



# PRAIRIE BASEBALL ACADEMY INFORMATION Handbook 2023-2024

For more information regarding 2023-2024 season please contact the staff:

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[pba@telus.net](mailto:pba@telus.net)



Registration Form: <https://forms.office.com/r/9JmV5Xs4gr>

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# **PBA MISSION STATEMENT**

- ① **To be a respected leader in the community recognized for a progressive, visualistic, community oriented and community supportive approach to sports.**
- ① **To be respected for having non-compromising principles, values, and integrity within our organization.**
- ① **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.**
- ① **To attract top-level coaching, instructional, technical, and training personnel to our program.**
- ① **To provide this top level of instruction to as many Canadians as possible.**
- ① **To bring the educational communities in Lethbridge together for the betterment of all involved.**
- ① **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.**
- ① **To assist, promote, and encourage the development of baseball organizations at all amateur levels.**

# ACADEMICS

As a “Student Athlete” academics **must** come first. For any athlete to move on to the next level, they must be able to present their academic background, therefore they must place academics at the top of their priority list of goals to accomplish. 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 \$80,000 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.

The scholarship program is changing in 2023-2024 as full scholarships will be awarded to top achieving students. Students with GPA below 2.75 at the University of Lethbridge and 3.00 at Lethbridge College will have a nominal registration fee due in January.

# PRAIRIE BASEBALL ACADEMY ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

## UNIVERSITY OF LETHBRIDGE:

- ① 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.
- ① Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the minimum hours required (although the higher the GPA, the more scholarship dollars that will be received for the spring semester).

## LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE:

- ① 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.
- ① Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA in the minimum hours required (although the higher the GPA, the more scholarship dollars that will be received for the spring semester).

## HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

- ① 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.
- ① Students must maintain a 60% GPA in every course they are registered in.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR FULL SCHOLARSHIP:

### U of L

- ① 12– 15 hours per semester
- ① 2.75 GPA

### LC:

- 12-15 hours per semester
- 3.0 GPA

### High School Students to Receive a Bursary:

- ① 15- 20 credits per semester
- ① 80% 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.

In addition, your financial requirements to the program are reduced due to higher than recommended grades.

# INTEGRITY AND EXPECTATIONS

Prairie Baseball Academy has worked extremely 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 reflects on 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 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 are not here to party. You do not want to break any of the rules, so make sure you read them carefully.***

## FEE STRUCTURE FOR PBA

**Fall fees are \$ 3300.00 plus GST per player. This fee is non-refundable.**

The fall program starts September 5th and ends on the last test day of the fall semester (December 15th.)

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 Lethbridge College. 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 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!!*

### Fees for Spring Program

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: \$ 2380.95 + \$119.05 (GST) = \$2500.00**

**Junior Varsity Fees: \$ 1904.76 + \$95.24 (GST) = \$2000.00**

**Red Shirt Fees (Practice Roster): \$ 1428.57 + \$71.43 (GST) = \$1500.00**

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. In 2024 the Canadian College World Series will take place from May 18-20 at Spitz Stadium here in Lethbridge.

To be eligible to receive any scholarships offered through PBA, student athletes must attain a 2.0 GPA. Scholarships will be awarded on a sliding scale with students with GPA's of 2.75 at the UofL or 3.0 or higher at the LC eligible for full scholarships.

\*\*\*\*\*The Spring Program begins around 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 3:15 pm 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. Practice time will never be earlier than 3:30 pm. The only acceptable reason for missing practice is school. 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 miss.*** 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).

## **2024 PBA HALL OF FAME BANQUET & SCHOLARSHIP CEREMONY**

The banquet will feature the annual ceremony for the Prairie Baseball Academy Hall of Fame. The banquet will be held on January 24th, 2024 at the Sandman Signature Hotel & Conference Center. Tickets to this special event will be on sale after 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. Anyone raising \$800.00 in total fundraising will receive 50% of every dollar OVER \$1000.00 in 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.

**Failure to attain a \$800.00 minimum will result in an additional \$250.00 charge for the spring fees.**

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.**

## 2023-2024 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 get tested 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 get tested a week before reporting to PBA on September 6th (not mandatory) and ask them to copy the results to Dr. Weaver.

## NEW FALL 2023-2024 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.**

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

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



**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 or other illnesses. 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,  

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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,  

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Initials
  
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,  

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Initials
  
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.  

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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***  
***2023 - 2024 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. 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 2.75 or higher fall GPA as of December 31/23 at the University of Lethbridge or a 3.0 or higher GPA at Lethbridge College.

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. I understanding that a fundraising fee of \$250.00 will be owed on January 1, 2024 should I not fulfill my fall fundraising commitments.

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

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



**2023-2024 FALL REGISTRATION FEES**

**MUST FILL OUT REGISTRATION FORM AT:**  
<https://forms.office.com/r/9JmV5Xs4gr>

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

August 20, 2023 Payment \$500

September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Payment \$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!!**