



Competitive Baseball for Players Ages 9-14 in the Pikes Peak Region

What are the major differences between Pikes Peak Competitive Baseball and the other leagues in the area?

Major rules differences

- Leading off and base stealing are allowed.
- Pitchers are required to pitch from both the wind-up and the stretch.
- Batter may run on a dropped third strike.
- Teams may play multiple games on the same calendar day.

Benefits

- Higher level of competition.
- Increased opportunities to play teams from other states.
- Opportunities to participate in out-of-state tournaments and events without having to win a qualifying tournament.
- Tournament games are played against teams grouped by single years (e.g. 12U, 11U) not two years inclusive (11 and 12's).

Some facts about Pikes Peak Competitive Baseball Association

- The P.P.C.B.A was founded in 1993 for players who wanted to play by National League rules and prepare for high school play.
- The P.P.C.B.A is governed by a board of directors that is elected by the coaches and managers of active P.P.C.B.A. teams.
- Most P.P.C.B.A. teams travel to out-of-town tournaments.
- Players on each team are selected by the team manager and coaches, not by a league wide draft.
- Not every player who attends either a private team tryout or a P.P.C.B.A. open tryout is guaranteed to be selected or placed on a team.
- The 10 and under developmental league may include players (and coaches) who express an interest in but are new to competitive baseball, with players assigned to teams by the league's board of directors and the Director of League Development.
- League meetings are held on a regular basis at Play at the Bullpen, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Dates and times are announced on the website, via email and in the Gazette bulletin board on the Sunday prior to each meeting.
- Each active team is required to have at least one representative at each league meeting.
- Multiple opportunities for state tournament and post season play at several different levels of competition (Majors/AAA/AA or Division 1 or 2).

Some frequently asked questions about PPCBA ...

Are there tryouts, or how do I find a team?

There are usually two types of tryouts. Teams may have a private tryout when they need to fill roster spots. P.P.C.B.A. will hold open tryouts, with coaches from each league team in attendance to evaluate the players. Both tryouts are usually announced in the Bulletin Board of the Sports section of the Sunday Gazette. P.P.C.B.A. tryouts will also be listed on the website <www.ppcba.org> along with a list of teams looking for players.

How much money can I expect to spend each year?

It depends on how many tournaments your team plays, how elaborate your uniforms are and how far you travel, but you could spend anywhere from \$125.00 to \$750.00 (not including hotels, meals, etc.).

Once I pay my team fees, is my son guaranteed equal playing time?

In P.P.C.B.A. League games each coach is required to play each player on his roster 6 of the first 12 outs of each game. They must also bat their entire roster in each league game. This ensures the player of 2 defensive innings and an at bat even in the most lopsided games. During tournament games however, playing time is entirely up to the head coach and may be based on a player's performance. Not many coaches would have you drive out of town for a tournament and then not make sure your son plays in each game, but on a competitive team trying to win a tournament, it could happen.

Parents should remember that "competitive" baseball not only means that the games are played at a more competitive level, but players on each team are competing against the other players on the roster for starting positions and for playing time, just like any high school varsity sport.

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How much travel is involved and how far will we travel?

Some teams choose to travel to tournaments in places as far away as New York, Florida, California and even Puerto Rico, while some teams don't travel at all. Most teams travel to at least a couple of tournaments around the state each year, usually tournaments in Denver, Ft. Collins, Grand Junction and Steamboat Springs.

How long does the season last and when does it begin?

League games begin in mid-April and go through the end of June. State tournaments are usually held in mid-July, and a few tournaments finish in early August. Some of the more competitive teams play in tournaments in March and early April and may either practice all year, or start practicing in January. The average season is from mid-February to mid-July.

What fields will P.P.C.B.A. play it's games on?

Although we don't know until January of each year exactly what fields we are permitted to use for our league games, here is a list of fields we have used in the past and their general location within the city:

- Goose Gossage (North Central)
- Leon Young (S.Central)
- Palmer Park (East)
- El Pomar (I-25 & Circle)
- Village Green (Northeast)

Before I commit to a team, what kind of questions should I ask the coach?

Many problems that arise during the season between parents and coaches can be easily avoided by establishing honest and open communication with the manager or head coach of your prospective team ahead of time. Here are some questions you probably want to ask before you commit to any competitive team:

- How many games a year will we play?
- Will we travel to tournaments and how far?
- Where will we play our league games and at what time of the day? How many times a week?
- What experience does the coach and his staff have coaching baseball? Competitive baseball?
- What are the uniform costs and estimated league fees expenses for each player?
- When do you start practice? Is this a year-round commitment? Do we have an indoor facility for off-season workouts?
- What are the required fund raising commitments for my family?
- What is the coach's policy regarding playing time in tournaments?
- Is my son guaranteed a spot on the team from year to year, or do you have tryouts each year?
- What factors go into the coaches decision on whether to invite a player back or not?
- If the coach does not plan on inviting my son back on the team, what is the coaches policy or plan for letting us know?
- How does this coach handle "cutting" a player?



Visit our website at www.ppcba.org