

Dave Gallagher Spring League Baseball 2009

Thank you for joining the Dave Gallagher Baseball League for the spring 2009 season. We're looking forward to hosting competitive games for youth players in New Jersey. The staple of our league boasts baseball being played, coached, and attended fairly with strong sportsmanship values practiced by each participant.

Listed below are some general league policies and guidelines for the upcoming season. Please read each section carefully. If you have any questions regarding these policies or any specific rules not covered, please call the baseball office at (609) 208-1263 or e-mail Dave Searles at DaveSearle@aol.com

FROGBRIDGE PROPERTY

The Frogbridge Summer Camp, Inc. is privately owned. Dave Gallagher's All-American Baseball Academy has a contractual agreement with Frogbridge, Inc. to use the baseball facilities ONLY. Dave Gallagher does not own any of the property at Frogbridge.

All league participants and family members must remain in the baseball area during pre-game and game play. This has been, and will continue to be, strictly enforced. Please speak with parents and players to alert them they are not permitted to travel the property or use the facility or equipment. There are many liability concerns on behalf of private ownership.

There is a bathroom right near the field in the gymnasium that league participants are welcome to use at the senior field, and bathrooms just beyond the flag pole for 50/70 league participants.

PARKING

Parking areas will be enforced. For the **11u** and **12u** divisions, there are parking lots to the right and left as you pull into Frogbridge. Parking is not permitted on the track unless a Gallagher baseball representative directs you to the track. There will be some weekends that we utilize the track.

Parking for the **13u** division participants will be found at the second entrance at Frogbridge. (If Frogbridge is to your left traveling on Yellow Meeting House Road, the second entrance is 75 yards past the main entrance. If Frogbridge is to your right traveling on Yellow Meeting House Road, the second entrance is before the main entrance.) Follow the driveway down the second entrance and park in the grass area.

SENIOR FIELD

Spectators must remain at the baseball field at all times.

No Dogs Allowed.

No parents or coaches are permitted behind the backstop during the game (in the pitcher's view). Umpires will have the authority to stop the game and remove anyone who is positioned behind the backstop.

Spectators are not permitted in the playground area or near the golf driving range. Please be considerate of private property.

50/70 FIELDS

Spectators must remain at the baseball field area at all times.

No Dogs Allowed.

No coaches are permitted behind the backstop during the game (in the pitcher's view). Umpires will have the authority to stop the game and remove anyone who is positioned behind the backstop.

All spectators are to remain outside the outfield fence for the duration of the game, including pre game warm-ups.

TEAM ROSTER

There is no limitation on the size of your roster. Official rosters must be submitted by March 23, 2009.

Any changes (additions/deletions) from the official roster must be submitted by **Friday, April 17**. Only players on the official roster are permitted to participate in the post-season.

In addition to being on the official roster prior to April 17, a player must physically compete in a minimum of three games during the regular season in order to participate in the post-season (*exception: if a player was physically unable to meet the 3 game requirement during the season, he will be allowed to play if he submits a note from his doctor attesting that he didn't play due to injury*). If a player competes in a post-season game and is not a member of the official roster, that team surrenders an automatic forfeit.

(The cut-off date for the player's age is April 30.)

A player who leaves a team (or is thrown off of a team) may not join another Gallagher league team during that same season.

Official rosters will be on hand and matched with line-ups prior to all post-season games.

*Head coaches are responsible for following the rules of the team roster. If there is a violation, the head coach will be suspended in addition to potential ramifications for the player and team.

GUEST PLAYER POLICY

The guest player policy has been created to protect teams from potential forfeit situations. If you recognize in advance that fielding a team for a specific game may be of concern, please utilize the guest player policy.

Any player that is not on a current Dave Gallagher Spring League roster may be used as a guest player, provided they meet the age requirement. A coach from the team must notify a league representative (Dave Searles or Dave Gallagher) that they will be using a guest player at least one day prior to the scheduled contest. If the league is not notified and a player that does not appear on the official roster is used, the head coach will serve a suspension.

A team may not use a guest player that is *more than one year younger* than the league age. This rule has been instituted for safety concerns.

Guest players may not be used during post-season play. Any additions to the official roster must be done prior to April 17.

SCHEDULE

A staple of our leagues is that we remain 100 percent committed to the league schedule. Our loyalty to the schedule is necessary to protect the health of the league, the teams (players, coaches, and parents), and umpires. Once the official league schedule is set, there will be no changes.

Coaches are asked not to contact opposing team coaches in efforts to persuade them to change a scheduled game due to an individual conflict. It is an unfair position to place teams committed to the schedule, and unfair to the umpires who have committed to officiate games.

If a scheduled date approaches and a team anticipates problems fielding a team, utilize the guest player policy.

POST-SEASON

Qualification and seedings for post-season will be based on regular season standings. Standings are based on winning percentage. (In high school state tournament qualification rules, ties are discounted when calculating winning percentage.) In the event two or more teams have identical winning percentages, the initial tie-breaker employed is head-to-head competition. The next tie-breaker is winning percentage against teams higher in the standings, followed by fewest runs allowed.

All teams must be available to participate in post-season schedule. If a team is unable to play the scheduled post-season date and time, that team will be disqualified from post-season play and their scheduled game will result in a forfeit.

POOR PLAYING CONDITIONS

In the event of poor weather, we will do everything possible to play games. If a game is in question, call the baseball office at **(609) 208-1263** and listen to the entire message for updates. We will specifically address the league if there are any changes to the day's schedule. If the league schedule is not addressed on the message, games are being played as scheduled. Please inform all parents to follow the same procedure.

We suggest calling the baseball office in any questionable circumstance to be completely sure there are no changes to the schedule. The current weather or weather from the previous evening in Millstone may have been different than your home town.

PARENTS: Please call the baseball office (609) 208-1263 if games are questionable.

*Cold weather is not considered a poor playing condition.

MAKE-UP GAMES

The league will do its best to reschedule cancelled games. Attempts to reschedule games will be a collaborative effort by the league and team representatives.

Once the rescheduled game time is confirmed by both coaches, it immediately becomes a scheduled game.

PRE-GAME

If time permits, teams may take a 5-minute pre-game infield/outfield practice. Teams playing the first game of the day may always take infield/outfield practice provided the field is in good condition. In the event that games are running behind or the field conditions are suspect, teams will not take infield/outfield practice prior to the game.

There is no pre-game batting practice permitted at Frogbridge for 11u and 12u teams. Teams may set up a soft toss net in the open area by the **football goalpost** and hit in a direction away from the field and people.

In the 13u division, we have an outdoor batting cage next to the field. The home team has use of the cage one hour prior to game-time for 25 minutes. The visiting team has the cage directly following for 25 minutes (e.g. - For a 10:00 game, home team has the cage from 9:00 to 9:25. Visiting team has cage from 9:25 to 9:50). Do not use the driving range golf net for soft toss.

Please be respectful to others and stay within your assigned time-slot.

GAME RESULTS

Results of each game are to be reported by the **winning team**. The winning team must e-mail the result of the game to davesearle@aol.com. Please send results that evening or the following morning so the standings can be updated on the website.

EJECTIONS

The Dave Gallagher Baseball League demands civil behavior by players, coaches, and spectators. We will immediately sanction anyone for improper conduct. This includes foul language, poor sportsmanship, throwing equipment, heckling, physical altercations or threats, or any behavior not in the spirit of the game.

Any player or coach who is ejected from the game must vacate the dugout. Any spectator who is ejected from a game must immediately leave the property. An ejected parent may return after the completion of the game to pick up their child.

Any player who is ejected from a game will serve a minimum one-game suspension.

Coaches and spectators who are ejected from a game will serve a minimum one-game suspension. While serving the suspension, the coach or spectator is not permitted to attend the contest.

A second ejection for any coach, player, or spectator will result in expulsion from league play.

****The league also reserves the right to dismiss a player, coach, or spectator from the league for any behavior deemed unacceptable. If a player, coach, or spectator engages in an incident of gross misconduct before, during, or after a contest played at Frogbridge, they will not be permitted on the property permanently.***

FORFEITS

When a team does not have nine players in uniform at the game's scheduled starting time, a league official is to be notified. A five-minute grace period will be awarded. If at least nine players are not in uniform to play following that grace period, the game is an automatic forfeit. Once the game is announced a forfeit, no exhibition game will be

played. The team who rightly fielded a team will be allowed the option to hold a team practice on the field, up to 15 minutes prior to the next scheduled game.

If at any time during a game a team's roster drops below nine players, the game is a forfeit

In the event of a forfeit, the forfeiting team receives a loss in the standings and surrenders their forfeiture check of \$150. Any team forfeiting a second game will be dismissed from the league without refund.

REFUNDS

There will be no refunds, regardless of poor weather or any other factors outside of the league's control. This includes unfortunate injuries, a dismissal from team, or a player leaving the team.

LEAGUE RULES

All leagues are played under the umbrella of **New Jersey High School baseball rules**. We have made some alterations to tailor league rules to 11, 12 and 13 year-old travel team competition. Those changes (and some specific rules we've chose to emphasize) are as follows.

- # **Teams can hit as many players as they choose.** Coaches of each team may hit nine or more hitters, whatever they desire. They simply must state the number they're hitting to the opposing team's representative coach at home plate before the start of the game. Once that number is stated and the game begins, the team must bat that number throughout the game's entirety.
- # If a team bats all 12 players (for example), and a player leaves before the game is final, the team is penalized with an out each time the departed player's turn comes up in the line-up. *Sickness and injury are no longer factors in pardoning players from their turn at bat.* This rule can be overridden as long as **BOTH** coaches agree. Agreement to override can occur before the game during grounds rules or during the game at the time of occurrence.
- # Starting players are permitted to **re-enter games**. If they are taken out of the game, however, they must re-enter in the same spot in the batting order. They can play any defensive position, but they always must re-enter back in their original spot in the line-up.
- # **A pitcher who is removed** from the mound is not permitted to return to the mound.

- # There are **no inning (or pitch count) restrictions** on pitchers. Those limitations vary from player to player. We request coaches to practice common sense and keep the player's well-being in mind at all times.
- # **Big barrel bats** are permitted in all age divisions. In the 11u and 12u divisions, the bat must have a length/weight differential of at least minus 5. (Minus 3 bats are not permitted in 11u and 12u play.) There are no restrictions in the 13u age division.
- # **Slashing** is not permitted in the 11u and 12u age divisions. The batter will be called out automatically if he attempts to slash.
- # **Metal spikes** are permitted in the 13u age division. They are not permitted in the 11u and 12u age divisions.
- # **Sliding head-first into home plate** is not permitted at any age division. The runner will be called out automatically. Please review this with your players.
- # Umpires will be instructed to allow some leniency with **pitcher balks** at the season's outset. Pitchers will receive a warning and explanation, unless in the umpire's judgment it's a blatant or repeated infraction of the rules. As the season progresses, umpires will tighten up on the rules and each team will receive one balk warning. By the season's midpoint, all balk rules will be enforced.

Balks

13u Division

Balks will be called at the discretion of the umpire.

11u and 12u Divisions

Weeks one and two: Pitchers receive warnings and explanation.

Weeks three and four: Team receives one balk warning.

Week five and forward: All balks are called by judgment of the umpire.

A courtesy runner for the catcher is permitted with **two outs in the inning**. The courtesy runner must be a player that is not in the line-up. If a team is batting all players, the courtesy runner becomes the last batter out.

There is **no courtesy runner** for the pitcher.

LENGTH OF GAMES

Games in the 11u and 12u divisions are **six-inning games**. Games in the 13u division are **seven inning games with a time limit**. No inning is to start after two hours and 15 minutes of play.

Four innings of play constitutes an **official game** in the 11u and 12u divisions. Five innings played is an official game for 13u.

There is a **10-run rule**. In the 11u and 12u division, it is after four complete innings. In the 13u, it's after five complete innings.

The **10-run rule** is in effect during the quarterfinal round and semi-final rounds of **playoffs**. There is no 10-run rule in the championship games, unless the trailing team's head coach requests the game be terminated.

The **time limit** is in effect for the quarter-final round of post-season play for the 13u division. It is not in effect for the semi-final and championship games. *The time limit is also in effect if there is a rescheduled game off-site*, unless the teams' head coaches come to a different agreement *prior* to the start of the game.

MANAGERS/COACHES

The league permits a maximum of four (4) coaches in the dugout. Parents are not permitted to enter the dugout unless their child is injured or ill.

Coaches (teams) are required to have first-aid supplies and ice on hand each game in the event of injury.

Coaches are asked not to hold any team meetings when their team is to take the field on defense. This slows the pace of the game. The league requests that coaches minimize the number of team meetings during the game.

Any coach who enters the field of play without getting permission from the umpire will be ejected.

REFRESHMENTS

A food and beverage cart manned by Jimmy DiMattia will sell refreshments including hot dogs, sodas, water, hot chocolate, etc. Jimmy will be located at the 50/70 field area.

For coffee and other items, there is a convenience store approximately a half-mile from Frogbridge. To get to the Clarksburg Deli, make a right out of the Frogbridge driveway. At the stop sign, make a left onto Red Valley Road. Travel about a 1/3 of a mile, and come to a stop sign. The deli is straight ahead on the left.