



## **2025 Baseball Program Overview Information & Guidelines**

**(2024-25 School Year)**

### **THE PROGRAM**

The youth baseball program in Blue Valley is managed by the Blue Valley Recreation Commission (BVRC). Last year, over 3,500 children participated in the program comprising over 280 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 (2024-25 school year). Practices are held at Blue Valley schools and the Blue Valley Recreation Sports Complex. Games are played at the Blue Valley Recreation Sports 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 online, please follow the instructions found on our website. Keep in mind that if you have never registered online through the BVRC before, you will first need to initiate a customer ID and password. If you are unable to register online, you may do so at the BVRC Sports Complex (9701 W. 137<sup>th</sup> St.), Activity Center (6545 W. 151<sup>st</sup> St.) or the BVRC Rec Center at Hilltop (7720 W. 143<sup>rd</sup> St.).

When registering, list the current grade of the player (2024-25 school year). When registering for the pre-kindergarten program, list the grade as "PreK" (must turn 4-years-old by August 31, 2025).

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

Grade	Registration Deadline
PreK - 1 <sup>st</sup>	March 25
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	February 26

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 can 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” section of the baseball page on our website. Please read all instructions carefully and pay attention to the timetable that lists important dates and deadlines for softball/baseball registration.

- Roster/Player Agreement Form
- Player Release Form
- Coaches Application

## **FEES**

(Reduced fee for early registration through January 29)

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Registration by January 29:</b>	<b>January 30 and after:</b>
PreK & K	\$115	\$125
1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$145	\$155
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	\$155	\$165
5 <sup>th</sup> - 8 <sup>th</sup>	\$175	\$185

## **MANDATORY PARENT SEMINAR**

One parent of every player must attend a mandatory sportsmanship seminar (Date, time and location – TBD)

## **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-2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- ♦ Team Equipment
- ♦ Parents serve as coaches

**Players are only allowed to play on one BVRC team. A player cannot play on both a BVRC Rec team and a Golden Glove team. In addition, a child is not allowed to play up more than one grade (example a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader could play in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade league but not in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade league).**

### **PreK:**

The pre-kindergarten league is considered an instructional, non-competitive league and is treated accordingly. The league consists of ten games of t-ball or coach pitch (head coaches choose). All players receive a t-shirt. Special safety balls are used to reduce chances of injury. Every player bats and plays in the field each inning.

### **Kindergarten:**

The kindergarten league is considered an instructional, non-competitive league and is treated accordingly. Those in kindergarten will play 10 coach-pitch games. Special safety balls are used to reduce chances of injury. Every player bats and plays in the field each inning.

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

The first and second grade leagues are considered instructional; however, competition is introduced, and scores are kept during the season (no league standings). Both first and second grade is a pitching machine program, and each team will play 12 games. Second grade pitching machines are provided for weekend practices starting March 29/30 (three weekends). First grade pitching machines are provided for Saturday practices starting April 19 (three weekends).

### **3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

Third and fourth grade teams will play 14 regular season player-pitch games (and get to take part in the end of year post-season tournament). Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade teams will play 15 regular season player-pitch games. There will be a separate post-season tournament for all teams in third through eighth grade.

Beginning in third grade, teams are placed into divisions based on the strength of the team. Depending on the number of teams that register, there will be one to four levels of play within each age group. Team strength will be determined by recommendations from coaches and past performance (if appropriate). 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 2024-25 school year. Participants may play on only one BVRC baseball team (this includes all BVRC rec teams and Golden Glove teams). Teams are comprised of 11-14 players.

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

Pre-kindergarten teams will be formed according to where the players will attend kindergarten. PreK players must be four years old by August 31, 2025. Teams in kindergarten are formed according to where the players attend school in the 2024-25 school year (kindergarten players should 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 14).

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

Players on teams in first and second grades (2024-25 school year) will be allowed to return to the previous year's Blue Valley Recreation 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. Second grade teams will be formed in early March and begin practice the week of March 24. First grade teams will be formed in early April and begin practice the week of April 14. 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> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

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 five geographical areas by which teams will be formed: the BV High School area, BV Northwest High School area, BV North High School area, BV West High School area, and BV Southwest School area. Each elementary school that feeds into these high schools, as of January 1, 2025, will be assigned to that area. These assignments are:

#### **Blue Valley High**

Blue River  
Prairie Star  
Stanley  
Sunrise Point  
Stilwell

#### **Blue Valley Northwest**

Cottonwood Point  
Harmony  
Heartland  
Indian Valley  
Oak Hill

#### **Blue Valley North**

Leawood  
Mission Trail  
Overland Trail  
Valley Park

#### **Blue Valley West**

Cedar Hills  
Lakewood  
Liberty View  
Sunset Ridge

#### **Blue Valley Southwest**

Morse  
Timber Creek  
Wolf Springs  
Aspen Grove

The following private schools have been approved to play in the Blue Valley Recreation baseball league: Ascension, Barstow, Christ Lutheran, Kansas City Christian, Nativity, Saint Michaels, Hyman Brand Hebrew Academy, Heritage Christian Academy, Holy Spirit Catholic School, Prince of Peace 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 the HS boundary rule will be a player who participated with a coach outside his high school area the previous year. Because the BVRC assigned that player to a team outside his high school boundary, he will be “grandfathered” onto the team if both the coach and player so choose.

Players will be given the opportunity to play with their 2024 team if the coach and player so choose. If a player chooses not to play with his 2024 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 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 2025 season. This agreement is valid for the

2025 summer season only. The agreement is not a registration for the 2025 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 2025 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 Sports 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 Sports Complex. Teams normally play two games per week, one Saturday/Sunday game and one weekday evening game. In addition, some leagues play a post-season, single-elimination tournament.

The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade league has partnered with OYB. When playing an OYB team “away” games will be played at Prairie Center in Olathe. This will occur a few times throughout the season. No league games will be played May 23-26 & July 4-6.

## **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 may be asked to observe games 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 by telephone 913.685.6030.

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.

## **EQUIPMENT**

Coaches will be issued a set of team equipment that must be turned in at their last game. For updated bat rule information please see the “Bat Rule” link on the BVRC website

## **UNIFORMS**

1<sup>st</sup> Grade through high school teams purchase their own uniforms (PreK & Kindergarten teams are provided t-shirts). Jock’s Nitch Sports is the official uniform supplier for the BVRC. For more information, contact Jock’s Nitch at [rob@jocksnitch.com](mailto:rob@jocksnitch.com) or 913-345-2882. Teams are welcome 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 1 for terms that begin in January.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER INFORMATION**

Our website 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 website whenever possible. The telephone number is: (913) 600-4001 EXT: 1

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 Sports Complex became 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 [www.bluevalleyrec.org](http://www.bluevalleyrec.org)

refer to our website. 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 consider 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 are 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 based on 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 1.800.766.3777, 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 aided 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 2025 season:

Date	Grade	Event
January 29	PreK-8	Deadline for 'early' registration – Save \$10
February 26	2-8	Deadline to register
March 24	2-8	Practices begin
March 25	PreK-1	Deadline to register
April 4	2-8	Game schedules posted on website by 4:30pm
April 14	2-8	Games begin
April 14	PreK-1	Practices begin
April 23	PreK-1	Games schedules posted on website by 4:30pm
May 5	1	Games begin
May 9	PreK & K	Games begin
May 23-26	PreK-8	No Games – Memorial Day Weekend
June 25	3-8	Regular season concludes
June 27 - July 1	3-8	Post Season Tournament
June 27	1 & 2	Regular season concludes
June 29	PreK & K	Regular season concludes
July 1	3-8	Championship Night
July 4-6	PreK-8	No Games – Independence Day Weekend

- Dates are subject to change based on the number of rainouts during the season.