



Broken Arrow Youth Baseball

Serving BA Youth Since 1972

BAYB-Round The Horn

Volume 3, Issue 1, Mar 2010

ISSC Renovations

Indian Springs Sports Complex baseball facilities are getting a facelift, or maybe being reborn is a better way to put it. New concessions, restrooms, lights, resurfacing, and fencing are just some of the upgrades underway for 2010. We are fortunate to live in a city that is capable of upgrading its services to the community rather than closing them right now. Please bear with us. While the park will be a construction zone for much of the 2010 season the future benefits will far outweigh the inconvenience. For safety, please keep kids out of work areas.



Old Concession stands are Gone

Baseball Done Right - "Perspective"

We have all heard the stories or seen it for ourselves; Parents arguing or fighting at youth sporting events. It is not how most of us would want our child to act, nor is it how most adults normally act in public. I believe emotional responses to watching our children play sports are natural and ultimately a positive part of the parent child relationship. How we act on those emotions is the key to an enjoyable experience at the ballpark or a not so enjoyable experience. Keeping things in "perspective" can help. My top 5 things to keep in perspective are:

[Full Article](#) (if link does not work scroll to top of 3rd page)

On the Mound –Perspective

Keeping your child's baseball experience in the correct perspective is one way to make sure you and your child enjoy the experience and your child continues to enjoy to play the game.

League and Other News — AAYBA World Series



AAYBA World Series offers teams of all levels (Competitive and Recreational) A chance to win a World Series.

Tulsa, 10-17 July

Settle It On The Field! AAYBA does not pre-qualify teams, instead all teams are free to register regardless of your win/loss record and regardless to your National affiliation. Our drop down format will "qualify" teams into 3-5 levels of play during the initial round of play. You will be ranked by the results on the field.

This format works for teams from EVERY level of play from REC, A, or Minors to Majors or National teams.

Save \$300 if register by 1 April 2010.

[Full Article](#)

Upcoming Events and Key Dates:

March

22/26— Pre Season Tourney
 24th — Schedules published
 27/28th— Super Series Tourney
 29th — Opening Day / League Starts
 31st — **Last day to save \$300 on AAYBA World Series Entry**

April

3rd — ARVB 1 Day Tourney and **Egg Hunt**

 10/11th — Super Series Tourney
 10th — Chad Moss Free Picture Day
 17th — Chad Moss Free Picture Day
 17th — Season Celebration Day
 24/25th — Super Series Tourney

[Click here for Tournament Schedule](#)

BAYB Partners/Sponsors:



BAYB is a 501(c)3 entity and as such your or your company's donation or sponsorship may be tax deductible. We have several levels of advertising and sponsorship packages that include our advertising your business and other business opportunities.

Call us today!

Coaches Corner — Hot Topics (4)

1. BAYB Recreational Coach Certification Program requires a new course each year you remain a coach. First year coaches should take the ASEP course and all returning coaches are required to take Positive Coaching Alliance training for 2010. See our website and the coaches corner for more info.
2. Schedules should be published this week. Schedules will only be updated for major problems, i.e. insufficient games and double booking. We may (or may not) change minor issues such as too many 8 pm games if making changes, so let us know about them.
3. Practice Fields — Be good visitors, please pick up trash, only park in designated areas, etc.. Cooperate with others on the same lot. One poor team can cost us all valuable practice space. If you are practicing on land leased by BAYB (behind old Pottery store) please plan to mow your practice field. We will knock it down every few weeks but you will need to mow it to final grade.
4. Please communicate with your team parents. We have had 2 coaches meetings and now 2 team rep meetings, we have discussed a lot of information. Please pass that on to your team parents.

BAYB is comprised of over 450 members dedicated to promoting, developing, sustaining, and supervising a youth baseball program. Which includes, but is not limited to: teaching baseball rules, baseball skills, values of teamwork, sportsmanship, safety, and other characteristics of moral citizenship.

BAYB wishes to thank the following companies for their support in helping us meet our objectives and support our community. Please thank them by providing them an opportunity to meet your needs.

Rons	Academy	Chad Moss Photo
Uncle Vinny's	Perfect Practice	CiCi's
Anytime Fitness	St Gregory U	Allstar

Baseball Done Right - “Perspective” —Continued—

My top 5 things to keep in perspective are:

(1) First, they are kids. Kids lack the physical coordination and conditioning of professional athletes. They also lack the years of proper training in how to play the game. Both of these lead to more accidents on the field. More trips, more falls, running into each other, more bean balls, etc.. Kids also lack the experience and maturity to deal with adversity and these accidents. Learning to deal with adversity, stress, and other players is one of the benefits of playing sports. This experience is gained one lesson at a time through years, simply put, they have to grow up in the sport. Finally, kids likely do not see the game the way a parent does. They go through many emotions while playing the game. Being hit in the back by a pitch hurts and a first reaction may be anger, but a few minutes later when they score a run it's a happy memory. They are not planning their revenge. It always amazes me to see kids play hard and seemingly to a point of life or death competition and 5 minutes after the game they are running around and playing with the other team's players. Kids are kids, if they were born with all the skills and maturity of adults, what could we teach them?

(2) Second, it is a game. It is meant to be fun while providing opportunities for kids to learn sport and life skills as discussed above. It is not a life and death struggle. Nothing significantly changes in their life win or lose. They go to school, play with friends, and go about being kids. Life goes on. It does not matter to the high school, college, or pro coach what a player's 8 or even their 16 year old team record was. What matters to them is what skill set the player as an individual has. What a child learns from his playing a sport is more important than the outcome of the game. As parents we should focus on helping our players mature and what skills they are learning rather than the score or the outcome of a play.

(3) Third, kids learn from adults. If you forget 1 and 2 above, you may be angry when your player gets hit by a pitch. If a coach or parent of a child that was just hit by a pitch tells the player to hit the pitcher with the ball when he comes to bat, they are teaching a behavior which caused them to be angry to begin with and contrary to what most of us want our kids to learn. Adults should have the experience and maturity to help kids learn and mature. Most parents do have this on the life skills side of things but many of us do not have or do not take the time to learn and understand the game itself. Simply reading the correct rules can help. Understanding parts of the game at the youth level (not the professional game) helps as well. Being hit by a pitched, batted, or thrown ball is part of baseball. So is sometimes being tagged in the face. It happens, especially in the youth game.

(4) Fourth, officials (Umpires) are in control of the game. If a player is getting out of hand it is the umpires responsibility to control or correct them on the field, and the coaches and their parents responsibility off. It is not another parents job from the stands. Officials are a part of the game, they are not perfect and will make mistakes, however, the vast majority control the game very well. They are usually the closest adult to what is happening. What may look like a big deal to a parent sitting in the bleachers 80 to 140 feet from a play may not have even been an issue to an official standing 5 feet from the incident. The official may have seen the player stumble while the parent did not. I once watched a coach get ejected and a fight start in the stands over an umpires call. Meanwhile all the players involved (both sides) were saying the umpire was right. Umpires also have seen a lot of baseball. They know what is part of the game and what is not. If an umpire is failing to control a game the way a parent or coach feels they should they should bring the matter to the league board or umpire coordinator. I often hear people say “arguing with the umpire is part of the game”. This may be true in the professional game but it is not true in the youth game. Millions of dollars and careers are involved in the professional game, not so in the youth game. Even in the professional game some things can not be argued, balls and strikes for one.

(5) Fifth, Goals. Talk with your child on their goals and reasons for playing. Talk with the coach on their philosophy and goals for your child and the team. Finally ask yourself why you want your child playing baseball. You may find your goals are different than your child, and the coach may have other goals all together. If so, changing your thoughts, changing teams, or even changing leagues may be needed. I see many kids specializing in one sport these days, but they play others to have fun and for something to do in the off season. Some just play for the fun of it, and have no thoughts of playing for school or the pros. You do not know unless you ask. If their goal is to play in the major leagues, they will need more instruction than what a league coach can provide in one season, it is a journey. Understanding what the coach's goal for your child is will help both you and your child. Goals change, discuss them often, especially before each season.

Lets walk through an example of how keeping things in perspective can help. A runner trying to score from third runs into the catcher who has the ball but did not appear to tag the runner. The umpire calls the runner out, but does not eject him. The 2 players run to their dug out. The catcher's dad and coach starts yelling that the player had to slide. The runners team parents yell back that the catcher can not block the plate. A parent yells he never tagged

him. One parent tells another its what the catcher gets for being so slow. Another yells back your kid is too stupid to know the rules. Soon we have an ejection, a fight, or at the very least not a fun experience for anyone.

One of our biggest issues seems to be collisions at the plate. They can be violent and sometimes difficult for everyone to understand. Everyone keeping things in perspective would have kept it fun for all. First, collisions sometime happen, especially with kids, they just can not control their bodies as professional athletes can (Perspective 1). Second, rules cover this situation: runners must avoid contact with the catcher, and the catcher can not block the plate without the ball. While contact is to be avoided it sometimes happens in baseball (Perspective 3). These are rules and are decided in the judgment of the umpire. Nobody else (Perspective 4). Third, the umpire called the player out because he made contact with the catcher, even if the catcher had dropped the ball he would still have been called out for the contact. The umpire then must decide if the contact was malicious or not. If not, no ejection is warranted (Perspective 4). The 2 players just got up and ran to their dugouts (Perspective 2). Adults should not criticize kids, we should be mature enough to react to situations appropriately (Perspective 3). The umpire, parent, or coach may tell the runner he should slide when in doubt or get into a run down, as it is safer and one run is not worth getting hurt over (Perspective 5). Finally, the collision happened, the penalty was enforced, and the game and life should go on. Let it go, do not save up that initial emotion for the next time you play the team. Do not feel that the runner is a bad kid. It will only cause more issues later (Perspective 2).

Keeping your child's baseball experience in the correct perspective is one way to make sure you and your child enjoy the experience and your child continues to enjoy to play the game. Next month we will discuss another way "Respect".