



## CHAA Baseball Coaches

### Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I become a coach?

A. During player registration, you can go online and register as a volunteer. During the registration process, select “manager”. The Baseball Board will review your application and let you know if you are selected. No experience necessary..... But it does help!

Q. I’m a new coach, where do I go for help?

A. First, read the Local League Rules, Dixie Youth Handbook and the Operational Guidelines, also go to your League Director. If you still have questions, contact the League Coordinator. If all else fails, contact a Baseball Board Member.

Q. How do player evaluations work?

A. Player Evaluations are held in early to mid February. All players must attend evaluations to be ranked by ability. This helps keep the draft as fair as possible. Coaches should show up the day of evaluations as early as possible. There are always things to do to get ready for evaluations. Bring a pen, clipboard, chair and more than likely a propane heater, you will probably be at the park all day! You will rate each player on several areas of ability. BE CONSISTANT WITH YOUR SCORING. DO NOT RATE A COACHES SON HIGHER “JUST BECAUSE HE IS A COACHES SON”.

Q. How does draft work?

A. Draft takes place a week or two after Player Evaluations. You will receive a draft sheet, three to four days before draft. Take time to write notes on the draft sheet, and be prepared to draft players in each round. Show up early to draft, and be ready on time. Be prepared with your first, second, and third choice of team name (if you are a new coach, you may have last pick of team name.) Bring a pen or pencil, and also bring a blank check to pay for any uniform upgrades. Draft usually takes 1 to 2 hours.

Q. How does the “freeze” thing work?

A. In order for the coach to get some coaching help, CHAA Baseball allows the coach to “freeze” two players and their parent. This rule was put into place to allow a coach to “freeze” coaching help, not players. The “frozen” coach must complete a volunteer form before draft, and must enter the coach’s name in the “preferred manager field”. You are free to “freeze” whomever you like as long as the above qualifications have been met. If you would like a list of available assistant coaches after registration is complete, please contact a board member.

Q. Ok, I have my assistant coaches and draft is complete. Now what?

A. First thing is to contact all of your parents within 48 hours of draft! If you cannot contact anyone, please contact your League Director and provide him/her with that player’s info. Your League Director should have given you a practice schedule, distribute that to the team. Devise your practice plan and start your season. TIP – During your first practice, hold a “mini tryout” getting players into as many positions as possible and looking at each one closely. Get everybody some time at the plate and observe how they do. If you take good notes on player’s strengths and weaknesses, you should have the makings of a pretty good practice plan!

Q. I’m really not sure how to run a practice, or could use some ideas’. Where do I go for help?

A. Start with searching the internet for baseball practice drills. There is a LOT of information out there. Ask your League Director or League Coordinator for some help. Also, if you are coaching Minor or older, ask one of the Travel coaches you a sharing the field with for help. Lastly, you can always ask a board member. ABOVE ALL, seek to improve your skills as a coach whenever you can!!!

Q. Who lines the field before my game?

A. YOU DO! Well, only if you are the Visiting Team. It is always nice to lend a hand or enlist some parents to help out! Bottom line, it needs to be done before the game can begin. The association may have someone line the fields on weeknights. Saturday games will always require the coaches to line the fields.

Q. When do I get the batting cages before a game?

A. The Visiting Team will have the cage 75 minutes before game time. The Home Team will have the cage 45 minutes before game time. This gives the Visiting Team 30 minutes to line and set up the field.

Q. How do I prepare a field for play?

A. Line the field, put bases out, plug score brain in. See “field preparation” at the end of this document for more details.

Q. I’m in the middle of a game and the Umpire has just totally blown a call! What do I do?

A. The answer lies in a question or two. FIRST OFF, do not lose your cool or make unsportsmanlike gestures toward the Umpire. That WILL result in your ejection from the field of play and suspension from your next scheduled game! There are two types of calls an Umpire can make. The first is a “judgment” call. Ball, strike, safe, out, catch, no catch, balk, no balk, in the base line, out of the base line, etc. are all “judgment” calls. The second call an Umpire can make is a “rules” call. For example, an Umpire calls a player out for not sliding into home plate. The rule states that the player must avoid contact, not slide. If there was no contact made, the rule applied by the Umpire would be incorrect. Now for a question; was it a judgment call? If so, you cannot appeal the call! The Umpire is the “official” on the field for that game. His word is law. You can however, call time in a calm manner and ask the Umpire what he saw. If there are two Umpires on the field, you may ask the Umpire who made the call to ask for assistance from the other Umpire. At his choosing, he may or may not ask for help. As a coach, you have done your job, and no further actions are needed, the call has been made. Was it a “rules” call? If it is a “rules” call, you can call time in a calm manner and discuss the rule with the Umpire. You cannot bring a rule book out and show the umpire. If the Umpire will not change his call, and you are certain the rule has been applied incorrectly you may appeal the game from that point. The official scorekeeper should note your appeal in the official book at that point in the game. The game will resume and be played to conclusion. If you lose, you must contact your League Director within 24 hours of the game to substantiate you appeal.

Q. What is unsportsmanlike conduct?

A. The “dictionary” definition is “a term used in sports to refer to a particular player, coach, parent or team that acts inappropriately and/or unprofessionally in the context of the game. Such behavior is not necessarily illegal according to the sport in question's rules, but is frowned upon by the vast majority of both players and spectators.” The Baseball Board has the ultimate authority to define unsportsmanlike!

Q. The Umpire consistently makes bad calls or uses poor judgment during my games. What can I do?

A. Contact the Baseball Director or the Assistant Baseball Director and provide details.

Q. What do I need to do after the game is over?

A. First, make sure the dugout is cleaned up and all trash is in the trash can. If there is player equipment left in the dugout, please try to locate the player it belongs to. You can also place equipment in the lost and found. If you are the home team, and there is no one else playing after you, pick up the bases and put the plugs in. Return the scorebrain to the green box and lock it. Both coaches need to make sure the area outside the field is cleaned up and all cans, bottles, trash, etc. put all trash in the trash can. FAILURE TO CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR GAME MAY RESULT IN FORFIETED FIELD TIME.

Q. What if it rains before my game?

A. Check the website for field info, or sign up for instant notifications at <http://www.statusme.com> if the fields are open, please come to the park as early as you can before the first game. Even if you have a 3:00 Saturday game, you can show up to get your field ready before the first game. Remember, if the first game starts late, every game after that will be late as well! EVERYBODY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING THE FIELDS READY AFTER IT RAINS!

Q. Who is responsible for maintaining the infields?

A. CHAA Baseball is responsible for infield maintenance for all fields!

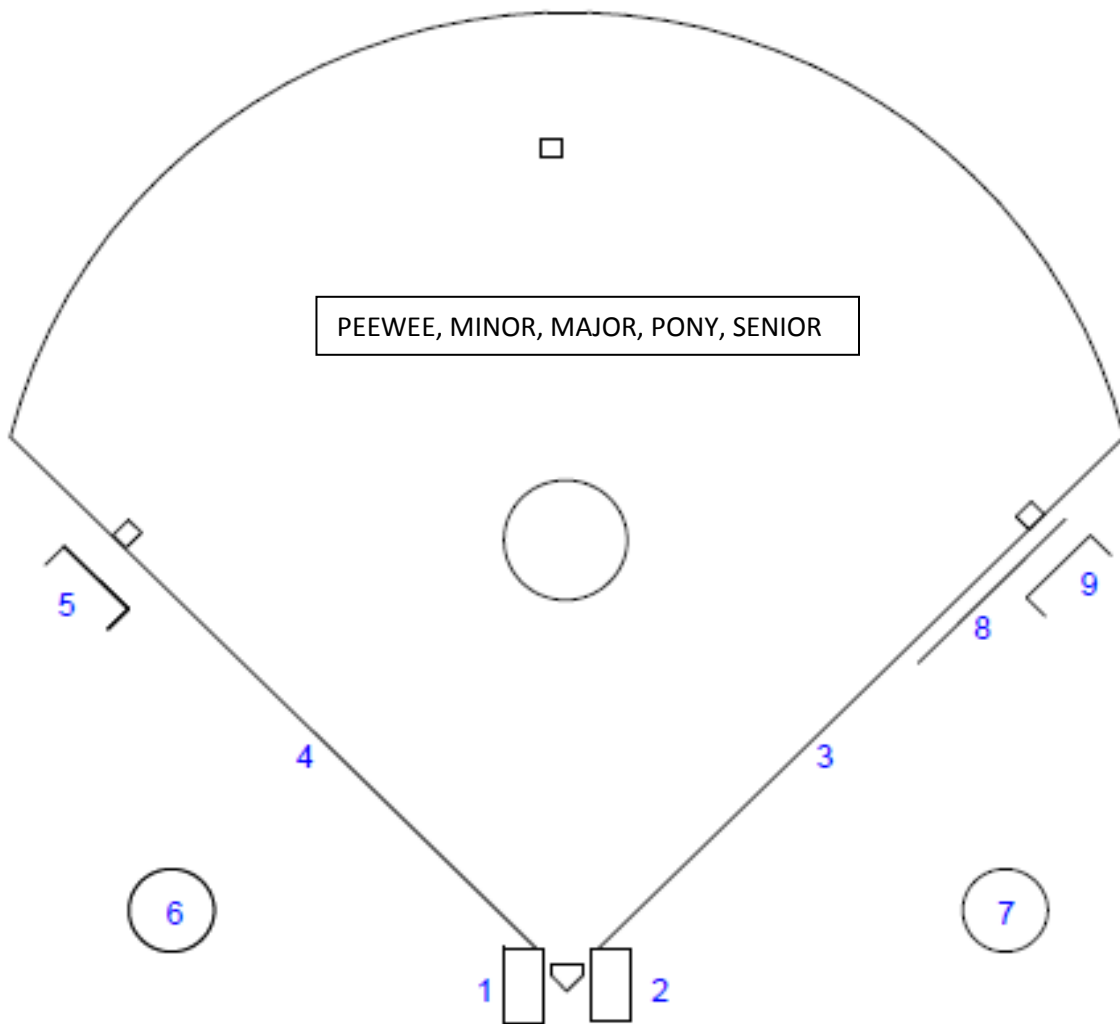
Q. What can I do to help?

A. Maintain the batters boxes by raking up and tamping the cleat holes down. Coach players not to “dig in” at the plate. This is unnecessary and causes numerous problems. Rake the dirt back into the “sliding pits” at all bases. Sweep dugouts, etc.

## CHAA FIELD PREPARATION

- A. Retrieve Lining Machine, Batter's Box Template and Rake from the storage area.
- B. Retrieve String and Base Tool from the Green Box. Notify your League Director if any of these items are damaged or missing.
- C. If the field has not been drug, smooth out batters boxes, catcher's box and sliding pits at all bases using the rake.
- D. Retrieve all bases from the Green Box. Remove the base plug from 2<sup>nd</sup> base, clean out the base stob with the base tool and insert base. Hang the base plug on the chain located on the fence near 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> base. Leave 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base near their locations, do not insert.
- E. Using the Batter's Box Template, lay the template down on the right hand batter's box, aligning it with home plate. Using the base tool or your finger, trace the inside of the template. Flip the template over and repeat for the left handed batter's box. The template can now be removed from the field.
- F. Lining Field (refer to diagram below) The Lining Machines have two line settings. One is a 2" line and the other is a 4" line. **ONLY USE THE 2" SETTING.** This will use ½ the amount of chalk and is perfectly acceptable for all leagues.
  1. Begin by lining the batter's boxes, following the template lines made. Complete right handed batter's box.
  2. Complete left handed batter's box.
  3. Using the string, create a straight line from the back tip of home plate to the inside portion of the outfield line in right field. Leaving the string in place, make a chalk line from the front of the left handed batter's box to the outfield line. Follow the string, keeping your line to the outside of the string. Stop the line 6" short of the outfield line, as the chalk will kill the grass.
  4. Repeat the process for the 3<sup>rd</sup> base line.
  5. Make a line 6' long 6' from 3<sup>rd</sup> base. The line should start at third base and extend toward home plate. Make 3' sides for the box to complete.
  6. Make the Visitor batter's circle. A 4' diameter circle is sufficient in all leagues
  7. Make the Home batters circle.

8. Make the 1<sup>st</sup> base running lane. Start halfway between home plate and 1<sup>st</sup> base. The line should be 3' from the foul line and extend 3' past 1<sup>st</sup> base. TIP – Follow the tire tracks made from the foul line to keep it as straight as possible.
9. Create the 1<sup>st</sup> base coaches box as in step 5. (TBall Field continued in step 10 below.)
10. Insert 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases as described in step D.
11. Return Lining Machine, Batter's Box Template and Rake to the storage area. Return the string and base tool to the green box. Retrieve the scorebrain and scorebook from the green box and place it in the scorekeepers stand. Close the green box. PLAY BALL!



10. Using the string, draw a 10' arc from the back of home plate between the foul lines.
11. Make a 3' hash mark halfway between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> base.
12. Make a 3' hash mark halfway between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base.
13. Using the string, make a 10' diameter circle around the mound.
14. Insert 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> bases as described in step D.
15. Return Lining Machine, Batter's Box Template and Rake to the storage area. Return the string and base tool to the green box. Retrieve the scorebrain and scorebook from the green box and place it in the scorekeepers stand. Close the green box. PLAY BALL!

