Manager / Coach Checklist – Spring 2025

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 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**.
  - Insurance is provided by NKCA to players and coaches for all sanctioned NKCA activities. For those teams competing in USSSA tournaments, you will no longer be required to purchase additional team insurance. In the event your team plays in non-NKCA and non-USSSA events, our insurance will not cover your players.
  - **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 January 1st, 2025**.
  - Registration can be complete without payment; however, all are encouraged to **make payment before, April 1st** (May 25th for Lower and Upper Class Federal Summer). This will ensure the player avoids an increase of **$25.00 if registered/paid on or after April 1st** (May 25th for Lower and Upper Federal Summer)**.**
  - Team schedules will only be complete for those who have **full team rosters by April 1st** (May 20th for Lower and Upper Federal Summer).

- 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 Quick Links on our website **(due by coaches only no later than 3/25/25).** Please be mindful to only provide us with the dates/days that there are conflicts or when you cannot play.

- In 2025, 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 imagine, coach pitch rules vary for machine pitch rules, etc.

- **Practice Fields -** At the moment, NKCA Baseball will continue to use Bookafield for teams to secure field space. The SportsPlus plateform does have functionality to secure field space and we will move to their plateform 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 break down 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 the 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 then 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).

- To attend any scheduled events the league has planned go to our **Calendar of Events.** Remember to use the dropdown menu for Events/Games.

- **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's brings in a premier photographer. Every parent/grandparent wants a picture of their player. Every player wants a picture as a keep sake and for something to be proud of.
  - Post-season 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 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 post season 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 post-season 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**.