



**Program Overview
For
2012 Softball
(2011-12 School Year)**

THE PROGRAM

The youth softball program in Blue Valley is managed by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC). Last year, over 1,700 children participated in the program comprising 126 teams. The softball program begins with children in pre-kindergarten and ends with seniors in high school (2010-11 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 Street between Antioch and Switzer. Generally, two practices are held per week until games begin. Once games begin, one practice per week is scheduled.

Because the Commission is a Blue Valley tax supported entity and this program is limited in space, only Blue Valley School District (BVSD) residents or those who attend a school in the district may participate in the program. Those who attend a school within the boundaries of the (BVSD) but who do not reside within the district are required to pay an additional non-resident fee of 25%. All children who register to play in the softball program are given that opportunity (registration deadlines must be followed). Blue Valley Recreation does not provide medical insurance for participants.

REGISTRATION

All players may begin registering on-line today at www.bluevalleyrec.org. 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. Please 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. 137th St.) or the Activity Center (6545 W. 151st St.).

When registering, please list the current grade of the player (2011-12 school year). When registering for the pre-kindergarten program, please list the grade as "pre-k" (must turn 5-years-old before August 31, 2012).

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

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Registration deadline</u>
Pre-K -1st	March 30
2nd-8th	February 23

After the deadline listed above, registrants will be placed on a waiting list with no guarantee for placement on a team.

Coaches in grades 3-12 will have the option to form their own teams. Coaches are responsible for contacting the entire roster from 2011. Players will either be invited back or released from the team. If a coach chooses to release a player, he must notify the player no later than January 21. The deadline for coaches to form a team is February 11. After February 11, all team formation will be done by BVRC staff.

FEES

(Reduced fee for early registration through January 26)

Grade	Registration by January 26	January 27 and after
Pre-K	\$59	\$69
K & 1 st	\$96	\$106
2 nd & 3 rd	\$117	\$127
4 th – 6 th	\$132	\$142
7 th & 8 th	\$132	\$142

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 sent to parents prior to the seminar. Parents that have attended this seminar for basketball or softball in previous years (2004-2011) are not required to attend at this time.

LEAGUES FOR ALL SKILL LEVELS

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

- ◆ Assigned practice times
- ◆ 10 players in the field (PreK-6 grade)
- ◆ Parents are needed to serve as coaches
- ◆ Award for each player (PreK-3)
- ◆ Equipment provided

Players may compete in only one grade and on only one team. Please note: Some grades may need to be combined if there are not enough teams in a grade for a particular division.

The pre-kindergarten league is purely instructional. The league consists of six games of T-ball and all players receive a t-shirt. Special safety balls are used to 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. Players in kindergarten will play 10 games of T-ball and the score and standings are not kept. The first grade league is 10 game, coach-pitch league in which scores are kept, but standings are not. Both of these age groups focus on the basic fundamentals of softball and include special safety balls that reduce the chance of injury.

A continuous batting order is used in games and no player may sit out two consecutive defensive innings and umpires are not 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 8 machine-pitch games the first part of the season and 4 player-pitch games the remainder or (2) playing 12 machine-pitch games the entire season. Beginning the season with machine-pitch provides coaches a time period to prepare his/her players for player-pitch. In both leagues pitching machines are provided at weekday practices in April. Score will be kept but league standings will not, no player may sit out two consecutive defensive innings and a continuous batting order is used.

Teams in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades will play in player-pitch leagues. 10 defensive players are used with unlimited substitutions allowed. The entire roster bats in turn and players pitch to one another with the traditional 3 strikes - 4 balls in effect. 15 games are scheduled. Standings are kept and the top two teams in each league will receive trophies. A post-season tournament will be offered to those teams that are interested at no additional fee.

Players in the seventh or eighth grades for the 2010-11 school year will be combined into one league this season (teams may be made up of girls in both grades). Other than the entire roster batting, most regular A.S.A. rules are followed. 15 games are scheduled.

POST- SEASON TOURNAMENT

Teams in grades four and above will compete in a post-season tournament. This will be a single elimination tournament open to all teams and is included in the fee. The post season tournament will be held mid-July.

TEAM FORMATION

Teams are formed according to grades; specifically, the grade a child is currently in for the 2011-12 school year. Participants may play on only one team. 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 in 2011-12. Teams in kindergarten are formed according to where the players attended school in the 2011-12 school year. All teams are formed within elementary schools **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; BVRC Staff has final decision in player placement. Teams will be formed in mid-April (practices begin the week of April 25). Please do not call and inquire about your team assignment until after April 25.

1st – 2nd Grade:

Players on teams in first through third grades (2011-12 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. Teams will be formed in early March (practices begin the week of March 29, except for first grade which begins April 25). 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. Please do not call and inquire about your team assignment until after March 30.

3rd Grade Through High School:

Beginning in 3rd grade coaches are allowed to form their own teams. 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, she will be “grandfathered” onto the team.

Players will be given the opportunity to play with their 2011 team, if the coach and player so choose. 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 2012 season. This agreement is valid for the 2011 summer season only. The agreement is not a registration for 2012 season. Participants must follow all registration dates/times at which time fees are paid.

On February 11, coaches will turn in player agreement and team roster forms for their 2012 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 11 will be placed onto a team by staff. All players will be assigned to a team and will play softball, 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 playing softball. 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.

PLAYING UP

Players who wish to play up a grade must submit a written request and may be asked to appear before the Softball Advisory Council. Final approval of all requests will be the responsibility of the Softball Advisory Council.

COACHES

Coaches are needed at all age levels! Interested candidates should visit our web site and complete the coaches' application. If you have questions on coaching you may contact the BVRC Sports Department at 685-6030. All coaches are required to complete a coaches' application/background check and attend a certification clinic, held in April.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sportsmanship is a top priority within the BVRC softball 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 softball program is also 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. Please call 685-6030 if you would be interested in serving on this committee.

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 Softball Advisory Council should the situation warrant.

EQUIPMENT

Participants will need to provide their own ball glove. Most equipment is provided to teams. Coaches will be issued a set of team equipment that must be turned in at their last game.

TEAM PICTURES

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

UNIFORMS

T-shirts are provided to participants in the pre-kindergarten program. For all other grades, teams purchase their own uniforms. Jerry's Sports Shop is the official uniform supplier for the BVRC. For more information, contact Jerry's at 402-9994 or www.jerrysportsshops.com. Teams are encouraged 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.

SOFTBALL ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Softball Advisory Council is a volunteer council that was established to assist the BVRC in offering the youth softball program. Applications to serve on the Advisory Council will be accepted through December 1 for terms that begin in January. Questions regarding the Advisory Council may be answered at the BVRC Sports Department by calling 685-6030. All interested applicants should contact the Sports Department at 685-6030.

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 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: 3.

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 the following guidelines to deal with extreme heat at all youth softball/baseball 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 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. 151st 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. 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.

Timetable

Date	Grade	Event
January 26	all grades	Deadline for “early bird” registration
February 11	3 rd – HS	Deadline for team formation paperwork
February 23	2 nd – 8 th	Deadline to register
March 6	5 th – 8 th	Coaches Meeting at Lakewood Middle
March 6	2 nd – 4 th	Coaches Meeting at Lakewood Middle
March 28	2 nd – HS	Practice begins
March 30	Pre-K-1 st	Deadline to register
April 10	Pre-K-1 st	Coaches Meeting at Lakewood Middle
April 25	4 th – 8 th	Games begin
April 25	Pre-K - 1 st	Practices begin
May 27-30	all grades	NO GAMES, Memorial Weekend
May 21	K & 1 st	Games begin
June 30-July 4	all grades	NO GAMES, July 4th Holiday
Mid-July	Pre-k-3	Season concludes
Mid July	4 th - HS	Post-season tournament

For more information call the Blue Valley Recreation Commission Sports Department at 913-685-6030 or visit our website at www.bluevalleyrec.org.