Manager / Coach Checklist – Spring 2027

Thank you for managing / coaching in our league. We all understand the great amount of time and effort in developing players. Below are steps we hope will be helpful whether you are a new coach or returning to the league. As always, please feel free to contact me (contact information below) with any questions.

- Step one is completing the **Manager's Application**

- Once you have completed the manager's application, you can then **Register Your Team**.
  - The **team registration fee is $30.00** before February 1st or **$45.00** if registered **on or after February 1st**.
  - **6U TBall and Coach Pitch** teams **WILL NOT** have a team registration fee. Please use the **"6UTC"** discount code to avoid the registration fee for these programs.
  - **PAYMENT IS REQUIRED** at the completion of registration. All unpaid registrations are deleted at the close of the registration session.
  - As soon as team registration is complete, your team will be eligible to secure practice or game fields.

- Once you have completed the team registration, **Players can begin to register on or after December 1st, 2026**.
  - Registration can be complete without payment; however, all are encouraged to **make payment before March 31st to avoid a late fee.** This will ensure the player avoids an increase of **$25.00 if registered/paid on or after March 31st**

- Team schedules will only be complete for those who have **full team rosters by April 1st**

- The league will play throughout the week and weekends. Teams are allowed to let us know of any **schedule exceptions** by the use of the conflict form, found under the **Home>Online Forms** on our website **(due by coaches only no later than 3/25/27).** Please be mindful to only provide us with the dates/days that there are conflicts or when you cannot play.

- In 2027, NKCA Baseball will continue to host tournaments that will drive a spirit of fun and additional development. Keep an eye on what tournaments we will open under the "Tournament" tab at **NKCABaseball.com**.

- Rules are posted at **NKCABaseball.com** under the "Rules" tab
  - It is important to become familiar with league specific rules for your age group. As would be expected, coach pitch rules vary from machine pitch rules, etc.

- **Practice Fields -** At the moment, NKCA Baseball will continue to use Bookafield for teams to secure field space. The SportsPlus platform does have functionality to secure field space and will move to their platform when that component is available.
  - Once a team is registered click on the link below for instructions…
    NKCA Baseball Practice Fields

- **Team Game Balls –** NKCA Baseball use the X4 modern baseball for kid pitch and the CPM9 for machine pitch developed by ProNine. Here is the breakdown and how it will impact your age group…

  - 6U TBall and Coach Pitch, will still use the ProNine LVL05, no changes
  - 6U MP to 8U MP will use the blue stitched CPM9 modern baseball
  - 9U to 14U will use the ProNine X4
  - Until high school baseball converts to using the modern baseball, 16U and 19U teams will have the option to use the ProNine OLA or the ProNine X4
  - All baseballs can be purchased on our website under **Home>Store** tab. Teams will provide game balls for regular season play as well as post-season tournament play, with the exception of T-ball and Coach Pitch. Once purchased, print your receipt and contact the League Director for pick up.
  - NKCA purchases these baseballs in bulk and have our logo stamped on the ball. As a result, the cost of a dozen baseballs is much less than at a retail store.
  - For convenience, we will have plenty of baseballs at our coaches conference for teams to purchase (cash or checks only please).

- **Team fees** – Most players understand that there is a team fee component to cover team level costs. Every manager has their own system in terms of determining what the team fee will be for each player. It is important to consider these costs to each player and often. A few costs to consider are…
  - Uniforms
  - Tournaments
  - Equipment

- Don't forget to **delegate important responsibilities** to dedicated team parents. Some of these responsibilities include…
  - Post game drink/snack
  - Organizing picture day –NKCA Baseball League brings in a premier photographer. Every parent/grandparent wants a picture of their player. Every player wants a picture as a keepsake and for something to be proud of. ○ Postseason parties
  - Communication around events such as games, practices, and other reminders.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS REGARDING PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND FORFEITS…

- All players **must** be a registered/paid member and listed as "**player**" in order to take the field. Please encourage your players that are listed as "**ineligible**" to make payment.
- As we all know, **forfeits** are not optimal for either team. We all want the game to play. In an effort to reduce the quantity of forfeits we experienced in previous seasons, when a team forfeits more than 1 game, they run the risk of their remaining games being pulled. Any forfeits a team is not eligible to play in the postseason tournament. We take this topic very seriously and want to avoid them at all costs. There are no refunds for forfeited seasons.
- As a reminder…
  - **All teams are financially obligated to pay for 12 players**.
  - In the event a team opts to **carry less than or is unable to carry the minimum**, they would **not be eligible for the post-season tournament but would still be obligated to pay for 12**. To play in the postseason tournament, all teams need to have their rosters finalized before the start of the season.
- In addition, teams who **carry less than the 12 player minimum are not eligible to win their division**.