

# Bitterroot Bucs

## Player & Parent Handbook

## Bitterroot Bucs Baseball Rules & Policy Manual

### I. INTRODUCTION

Bitterroot Bucs Mission Statement.

The Bitterroot Bucs Baseball Program is committed to following the rules that govern our Community, American Legion Baseball, and the Bitterroot Bucs program. Our coaches and directors are dedicated to developing our players into young men in society through baseball fundamentals and sportsmanship.

Members of the Bitterroot Bucs program are expected to earn the respect of those in and around their community. Members of the Bitterroot Bucs Baseball Program will hold themselves to higher standards as role models in the community.

The Bitterroot Bucs (“Bucs”) are a visible part of the Bitterroot Valley and the surrounding communities. Players are expected to strive to earn the respect of those in and around the community through mature actions and reflect a strong positive image of the Bitterroot Bucs Baseball Program.

### II. BITTERROOT BUCS.

A. **Bitterroot Bucs.** Bitterroot Bucs Baseball is the assumed business name and supported by Stevensville American Legion Post #94 Baseball Program. The Bitterroot Bucs American Legion Baseball Team (“Bucs Organization”) is organized for charitable, social and educational purposes, and as an exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). In furtherance of its stated purposes, the activities of the Bucs Organization shall be in accordance with all rules and regulations established by the American Legion National Baseball Commission and shall include:

B. **Board Appointments.** As set forth in the Bylaws, each season the Board of Directors shall hire coaches and, appoint committee chairs and tournament directors.

### III. PLAYER ELIGIBILITY.

A. **To be eligible for the Bucs, each player shall:**

- i. Live within the geographical boundaries as defined by the Montana-Alberta American Legion Baseball boundaries, unless released by local team as set forth with American Legion Bylaws (Plan A, Rule 3, B1).
- ii. Provide a certified copy of his birth certificate upon request to validate age. The cut-off date for determining a player’s age and eligibility for American Legion Baseball is their age as of January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- iii. Abide by all rules and regulations set forth herein and all rules of American Legion Baseball.
- iv. Players and their parent(s) or guardian(s), if they are under the age of eighteen (18), shall be required to sign a statement acknowledging they have read and understand these rules and this policy manual.
- v. Sports Physical. Players must provide a sports physical clearance from a physician on or before the parent meeting. A physical within the last 12 months will be accepted. A player will not be allowed to play if they have not turned in a physical form.

vi. Pay All Fundraising. See Player / Parent Contract

- B. **Deadline for Paying Fundraising Money.** Each player is required to pay all fundraising money as identified on Player / Parent Contract. Players who do not have all fundraising money paid on or before said dates will be allowed to practice but will not be allowed to play in conference or non-conference games until such time as the player's fundraising money is paid in full. No amount of a player's fees shall be refunded to the player for any reason. Any player with outstanding dues from the previous season or fees owed will not be able to register, practice or play until paid in full.
- C. **Player Assistance.** If a player is not able to pay their fundraising money by the deadline, the player may petition the Board of Directors in writing before said deadline for special consideration and/or additional time to pay the required fundraising money. Each petition will be confidential, handled by the Board of Directors on a case-by-case basis, and awarded based on the merits of each petition. Each petition shall contain a detailed explanation of the efforts made by the player to raise the fundraising money through the fundraising options set forth herein.
- D. **List of Ineligible Players.** It is expected that the Board of Directors will notify the coaching staff of any ineligible players due to fundraising deficiencies.

**IV. Fundraising – See Bucs Fundraising Form and Packet**

**V. Player Responsibility and Conduct**

- A. At all times during tryouts, practices, games, and any Bucs function, or while traveling with the team, the following rules shall be strictly adhered to:
- i. Players shall not throw bats, helmets, or other equipment in frustration or anger. Any player who throws bats, helmets or other equipment in frustration or anger during a game or practice may be immediately removed from the game or practice, and not be allowed to play for the remainder of the game (Per American Legion Bylaws, Rule 7 C).
  - ii. "If you are not early, you are late." Players, absent unforeseen circumstances, shall be responsible for being on time to all scheduled tryouts, practices, games, and team functions. All players are responsible for informing the coach of any foreseen schedule conflicts which will result in the player being late for scheduled tryouts, practices, games, and team functions. Any player who, without being excused by a coach, is not on time for, or absent from a scheduled tryout, practice, game, or team function may be disciplined by the coach, in his sole discretion, and as the coach deems appropriate.
  - iii. Players are not allowed to participate in camps or non-league games once championship tournament play has begun pursuant to National Rule Book for American Legion Baseball "Rule 6 Dual Participation."
  - iv. All players are required to notify the coach or assistant coach prior to an absence from tryouts, games, or team functions. If a player expects to miss a practice or game, it is his responsibility to notify the head coach as soon as possible. Throughout the season, players will be allowed 10 excused absences (for example, family events, camps, college visits). However, these absences must be pre-approved by the head coach as soon as possible. Players may be subject to a suspension for any absence after the initial 10 absences. Family

emergencies, illness or injuries do not count toward this policy. Unexcused absences from scheduled practices, games or team functions may result in a one (1) game suspension enforced in the next scheduled game, or other punishment as deemed appropriate by the head coach. Additional unexcused absences may be grounds for dismissal from the Bucs.

- v. Players shall not be involved in any altercations with teammates, coaches, game officials, or opposing players. Any player involved in an altercation with teammates, coaches, game officials, or opposing players may be immediately suspended from the Bucs for a period of time deemed appropriate by the coach or be dismissed from the team.
- vi. Players shall not miss team bus departures. Any player who misses a team bus without prior approval of the coach or coaching staff will not participate in that day's scheduled game(s).
- vii. Before any player is allowed to ride home from a scheduled away game, other than on the team bus, he must receive prior written approval from the coach or assistant coach. The coach or assistant coach will not grant such approval without written consent from the player's parent or guardian that requests and specifies the alternate mode of transportation.
- viii. Players will keep groomed with uniforms clean. Remember, the player reflects the entire organization.
- ix. Players must be in proper uniform appearance as mandated by the coach and will stand at attention in team formation for the playing of the National Anthem at all games. Players who are not in proper uniform appearance as mandated by the coach or who do not stand at attention in team formation for the playing of the National Anthem at all games may be disciplined by the coach, as per the American Legion Rule.
- x. Players will dress and wear proper attire as specified by the coach on any Bucs related functions, including travel. Players who do not dress or wear proper attire as specified by coach may be disciplined by the coach, as the coach deems appropriate.
- xi. All players are responsible for keeping their individual spaces and team spaces organized at all times including but not limited to: lockers, locker rooms, dugouts, hotel rooms, and team buses. Players who do not keep their individual spaces or team spaces, lockers, locker rooms, dugouts, hotel rooms, team buses, clean and organized at all times may be disciplined by the coach as the coach deems appropriate.
- xii. No persons, other than players and/or coaches, shall be allowed in the players' hotel rooms. A player who willfully violates this section may be immediately suspended from the Bucs for a period of time deemed appropriate by the coach.
- xiii. Coaches will designate a "lights out" or "in the room" time for all away games. Players are expected to remain in their rooms after "lights out" time. When staying in hotel rooms, players will not leave the hotel without prior approval of the coaches and shall follow rules set by the coaches. Players who violate this

section may be immediately suspended from the Bucs for a period of time deemed appropriate by the coach.

- xiv. Each player is responsible for the uniforms issued to him. If a player loses or ruins his uniform pants, shirt, or hat, the player will be required to pay the cost of replacing the uniform.
- xv. Any injury or sickness will be immediately reported to the coaching staff by the player, parent; or guardian. The coaching staff must be kept informed regarding any treatment plans and / or restrictions placed on the player by a physician, physical therapist, etc. Those who are injured are expected to attend all meetings, practices, and games, regardless of the ability to participate, unless excused by a coach, or unless specified by a physician.

**B. Bitterroot Bucs Players will strictly adhere to the following:**

- i. No player shall intentionally or negligently damage equipment or property owned, leased, or used by the Bucs. Any player who intentionally or negligently damages equipment or property owned or leased by the Bucs or used by the Bucs shall be liable for such damages. All players responsible for such damage shall be required to pay for the entire cost of such damages and may be suspended from the Bucs as determined by a disciplinary hearing by the Board of Directors.
- ii. Players shall not steal property owned or leased by the Bucs or used by Bucs, property belonging to any player, player's family members, coach, coach's family members, or steal property while traveling with the team. Players who steal property owned or leased by the Bucs or used by the Bucs, property belonging to any player, player's family members, coach, or coach's family members, or steal property while traveling with the team may be suspended or dismissed from the Bucs.
- iii. Any player who commits a criminal offense, other than a minor traffic violation, may be immediately suspended from the Bucs for a period of time deemed appropriate by the coach, or dismissed from the program. Coach and Board of Directors should be given knowledge of offenses and sufficient information to allow the coach and Board to make an informed decision about appropriate league and/or team action.
- iv. Any player charged with a felony criminal offense shall be suspended or released from the Bucs until such charge is resolved. At that time, the player may be reinstated by the Board of Directors in its sole discretion. The Board of Directors will need a list of what the player is allowed and not allowed to do (i.e. conditions of release and/or probation).

- C. Players recognize the American Legion Drug and Alcohol Policy.** The policy states each player agrees to remain alcohol and drug free through the entire baseball season. In addition to the American Legion Drug and Alcohol Policy, the Bucs have adopted the following policies and rules regarding drugs, alcohol, and tobacco (including vaping) to be followed by the Bucs players.

1. **Purpose.** Each player participating in the Bucs agrees to remain alcohol, marijuana, tobacco, vaping, and drug free through the completion of the baseball season. Implementation of this policy will serve the following purposes:
  - a. To emphasize concern for the health and wellbeing of our players.
  - b. To provide a chemical free environment that will encourage healthy development.
  - c. To promote a sense of self discipline among players.
  - d. To confirm and support existing state laws relative to controlled substances.
  - e. To emphasize the standards of conduct for players who, through their participation in the Bitterroot Bucs American Legion Baseball Program, become leaders and role models for their peers and younger players.
2. **Policy Coverage.** This policy requires that players shall not:
  - a. Use, have in his possession, distribute or sell alcohol, marijuana or illegal drugs (possession is defined as the use of a prohibited substance, or having a prohibited substance in personal possession).
  - b. Use of tobacco or vape products in any form.
  - c. Abuse of prescription or non-prescription drugs. This policy is not intended to apply to the use of prescription drugs under a licensed physician's direction when those drugs are used in a prescribed manner.
3. **Awareness.** Players who elect to participate in the program, as well as players' parents and/or guardians, are responsible for understanding this policy. A player's signature and that of his parent's or guardian's is required on these rules and policies as a condition of participation in the Bucs organization.
4. **Player & Parent Notification of policy violation and Proposed Action**
  - a. If a determination is made that a player has violated this Drug and Alcohol Handbook policy, the player, and player's parent(s) and/or guardian(s) shall be notified of the violation and the proposed disciplinary action either in person or by telephone contact by the coach or in writing by the Board of Directors.
  - b. **Appeals.** A player may appeal a violation of the handbook policy including drug and alcohol policy. The Board of Directors will manage the appeal in accordance with Bucs Organization Bylaws.
  - c. **Disciplinary Process.** While associated in any way with the Bucs, a player will be subject to a Disciplinary Process for drug and/or alcohol policy violations. This policy is set forth below and is in addition to any penalties set forth above.

- i. Upon the first (1<sup>st</sup>) violation of the rules set forth in the policy / handbook, the player shall be suspended for a period deemed appropriate by the coach.
- ii. Upon the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) violation of the rules set forth in the policy / handbook, the player shall be suspended for ten (10) games. Player will continue to attend practices and fundraising events. The second(2<sup>nd</sup>) or any additional violation(s) will carry over for the course of the player's Bucs career.
- iii. Upon the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) violation of the rules set forth in the policy / handbook, the player shall be terminated from the Bucs Baseball Organization for one calendar year.

## **VI. Parents/Guardians Responsibilities and Conduct.**

- A. **Parent/Guardian Conduct.** Parent(s) /Guardian(s) of all players are expected to be courteous and polite at all tryouts, practices, home and away games, and team functions. Parent(s) / Guardian(s) and spectators shall act in a manner representative of the Bucs core values. The following behaviors will not be tolerated; heckling, verbal or physical altercations, demeaning or derogatory statements directed to any coach, player, umpire or spectators. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall refrain from all forms of negative and combative cheering. Any grievances associated with coaching decisions, playing time, calls by umpires during games will not be tolerated. Parent(s)/guardian(s) will not communicate with umpires. Any grievance related to calls or plays will come from the coaching staff. If a coach deems appropriate, parent(s) / guardians(s), spectators will be asked to leave the premises. If a parent/guardian or spectator refuses to leave the premises after being asked to leave by a coach, the coaching staff has the authority to forfeit the game.
- B. **Parent / Guardian Work Schedules.** All parents/guardians are required to volunteer during the seasons. Refer to the Player/Parent Contract. If you do not meet your volunteer requirements, your \$200 check will be cashed.
- C. **Complaints and Grievances.** If parents/guardians have complaints with any aspect of the Bucs, such complaints shall be made to a member of the Board of Directors. Acceptable forms of expressing complaints include written letters, emails or texts. The Director shall communicate all valid complaints with the coach and/or the Board of Directors. If a parent or guardian has a complaint that he/she wishes to make to a coach, the coach may, in his sole discretion agree to meet with the parent/ guardian and/or player. If you have a complaint or grievance, wait 24 hours before contacting the head coach or Board of Directors.
- D. **Attendance at Initial Parent Meeting.** Each player must have at least one parent or guardian representative at the Initial Parent Meeting.
- E. **Dugout / Clubhouse.** Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are not allowed in the dugout or clubhouse during or between games unless authorized.

## **VII. Coaches Responsibilities and Conduct.**

- A. **Rules and Regulations Compliance.** All coaches are responsible for reporting all major player and parent rule infractions set forth herein to the Board of Directors.
  - B. **Player Selection.** The coaches are responsible for scheduling and conducting team tryouts. After tryouts, coaches are responsible for player selections for each team
  - C. **Conduct.** The coaches shall always conduct themselves in a professional manner during tryouts, practices, games, team functions and during all on and off the field situations while travelling with the teams.
  - D. **Illegal Drugs.** Coaches may not have in their possession, distribute, sell, or use illegal substances while in charge or influence of players.
  - E. **Alcohol Use.** Coaches shall, at all times, limit any alcohol use to that which would not visibly impair them or exceed the legal driving limits.
  - F. **Supervision.** Coaches shall not leave the premises (i.e. hotel) where players are staying without ensuring at least one other coach or predetermined chaperone remains on the premises at all times.
  - G. **Timeliness.** All coaches are responsible for being on-time for all scheduled tryouts, practices, games, and team functions. All coaches are responsible for communicating foreseen schedule conflicts to their players.
  - H. **Scheduling.** All coaches are responsible for scheduling all tryouts, practices, and games
  - I. **Mandatory Meetings.** All coaches are required to attend the initial parent meeting following team selection.
  - J. **Facilities Shutdowns.** Following the end of the baseball season, the coaches will be responsible for shutting down the Bitterroot Bucs Field facilities including but not limited to, checking in and inventorying all player uniforms and equipment, ensuring that the Buc's bus has been appropriately cleaned, coaches office, and grounds (with the assistance of Directors and Parents)
- VIII. Team Travel.**
- A. **Team Bus.** The team bus will be used for travel to scheduled away games or tournaments for the Bucs. The Buc's bus will not take players to local games. Players and parents/guardians are responsible for travel to and from local games. The Bucs Organization does not assume any liability when traveling to and from local games in personal vehicles. On occasion, or any unforeseen circumstances, parents/guardians may be required to take players to away games or tournaments.
  - B. **No Reimbursement for Meal Costs, Travel, or Per Diem.** The Bucs do not provide reimbursement of any meal costs, travel or per diem for players.



By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have fully read the Player/Parent Handbook.

Player signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_