

**FORT DODGE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
2007-2008 SEASON
PARENT / PLAYER CONTRACT**

The rules, philosophies and procedures, in which the Fort Dodge Baseball Association will operate under, are outlined in the following pages. Please read through each page closely, as we want you to be fully aware of what is expected of our players and parents for the 2007-2008 season.

A. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS:

Each player ages 7U to 13U is responsible for \$125 in player fees. Mandatory organizational fundraising is covered in part B of the contract.

Player fees cover the expense of a full uniform, equipment expenses, field maintenance, insurance, indoor facility membership, tournament expenses, league fees, umpires, coaches' clinics field rental, and office/advertising expenses. The FDBA Organization will provide itemized detail on these expenses.

If your player chooses to leave the FDBA Organization, or is dismissed from the team due to rule violations; or disciplinary reasons, these fees are non-refundable.

When your team is playing out of town, each parent is responsible for all meals and lodging or makes other arrangements if they are unable to accompany their child on trips. It is not the coaches' responsibility to do so. The coaches may also ask for a gate fee contribution. A gate fee is an arrangement where some tournaments are now charging a flat team fee, vs a per individual admission charge.

B. FUNDRAISING

The success of our association and the indoor baseball facility known as the Bat Cave, are built upon the ongoing efforts of fundraising and other efforts to support our association vs high individual dues. We ask all players and parents to help where they can!

Annually, in March or April, we have worked with Party Time Fundraising to sell their quality products to raise revenue for our teams and association. Each player is encouraged to sell a minimum of \$350 of product. A buyout of \$175 is also acceptable. The community knows the quality products that Party Time offers, and looks forward to our annual fundraiser!

The association also has an annual garage sale held at the Bat Cave. Families are encouraged to donate clean items this fundraiser, and help work when they can to set up and tear down this event. The 2008 FDBA Garage Sale is tentatively set for April 18th and 19th.

Tournament sponsorships and individual/corporate donations are always welcome!

*The FDBA board of directors reserve the right to change, modify, or add to the fundraising efforts of the organization should it deem necessary. Such actions will be voted on and implemented by a majority vote of the Board.

Each family is required to participate in the Organizational fundraising to help offset club expenses. If a family chooses not to participate in our fundraising efforts, a “Buyout Option” will be available.

Questions may be emailed to sspringer@mchsi.com

C. COACHES Expectations

Our aim is to develop young men with sound values, competitive spirit, great work ethic and fundamental baseball skills. Coaches will, at all times, have the safety and general well being of the players in mind. Our coaches will not intimidate players, embarrass them or ridicule them. This does not mean that you son will never be yelled at or verbally or psychologically motivated. Our coaches will treat the players with respect, but that does not mean they will be coddled.

1. All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are required to attend one Baseball Clinic prior to the beginning of spring practice, enhancing their teaching of the sport to help improve the skills of their players.
2. All Coaches are asked to utilize the talents and abilities of everyone associated with their team; this includes parents, Board Members, and other coaches outside the FDBA Organization.
3. All Coaches are expected to aid other FDBA teams and assist with all FDBA functions including, but not limited to: tryouts, winter work outs, Fall & Spring Clean up of our youth fields located at Hydro Electric Park and Feellhaver School , Parents and Informational meetings, attendance by at least one representative per team at each board meeting, FDBA Tournaments, and manpower at the Bat Cave open use dates.

D. PARENTAL PARTICIPATION - Expectations & Rules

The success of the FDBA depends on the commitment of everyone in our Organization. Parents are encouraged to attend practices and games. You may be called upon to help with practice drills, score keeping, umpiring, field preparation, fall and spring clean up and concessions. Coaching responsibilities are assigned to officially designated persons only.

Parental help would also be greatly appreciated to help work the open hours scheduled at the Bat Cave. Contact Building Director Gregg Hora for scheduling those opportunities.

Non Profit Organization. The Fort Dodge Baseball Association is a 501 c 3 Non-Profit organization. We rely solely on our volunteer parents for our success. **It is your responsibility to help the Organization in any way possible.** You will be asked to work the FDBA Tournaments between games and when you can.

Field Maintenance: Participation of field maintenance and bleachers is required by all teams; both at HHR Fields and any other home diamonds we may use. (Hydro Electric and Feellhaver School) It is in the best interest for parents to clean up after themselves at all fields. We want to be known as a “Class Organization” and one small way that has a big impact is cleaning up after ourselves.

2008 Fort Dodge Baseball Association Tournaments: Each FDBA team is required to help with the 2008 FDBA Tournaments. Specifically for field maintenance, clean-up, raffles, gate admissions, score keeping, concessions and T-shirt sales.

Rules for Parents:

1. We want the Fort Dodge Baseball Association to be known as a “Class Organization” We ask that parents, relatives, and friends attending the games **absolutely do not abuse umpires, opposing coaches or players as well as our own players in any way.** Allow the players to play the game as they have been coached. **This rule will be strictly enforced.**
2. During games, parents are respectfully asked to remain a good distance away from the dugouts unless asked by the coaches. Players are instructed not to talk to their parents and friends while a game is in progress. Please allow the only adult contact with your son during a game to be the coaching staff.
3. Any parent challenging the authority of a Fort Dodge Baseball Association coach will be asked to leave the team. Verbal or physical abuse of coaches will not be tolerated.
4. The Fort Dodge Baseball Association will “suspend” parents from attending games, should rules 1 and 2 be broken. See Section “H”.

E. PLAYING TIME

Playing time is not guaranteed in tournament games.

In non-tournament games, no player will sit more than two (2) innings in each game (3 innings for U13/U14 games).

Guest players may be deemed necessary in the event of injuries and to complete or supplement a team’s roster (with Executive Board approval). *(Guest players may be charged according to the tournament fee)*

G. PLAYERS - Rules and Expectations

Every member of the team should recognize it is a PRIVILEGE and responsibility to represent the Fort Dodge Baseball Association and should act accordingly.

1. No FDBA player over the age of 8 years old is allowed to play on any other teams during the FDBA season.
2. Players are not allowed to argue with coaches, parents or umpires for any reason.
3. Foul language and profanity are not tolerated at any time.
4. Good sportsmanship is a quality that is exemplified by our players. Taunting of your own, as well as opposing players, fans or umpires, will not occur.
5. Self indulgence by players, such as hanging one’s head after an error or mental mistake, pouting over personal failure, will have no place on the team.

6. Care of Equipment. Each player is responsible for the care of the equipment issued. Your equipment is to be worn only for practice, games and FDBA functions, not for leisure wear. For practice, we expect you to wear baseball pants, a hat and cleats at all times.

H. ENFORCEMENT OF RULES AND VIOLATIONS.

The rules and expectations listed herein are in place to ensure the quality development of our teams while maintaining the integrity of our organization. Any (parents or players) violations of these rules will be handled by the following manner.

1. A formal warning will be issued and documented
2. A suspension from participation in at least one (1) game but no more than two (2) weeks will be issued and documented.
3. Possible expulsion from the Fort Dodge Baseball Association Baseball Organization.