

Naperville Baseball Club (NBC)

What is it?

Naperville Baseball Club is a group of part-time travel baseball teams comprised of players and coaches from current Naperville Little League Baseball teams. The club's operations fall under the operations of Naperville Little League.

Participation is in addition to the NLLB schedule, and games are often held on Sundays. Hence the club has previously been known as "Sunday baseball," or also "Lite Travel."

Purpose

NBC was formed to satisfy the desire for a more competitive, developmental baseball experience in complement to NLLB, but without the time commitment and cost of full-time travel baseball. The goal is for kids to continue improving their skills in a developmental environment while playing competitive games with and against players at their own skill level.

Whenever possible, every effort will be made to ensure that all participating players receive a rewarding, competitive baseball experience.

Teams

Teams are formed largely in accordance with Naperville Little League boundaries: Continental League players, who live primarily in the Naperville Central High School borders, are often on teams known as the "Redhawks." National League players, who live largely in the borders of Naperville North or Metea, are often on the "Huskies." Republic League players, who primarily will attend either Neuqua Valley or Waubonsie, are often on the "Wildcats." You may [consult this link](#) to see which NLLB league your child is in based on his/her current school and/or residence.

If necessary, league boundaries may be crossed for team composition if the player pool is not sufficient to field competitive teams within league boundaries. For instance, National and Republic teams were combined at some age levels for the 2021 season. These decisions will be made on a year-by-year basis.

Naperville baseball clubs have no affiliations with the local high schools. They are not to be considered high school feeder teams or NLLB All-Star teams.

Age Groups

NBC offers teams at the 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U age levels. Age is determined by the Little League age matrix. [Click here](#) to determine your child's age for NBC participation.

Competition

NBC teams participate in the Chicagoland Sunday Baseball Organization, comprised of teams from leagues similar to Naperville Little League throughout the Chicagoland area such as Barrington, Tinley Park and even Chicago. Some are farther, some are closer. Chicagoland Sunday Baseball offers two levels of play — one for more competitive teams (AA), and one for teams focused primarily on instruction (A).

Teams may compete in either the AA or A divisions. Decisions on which division teams will compete in will be made year by year, based on the depth of talent and roster composition.

Games

Including the NLLB season, NBC players will typically play no more than about 40-45 total games in the spring/summer. Teams generally play 10-12 regular season games plus a Memorial Day weekend tournament (no NLLB games are scheduled that weekend). NBC teams may opt to play in additional games/tournaments during and after the NLLB season, and perhaps even in Fall Ball (additional cost). Fall Ball marks the beginning of the next year's baseball calendar, not an extension of the previous one.

Regular-season games will be largely on Sundays and perhaps other days of the week as schedules and field ability allow. Tournaments are typically held Thursday-Sunday.

Rules

Rules and field size vary by age and are not always the same as traditional Little League rules and field size. 9- and 10-year-olds play on the same field dimensions as traditional Little League (46-foot pitcher's mound, 60-foot bases), while 11- and 12-year-olds move up to 50-foot mounds and 70-foot bases. Chicagoland Sunday Baseball includes true leadoffs, pickoffs, balks and dropped 3rd strike in an effort to encourage base-stealing and other elements of "real baseball." These are important developmental stepping stones to the rules and field sizes players will compete on at age 13 (54-foot pitcher's mound, 80-foot bases) and age 14 on (60-foot mound, 90-foot bases).

Is NBC for me?

This offering is for kids who are serious about baseball, love playing the game, have a strong desire to play more games than the regular NLLB season offers and are interested in developing their skills at the next level. Players should have a commitment to attend and strive to become better. We encourage participation in multiple sports, but players choosing to play NBC baseball should be willing and able to make baseball their priority in-season. NBC is not for players who simply wish to be able to say they were on a Redhawks, Huskies or Wildcats team. It is understood that players will occasionally miss games due to family commitments and other obligations.

Manager selection

Selection of managers at each age level will be made by the NBC committee, player agents and the NLLB Board President each holding one of three votes. Player agents will cast their vote via managerial nominations to the NBC committee, which will in turn either vote for those candidates or pose alternative candidates. The board president's vote will be used to break ties where necessary. While preference may be given to the continuity of manager from one year to the next, return selection as manager should not be assumed. Tentative manager selections will be determined prior to the tryout dates listed above, pending sufficient talent at the tryout to support the intended number of teams.

Team assignments

Players will be evaluated and assigned to teams by a mix of past coaches, new coaches and independent evaluators with the final roster approval made by the NBC committee. In cases where the talent pool is sufficiently deep to field multiple teams at a given age level and competitive level (e.g., the 2020 Continental 12s) team rosters will be formed in one of two ways. Method 1 is to form teams with balanced talent. In this method of team formation, a serpentine draft will be held among the managers of each team with first pick determined by a game of chance (e.g., cutting cards). Method 2 is to form teams of different skill level (an A and a B team). In this method, the highest rated players in the tryout will be placed on one team with some allowances for pitching to be moved across rosters to make sure players are utilized properly.

Teams will be formed no later than Sept. 15 based on skill level with the intent that each child is playing with and against his/her appropriate peer group. While an attempt will be made to accommodate every child who would like to play NBC, team placement is not guaranteed. Number of teams will be determined by overall depth of the player pool, as well as available managers and coaches. In many cases teams will carry additional players to accommodate conflicts, family trips, etc.

Cost

Registration cost for the 2021 NBC season varies from \$225 - \$265, including fitted uniform/hat, insurance, fields, umpires, and entry into one in-season tournament. Additional costs are dependent on potential additional tournaments, additional indoor practice costs, etc. This cost is in addition to the regular-season NLLB registration fee.

Questions

Should you have any questions, comments, or want more information please contact one of these Naperville Baseball Club volunteers:

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