



## 2010 Baseball Program Overview Information & Guidelines (2009-10 School Year)

### THE PROGRAM

The youth baseball program in Blue Valley is managed by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC). Last year, over 3,700 children participated in the program comprising 289 teams. Because BVRC is a Blue Valley tax supported entity and this program is limited in space, only Blue Valley School District residents, or those who attend a private school in the district, may participate in the program. Those who attend a school within the boundaries of the Blue Valley School District but who do not reside within the district are required to pay an additional non-resident fee of 25%.

The baseball program begins with children currently in pre-kindergarten and ends with seniors in high school (2009-10 school year). Practices are held at Blue Valley schools and the Blue Valley Recreation Complex. Games are played at the Blue Valley Recreation Complex located on 137th St. between Antioch and Switzer. All children who register to play in the BVRC baseball program are given that opportunity (registration deadlines must be followed). Blue Valley Recreation does not carry medical insurance for participants.

### REGISTRATION

All players may begin registering on-line today at [www.bluevalleyrec.org](http://www.bluevalleyrec.org). To register on-line, please follow the instructions found on our web site. Keep in mind that if you have never registered on-line through the BVRC before, you will first need to initiate a customer ID and password. Allow two business days to receive approval of your account. If you are unable to register on-line, you may do so at the BVRC Recreation Complex (9701 W. 137<sup>th</sup> St.) or the Activity Center (6545 W. 151<sup>st</sup> St.).

When registering, list the current grade of the player (2009-10 school year). When registering for the pre-kindergarten program, list the grade as "prek" (must turn 5-years-old before August 31, 2010).

The final day to register for guaranteed placement onto a team is:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Registration deadline</u>
PreK - 1 <sup>st</sup>	March 31
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	February 24

The deadline to register online for PreK-1 is Sunday, March 14 (participants can register in person at either BVRC office until March 31). After the deadline listed above, registrants will be placed on a waiting list with no guarantee of placement on a team.

In grades 3-8, coaches are able to form their own team according to BVRC guidelines. In order to accomplish this, you must print off and complete the following documents. These documents can be found in the "Team Registration Info" drop down box on our website. Please read all instructions carefully and pay particular attention to the timetable that lists important dates and deadlines for softball/baseball registration. The completed Code of Ethics roster should be returned to us before your first game.

- Roster/Player Agreement Form
- Player Release Form
- Coaches Application
- Code of Ethics Roster

## FEES

(Reduced fee for early registration through January 27)

Grade	Registration by January 27	January 28 and after
<b>PreK</b>	<b>\$55</b>	<b>\$65</b>
<b>K &amp; 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>\$91</b>	<b>\$101</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>\$111</b>	<b>\$121</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>\$135</b>	<b>\$145</b>

## MANDATORY PARENT SEMINAR

One parent of every player must attend a mandatory sportsmanship seminar. The seminar will be presented by the NAIA Champions of Character Initiative. Information on the date, time and location of this seminar will be emailed to parents prior to the seminar.

## LEAGUES FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

The BVRC offers leagues for rookies as well as very skilled players. All leagues include:

- ♦ Assigned practice times
- ♦ Award for each player (PreK-3<sup>rd</sup> grade)
- ♦ Team Equipment
- ♦ Parents serve as coaches

Players are allowed to play on only one team.

The pre-kindergarten league is purely instructional. The league consists of six games of T-ball and all players receive a t-shirt/jersey. Special safety balls are used and reduce chances of injury and every player bats and plays in the field.

Kindergarten and first grade are considered instructional, non-competitive leagues and are treated accordingly. Those in kindergarten will play 10 coach-pitch games. First grade teams will play 10 machine-pitch games. Game scores are kept, but league standings are not. No player may sit out two consecutive defensive innings and a continuous batting order is used.

Second and third grade leagues are considered instructional; however, competition is introduced and scores are kept during the season. Second grade is a pitching machine program and each team plays 12 games. In third grade, teams will have the option of 1) playing six machine-pitch games the first part of the season and six player-pitch games the remainder or 2) playing 12 player-pitch games the entire season, or 3) playing 12

machine pitch games. Beginning the season with machine-pitch will provide coaches a time period in which to prepare his/her players for player-pitch. Pitching machines are provided for weekend practices only in April (pitching machine leagues only). Scores will be kept but league standings will not.

Beginning in fourth grade, teams are placed into divisions based on the strength of the team. Depending on the number of teams that register, there will be three or four levels of play within each age group. Team strength will be determined by recommendations from coaches, past performance (if appropriate) and pre-season ranking games that take place on April 3 (grade 4 only). Based on their win/loss record from year to year, teams will have the opportunity to move up or down within these levels. The order of league strength is Tiger, Husky, Mustang, and Jaguar, with Tiger being the highest skill level. The Baseball Advisory Council and staff have the final say on team placement.

## **TEAM FORMATION**

Teams are formed according to grades; specifically, the grade a child is currently in for the 2009-10 school year. Participants may play on only one BVRC baseball team (this includes all BVRC rec teams and Gold Glove teams). Teams are comprised of 12-15 players.

### **Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten:**

Pre-kindergarten teams will be formed according to where the players will attend kindergarten. PreK players must be five years old by August 31, 2010. Teams in kindergarten are formed according to where the players attended school in the 2009-10 school year (kindergarten players must currently be enrolled in kindergarten). All teams are formed within elementary schools, or high school boundaries, by staff and coaches. Players may request a coach from their school by writing his/her name on the registration form. However, there is no guarantee of placement with this coach. Teams will be formed in mid-April (practices begin the week of April 26).

### **1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:**

Players on teams in first and second grades (2009-10 school year) will be allowed to return to the previous year's Blue Valley Baseball coach/team. New players to the program and players who do not wish to return to their previous year's team (mark this on your registration form) will be assigned to teams by staff and coaches according to elementary schools or high school boundaries in which they reside. Teams will be formed in early March (practices begin the week of March 29, except for first grade which begins April 26). Players may request a coach from their school by writing his/her name on the registration form. However, there is no guarantee of placement with this coach.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> grade through High School:**

Teams are formed according to high school boundaries. For example, a team can be formed from players attending four or five different elementary schools, if a coach desires. A player must play on a team that is formed within the high school boundaries in which he resides. Players who wish to play up a grade must submit a written request and may be asked to appear before the Baseball Advisory Council. Final approval of all requests will be the responsibility of the Baseball Advisory Council.

There are four geographical areas by which teams will be formed: the Blue Valley High School area, the Blue Valley Northwest High School area, the Blue Valley North High School area and the Blue Valley West High School area. Each elementary school that

feeds into these high schools, as of January 1, 2010, will be assigned to that area. These assignments are:

<b><u>Blue Valley</u></b>	<b><u>Blue Valley Northwest</u></b>	<b><u>Blue Valley North</u></b>	<b><u>Blue Valley West</u></b>
Blue River	Cottonwood Point	Leawood	Cedar Hills
Prairie Star	Harmony	Mission Trail	Lakewood
Stanley	Heartland	Overland Trail	Liberty View
Stilwell	Indian Valley	Valley Park	Morse
Sunrise Point	Oak Hill		Sunset Ridge
			Timber Creek

The following private schools have been approved to play in the Blue Valley Recreation baseball league: Ascension, Barstow, Nativity, Saint Michaels, Westminster Academy, and Queen of the Holy Rosary Wea. Participants attending one of these approved schools may play together on a team from their school or they may play on a team in their high school area. Participants that attend one of these schools but live outside the Blue Valley boundaries are required to pay an additional non-resident fee of 25%.

Coaches form their own teams via an invitation to players. The exception to this rule will be a player who participated with a coach outside his high school area last year. Because the BVRC assigned that player to a team outside his high school boundary, he will be “grandfathered” onto the team.

Players will be given the opportunity to play with their 2009 team if the coach and player so choose. If a player chooses not to play with his 2009 coach/team, he must then play with a team from his appropriate high school area. In addition, if there are no openings on any of the Tiger Division teams (Top Division) in a particular high school area, players from that area may request to play out of their area on another Tiger Division team (Tiger Division only).

Coaches will be given a team roster form, that when signed by the player and coach, will confirm that the player will be playing with that coach for the 2010 season. This agreement is valid for the 2010 summer season only. The agreement is not a registration for 2010 season. Participants must follow all registration dates/times at which time fees are paid.

On February 12, coaches will turn in player agreement and team roster forms for their 2010 teams to the BVRC Sports Department. Players who were not contacted by a coach or who have not signed an agreement to play with a team by February 12 will be placed onto a team by staff. All players will be assigned to a team and will play baseball, provided the registration deadlines are met.

## **PLAYING TIME**

The BVRC provides the youth of Blue Valley with a quality program that promotes sportsmanship, instruction, teamwork and the enjoyment of the baseball experience. All Blue Valley children who register prior to the deadline will be placed on a team regardless of skill level. Each age group has minimum playing time rules for players, to which all coaches must adhere.

## **PRACTICES/GAMES**

Practices are held at various school fields and the Blue Valley Recreation Complex. Two BVRC scheduled practices are held per week until games begin. While school is in session, no team may practice (BVRC scheduled or otherwise) more than twice per week Monday through Thursday. Once games begin, the BVRC schedules one practice per week for each team.

All regular season games are played at the Blue Valley Recreation Complex. In addition, some leagues play a post-season, single-elimination tournament. Teams normally play two games per week, one Saturday/Sunday game and one weekday evening game.

No league games will be played May 28-31 and July 1-4.

## **COACHES**

Coaches are needed at most age levels and parents are strongly encouraged to assist with the program. All coaches are required to complete an application, background check and attend a certification clinic. Applications are available on-line at [www.bluevalleyrec.org](http://www.bluevalleyrec.org), and clinics are held in April. Good sportsmanship and the ability to interact positively with youth are two key qualities of a BVRC baseball coach.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Good sportsmanship is the top priority within the BVRC baseball program for players, coaches, parents and fans. Parents and players will be asked to sign a code of ethics that will be returned before the first game (coaches will be provided with details). Coaches are asked to be responsible for their teams. However, the BVRC staff and umpires have complete authority to enforce good sportsmanship.

The baseball program is assisted by a volunteer Sportsmanship Committee. Committee members are assigned to observe games once or twice throughout the season and then report on the positive and negative incidents observed. Volunteers are needed to serve on this committee. Those interested in serving may complete an application at registration or telephone 685.6030.

The BVRC has strong rules regarding interaction with umpires and ejections from games. If a coach or parent is ejected from a game they must immediately leave the complex and will be required to serve a one-game suspension. Stricter penalties may be invoked by staff and the Baseball Advisory Council should the situation warrant.

## **SPONSORS**

A sponsor program is in place to help offset some costs of the program. If you would consider making a contribution, please telephone 685.6030 for more information regarding the baseball sponsor program.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Coaches will be issued a set of team equipment that must be turned in at their last game. Players in grades 9-12 will not be allowed to use bats with a length/weight ratio higher than -5.

## TEAM PICTURES

Pictures are not included in the registration fee. However, the picture company will coordinate a picture day for teams who wish to have pictures taken. Teams are responsible for payment directly to the photographer.

## UNIFORMS

Teams purchase their own uniforms. Sports Management Associates (SMA) is the official uniform supplier for the BVRC. For more information, contact SMA at 236.8311. Teams are welcomed to solicit a sponsor to assist with team uniforms. Parents should not be asked to contribute additional money toward the purchase of items such as team jackets, team bags, etc.

**AS A SAFETY PRECAUTION, no jewelry may be worn during league games.** This includes pierced earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches or any other jewelry the umpire judges to be unsafe. Newly pierced ears are always a problem so please plan accordingly.

## BASEBALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

A Baseball Advisory Council has been established to assist the BVRC staff with the administration of the baseball program. Applications to serve on the Advisory Council will be accepted through November 15 for terms that begin in January.

## INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION

Our web site serves as the main vehicle by which to notify participants of changes or cancellations during inclement weather. In times of inclement weather, log onto [www.bluevalleyrec.org](http://www.bluevalleyrec.org) and click on the Inclement Weather tab for practice/game status.

As a secondary source of notification, we also use the following telephone number and extension. This telephone line will accept a limited number of calls at one time, so we encourage everyone to use the web site whenever possible.

The telephone number is: (913) 685-6099 EXT: 2

**Parents and Coaches can also sign-up to receive notification on cancellations through Text Message at [www.bluevalleyrec.org](http://www.bluevalleyrec.org).**

## SMOKE FREE POLICY

\*Effective January 1, 2009, the Blue Valley Recreation Complex has become a smoke-free complex.

## HEAT GUIDELINES

Blue Valley Recreation has implemented guidelines to deal with extreme heat at all youth baseball/softball games and practices. For specific information on our heat guidelines, please refer to our web site. These guidelines are designed to provide participants with a standard for safe play in situations of extreme heat.

The two values that the BVRC will take into account when modifying or canceling games/practices are air temperature and relative humidity. The combination of these two elements reflects the heat index. We will rely on the heat index reading that is updated hourly by the National Weather Service at the Olathe Executive Airport.

## **ALLERGIES**

If your child suffers from serious allergies, it is your responsibility to notify both the BVRC and your coach if a participant is severely allergic to any medication, foods, bee stings or other matters that can be aggravated by the presence of certain foods or substances with which you might come into contact in a program.

Most programs of BVRC are staffed by non-medically licensed personnel. Therefore, it may be necessary for you to accompany your child if he or she has a serious allergy or similar health-related problem. Generally, the only thing a non-medically licensed staff member can do is to call 911 unless other specific arrangements have been made with the participant and his/her parents or guardians pursuant to an individual management plan.

Your cooperation and assistance is essential to protect yourself as a participant and/or your children participating in BVRC programs. Your understanding, communication as to your or your child's health issues, and your participation in the management of those health conditions is imperative.

Please go to [www.bluevalleyrec.org](http://www.bluevalleyrec.org) for more information and complete guidelines regarding allergies.

## **ADA COMPLIANCE**

The BVRC prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender, age, religion, disability, pregnancy status, sexual orientation, veteran status, and any other status protected by law in employment and its programs, activities, and services. The BVRC complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), under which qualified individuals with a disability may be entitled to reasonable accommodations in the programs, activities, and services of the BVRC and in employment with BVRC.

The following person has been designated to handle public inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies, including any request for accommodation under the ADA or any grievance: Administration Manager, (913) 685-6000 (voice) or Kansas Relay Service at (800) 766-3777, Blue Valley Recreation Commission, 6545 W. 151<sup>st</sup> Street, Overland Park, KS 66223.

A person with a hearing/speech disability may register for a program by calling the Kansas Relay Service at (800) 766-3777, or online through our website at [www.bluevalleyrec.org](http://www.bluevalleyrec.org). A person with a visual impairment who wants to register for a program or needs other BVRC documentation will be provided assistance as requested, and forms may be converted to large print or Braille.

## **QUESTIONS?**

For more information, please telephone the BVRC Sports Department at 685-6030.

## TIMETABLE

Listed below is a general timetable for the 2010 season:

Date	Grade	Event
January 27	PreK-8	Deadline for 'early' registration
February 24	2-8	Deadline to register
March 14	PreK-1	Deadline to register online
March 19	2-8	Coaches contact players
March 29	2-8	Practices begin
March 31	PreK-1	Deadline to register
April 3	4	Placement games
April 12	2-8	Games schedules posted on website by 4:30pm
April 19	PreK-1	Coaches contact players
April 26	2-8	Games begin
April 26	PreK-1	Practices begin
May 7	PreK-1	Games schedules posted on website by 4:30pm
May 22	PreK-1	Games begin
Mid July	PreK-8	Season concludes

**\*Note - No league games will be played May 28-31 and July 1-4.**