

BELVIDERE YOUTH BASEBALL, INC.
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CHANGES IN 2017

8U Baseball: 8U baseball will no longer use a pitching machine or rubber ball. Part of the game will be coach-pitch, and part of the game will be player-pitch. Modified rules will be in place for player pitch innings. Restrictions will be placed on pitchers, and the time limit will still be enforced.

8U Standings: Scores will be kept and posted for 8U baseball and softball, and there will be playoffs at the 8U level.

8U Umpires: 8U games will now have one umpire on each game. This will eliminate the need for coaches to umpire, and allow them to focus on player development.

Part Time Travel Teams: Part-time travel teams will be made up of players from each recreational league (8,10,12,14U only). These teams will practice separately and play in up to three competitive tournaments per year. Tournaments will be in mid-May and late June. Players who are interested should indicate that at registration, and will be evaluated at tryouts in March. Fee is \$40. The teams are open to all players in each league, including first-year and second-year players.

Full Time Travel Teams: Belvidere Youth Baseball, Inc. has launched the *Storm Chasers Travel Baseball Program* as of 2017. These teams will play approximately eight tournaments in addition to a travel team league during the week. Fees start at \$700 per player. Tryouts for 2018 will be held in late July or early August 2017.

Facility Upgrades: The Board of Directors is currently seeking donations of money, labor, and materials to renovate the Cosmopolitan Pavilion into an indoor

restroom with multiple stalls for both men and women. The board is seeking plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and other areas of skill and expertise to make this project happen.

6U Coach Pitch League: In an effort to allow additional opportunities for young players, BYB has launched a 6U coach-pitch league that will be open to 4, 5, and 6 year old boys and girls who are interested in getting a head start on the basics and fundamentals of the game. For more details, please visit the 6U Coach Pitch page on our website.

Our Website: New for this year, we have revamped our website and made it more interactive. You may now register and pay online for all leagues and tournaments. You may also purchase apparel online. We encourage you to visit our website and experience all it now has to offer.

Age Limits: For softball, the age cut-off is December 31. For baseball, the age cut-off has changed, and is April 30.



TEAM SELECTION & PRACTICE

Draft Information: All players who register for BYB will be placed on a team via the draft. Coaches will contact players shortly after the draft is finished. Draft date is: Sunday, March 19, 2017 – All Levels

Coaches Clinic/Meeting: On draft day, a mandatory coaches clinic, and mandatory coaches meeting will take place. Coaches should plan to attend for approximately 4-5 hours for the draft, clinic, and meeting on this day.

Practices: Teams may begin practices immediately after the draft. Most teams practices 2-3 times per week

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during the pre-season, and 1-2 times per week during the season. Please be drop off and pick up your player in a timely manner.

Please **do not** park along the road that runs next to the fields on the north side. Smoking is **not** permitted on BYB property. Pets are **not** allowed.



EQUIPMENT

Each player must have his/her own glove. Also, each player must have his/her own pair(s) of **grey** baseball/softball pants. BYB will provide jerseys and catcher's gear. Starting in 2017, BYB will no longer provide batting helmets or bats to teams for health and safety reasons. Players will be required to provide their own NOCSAE approved batting helmets.

Metal spikes may be worn **only** in 14U leagues.



SCHEDULES

All leagues will start games in mid/late April or early May and end in early/mid-July. New scheduling software will allow parents and fans access to team schedules, standing, and updates via their smart phones.

Coaches will provide players with schedules. You may also reference the BYB website. Each league will also have playoffs in early to mid-July.



GAME LOCATIONS & PARKING

All games are played at the Belvidere Youth Baseball Complex, which is just to the north of the Boone County Fairgrounds off of IL Rte. 76. Please park in the west parking lot.



PLAYING TIME REQUIREMENTS

BYB enforces playing time minimums to ensure that all players are provided some opportunity to play, providing that they regularly attend practices.

8U/10U: A minimum of three innings (3 defensive & 2 offensive half innings)

12/14U: Nine Outs (1.5 innings if he/she finishes an at-bat, or 12 defensive outs if he/she does not get to finish an at-bat.

For more information, talk to your coach or league commissioner.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

BYB's annual Ice Cream Social is Sunday, June 4th, 2017 at the Belvidere Youth Baseball Complex. This is the organization's major fundraiser. All-Star games will be played, and food will be served from 11 AM to 4 PM. Please contact Amy Gardner at 815-509-1309 if you would like to help with this event.

Each team will be required to provide two parents to work a shift at this event.



RAFFLE TICKETS

Each player purchases 25 raffle tickets at registration (included in fees). These tickets may be sold and the

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stubs must be turned in at the BYB concession stand. Raffle winners are drawn at the Ice Cream Social on June 4th. You do not have to be present to win.



CONDUCT

All players, coaches, and fans should practice good sportsmanship at all times. Negative comments or taunting will **never** be tolerated. Noisemakers are not permitted at BYB.

Please be respectful towards umpires. They are human and will make mistakes. Umpires at the 8U and 10U levels are 13-15 year olds who are working towards their IHSA certifications. Please grant them every courtesy. Coaches don't coach perfect games, and umpires don't call perfect games.

Please monitor your children who are at BYB with you but not playing in a game. Batting cages and grass space are for teams to warm up, not for pick-up games.

Please place all of your trash in a trash can.



BYB INFORMATION

BYB is an independent, non-profit organization providing baseball and softball programs to over 600 boys and girls in Boone County and the surrounding area. BYB is the oldest continuously-operating youth sports group in Boone County.

BYB is run by volunteers. If you would like to be a volunteer, we have multiple opportunities for you to help. Please visit our website for more information.

If you have an issue with your team, please address it with your player first. Then, discuss the issue with your coach. If you are unable to reach an agreeable resolution, you should contact your league commissioner. If needed, your commissioner will get the necessary board members involved.

Remember to visit BYB online at www.belvidereyouthbaseball.com.

Questions about the organization can be directed to the BYB Board of Directors at belvidereyouthbaseball@gmail.com