

Fort Collins Baseball Club, Inc.

Level III League (formerly 'Intermediate') Program Guidelines

MISSION

Serious athletes deserve the opportunity to learn and develop the fundamental skills required to compete successfully in youth baseball. These skills may be acquired in an atmosphere where team equality and coaching quality can be fostered in order to provide an enjoyable experience for the developing athletes. The Level III Program promotes real baseball with player participation in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning the game, developing skills, promoting the principles of teamwork and sportsmanship and results in a positive experience for participants. Here we strive to promote a level of competition, determination, dedication and discipline necessary to improve skills.

BACKGROUND

There is a need for a quality program for players who would like a higher level of ball with fewer game modifications and independent of whether or not they have aspirations to play on a travel team or move into a high school program. To help solve these issues and to fulfill the mission of encouraging more youth to play baseball; this program will serve as an alternative to other FCBC programs (Level II and Travel Competitive) for young athletes aged 9-12. **Teams are age-specific (9, 10, 11, and 12 year old teams), with a goal of four teams per age-group.** Games are limited to Fort Collins area. The program will be supervised by the FCBC Recreational Committee.

PURPOSE/OBJECTIVES

1. Provide a playing season that allows for league games and tournament play.
2. Provide an outlet for players and coaches with higher skill levels who have a strong desire to improve those skills, a strong dedication to the sport of baseball, and the desire to compete against others based on their skill.
3. Provide a pre-season instructional program for both players and coaches in order to achieve a skill level which may permit players and coaches to compete successfully in a Travel Program or on a Travel Team.
4. Provide a league in which coaches develop players while fielding a strong team for each game. Playing time and playing positions will generally be based on skill, work ethic, etc. and will be determined by each coaching staff. However, to guarantee a productive and positive experience for all players, batting lineups will include all players present at each game, and these players will play at least 3 complete defensive innings in each game.
5. Encourage the consideration of the benefits and challenges of participating in outside Tournaments.
6. Players in the Level III league are expected to be available for league instruction and game play. Vacations should be scheduled accordingly from late July into August.
7. Develop a team that upholds the highest standard of sportsmanship by participating in an approved Character Development program.

COACHING STAFFS

1. Each team's official coaching staff will consist of the HEAD COACH and 2 to 3 assistants. These individuals will be listed on the approved Coaches application.
2. Coaches must be selected for a Head Coaching position through an Application process.
3. **Not all coaching staffs that apply will be selected for this league.**
4. Coaches must follow the philosophy and rules outlined in these Guidelines and Character Development Programs initiated by FCBC.

TEAMS & DIVISIONS

1. The following divisions will be offered: U10 (9 & 10 yr old) and U12 (11 & 12 yr old)
2. There will be an established number of teams for each age group.

3. The Recreational Committee will determine a minimum and maximum number of teams for each age group. **The number of teams for each league will be based on a percentage of the projected number of Level III players for each age level, not on the number players who show up to tryout.**
4. Age eligibility cutoff date is April 30th.
5. Playing up is strongly discouraged and requires approval by Age Group Commissioner and Executive Director.
 - a. Exception: Players whose birthdates fall between May 1st – September 15th and are turning the older age are not classified as playing up, but are playing at grade level.
 - b. Playing Up: Is when your birth-date falls after September 15th, and you are classified as too young.
6. Team rosters are comprised of 12 players.

PLAYER SELECTION

1. Each selected Coach Staff is allowed to 'freeze' up to **5 players on their rosters prior to tryouts.** Tryouts for the Level III League will be conducted in February.
 - a. All players attending the tryouts will be given a Players selection card, noting conflicts they may have during the game season.
 - b. Following Tryouts, Coaches will utilize a **DRAFT SYSTEM** to select players for their respective teams.
 - c. Players not drafted to the Level III program will remain on their respective Level II school-based teams.
 - d. Non-drafted players from the Level III Program who remain on FCBC Level II Teams remain eligible to be drafted onto Level III Team up to the beginning of their Level II season. This situation would only occur if a Level III Team loses a player(s) for injury, moving, or other unexpected reasons. When this occurs, a Level III Coach will resume drafting from available players remaining from the spring draft. Coaches may not recruit any other players for their teams.
 - e. Occasionally, suspicions or evidence of impropriety is discovered. Non-frozen players are sometimes encouraged, by coaches, to 'dog it' in tryouts in order to 'hide' from other teams. Such activity violates the very spirit of this league. Level III is developmental. Your purpose as a coach is not to gather a team of superstars – but develop players who will have varied ability. Therefore, any discovery of such impropriety as described will result in expulsion from the league.

UNIFORMS

Uniforms are included in the League Fees. The style, quality, and source of uniforms has been established by the League. After Team Name is chosen and approved, Teams are afforded the opportunity to select team colors (first-come, first-served) and the option of adding a logo to team hats if desired. No other uniform options will be allowed for League or FCBC Tournament play.

TEAM NAMES

All teams participating in the Level III League must select a team name from the following:

- Major Baseball Teams
- Minor Baseball Teams (AAA, AA Rookie)
- College Teams

Made-up team names will not be accepted, and duplicated team names will not be allowed.

SCHEDULE

1. Level III League Scheduling
 - a. Will consist of about 12-14 regular season games PLUS 2-4 games in the 'End-of-Season' Tournament.
 - b. Games are scheduled by FCBC and will be offered only in Fort Collins. Consideration will be given for game play Monday – Friday. **NOTE:** based on field availability there may be some Saturday game play.
 - c. Team Training will begin in April with four Training sessions per team.
 - d. Season will run after training from mid-May – mid-July, with games times starting at 5:45pm.

- e. Games schedules will consist of two games per week any day Monday – Friday, and occasional Saturday game play.
- f. All teams in this league will be required to participate in the end of season Tournament in mid-July. This Tournament is played from Friday – Sunday.
- g. When a league game is cancelled (i.e. due to weather), it must be made up. When a league game is suspended, it must be resumed and played to completion. All game rescheduling is handled by the FCBC office – coaches are not allowed to reschedule a make-up game on their own. The FCBC office will inform both coaches of the make up date. Failure to make the game up on this re-scheduled date will result in a forfeit for either both or just one team. Coaches are responsible for informing their parents and players of time and field (which may be different than the original game field) of a rescheduled game. They should NOT depend on the rescheduled games to be posted on the website since in most cases this is not feasible.
- h. Tournament play and pickup games for each team may occur any time before, during or after regular season play, but will be a team-based cost and not that of FCBC.

2. Level III League Standings

The coach of the winning team is responsible for entering the score of the game and pitcher innings as soon as possible after the game using the Coach Login to the FCBC website. If a game is not entered within 24 hours of completion, it will be scored as a 0-0 tie, and that tie will become part of both teams' record for determining end-of-season Tournament seeding.

AFFILIATIONS

1. FCBC will not affiliate teams with any regional or national sports federation or association, such as USSSA. Teams may do so independently of FCBC.
2. Some tournaments may require an affiliation with their National Body prior to playing in a tournament.

BASEBALL RULES & MODIFICATIONS

1. National Federation of High School Baseball Rules will be in effect (coaches will be provided with the latest edition of the rule book), except as modified under the direction of the Recreational Committee.
2. Rule modifications will be provided to all coaches and umpires and posted on the FCBC website.
3. **RULE MODIFICATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT AND MUST BE READ AND UNDERSTOOD BY ALL COACHES.** Topics covered include game time-limits, game-ending procedures, suspended games, pitching regulations, etc. Questions regarding rules should be directed to the Level III commissioner.

CONDUCT

The Ft. Collins Baseball Club, Inc. has published Standards of Conduct that must be signed by all official coaches and at least one parent/guardian of each player in the Level III League. Failure of a player's parent/guardian to sign this document will prevent their child from participating in this league.

As a private, non-profit organization, FCBC reserves the right to preclude parents, players or coaches from participation in any activity sponsored by FCBC if the Standards of Conduct are violated. For players and coaches, violations of the Standards of Conduct can lead to suspension or removal from participation in the league.

Decisions on disciplinary action are taken by the FCBC Recreational Committee in conjunction with the FCBC Executive Director. Any such action may be appealed, in writing, within two weeks, to the FCBC office. In such a case, a hearing will be convened within two weeks of receiving such appeal.

ROSTER MANAGEMENT

The goals of the Roster Management Process for the Level III League include:

1. Ensuring that players are treated fairly.
2. Ensuring that teams stay essentially intact throughout the season to enhance competition.
3. Providing some early-season flexibility to resolve unanticipated coach-player incompatibilities.
4. Provide a mechanism to deal with exceptional circumstances such as a player moving out of town during the season.

Roster Management Rules are as follows:

- a. Each team should carry twelve players at all times. If a team's official roster drops below nine (9) players, the team is ineligible to play, and will forfeit all scheduled games until the official roster is brought back to nine (9) or more players.
 - b. Each team must submit an official roster of twelve players to FCBC at the end of Draft Day.
 - c. Teams, who lose players from their roster due to injury, moving out of town, or other choices, **may only pick up players from the non-drafted players leftover from the draft.** Coaches **MAY NOT** recruit players for their teams.
 - d. Players are **not permitted to play in other FCBC leagues while the Level III Season of instruction and game play is being held.** After the end of season playoff, players are permitted to play for a Travel Team, but not a Level II team.
5. All roster additions or deletions will be handled through the FCBC OFFICE.