



Spring League Coach: Duties

First, *thank you* for volunteering to be a coach! The role can be highly rewarding and make a great difference in the lives of the children. Below is a list of common duties of the spring league coach. If you have questions that have not been answered here, please seek support from the Division Manager, experienced coaches and/or members of the Executive.

Role: The spring league coach is the teacher and mentor of the team he/she is coaching. They contribute to the skill development of players and foster a positive attitude towards baseball as a life-long sport. Players learn all positions, especially at the younger age divisions, and the rules of baseball (Baseball Canada and BC Minor Baseball rules are followed).

Duties:

- Once registration is completed, obtain a list of all players in the division from the Division Manager. Usually this occurs by mid-April.
- **Assessment Day:** Communicate with the Division Manager to set up an assessment day. Notify parents/players of time, place and process. With other coaches, have basic skill stations and rate players. Then divide the teams as equally as possible keeping in mind that house play is for fun and skill development for all players.
- **Coaching credentials:** All coaches are to do the NCCP Initiation Coach certification. This is a short (1.5 h) on-line course and SAMBA covers the cost. It includes access to an on-line library of drills and tips for one year. It is highly recommended coaches attend other coaching clinics (SAMBA covers costs).
- **Rules:** Know the rules for your division, including pitch counts. Consult the Baseball Canada rule book provided as well as BC Minor Baseball's Rule Book. See SAMBA website for links.
- **Parent Involvement:** At the beginning of the season have a parent meeting and recruit parents to help manage the team, score keep, do pitch counts, line the fields before games, rake/drag before/after games and manage the uniforms.
- **Assistant coaches:** Recruit as needed.

- **Scheduling:** Obtain your schedule from the Division Manager.
- **Records:** Keep accurate records of players' names, phone numbers, etc., medical forms (see website) and uniforms.
- **Umpires:** Notify the Division Manager as soon as possible if you need to cancel a game or, when arranged, contact umpires directly. **Note:** For Blackburn games, notify the SASCU Recreation Centre of cancellations (games and practices). Please model kindness and respect for our young umpires. They are learning as well.
- **Practices:** Consult with the Division Manager about practice times and fields. Plan pregame warm-ups with clear, consistent guidelines for conduct.
- **Equipment & Uniforms:** Talk to the Division Manager about uniforms & equipment. (At the last game, collect all uniforms and equipment to return to the Division Manager or Uniform Manager.)
- **Score sheets:** can be obtained from your Division Manager. A number of score sheets are usually kept in the equipment storage at diamond #2 at Elk's Park and Blackburn.
- **Tournaments:** Coordinate home tournaments with the Division Manager. League policy is that all tournaments are self-supported (tournament fees must cover all costs). Try to plan when umpires are available (i.e., many umpires also play so ensure there are umpires in town).
- **Out-of-town house tournaments:** Plan early which tournaments you might want to enter. Check nearby associations' websites for tournament dates.
- **Results:** Report results of league play and tournaments to the Division Manager. Keep score sheets for future reference.
- **Information Sharing:** Circulate pertinent information to parents such as contact lists, information about out-of-town tournaments, rules, baseball clinics, coaching and umpire clinics, All-Star tryouts, etc.

Lastly, laugh a lot! Enjoy. 😊