

RYBA statement on youth club level baseball in Rochester:

The Rochester Youth Baseball Association would like to welcome a new member to the baseball community. Last week the Minnesota Blizzard announced their entry into Rochester. We look forward to them joining us to provide additional opportunities for the players in Rochester and the surrounding communities to develop their baseball skills. We expect additional club level teams to make an entry into the Rochester market in the future.

We’ve received numerous questions from interested and concerned parents over this announcement. We want to make our position clear.

RYBA is not in competition with club businesses. RYBA is a non-profit organization. As such, we serve the community with a volunteer team of parents and coaches dedicated to providing a fun sports experience for our kids. All fees we collect are reinvested into supporting our members. In the last decade we have reinvested in field improvements, installed lights, built a new playground, added batting cages and an equipment shed and this year a new covered picnic area will open at the Rochester Baseball Complex. We believe it’s in the interest of everyone that we maintain the longstanding traditions of *community based baseball* during the summer months of May through August, so we can continue to make these investments into our community.

We look forward to working with all local baseball training groups in a cooperative way. We are not creating any new policies to interfere with a new business entering our community. We will continue our practice of endorsing our sponsors and contracted agents. We don’t sell our member lists to anyone and maintain all your registration information in a safe and secure manner. RYBA does not endorse any particular club level team over another.

We do want parents to be fully informed of potential conflicts that participation in club baseball could have for their children. As a member of the Metro Baseball League, we abide by their policies and those of the Minnesota Baseball Tournaments which sponsor the July state tournaments. Below is the MBL position regarding the summer baseball season (April 25, 2016 – August 1, 2016).

**“Levels of Play” - The MBL has designated all “Club” teams as “AAA”.**

**Please be aware that this means, if an ”A” or “AA” player participates in a club game or tournament during the MBL summer season, April 25 to Aug 1, that player will be ineligible to participate on their “A” or “AA” team for the rest of that summer season.**

**RYBA respectfully requests that players assigned to a “AAA” level travel team make RYBA travel your priority during the summer travel season dates outlined above.**

Our mission is to provide a fun environment for kids to participate in the sport of baseball. We want our players to represent their high schools and other Rochester programs like our VFW and American Legion teams which every year donate thousands of dollars locally to the sport.

RYBA has been part of Rochester for 59 years! We plan to provide the best and most affordable baseball experience for all children in our community well into the future. Registration is open and we look forward to seeing you again this summer.

Paul Gronholz Tony Horvath

RYBA President RYBA Travel Director