



## **BALLINGER YOUTH BASEBALL INFORMATION, 2012 SEASON**

- **The Program:** Ballinger Youth Baseball Association is governed by a board of directors made up of volunteers. We are an affiliate organization of the Texas Teenage Baseball League (“TTAB”), which is a statewide organization. We play under TTAB rules and guidelines. There is also a joint board of directors made up of delegates from each of the towns which we play in regular season play. This joint board of directors regulates local rules and the interaction between the boards of directors of the individual towns affiliated with TTAB. In the past, our Ballinger teams have played teams from Bronte, Robert Lee, Winters, Paint Rock, Blackwell, and Miles, as well as other Ballinger teams, depending on which towns had teams available for the particular age division. We expect that to be the arrangement this year as well. All teams playing in the TTAB organization are grouped into a particular league for purposes of regular season play, and leagues usually consist of 4 to 8 teams.
- **Age Divisions:** A player’s “league age” is his or her age on April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current season year. The age divisions in TTAB program are:

League ages 4 to 6:	T-Ball Division
League ages 7 to 9:	Boys 9U
League ages 10 to 12:	Boys 12U
League ages 13 to 15:	Boys 15U

Players may be allowed to move up one age division if the parents/guardians request it and if approved by all division coaches and BYBA board members. TTAB state rules prohibit a player playing in an age division below his league age. A copy of the player’s birth certificate will be required for proof of eligibility. Please note that in the 15U division, minimum team size will be 12 players. In the event that less than 24 players should register, a try-out will be held and 15 players will be selected.
- **Fund-Raising:** Parents/Guardians of players will be required to work at the league-operated concession stand for not more than two games during the course of the season. We will also be conducting a fund-raiser this year. **All players will be required to participate in the fundraiser**, unless the opt-out payment of \$25 is received at the time of registration. We request that the parents help their players with the fund-raising activities.
- **Player Selection:** All players, with the exception of protected players or those playing T-Ball, will be required to participate in the draft. The draft method will be used for placement on teams and will not be based on previous teams. Tryouts are currently scheduled to be held at Davenport field, behind Ballinger High School, at 5:30p.m. on February 13, 2012 for ages 7-9, 5:30 p.m. on February 16, 2012 for ages 10-12, and 7:00 p.m. February 16, 2012 for ages 13-15. These dates and times are subject to change if the Ballinger Youth Baseball board determines it to be necessary. ***BEAR IN MIND*** that the board reserves the right to move a player from one team to another, prior to the start of the season, if the board determines that it is necessary and in the best interest of the league. Final authority regarding which players are on which team rests with the board.
- **Refunds:** If a player quits after team uniform shirts or caps have been ordered, the registration fee will not be refunded. (Please note that uniforms will be ordered February 20, 2012.)
- **Season Dates:** Regular season games will probably begin in early to mid-April for the midget and freshman divisions, and early May for the T-Ball and Junior divisions. However, the specific game schedule will be worked out by the joint board of directors. Under TTAB state rules, the 2012 regular season must be completed by June 30th. We will try to have regular season games scheduled to be completed approximately two weeks prior to that date so that we have a couple of weeks for makeup games if necessary. Team pictures will be scheduled for the week of March 5-12, 2012. Opening Ceremony will be approximately the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April.
- **Post Season:** The top two teams from each league are eligible for post-season play at a district tournament. Each team that qualifies for a district tournament is allowed to choose up to three “pickup players” from other teams in the same league which did not qualify for the district tournament. There are usually around 4 to 8 teams in a district tournament. The top two teams from each district tournament are eligible to compete at the state tournament. There is not an all-star tournament in TTAB.
- **Play Time Requirements:** The joint board of directors has a local rule which requires that each player get a minimum playtime of 2 innings in the field, and one at bat. The minimum play rule applies only during the regular season, not in the district or state tournaments. There is no statewide TTAB rule on minimum playtime; it is strictly up to the local organization how to handle the issue.
- **Complaints:** Any complaints about the baseball program must be submitted to a board member in writing, and contain (1) a detailed statement about the nature of the complaint, including dates and persons involved if applicable; and (2) a statement about what action the board is requested to take. The Ballinger board will not get involved in a dispute over a kid not getting enough playing time, as long as he is getting the minimum play time. Registering to play entitled the player to minimum playtime, and anything over that is at the discretion of the coach of the particular team. The board is not in a position to micro-manage a coach’s handling of his roster. In general, an individual board member will not act on a complaint without seeking input and discussion from other members of the board.

### **Conduct Guidelines for Parents**

1. **Exhibit exceptionally good behavior at practice sessions and games.**
2. **See that your children – the players – have the proper equipment.**
3. **See that your children arrive and are picked up at the stated times.**
4. **Applaud all good efforts and good plays or remain silent.**
5. **Allow the coaches to coach without outside interference or influence.**
6. **See that your children receive ample positive encouragement and hugs regardless of the outcome of their games.**
7. **Allow your children to play without negative pressure, verbal or physical.**
8. **Support the coaches in what they want the players to learn.**
9. **Treat the coaches, league leaders, and game umpires with dignity and respect.**
10. **See that your children do not intentionally injure other players.**
11. **Remember that the coaches are volunteers, offer your assistance during practices and games whenever possible.**

[www.leaguelineup.com/ballingeryouthbaseball](http://www.leaguelineup.com/ballingeryouthbaseball) - Stay up-to-date with all the latest happenings by visiting our website. You can also sign up to receive text message alerts.

[www.texasteenage.org](http://www.texasteenage.org) – This is the league that we play under.