

Board of Directors

Organization	Commissioner George Dorn	
President	George Dorn	www.gdorn@bactravelingsoftball.org
Vice-President	Terry Boeder	www.travsoftball@usfamily.net
Treasurer	Michele Boeder	www.travsoftball@usfamily.net
Secretary	Carol Mattson	www.carolmatty@frontiernet.net
At –Large	Sean Jefferson	www.sean_jefferson2002@yahoo.com
At-Large	Tom Budde	www.tomb@ascs.com

Committee Coordinators/Volunteers

Tournament Director	Sean/Tom	www.tomb@ascs.com
Equip. Manager	Sean Jefferson	www.sean_jefferson2002@yahoo.com
Registration	Terry Boeder	www.travsoftball@usfamily.net

Mission Statement

The Burnsville Girls Traveling Slow Pitch (GTSP) program goals are for each athlete to enjoy the sport through an environment which promotes fun fosters improved skills and develops winning attitudes enabling our youth to continue to be one of the recognized leaders of the girls slow pitch players in the State of Minnesota.

Volunteer Commitment

Volunteers are vital to any well-run program to ensure a successful and enjoyable season for all participants and families. For our program to continue to be successful, new volunteers are needed each year. Parents are required to volunteer during Fundraising and if needed, assisting with positions such as food concessions, parking attendants, or ticket sales at the Tournament hosted in Burnsville. A volunteer coordinator will work with each team to assign jobs for the tournaments. The coordinator will work with each team and assign one parent as the assistant coordinator for each team to coordinate and assign duties to carry out the functions of the program or tournament.

Traveling Commitment

Those players and parents interested in the GTSP program must recognize the responsibility and commitment that accompanies being selected to play in a traveling program. We understand that family obligations, school functions and other activities that the girls participate in can make attendance to all scheduled softball events difficult however it is understood that the committed players will make every attempt to participate and be on time to practices and games. Poor attendance makes preparation for games and practices very difficult for the coaches and moreover the team ultimately suffers for a lack of regular attendance.

If a player does not attend practices and or games without sufficiently notifying their coach, or is excessively absent or has an unexcused absence for practices, games and tournaments, this action may warrant disciplinary action and could potentially impact future placement of the player on a team.

Girls Traveling Slow Pitch Program Guidelines

Public input

All members of the GTSP program shall have the right to be heard with respect to any Bylaw or Guideline which the board has under consideration for adoption or which the board has already adopted. Members are invited to Board meetings and may be heard on any such matter during the open forum portion of the meeting.

Dual Service

With no exceptions, the GTSP board members are not restricted from obtaining coaching positions (including head coach). They may not be directly involved in the coaching selection process for the age level to which they are applying.

Coach Service

Coaches are selected each year in accordance to the applicable Bylaws. An individual may be prohibited from coaching for more than 3 consecutive years provided a qualified replacement has applied. Persons interested in coaching shall fill out a coaching application and a back ground investigation form and it shall be reviewed by either a selection committee or by the Commissioner or both. The decision of the Commissioner is final.

Player Guidelines/Playing Time

Burnsville GTSP uses ASA age eligibility rules to determine playing level, which is their age as of December 31st prior to the summer season.

Coaches shall afford an opportunity at practice to develop all players who show desire and the ability to pitch. Those that show they are capable should be given an opportunity to pitch during league games, at the coach's discretion.

All teams are required to meet for practice at least once a week.

Coaches shall provide equal offensive time for all players. Defensive playing time should be relatively equal to all players throughout the season. (Equal for defensive positions means within 20% of available innings throughout the entire season.) Barring injury, disciplinary action or illness, no player should be denied the opportunity to participate in each game. The coaches are required to bat all players for all innings of each game (other than exceptions noted) and are not allowed to sit some players on offense just to create an advantage over the opposing teams. This is counterproductive to build team spirit and is not good for

December 08, 2009

moral. The only exception is for tournaments played under 9-man rules such as the Sioux Falls Tournaments and the USSSA and ASA State championships. With this exception the head coach must notify the parents and players of the team about this decision and used only when absolutely necessary to keep the team in the competition for the tournament.

Players shall show respect for the umpire, the opposing team, their coaches and their teammates at all times. Verbal abuse, profanity, throwing equipment or similar forms of disrespect will not be tolerated at any time and may, at the discretion of the coach, result in the removal from the game or other disciplinary action. Players may never argue with the umpire; any challenge or comment should be directed to the coach, who can determine whether or not to raise it with the umpire.

Guidelines for coaches, if a player is ejected from a game by an umpire:

- A) First Offense-Verbal Warning
- B) Second Offense-Written Warning given to player and parents notified by email or phone call.
- C) Third Offense-Parent/Coach conference with Assistant Commissioner and/or Commissioner about severity of player's misconduct, and suspension from the next game or tournament
- D) Fourth Offense- Elimination for the remainder of the season and discuss the possibility of not being eligible for future placement on a team.

Attendance

- 1) Players are responsible for being on time to all practices and games. The coach may impose sanctions to ensure compliance.
- 2) Players must give their coach reasonable advance notice if she will be unable to attend any practice or game or if she will be late.

Parents/Fans

Good Sportsmanship

Parents and fans shall encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches and officials at every practice and game.

Parents shall show respect for the umpire, the opposing team, all players and coaches. Verbal abuse, profanity, throwing equipment or similar forms of disrespect is not appropriate. Among other things, parents

December 08, 2009

shall not harass the umpire or opposing team. The coach shall have the discretion to impose sanctions on the offending parent or fan.

Parents should raise all concerns, comments or complaints with the coach directly and in a private manner, rather than during the game or in front of others. Please use good judgment and a calm approach away from the playing area. Never enter the bench or playing area unless invited by the coach or in the case of a medical emergency

Coaches/Scorekeeper

Each team shall try to have a head coach and if available an assistant coach. If the head coach chooses he may enlist a score keeper as well. If there is more than one applicant for the head coach's position, the candidates will be interviewed by a selection committee or the GTSP Board for which membership is dictated by the Commissioner. The Board shall take a vote and if there is a tie the decision of the Commissioner on the appointment of the head coaches is final.

The score keeper may be in the bench area during defense only with the approval of the head coach. During defense the score keeper should try to be in the best possible position to keep track of runs by the other team. The score keeper during offense should remain out of the player's bench area.

Coaches should lead by example and strive to foster their players' self confidence and engage in constructive rather than destructive criticism. Shouting at or berating a player publicly or privately is not acceptable.

Coaches are discouraged from arguing with an umpire. Judgment calls can't be argued and therefore are not appropriate. However, discussing rule interpretations is appropriate and encouraged so that all players understand an umpire's decision. Any challenges should be conducted by the head coach and only in a dignified and respectful manner. Any coach who is ejected from a game for any reason other than safety concerns will, on the first such occasion, be called before the board and required to explain the circumstances on the second such occasion, the board shall remove the coach from his or her position for the season.

Coaches should make a commitment to their team and to the GTSP program to attend all practices and games. If the conduct of the head coach is not in the best interest of the GTSP program or the team the head coach may be replaced by a majority vote from the board to remove him or her entirely from the coaching staff. When a coach is unable to be in attendance a suitable replacement will be named and he or she should have had a back ground check pre season as well.

Coaches shall not allow any other persons in the dug-out during practice, games, and tournaments etc. This includes other friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, and parents etc. that have no official involvement with the team.

Photography/Journalists

Photo journalists will be allowed in the player's bench area on a periodic basis with the approval of the head coach. The photo journalist shall consult with the tournament director prior to the games to determine where they will allow him or her to stand without causing interference for either team. This is especially important in Tournaments.

The Photography Company shall be chosen for the GTSP program by a majority vote of the Board prior to each season. This photographer will be designated as the season's tournament/game photographer and will be allowed full access to all fields within the discretion of the tournament director. In the Burnsville Tournaments the photojournalist shall have authority to either bench area, with the approval of the head coaches.

Grievance Process

Grievances raised by parents/players shall be resolved through the following process:

Grievances should be raised initially with the head coach in a private and constructive fashion and not during a game, tournament setting or with other team members present.

If a conference with the coach does not lead to the resolution of the grievance, or if the parent/player is uncomfortable discussing the matter directly with the coach, the parent/player may raise the grievance with the Board.

If after discussion with the Board the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved, the parent may raise the grievance with the Commissioner who shall bring it before the Board.

The decision of the Board and Commissioner shall be final

Grievances raised by coaches shall be resolved through the following process:

Grievances should be raised initially with the parent in a private and constructive fashion and not during a game tournament setting or with other team members present.

If a conference with the parent does not lead to the resolution of the grievance, or if the coach is uncomfortable discussing the matter directly with the parent/player the coach may raise the grievance with the Board.

If after the discussion with the Board the grievance is not resolved the coach may raise the grievance with the commissioner who shall bring it before the Board.

If the grievance is against a coach who is a member of the current board, this member will not be a part of the discussion and decision by the board. The decision of the Board and Commissioner is final.

Use of Uniforms, Equipment and Facilities

All equipment owned by the Burnsville GTSP program shall be maintained by GTSP and shall be labeled as belonging to GTSP and shall be listed on a master inventory.

Player's complete uniforms must be worn in all scheduled games and tournaments.

Players must exercise proper care in using equipment owned by GTSP during games and practices so that any unnecessary damage can be avoided.

All equipment and uniforms must be returned to the equipment manager no later than September 15. Each coach is responsible for all equipment and uniforms issued to them. Parents are responsible for assisting in this duty by exercising proper care in the cleaning of uniforms and helping with their timely return. Uniforms tops shall be used for two consecutive years to control program costs. Each player may keep their shorts and socks. In the event a uniform is stained or not salvageable the GTSP shall replace the uniform or uniforms before the season if at all possible with the closest matching uniform available.

No later than October 1 of each year an inventory shall be taken of all such equipment. The equipment manager shall conduct the inventory. Those who conduct the inventory shall report any discrepancies to the Commissioner who shall bring such matter to the Board's attention for correction.

Tournament Participation and Costs

The following rules shall govern the participation in and payment of costs for tournaments:

1. The B.A.C. Board requires that plans for fundraising, including tournaments and clinics must be included in each sports budget, and results must be included in the final report at the season's end. The BAC board of directors will review an annual list of approved fundraising activities to serve as a guideline for each activities use. All fundraising must be done in accordance with the approved financial policy of the organization. The GTSP program has utilized raffles, sponsorships and a hot dog sale as its annual fundraising activities in previous years.
2. Each team may add additional tournaments that are funded by someone other than the GTSP program and should be approved by the Board or commissioner in advance of registration if at all possible. Individual teams may not engage in fund raising. An exception may be made for a team that has qualified for a national tournament if a fund raising proposal is developed according to B.A.C. procedures, and then presented to the GTSP Board for their consideration and approval. Profits obtained through fundraising activities may only be applied to the specific area for which they were intended. Profits obtained through fundraising will be retained by the GTSP program.

December 08, 2009

3. Any GTSP team that qualifies for the appropriate State tournament shall participate in that tournament. GTSP will pay the team's entrance fee for the tournament. If a team qualifies for any additional state tournaments under the governance of either the MSF or MMFL the coach/team shall designate their choice and the GTSP will not pay the entrance fee.
4. Any A or B team that qualifies for a recognized association's National tournament and chooses to participate may have their entry fee paid by Burnsville Athletic Club. This decision is based on cost and distance to the tournament and available funds. The team must submit a request to the BAC. Recognized associations will be identified and communicated to all coaches prior to the season commencement.

Sponsors/Uniforms

Each team may have embroidered on their warm up jackets the logo from the company that sponsored their team. It is not required to put all the sponsors for all teams on all age bracket team warm up jackets.

The sponsor's logo should be approximately 1.5 X 3 inches or smaller. This logo should be located on the warm up jackets on the sleeve location unless discussed by the coaches and a better location would be a better fit. It is not recommended to put the logo on the actual uniform.

Sponsorships on warm up jackets or other displays shall be approved by the Commissioner.

Sports Seasons

The Burnsville GTSP program should take special consideration when determining the number of tournaments to participate in for the season. All tournaments and their approximate location should be submitted for approval with the annual budget or an amended activity description to the B.A.C. Board.

All Traveling programs running concurrently with a like In House program will make every effort to hold try-outs and post cuts prior to the formation of In-House teams.

It is the organizations belief that participation in more than one sport at the same time, by the same Participant is not only detrimental to the participant but is unfair to the teams that they are participating on. Therefore, no participant may register for or be rostered on two teams during the same season without the express written consent of both activity Commissioners.

With prior approval from both commissioners a participant may substitute in more than one sport as a substitute. For example, a Lacrosse or Fast Pitch player may substitute in a game or tournament in the event of a shortage of players. Assuming that both commissioners can agree on a schedule of participation for both

December 08, 2009

programs this exception may be allowed to play on both. Failure to meet the obligations of both teams may require the player to be dropped from one of the teams. With this exception this does not entitle the coach to sit a regular player and play the substitute just to get an advantage over the opposition.

Try Outs

Player Participation

The tryout process for Burnsville GTSP requires a substantial time commitment from coaches, evaluators and players. It attempts to objectively, as is possible, measure the skills of players and place them where they will be able to most successfully compete. There is no guarantee of an A or B team placement, it is based on how many participants sign up for the league.

Once tryouts and team selections are completed, it is expected that players will participate on the team to which they are assigned. It is important that each player/parent fulfill their commitment to their assigned team. Teams, which are forced to compete with less than a full roster, are at a disadvantage.

In order to be eligible to try out for the GTSP program, a player must have participated in the B.A.C. in house slow pitch program (or similar program) for at least one season.

Consequences for Non-Participation:

There will be no refund of registration fees made after the tryouts are completed.

Consistent with the B.A.C. handbook regarding players who make themselves unavailable for part of all of the season, the player will not be allowed to register for GTSP for the following calendar year.

If a player is unable to compete on the assigned team because of medical or family emergency, the GTSP board shall have the authority to modify or rescind these penalties by a majority vote.

Possible Reassignments

It is our intent to make every effort to place a player on an available Traveling Slow Pitch team. Registrants who do not get placed on a traveling team due to a lack of numbers for a complete team, and efforts to fill the team aren't successful, will have the option to play on with the In-House Slow pitch, provided there is a reasonable means of placing them on an In-House team. If this is not desired, a refund, minus any tryout fee will be refunded to you. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that a reassigned player will be placed on their school teams due to in-house teams potentially being formed before the traveling player selections are made.

Playing up to a higher age

It is not the organizations intent to allow players to play up to an older age bracket. It is not our intent to have for instance six or eight 16U player's play up to an older level just to make an 18U team. We feel it is to the best interest of the players to play at their own age. This allows for a better level of competition for all the teams as a whole and allows more time for growth and maturity to the player that will bring more value to the sport in the long run.

There are some exceptions to this:

- 1) We would allow a coaches daughter/player to play up if the coach is coaching this older age bracket.
- 2) We would allow a player to play up if there are no cuts on the older team. For example if a player is 14 and wants to play 16U and there are 13 players on the 14U team and 12 players on the 16U team this would be a reasonable request as long as no players were cut on the 16U team to arrive at 12 players. The commissioner shall have the final decision to this reassignment as it is not our intent to remove one or more higher level players from the younger teams just to make a more skilled older team. By doing this equal separation it allows for more competitive games against each other as well during the season and is not so one sided.

Team Rosters/Tryouts

Traveling teams are formed by a selection of participants wishing to compete in the traveling programs on a try-out basis. Try-outs are to be organized by the Commissioner under the following guidelines.

1. There shall be multiple evaluators at each try-out.
2. Participation in try-outs is mandatory for consideration with the following exceptions: injury, illness or death of an immediate family member. Medical excuse for injury or illness must be provided.
3. Evaluation form is available at the discretion of the Commissioner.
4. Try-outs may or may not be open to the public at the discretion of the Commissioner. This rule must be applied consistently to all members of the public.
5. Cuts will be made depending on the availability of players to form complete teams, the availability of facilities, optimum roster size and/or the level of competition available within the league. Optimum size for 12U and 14U would be 12 players. Optimum size for 16U and 18U would be 13 Players. If in the event there were enough players for two teams at the same age level the optimum size would be able to be adjusted anywhere from 11 to 13 players. In the traveling program it is not recommended to carry over 13 players on any of the teams as this restricts playing time and does not help team chemistry. The intent for two teams would be to not have to cut any player(s). If in the event there are

enough for two teams at the same age level, the coaches and Commissioner will decide the best way to pick the teams with consideration given to tryout scores, friendships and chemistry.. This picking process would of course be exclusive of the coaches own daughters if on their teams. Each team must have at least one qualified pitcher. This should be part of the try-out evaluation process. The coaches must keep in mind the friendships and chemistry of the players to some extent and use discretion such as if a group of girls were playing with a certain coach for a number of years the other coach should, if at all possible give credence to the other coach when picking highest to lowest scores, as we feel that the friendships to some extent build good chemistry on the teams over the years.

6. Special consideration will be given to Traveling teams that do not have enough players to fill a roster. In these instances the commissioner may petition the B.A.C. Board of Directors to recruit players from outside the stated eligibility boundaries, as long as such petition is done prior to any recruiting taking place. If there is a conflict for selecting an A and a B team then the Commissioner's decision on the team selection will be final.

Medical and Family Emergency Tryout Policy

In the event that a player is unable to attend one or more day(s) of tryouts, the following provisions shall apply:

1. Long-Term Medical Absence: Defined as when the player is injured and cannot return to active competition prior to league play for that specific age level (per doctor estimate). The player will not qualify for a team.
2. Short-Term Medical Absence: Defined as when the player is unable to participate in tryouts due to an injury or surgery; is unable to participate in a make-up tryout, but is able to return to active competition prior to league play for that specific age level (per doctor's estimate and recommendation). The player will qualify for the A, or B, team if an A and B team are available:
 - a) Prior to tryouts, applicable paperwork is completed/submitted requesting the specific level A or B, team desired.
 - b) Player has participated at the requested level, and/or one level above the requested level, the previous two consecutive seasons, or previous season if 12U.
 - c) The general rule for eligibility will be based on whether or not the player played at the requested level A and age 14U the previous year; however eligibility of players moving up a level 12U to 14U will also be considered.
 - d) Last year's coach and current years coach must both submit a request in writing
 - e) Board reviews and approves documentation

- f) Board may request a letter from doctor for illness or injury verification
3. Short –Term Absence: Defined as when the player is unable to participate in tryouts due to a short-term illness flu/nausea, injury sprained ankle etc., or a death in the family, but is able to participate in make-up tryouts.

The player will be eligible for a makeup tryout if:

- a) Permission is granted by the commissioner after notification to the Board for comment.
- b) The commissioner or assistant commissioner or member of the Board may request a letter from doctor for illness or injury verification.
- c) A player whom has substantially completed the try-out process and falls ill or is injured and cant complete the tryouts, will be given an opportunity to complete those skills that have yet to be evaluated. Previous scores marked will be carried through and included in the final evaluation.
4. Personal Absence: Defined as when the player is unable to participate in tryouts due to a previously scheduled family obligation or vacation but is able to participate in makeup tryouts.

The Player will be eligible for makeup tryouts if:

- a) The parent or guardian notifies a board member in writing or e-mail within two weeks of age level tryout requesting permission.
- b) Parent or guardian receives written acknowledgement from the board a receipt and approval of request prior to a scheduled make up tryout.
- Make up tryouts are defined as additional try out date(s), for players whom have been approved absent from previous scheduled tryouts.
 - Every attempt should be made to use the same evaluators, but alternatively designated evaluators without any interest of daughter playing in the corresponding age level of the player seeking evaluation, shall be used.

Some of the items contained in this document are actual rules of the B.A.C program. Please reference the actual B.A.C. By-Laws for a complete set of rules. This document is produced as an aid to the program and will give some general direction to some items not covered completely.