

River Falls High School Baseball

Welcome to another season, or first season for some of you, of Wildcat Baseball. First off, I would like to thank you for taking the time to attend tonight's parent meeting. Your son has an obvious interest in baseball and your support is an integral part of this program.

The objective of this meeting is to:

1. provide important information about the upcoming season to you
2. open the lines of communication between everyone involved
3. get acquainted with the coaches and other parents

Wildcat Baseball Program Philosophy:

Our program philosophy is simple: "To develop quality young men through the game of baseball." High School athletics are inherently educational. They provide valuable lessons for practical situations – teamwork, sportsmanship, commitment, dedication, and hard work. Through participation in athletic programs, students learn self-discipline, build confidence, and develop skills to handle themselves in competitive situations. Building strong, confident, and respectful young men is first and foremost in our program. Winning occurs on its own accord if we challenge ourselves both individually as student-athletes, and as members of a team. Our philosophy encompasses the way we act both on and off the field.

Schedules:

Attached you will find a game schedule for each level. Just remember that with our Wisconsin weather, every schedule is subject to change. All home Varsity games will be held on the Varsity field while JV and JV2 games will be held on either the JV field or the JV2 field. All levels will practice at the high school. Until we can get outside, teams will practice in the high school gyms.

Activity Fee Refunds:

Players who decide not to play baseball will be given a full refund within the first week of practice. After the first week, no refunds will be given.

Uniform Wash:

Players will be checked out a full uniform for the entire season. Players are responsible for the care of that uniform and will be held accountable for any damaged uniforms. Wash only on a need-to-be basis and please **wash all uniforms in cold water and hang dry.**

Grades:

Term 3 grades may determine academic eligibility for some players. No player will be allowed to miss any school to travel with the team if they are failing any current classes during the season.

Rules/Consequences:

Players must let their coach know **ahead of time** if they are going to miss practice or game, **even if they are absent from school that day.** Unexcused absences from **practice or school** will result in automatic game suspensions:

1st unexcused absence = 1 game suspension

2nd unexcused absence = 2 game suspension

3rd unexcused absence = season over, 3 strikes and you're out!

Unexcused tardies from practice or school will also result in disciplinary action determined by the coach. Talk to a coach at school, leave a note in their mailbox, call and leave them a message, or text them. But you must let your coach know **ahead of time, no exceptions!**

Fundraising: This season we will be doing our two annual fundraisers: 1. a chicken fry, and 2. Dugout Club Drive. This is the group that is responsible for building the concession/pa stands on our fields, any team functions, pizza on road trips, support of the legion baseball program, etc. Nobody truly likes to fundraise. However it is part of the gig and we must all do our part to help continue moving our program forward. No question, our program and our facilities would not be where we are today without your support. Thank you!

Coaches' Direct Contact Information:

Varsity – Ryan Bishop (715)307-1393, ryan.bishop@rfsd.k12.wi.us

JV – Mark Vrieze (715)307-7421, mark.vrieze@yahoo.com

JV2 – Neil Vance (715)307-2645, neil@rfcov.org

Thank you for taking the time to read the above information. With your help and support, this season will be exciting and enjoyable for all. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. Thank you and see you at the ballpark!

River Falls Baseball Communication Links

River Falls Dugout Club / High School and Legion Baseball Website:

<http://www.riverfallswildcatsbaseball.org/>

River Falls Dugout Club / High School and Legion Baseball Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Falls-Wildcats-Baseball/227200594093747>

River Falls Dugout Club / High School and Legion Baseball Twitter:

https://twitter.com/RFHS_Baseball

River Falls Fighting Fish Website:

<http://www.fishbaseball.org/>

River Falls Fighting Fish Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/River-Falls-Fighting-Fish/8639062486>

RFBC - First National Bank of River Falls Field Website:

<http://www.riverfallsbaseball.org/>

RFBC - First National Bank of River Falls Field Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/First-National-Bank-of-River-Falls-Field/363412137110152>

River Falls Youth Baseball Association Website:

<http://www.riverfallsyouthbaseball.org/>

River Falls Youth Baseball Association Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RFYBO>

Field of Dreams Indoor Sports and Batting Cages Website:

<http://www.rffieldofdreams.com/>

Field of Dreams Indoor Sports and Batting Cages Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/FieldOfDreamsIndoorSports>

RFHS & MMS Athletic/Activity Registration

RETURNING from previous registrations; phones won't work

(Helpful Hint ~ **ONE ACCOUNT PER FAMILY (ever)**)

- Go to www.rfsd.k12.wi.us
- Schools - River Falls High School
- Athletics/activities
- Activity Registration
- Sign In button on top right side (returning user only; *new account instructions below)

Adding an activity/athletic; including siblings

- First page, Top right: Select *Sign In* button; Enter your login and password you created.
 - You can call the Activities Office if you forgot your login
- Click *Register* (left side drop down arrow)
 - Select "*Student's Name*" if adding activity for existing registered student
 - Select "*New Student*" if adding family member/additional student
- Select "*Athletic Registration*" or "*Activity Registration*"
- Proceed through screens; most information comes up from previous registration
- Select your new activity
 - Remember to select sport/activity with HS or MS next to it.
- Payments: same as below **
- Final Screen: hit "submit" button; you will receive verification that you are registered

*NEW ACCOUNT ONLY: Registering Athletics or Activity Online

- **FIRST TIME FAMILY REGISTERING Online:**
 - www.rfsd.k12.wi.us – schools – RFHS – Athletics/Activities – scroll to bottom and select either: Register for Athletics or Register for Activities
 - Continue to select/fill out information (* required); Uploaded Physical required/good for 2 years
 - Be sure to select the Correct Athletic/Activity; HS or MS student
 - High school athletics/activities will have HS next to it; MMS has MS next to it.
 - *Create Login & Password* after all info is entered
 - Remember your login and password for future registrations or added family members
- **Payments:**
 - Credit card only: select *Continue to Pay*, then complete credit card information as required
 - Please note you cannot select a \$ amount; the computer will select
 - If you reached your Individual Max; go back and select *Pay Later*.
 - If the \$ amount is not correct, please call the Activities Office: 715-425-1830x3710
 - Cash or Check only: select *Pay Later*, bring check or cash to RFHS Activities Office
 - High School Activities/Athletics = \$85/each; Individual Max = \$170; Fam Max \$300
 - Meyer Middle School Activities/Athletics = \$60/each; Individual Max = \$120

**Exceptions: Extra Football or Hockey fee, Ski Club, Trap Shooting, Powerlifting, Dance, Cheer, Robotics
(These activities/athletics cannot be paid online nor count towards max fees)

- **Final screen:** answer math question, then hit "submit" button; you will receive verification that you registered

From the coaches

Dear Parents and Players,

First, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support of River Falls Wildcat Baseball. If you are reading this, you are part of our team and we need your help this year.

Our vision is to teach quality character through the game of baseball. We're not out to set anyone back, hold grudges, or humiliate. We are going to hold our players accountable for mental and physical preparation, effort, and attitude. We know baseball is a game built around failure and we feel it is a great way to impact young men in a positive way. We've been fortunate to play beyond high school and see what it takes physically to assess/evaluate fundamental and advanced baseball skills.

Respect and accountability are important to us. This means we will challenge your son to become the best he can be. Many people have dedicated tireless hours to create a competitive opportunity for your son. We look to continue this while keeping the integrity of River Falls Baseball intact. We hope to create a positive culture and build from strengths this year. We will always continue to work on our weaknesses, but we want to recognize our strengths as well.

With our experience, we kindly ask you respect our knowledge in the decision-making process. Playing time, or coaching decisions related to playing time, will not be discussed. If there is a matter related to character issues, please bring them forward. Like anything in life, negativity and selfishness directly impact the program and ultimately hold back the team's performance. We ask kindly that you respect our vision and our experience, and join our team in a positive manor.

We sincerely appreciate your support of River Falls baseball. This year will require a combined effort and we hope you are willing to join our team!

Go Wildcats,

Wildcat Baseball Coaching Staff

Wildcat Baseball Team Breakdown

The first week of practice will feature a series of “tryout days” where every player will be put through a series of drills to best evaluate each player’s skill level and potential. Following tryouts, players will be designated to one of our three team rosters. Players not making one of the three rosters will not have an opportunity to play Wildcat Baseball. The 3 levels of play are labeled Varsity, JV, and JV2.

The reason for labeling our 3rd level “JV2” rather than “Freshman, serves two main purposes:

1. It allows for more flexibility in player placement. The JV2 will be made up of primarily freshman, however there will be some sophomores and juniors on that roster as well.
2. It allows for an expanded schedule since “Freshman” teams are capped at a limited number of games allowed under WIAA rules.

Tryouts / Evaluations

All players will be evaluated over a number of various drills throughout the first two days of practice. All coaches will then sit down and go through their evaluations forms and discuss each player individually. Players are evaluated on seven primary areas of baseball ability:

1. Basic throwing and catching
2. Hitting
3. Infield
4. Outfield
5. Speed
6. Pitching/Catching (if applicable)
7. The “X” Factor (work ethic, etc.)

Those players not “making the cut” will be notified in person the following day at school. We will make official team placements over the following days, depending on how long we are stuck inside for practice.

Wildcat Baseball 2019

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

1/22 – 3/14: Open gyms every Tue/Thur morning 6:00-7:15am

2/28: Mandatory Team Meeting for all players during Focus in Room D101

3/3: RF Baseball 2019 Kickoff Day and Parent Meeting at High School

- Youth player clinics 5:00-7:00 run by high school players
- HS program parent meeting at 6:30pm in auditorium
- RF Baseball apparel sales and orders (in stock and online order window)
- Social / Apparel Time: from 5:00-7:30 the Dugout Club will be selling various apparel and hats. An online order window for apparel will be available for a short time period following. Like past years a sales rep from Chippewa Valley Sporting Goods will also be on hand with various equipment (gloves, bats, bags, cleats, etc.) for sale/order.

3/18: 1st Official Day of Practice – Tryout Week

3/23-3/31: SPRING BREAK (there will still be practices held during this week)

4/4: Season opener at Centennial

4/6: Chicken Fry (4-8pm)

4/24: (Tentative) Team Pictures Night

4/27: Prom

5/4: RF Baseball 2019 Stadium Kickoff Day: JV2 @ 11, JV @ 1:15, Varsity @ 3:30, Fish @ 6

5/8: RFHS Senior Banquet

5/12: Mother's Day

5/15: RFHS Awards Program

5/17: Team Trip to St. Paul Saints game

5/22: RFHS Baccalaureate

5/21: Senior Night for 6pm game vs Tartan

5/23: WIAA Regional game

5/28: WIAA Regional game

5/29: WIAA Regional Championship game

6/2: Graduation

6/4: WIAA Sectionals

6/6: Wildcat Baseball End-of-the-Season Banquet

6/11-6/13: WIAA State Tournament

Note: Summer ball season dates will be announced separately

* As we've learned with past years weather, all dates are tentative and subject to change at any time. Thank you in advance with your flexibility with this.

2019 Wildcat Baseball ~ First 3 Weeks

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17	18 * First Day of Practice Tryout Day #1 3:15 - 5:00pm	19 6am ETS Tryout Day #2 3:15 - 5:00pm	20 Practice All Levels 3:15 - 5:00pm	21 Practice All Levels 3:15 - 5:00pm	22 6am ETS No Practice All Levels	23 AZ - Practice TBD WI - No Practice
24	25 AZ - Practice TBD WI - ETS 6-7am WI - Practice 7-9am	26 AZ - Practice TBD WI - Practice at FOD 9-11am	27 AZ - Off Day WI - Off Day	28 AZ - Scrimmage TBD WI - ETS 6-7am WI - Practice 7-9am	29 AZ - Scrimmage TBD WI - Practice at FOD 9-11am, pizza lunch	30 No Practice All Levels
31	1 6am ETS Practice All Levels 3:15 - 5:00pm	2 Practice All Levels 3:15 - 5:00pm	3 6am ETS Practice All Levels at FOD 3:15 - 6:00pm Chicken Fry Collection & Membership Drive Kickoff Night	4 Varsity at Centennial JV at Centennial JV2 Practice 3:15-5:00	5 Varsity at East Ridge JV at East Ridge JV2 at East Ridge	6 2019 Chicken Fry Worker Schedule TBD

* This calendar is meant to give you a tentative outline for the first 3 weeks of the season. As always, it is weather permitting.

2019 River Falls Varsity Baseball

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Bus</u>
Sun	March 24	TBD	Roseville (Scrimmage in AZ)	TBD
Thur	March 28	TBD	Burnsville (Scrimmage in AZ)	TBD
Fri	March 29	TBD	St. Louis Park (Scrimmage in AZ)	TBD
Thur	April 4	4:30	at Centennial	2:00
Fri	April 5	4:15	at East Ridge	2:30
Tue	April 9	4:30	Eau Claire North	Home
Thur	April 11	4:30	at Eau Claire North	2:00
Mon	April 15	4:30	Baldwin	Home
Tue	April 16	4:30	at Hudson	3:00
Thur	April 18	4:30	Hudson	Home
Tue	April 23	4:30	Menomonie	Home
Thur	April 25	4:30	at Menomonie	2:30
Fri	April 26	4:30	at White Bear Lake	2:30
Tue	April 30	5:00	Rice Lake	Home
Thur	May 2	5:00	at Rice Lake	1:30
Fri	May 3	6:30	Little Chute	Home
Sat	May 4	3:30	Park Cottage Grove	Home
Tue	May 7	5:00	at Eau Claire Memorial	2:30
Thur	May 9	5:00	Eau Claire Memorial	Home
Mon	May 13	5:00	at New Richmond	3:15
Tue	May 14	4:30	at Chippewa Falls	2:00
Thur	May 16	5:00	Chippewa Falls	Home
Mon	May 20	4:30	at St. Paul Highland Park	2:45
Tue	May 21	6:00	Tartan (Senior Night)	Home
TBD	TBD	TBD	WIAA Playoffs	TBD

2019 River Falls JV Baseball

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Bus</u>
Thur	April 4	4:30	at Centennial	2:00
Fri	April 5	4:00	at East Ridge (5 inning DH)	2:30
Tue	April 9	4:30	Eau Claire North	Home
Thur	April 11	4:30	at Eau Claire North	2:00
Mon	April 15	4:30	Baldwin	Home
Tue	April 16	4:30	at Hudson	3:00
Thur	April 18	4:30	Hudson	Home
Tue	April 23	4:30	Menomonie	Home
Thur	April 25	4:30	at Menomonie	2:30
Fri	April 26	4:30	at White Bear Lake	2:30
Tue	April 30	5:00	Rice Lake	Home
Thur	May 2	5:00	at Rice Lake	1:30
Fri	May 3	4:00	Prescott	Home
Sat	May 4	1:15	Park Cottage Grove	Home
Tue	May 7	5:00	at Eau Claire Memorial	2:30
Thur	May 9	5:00	Eau Claire Memorial	Home
Mon	May 13	5:00	at New Richmond	3:15
Tue	May 14	4:30	at Chippewa Falls	2:00
Thur	May 16	5:00	Chippewa Falls	Home
Mon	May 20	4:30	at St. Paul Highland Park	2:45
Tue	May 21	4:00	Tartan	Home

2019 River Falls JV2 Baseball

<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>Bus</u>
Fri	April 5	4:00	at East Ridge (5 inning DH)	2:30
Tue	April 9	4:30	at Eau Claire North	2:15
Thur	April 11	4:30	Eau Claire North	Home
Fri	April 12	4:30	Prescott	Home
Mon	April 15	4:30	at Prescott	3:00
Tue	April 16	4:30	Hudson	Home
Thur	April 18	4:30	at Hudson	3:00
Tue	April 23	4:30	at Menomonie	2:30
Thur	April 25	4:30	Menomonie	Home
Fri	April 26	4:30	White Bear Lake	Home
Tue	April 30	5:00	at Rice Lake	1:45
Thur	May 2	5:00	Rice Lake	Home
Sat	May 4	11:00	Park Cottage Grove	Home
Tue	May 7	5:00	Eau Claire Memorial	Home
Thur	May 9	5:00	at Eau Claire Memorial	2:45
Mon	May 13	5:00	New Richmond	Home
Tue	May 14	4:30	Chippewa Falls	Home
Thur	May 16	5:00	at Chippewa Falls	2:45