



# **PRAIRIE BASEBALL ACADEMY INFORMATION Handbook 2020-2021**

For more information regarding 2020-2021 season please contact the staff:

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# **PBA MISSION STATEMENT**

- ! To be a respected leader in the community recognized for a progressive, visualistic, community oriented and community supportive approach to sports.**
- ! To be respected for having non-compromising principles, values, and integrity within our organization.**
- ! To encourage and assist all participants in the pursuit of academic and athletic excellence, but never allow the first to be compromised by the latter.**
- ! To attract top-level coaching, instructional, technical and training personnel to our program.**
- ! To provide this top level of instruction to as many Canadians as possible.**
- ! To bring the educational communities in Lethbridge together for the betterment of all involved.**
- ! To become a self-sufficient, self-sustaining organization by developing unique marketing, promotional and fund-raising activities within the City of Lethbridge and the surrounding communities.**
- ! To assist, promote, and encourage the development of baseball organizations at all amateur levels.**

# **ACADEMICS**

**As a “Student Athlete”, academics must come first. In order for any athlete to move onto the next level of competition, they must be able to present their academic background, hence they must place academics at the top of their priority list of goals to accomplish. In order to allow you to have as much success as possible academically, PBA has Academic Advisors in place for you to go to whenever you need assistance. The advisors will help you with choosing your classes, will help you if you need counseling, will arrange for any academic assistance (tutors) you may require as well as helping you get financial assistance if required.**

## **PBA Scholarship Requirements:**

- **2.0 GPA minimum**
- **Full time student at either the U of L or the Lethbridge College**

**PBA offers approximately \$ 75,000 to their student athletes in the form of scholarships. These scholarships will be presented at our annual Awards night and Banquet to be held in January/February each year. Students must apply for these scholarships to the Academic Advisor. For this year, high school students do not qualify for our current scholarship program.**

# **PRAIRIE BASEBALL ACADEMY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

## **UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE:**

- **Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 hours per week per semester. PBA recommends that athletes be registered in 12 hours per week per semester.**
- **Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the minimum hours required**

## **LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE:**

- **Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 9 hours per week per semester. PBA recommends that athletes be registered in 12-15 hours per week.**
- **Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the minimum hours required**

## **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:**

- **Students must be enrolled in a minimum of 10 credits. PBA recommends that athletes must be enrolled in enough credits to obtain their HS diploma.**
- **Students must maintain a 60% GPA in every course they are registered in.**

## **RECOMMENDED REQUIREMENTS:**

### **U of L and LC:**

- **15 – 18 hours per semester**
- **2.5 GPA**

### **High School Students:**

- **15- 20 credits per semester**
- **75% average or better in all diploma courses**

**By following these recommended requirements, PBA will have a better opportunity of assisting you in moving on to a 4-year collegiate baseball program either in Canada or in the United States. Should you have any questions at all regarding your academics, please contact the PBA academic advisor for advice and/or assistance.**

# INTEGRITY AND EXPECTATIONS

Prairie Baseball Academy has worked very hard to establish their reputation within the community as well as within Southern Alberta. We expect all our student athletes to be model citizens while in school and within the community. Remember that PBA players and coaches are recognized throughout the community and anything that is done within the community is a reflection of this great program. We ask that everyone involved with our program remember that every action displayed in public, at school, or within our accommodations will be labeled as “Academy Players”, and hence we are asking you to be polite and considerate whenever you are dealing with the personnel in the public, the University, the College, your high school, or anyone else. We also expect our players to treat any and all rental properties with the utmost respect. Keep them clean and have no damage.

## PLAYER RULES (at school or in the Community)

- ❖ Players are not allowed in nightclubs in town while participating at Prairie Baseball Academy.
- ❖ Chewing tobacco is not permitted within our clubhouse, during games, or while in school and is not encouraged at all as it becomes an addiction and a health risk.
- ❖ Players are expected to maintain attendance at school and could receive sanctions if it is not maintained. Please note the attendance policy.
- ❖ Players are also expected to respect the laws of the Country, Province, City, as well as educational institution rules. These laws can vary depending upon the age of the athlete. Be aware of these laws and please follow them.

The Prairie Baseball Academy is committed to each player’s safety and development and the expectations are to promote these goals and commitments. PBA also has a specific athlete substance abuse education program policy that each player (or parent if the player is a minor) is required to sign as part of his requirements to PBA.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

The Board & Coaches of Prairie Baseball Academy have reaffirmed their commitment to the importance attendance has in making good grades. Players are required to turn into their coaches an attendance form on every other Tuesday during the season. This form will show their attendance for the previous 2-weeks. If a student has missed classes during this time without notifying their coach, they can expect to sit out games for the upcoming weekend as determined by the coaching staff.

*You are here to get an education and play baseball, you’re not here to party. You don’t want to break any of the rules, so make sure you read them carefully.*

## **FEE STRUCTURE FOR PBA**

### **Fall Fees and Fall Program Spring Fees and Spring Program**

Fall fees are \$ 3300.00 plus GST per player. This fee is non-refundable. (Due to inflation and costs with the program, this was increased by 3.1% for this year at a Board of Directors Meeting in the summer).

The fall program starts August 30th and ends on the last test day of the fall semester (approximately December 14<sup>th</sup>.)

To participate in the fall program, a player must have their fees paid up in full to PBA. A player must show registration to either the University of Lethbridge or the Lethbridge College or show proof of being a registered student in an area High School. Players will not be allowed to participate in any on field activities until these requirements have been met.

Second year university or college student athletes must also meet these above requirements as well as showing that they attained a 2.0 GPA in their last semester of school. Any athletes not attaining this GPA will be allowed to practice in this fall term but not allowed to participate in any fall games.

*\*\*\*Incorporated into the fees is a clothing player package worth close to \$1000. Each player receives a package of all equipment before the season starts. If a player decides to leave the program under their own reasoning, they will not receive the remainder of the equipment in which they have not received and will not be refunded!!*

Players involved in the spring program fall into one of three categories; a varsity player, a junior varsity player or a red-shirt player. Fees vary depending upon which category you fall into.

Varsity Fees:  $\$ 2000.00 + \$100.00 \text{ (GST)} = \$2100.00$

Junior Varsity Fees:  $\$ 1500.00 + \$75.00 \text{ (GST)} = \$1575.00$

Red Shirt Fees (Practice Roster):  $\$ 1050.00 + \$50.00 \text{ (GST)} = \$1100.00$

All varsity and JV student athletes must attain a 2.0 GPA in the fall semester to be eligible to play on either team in the spring. Red Shirts are not subject to the GPA rule. Under exceptional and academic supervised circumstances, the program may be able to develop a study plan for students missing the GPA target slightly providing they keep the academic advisor and coaches abreast of their school progress in an honest and forthright approach.

To be eligible to receive any scholarships offered through PBA, student athletes must attain a 2.0 GPA.

In 2021 the Canadian College World Series will take place from May 20-24 at Spitz Stadium here in Lethbridge.

\*\*\*\*\*The Spring Program begins January 3rd and continues until the end of April for JV players and the conclusion of the Canadian College World Series for Varsity players.

NOTE: All student athletes must pay their fees before they will be allowed to work out in the spring.

## **FALL PRACTICE AND GAMES SCHEDULE**

Players should be at Lloyd Nolan Yard or Spitz Stadium each weekday by 3:15pm unless school circumstances dictate otherwise. Practices in the fall will begin at 4:00pm weekdays for the first month and may be moved earlier as the daylight diminishes but practice time will never be earlier than 3:30 pm. The only acceptable reason for missing practice is school, however you must let the coaching staff know anytime you will be missing practice by texting or calling one of the coaches. *Make sure you leave a message for every practice you will be missing.* There will be no practice on Mondays, however first year players attending the Lethbridge College must attend PED-1123 at the college on Monday afternoons (evening).

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the 2020 fall will mostly be practices and inter squad games within your PBA cohorts. Inter squad games will still allow coaches to evaluate players in game like situations.

## **2021 PBA HALL OF FAME BANQUET & SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY**

The upcoming banquet will feature the annual ceremony for the Prairie Baseball Academy Hall of Fame. The banquet will be held on January 30th, 2021 at the Sandman Signature Hotel & Conference Center. Tickets to this special event will be on sale October 1<sup>st</sup>. The banquet will be preceded by the annual Scholarship Recognition Ceremony.

## **FUND RAISING**

Prairie Baseball Academy is involved in three major fundraisers that involve the players: Marathon Game, Media Guide Ads, and World Series sponsors. We expect every player to raise at least \$1000.00 in total from these three activities. Failure to attain the \$700.00 minimum will result in an additional \$250.00 charge for the spring fees. Anyone raising \$1000.00 in total fundraising will receive 50% of every dollar OVER the \$1000.00 level on the Marathon Game plus 20% back on Canadian College World Series sponsors. Note: this does not include the player sponsor ad for the media guide/online profile, as this is a direct refund.

We also require players to assist at camps and bingos to raise fund for the program. A schedule and commitment from EVERY player will be expected. We also will be running several raffles. Players will be split into teams to sell them and there will be incentives to the winning team.

## **MARATHON GAME**

This fundraiser can assist you in your fees to the program. We will have you ask your parents for a mailing list of close friends, relatives or business associates. A day will be set-aside for you to sign pledge forms and address envelopes after which we will mail them for you. The more work you put into this the better it is



financially for you and your family. Some players have received as much as \$ 1500 in rebates from this fundraiser.

## **BINGO:**

This fundraiser is to run 1 bingo per month at the Winners Bingo Hall in Lethbridge. The bingo raises funds around \$10,000.00 annually and funds go back into the program for necessary improvements as well as travel costs to help keep player fees stay as low as possible. Players will be asked to help by volunteering a few times a year. Extra fundraising credit will go to those who are trained to fill key positions during the year.

## **PLAYER ONE-ON-ONES WITH COACHES**

### **What are they?**

- A one-on-one interview is between the player and the coaching staff in the coach's office.
- They are confidential interviews and will not be discussed with anyone else.
- The coaching staff will let each player know where they sit academically, athletically, and how they fit into the Academies' plans.

### **Purpose?**

- This will help each player evaluate where they stand within the program.
- It gives the players a chance to set new goals for themselves for the spring.
- They also allow each player to stop worrying about their status and concentrate on just playing the game.

### **When?**

- The first set of one-on-ones will be done before the players leave for their Christmas vacation.
- There could also be several other one-on-ones before the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams are announced in January.

### **Teams?**

- The varsity team will be picked based on academics and baseball skill.
- Most of the players will be told which team they will likely be on before the Christmas vacation but will not be confirmed until the grades come in after the break.

- High school players will be eligible for the Junior Varsity team only but they will be selected based on academics and baseball skill as well.

## **REMEMBER**

- ❖ **The coaching staff has an open-door policy so if a player has a question, do not hesitate to ask.**
- ❖ **The best advice from the coaching staff for each player is to be an overachiever both in the classroom and on the field and let the chips fall as they may.**
- ❖ **It is about the program and the Academy, not about the individual.**

## **2020-2021 MEDICAL INFORMATION**

For the first time in Prairie Baseball Academy history, we are proud to name Dr. Joel Weaver as our team physician. Dr. Weaver is a very well-respected physician in Lethbridge. He is a family physician at the Family Medical Centre here in Lethbridge and the Athletic Physician at the University of Lethbridge.

Any medical information regarding baseball injuries, medical conditions or Covid-19 that Dr. Weaver should know about can be forwarded to his email address: [joel.weaver@ahs.ca](mailto:joel.weaver@ahs.ca) . Any out of town players with a local family physician can let them know to copy any medical information to Dr. Weaver.

Local players should remain with their family physician if they have one. If a local player does not have one, they are welcome to use Dr. Weaver.

**Covid-19 Testing:** If a player is experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms, the player will be asked to go get testing through the Alberta Health Program and asked to get the testing results sent to Dr. Weaver so they have a go to physician back at home in case it is needed while they are here.

It is recommended that each player go get tested a week before reporting to PBA on August 30th (not mandatory) and ask them to copy the results to Dr. Weaver.

## **NEW FALL 2020 PLAYER EQUIPMENT / PLAYER APPAREL**

- **EACH PLAYER IS EXPECTED TO HAVE THEIR OWN BATTING HELMET DUE TO COVID-19 POLICIES. If you do not have your own helmet, please purchase one before opening day or pre order one on the player's registration that was sent to you.**

## ***2020-2021 Additional Policies and Procedures Regarding COVID-19***

### **Section 1 – Consideration**

- Member of the coaching staff or responsible person will implement active daily screening of players for symptoms and close contact with persons with COVID-19 through the screening checklist.
- Emphasize that anyone who is sick or has anyone in their household with cold-like symptoms such as cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat or shortness of breath, **MUST NOT** be in the facility and must leave the facility or designated play area immediately.
- Players or staff members with these symptoms will not be allowed in the facility and will be advised to return home.
- Temperature checks will be conducted prior to entering the facilities. Anyone showing a fever of 38.0 degrees Celsius will not be permitted to enter the facility and is asked to stay home.
- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is necessary when physical distancing of 2 meters **CANNOT** be maintained. We will encourage players, staff and parents to wear medical or nonmedical grade coverings when attending events. A mask will be supplied to each player.
- Spitting is **NOT** permitted. Tobacco use of any kind, unshelled sunflower seeds, and unshelled peanuts are **NOT** permitted at the facility.
- Players will be educated and reminded on a continual basis about the safety measures.
- If a participant develops COVID-19 symptoms during the activity, they will be sent to begin isolation.
- In the event that a participant requires first aid, the first aider will use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, including medical mask and gloves.

### **Section 2 – Activity Protocols**

- Players are encouraged **NOT** to touch their face or put any part of their hands in their mouth. Pitchers are **NOT** allowed to put their fingers to their mouth.
- Coaches will sanitize hands and practice hand hygiene prior to handling baseballs.
- Encourage participants to come dressed to play or practice as much as possible.

### **Section 3 – Health & Hygiene**

- Maintain bathrooms and any associated amenities in clean and sanitary condition. The frequency of cleaning and disinfection will vary depending on usage.
- No showers will be provided at the facility.
- Facilities will use a disinfectant that has a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and a virucidal claim (efficacy against viruses).
- Facilities will make disposable towels and spray cleaners, or disposable wipes, available to staff, volunteers, and players to regularly clean commonly used surfaces, doorknobs, light switches, toilet handles, faucets and taps, railings, gates and field equipment.
- All participants must clean and disinfect their equipment after each event and prior to the next one (preferably 24 hours apart).
- Participants must wear clean clothing/uniforms to each event. Uniforms must be cleaned after each event and prior to the next one.
- It is strongly recommended that participants shower after each event at home at the earliest opportunity possible.
- Players will be asked to sanitize hands at point of entry to the facility.

#### **Section 4 – Safety and Physical Distancing**

- We will restrict the number of employees, volunteers and patrons in a facility at any one time to 100 persons. Cohorts of a maximum of 50 as of July 17/20. The cohorts do NOT include spectators, all spectators must socially distance at all time.
- Players will be divided up between Lloyd Nolan Yard and Spitz Stadium.
- Indoor facility, clubhouse and weight room use is to be determined.
- NO Physical contact (handshakes, fist bumps, high 5's, etc.) at any time including between players and between players and coaches.
- NO gathering around the park until your scheduled arrival time.
- NO sharing of water bottles or food of any kinds.
- NO sharing of equipment is permitted unless it has been cleaned, disinfected and not used for 24 hours.

#### **Section 5 – Off Field**

- It is strongly recommended that players wear masks when going places where other people are. (ex. Grocery store)
- Players are **NOT** allowed at any night clubs and house parties where social distancing is not possible. Players breaking these rules will be forced to quarantine for 14 days before returning to baseball activities with the team. It is strongly recommended that players stay within their cohort. If caught the player will need to appear before the PBA Board of Directors who will make a decision, that can range from a quarantine suspension to removal from the PBA program.

- Players are permitted to be in a “family” cohort of up to 15 people plus their baseball cohort of up to 50 people where they are not able to physically distance at all times. At all other times, players need to physically distance or wear masks when they are unable to do so. It is critical that this will be followed as much as possible to avoid any unnecessary out breaks during the PBA season.

## Section 6 – Administrative Considerations

- Registration will be conducted online.
- If online registration is not possible the payee must make arrangements with administration office to set up a time to meet at Spitz Stadium ticket booth to make payment.
- Website and social media information will contain resources and protocols for these programs.
- For admin questions or inquiries, please contact:

PBA administration

Spitz Stadium Office

2425 Parkside Dr. South

Lethbridge, Alberta T1J 4W3

(403) 320-2025 Phone

(403) 320-2053 Fax

[Customer.service@underthelights.ca](mailto:Customer.service@underthelights.ca) Email



### Release/Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk Agreement

(For participants under the age of majority)

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Prairie Baseball Academy athletic program and related events and activities, the undersigned acknowledges, appreciates, understands, and agrees that:

1. Participation includes possible exposure to and illness from COVID-19. While particular rules and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious illness and death does exist and the Prairie Baseball Academy cannot prevent you from becoming exposed to, contracting, or spreading COVID-19 while utilizing PBA’s services and/or premises. It is impossible to prevent the presence of the disease. Therefore, if you choose to utilize PBA’s services and/or enter onto PBA’s premises you may be exposing yourself to COVID-19 and/or increasing your risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, and,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

2. I, the undersigned, KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with all of PBA's stated and customary terms and conditions for participation as regards protection against COVID-19. If, however, I observe any unusual or significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the attention of the nearest PBA official immediately; and,
4. I, for myself, and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS PBA and their officers, directors, officials, agents, employees, other participants, owners, and lessors of premises used to conduct PBA events ("RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL ILLNESS, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, in connection with exposure, infection and/or spread of COVID-19 related to utilizing PBA's services and/or premises WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

\_\_\_\_\_  
Initials

This is to certify that I, as a Player/ parent/guardian, with legal responsibility for this participant, have read and explained the provisions in this waiver/release to my child/ward including the risks of presence and participation and his/her personal responsibilities for adhering to the rules and regulations for protection against COVID-19. Furthermore, my child/ward understands and accepts these risks and responsibilities. I for myself, my spouse, and child/ward do consent and agree to his/her release provided above for all the Releases and myself, my spouse, and child/ward do release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releases for any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's/ward's presence or participation in these activities as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THEIR NEGLIGENCE, to the fullest extent provided by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Name of Participant: \_\_\_\_\_ Participant signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_



***PLAYER AGREEMENT***  
***2020/2021 Season***

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print) have thoroughly read and understand the guidelines and requirements as set for in the Prairie Baseball Academy Handbook including protocols we have put in place during the COVID-19 Pandemic. I also understand that the Fall Fee is a non-refundable payment to Prairie Baseball Academy. This means that should I choose to leave the program or be required to leave for policy infractions, there are no refunds for the fall portion of the fees. I also understand that scholarships are only awarded to athletes with a 2.0 or higher fall GPA as of December 31/20.

I further agree to actively participate and engage in the program by striving to become better as a student athlete and person. I understand this requires commitment for my education, athletics, and other responsibilities including community service and fund-raising expectations.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Athlete Signature Date:

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature (If under the age of 18) Date:



**2020-21 FALL REGISTRATION FEES**

Total Amount Owning: \$ 3300 plus \$165 GST – Total \$3465.00

August 15 Payment Due \$500 August 30 Payment Due \$2965.00

I have enclosed the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ O E-Transfer O Cheque

PLEASE E-TRANSFER TO [PBA@TELUS.NET](mailto:PBA@TELUS.NET)

PLEASE MAIL CHEQUES TO: PBA Administration Office  
2425 Parkside Drive S., Lethbridge, AB T1J 4W3

I authorize the following credit card to be charged for the fees in the amounts and dates specified below for a total of \$3465.00.

Date -	Amount -
Date -	Amount -
Date-	Amount -

O Visa O Master Card O AMEX

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

CVC No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

**THANK-YOU FOR ASSISTING TO STREAMLINE THE PAYMENT PROCESS!!**