

Gallatin Valley Baseball Articles & Rules 2026

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Article I	The Gallatin Valley Baseball Board shall be composed of the following Members:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President 2. Vice President 3. Secretary / Treasurer 4. 1 President from each local league (Amsterdam, Manhattan, Three Forks, Whitehall, Harrison, Ennis, Sheridan, and Townsend) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total number of board members shall be 11
Section 1	President: It shall be the duty of the president to preside at all meetings of this league and perform all duties usually pertaining to his/her office. Ensure that the rules and regulations of the league are adhered too.
Section 2	Vice President: In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President.
Section 3	Secretary: The secretary shall keep the minutes of all proceedings and record same. He/She shall give notice of all meetings, notify all board members of election and the names of newly elected members to the Treasurer and perform such other duties of his/her office.
Section 4	Treasurer: The treasurer shall receive and safely keep all funds of the league and pay out the same only on order of the president. Ensure that all checks have no less than two authorized signatures.
Section 5	Local Presidents: Local Presidents shall be representatives of their league and have full voting rights in board meetings. In addition, these members will serve as the Dispute Committee in issues involving coaches, players, parents, or league conduct. If the President deems it necessary to use the Dispute Committee, one member shall be selected to chair the hearing, facilitate committee investigations, and conduct Dispute Committee meetings. This person shall then report to the full board any information gathered, in an effort to facilitate a Board decision. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Each Local League shall be composed of no less than a President and a Secretary. Local Leagues may have fully functional boards to conduct business within their local league. Each year Local Boards will report to Gallatin Valley Baseball their board representatives. b. If the President of the Local League is unable to attend a Gallatin Valley Board meeting the next member of the local league board, whether it be a Vice President, Secretary or Board member shall have the voting rights of the President. Only reported members of local leagues can proxy the President. Non board members cannot. c. {added December, 2016} A quorum will exist when a simple majority of the towns are represented by either their League President or proxy and a minimum of 1 League Officer (President, Vice President). The League President will preside over meetings but will only vote when needed to break a tie.
Article II	All Board members of Gallatin Valley Baseball shall be elected by a ballot at the annual meeting and shall assume office at the close of the meeting. If a board position should

become vacant during the term of office, the board may fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

Section 1 The Board, by a majority vote, may remove any member or coach for good cause shown, provided however, that such person is given notice as to the date termination is to be considered and after an opportunity to be heard by the Board.

Section 2 Meetings are to be held as to their necessity in order to achieve the Boards business. An annual meeting is to be held once a year in January. In order for a meeting to be legal, a quorum of no less than a simple majority of towns are represented and at least 1 league officer.

Section 3 The Board may amend these rules and regulations by a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance.

Article III Membership shall consist of eligible participants from the following school districts Amsterdam, Manhattan, Three Forks, Whitehall, Harrison, Ennis, Sheridan, and Townsend.

Section 1 Any member may be expelled from membership for willful nonconformity with the rules and policies of Gallatin Valley Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball and the laws of the State of Montana. Final expulsion shall be decided by majority vote of the Gallatin Valley Baseball Board.

Article IV The Board may appoint additional duties to members of the board or non-members to include but not limited to: Player Agent, Tournament Director.

Article V Coaches / Managers

Section 1 All individuals wishing to manage, coach, volunteer or anyone who provides regular service to the league or has access to or contact with players within Gallatin Valley Baseball will be subjected to Criminal Background Checks every 2 years. First offense will be a warning and coach/person is off the field. Second offense the team takes a loss 6-0 and coach/person is off the field, but teams still play for practice.

Section 2 All individuals wishing to coach or volunteer with players within Gallatin Valley Baseball are required to take the APS Training every 2 years.

Section 3 No individual will be allowed to coach that has been convicted of any felony or a crime against a minor.

Section 4 Any situation where a coach is suspected of violating the rules of Gallatin Valley Baseball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Cal Ripken Baseball or the laws of the State of Montana, shall be investigated by members of the Dispute Committee. Failure to cooperate with this process shall lead to immediate dismissal from coaching within Gallatin Valley Baseball. Any violation of Montana Law will be turned over to law enforcement immediately.

Article VI Conduct of Gallatin Valley Baseball Members

Section 1 Any member of Gallatin Valley Baseball ejected from a game shall be immediately reported to the President of Gallatin Valley Baseball. The President shall impose no shorter than a "1" game suspension and will

determine if more are appropriate. The President shall impose on the Dispute Committee the task of finalizing recommendations for final action on the ejection and suspension.

Article VII League Communication Policy

- Section 1** With the exception of executive sessions discussing disciplinary matters and protest committee meetings, all general meetings of the Gallatin Valley West Baseball League are open to the public. Any person wishing to address the Board will be given an opportunity to do so. This can be in person, written, or electronic means.
- Section 2** Any communication (verbal, written, electronic) received by any Board member that has been addressed to the Board, will be shared with the Board. No exceptions.
- Section 3** No attempt will be made to hide information relating to Gallatin Valley Baseball from the Board or any Board members. It is all of our corporate responsibility to keep each other informed about relevant issues.

Rule 1. Gallatin Valley Draft Selection Rules

(A) Major & Minor Division:

- (1) The stated purpose of the draft is to create parity among the teams being drafted. No effort will be made to create an "A" team and a "B" team.
- (2) Draft order is determined by any random method – (i.e. flip a coin, pull number from a hat, etc.). No preference or seniority is given to a returning Manager. (Reasoning – that returning Manager and more likely his returning assistant already have an advantage over a first year manager in that division because their sons are 12/10 and the new manager/assistant sons are 11/9).
- (3) Once the order is determined, the draft begins with the lowest number going to the highest. If there are only 2 teams in the draft, they alternate back and forth. If there are more than 2 teams in the draft, they pick using a round-robin method (i.e. 1, 2, 3 then 3, 2, 1).
- (4) The Manager's child(ren) must be selected by the 6th round.
- (5) Only 1 assistant coach's child(ren) can be protected in the draft and they must be picked by the 6th round. After that, they can be drafted by another team.

Rule 2. Gallatin Valley Division Ages (recommended):

<u>T-BALL:</u>	Ages 5 – 7	<u>MAJOR:</u>	Ages 11 – 12
<u>ROOKIE:</u>	Ages 6 – 8	<u>PREP:</u>	Age 13 ONLY
<u>MINOR:</u>	Ages 9 – 10	<u>SENIOR:</u>	Ages 13 – 16

1. 11 or 12 year old Minors are NOT allowed to pitch.
2. T-Ball shall not have any player younger than 5 & older than 7 without Board approval.
3. Rookie shall not have any player older than 8 without Board approval.
4. No Player shall play above or below their age level without prior Board approval.

Rule 3. Cal Ripken Division Special Rules

Major – Minor – Rookie – T-Ball

All games shall be played according to the Official Babe Ruth Baseball Rules 1.00 through 9.05 with the exceptions listed on pages 16 through 22 of the Rules. The following rules also apply.

(A) **Babe Ruth Regulations**: These regulations are in addition to the exceptions listed on pages 16 through 22.

(1) The designated hitter rule does not apply. (6.10)

(B) **Gallatin Valley League Regulations: These rules supersede all others.**

- 1) The “10 run rule” is in effect for Majors and Minors divisions. A league game will be terminated once becoming regulation (3 ½ (Home team is leading) or 4 innings (Visitor is leading), i.e. if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and has had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.
- 2) Time Limit: For the Minors and Majors divisions, no new inning may start after **8:00 PM on a school night**. For the T-Ball and Rookie divisions, no new inning may start after **7:30 PM on a school night**. Games called because of the time limit will be considered a regulation game regardless of the number of innings played.
- 3) Lightning Rule: See Attached Appendix A
- 4) All players on the roster for that game must play at least two innings defensively and have at least one time at bat.
- 5) At all age levels, teams may start a game with a minimum of 8 players, and the missing 9th is not an automatic out. Starting a game with 7 or less players is considered a forfeit.
- 6) For Minors and Majors divisions, the seeding for the season tournament will be decided by the following criteria:
 - a. Most games played with most wins
 - i. This rule has been adopted to encourage coaches to play as many games as possible. A loss is better than not playing the game.
 - b. Head to head
 - c. Number of runs allowed
 - d. League President sets the final seeding into the tournament

“We encourage all of our coaches to try to make up any missed games as “Most Games Played” will be a determining factor in the End of Year Seedings. Seedings will be determined by the

following factors: 1. Most wins with most games played, however this does not supersede Head to Head competition. Example a 5-3 team may get a higher seed over a 5-4 team if they hold the Head to Head Tie Breaker. If they did not play during the regular season and/or the series is tied 1-1 then the 5-4 team will get the higher seed due to more games played. 2. Fewest runs Allowed

- 7) For Minors and Majors divisions, it is the home team's responsibility to reschedule any games regardless of the reason for the cancellation. The visiting team must agree upon the rescheduled game. Once an agreement has been reached, the League President will be notified with the reason for the cancellation, and when and where the game will be played.
 - a. It is League policy that any game canceled due to weather will automatically be approved to be rescheduled.
 - b. If a game is canceled for a non-weather related reason, it will be up to the League President to determine if the game will be rescheduled or if one of the teams will be forced to forfeit.
 - c. All other conflicts such as school events, must be submitted to the League prior to the creation and adoption of the league schedule for that year.
 - d. It is League policy that in the event that a team does not have enough players to start a game, that team is encouraged to ask players from the next younger league to fill in the roster (i.e. Majors team brings up Minors players, Minors team brings up Rookie players).
- 8) Reporting game results – It is the home team coach's responsibility to report the final score of each game, along with all pitchers used during the game and the number of pitches thrown by each to the designated League representative as soon as possible. The Board, prior to the start of each season, will choose the League representative, and contact information will be provided to each coach.
- 9) **T-Ball and Minors** divisions will practice / play games primarily on Monday and Wednesday.
- 10) **Rookie and Majors** divisions will practice / play games primarily on Tuesday and Thursday.
- 11) A lower division player may not be in the starting lineup for a team when a player on that team is available. All playing time rules will apply to the lower division player.
- 12) For all Cal Ripken divisions, to play outside your school district, a player will need Board approval, but only within the Gallatin Valley Baseball boundaries. Waivers are not allowed to play outside of our boundaries, nor to allow players to play in our league from outside of our boundaries (See Rule 0.01 5. on Page 5 of the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Rule Book).. School district is determined by 1) where the

player goes to school and 2) by the district they live in. If a town is unable to provide a team for a player, the Board will attempt to find an opportunity for them.

13) A Majors division player, when leading off from a base, may dive head first back into the base. In all other situations, head-first sliding is prohibited and is an automatic out.

14) Season End Tournament

- a. The tournament will be scheduled the first weekend of June.
- b. The tournament will rotate among the individual leagues capable of hosting the tournament. This requires a minimum of 3 fields, 1 setup for Majors 70 and 2 for Minors.
- c. Rotation: Ennis, Three Forks, Manhattan, Whitehall, and Townsend.
- d. If an individual league passes on hosting the tournament, it moves to the next league in the rotation.
- e. The President of the hosting league, or their designated representative, will act as tournament director.
- f. The tournament date and schedule will be approved by the Board.
- g. The hosting league will be responsible for ordering all trophies to be presented at the tournament. The Gallatin Valley West League will reimburse that league for the cost of the trophies, up to our budgeted amount.
- h. The host league will be responsible for securing umpires for all games. Umpires are paid by the Gallatin Valley West League.
- i. The host league will be responsible for all field maintenance and concessions for games played at their facilities.

15) PitchSmart pitching limits have been implemented for all Minors and Majors division League and Tournament games:

- a. For the Minor Division

Game	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	Required Rest (Pitches)				
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days
League	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+
Tournament	75	1-40	41-65	66+		

b. For the Major Division

Game	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	Required Rest (Pitches)					
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days	3 Days	4 Days	
League	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	
Tournament	85	1-40	41-65	66+			

c. **Rolling pitch count. No reset day. NO exceptions even for make-up games!**

d. **If a pitcher exceeds the pitch count or does not have proper Required Rest, in any circumstance, the game shall be considered a forfeit. The home book is the official pitch count. It is the Manager's responsibility to check with them between innings, and as a pitcher is approaching any of the thresholds as defined in the tables above.**

Rule 4. Babe Ruth Senior and Prep Divisions:

Senior – Prep

All games shall be played according to the Official Babe Ruth Baseball Rules 1.00 through 9.05 with the exceptions listed on pages 16 through 22 of the Babe Ruth Baseball Rules and Regulations. The following rules also apply.

(A) **Babe Ruth Regulations:** These regulations are found in the Babe Ruth handbook and are in addition to the exceptions listed on pages 16 through 22.

- (1) The designated hitter rule is not permitted. (6.10)
- (2) A pitcher may only pitch **7 innings** per calendar week of Monday through Sunday. (0.06)
- (3) A pitcher must have 2 calendar days rest between pitching assignments in which he/she pitches in more than 3 innings. (0.06)

(B) **Gallatin Valley League Regulations (general):** The following policy decisions have been made by the Gallatin Valley Baseball League and they supersede all other regulations.

- (1) The “10 run rule” is in effect. A game will be terminated once becoming regulation (4 ½ or 5 innings) if one team is ahead by 10 or more runs and has had equal times at bat or the home team is leading.
- (2) Time limit: No new inning may start after **8:15 PM on a school night**. Games called because of the time limit will be considered a regulation game regardless of the number of innings played.
- (3) All players on the roster for that game must play a minimum of two innings defensively and have at least one time at bat.

Rule 5. Minor League Special Rules

- 1. **The batting line-up will include all players on the team.** The team will bat through the order regardless if the player is playing on the field. Since all players are already in the lineup, if a player is injured and cannot continue, no out will be assessed for that player because they do not come up to bat.
- 2. If the batting team scores 4 runs the ½ inning is over. This rule is waived in the last inning (**must be regulation 6th inning**) when both teams may score as many runs as possible. The rule does not apply if a player hits a legal (over the fence) home run and that home run takes the inning total over the four run limit. Those extra runs shall be scored and the inning is over.
- 3. The batter’s coach **SHALL NOT** come in and pitch to the batter. The batter can walk, strike out, or hit the ball from the opposing team’s pitcher.
- 4. Only one base is allowed on an overthrow (**except catcher**). **There is no advance allowed on a catcher overthrow.** Example: runner steals 2nd and the catcher overthrows 2nd base. The runner cannot advance to 3rd on the overthrow. Additionally, once a baserunner has stopped his/her forward momentum towards the next base (only in a potential steal scenario), they must return to the last base he/she touched, regardless of if there is a throw. i.e. There is no baiting the catcher to attempt an errant throw.
- 5. Unlimited steals.
- 6. 10 defensive players will be allowed. The extra fielder must play on the grass as an outfielder and not be an infielder.
- 7. **No 11 or 12 year olds can pitch.**
- 8. No head first sliding is allowed. To do so is an automatic out.
- 9. Cal Ripken 10 run rule is now in effect. See Rule 3. (B) 1.

Rule 6. Rookie League Special Rules

1. Rookie league is for mainly 7 & 8 year olds but 6 year olds will be allowed to play depending on ability. A 9-year-old player can play in rookies with Gallatin Valley West Baseball Board approval.
2. Rules for the First Half of the Season:
Coach pitch at-bats are limited to 4 pitches, if the batter has not put the ball into play, the tee will be used to put the ball into play. No walks shall be awarded and if a batter is hit by a pitch they will be awarded first base. This at bat will end upon the batter putting the ball in play as players cannot strike out in the first half of the season.
3. Rules for the Second Half of the Season: (the date of this change to be determined by the GV Board)
Each kid pitcher is limited to 20 pitches per day. The pitcher must be in contact with the pitching rubber on the mound. During an at bat, the batter shall receive 3 kid (player) pitches from the opposing team, if the batter has not struck out or put the ball into play then they will receive 3 coach pitches from their coach. If the batter is still not able to put the ball into play this is considered an out. No walks shall be awarded and if a batter is hit by a pitch they will be awarded first base.
 - a. In the event there are no remaining eligible pitchers, upon the coaches discretion, the game will become coach pitch only for his team even if the opposing team has remaining kid pitchers. The Coach will only pitch 4 pitches to each batter. The team at bat will receive pitches from their own coach, if no other kid pitchers are available. If a kid pitcher hits 2 players they are done pitching for the night.
4. The inning will end upon 3 outs or 4 runs scored, this is determined collectively by the coaches and no official scorebook nor score will be kept.
5. There will be one batting rotation for the entire game whether playing defense or not.
6. **Teams will rotate batting when 3 outs are made on the field.**
7. Ten defensive players will be allowed. The extra fielder must play on the grass as an outfielder and not be an infielder.
8. There will be no umpires so coaches are responsible for making all out calls.
9. Balls used shall be "Safe-T-Soft" or similar.
10. A regulation game will be six innings.
11. No stealing or leading off is permitted.
12. Only 1 base is allowed on an overthrow.
13. No head-first sliding is allowed.

Rule 7. T-Ball League Special Rules

1. Four year olds are allowed to participate if they turn 5 by April 30th.
2. Players will use the Tee exclusively for the first two weeks. After that the coach or a designated team helper will deliver four “pitches” to the player. He or she does not need to be on the pitching mound. If the player fails to hit any of the pitches, the ball will be placed on the Tee.
3. The entire roster will bat each inning.
4. Balls used shall be “Safe-T-Soft” or similar.
5. There will be no strikeouts.
6. Ten defensive players are allowed on the field. Coaches are encouraged to move players around every inning.
7. Coaches are allowed to be on the field during the game for instructional purposes.
8. A regulation game will be four innings.
9. A ball, when hit, must travel at least 9 feet in order to be considered a fair ball.
10. No stealing or leading off is permitted.
11. There will be no umpires, so coaches are responsible for making all out calls. Once called out, the player will no longer be allowed to run the bases.

Rule 8. Rules of Conduct

1. All managers, coaches, players and spectators must be understanding and keep the game going without incident. Players are not allowed to challenge a call. Only the manager or coach will be the spokesperson to the umpire. Displays of temper, profanity, or other actions of this nature by adults or players will be considered unsportsmanlike behavior and will be subject to punishment determined by the Dispute Committee.
2. The League President shall enforce the official rules, resolve any disputes involving the rules, and determine any protested games. The league president may fine or suspend any player, coach, manager or umpire for violation of these rules, at his/her discretion. (Rule 2, Babe Ruth Rules)
3. All volunteers in the Gallatin Valley West Baseball organization will be treated with respect. Outbursts of anger, profanity, name-calling, threats or any other inappropriate behavior or communication, regardless of form, will be subject to punishment determined by the Dispute Committee. All punishments determined by the Dispute Committee will be based on the severity of the incident in question, and

include any previous incidents they may deem relevant. The Dispute Committee will act with the belief that our organization is stronger when we are united.

4. 24 Hour Rule - applies to parents and coaches a. If either a parent or coach has a grievance with another parent or coach, he/she must wait 24 hours before making his/her grievance. b. Anyone who hears a grievance in violation of the 24 hour rule should calmly remind the offender of the rule and inform a Board member of the offense's occurrence while being mindful of the 24 hour rule and not discussing the nature of the grievance.

Rule 9. Ejection by an Umpire

1. The Umpire may eject any spectator, manager, coach or player who violates the rules of conduct. The Umpire must first warn an individual of unsportsmanlike behavior, except charging the mound or physical violence, before ejecting an individual.
2. Games
 - a. Players ejected from a game, may remain in the dugout, under the supervision of the manager, so long as their behavior does not disrupt the game. Should their behavior continue to disrupt the game, they may be directed to leave the area.
 - b. Coaches ejected from a game must leave the immediate area (200 yds), for the duration of the game (until officials have left the game).
 - c. Fans ejected from the game must leave the complex. **ANY** individual ejected for acts of violence, or making threats of violence, must leave the complex.
 - d. Individuals ejected from a game may be called to appear before the Dispute Committee, and will be considered on probation until the Dispute Committee completes an investigation of the incident. Individuals will serve no less than a **1** game suspension at the discretion of the League President.
 - e. When Law enforcement has been called to assist in restoring order, the offending individuals will be suspended until the Dispute Committee completes its review. The League President will notify individuals of any suspension.

Rule 10. Physical Violence

Physical Violence will not be tolerated and the umpire will eject the individual from the complex immediately. In any case where claimed conduct involves physical violence such as assault as defined under applicable Montana statutory law, it will be the policy to refer the matter to the appropriate criminal authorities for investigation and possible criminal prosecution.

Rule 11. Complaints

In any instance where the conduct of a manager, coach, player, player's parent, spectator or umpire is in question:

1. The matter will be directed to the League President. The League President will make a written report to the Dispute committee. The report will include a recommendation for corrective action, if any, to avoid similar future occurrences.
2. The League President will meet the person(s) who raised the conduct issue and will look into the matter to the extent necessary to satisfy the League President that sufficient facts are known to make a decision.

Rule 12. Dispute Committee

1. The Dispute Committee shall be comprised of three members of the Local League Presidents (Manhattan, Three Forks, Amsterdam, Ennis, Harrison, Townsend, Sheridan and Whitehall), appointed by the President. The President(s) from the local league where the complaint originated will be exempt from the committee for that complaint.

If the President deems it necessary to use the Dispute Committee, one member shall be selected to chair the hearing, facilitate committee investigations, and conduct Dispute Committee meetings. This person shall then report to the full board any information gathered, in an effort to facilitate a Board decision.

The Gallatin Valley League President will make the recommendation to the committee for any issues involving disciplinary actions towards managers, coaches or players.

2. The Dispute Committee will then vote on the recommendation from the League president. A decision by the Dispute Committee will be based on a majority vote and need not be unanimous.
3. Any suspensions handed down by the League President will remain in effect until the Dispute committee makes a decision on the matter.

Rule 13. All Stars

1. The Gallatin Valley Board will choose All Star Managers. The Board will choose 1 Manager for each All Star Team. The Manager for each All Star Team will select no less than 1 assistant coach and no more than 3 assistant coaches. The Board must approve all Coaches selected by All Star Managers. The individuals will be selected from coaches within the League that coached that season in that particular age group that have applied to be an All Star Manager or Coach.

 - a. The Board will select All Star Managers and approve Coaches before a predetermined date each season. This date shall be set before the beginning of each season.

2. All Star Players will be selected by the Managers and Coaches that have been selected by the Board. Players will be selected based on their age for each All Star team. Tryouts will be held in order to select players. The tryouts will be open to all players that played within Gallatin Valley that season.
3. Players selected to participate on an All Star team will be subject to a “playing fee” established by the board (\$200.00).
4. All Star Team Ages (9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, and 14U) will be selected by the Board.
5. The number of tournaments that each All Star team will be funded by the League will be determined by the board. Any tournaments in addition to this set number will be the responsibility of the team.
6. Uniforms for the All Star teams will be supported by the League with the following exceptions:
 - a. If the League already has uniforms available
 - b. Purchase of Uniform Items will be authorized by the President before they are purchased. Non authorized items will be paid for by the team.

Rule 14. Umpires

1. Each Local League will determine its own umpires for Minor, Major & Senior games
 - a. Minor & Major Games – Plate umpire will be no younger than 16 years old and the Field umpires may not be younger than 13 years old.

- b. Senior Games – Plate umpire will be no younger than 18 years old and Field umpires will be no younger than 16 years old.
- 2. Umpire pay shall be set & paid for by each local league and is the responsibility of the home team if playing on a neutral field (or borrowed).
- 3. It is the responsibility of each local league to ensure that their umpires fully understand the Babe Ruth Rules and the Gallatin Valley Rules.
- 4. Umpires will immediately notify their local league and the Gallatin Valley League President of any ejections made during a game. Failure to report an ejection may lead to a suspension.
- 5. Tournament Umpires must be no younger than 18 for Championship games.

All Star Team Selection Process

Determination of Teams:

*Option#1

Have age specific: Senior(14/15), Prep(13), 12, 11, 10, 9 year old teams if enough players of each age class attend tryouts. Cuts may still take place at each age division.

*Option #2:

If an insufficient number of players try out, and we cannot make age specific teams, priority will be given to the older age class in each division. In this situation the team will be chosen by ability. A Competitive (A) team would be chosen first. If enough players remain, a second Developmental (B) team will be assembled. If there are not enough players to make a second team, cuts will be made.

Example: 7 Twelve year olds and 15 Eleven year olds attend tryouts. There are not enough 12 year olds for a 12 only team. Priority is given to the older age. We will pick the top players for the Competitive "A" team. Then assemble a second Developmental "B" team with the remaining players. If all of the 12 year olds made the competitive team and all the remaining players are 11 years old then the second team could compete at the 11 year old level. If even one 12 year old does not make the competitive team and is assigned to the developmental team, the second team will compete at the 12 and under level.

**The option used to select the teams will be determined the day of tryouts. The option chosen will be the scenario that best suits the numbers and ages of kids that attend tryouts. 1st priority: Allow as many kids to continue playing more baseball as possible.

Determination of Coaches:

Coaches will be chosen by the Gallatin Valley West Board. Those interested in coaching an All Star team must submit application to Evie (evieloufatouros@rocketmail.com), Mark (markdouglasmeissner@gmail.com), AND Hanna (hcallahan81@hotmail.com) no later than 8 PM on Monday, April 20, 2026.

Coaches will be notified on Monday, April 27, 2026.

Tryouts to be held Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Magris Field in Three Forks

9:00 - 14-15U
10:30 - 13U
12:00 - 12U
1:30 - 11U
3:00 - 10U
4:30 - 9U

Appendix A

GALLATIN VALLEY LIGHTNING PROCEDURE/RULES

Severe Weather

Severe weather refers to a host of potential dangers, including lightning storms, tornadoes, hail and heavy rains (which can cause injuries by creating sloppy field conditions).

Lightning is of special concern because it can develop quickly and cause great harm or even kill. For each 5 second count from a flash of lightning to the bang of thunder, lightning is one mile away. A flash – bang of ten seconds means lightning is two miles away.

Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth Baseball has created lightning rules/procedures that Gallatin Valley Baseball incorporates into its program. At the first sign of lightning or the first sound of thunder within 10 miles (a count of 50 seconds from flash to bang) all players, umpires, parents and coaches SHALL leave the field of play and sit in their vehicles. A waiting period of 30 minutes is observed from that point. If a second or third sign of lighting or clap thunder occurs the 30 minute waiting period resets and starts from that point. Managers will take charge to make sure that all players, umpires, parents and coaches are situated in vehicles. Gallatin Valley Baseball will strive to reschedule games as field space and times permit. For Majors and Minors, if by 7:15 PM on a school night, a new 30 minute waiting period is started, then the game shall be called. For TBall and Rookie, if by 6:45 PM on a school night, a new 30 minute waiting period is started, then the game shall be called. In the event of lightning and weather delays, a game for all age levels shall be considered complete after 4 innings, or after 3 ½ innings, and the home team is leading.

Compliance

This is a Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth National ruling: any managers or coaches not complying with this lightning rule will be excused from their positions in the Gallatin Valley Baseball program, for the duration of the season.

Any questions please contact the President or any member of the Gallatin Valley Baseball Board.

Thank you for your cooperation.