NKCA Baseball League

2025 Spring Member Communication
Celebrating 80 years of youth baseball in Kansas City!!

Since 1945, NKCA Baseball has been providing our area youth with opportunities to develop and showcase their skills while creating lifelong memories with their friends and families. This year, we are celebrating 80 years!!

The league has all levels of play, from introduction to competitive to ultra-competitive. We are proud to continue offering this long-standing tradition of baseball for young athletes in the Kansas City area, from 4 years old to High School Senior. Playing league baseball offers players life lessons that help build stronger individuals and communities. It allows players to develop relationships and socialization skills along with strengthening their self-esteem and confidence. We look forward to the 2025 season, whether your player is putting a glove on for the 1st time or your player is ready for competitive play!!

In 2024, NKCA Baseball went to the next level in putting together another successful year! Here are a few things we accomplished…



- We started off the year working with MLB Umpire Supervisor Mike Everitt where our officials worked a few sessions on improving their game.
- The KC Royals offered another year in hosting our coaches conference at the K where Alex Gordon, Turtle Thomas, and others spoke to our group.
- On the maintenance side of things, we added new material to 4 of the fields to help reduce dust, provide color to the field and improve drainage. We also upgraded electrical panels to avoid the risk of lights going out during the hottest time of the year.
- If you have not yet met Northlander Nate, he is our new mascot who made his way through the crowds saying hello to players and fans!



- We took time, after the spring season, to recognize teams voted on by their peers to celebrate their contributions to sportsmanship with our newly introduced Sportsmanship Award Ceremony
- The 2 camps/clinics that were held turned out to be extremely successful. Turtle Thoms joined our program for a week offering fielding, advanced hitting, and advance catching camps. The KC Royals ran a fantastic one-day skills camp at AJ Wilson with several former KC Royals Alumni jumping in on the fun.

Our program will continue to offer in 2025…

- Best and well-maintained dirt infields and grass outfields
- The opportunity to work around team schedule conflicts prior to the release of the schedule
- Scheduling options that are flexible allowing teams to tell us when they can't play so, scheduling them when they can play and then to work with each other for schedule adjustments once the schedule is published
- Live streamed games at AJ Wilson with viewing…
    - Over 4K subscribers
    - Over 1.4 million impressions
    - Over 22K viewing hours
    - Reaching all around the world from The United States to Japan, Spain, Germany, South Korea and more!!
- 1st Home Run Photo Op, interview, and trophy – **Featuring 12U KC United Race Willoughby (Interview on YouTube)**
- A Federal Spring League for high school players who opt out of playing for their HS programs and would like to get their reps in before the Federal Summer League
- A different format for tournaments outside of our league program where it is all about plate confidence, fast-paced defensive work and all-around FUN in our All-Age Machine Pitch Tournaments for ages 4 to 104.

Spring Scheduling



- After a couple pre-season **Tournaments** in April, we anticipate beginning our regular season the **week of 4/28/25**. Weather permitting, we will hold the postseason tournament 6/27-6/30.
- **T-Ball** will have 8 games and play Saturdays with a weeknight or two mixed in.
- **Coach Pitch** will have 10 games and play Saturday with a few weeknights mixed in. There will also be a post-season tournament.
- **6U – 8U Machine Pitch** will play a 12-game schedule with a post-season tournament.
- **9U – 14U** will play a 14 games schedule with a post-season tournament.
- **Federal League**
    - **Spring High School Divisions**– This league is designed for high school students that were not able to or opted not to play for their high school but would like to play a schedule that mirrors that of their high school season. 12 games will be played with some potential interleague with other organizations with similar programs.
    - **Summer High School Divisions** – This league will play a 16-game schedule with a post-season tournament. Their season will begin the 1st full week of June.
- The league will play throughout the week and weekends. Teams are allowed to let us know of **schedule exceptions** by the use of the conflict form which is 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.
- **DH Options** – There are some instances where teams are looking for two games in one evening. We will plan to allow for some of this type of scheduling but teams need to understand a few things…
    - The opponent(s) may not be the same but the team would have two games that evening
    - There are only so many slots depending on age groups and field availability. A conflict form needs to be submitted indicating what the request
    - Teams need to avoid looking to play on a specific day of the week. Weeknight DH's may mean playing on any weeknight, Monday through Thursday.

Team Registration – opens, Saturday, 12/1/2024

- 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.
        - With the new website, these teams will use a discount code. In the registration process, enter **6UTC**

Coach / Team / Player Registration (click on a link to complete registration)

- **Coach** – This is step one for the coaches who intend to coach teams this Spring, for additional coaching information, click **HERE** to access the Managers Checklist.
- **Team** – Step two is setting up your team
- **Player** – Step three is to begin having your players register and pay for the season under your team. Once the team is registered, players can begin to register for your teams roster **on January 1, 2025**
- **These steps need to be complete, with a full/paid roster, before a schedule can be made for your team.**

9U American Division

- There continues to be a great deal of interest in lifting a few developmental restrictions for teams who tend to play tournaments. This will happen for our American division. The restrictions that will be lifted and the rules that will be in effect are dropped 3rd strike, leading off, and stealing home. All other 9U divisions will play with the leagues current 9U special rules.

Looking for a team?

As you may know, teams in our program come to us with complete rosters. From time to time there is a team that needs a player and a player that needs a team. Teams are considered to be their own entity/organization. With that said, there are a few options for you...

- Take a peek at our Teams Needing Kids tab on our website. There you will find teams who have posted their player need. We encourage families to work this option as it allows you to ensure the team your player would be going to fits the need of your family. Different things are important from family to family. For example, for some families practice night is important, others the coaches teaching style is important, etc.
- If option 1 does not work out, you can register your player without a team. In the registration process, it will ask if your player is on a team. When you answer that question with a no, it will funnel your players information to our league rep who will begin to assist if finding a team for your player.
- Another option would be to consider being a coach. We will likely have a large handful of players that are in your situation where they are looking for a team.

Tryout Listing Requests

- In the event that you coached/managed a team in the previous spring season or have committed to playing with NKCA Baseball in the fall, you can submit a request for the league to **post a tryout listing**.

Important Dates – For more information on all our events, click **HERE**. Remember to use the drop down menus to view Events / Games.

- Dates around umpire meetings and coaches conference will be set as we consider in person or virtual formats. We will notify members of these events via email.

Game Baseballs – NKCA Baseball will be using the X4 (aka P454) 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 use the ProNine LVL05
- 6U MP to 8U MP will use the blue stitched CPM9 modern baseball
- 9U to 14U will use the ProNine P454 modern baseball
- Until high school baseball converts to using the modern baseball, High School divisions will have the option to use the ProNine OLA or the ProNine X4 (aka P454)
- All baseballs can be purchased on the **NKCA Store** tab found on our website. Teams will provide game balls for regular season play as well as post-season tournament play. T-ball and Coach Pitch will not need to purchase their game balls. Once purchased, print your receipt and contact the League Director for pick up.
- NKCA purchases these baseballs in bulk and may no longer have our stamp 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).

DICK's

- DICK's continues to support and sponsor NKCA Baseball through their discounts and donations. Shopping coupons will be available before the event and sent out to members and post on the home page of the website. **NKCA Annual Open House (Liberty and Zona Rosa)** will be announced at a later day but is typically held mid February.
- All players must register on-line, ***there is not a requirement to show up to either of these locations***. Attending the open house is more for players who have not yet found a team, have additional questions, or needed to be pointed in the right direction.
- DICK's is always receiving new product based on the season and will offer a few **special shopping days** on the following days **specifically for NKCA Baseball League members** …
    - **All members** are more than welcome to participate in the special savings DICK's Sporting Goods has offered.
    - Coupons – will be available at a later date, sent to members and posted on our home page.

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