



4th Grade Dutch Youth Baseball



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The Dutch Youth Baseball Association seeks to provide 4th-6th grade baseball players from the communities within the MOC-Floyd Valley school district opportunities to . . .

- ★ promote and display character and integrity. Athletes will learn the value of character and integrity within the game of baseball and how to live out those values in their community.
- ★ develop teamwork and sportsmanship, a unified set of baseball skills and fundamentals, and fun, challenging competition.
- ★ This program is **not** a substitute for each community's recreation program or league. Instead, this program is a supplement to help grow and develop your child as an aspiring baseball player.

4th Grade Baseball

- Provide a fun, encouraging, and competitive atmosphere for players to develop baseball skills and fundamentals.
- Provide tournaments to athletes who want to participate.
- The Dutch Youth Baseball program supports our community recreation programs. DYB practices will be limited during the recreation season due to scheduling. DYB practices will be primarily held in the spring. Please keep an eye out for your community's recreation sign-up.
- Extra practices and the organization of teams for tournaments is at the discretion of the DYB board, DYB director, and volunteer coaches.

Parent feedback and volunteers are important . . .

- Your feedback and participation numbers will help decide how to involve your child in 4th grade Dutch Youth Baseball. Your feedback also helps us plan for the future in 5th - 6th grade.
- We will need you to complete the online form by no later than **February 15 at 11:59PM**.
- Things to consider . . .
 - A uniform will need to be purchased (cap, jersey, and pants). Cost \$75-85. These uniforms are consistent throughout 4th - 6th grade.
 - **Local tournaments.** Players will participate in 2-4 tournaments, including the DYB Tournament on June 13-14. Tournaments are typically on Friday and Saturday only. Cost is \$25/tournament, \$50-\$100.
 - **Outside local area tournaments.** These tournaments will require some further travel, possibly including Brandon Valley (Sioux Falls area), Sioux City, Spencer, and other locations. Players will also participate in the DYB tournament on June 13-14. These tournaments are typically more competitive in nature due to travel teams and larger baseball organizations participating in these tournaments. 5-6 tournaments provided. Potential cost \$250-300.
 - **Summer Recreation.** If your family and child is more interested in a summer recreation schedule with practices provided by the recreation program throughout the summer with

- machine-pitch, coach-pitch, and player-pitch games, your child is more than welcome to become a part of DYB in 5th - 6th grade. No purchase of a DYB uniform is required.
- Players involved in tournaments are expected to attend all practices provided by their coaches.
 - Volunteer parent coaches will be assigned by the DYB board and director to coach our DYB teams.

5th & 6th Grade Baseball

- Provide opportunities for athletes to improve and acquire baseball skills for the next level of competition.
- Provide athletes with an introduction to middle school athletics by providing a practice atmosphere that is similar to what can be expected at the middle school level.
- Dutch Youth Baseball daily practices. These practices are available for all 5th/6th graders in the MOC-Floyd Valley communities. The fees help cover the cost of coaches and equipment. Four (4) practices per week, Monday - Thursday. Practices are held at the MOC-FV High School baseball diamond. A head practice coach and two assistant coaches will be provided for these practice sessions in the summer.
- Dutch Youth Baseball regular season games. Approximately 12-15 regular season games will be scheduled and played during the weeknights. Parent volunteer coaches will coach the evening games.
- Provide tournaments to athletes who want to participate. There will be a tournament fee above and beyond the regular season practices and games.
- Players are given the option to participate in either DYB or the Alton recreation programming for the weeknight games.

Practice Expectations

Practices are necessary to improve your child's baseball fundamentals, skills, and aptitude of the game. Also, practices are needed to facilitate team chemistry, teamwork, and camaraderie. Please arrive on time, so your child is ready to warm up at the beginning of practice. We ask that you notify your coaches if your child is going to be gone. Please understand that consistently missed practices will result in a loss of playing time in tournaments.

Tournament Expectations

Tournaments are still designed to be developmental, while being more competitive in nature. Tournament rosters will be kept to a maximum of 12 participants to increase the amount of at bats and playing time for all players involved. Tournament rosters for each of the tournaments will be created by the DYB board, director, and volunteer parent coaches. At the discretion of the coaches, players will be placed in a lineup. Due to the nature of baseball, players will not have equal playing time in the field or the same number of at-bats. Coaches will seek to give each player ample amount of tournament experience.

Travel Teams

Teams created outside of the Dutch Youth Baseball Association do forfeit their players' opportunities to participate in Dutch Youth Baseball practices, regular season games, and tournaments. We encourage these teams to travel to tournaments outside of the Northwest Iowa area. Our desire is to maintain a cohesive, well-managed program that seeks excellence and provides great opportunities for youth baseball players of all skill levels. Please feel free to contact the Dutch Youth Baseball Director or Board Member if you have any questions or concerns.

Team Expectations: Our baseball team has four rules to be followed.

1. **Team above all.** Our actions and behaviors in and outside of practice and games have an impact on our team. Demonstrate character and a "we" before "me" mentality.
2. **Be encouraging. No blaming, complaining, and defending** (these three traits lead to discouragement, division, and despair within a team).
3. **Be attentive and coachable.** Seek first to understand, then to be understood. Look and listen for ways to improve as a player and contribute to the team.
4. **Be prepared.** Arrive to practice and games early. Being prepared allows you to be ready in all circumstances. Prepare your equipment and keep it in the same place at all times. This is your responsibility - not your parents' responsibility.

Addressing Coaches, DYB Director, or DYB Board Members

If you have a concern about your child's playing time, positions your child is playing, or other concerns you see during practices or games, please consider the following:

1. 24-hour rule - provides time to think and not react to emotions. Allow yourself time to feel your emotions and respond in a way that seeks a positive outcome.
2. Plan a well thought out email or phone call.
3. Understand all coaches and DYB board members are *volunteers*. We ultimately want to provide your child with a great experience. Please know this may not always align with what you think is best.
4. Please thank your coaches and DYB board members. Their volunteer time is essential to providing great opportunities for our kids.

Dutch Youth Baseball Equipment & Apparel

Required game apparel (regular season games and tournaments)

- Dutch baseball hat (purchased separately from DYB)
- Baseball jersey (purchased from the team store)
- White pants with black piping (purchased from the team store)
- Purple belt (purchased from the team store or from DYB)
- Purple socks (purchased from the team store)

Required practice apparel & practice/game equipment

- ❖ Dutch baseball hat. This is important - you play games with a hat, so you will practice with a hat.
- ❖ T-shirt (preferably Dutch if possible). Please dress in layers as it will be cool in the morning and gradually warm up.
- ❖ Baseball pants. These pants can be a practice pair - gray, white, or black. Prevents unnecessary scrapes and turf burn.
- ❖ Baseball glove
- ❖ Cleats
- ❖ Any other personal baseball equipment of your own. Dutch Youth Baseball is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.
- ❖ You are to use DYB equipment or your own. If sharing equipment, please know DYB is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment.
- ❖ Dutch Youth Baseball will provide batting helmets, bats, and catcher's equipment.

Disclaimer

Dutch Youth Baseball is **not** sponsored or funded by the MOC-Floyd Valley CSD. MOC-Floyd Valley CSD is generous in allowing us to use their facilities for practices, games, and our DYB tournament. In order to maintain this positive relationship and benefit our 7-12 baseball program, please help maintain and care for the facilities we use. Also, if a situation arises that needs to be addressed, please contact the Dutch Youth Baseball director. The Dutch Youth Baseball director will communicate with the DYB Board and any necessary school staff or administration if needed.

Dutch Youth Baseball Registration

Registering for Dutch Youth Baseball is easy! If your child has participated in Dutch youth football, basketball, or wrestling, you already have an account, and you are ready to register for your child's baseball season. *Please make sure to be careful which offerings you add to your cart before checking out.*

Instructions

1. Once you have logged into your account, click dutchyouthsports.com at the top of the page.
2. Player Registration. Click Enroll.
3. Enrollee. Select your *child's* name.
4. Enrollment Type. *Player*.
5. Program. *Dutch Youth Baseball - Summer 2025*.
6. Offering. Select and add each offering separately.
 - 4th Grade DYB Tournament Teams. Your child wishes to participate in a tournament. *No payment required at this time.* You must have completed the survey provided at the 4th grade DYB Parent Meeting.
 - 5th Grade DYB Regular Season Baseball Baseball Games. If your child is going to participate in another community's recreation program, **DO NOT** select this option. \$50.
 - 5th Grade DYB Baseball Practices. If your child plans to participate in DYB tournaments, you **must** select this option. \$50.
 - 5th Grade DYB Tournaments. Your child wishes to participate in tournaments. Your child does not have to participate in tournaments to be involved in DYB practices and regular season games. *No payment is required at this time.* \$25/tournament.
 - 6th Grade DYB Regular Season Baseball Baseball Games. If your child is going to participate in another community's recreation program, **DO NOT** select this option. **\$50**.
 - 6th Grade DYB Baseball Practices. If your child plans to participate in DYB tournaments, you **must** select this option. **\$50**.
 - 6th Grade DYB Tournaments. Your child wishes to participate in tournaments. Your child does not have to participate in tournaments to be involved in DYB practices and regular season games. *No payment is required at this time.* \$25/tournament.
7. Click Proceed to Checkout.
8. If you selected DYB tournaments, please select the dates your child would be available to participate in.
9. If your child would like to participate in the *Play Catch 5K Challenge*, select this option and select their t-shirt size
10. Read, acknowledge and agree to the DYB Parent/Guarding Conduct Policy and DYB Waiver of Claims and Liability Release. *These policies are the same for every offering and need to be acknowledged.*
11. Click Next and enter your payment information. Credit cards are preferred, however, we do allow check payments. *Payment must be made before your child may practice.*

If anyone is in need of financial assistance, please visit the link, <https://www.allkidscan-oca.org/request-aid>, to request aid.

GO TO THE TEAM STORE TO ORDER YOUR PLAYER AND FAN APPAREL

Player Store: required game apparel (regular season games and tournaments)

- Dutch baseball hat (*purchased separately from DYB*)
- Baseball jersey. **NEW jersey design.** (purchased from the team store)
- White pants with black piping (purchased from the team store)
- Purple belt (purchased from the team store or from DYB)
- Purple socks (purchased from the team store)



8 Ways to Be an MVP (Most Valuable Parent)

1. Say "I love watching you play."
 - ★ The most competitive athletes need time to decompress after competing. It is most impactful to just have them hear these five words!
2. Don't Compare Your Child
 - ★ "Comparison is the thief of joy," Teddy Roosevelt
 - ★ Teach your child to be the best version of themselves... no two athletes are alike!
 - ★ Comparing will bring disappointment to your child.
3. Be Positive
 - ★ Bring positive energy to your child and the team. Cheer and celebrate the positives.
 - ★ Energy is contagious ... what type will you spread?!!!
 - ★ Your child and the team will feel negative energy.
 - *When two lion cubs are born it is hard to tell which will win the fight to be king of the pride. The one you feed the most will end up winning the fight. FEED the POSITIVE Lion!*
4. This is your CHILD's experience
 - ★ Remember this is your CHILD's experience, not yours.
 - ★ Let it be their experience, their performance does not define you as a parent.
 - ★ Your child, and you, will be happier if it is allowed to be their experience.
5. Trust the Process
 - ★ It is not about the shirt, trophy, medal, or award.
 - ★ It IS about trusting a process of positive habits, done with others over a period of time. These are habits that will lead to life's successes!
6. Support your Child
 - ★ Be there to listen and offer support.
 - ★ They don't often want you to solve their problems, rather they want you to listen and offer support.
7. Be a fan of the TEAM
 - ★ Avoid watching with tunnel vision.
 - ★ Be a fan of the team, not a critic of other players (go back and read #2).
 - ★ Be happy for and express that happiness when other players have success. Think of how good that feels when someone says something positive to you about your child!
 - ★ Celebrating others' success is a good habit to have your child see in you!
 - ★ You will enjoy the experience of being an MVP much more with this approach.
8. Accept and Support the struggles of Team Sports
 - ★ It is a guarantee in team sports... there will be struggle!
 - ★ Accept the struggle, it is normal, it is NOT someone's fault.
 - ★ The struggle is not the enemy; it is how we learn, grow, and develop.

Create a 3D Dutch Youth Baseball Experience

PLAYER RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

Love your teammates. Thank and respect your parents for allowing you to play baseball. Thank and respect your coaches for their time and dedication to YOU.

Dimension #1: Fundamentals (physical)

1. Take care of your body by eating properly, staying hydrated, getting enough rest/sleep, and proper personal hygiene - shower, brush your teeth, use deodorant.
2. Give your best effort in practice and games. Practice throwing, catching, and hitting outside of team practices.

Dimension #2: Psychological (mind)

1. Focus on the task at hand. Be present in the moment.
2. Seek to understand the game of baseball. Seek to understand situations in the game.
3. Build a growth mindset. Understand the power of YET.
4. Respond to situations with a NEXT PLAY mentality.

Dimension #3: Heart (spirit)

1. Celebrate your teammates.
2. Encourage one another.
3. Perseverance > Proven character > Hope.

COACH RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

Care for players and support their development in all three dimensions.

Dimension #1: Fundamentals (physical)

1. Provide opportunities, instruction, and feedback in football specific skills, techniques, and strategies.
2. Provide opportunities, instruction and feedback to improve speed, quickness, power, and strength.

Dimension #2: Psychological (mind)

1. Use strategies to improve confidence, motivation, intensity, focus, emotions, mental imagery, goal setting, and team cohesion.
2. Provide an appropriate role model demonstrating these skills and traits.

Dimension #3: Heart (spirit)

1. Use strategies to improve value, self-worth, identity, character, significance, and purpose.
2. Treat players with dignity and value and model the characteristics listed above.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES & EXPECTATIONS

Love your child unconditionally and support their development in all three dimensions.

Dimension #1: Fundamentals (physical)

1. Provide security, food/nutrition, shelter, clothing, rest/sleep. Help them and instruct them in their physical maintenance and development.

Dimension #2: Psychological (mind)

1. Provide for them a growth mindset over a fixed mindset.
 - a. Growth = your ability to continually grow and improve
 - b. Fixed = you're judged based upon your performance
2. Praise effort over intelligence/talent

Dimension #3: Heart (spirit)

1. Provide encouragement in all situations. Encouragement means to put "in courage".
2. Trials and conflict lead in two different directions. Lead them in the first.
 - a. Perseverance, Proven character, Hope
 - b. Discouragement, Division, Despair