



Neenah Baseball Athletics, Inc. 2009 Season Information

Neenah Baseball Athletics, Inc. (NBAI) operates a recreational and competitive baseball program for Neenah area youth ages 13 and older in addition to American Legion Post 33 baseball. NBAI volunteers strive to provide the best possible experience within the limits of our resources.

Registration:

- **Please mail player registration forms to Neenah Baseball Athletics, Inc., P.O. Box 531, Neenah WI 54957-0531.**
- **The 2009 player registration fee is \$125. Checks or money orders please; no cash.**
- **Any registrations received after March 1, 2009 will incur a \$20 late registration fee.** Late registrations make it difficult to determine the number of teams we will need, and to find available coaches.
- Players will be given the option of participating in a fundraiser or a \$50 buyout.
- Communication from NBAI and from coaches will frequently be via email. **Please be sure to include your email address on the registration form. Please also provide parent and player cell phone numbers.**
- Although the cutoff date is April 30 for determining playing level, NBAI will allow a younger player to "play up" ONLY to allow him to play with his school grade level. This applies to both league and tournament teams.
- A player enrolled in NBAI is not allowed to participate in another summer baseball league.

For registration questions, please contact any NBAI board member listed at our website:
Neenahbaseballathletics.com.

Sportsmanship and Conduct:

NBAI players, coaches *and parents* must sign the enclosed Code of Conduct Form in order to participate. This form should be returned, signed by the player and parents, with the registration form. Consequences for violation of good conduct and good sportsmanship are explained. *It is imperative parents take the lead exhibiting good conduct from the stands toward the umpires, opposing coaches, and players.* Games at this level involve youth, volunteer coaches, and professional umpires; not major league players and umpires. Players and coaches from both teams should be congratulated for good play and effort. Umpires should be respected. Officiating is difficult work and perfection cannot be expected.

Tryouts:

- Tryouts for all ages will be announced after registration. Please watch the website for additional information.
- Players should wear tennis shoes and baseball hats and bring their gloves. Players can also bring their own bats.

League/Tournament Teams:

- At the Pony level, coaches will draft league teams following the tryout. Any registered player not attending tryouts will have his name put into a hat. Once the players who have attended tryouts are drafted, coaches will draft the remaining players by drawing a name from the hat.
- Coaches will agree upon how players are divided for the 14 and 15 year old league teams.
- There will be a separate tryout at a later time for tournament teams at each level. League coaches will advise their team when these tryouts will be held, and the date will also be posted on our website. All league players are eligible to try out for the team at their age level.
- There are additional costs incurred by tournament teams. **Each team is responsible for covering these costs which primarily include tournament entry fees and uniforms.** Teams are allowed to get sponsors or perform fund raisers to help offset these costs. Your tournament team coach and/or team parent will be able to provide an estimate of the cost each tournament team player needs to pay.

Costs:

- The league participation fee funds part of annual operating expenses including: umpire fees (which are increasing), uniforms, field supplies, field maintenance, baseballs, league participation fees, field rentals, insurance, and other items. The remainder has typically been covered by sponsorships. If for some reason sponsorships decline, there is risk operating costs will not be covered.
- The league is also in need of funds for items such as: field groomers, chalking machines, pitching machines, field rakes, a working scoreboard for Larsen Field, dugout repairs, fence repairs, field resurfacing to name a few. Successful fundraising is a key to being able to cover these additional needs to raise the quality of NBAI fields and then keep them in top condition.
- There are additional costs incurred by tournament teams. **Each team is responsible for covering these costs which primarily include tournament entry fees and uniforms.** Teams are allowed to get sponsors or perform fund raisers to help offset these costs. Your tournament team coach and/or team parent will be able to provide an estimate of the cost each tournament team player needs to pay.

Leagues:

NBAI is part of a group of teams making up a "league". There is a Pony League (age 13) and Senior League (ages 14 and 15). Each league is made up of the cities we play, and is run by a league commissioner. Our coaches attend a "league" meeting and games are scheduled at that time. We will be unable to give you game information until these meetings take place.

Games are *generally* scheduled for any night Monday through Thursday, and will not *necessarily* be the same nights each week. Players will be required to arrive at games early for warm-ups, and must be willing to make a commitment to their team.

Playing Time:

At the Pony league level, playing time is a minimum of one at bat and six consecutive outs per player during each complete (7 inning) game. There are no rules for playing time at the older league ages, yet it is encouraged to play all players. Equal playing time is not guaranteed at any level and coaches will base their decisions on a number of factors.

For all tournament teams, the focus is toward competing and winning. Playing time is again up to the coaches based on a number of factors.

Coaching:

*If you are interested in coaching, **please return the registration form as quickly as possible.*** Remember to complete the coaching application on the reverse side of the registration form. Background checks will be run on coaches and assistant coaches.

Equipment:

The league also sets the bat size each season, and this is posted on our website as soon as it is confirmed. Last year, Pony League had a maximum weight drop of (bat length minus weight) -8.5, with a diameter of 2 5/8 to 2 3/4 inches. For 14 year olds, the maximum weight drop was -5 with a diameter of 2 5/8 inches. The weight drop for 15 year olds was a maximum of -3.

Although there is low risk of a bat-rule change from the previous season, the only way to be sure your player's bat is going to be legal in 2009 is to wait until the governing organization announces the rule for 2009.

NBAI is in need of some good used bats. If your player is moving up a league and can no longer use his bat, please consider donating it for league team use. We welcome any equipment donations. Please contact John Kane at 729-0968, or 4Kanes@sbcglobal.net.

Uniforms:

NBAI will provide league team t-shirts and a baseball hat for all registered players. Players will also need gray baseball pants, black socks, a black belt and baseball cleats. Metal cleats are allowed in Senior League only.

Company Matching Funds and Non-Profit Status:

Some area employers offer a matching funding program, or have other corporate donation programs to assist and support community non-profits such as NBAI. For example, employees of Kimberly-Clark who volunteer their services and time to qualified non-profit organizations can direct up to \$500.00 per calendar year from the K-C Partners program to the non-profit of their choice. If you have this program available, please consider supporting NBAI.

NBAI is tax exempt under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Donations/contributions are deductible under section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Get Involved:

There are many opportunities to help your athlete's baseball organization. These include, but are not limited to, coaching, age level Commissioner, field maintenance, fundraising, sponsorships and being a team parent. All NBAI families can be called upon, and are required to help as needed. If you are interested in a specific area or in joining the board of directors, please let us know. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the monthly Board Meetings which are held September through June starting at 6:15 pm the first Wednesday of every month at the Neenah Police Station. As meetings are occasionally rescheduled, it is recommended you contact an existing board member the night before a scheduled meeting to confirm meeting arrangements. Please see the website for more information or to contact an NBAI officer or board member.

In the end, it's about the players. Let's make 2009 a great season.

WEBSITE: Neenahbaseballathletics.com