GREAT NECK BREAKERS
Policy

The Great Neck Breakers is a select program to provide our league's players an opportunity to achieve higher performance and competition levels of baseball through practice and competition against similar teams throughout our area, and to better develop high performing all-star players and teams.

**Governing Body, Policy & Operating Guidelines**

All changes to the Breaker Policy and Operating Guidelines must be approved by the Board.

Breakers Executive Committee is composed of the 1st VP, Breakers Director and (1) or (3) committee members from outside the board. The committee members are submitted by the Breakers Director and approved by the Board.

The purpose of the Breakers executive committee is to steer the Breakers Program, its Operating Guidelines, and the requirements needed to fulfill the intent of the Breaker Program and Policy.

All additions and changes to the Policy and guidelines are made by the Breakers Executive Committee.

Any request to change the Policy or Operating Guidelines, all special requests, or issues not specifically addressed in the Breakers Policy and Operating Guidelines must be brought to the Breakers executive committee for discussion, vote, and approval.

All decisions and actions taken by the Breakers executive committee shall be made available to the board by the Breakers director at the monthly board meetings.

The Breakers Operating Guidelines provide specific operational requirements for the Breakers teams, and are governed by this policy.
Teams and Team Management


The Breakers teams are a division within GNBL and managed the same as other GNBL divisions, including finances, registration, and eligibility.

All Breakers managers shall be selected by the Breakers executive committee and approved by the board.

Breaker teams shall wear (1) standardized uniform in all age groups prominently displaying “Great Neck”. Uniform shall be selected by the Breakers executive committee with input from the Breakers managers.

Funds

Team sponsorship, fund raising, and expenditures must be transparent to the league and a team account as provided by GNBL shall be used for all funds raised and expenditures.

Discipline

Managers and Parents are subject to the disciplinary policy adopted and approved by the board. A manager or parent may be suspended and removed from a team (through recommendation to the board by executive committee and board vote) for misconduct, not following the Breakers Policy, intent of the Breaker program, and/or the Breakers Operating Guidelines.

Breakers Program Improvement and Feedback

The Breakers program is continuing to evolve and the Board is always looking for ways to improve the program. As always, if you have any questions or suggestions to improve the Breakers program, do not hesitate to contact the Breakers Director or any other member of the GNBL Board.
The Breakers Operating Guidelines provide the specific rules and requirements for operating the Breakers teams to fulfill the intent of the Breakers program. It is a resource for parents and coaches alike.

If you are a parent of a player, or potential player, you are strongly encouraged to read the Breakers Policy and Breakers Operating Guidelines.

**Age Division teams**

A player’s age division team is based on that player’s age on April 30th.

There are typically teams in 8U-15U age divisions.

(Example: My son wants to play this spring, if he is age 10 on April 30th, then he will tryout for the 10U team. Spring Breakers teams “play-up” in the fall, meaning that 10U team would start playing as an 11U team in the fall of that same year.)

The league does allow younger players to play up in an age group, but no player is allowed to play down in a younger age group.

As with the previous rule, if you have 2 players of similar or equal playing ability, the age appropriate player should get priority over the younger player. The older player will qualify to tryout for that age group’s All-Star team, the younger player will have to tryout for the younger All-Star team. If a player wishes to play All Stars he must try out in the age group/division/team he played in Rec. Ball.
Tryouts and Team Formation

There is 1 Breakers team per age group allowed, or per special request at the Breakers Executive Committee’s discretion, if deemed there is enough talent to form (2) competitive teams. The first team is chosen from the best talent prior to selecting players for a second team.

Breakers managers are selected prior to tryouts at the beginning of the Fall season. Managers are selected for a term of one Fall plus the following Spring season.

Breakers managers also serve as the following Spring all-star manager for their age group all-star team unless the Breakers committee deems them unfit to serve as the all-star manager, or if the Breakers manager declines to coach the all-star team.

Because the Breakers managers are also the all-star managers, it is recommended that they form teams that have enough all-star eligible players to fulfill the intent of the Breakers program. (see “Registration and Eligibility”)

If the Breakers manager declines the role of all-star coach, a coach from the rec league will be chosen by vote of the rec coaches in that division. All-star team managers/coaching staff may be comprised of a combination of Breakers and Rec managers/coaches.

After Breakers team managers are selected, managers must hold open and fair tryouts for each team formed. Any team formed without open tryouts shall be dissolved.

Each manager for each age group shall send out a league wide email through Sportability to advertise Breakers tryouts. Any player interested in playing Breakers shall be given the opportunity to try out. A minimum of 2 tryouts on 2 different days shall be held for each age group to give all players ample opportunity to attend at least 1 tryout. The Breakers team managers of each age group team shall decide who is selected and this decision shall be based on talent, attitude and baseball acumen. Remember that the selection process will need to stand up under scrutiny as it is likely that a parent of a child that is not selected may question the process and outcome.

Managers are required to direct parents to the Breakers Policy and Operating Guidelines before conducting an initial parent meeting to receive input on the team’s schedule and budget for expenditures.
Team practices and games

A great neck field is made available for each team every Friday night unless a recreation league tournament or event is scheduled.

When 2 age groups share a single home practice field they shall alternate every other Friday to an off-site GN sanctioned field with the older team starting at home.

1 weekly dome time will be given to each team during portions of the Fall and Spring seasons.

The dome and the Great Neck fields are closed to all rec league and Breaker use from mid-November through December.

GN Field use from June 1 until August 1 is subject to priority given to all-star teams and the 12U Cooperstown team for practices and scrimmages, as well as any league sponsored programs and events. (Some field use is available and shall be scheduled through the Breakers executive committee.)

Home games are limited to Sundays only during fall and spring seasons.

No games shall be scheduled during recreation league tournaments.

No tournaments are to be scheduled the weekend of the league’s Opening day.

Registration and Eligibility

All Breakers players once selected to a team must register for the league by paying the basic player registration in Spring and Fall seasons.

The Breakers Spring team fee is $600 per team to cover the following:
  o Field usage, dome usage, equipment
  o Team Insurance coverage
  o Concession stand staffing for Breakers home games

Any age appropriate player is eligible to play for Breakers teams.

Players outside of the Great Neck and Lynnhaven PONY districts are ineligible for all-stars. Breakers managers should be aware of player all-star eligibility prior to team formation as this can affect their all-star team.
(Managers should check PONY baseball rules to verify any questions of player eligibility.)

Great Neck Breakers Policy
The league’s insurance policy does not cover players until they are officially registered for the current season or tryout.

All players must register to tryout.

**Funds**

Breakers teams are expected to have a business manager that can report directly to the GNBL treasurer. Team financial bookkeeping, sponsorships, and fundraising must be kept transparent to the league.

Breakers teams are responsible for raising the funds to pay for, but not limited, to all team expenses, such as:

- Uniforms
- Umpire and tournament fees
- Registration fees (ie. Nations, USSSA)
- Specialty equipment, baseballs, and gear
- Travel expenses
- Team fee ($600 Spring only)
- Player registration fee

A budget for expenditures must be submitted to the Breakers Director along with the team schedule prior to the first game of each fall and spring season.

Breakers teams may raise funds and gain sponsorships. All fundraising and sponsorships for Breakers teams may not be in conflict or competition with GNBL sponsors and fund raising efforts. Breakers teams cannot solicit existing GNBL sponsors.

Breakers team sponsor logos may be displayed on removable banners posted at games, and on equipment and outerwear, etc. Sponsor logos shall not be displayed on the Breakers standardized uniform jerseys, hat, and helmet.

Individual team fund raising is up to each team (i.e; car washes, bake/candy sales, parent donations, business sponsorship.)

No fundraising is allowed at the GNBL fields without Breakers Executive Committee approval.
Spring Season

The Spring Season begins January 1 for tryouts. There is an all-star break from Breakers that begins with the formation of the all-star teams and is over when they are finished with all-star play in each age group.

Spring Breakers teams must have a minimum of (11) players with a maximum of (15).

Spring Breakers players are required to participate in recreation league games unless scholastic sports commitments conflict with this requirement. Scholastic conflicts typically will occur at the Bronco (U12), Pony, Colt, and Palomino levels. Therefore, at these levels, those participating in middle school or high school sports will not be required to participate in any recreation games or practices during their scholastic season, but must participate in a minimum of 50% of the recreation games after their scholastic sports season end.

12U Cooperstown team

The 12U team is eligible to travel to Cooperstown following each Spring 12U recreation league season.

GNBL secures (1) spot for the 12U team each season. The Cooperstown team must request the last week of July and month of August for their trip so that 12U players can participate in All-stars.

The league will loan the 12U team $3,000 upfront fees during the fall prior to their Cooperstown year. The loan must be paid back to the league no later than March 31 of the Cooperstown year.

All Cooperstown related expenditures are to be sought through fund raising performed by the team the spring before the trip. (Begins Jan. 1)

Upon returning from Cooperstown, the team manager will pass the Cooperstown letter to the manager of the upcoming 12U team to insure continuity for the next year’s team.
**Fall Season**

The fall season is intended to be more relaxed and developmental than the spring. Breakers player may elect not to play rec.

Fall Breakers season begins August 1. It is recommended that teams take a holiday break from mid-November until the new year. (Great Neck fields are closed.)

In keeping with the developmental nature of the fall season, Fall Breakers teams may have more than (15) players.

**Equipment and Supplies**

The standard Breakers uniform is ordered by the team manager through the League’s uniform provider.

Players must be fully and safely equipped (cups are essential) per league and PONY rules to participate in any games or practices.

**Pitching**

Be aware of how many pitches your Breakers player throws during league games and during middle school games for the older kids. PONY league pitching rules apply to all Breakers play, and this should be considered a maximum. It is recommended that coaches monitor pitch counts during any given week. Don't be tempted to place winning a game above protecting a player’s arm.
Field Scheduling and Umpires

Each team’s season HOME schedule is due to the Breaker Director (2) weeks prior to the first game.

The use of GNBL fields is strongly encouraged, even when playing Nations or USSSA league games.

All teams playing at the GNBL fields will use the same umpires with whom the league has contracted.

All umpire scheduling shall be done through the Breakers Director for home games. The sooner your home game schedule is established, the sooner your umpires can be scheduled. Games not scheduled (2) weeks prior to game date are subject to umpire availability.

Umpire fees increase if only (1) game is played rather than double headers.

In case of inclement weather, equipment failure, or any other unavoidable adverse circumstance results in a scheduled game or games being canceled, the umpire fees must be paid in full unless a 2 hour advance notice is given. (This cost will be the responsibility of the team not the league.)

If the field is playable and games are canceled due to non-inclement weather convenience reasons such as lack of pitching, player availability, field maintenance, or other such avoidable circumstances fees are paid for the full game fee for all such games canceled whether games are played or not. (This cost is the responsibility of the team, not the league.)
Dome Usage

The dome is property of Virginia Beach Public Schools. Therefore, there are no unscheduled use times. All times must be approved ahead of time. If this rule is violated, the team’s dome privileges may be revoked.

Each manager must attend an orientation for dome use before being allowed to use the dome. Failure to follow safety rules may cause a team to lose the privilege of using the dome.

Once the orientation has been completed, keys to the dome will be distributed.

If you are not able to use the dome during your scheduled time, notify the Breakers Director.

A team cannot use the dome outside of their scheduled times without prior approval of the Breakers Director.

The dome is closed to ALL Rec league and Breakers teams during the months of November and December of each year.
Parental Commitment

Once offered a position on a roster, it is recommended that a player must commit or decline the position within 1 week.

Parents will be asked from time to time to help prepare and maintain playing fields, clean the facility, and generally pitch in to help the Breakers keep the fields and park in good condition.

Field Maintenance, Layouts, and Housekeeping

Breakers teams are responsible for getting the fields ready for Sunday play. If the field dimensions need to be reconfigured for Breakers games (i.e., pitching mounds and bases being moved to different dimensions), this must be done after all league play is completed on Saturdays and must be returned to the original dimensions before leaving that day.

After each practice and game, Breakers teams should drag their field, pick up any equipment, trash and keep the field in a ready state for play the next day. Proper field maintenance will be taught at the beginning of the season and must be adhered to at all times.

- Return all equipment to appropriate shed after use.
- Do not drag the fields when wet.
- Ensure all doors are locked after last team’s use.
- Leave the fields, dugouts, bleachers, batting cages, etc. cleaner than you found them.
- Pickup bathrooms and empty bathroom trash cans.
- Empty all trash cans and place bags in dumpster by the park parking lot.
- Replace trash can liners.