



*Wildcats*  
Baseball & Softball

## **Goodhue Association**

*The association was created by a group of parents, coaches and community members looking for a way to better provide opportunities for our students in the lower grade levels to participate in baseball/softball. It is a group leading an effort to bring out cooperation among our many youth programs. This is a volunteer based non-profit sports association established to provide a fun, fair, and safe baseball/softball environment. The Goodhue Baseball/Softball Association includes both boys and girls teams. The association is NOT run by the Goodhue Public School system or Goodhue Community Education.*

### **GBSA Goals**

Focus on whole child development, not just baseball/softball skills and improve individuals and the team through effort and teamwork while having fun. Our goal is to provide an opportunity to improve the physical and social growth of all players through emphasizing teamwork, sportsmanship, and character development through competition.

### **What does the GBSA do?**

- Helps schedule practice times, games and tournaments for girls and boys program
- Provides an area where parents can go to if they would like to help in coaching
- Help supply funds for league, tournaments and uniforms
- Provides opportunities for all players to work on their fundamental baseball/softball skills
- Monitors coaching performance to make sure coaches are being fair to players
- Support coaches in coaching techniques and team development

### **Expectations**

#### **Players Code of Conduct**

In order to earn time on the field, players are expected to be at practices and games. We expect the following things from our players:

- Be in attendance for practices/games. Please notify coaches ahead of time when missing a practice/game.
- Display a positive attitude about yourself, your team/teammates, and coaches.
- Be a competitor, perform up to your full ability, and contribute to team unity. Compliment, support, and cheer on teammates.
- Be attentive and work hard in practices and games. Make your best efforts at all times.
- Show respect to opposing players, coaches, umpires and spectators. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
- Place team goals ahead of individual goals. Realize your role on the team as a player/competitor, not a coach. Remember that you represent Goodhue, and the surrounding communities; your family; your team; and your coaches as well as yourself. Enhance our

reputations and character with your conduct on and off the field. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Throwing a glove, bat, or helmet, may result in loss of playing time.

- Per coach's discretion food/snacks may not be allowed in the dugouts. During games, players are expected to pay attention and cheer the team. Failure to do so will result in loss of playing time.

"Great players get good during the season and they get great when nobody is watching". We expect players to represent their team and community in a positive manner. Any player that does not give full effort, show respect, or have good attendance will see this reflected in their playing time as determined by the coach.

### **Parents Code of Conduct**

Parents are vital to the success of the association. It takes not only a committed player to be successful, but parents as well. We ask parents to set a positive example and follow these expectations:

- Help your child learn to enjoy sports and develop skills that they are capable of performing. Practice with and help your child so that they will have an opportunity for skill improvement through active participation.
- Be realistic about the strengths and weaknesses of your child so that you may place them in situations where they have the best opportunity to succeed. Do not relive your athletic past through your child.
- Treat each player, coach, umpire and parent with respect and dignity.
- Accept the decision of the umpires without showing inappropriate emotions.
- Understand and respect the difference between parental roles and coaching roles. Uphold the authority of umpires and coaches who are working with your child. Assist them when possible and use good judgment if you disagree. Keep negative comments to yourself. Express concerns only to the coach in a straightforward, fair and objective manner. Inform the coaches of issues and conflicts as soon as they arise.
- Focus on performance which can be controlled by the athlete and decrease importance of winning or losing an outcome which is frequently outside the athlete's control. Positively reinforce improved skills. It is more about trying hard and playing the game the right way.
- Help your child set realistic goals. Sport's primary value is the opportunity for self-development. The probability of achieving lasting fame and glory is low; but, the experiences develop life-long values and self-esteem.
- Expected to transport player to and from practice and games. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.
- Be positive and have fun.
- Per coach's discretion, parents may or may not be allowed in the dugout during the game.

Parents are expected to volunteer at our baseball / softball tournaments or field maintenance days. Parents' \$40 dollar volunteer fee will be returned if they do volunteer for an event.

Day	Events	Fields
June ~ Saturday	12U Baseball & Softball	1, 2, and 3
June ~ Saturday	10U and 11U Baseball	1, 2 and 3
May	Field Maintenance Day	
October	Field Maintenance Day	

### **Coaches Code of Conduct**

Coaches are on a volunteer basis and will be decided and approved by the association. If parents have any interest they should let one of the committee members know. Here are the expectations of our coaches:

- Coaches have the ultimate responsibility for their conduct and the conduct of the players.
- Accept the decisions of the umpires without showing inappropriate emotions.
- Playing time: coaches must follow the playing time guidelines as noted in this handbook. This requires tracking attendance of players and monitoring and documenting necessary any issues with player or parent conduct.
- Place the emotional and physical well-being of your players ahead of any personal desire to win. Want to win and strive to win, but don't "win at all costs". Seek to achieve excellence. Ensure that you are knowledgeable in the rules of the sport that you coach, and teach these rules to your players. Develop the total individual, not just the athlete. Treat each player, coach, ump and parent with respect and dignity.
- Treat each player as an individual; remember the widespread of emotional and physical development for the same age group.
- Lead by example, in demonstrating fair play and sportsmanship to all players. Remember that the team is a direct reflection of the coach(es).
- Remember that you are a youth coach and the game is for children, not adults.
- Be positive and have fun.
- Communicate with parents regularly through the website, email and/or phone to schedule, reschedule and cancel games, practices. Communicate with league personnel of team results and schedule changes as necessary.
- Coaches will be handed a bag of equipment and a set of keys at the beginning of the season and are responsible for the inventory throughout the season.
- Seek team assistants if needed

\*What is the process if we have (example) 3 coaches that want to be head coach?

- Coaches may agree among themselves; if not, the GBSA Board will make a decision.

### **Playing Time and Positions**

The Association wants to provide opportunities to its players and will do its best to keep all players involved in the program whether it is in practice, scrimmages, or games. As mentioned above playing time is earned through effort in practice, attitude, ability and attendance. If a parent has an issue with playing time they should,

- 1) Talk to the coach in a positive manner.
- 2) If issues still arise, the parent should talk to one of the Association board members and action may then be taken to the GBSA board.

At the 9U-10U level teams, playing positions will be rotated more often than the older levels ~ interest and exposure level. Once players are in the 11U-16U levels, positions will be based off:

- skill level
- safety
- success
- interest of the player

### **Time Commitment**

The Goodhue Baseball and Softball Association does not want baseball/softball to be a full time job for the parents, players and coaches, but we do want the players to be committed to practices and games. In general, the GBSA season will run from May through July. This is subject to change as official schedules will be released closer to the season's start. We encourage players to work on their hitting and fielding during the off season as they do for other sports also.

### **Teams**

9U Baseball ~ Children entering 4th grade: These kids will be hitting off a pitching machine. This level will be in a league in Red Wing.

10U Softball ~ Players entering 3rd, 4th, and some 5th grade. This team is a traveling team.

10U-15U Baseball ~ These groups will participate in a traveling league or 13U-15U may be run through Community Education.

12U, 14U, 16U Softball ~ These groups will participate in a traveling league. (Currently the Southeast Fastpitch Conference)

### **Finances / Fees**

One of the biggest goals of the Goodhue Baseball/Softball Association is to try to give players the most experience for what is paid into the association. The fee for participation is an annual cost and will cover the cost of gym practice times, field time, tournaments, insurance, equipment. It costs \$15/hour to rent a field per game, tournaments will cost an average of \$175. The association will try to make this

the lowest possible cost, but may vary from year to year depending on how the fundraising (hosting tournaments) went for the association.

During the GBSA “Round Up Night” or online registration parents will write two checks:

The check will cover the equipment and uniform needs (jersey and hat) for the year. The fee also includes indoor practices, field time, tournament costs, and insurance. The scale is given below. This fee is per child and is nonrefundable after the first day of practice. If one of the parents volunteer at a tournament or field maintenance day, they will be reimbursed the \$40 family volunteer deposit check. If a parent does not volunteer, the money is kept by the GBSA for future costs. Documentation of this will be kept by the secretary and treasurer. If you have multiple athletes, you will receive \$40 back total.

### Participation Fee

Baseball	Softball
9U: \$70 per child + \$40 refundable volunteer fee	10U: \$70 per child + \$40 refundable volunteer fee
10U-13U: \$90 per child + \$40 refundable volunteer fee	12U-16U: \$90 per child + \$40 refundable volunteer fee
14U-15U: \$90 per child + \$40 refundable volunteer fee	

\*\$40 refundable volunteer fee is one per family

### Schedules and Practice Times

Coaches or advisors will request the overall weekdays and time slots that they desire using the appropriate form. Requests for facilities and times are due by May 1st. The GBSA will then take these requests into consideration and create a schedule. Efforts will be made to meet every team’s needs with consideration also given to age. As soon as your schedule is completed, it is the coach’s responsibility to give the schedule to the Scheduler who sits on the board. If there are rainouts or changes to your schedule, please contact the Scheduler immediately.

### Organization Meetings

The GBSA may meet monthly in February, March, April, May, June and July. GBSA meetings will be run very similar to school board, where the board will conduct its meetings and address it’s planned agenda, but will also be open at times for others to give their input and feedback. If issues arise with coaching or parents, the board reserves the right to meet at their discretion.

### Waiver

By signing up your son/daughter into the GBSA, you are waiving liability by the GBSA for injury/damages while participating.

## **Goodhue Baseball / Softball Association Board**

[GoodhueYouthAthletics.com](http://GoodhueYouthAthletics.com)

### **President:**

Jennifer Doerhoefer ~ [jdoerhoe@goodhue.k12.mn.us](mailto:jdoerhoe@goodhue.k12.mn.us) / 651-246-0475

The president will be in charge of creating an agenda for each meeting and to keep the meeting going and on task. The president will also be in charge of meeting with each of the grade level coaches to talk about the expectations of coaches. The president, along with the rest of the committee, will be in charge of addressing any coaching or parent conflicts that arise during the year and may hold separate meetings to go over policies and procedures if need be from the handbook.

### **Treasurer**

Jessica Lindholm ~

The treasurer is in charge of keeping track of where funds are allocated to, balancing the association checkbook, and keeping track of money “available” for each grade and sex. The treasurer will work closely with the scheduler in terms of writing checks for tournaments as well as for uniforms. Treasurer will also do the compiling of checks and deposits during the registration night and also the return of the “volunteer” checks at the end of the year.

### **Scheduler**

Barbie Collins ~ [bcollins@goodhue.k12.mn.us](mailto:bcollins@goodhue.k12.mn.us) / 651-707-6398

The scheduler is in charge of practice schedules and will work with coaches to schedule tournaments for each grade level. This position registers teams for the season. The scheduler will request checks from the treasurer and will also be a “second set of eyes” on the checkbook. Scheduler will work directly with coaches about practice time, changes in practice schedule, as well as gym reservations. Lastly, the scheduler will have website capabilities (with help from secretary) to maintain website schedule.

### **Tournament Director(s):**

Luke Horsman ~ [luke.horsman@live.com](mailto:luke.horsman@live.com)/ 1-507-269-9408

The tournament director, with help from the GBSA board and parents, the tournament director will be in charge of putting on and hosting our grade level tournaments. This includes 1) finding ticket takers, 2) umpers 3) concession stand workers and food, and 4) finding teams and releasing schedules to those schools and 6) any signage or brackets for the tournaments.

**Secretary:**

Wendie Christianson ~

The secretary will take notes at each of the GBSA meetings, will tally any votes if or when it comes to election processes, and also will organize the registration at the beginning of the season. This position helps communicate with parents via GBSA email.

**Logistics:**

Dan Agenten ~ [dagenten@gmail.com](mailto:dagenten@gmail.com) / 651-764-0112

The logistic manager will be in charge of managing the GBSA website and updating any documents such as the constitution, GBSA registration, and insurance waiver. This position will also be in charge of contacting a uniform company to have samples for the registration night and equipment (storage, inventory, ordering).

**X-Facto Members:**

Head Coaches. Head coaches will not be part of the voting board or directly involved with any of the hirings of coaches, but will give their guidance on what they'd like to see the GBSA focus on.

\*Each of these positions are a two year commitment. All members shall assist with ordering equipment and uniforms.