tournaments, Player Evaluation Facilitators, Fish Fry Events, Meat Raffles, and other community events, which raise money for or promote the Association.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Youth Baseball Association (SRYBA)

CODE OF CONDUCT

THE SAUK RAPIDS-RICE YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION (SRYBA) AND ITS PARTICIPANTS MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING CODES OF CONDUCT. ALL COACHES, PLAYERS, AND PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO ABIDE BY THESE RULES THROUGHOUT THE SEASON OR RISK BEING NOT ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR COACHES

Be a consistent role model. Maintain personal and professional integrity both on and off the field.
Promote the emotional, physical, academic and athletic dimensions of the athlete.
Place the emotional and physical well-being of the athlete ahead of any personal desire.
Win and lose with dignity and integrity.
Practice open communication with players and parents.
Keep the game and practices fun as well as challenging and provide a positive experience.
Practice good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all the players, coaches, and officials and fans at every game.
Refrain from use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco when on the playing field or when with the players.
Remember that I am a youth coach, and that the game is for children, not adults.
Use safe play situations and use coaching techniques appropriate for each player.
Gopher State Coaches must also adhere to any MYAS Code of Conduct.

Violations of these codes can result in discipline/removal from team

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PLAYERS

Respect all aspects of the game: yourself, coaches, officials, teammates, opponents, fans and the rules, regardless of the behavior of others.
Support your teammates. Be a team player.
Recognize that you are representing the Sauk Rapids-Rice Baseball Association and act accordingly.
Practice good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all the players, coaches, umpires, and fans at every game.
Do your best to learn and listen to the coaches.
Treat your coaches, teammates, opponents, officials and fans with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability. • Refrain from the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco.
Take responsibility for your behavior.
Do your best in school.
Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat.
Gopher State Players must also adhere to any MYAS Code of Conduct.

Violations of these codes can result in discipline/removal from team.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PARENTS

Encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, umpires, and officials at every game, practice or other youth sports event.

Place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of any personal desire to win. • Insist that my child play in a safe and healthy environment.

Provide support for coaches and officials working with my child in order to provide a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

Demand a drug, tobacco, and alcohol free sports environment for my child and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all youth sports events.

Remember that the game is for children not for adults.

Do my best to make youth sports best for my child.

Insist that my child treat other players, coaches, umpires, fans, and officials with respect regardless of race, sex, creed or ability.

Assist in providing a positive team experience by volunteering to help with tasks as needed and as I am capable of doing.

Gopher State Parents must also adhere to any MYAS Code of Conduct.

Violations of this code may result in officials asking parent/fan to leave the ball park. Multiple violations may result in parent/fan being banned from all baseball events for the remainder of the year.