

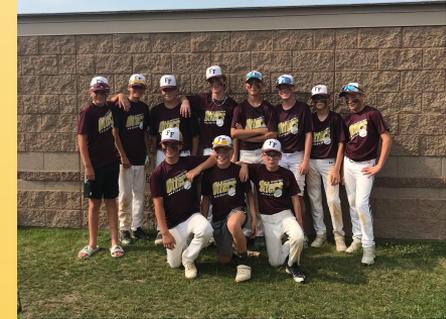
Fergus Falls Youth Baseball

March 17, 2026



Welcome

Player/Parent Information Meeting





Teams/Levels of Play

Gopher State Postseason Classic teams (formerly MSF)

9U-12U Baseball

Babe Ruth sanctioned teams

13U (7th Grade) Baseball

14U (8th Grade) Baseball

16U/15U Baseball

Legion sanctioned teams

Junior Legion Baseball

Senior Legion Baseball (non FFYB)



Information

Schedules

Practice

Games

Fundraising



Information - Coaches

- Expectations of Coaches
 - Communicate clearly with parents and players
 - Communicate schedules to parents/players each week for the upcoming week
 - Clearly communicate roles with the players
 - Practice plans
 - Game plans (including batting practice before games)



Information - Players

- Expectations of Players
 - Respect
 - Yourself, teammates, coaches, opponents, and umpires
 - Effort
 - Always try your best
 - Attitude
 - Baseball is a game of failure—learn to deal with adversity
 - Communicate
 - With coaches when you are going to be gone
 - With coaches if unhappy with your role or if you have questions
 - Work on skills outside of practice



Information - Parents

- Expectations of Parents
 - Respect coaches, umpires, opposing fans, and players
 - 24-hour rule on communication with coaches after games
 - Do not coach from the stands or enter the dugout
 - If you have questions, ask the coach or a board member
 - If you have an issue with a coach, please discuss that with the coach first (at the right time and place) and if it can't be resolved at that time, talk to a board member (board members are listed on our website)
 - *Always* encourage your players to talk to coaches first if at all possible



Information - Parents

- If a parent/fan gets ejected from a game/tournament you will:
 - not be allowed to attend the next two games.
 - issue an apology to the team, parents, opposing team, and/or the tournament director.
 - appear before the FFYB Board of Directors to explain the situation prior to attending future events.
 - Ump 2 doubleheaders
- If a parent/fan gets ejected more than once, the FFYB reserves the right to not allow attendance at any future games (home or away) for the remainder of the season.
- If this were to happen at the end of the season, this expectation will carry over to the following year/season.



Information - Parents and Players

Eye Black Policy:

We will conform with High School rules:

One single eye black line only below each eye.

No other designs or messages allowed.



9u Season

- Coaches
 - Taylor Fuhs (Head Coach)
 - Mick Johnson
- Tryouts
 - Depending on number of sign-ups, tryouts will happen in April (likely early to middle of the month)
- Playing Time
 - Double-headers—playing time will be relatively even
 - Tournaments—play to win, which means kids will not play the same amount
 - MYAS rules require that all players in the lineup bat and we will follow that in tournaments and doubleheaders (every player is a DH)



9u Season (Continued)

- Schedule
 - Practices start in April and continue into July
 - Goal is to have 2-3 contact days per week with the players between games and practices
 - 2-3 local tournaments
 - Moorhead, June 5-7
 - Little Falls, June 20-21
 - Around 20 games (6-10 doubleheaders with area teams)
 - Most games are within an hour drive
 - No state tournament at this age.



10u Season

- Coaches
 - Mike Riewer (Head Coach)
 - Josh Steer (Assistant Coach)
- Tryouts
 - Depending on number of sign-ups, tryouts will happen in April (likely early to middle of the month)
- Playing Time
 - Double-headers—playing time will be relatively even
 - Tournaments—play to win, which means kids will not play the same amount
 - MSF/MYAS rules require that all players in the lineup bat and we will follow that in tournaments and doubleheaders (every player is a DH)



10u Season (Continued)

- Schedule
 - Practices start in April and continue into July
 - Goal is to have 2-4 contact days per week with the players between games and practices
 - 2-3 State Tournament Qualifiers
 - May 15-17, Fargo
 - June 5-7, Moorhead
 - June 20, Swanville
 - Around 20 games (10 doubleheaders with area teams)
 - Most games are within an hour drive
 - If qualify for the State Tournament, tournament will be July 24-26 in Brainerd



11u Season

- Coaches
 - Billy Gronwold (Head Coach)
 - Jon Anderson, Dusty Christenson
- Tryouts
 - Depending on number of sign-ups, tryouts/placements will happen in April (likely middle of the month)
- Playing Time
 - Double-headers—playing time will be relatively even
 - Tournaments—play to win, which means kids will not play the same amount
 - MYAS rules require that all players in the lineup bat and we will follow that in tournaments and doubleheaders (every player is a DH)



11u Season (Continued)

- Schedule
 - Practices start in April and continue into July
 - Goal is to have 2-4 contact days per week with the players between games and practices
 - 2 State Tournament Qualifiers
 - June 19-21, Breckenridge
 - June 28, Morris
 - Around 20 games (10 doubleheaders with area teams)
 - Most games are within an hour drive
 - If qualify for the State Tournament, tournament will be July 24-26 in Marshall



12u Season

- Coaches
 - Justin Arneson (Head Coach) & TBD
 - (Assistant Coach)
- Tryouts
 - Tryouts will happen in April (likely early to middle of the month)
- Playing Time
 - Double-headers—playing time will be relatively even
 - Tournaments—play to win, which means kids will not play the same amount
 - MYAS rules require that all players in the lineup bat and we will follow that in tournaments and doubleheaders (every player is a DH)



12u Season (Continued)

- Season long 2 evenly divided teams
 - FFYB board decided most effective strategy for long term development of baseball players will be even split teams.
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12u Season (Continued)

- Schedule
 - Practices start in April and continue into July
 - Goal is to have 2-4 contact days per week with the players between games and practices
 - 2-3 State Tournament Qualifiers per team
 - June 5-7, Moorhead
 - June 20-21, Breckenridge
 - June 21, Swanville
 - June 28, Morris (Both teams)
 - Around 20 games (10 doubleheaders with area teams)
 - Most games are within an hour drive
 - If qualify for the State Tournament, tournament will be July 24-26 in Brainerd



13u Season

- Coaches
 - Ben Brimhall (Head Coach)
 - JJ Truax (Assistant Coach)
- Tryouts
 - Depending on number of sign-ups, tryouts will happen in March (first week or two of practice).
- Schedule
 - April to May
 - Doubleheaders with 7th grade school teams in area
 - June to July
 - Babe Ruth Schedule--will play one or two times per week (likely doubleheaders)--Start time TBD but between 5:00 and 6:30
 - Middle to end of July--Babe Ruth postseason



13u Season (Continued)

- Schedule
 - Practices start March 30 and continue into July
 - Goal is to have 3-4 contact days per week with the players between games and practices
 - 2 Tournaments
 - May 1-2 (Fargo North)
 - June 6-7 (Perham)
 - Babe Ruth District Tournament (July x)
 - Babe Ruth State Tournament (one week later)
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13u Season (Continued)

- Playing Time
 - Typically only bat 10 players (9 players in field plus EH)
 - Depending on roster numbers, in April/May may bat entire lineup
 - Playing time will not be even
 - For a doubleheader, every kid will play (unless there is a specific reason for not playing—discipline, missing practice, etc.)
 - If not in the lineup, there is the opportunity for pinch running, courtesy running, and pinch hitting



14u Season

- Coaches
 - Randy Kempfer (Head Coach)
 - Matt Johnson & Ryan Johnson (Assistant Coach)
- Tryouts
 - Depending on number of sign-ups, tryouts will happen in March (first week or two of practice)
- Schedule
 - April to May
 - Doubleheaders with local 8th grade school teams—4:30 start time for games
 - June to July
 - Babe Ruth Schedule—will play one or two times per week (likely doubleheaders)--Start Time TBD but between 5:00 and 6:30
 - Middle to end of July—Babe Ruth postseason



14u Season (Continued)

- Schedule
 - Practices start March 30 and continue into July
 - Goal is to have 3-4 contact days per week with the players between games and practices
 - 2 Tournaments
 - April 24-25 (Fargo North)
 - June 6-7 (Perham)
 - Babe Ruth District Tournament (July x)
 - Babe Ruth State Tournament (July x)
 - All Star Regional July 22-26 in Sioux Falls (winner advances to World Series).



14u Season (Continued)

Playing Time

- Typically only bat 10 players (9 players in field plus EH)
- Depending on roster numbers, in April/May may bat entire lineup
- Playing time will not be even
- For a doubleheader, every kid will play (unless there a specific reason for not playing—discipline, missing practice, etc.)
- If not in the lineup, there is the opportunity for pinch running, courtesy running, and pinch hitting



Fundraising

- Raffle Fundraiser or text a thon
 - Each player(9U-Junior Legion) is responsible for selling \$200 of raffle tickets
 - Raffle Fundraiser will be held on July 2nd in between the Jr. Legion games at Delagoon (likely around 6:00)
 - Parents will pay for the raffle tickets when the tickets are distributed
 - Tickets will be distributed at the end of May/beginning of June
 - In the past, prizes have been cash, gift certificates to Service Food, Taco John's for a year, InVision sunglasses and a Fergus Home & Hardware gift certificate
 - If anyone has any ideas or is willing to donate something to the fundraiser, please let me know.



Where does my money go?

- Equipment
 - Balls, bats, helmets, catcher's gear, etc.
- Registration Fees
 - Tournaments, Babe Ruth, and Jr. Legion
- Coaches
 - Mileage and coaches' pay (9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u, 14u are all volunteer coaches)
- Field Improvements
 - Batting cages, agralime, scoreboard, new pitching station
- Umps
- Field use (we pay to rent the college field and portable restroom)
- Insurance



Bat Recommendations/rules:

- 9u-12u: USSSA (preferred) or USA bats
 - 9u: 27-28", drop 10
 - 10u: 28", drop 10
 - 11u: 28-29", drop 10 or 8
 - 12u: 29-30", drop 8 or 5
- 13u & up: USSSA (not allowed), BBCOR (preferred) or USA
 - 13u: 30", drop 3
 - 14u: 30-31", drop 3
- USSSA bats are fragile and lose their pop, use in game only. Better to use old bat or wood bat in the cage.



Goals of the FFYB

- Positive experience for your player
- How to be a competitor
- Ongoing development of baseball skills
- Being a team player, a good teammate, and a role model
- Deal with adversity and success
- How to win
- HAVE FUN BEING AROUND THE GAME OF BASEBALL
- Questions?



Clothing store

- Opened yesterday! Closes on March 31st.
- It will open again in late April.
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Questions

