

# Braves Country Baseball





## Braves Country Baseball

### ***Braves Country Baseball***

**Braves Country Baseball and Softball is a youth association with a focus on increasing participation at the local level. Our mission is to create a deeper relationship with our fan base while also bringing prestige back in playing for your community.**

#### **I. Purpose:**

- i. Create a level playing field*
  - a. Ensure an equal playing field (or opportunity) amongst all participants*
- ii. Provide a regionally focused competitive format*
- iii. Provide a free registration platform*
- iv. Establish an advisory board for park residents*
  - a. Help create a community within the league*

#### **II. What does it mean to be sanctioned?**

- i. Parks in each district*
- ii. Register every kid for league play ages 5-12 at your park*
- iii. Provide payment for participating kids so they are officially registered*
- iv. Registration and payment for each All-Star team allows you to be sanctioned and participate in the tournament track back to Atlanta*

#### **III. Why Join:**

- i. Partnership with the Braves*
- ii. Tournament path to Atlanta with Truist park interaction*
- iii. A youth sports organization that you will have an active role in creating*
- iv. Opportunities for camps, coaches' clinics, and exclusive alumni instruction via streaming*



## Braves Country Baseball



### Organizational Structure

- I. Required to play in a recreation league deemed so by a city, county, or state entity
- II. Required to have at least 4 teams in each age group
- III. Players must be drafted to separate teams that play within the league
- IV. Each player must play 8 games or 75% of league games
  - a. Each potential park has the ability to petition the advisory board if any of these requirements cannot be met for any reason.

#### **League Structure:**

- i. Required to play 8 games of a recreational schedule*
- ii. Age as of April 30<sup>th</sup> that season*

#### **Team Structure**

- iii. Number of coaches: (5)-Coach Pitch- (4) Kid Pitch*
- iv. Minimum of 9 kids per team*

#### **District Structure:**

- v. Rules will be determined by the district board*

#### **State Structure:**

- vi. Rules will be determined by the state board*

#### **Classification System**

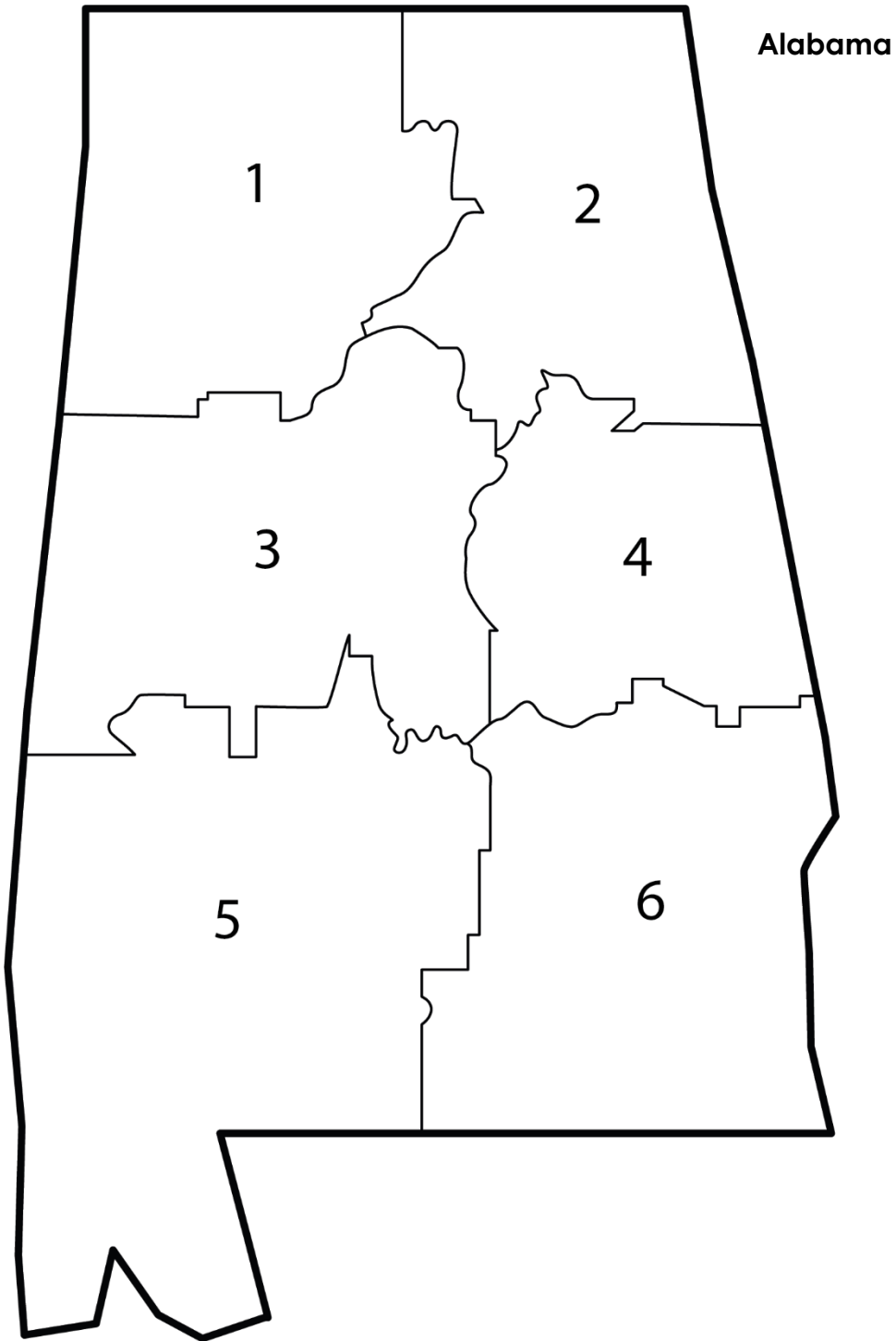
- vii. Park Classification Group*
  - 1-199 → C Classification
  - 200-499 → B Classification
  - 500+ → A classification*\*Based upon age groups 5-12*

#### **Age restrictions**

- **5uCP Division:** Players born up to April 30, 2017 are eligible
- **6uCP Division:** Players born on/after May 1, 2017 are eligible
- **7uCP Division:** Players born on/after May 1, 2016 are eligible
- **8uCP Division:** Players born on/after May 1, 2015 are eligible
- **9u Division:** Players born on/after May 1, 2014 are eligible
- **10u Division:** Players born on/after May 1, 2013 are eligible
- **11u Division:** Players born on/after May 1, 2012 are eligible
- **12u Division:** Players born on/after May 1, 2011 are eligible



# Braves Country Baseball

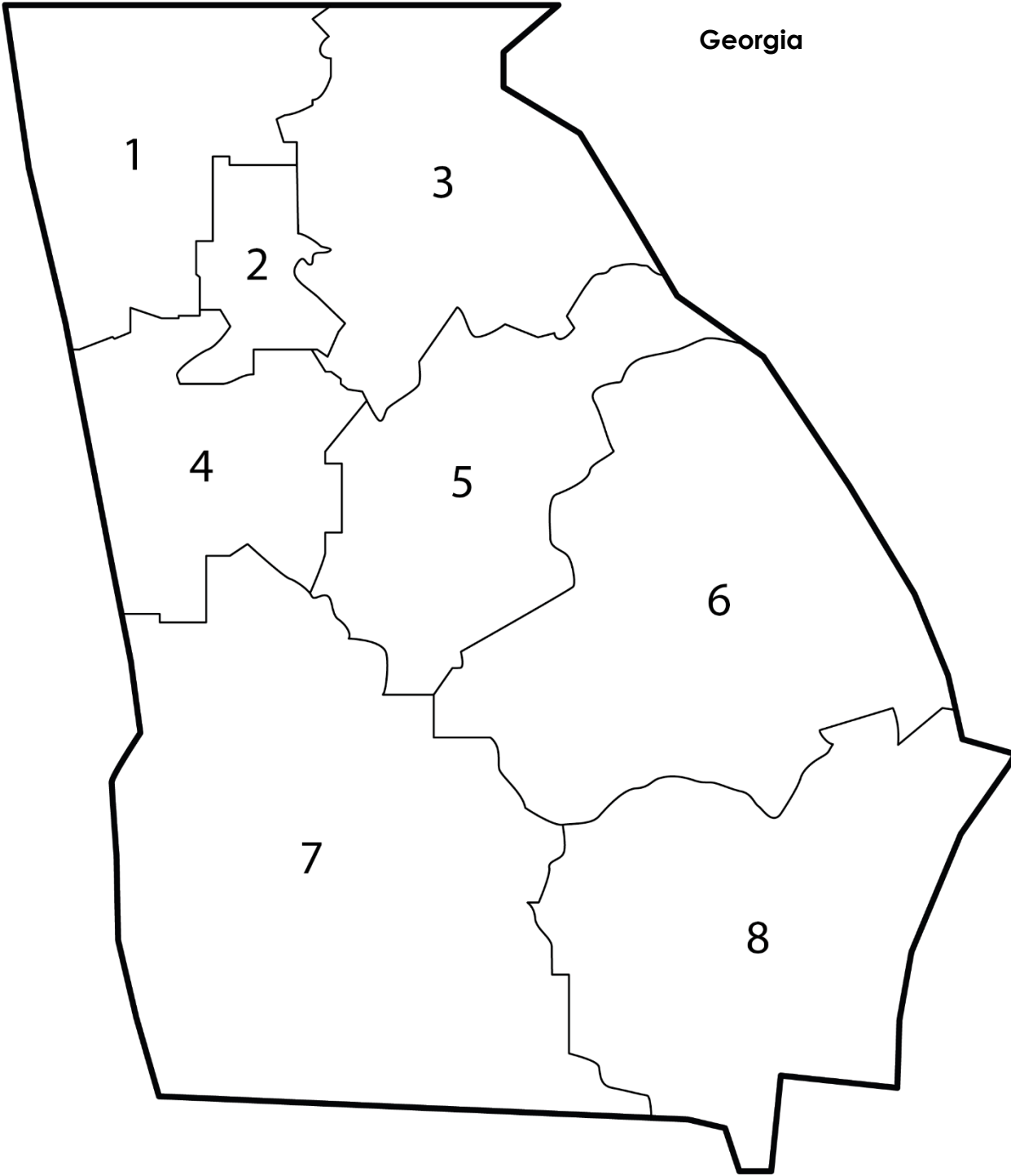




# Braves Country Baseball



Georgia

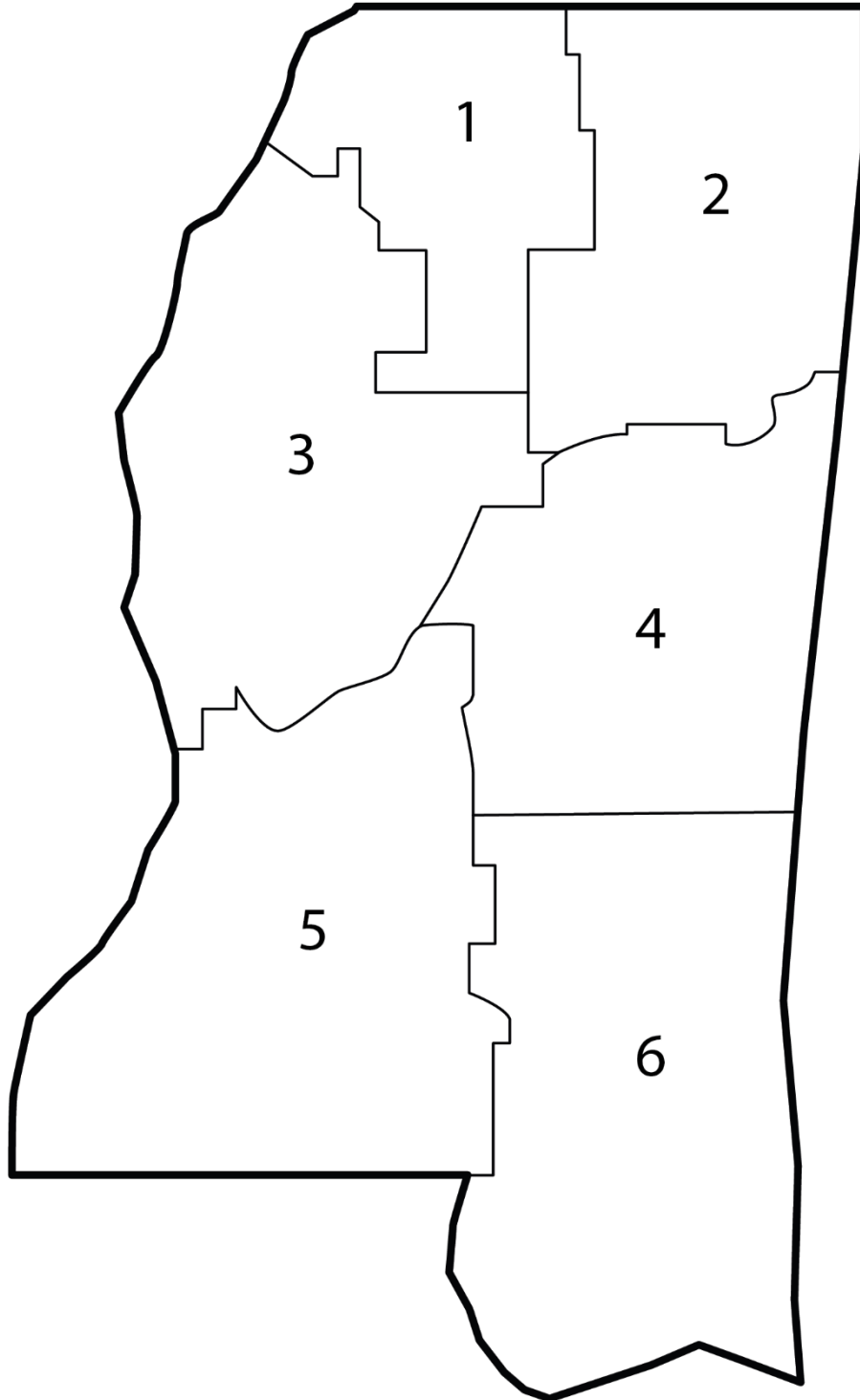




# Braves Country Baseball



## Mississippi





# Braves Country Baseball



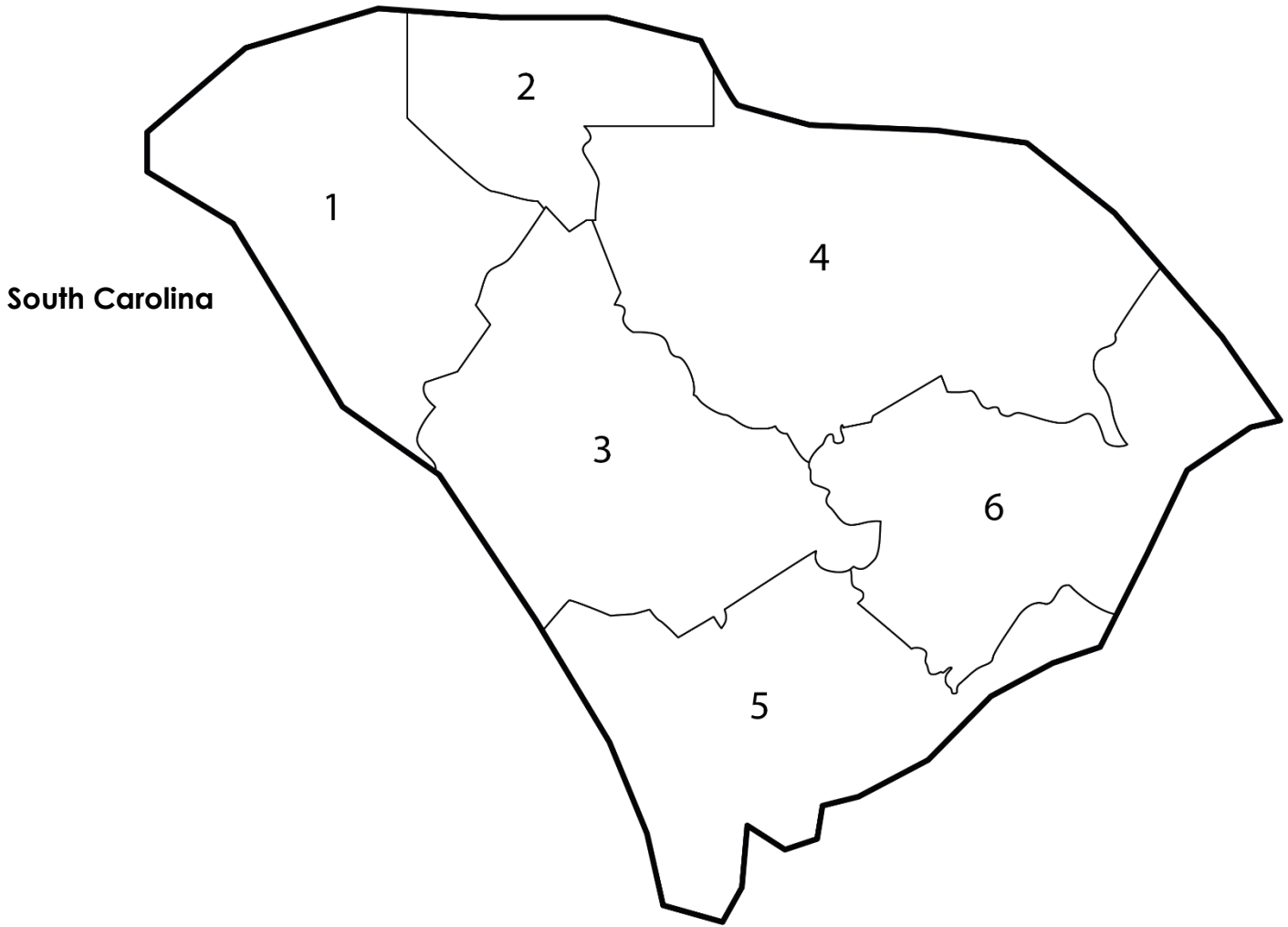
North Carolina



Tennessee



# Braves Country Baseball







## Braves Country Baseball



### Contacts:

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## Braves Country Baseball



### Registration A

#### I. Signing up

- i. Step 1: Sign up through the participant's organization
- ii. Step 2: Data sharing with BCYA pending opt-in clause
- iii. Step 3: Organization sends payment to BCYA for each league member
- iv. Step 4: Organization registers and pays for each participating Allstar team

#### II. Payment

- i. How much and how do you pay?
    - a) \$12 per registrant for the league
    - b) \$100 per All Star team
  - ii. Fees (what you're paying and what you get)
    - a) Each registrant receives a member bag.
    - b) Member bag includes Braves hat, patch, official membership letter, and cooling towel.  
(Subject to change)
  - iii. Payment Schedule
    - a) Pay on March 1<sup>st</sup>
    - b) May 15<sup>th</sup> for Allstar
  - iv. How do you pay? → Info TBD
    - a) Send check made out to BCYA.
      1. Address: 307 Clark Dr SE, Rome, GA 30161
    - b) Credit Card form- Square / Phone
- Tournament entry fees
- a) District
    1. \$250 per team plus gate fees
    2. The district host keeps 90%. Sends BCYA 10% gross.
  - b) Region
    1. \$250 per team plus gate fees
  - c) State
    1. \$350 per team plus gate fees
  - d) Championship
    1. No entry fee
    2. Gate fee

\*Licensed through BCYA\*



# Braves Country Baseball

## Registration A

Braves Country Youth Association

As a mandatory requirement to affiliate with BCYA, our league certifies that it will comply with all of the following:

(1) Our league will comply with all BCYA requirements, including but not limited to, BCYA tournament playing rules, BCYA policies and regulations outlined in the manual. (2) Our league will comply with Federal Public Law 115-126 – Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (“Safe Sport Act”) by formally adopting and implementing the BCYA Child Protection Plan (a child abuse/molestation risk management plan) or a similar comprehensive plan. Our league will distribute the League’s child abuse/molestation risk management plan to each authorized adult participant who is in regular contact with amateur athletes. (3) Our league is in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws including COVID-19 guidelines. (4) Our league will conduct third-party criminal background checks which, at a minimum, search the National Criminal Database and the National Sex Offender Registry in all 50 states and maintain documentation of the successful passing for all managers, coaches and other authorized adult participants in the league who have repetitive access to and close contact with minor athletes. (5) Our league will provide certification of compliance with BCYA manual on a form to be provided by BCYA.

### League Information

League Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Park Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2024 Baseball Participants: \_\_\_\_\_ # 2024 Softball Participants: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2024 All Star Baseball Teams: \_\_\_\_\_ # 2024 All Star Softball Teams: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate # 2024 Membership Bags: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 = \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate # 2024 All Star Teams: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

\*Checks made out to BCYA, 307 Clark Dr. SE, Rome, GA 30161

*BCYA will provide:*

*\*Membership Gift (Braves Drawstring Bag, Braves hat, Braves cooling towel, and uniform patch) per participant*

*\*Online Instruction through a members-only livestream*

*\*Coaches Clinic for all Members at Truist Park by Braves Alumni*

*\*All Star Track of tournaments leading to a Championship in Atlanta*

*\*Approval for park to use Braves Country Baseball logo on sleeve of all participant jerseys*

\_\_\_\_\_  
League Official/President

\_\_\_\_\_  
BCYA Commissioner



## Braves Country Baseball



### **Registration B**

#### **II. Signing up**

- i. Step 1: Sign up through the participant's organization*
- ii. Step 2: Data sharing with BCYA pending opt-in clause*
- iii. Step 3: Organization registers and pays for each participating Allstar team*

#### **III. Payment**

- i. How much and how do you pay?
  - a) \$100 per All Star team**
- ii. Fees (what you're paying and what you get)
  - a) Each registrant receives an All-Star patch.**
- iii. How often do you pay?
  - a) May 15<sup>th</sup>**
- iv. How do you pay? → Info TBD
  - a) Send check made out to BCYA.
    - 1. Address: 307 Clark Dr SE, Rome, GA 30161**
  - b) Credit Card form- Square / Phone**
- v. Tournament entry fees
  - a) District
    - 1. \$250 per team plus gate fees*
    - 2. The district host keeps 90%. Sends BCYA 10% gross.**
  - b) Region
    - 1. \$250 per team plus gate fees**
  - c) State
    - 1. \$350 per team plus gate fees**
  - d) Championship
    - 1. No entry fee*
    - 2. Gate fee***

*\*Licensed through BCYA\**



# Braves Country Baseball

## Registration B

### Braves Country Youth Association

As a mandatory requirement to affiliate with BCYA, our league certifies that it will comply with all of the following:

(1) Our league will comply with all BCYA requirements, including but not limited to, BCYA tournament playing rules, BCYA policies and regulations outlined in the manual. (2) Our league will comply with Federal Public Law 115-126 – Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (“Safe Sport Act”) by formally adopting and implementing the BCYA Child Protection Plan (a child abuse/molestation risk management plan) or a similar comprehensive plan. Our league will distribute the League's child abuse/molestation risk management plan to each authorized adult participant who is in regular contact with amateur athletes. (3) Our league is in compliance with applicable federal, state and local laws including COVID-19 guidelines. (4) Our league will conduct third-party criminal background checks which, at a minimum, search the National Criminal Database and the National Sex Offender Registry in all 50 states and maintain documentation of the successful passing for all managers, coaches and other authorized adult participants in the league who have repetitive access to and close contact with minor athletes. (5) Our league will provide certification of compliance with BCYA manual on a form to be provided by BCYA.

### League Information

League Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Main Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Park Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
President: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vice President: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

# 2024 Baseball Participants: \_\_\_\_\_ # 2024 Softball Participants: \_\_\_\_\_  
# 2024 All Star Baseball Teams: \_\_\_\_\_ # 2024 All Star Softball Teams: \_\_\_\_\_  
Charter Membership fees: \$250  
Approximate # 2024 All Star Teams: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$100 = \_\_\_\_\_

\*Checks made out to BCYA, 307 Clark Dr. SE, Rome, GA 30161

*BCYA will provide:*

*\*All Star patch for each All Star member*

*\*Online Instruction through a members-only livestream*

*\*Coaches Clinic for all Members at Truist Park by Braves Alumni*

*\*All Star Track of tournaments leading to a Championship in Atlanta*

*\*Participants who choose option B will only be eligible to host if the participants who choose option A opt out of doing so*

*\*Approval for park to use Braves Country Baseball logo on sleeve of all participant jerseys*

\_\_\_\_\_  
League Official/President

\_\_\_\_\_  
BCYA Commissioner



## Braves Country Baseball



### Member Benefits

#### **Member Bags: (Registration A)**

Each member that registers with their park for the regular season will receive a member bag that includes: a Braves hat, patch, official membership letter, and cooling towel. (Subject to change)

#### **Coaches Clinic: (Registration A)**

Quality coaches and proper coaching is one of the key elements to growing the game. The Braves want to invest time and effort to increase the knowledge and skill set of coaches that are teaching the game to the next generation of ballplayers.

Braves Coaches Clinics will offer that opportunity starting with our annual Braves Coaches Clinic presented by Nike on *December 9<sup>th</sup>*. The Clinic includes instruction from a coaching staff comprised of former Major League Baseball players in all areas of their expertise.

#### **Instructional Videos:**

*\*More info to come\**

Members will have exclusive access to an eight-week livestream hosted by Braves alumni. On the same day and time every week throughout the eight-week period, the Atlanta Braves will go live for thirty minutes. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions as well as receive baseball and softball tips for fielding, pitching, hitting, etc. The show will feature Braves alumni, current players and coaches, and collegiate softball players and coaches. There may even be an opportunity for the show to come to a park near you!





# Braves Country Baseball







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## Rules

*\*Disclosure: Rules are subject to vary by park, district, and state dependent on their boards. The rules listed below apply once teams make it to Atlanta. Any rules not covered in this document falls back to NFHS Rules\**

### I. Basepath and Mound Distances

5	--	60'
6	--	60'
7	--	60'
8	--	60'
9	46'	65'
10	46'	65'
11	50'	70'
12	50'	70'

### II. Equipment

#### i. Bats

1. Approved bats only. USSSA BPF 1.15 allowed. USA Bat Standard allowed. Legal wood bat allowed. **Banned Bats:** If a bat is on any tournament provider's banned bat list, then it is banned for use in **Braves Country Baseball** Tournaments. For example, if USSSA, Perfect Game, or PBR bans a bat, then it is banned for use in **Braves Country Baseball** Tournaments.
  - a. *You will be provided with a list of banned bats.*

### III. Game Topics

#### i. Home Team:

1. In pool play, a coin toss determines the home team.
2. In bracket play, the higher seed has choice of home or away (same seeds that play each other in bracket play will be a coin toss). The home team keeps the official scorebook.
3. The visiting team runs the scoreboard where applicable.

#### ii. Game Time Limits

1. Game time limits apply to all games, including Championship games.
  - a. Coach Pitch, 5u-8u: 1:15





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- b. 9u-10u: 1:30
          - c. 11u-12u: 1:45
  - iii. **Innings per Game**
    1. All games for 12u and younger are six (6) innings.
  - iv. **Max Runs per Inning**
    1. 7 runs per inning for 5u, 6u, 7u, & 8u. No run limit for 9u and older
  - v. **Mercy Rule: 9u and older**
    1. 15 runs after 3 innings
    2. 12 runs after 4 innings
    3. 8 runs after 5 innings
    4. Mathematical elimination for all coach pitch
  - vi. **Forfeits**
    1. Forfeits are scored as 7-0
  - vii. **Tiebreakers, Pool Play**
    1. Record
    2. Head-to-head (only if 2 teams are tied. If 3 or more teams are tied, then the first tiebreaking criteria is run differential, and never reverts to head-to-head).
    3. Run differential (the maximum run differential is 7 runs per game).
    4. Runs allowed
    5. Runs scored
    6. Coin flip
    7. Bracket protection:
      - a. B and C Class:
        - i. Will not play a team first round that played in pool play.
        - ii. Will not play a team from their park first round of bracket play.
- viii. **Extra Innings, Bracket Play Games**
  1. Start with the last batted out on 2B, and 1 out.
- ix. **Final Score Confirmation**
  1. All managers/head coaches must meet with the umpires immediately after the game to confirm the score and pitching records.
- x. **Official Games: If a game is cancelled due to weather...**
  1. For 5u-12u, 3 innings (2.5 with home team leading) is a complete game.
  2. If an official game is suspended in the middle of an inning, then the score reverts to the last completed inning.
  3. If a game is cancelled due to weather, the teams must play the next day. (i.e., if a Sunday game gets cancelled, they will play Monday).
- xi. **Protests**
  1. For rule interpretations only, the protesting team must pay \$100 in cash. If the protest is successful, the money is refunded.
- xii. **Umpire Ejections**
  1. The ejected party must leave the field area immediately and not be visible to the game and not communicate with the team. The ejected party may not return to the park for the remainder of the tournament. If the ejected party does not leave accordingly, that person's team will be disqualified.
    - a. Districts hosting the tournament will provide their own umpires.
    - b. Region, state, and championship umpires will be provided.
- xiii. **Zero Tolerance Policy**
  1. Any coach/player/parent/fan/spectator who is ejected from a game will be out for the entire tournament. Any egregious offenses or a second offense may result in suspension for the year.
- xiv. **Unsportsmanlike Conduct**
  1. Any aggression towards umpires, tournament officials, the opposing team, fans, or spectators, is subjected to any or all of the following:
    - a. A warning



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- b. A restriction to the bench/dugout for the remainder of the game. A coach may leave the bench/dugout to attend to a player who becomes ill or injured.
- c. An immediate ejection
- d. A ban from the remainder of the tournament
- e. A ban from all future tournaments

### IV. Pitching Topics

#### i. Pitching Limits

##### 1. USA pitch count

AGE	DAILY MAX PITCHES	REQUIRED REST (PITCHES)				
		0 DAYS	1 DAY	2 DAYS	3 DAYS	4 DAYS
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+

#### ii. Warmup Pitches

- 1. 8 pitches if the starting pitcher or a new pitcher; 5 pitches if a returning pitcher.

#### iii. Pitcher Removal

- 1. After 3 charged conferences (i.e., mound visits), or for any charged conference in excess of 1 in each extra inning, the pitcher shall be removed as pitcher for the duration of the game.

#### iv. Pitching Violation

- 1. A protest may be filed at any point after the pitcher in violation records an out past his/her legal limit but must be filed prior to the game card being signed and/or the umpires leaving the field after the game. The penalty for a successful protest includes forfeiting the game and the manager is ejected (see Umpire Ejections).

#### v. No re-entering the pitcher on the mound.

### V. Hitting Topics

#### i. Dropped 3<sup>rd</sup> Strike

- 1. Hitters can advance for 11u and older.

#### ii. Lead offs

- 1. Closed through 10u.

#### iii. Infield Fly Rule

- 1. Only for 9u and older.

#### iv. Slashing (Fake Bunt, Pull Back, Full Swing)

- 1. Not allowed

#### v. Missing Batter or Injured Batter

- 1. Automatic out unless a legal substitution occurs.

#### vi. Slung Bat

- 1. Player is called out after a warning to that player.

#### vii. Courtesy Runner

- 1. A courtesy runner is allowed for the catcher. All other subs must be an eligible substitute.
- 2. Use of DH is allowed. The DH is connected to the fielding player, if the fielding player hits, the DH can re-enter once.

### VI. 5u-8uCP (Coach Pitch) Specific Rules

#### i. Max Runs per Inning

- 1. 7 runs per inning.

#### ii. Mercy Rule

- 1. Mathematical Elimination

#### iii. Fair Ball Arc

- 1. There shall be a 20-foot arc drawn from the 1<sup>st</sup> baseline to the 3<sup>rd</sup> baseline in front of home plate. A batted ball must go past this line to be a fair ball.



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### iv. Pitching Circle

1. *There shall be a 10-foot diameter circle with the center of the circle at 42 feet from the rear point of home plate.*

### v. Bunts

1. *Limit 1 successful bunt per inning*

### vi. Pitching Coach

1. *The pitching coach shall be an adult at least 18 years of age.*
2. *The pitching coach must pitch at least 20 feet from the batter. The coach can pitch anywhere behind the 20-foot line.*
3. *Ball must be thrown overhand and from a standing position.*
4. *The pitching coach shall not verbally or physically coach while in the pitching position with the ball in hand.*
  - a. *First offense of the game- warning.*
  - b. *Second offense of the game- The pitching coach will be removed from the game.*
5. *The pitching coach shall position himself as not to be an obstruction to the defensive team on any possible play once the ball has been hit.*

#### a. Penalty

- i. *If a coach violates this rule after the ball is pitched, obstruction shall be called.*

#### b. Additional penalty

- i. *If a coach violates this rule before the ball is pitched:*
  1. *First offense: Warning*
  2. *Second offense: Removal of coach as the pitcher for the remainder of the game*

### 6. Pitching Coach Interference

- a. *When a batted ball hits the Pitching Coach, the following shall apply:*
  - i. *If in the umpire's judgment, the coach did not make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the batter is declared out and no runners shall advance. If in the umpire's judgment, the coach did make a legitimate attempt to avoid contact, the ball becomes dead, and a no-pitch is declared.*

### 7. Defensive Positions

- a. *10 defensive players shall play in the field with 4 outfielders.*
- b. *The 4<sup>th</sup> outfielder shall not assume an infield position.*
- c. *All outfielders shall stay behind the baseline.*
- d. *The defensive player listed as pitcher shall not leave the pitching circle until the ball is hit.*
  - i. *Penalty:*
    1. *The play continues. After the play has ended, the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or no-pitch.*
  - ii. *Additional Penalty:*
    1. *First offense: Warning*
    2. *Second offense: Removal of player from the pitching position for the remainder of the game.*
- e. *"No rolling the ball intentionally will be allowed".*
- f. *No player can sit more than two consecutive innings on defense.*

### 8. Infield Fly

- a. *The infield fly rule shall not be in effect at any time.*

### 9. Batting Order

- a. *The batting order shall constitute all present players on the team roster at the beginning of the game.*
- b. *Late arrivals shall be inserted at the bottom of the batting order.*
  - i. *Once the hitters cycle through once, players cannot be added to batting order but they are able to play defense.*



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- c. *All players on the roster shall bat before returning to the top of the batting order.*
- d. *Teams may use free substitution on defense, but the batting order shall remain the same.*
- e. *The team roster will remain the same from May 15<sup>th</sup> until after the Championship.*

### **10. Pitches per Batter**

- a. *The batter shall receive a maximum of 5 pitches with unlimited foul balls or 3 swinging strikes. The batter cannot be out on a foul ball unless it is caught by a fielder.*

### **11. Intentional Walks**

- a. *There are no intentional walks.*

### **12. Leads and Stealing**

- a. *Runners shall not lead-off or steal bases. A runner is out for leaving the base before the ball is hit or reaches home plate.*

### **13. Courtesy Runner**

- a. *A courtesy runner for catcher of record only the previous inning may be used. The courtesy runner shall be the player that made the previous out. If no outs have been recorded in the game, the courtesy runner shall be the previous batter not on base. If the team batting has not played defense yet and a courtesy runner is used for a player, the player that was run for must assume the catching position the next inning. This scenario only applies in the first inning for the visiting team.*

### **14. Time Outs**

- a. *Umpires shall call "Time" after every play and declare the ball dead. "Time" shall be called by the umpire ONLY as soon as all runners are not attempting to advance. "Time" cannot be called by the defense for the purpose of this rule. When a runner stands off a base and "jukes" or "feints" back and forth, this is to be interpreted as "not attempting to advance" and "Time" shall be called.*

### **vii. Miscellaneous**

1. *Catchers must be in full gear when they are in the box.*
2. *Slide rule:*
  - a. *No sliding head-first with face gear on, including a c flap.*
3. *Any player with a cast must be padded with closed cell, slow recovery foam padding no less than ½" thick.*
4. *There may be two defensive coaches on the sideline that must remain in foul territory until the play is over.*

***\*Anything not covered in these rules revert to NFHS rules\****



## Braves Country Baseball

### Tournaments

#### I. District tournaments

- i. 'B' & 'C' class runners-up can all advance to open championships (with fee)
- ii. 'B' & 'C' class winners get free entry & top seeds.
- iii. 'A' Winner & Runner up advance to region.
- iv. Can play up but not down.
- v. Date: 06/07/2024-06/09/2024

#### II. Region Tournaments

- i. 'A' winners and runners up advance to the state tournament.
- ii. Date: 06/14/2024-06/16/2024

#### III. Open Championship

- i. 'B' & 'C' Class Winners → Free entry
- ii. Open to all BCBS teams (A, B, & C classes)
- iii. Location: Atlanta
- iv. Date: 06/14/2024-06/16/2024

#### IV. State Championships

- i. 'A' winner and runner up advance to championships in Atlanta.
- ii. Date: 06/21/2024-06/23/2024

#### V. Open Championship- Regional

- i. Open to all BCBS teams (A, B, & C classes).
- ii. Location: Around the big markets (Charlotte, Macon, Birmingham, etc.).
- iii. Date: 06/21/2024-06/23/2024

#### VI. Championship Tournament

- i. Winners and Runner Ups from all 6 state tournaments.
- ii. Location: Atlanta (specifics TBD)
- iii. Date: 06/28/2024-06/30/2024



# BCYA Safe Sport Child Abuse and Other Misconduct Risk Management Policy

## INTRODUCTION

In 2018, Congress enacted a new Federal law, The “Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017” (“Safe Sport Act”), which specifically requires applicable amateur sports organizations which are not part of national governing bodies to:

1. **Duty to Report Child Abuse by Covered Individuals** – A covered individual is any adult who is authorized by an applicable amateur sports organization to interact with a minor or amateur athlete. Covered individuals must report suspicions of child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to law enforcement. Failure to report may be a criminal violation under state and federal law.
2. **Limit One-On-One Interaction with Minors** – Must establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult (who is not the minor’s legal guardian) at a facility under the jurisdiction of the applicable amateur sports organization without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult, except in emergency circumstances.
3. **Training for Adults and Minors** – Must offer and provide consistent training to all adult members who are in regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors, and subject to parental consent, to members who are minors, regarding prevention and reporting of child abuse to allow a complainant to report easily an incident of child abuse to appropriate persons.
4. **Prohibit Retaliation** – Must prohibit retaliation against any individual who makes a report required under the Safe Sport Act.

An applicable amateur sports organization is one that is not part of a national sports governing body, participates in interstate or international amateur athletic competition, and includes any adult who is in regular contact with an amateur athlete who is a minor. However, even if a sports organization does not have a single team that crosses a state line to compete, the Safe Sport Act establishes a new standard of care that will likely be used in future case law. BCYA requires participating organizations to be in compliance with the Safe Sport Act.

**Penalties For Failure To Comply:** Any minor who was a victim and who suffers personal injury as a result of a violation of the Safe Sport Act, may sue in U.S. District Court and may recover actual damages or liquidated damages in the amount of \$150,000 and the cost of the action, including reasonable attorney’s fees and other litigation costs. The court may also award punitive damages.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to help BCYA and member leagues to comply with the law and to reduce the potential risk of misconduct that can negatively impact participants, staff members, family, friends, and the sport.

This plan will serve as awareness education training for all our staff who agree to educate themselves on all forms of misconduct and to refrain from engaging in such misconduct and in violating the policies herein. It should be posted on the organization website and distributed to all adult staff members and parents in the program.

## DEFINITIONS

**Participant:** Any athlete or non-athlete participant who participates in any tryouts, practices, drills, instructional sessions, competitions, camps, clinics, tournaments, or non-sport outings including travel, lodging, and health or medical treatment sponsored by the organization.

**Child, Children, Minor, and Youth:** Anyone under the age of 18. These terms are used interchangeably throughout this program.



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**Authorized Adult:** Any individual, paid or unpaid, who oversees, supervises, chaperones, or otherwise interacts with Youth. This includes but is not limited to officers, directors, employees, staff, coaches, volunteers, independent contractors, umpires, security and trainers.

**Coach:** Any adult who has or shares the responsibility for instructing, teaching, schooling, training, or advising athletes of the organization.

**Child Abuse:** Endangerment of a Youth's physical or mental health due to injury by act or omission. Primary types of misconduct in sports: sexual (including grooming behavior), physical, emotional, bullying, harassment, hazing and neglect, which are further discussed below.

**Organization:** The sports organization BCYA that has adopted this Policy.

**Youth Protection Officer:** The individual or a committee appointed by BCYA that manages any and all allegations of misconduct and policy violations. The Youth Protection Officer for the 2024 season is [INSERT NAME AND EMAIL]. Member leagues should also designate an individual who manages allegations of misconduct or violation of this Policy and notify all participants of the same.

### TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE MISCONDUCT AND EXAMPLES

The following six types of misconduct are prohibited by the organization:

#### 1. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, INCLUDING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual misconduct is defined as:

- Any sexual interaction, whether non-touching or touching, that is forced or perpetrated in an exploitative, harassing, aggressive, or threatening manner.
- Any sexual interaction between a participant and an individual with direct, indirect, or evaluative authority. Such relationships usually involve power imbalance; disparity in age, development, size, or intellectual capabilities; the existence of an aggressor; and are likely to impair judgment or be exploitative.
- Any conduct or acts defined under state or federal law as sexual abuse or misconduct.

Sexual misconduct can be between adults, between adults and minors, or between minors. Minors don't have the legal capacity to consent to sexual activity with an adult, and as a result, any sexual interaction between a minor and adult is strictly prohibited.

Types of sexual misconduct include:

- Sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Sexual abuse
- Any other equal intimacies that exploit an athlete

Touching offenses include:

- Fondling a participant's breasts or buttocks;
- Providing a sports-related reward (ex: playing time, position, lessons, award, praise) in exchange for sexual favors;
- Sexual penetration and sexual touching;
- Genital contact whether or not either party is clothed
- Any intimacies or sexual relations between a staff member and participant when the staff member is in a position of authority, trust, control, or evaluative decision making over the participant.

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#### PERMISSIBLE PHYSICAL CONTACT





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Some level of physical contact between a coach and a participant may be appropriate, such as in instruction, celebration, or consolation of a distraught participant who has been injured or after losing a competition. Appropriate physical contact in training and instruction consists of the following elements:

- The physical contact takes place in public.
- There is no potential for or actual, physical, or sexual intimacies during the physical contact.
- The physical contact is for the benefit of the participant and not to meet an emotional or other need of an adult.

Examples of permissible physical interactions include:

- Side hugs
- Should-to-shoulder or “temple” hugs
- Pats on the shoulder or back
- Handshakes
- High-fives and hand slapping
- Pats on the head (if culturally appropriate)
- Touching hands, shoulders, arms in a limited manner and where need to provide instruction.

Prohibited forms of physical contact include:

- Lingered or repeated embrace that goes beyond acceptable physical touch.
- Tickling, horseplay, or wrestling.
- Continued physical contact that makes a participant uncomfortable.

Non-touching offenses include:

- Making innuendos, comments, or jokes of a sexual nature about a participant or other behavior that is sexually harassing.
- A staff member referencing his or her sexual activities with a participant.
- Questioning a participant about his or her sexual activities.
- A staff member requesting or sending a revealing or nude photo to a participant.
- Exposing participants to pornographic material.
- Voyeurism
- Sending participants communications or photos, whether electronic (e.g. sexting) or otherwise, of a sexually suggestive or explicit nature.
- Intentionally exposing a participant to sexual acts.
- Intentionally exposing a participant to nudity (exception for shared changing areas or locker rooms).
- Non-verbal or verbal communication of a sexual nature; physical advances; or sexual solicitation.

The following are not defenses under any circumstances to an allegation of sexual misconduct: the consent of a minor, mistaking the age of a participant, or that the interaction did not occur during a sanctioned event of the organization.

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### PEER-TO-PEER CHILD SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Approximately one-third of all cases of sexual abuse are child peer-to-peer. Whether or not sexual interaction between children constitutes child sexual abuse turns on the existence of an aggressor, the age difference between the children, and/or whether there is an imbalance in power and/or intellectual capabilities. Allegations or suspicions of peer-to-peer child sexual abuse must be reported to the Youth Protection Officer or a b. Steps should be taken to determine what can be done to prevent reoccurrence including review the need for additional supervision, review the need for revised policies and procedures, or review the need for additional training.

### Identifying Signs Of Child Abuse





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With physical abuse, there may be signs of bruises, welts, or broken bones. With sexual abuse, there may be signs of genital soreness, difficulty sitting or walking, stomach aches, pain/itching when urinating or defecating, and pain/itching in genital area. But most often the effects of sexual abuse are less obvious.

Please note that no indicators or symptoms are absolute. Many of these could be indicators of problems other than child abuse. However, if some of these things are going on, consider them to be a red flag. One difficulty is that some signs are ambiguous. Children may respond in different ways and some may show no sign at all. Some indicators include:

- Disclosure by child. Most children won't just come out and say they have been abused, but instead, may hint at it.
- Unexplained/unlikely explanation of injuries.
- Sudden shifts in behavior or attitudes when an outgoing child suddenly builds a protected, closed wall or a generally happy child becomes aggressive and angry or a trusting child becomes fearful.
- Extreme fear of a sports organization volunteer.
- Extreme low self-esteem, self worth.
- A child's attachment to a coach/staff to the point of isolation from others.
- A child's desire to drop out without a clear explanation, or without one that makes sense.
- A child that misses a lot of practices or games with suspicious explanations or excuses.

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### GROOMING

Grooming is an intentional and effective strategy that sexual predators use to set up and prepare victims, parents, and staff to gain a position of trust and lower their defenses, which assists in the perpetration of misconduct.

The steps taken in the grooming or seduction process are:

- Identify a child and determine his or her vulnerable areas (ex: being misunderstood, lack of attention from parents, lack of spending money, absent parents, etc.)
- Through careful observation of the target, determine their needs to fill what is missing.
- Fill the needs to create a special bond and to gain their trust. Examples are providing gifts and spending money, helping with homework, providing transportation, special consideration on the team such as more playing time, special attention, sharing secrets, etc.
- Spend a disproportionate amount of time with the family to gain their trust.
- Isolate the victim from their peers to create situations where they are alone.
- Gradually introduce sexual interplay that may start with conversations of a sexual nature (in person, texting, and social media), providing alcohol and drugs to lower inhibitions, watching pornography, sharing nude photos, tickling, horseplay, massages, and other boundary invasions that lead to sexual touching and nudity.
- Maintaining control and silence to continue and keep the sexual abuse hidden.
- Use shame or fear as motivating factors to continue the relationship.

Staff and parents who understand the grooming process and the policies that are meant to prevent it through education are likely to identify it and notify the MO or a board member of suspicious behavior.

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### ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

**Two-Deep Leadership:** Two adults (ex: any combination of coach(es)), volunteer(s), parent(s)) should be present at all times so that a minor cannot be isolated one on one with an unrelated adult. Alternatively, two youths may be present with one non-guardian Authorized Adult provided that the additional guidelines below are followed. This concept does not apply to or limit interaction between the Youth and the Youth's guardian. This also helps to protect the staff member from false accusations.

**Individual Meetings:** An individual meeting to address a participant's concerns may be necessary on occasion. During such meetings, the following guidelines should be observed:

- Any individual meeting should occur when others are present and where interactions can be easily observed.



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- Where possible, an individual meeting should take place in a publicly visible and open area, such as in the corner of a building.
- If the meeting takes place in an office or a locker room, the door should remain unlocked and open.
- If a closed-door meeting is necessary, the staff member should inform another staff member and ensure the door remains unlocked.
- Individual Training Sessions: When necessary or requested, parent/guardian written consent should be obtained and a parent/guardian encouraged to attend.

Prohibited One-on-One Interactions: Except as provided above with regard to individual meetings, individual training, or emergency situations, any one-on-one interaction between an adult and a minor participant should be avoided. A possible exception may occur if the minor is stranded and the adult must be present so that the minor will not be left unattended or unsupervised. In such cases, the adult and minor should remain in the open until another adult arrives.

### 2. PHYSICAL MISCONDUCT

Physical misconduct includes:

- Physical injury inflicted on a Youth by other than accidental means. Physical injury includes but is not limited to, lacerations, fractured bones, burns, internal injuries, severe or frequent bruising, or great bodily harm.
- Intentional physical contact or threat of such that causes or has the potential to cause personal injury or bodily harm to the participant.
- Any act or conduct described as physical abuse under state or federal law, such as assault, child neglect, and child abuse.

Examples of prohibited physical misconduct:

Contact offenses

- Punching, beating, biting, striking, choking, spanking, or slapping an athlete
- Intentionally hitting an athlete with objects or sporting equipment
- Providing alcohol to a participant who is under the legal drinking age
- Providing non-prescription or illegal drugs to any participant
- Encouraging or permitting an athlete to return to play after an injury (e.g. concussion) or sickness prematurely or without clearance from a medical professional
- Prescribing diet or other weight control methods for humiliation purposes and without regard for the health of the athlete (e.g. public weigh-ins or caliper tests)

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### NON-CONTACT OFFENSES

- Isolating an athlete in a confined space (e.g. locking an athlete in a confined space)
- Forcing an athlete to assume a painful stance or position for no athletic purpose (e.g. requiring the athlete to kneel on a hard surface)
- Withholding, recommending against or denying adequate hydration, nutrition, medical attention, or sleep

Physical misconduct does not include physical contact that is a professionally-accepted coaching method for teaching skill enhancement, physical conditioning, team building or appropriate discipline.

### 3. EMOTIONAL MISCONDUCT



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Emotional misconduct involves a pattern of intentional, noncontact behavior that reasonably causes or has the potential to reasonably cause psychological or emotional harm to a participant. Physical acts, verbal acts, or acts that deny support or attention are included in these behaviors.

Examples of prohibited emotional misconduct:

- **Verbal Acts:** A pattern of verbal behaviors that personally attack a participant or language that is degrading or threatening including interactions such as name calling, insults, derogatory remarks, slurs of any kind, belittling or shaming (e.g. calling them disgusting, worthless, or fat) or repeatedly screaming at participants in a way that does not serve a legitimate motivational or training purpose.
- **Physical Acts:** A pattern of physically aggressive behaviors, such as throwing or punching sports equipment or other objects in the presence of participants.
- **Acts that Deny Support or Attention:** A pattern of ignoring or excluding a participant during practice or team discussions for an extended period of time.

Emotional misconduct does not include generally-accepted and age-appropriate coaching methods of skill enhancement, physical conditioning, motivation, team building, appropriate discipline or improving athletic performance. Note that a single incident such as a verbal outburst may be inappropriate but does not constitute emotional misconduct, which requires a pattern of harmful behaviors over time.

### 4. BULLYING

Bullying involves an intentional and repeated pattern of committing or intentionally allowing or not preventing behaviors that are intended to cause physical harm, fear or humiliation in an effort to socially isolate, diminish or exclude another participant physically, emotionally, or sexually.

Bullying can occur through verbal, written or electronic communications or by means of a physical gesture or act.

Examples of prohibited bullying behavior:

**Physical:** Hitting, pushing, punching, beating, biting, striking, kicking, choking, spitting, or slapping; throwing objects such as sports equipment at another participant.

**Verbal:** Teasing, ridiculing, taunting, name-calling, or intimidating, or threatening to cause someone harm.

**Social, including Cyberbullying:** Using electronic communication, social media or similar to harass, frighten, intimidate, or humiliate someone; using rumors or false statements about someone to diminish that person's reputation; socially excluding someone and asking others to do the same.

**Sexual:** Teasing, ridiculing, or taunting based on gender or sexual orientation (real or implied), gender traits or behavior (e.g., taunting someone for being too effeminate or too masculine), or teasing someone about their looks or behavior as it relates to sexual attractiveness.

It is often not the staff, but other participants who perpetrate bullying. However, it is a violation if a staff member knows or should have known of bullying behavior but takes no action to intervene on behalf of the targeted participant(s).

A participant or parent/guardian who participates in any act of bullying is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, permanent ban, and referral to law enforcement authorities.



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### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEAN, RUDE, AND BULLYING BEHAVIOR

Mean is defined as purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone very infrequently. Rude is defined as inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else. Bullying is defined as intentionally aggressive behavior repeated over time that involves an imbalance of power. Mean or rude conduct does not rise to the level of bullying absent the imbalance of power, but may otherwise be a code of conduct violations and treated as such.

### 5. HARASSMENT

Harassment is a pattern of physical or nonphysical behaviors that cause annoyance, fear or humiliation; degrade or offend; reflect a discriminatory bias; or create a hostile environment for the purpose of creating superiority, dominance, or power over an individual participant or participants based on gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, culture, national origin, race, or physical or mental disability. It also includes any conduct or acts defined as harassment under state or federal law.

Examples of prohibited harassment:

Name-calling, taunts, threats, belittling, stalking, unwelcome advances and requests for sexual acts, as well as undue threats to perform or succeed.

Sexual harassment is conduct towards a participant that includes sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical behaviors of a sexual nature and is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive and objectively offensive that it negatively affects an individual's performance.

### 6. HAZING

Hazing includes any behavior that requires another to endanger, abuse, humiliate, or degrade themselves as a condition of joining or being accepted by and group and which may cause physical, mental, or emotional distress. It also includes any act that is described as hazing under federal or state law.

Examples of hazing include:

- Using force or peer pressure to require the consumption of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs
- Requiring, coercing, or encouraging Youth to participate in an "initiation" ritual that is illegal or places the Youth in physical danger
- Restraining a person through tying or taping
- Requiring simulations of acts of a sexual nature.
- Depriving one of sleep
- Recording audio, video, or photographs of any hazing conduct.
- Withholding water and/or food
- Requiring public actions that are illegal, embarrassing, or socially unacceptable (e.g. public nudity)
- Paddling, branding, beating or other forms of physical assault
- Requiring excessive training

Hazing occurs even when the participant agrees to cooperate.

### 7. NEGLIGENCE

Neglect includes failure, refusal, or inability on the part of a caregiver, for reasons other than poverty, to provide necessary care, food, water, clothing, medical or dental care, or shelter so as to seriously endanger the physical health or a Youth.



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### WILLFULLY TOLERATING MISCONDUCT

It is a violation when a staff member knows of prohibited misconduct but takes no action to intervene to protect participants or other staff members. It is also a violation to observe illegal and prohibited misconduct and not report it in a timely manner to the appropriate entity or law enforcement authorities.

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### SOCIAL MEDIA AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Electronic communications and social media interactions between staff and participants and their parents/guardians is essential with regard to activities, schedules, and administrative issues. Furthermore, social media touting the positive aspects of competition and club promotion should be encouraged. However, the potential for misconduct exists including sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, harassment, and hazing.

#### **Social Media, including, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.**

The organization may create an official social media account which may connect with other staff, participants, and parents/guardians for the purpose of official organization communications about activities, motivation, team building, and answering posts from staff, participants, and parents/guardians.

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### EMAIL, TEXTS, AND INSTANT MESSAGING

A staff member and minor participant may communicate via email, text, or instant message if the communication is about official organization activities. A parent/guardian of minor participants or another staff member should be copied on all such communications sent by a staff member.

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### DIGITAL PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Organizations frequently publish photos and videos of activities on their website and social media accounts, and transmit via email to various media outlets. Before publishing a photo or video of any participant, the organization should obtain an image release agreement signed by the parent/guardian. Also, all photos and videos should be taken in public view and should be appropriate and in the best interest of the participant and the organization.

Staff should immediately honor any request from parent/guardian to discontinue all digital communications or imagery with a minor participant without any repercussions.

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### LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

Participants are particularly vulnerable to misconduct including bullying, harassment, and hazing in locker rooms/changing areas due to various stages of undress and less direct supervision. The organization should implement the following guidelines:

Sufficient staff supervision that is not overbearing. Staff should always be located just outside of the room to be on call if a problem arises and should make periodic sweeps inside. The sweeps should be conducted by staff who are the same sex as the minor participants.

- Prohibit parents/guardians from entering unless it is truly necessary. In such cases, the parent/guardian should inform staff in advance and should be the same sex as the minor participants.
- Prohibit the use of all recording devices including smartphones.
- Comply with all misconduct rules.
- If a minor participant enters a bathroom/locker/changing during a competition, staff should be aware and check to that such minor participant returns within a reasonable time.



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In the special case of co-ed locker rooms, male and female athletes should use separate changing areas. When separate areas are not available, the male and female participants should take turns using the areas.

### SHOWERING:

Authorized Adults are not permitted to be alone with Youth in locker rooms or changing areas. If separate locker rooms or facilities are not available for Authorized Adults exclusive use, Adults and Youth should shower at separate times. If public locker rooms or facilities are being used, Authorized Adults should check the facilities to evaluate if other adults are using the facility. Authorized Adults are prohibited from changing clothes or being nude in the presence of Youth. If private showers are available, ensure that only one Youth is in each shower.

### TRAVEL

Travel to and from practices and competitions subject's participants to risk not only from auto accidents, but also makes them more vulnerable to misconduct, particularly during overnight stays. During overnight stays, participants are away from their families and support networks and find themselves in unfamiliar and less structured settings, such as locker/changing rooms, sports facilities, autos, and hotel rooms.

Local travel is not planned or supervised by the organization, but parent/guardian for each participant is responsible for making the travel arrangements. Local travel occurs when minor participants are driven to and from practices and local competitions, usually by parents/guardians in a carpool setting.

The guidelines for local travel are as follows:

- Drivers should have a valid driver's license, meet state insurance requirements, and operate a well-maintained vehicle in accordance with state laws.
- Staff drivers providing local transportation should not ride alone with an unrelated minor participant. There should be either at least two other participants or another adult in the vehicle at all times unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parent/guardian of the participant.
- Staff drivers who are also the parents/guardians of a minor participant may provide shared transportation but should always pick up their own child first and drop him/her off last.
- Staff drivers should have the parent/guardian of participants sign a parental authorization and release form.

Team travel usually requires overnight stays and occurs when the team plans and supervises transportation for local, regional, national, or international competitions. For greater travel distances, staff and chaperones will often travel with the participants in order to provide adequate supervision. To follow are guidelines on team travel:

- All drivers should have a valid driver's license, meet state insurance requirements, and operate a well-maintained vehicle in accordance with state laws.
- Be sure to maintain appropriate adult-to-minor ratios, which will vary with the age of the participants.
- Hotels and air travel should be booked in advance with schedules published for all staff and parents/guardians.  
Participants should share rooms with 2 to 4 participants per room depending on room size. Participants should be grouped according to sex and age group.
- Attempts should be made to have one chaperone of the same sex for each group.
- No chaperone or other staff members should spend the night in the same room with any unrelated minor participants.
- Chaperones must be cleared by a criminal background check and undergo awareness training before having any appropriate one-on-one interactions with a minor participant.
- The organization should ask the hotel to block pay-per-view channels in the rooms of each participant.
- Meetings should not occur in rooms and a large room or suite should be rented so that staff can meet and socialize as a group with minor participants.
- Family members attending the event should be encouraged to stay in the same hotel as participants.



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### STAFF AND CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Brief participants and parents/guardians prior to travel on policy guidelines, expectations, and travel and competition schedules.
- Follow all policies on preventing misconduct including travel, locker/changing rooms, and two-deep leadership.
- Assist participants in preparing for competitions.
- Encourage minor participants to engage in daily communications with parent/guardian.
- Set curfews based on age and competition schedule.
- No use of alcohol or drugs by chaperones in the presence of minors and they should not be under the influence while performing duties.
- Chaperones should make sure that staff complies with all travel and other misconduct policies.
- Immediately report any violation of travel or misconduct policy.
- Notify parent/guardian not traveling with the minor participant of any injuries, discipline problems, or any other concerns.

### REPORTING MISCONDUCT

#### REPORTING CHILD SEXUAL AND CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE

Any staff member or Authorized Adult who has a reasonable suspicion of Child Abuse as described in this policy, must within 24 hours:

1) notify law enforcement authorities as required by state and federal law; 2) notify the designated local resource for receiving such complaints, and 3) notify the BCYA's Youth Protection Officer

Under the Safe Sport Act, covered individuals must report suspicions of child abuse, including sexual abuse, within 24 hours to law enforcement. Failure to report may be a criminal violation under state and federal law. A covered individual is any adult who is authorized by an applicable amateur sports organization with a minor or amateur athlete.

BCYA will separately report such allegations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities as required by state and federal law if so required. Failure to report such misconduct may be a violation under state and/or federal law. An attorney should be consulted prior to reporting for advice on currently applicable state and federal law.

Participants and parents are also encouraged to report any reasonable suspicions of child sexual and child physical abuse to the local resource designated to receive such reports.

Resources for assistance with state and federal reporting requirements:

- Child Welfare Information Gateway: [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)
- Mandatory Reporters of Child Abuse and Neglect [http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/statutes/manda.cfm](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/statutes/manda.cfm)
- State Statute Search: [http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws\\_policies/state/](http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/laws_policies/state/)

#### AFTER REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

After a report of reasonable suspicion of misconduct to law enforcement has been made, whether for reasons of child sexual abuse, child physical abuse, or other illegal reportable misconduct, the following actions should take place by the appropriate, designated resource:

- Do not engage in any internal investigations or attempt to investigate the credibility of any such allegation. An independent investigation may interfere with the investigation of law enforcement. Allow law enforcement to





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conduct its own investigation. However, designated resource may ask a few clarifying questions of the complainant or minor(s) involved to adequately report the suspicion to law enforcement.

- To the extent permitted by law and appropriate, efforts should be made to protect the names and confidentiality of the complainant (if requested), the accused, and the victims.
- Immediately remove the accused staff member from his/her duties. No hearing is required and the accused has no right to defend himself/herself at this point because the safety and wellbeing of the participant is of utmost importance. The league may simply notify the accused individual that he/she is no longer eligible to participate in the organization's activities.
- After consulting with legal counsel, BCYA or the league member may decide at their discretion to inform other staff members, parents, and participants of any child sexual abuse or child physical abuse allegations that law enforcement is actively investigating, in an effort to find out if there may be other cases of child abuse that should also be reported to law enforcement.
- Once the investigation by law enforcement has concluded, to the organization can determine whether or not the accused can be reinstated or reassigned. Even if the investigation is inconclusive, the organization may use its discretion in deciding on reinstatement or reassignment.

### REPORTING OTHER MISCONDUCT, INCLUDING EMOTIONAL ABUSE, BULLYING, HARASSMENT, HAZING, OR GROOMING BEHAVIOR

Any staff member, participant, or parent who has a reasonable suspicion of emotional abuse, bullying, harassment, hazing, or grooming behavior should report within 24 hours such misconduct to Youth Protection Officer or designated individual authorized to receive such complaints locally.

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### HOW TO REPORT ALL MISCONDUCT TO THE ORGANIZATION

Reports of all misconduct may be made orally or in writing. The information required is the name of complainant(s) making the report, the type of misconduct alleged, the name(s) of the accused staff members who allegedly engaged in the misconduct, the approximate dates of misconduct, and any other relevant information.

### RESPONDING TO MISCONDUCT AND POLICY VIOLATIONS

Upon receiving a report of abuse, bullying, harassment, hazing, neglect or grooming behavior that is not reportable to law enforcement under state or federal law, an investigation should occur and appropriate action taken.

Factors to be considered in an investigation include the age of the alleged victim, the age of the alleged perpetrator, and the extent, nature, and scope of the allegations. Before taking any disciplinary action, the accused should have an opportunity to present his/her defense. If the accused is a minor, his or her coach and parents should be notified in advance.

The confidentiality of the complaint, complainant, victim, and accused should be protected by the organization until the outcome of the proceedings is finalized. Notice should be given about any sanction. The investigator should not discuss the ongoing investigation with anyone other than for the purposes of gathering information related to the investigation unless requested otherwise by law enforcement or child protective services. Likewise, participants in the hearing should be requested to keep all information confidential unless requested by law enforcement or child protective services.

Sanctions applied should be appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances.

Sanctions that may be applied against a staff member:

- Referral to law enforcement authorities if a crime is believed to have been committed
  - Dismissal in the event of extreme cases
- Temporary suspension.
- Reassignment of duties.





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- Formal warning.
- Place under the supervision of another staff member.

Sanctions that may be applied against a participant:

- Revocation of membership or participation in competitions
- Suspension of membership or participation in competitions
- Verbal/written warning
- Provided additional education and guidance

### WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION AND BAD FAITH ALLEGATION

Whistleblowers who report misconduct suspicions in good faith should be protected against any retaliation, punishment, and other harm regardless of the outcome of any investigation. To allow otherwise would defeat the purpose of the child abuse and misconduct risk management plan. Anyone who retaliates is subject to disciplinary action.

Likewise, complainants who act in bad faith in making malicious or frivolous allegations are subject to civil and criminal actions and disciplinary action by the organization.

### DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

In the event of media inquiries involving an allegation of misconduct, a single individual or attorney should be appointed as the sole media contact and any comment should be based on the following principles:

- The organization has notified the proper law enforcement authorities.
- The organization is following its internal policies and procedures regarding the allegation(s).
- The privacy of all involved individuals should be respected and protected throughout the proceedings.
- The identity of any accused perpetrator should not be disclosed unless 1) law enforcement is actively investigating and the name is a matter of public record; 2) law enforcement believes that the accusation is likely valid; and 3) the organization has taken action to sanction or remove the alleged perpetrator.

### SCREENING VOLUNTEERS

The BCYA member league should select a criminal background check vendor that will run a comprehensive background checks and will assist in interpreting results and in compliance with state and federal laws.

The criminal background check vendor should, at a minimum, run records from all 50 states to include the National Criminal Database and the National Sex Offender Registry.

All staff with access to youth, including directors, officers, coaches, assistant coaches, managers, travel chaperones, concession workers, field maintenance, etc., should undergo a background check for acceptability prior to initial assignment of duties. Thereafter, a subsequent background check should be run at least every two years. Steps should also be taken to ensure that individuals who may have more limited access to Youth (such as maintenance staff or food service staff) have undergone a background check. For same-day volunteers at one-time programming for whom more comprehensive screening may not be possible, a record should be made with the individual's name and identifying information must be recorded and stored for future access.

Member leagues should be responsible for implementing, monitoring, taking corrective action, disqualifying unfit candidates, and working with third-party background check vendors on all issues related to the criminal background check program. The Member league should maintain confidentiality to protect against possible claims of slander or libel. Member leagues should work with third-party vendors for assistance in interpreting background check results; sending adverse action notifications required by law; and to protect against possible claims under the Fair Credit Reporting Act, First Offender Act, and all other state and federal laws protecting those who undergo criminal background checks.

BCYA will also conduct background checks in accordance with this policy for its staff.



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### ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

**Disqualification Criteria:** To make sure that all staff are treated fairly and consistently, the following disqualification criteria should be used:

Individual adults found to be guilty of the following crimes should be disqualified as a staff member as outlined below.

- All sex offenses including child molestation, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sodomy, prostitution, solicitation, indecent exposure, etc.
- All felony involving violence including murder, manslaughter, aggravated assault, kidnapping, robbery, aggravated burglary, etc.
- Found to be guilty within the past 7 years of all misdemeanor violence offenses including simple assault, battery, domestic violence, hit & run, etc.
- Any other misdemeanor within the past 5 years that would be considered a potential danger to children or is directly related to the functions the individual will be providing, including contributing to the delinquency of a minor, providing alcohol to a minor, theft (if the volunteer is handling funds), etc.

Member leagues retain the right to consider other information obtained via the background check in accordance with applicable law.

Guilty means the applicant was found guilty following a trial, entered a guilty plea, entered a no contest plea accompanied by the court's finding of guilty, regardless of whether there was an adjudication of guilt (conviction) or a withholding of guilt. This policy does not apply if criminal charges resulted in acquittal, dismissal or in an entry of *nolle prosequi*.

### MONITORING AND SUPERVISION COMPLIANCE

The organization and its MO and MC should monitor and supervise the implementation and compliance of the child abuse and misconduct plan as follows:

- Require all staff to review this risk management plan and agree to abide by its guidelines and requirements.
- Require all staff having repeated access to youth to undergo and pass a criminal background check.
- Promptly address any reports of child abuse or other misconduct and take appropriate action.
- Observe and periodically spot check compliance with interactions at practice and games, locker/changing rooms, travel arrangements, and social media.
- Stay in touch with staff members, participants and parents to learn of any potential instances of misconduct.

### TRAINING FOR ADULTS AND MINORS

The Safe Sport Act requires sports organizations to provide training to Authorized Adults "in regular contact with Youth" regarding the "prevention and reporting of child abuse." Additionally, the Safe Sport Act requires minor training on preventing and reporting of child abuse.

Adults with regular contact with or access to Youth must complete Child Abuse prevention training and mandatory reporter training at regular intervals, with no more than 12-months between training.

All BCYA member organizations should distribute a document entitled "Abuse Avoidance Training for Minors" or a similar document from another source to each parent with a strong recommendation that each parent should review this document with their minor child.



## Braves Country Baseball

### **Distribution/Acknowledgment/Documentation**

A hard or electronic copy of this Policy should be distributed to each staff member prior to the start of every season. Each staff member should acknowledge in writing (print or electronic signature) that they have received and carefully reviewed the plan and that they will refrain from engaging in misconduct and will comply with the policies within this plan. The organization should maintain documentation on an annual basis that the plan was distributed and as staff agreement signatures collected.

BCYA retains the right to audit member leagues to ensure compliance with Safe Sport Act requirements and will require annual certification that required background checks were performed and required training provided.

#### Sources:

- U.S. Center for SafeSport; SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement; 12-28-2017
- U.S. Center for SafeSport; Practices and Procedures; 3-3-2017
- SafeSport Program Handbook; U.S. Figure Skating; 1-1-2018
- USA Basketball SafeSport Program Handbook; 11-9-2017
- Model Youth Football Safe Sport Policy; USA Football; 2-20-2015

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## Braves Country Baseball

### Other Requirements:

#### Risk Management:

All Member Leagues are required to implement a risk management plan that includes a Brain Injury/Concussion Risk Management program. A sample Brain Injury/Concussion Risk Management program document has been included herein for your convenience.

Insurance: All Member League should maintain insurance that includes, at a minimum, general liability insurance with coverage for premises liability, participant legal liability (for claims arising out of participants in athletic or sports activities, including tournaments), abuse and molestation claims, premises damage legal liability, property damage and bodily injury (including death) or equivalent self-insurance. BCYA may request a copy of a Certificate of Insurance evidencing the same.



## Braves Country Baseball

# Sample Brain Injury/Concussion Risk Management Program

## Policies and Educational Awareness Training

### IDENTIFY SUSPECTED CASES OF CONCUSSIONS

The highest medical authority at a practice or game is the person who is in the best position to diagnose a suspected concussion and to make the call. The presence of (or immediate access to) a medical doctor (MD), doctor of osteopathy (DO), athletic trainer (AT), physician's assistant (PA), nurse practitioner (NP), or paramedic (PM) trained in concussion recognition is ideal. However, in cases where medical professionals are not present or immediately available, a person should be present who is at least EMT certified or is currently certified in Red Cross Community First Aid or the equivalent.

**Signs observed by parents, guardians, or sports staff:** appears dazed or stunned; is confused about the assignment or position; forgets instructions; is unsure of game, score, or opponent; moves clumsily; answers questions slowly; loses consciousness (even briefly); shows behavior or personality changes; can't recall events prior to hit or fall; and can't recall events after hit or fall.

**Symptoms reported by player:** headache or pressure in the head; nausea or vomiting; balance problems or dizziness; double or blurry vision; sensitivity to light; sensitivity to noise; feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy; concentration or memory problems; confusion; or does not "feel right".

**What to do:** If athletes report or exhibit one or more of the signs listed above or say they "just don't feel right" after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, they may have a concussion and need to be further evaluated.

**Danger signs which require immediate medical attention:** one pupil larger than the other; drowsiness or inability to wake up; headache that gets worse and does not go away; weakness, numbness, or decreased coordination; repeated vomiting or nausea; slurred speech; convulsions or seizures; inability to recognize people or places; increasing confusion, restlessness, or agitation; unusual behavior, loss of consciousness (even brief). If one or more of these danger signs occur after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body: call 9-1-1 or transport the athlete immediately to the emergency room.

#### **On Field Medical Status Evaluation (Example Questions)\*: Orientation**

Questions: (ask the athlete)

What inning are we in?	Who scored last?
What field is this?	Do you remember the hit?
What city is this?	What team did we play last?
Who is the opposing team?	Repeat the following words: Girls, Dog, Green.

Concentration: (ask the athlete)

Repeat the days of the week backwards (starting with today)

Repeat the months of the year backward (starting with December)

Repeat these numbers backward 63, (36), 419 (914), 6294 (4926)



## Braves Country Baseball



### Exertional Maneuvers:

Complete 5 jumping jacks/Complete 5 sit ups.

### Word List Memory: (ask the athlete)

Repeat the three words from earlier: Girls, Dog, Green

\*Other superior sideline assessment tools are available including SCAT, ImPact, King Devit, and sideline apps such as HitCheck.

## ATHLETE REMOVAL BY SPORTS OFFICIAL AND RE-ENTRY INTO CONTEST

When an athlete has been removed from a contest by a sports official due to signs or symptoms of a concussion, the only persons who should clear an athlete's reentry are a medical doctor (MD), doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO), physician's assistant (PA), registered nurse practitioner (NP), paramedic (PM), or athletic trainer (AT). If none of these are present on-site at the contest, the athlete shall not return to that contest or any subsequent contest until cleared.

## IF A CONCUSSION IS SUSPECTED, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN

▶ **Remove the athlete from play** - if any of the signs and symptoms are observed, remove the athlete from play. When in doubt, sit them out!

▶ **Make sure the athlete is evaluated by an MD or DO who is experienced in evaluating concussions.** Let the professionals judge the severity.

☐ **Inform the athlete's parents / guardians and provide them with the CDC fact sheet** on "Concussions for parents" to help them monitor the athlete for signs and symptoms:

[http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/custom/headsupconcussion\\_fact\\_sheet\\_for\\_parents.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/custom/headsupconcussion_fact_sheet_for_parents.pdf)

☐ **Keep the athlete out of play the day of the injury AND until an MD or DO experienced in evaluating concussion says it's OK for the athlete to return.** The MD or DO must provide written medical clearance and the athlete should be asymptomatic at rest and with exertion. The MD or DO should require the athlete to follow a progressive return to play protocol. Here is a link to the CDC's progressive return to play protocol:

[https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/return\\_to\\_sports.html](https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/basics/return_to_sports.html)

## INSTRUCTION AND SUPERVISION

▶ Athletes should wear the proper sport specific equipment such as helmets.

▶ Teach and practice safety rules of play and encourage good sportsmanship.

▶ Teach and practice correct sport specific techniques for minimizing injuries.

### Proper Fitting and Care of Helmets

All equipment managers and coaches should be trained on the proper fitting and care of helmets.



## Braves Country Baseball



### EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS THROUGH ONLINE TRAINING AND INFORMATION HANDOUTS AND ADMINISTRATION/DOCUMENT RETENTION

#### Coaches Basic Concussion Training Course (Free)

All coaches should complete the CDC Heads UP to Youth Sports: Online Training For Coaches video every two years with certificate of completion documentation retained at team/association/conference level for a period of at least 15 years: <https://www.train.org/cdctrain/course/1089818/details>

#### Athlete/Parent Concussion Awareness Information Sheet

The following CDC Parent / Athlete Concussion Information Sheet should be distributed annually to all athletes and parents (if minor participants) with the signed and dated sheet retained at the team/association/conference level for a period of at least 15 years: [http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/youthsports/parent\\_athlete\\_info\\_sheet-a.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/headsup/pdfs/youthsports/parent_athlete_info_sheet-a.pdf)

### COMPLIANCE WITH STATE CONCUSSION LAWS AND NFHS RECOMMENDATIONS

To the extent that our state's concussion laws exceed the requirements outlined above, we should comply with our state's law. A summary of state concussion laws can be found at: <http://www.lawatlas.org/preview?dataset=sc-reboot>

To the extent that our state's version of National Federation of High School Associations (NFHS) rules, regulations, or recommendations on brain injury exceed the requirements outlined above, we should comply with such standards.

### DISTRIBUTION/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/DOCUMENTATION

A hard or electronic copy of this risk management program which includes policies and educational awareness training should be distributed to each administrator and staff member prior to the start of every season. Each should acknowledge in writing (wet or electronic signature) that they have received and carefully reviewed the entire program and will comply with its terms. The sports organization should maintain documentation on an annual basis that this risk management plan was distributed as well as the administrator and staff acknowledgements.

**THIS SAMPLE BRAIN INJURY RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IS MEANT TO PROVIDE GENERAL POLICIES AND EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS TRAINING AND IS NOT AN ALL ENCOMPASSING PROGRAM. THIS SAMPLE PLAN MAY CONTAIN INCORRECT INFORMATION OR MAY OMIT CRITICAL INFORMATION. EACH PROGRAM SHOULD CONSULT OTHER SOURCES AND EXPERTS IN ORDER TO CUSTOMIZE THEIR OWN PROGRAMS. NO LEGAL ADVICE IS BEING PROVIDED.**



## Braves Country Baseball

Braves Country Youth Baseball Association, Inc. is committed to the well-being, safety, and protection of minors and to upholding the legal requirements imposed by the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017 (“**Safe Sport Act**”) and the BCYA Child Abuse and Other Misconduct Risk Management Policy. In accordance with these requirements and in connection with participation as a Member of Braves Country Baseball and/or Braves Country Softball (the “**Events**”), the undersigned third-party hereby represents and certifies that:

1. In connection with the Events, Third-Party complies with the applicable provisions of the Safe Sport Act or any other similarly-applicable law or regulation.
2. All Authorized Adults responsible for participating minors have cleared appropriate, reasonable, and customary screening, such as a criminal background check and sex offender registry check if so required.
3. All Authorized Adults responsible for participating minors have received some minimal child abuse prevention training, including training on the identification, prevention, and reporting of child abuse, including sexual abuse.
4. Defined procedures have been implemented for the monitoring of program participants and that clear delineation of supervision responsibilities has been developed for the purpose of preventing child abuse or sexual abuse.
5. Third-Party will notify BCYA Youth Protection Officer of any incidents or allegations of child abuse or sexual misconduct.
6. Third-Party maintains records demonstrating its screening and training procedures for each adult who will be participating in the Event.

Third-Party Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Authorized Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## Braves Country Baseball

### Braves Country Baseball and Softball Association



## **WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

For and in consideration of Braves Productions, LLC, and Braves Country Youth Association allowing me, the undersigned Participant, to voluntarily participate in Braves Country Baseball and Softball Association practices, games, tournaments, and related activities (collectively, the "Activities"), I, for myself, and on behalf of my spouse, children, Minor(s) (as defined below), heirs and next of kin, and any legal and personal representatives, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, hereby agree to and make the following contractual representations pursuant to this Agreement (the "Agreement"):

**RULES AND REGULATIONS:** I acknowledge that my participation in the Activities shall be subject to the rules and regulations established for the Activities, and I hereby agree to abide by these rules and regulations.

**STATEMENT OF HEALTH:** I certify that I am in good health and in proper physical condition to participate in Activities, and do not have any mental or physical conditions or impairments which would preclude my safe participation in such activities.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK:** I knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily acknowledge the inherent risks associated with participation in the Activities, including baseball and softball, involve risks and dangers including, without limitation, the potential for serious bodily injury, sickness and disease (including communicable diseases, virus or bacteria), trauma, pain & suffering, permanent disability, paralysis and death; loss of or damage to personal or real property; the possibility of being hit by bats or balls; contact with other participants; facilities or premises issues, including hazards resulting in slips, trips, and falls; accidents involving other participants or the general public; situations beyond the immediate control of the Released Parties (as defined below); and other undefined, not readily foreseeable and presently unknown risks and dangers ("Risks").

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** I understand that the aforementioned Risks may be caused in whole or in part or result directly or indirectly from the negligence of my own actions or inactions, the actions or inactions of others participating in the Activities, or the negligent acts or omissions of the Released Parties defined below, and I hereby voluntarily and knowingly assume all such Risks and responsibility for any damages, liabilities, losses, or expenses incurred as a result of my participation.

**WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, HOLD HARMLESS AND INDEMNITY:** In conjunction with my participation in the Activities, I hereby release, waive, and covenant not to sue, and further agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the following parties: Atlanta National League Baseball Club, LLC, Braves Productions, LLC, Major League Baseball, Braves Country Youth Association, The Vandergriff Youth Foundation, facility owners & operators, parks & recreation departments, districts, and each of their respective parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies, and all of their respective owners, officers, directors, managers, contractors, agents, employees, coaches, officials, volunteers, sponsors, successors and assigns (collectively, the "Released Parties"), with respect to any liability, claim(s), demand(s), cause(s) of action, damage(s), loss(es) or expense(s) (including court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees) of any kind or nature ("Liability"), which may arise out of, result from, or relate in any way to my participation in the Activities, including claims for Liability caused in whole or in part by the negligent acts or omissions of the Released Parties. If, despite this Agreement, I, or anyone on my behalf, makes a claim for Liability against any of the Released Parties, I will indemnify, defend, and hold harmless each of the Released Parties from any such Liabilities, which any may be incurred as the result of such claim.

**PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE:** I hereby grant the Released Parties and/or their sponsors the perpetual, worldwide right to make both visual and/or audio recordings and still images of me and/or the Minor and to use my and the Minor's name,



## Braves Country Baseball



image, voice, likeness, and biographical information in connection with the Activities in any of games, programming, promotional/marketing materials, community affairs initiatives, and/or other media (collectively, the "Media") and for the purpose of advertising, marketing and/or promoting the Released Parties and/or their sponsors. I agree that the rights granted hereunder shall include the perpetual, worldwide right of the Released Parties and/or their sponsors to edit, telecast, cablecast, rerun, record, publish, reproduce, use, license, print, distribute, or otherwise exploit my and the Minor's name, image, voice, likeness, and biographical information in any manner and in any medium or forum whether now known or hereafter devised, in whole or in part, without any further compensation to me.

**COVID:** This section is an acknowledgement and express assumption of risk and release of liability in any way related to me/my minor child ("Minor") being exposed to or contracting COVID-19 (as defined by the World Health Organization) and any strains, variants, or mutations thereof, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and/or any other communicable and/or infectious diseases, viruses, bacteria or illnesses or the causes thereof (collectively, Communicable Disease), during or in connection with my/my Minor's participation in the Activities and/or my/my Minor's presence at any of the facilities where Activities take place (the "Facilities"). By participating in the Activities and/or being present at the Facilities, I acknowledge and expressly assume the risk that I/my Minor may be exposed to Communicable Disease. I expressly understand that the risks of exposure to Communicable Disease include contracting Communicable Disease and the associated dangers, medical complications (including death), and physical and mental injuries, both foreseen and unforeseen, that may result from contracting Communicable Disease. I further acknowledge and understand that my/my Minor's interaction with Activities staff, participants, and any other individuals present at the Facilities poses an elevated, inherent risk of being exposed to and contracting Communicable Disease, that it cannot be guaranteed that I/my Minor will not be exposed to Communicable Disease, and that potential exposure to or contraction of Communicable Disease while participating in the Activities and/or being present at the Facilities are risks that cannot be eliminated. If infected with Communicable Disease, I acknowledge and understand that I/my Minor may subsequently infect others, even if I/my Minor do not experience or display any symptoms. In connection with the foregoing, I agree that I/my Minor will not participate in the Activities or be present at the Facilities if, within ten (10) days preceding the Activities, I/my Minor (i) tested positive or presumptively positive for Communicable Disease or was identified as a potential carrier of Communicable Disease, (ii) experienced any symptoms commonly associated with Communicable Disease, including, without limitation, fever, cough, loss of sense of taste or smell, or shortness of breath; (iii) traveled to a country that is subject to a U.S. State Department Level 4 Do Not Travel Advisory or a CDC Level 3 Travel Health Notice (each, a "Prohibited Country") and/or (iv) was in direct contact with or the immediate vicinity of any person who is either confirmed or suspected of being infected with Communicable Disease or who has travelled to a Prohibited Country within ten (10) days preceding my/my Minor's encounter with such person. I further agree that I/my Minor will submit to any health screening and/or Communicable Disease testing that may be required as a condition of my/my Minor's participation in the Activities and/or presence at the Facilities.

**CALIFORNIA RESIDENTS:** I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE THAT I AM FAMILIAR WITH AND DO HEREBY WAIVE THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 1542 OF THE CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE (AND SIMILAR PROVISIONS OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS) WHICH PROVIDES AS FOLLOWS: "A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY."

**COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:** This Agreement represents the complete understanding between the parties regarding these issues and no oral representations, statements or inducements have been made apart from this Agreement. If any provision of this Agreement is held to be unlawful, void, or for any reason unenforceable, then that provision shall be deemed severable from this Agreement and shall not affect the validity and enforceability of any remaining provisions.



## Braves Country Baseball

### Participant Consent

*By signing below, I warrant that I have read this Agreement carefully, understand its terms and conditions, acknowledge that I will be giving up substantial legal rights by signing it (including the rights of my spouse, children, Minors, parents, guardians, heirs and next of kin, and any legal and personal representatives, executors, administrators, successors and assigns), and intend for my signature to serve as confirmation of my complete and unconditional acceptance of this Agreement.*

NAME OF PARTICIPANT (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH:  
\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Participant* *Date Signed*

### Parental Consent (required if the Participant is less than eighteen (18) years of age):

*As the Parent or Legal Guardian of the Minor shown above, I hereby accept and agree to the terms and conditions of this Agreement.*

NAME OF PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN (PRINT): \_\_\_\_\_ AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF  
BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

X \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian* *Date Signed*



## Braves Country Baseball



### Checklist:

- Park registration deadline: November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Registration fee deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Receive member bags and/or patch: March 1<sup>st</sup>
- All Star registration deadline: May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Submit All Star roster: May 12<sup>th</sup>
- Tournaments start: May 25<sup>th</sup>
  - District Tournament: June 8/9
  - Regional Tournament: June 15/16
  - Open Championship: June 15/16
  - State Tournament: June 22/23
  - Braves Country Championships: June 29/30