

2025 Northern Territory Buffaloes: Pre-Trial Handbook



BASEBALL
NORTHERN TERRITORY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| TABLE OF CONTENTS | 2 |
| COMPETITION DETAILS | 3 |
| Indicative Dates | 3 |
| Coaching Staffs | 3 |
| Junior League Coaching Staff | 3 |
| Little League Coaching Staff | 3 |
| Baseball Northern Territory Staff | 4 |
| TEAM EXPECTATIONS | 4 |
| TRAINING | 4 |
| BEHAVIOUR | 4 |
| CULTURE | 5 |
| DRESS CODE | 5 |
| EQUIPMENT | 5 |
| COACHING STAFF & EXECUTIVE OFFICER | 6 |
| FUNDRAISING | 6 |
| PLAYING TIME | 6 |
| Eligibility & Compliance | 7 |
| Darwin Implications | 7 |
| TEAM GUIDELINES & CODES OF CONDUCT | 8 |

COMPETITION DETAILS

Baseball Northern Territory will be sending two teams to compete at 2026 Interstate events. Indicative dates are below:

QLD State Titles – Senior League Emerging (Div 2)

10th-12th April 2026 - Ipswich QLD

Not inclusive of travel or training days

Little League National Championships

5th to 11th June 2026 – Blacktown NSW

Not inclusive of travel or training days

Indicative Dates

8th February 2026: Alice Springs Region Trials

14th February 2026: Darwin Region Trials

End of February: Teams Announced

Coaching Staffs

Senior League Coaching Staff

Head Coach – Nathan Mitchell

Assistant Coaches – Brian Vidler & Charlie Casey

Executive Officer (EO) – TBC

Scorer - TBC

Little League Coaching Staff

Head Coach – Ray Brown

Assistant Coaches – Ethan Scobie & Kevin Derr

Executive Officer (EO) - TBC

Scorer - TBC

Baseball Northern Territory Staff

General Manager (Acting) - Rob Gower

Participation & Pathways Manager - Kai Meuronen

All travelling staff carry a current Working with Children Check (Ochre Card), a valid driver's license and relevant coaching accreditation.

TEAM EXPECTATIONS

TRAINING

Territory team training takes precedence over club training or any other sports events at a lower level. If the player is a member of an Australia team (any sport) and it conflicts with Territory training, the Australian training takes precedence.

Players are expected to attend at least 80% of all training sessions prior to the tournament. In the failure to do so, their spot on the team may be put at risk.

BEHAVIOUR

Your behaviour is expected to be of the highest standard from the moment you begin training through to the completion of the tournament. You are representing the Northern Territory.

Repeated behaviour detrimental to the team will lead to expulsion from the team at parents' expense.

CULTURE

Office on the web Frame

Our Culture Defined

The purpose of culture is to drive behaviours which produce the results we desire

Our Culture Defined

#TerritoryTough
Represent the Territory with pride!

We Have Fun
Representative baseball provides us with plenty of adversity... Remember to laugh and smile :)

Play as one
The NT is a small baseball community - embrace it!

Growth Mindset
Process > Results. Strive to improve.

Once selected to the NT Buffaloes, players and coaches represent the Northern

Territory as a unified team, rather than their individual baseball associations. All actions, behaviours, and attitudes should embody this commitment to representing the Northern Territory with pride and integrity.

DRESS CODE

Dress code for training will be determined by coaches depending on weather etc. Players must travel in their NT issued uniform items.

Options for supporter gear will be provided.

EQUIPMENT

Please respect all other players' equipment. Gloves and bats are expensive pieces of equipment and are personal investments into a players' game. Do not be offended if a player refuses to use their equipment. Remember to ask first before borrowing another players' equipment.

The following team equipment will be supplied for use during the tournaments

- Team Helmets
- Balls
- Team Bats
- Team Catchers Gear

COACHING STAFF & EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The coaching staff and executive officer are volunteers, giving up many hours for the benefit of the team. The coaches and EO bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to this team. Respect from players, parents and supporters is expected. Any concerns with staff conduct can be raised with Baseball Northern Territory.

FUNDRAISING

Permission must be sought from the Baseball NT General Manager for any use of the following to support fundraising efforts:

- Baseball Northern Territory Logo
- NT Buffaloes Logo
- “Baseball Northern Territory” Name
- “NT Buffaloes” Name

The approval process is to ensure that our organisation and the logos associated with Baseball Northern Territory and the charter meets the applicable requirements and legislation outlined in the Little League International regulations and Australian Consumer Act and the Northern Territory raffles and trade lotteries community guidelines.

PLAYING TIME

All members of the NT Buffaloes will be entitled to the minimum mandatory play rules as outlined in the [BA - Little League Tournament Manual](#).

These are the following:

All teams must follow the continuous batting line-up rule:

Little League, Intermediate League, Junior League – one plate appearance and three consecutive defensive outs in the field.

Senior League – No Mandatory Play requirements

All other playing time obligations are under the strict control of the coaching staff.

Eligibility & Compliance

| | Senior League | Junior League | Intermediate League | Little League Major- Div. 1 | Little League Major – Div. 2 |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| Squad size | Minimum of 12 and maximum of 16 players | Minimum of 12 and maximum of 14 players | Minimum of 12 and maximum of 14 players | Minimum of 12 and maximum of 14 players | Minimum of 12 and maximum of 14 players |
| Team personnel | One manager (i.e., head coach) and a maximum of two coaches (assistants) One Executive Officer / Team Manager (off field only) | | | | |
| Player League Age as at 31 August | League age 13 to 16 inclusive | League age 12 to 14 inclusive | League age 11 to 13 inclusive | League age 10 to 12 inclusive | League age 9 to 12 inclusive |
| Games played requirements | None | Must have played no less than 8 regular season games prior to the tournament | Must have played no less than 8 regular season games prior to the tournament | Must have played no less than 8 regular season games prior to the tournament | None |

Notes

- 8 game requirement relates to games played in an age eligible junior competition. Not in a specific age division. *E.g. Player can accumulate 8 games for JL eligibility in a SL competition*
- Player eligibility to participate in a tournament team is based on age and not division of play during the regular season.
- Players are only eligible for tournament play if they have participated in the number of regular season games indicated in the above table.
- Only leagues who meet the league eligibility requirements in full shall be eligible to participate on the international tournament pathway.

Darwin Implications

The Darwin region does not currently operate an eligible Little League division due to low player count.

This means players looking to participate in the ITP under the Little League banner are currently ineligible to participate based on lack of games played in an eligible league.

TEAM GUIDELINES & CODES OF CONDUCT

- Total capable on-field physical effort always
- Punctuality for all team related activities is mandatory
- Report all injuries to coaching staff upon occurrence
- Anything discussed in the team remains in the team
- Honesty always. Be accountable for your own actions
- You have the right to speak with any member of the coaching staff regarding any decision. This includes both on and off field situations.
Please use common sense when choosing the appropriate time to do so
- Maintain a professional approach at all times
- Your role as a representative of the Northern Territory means you must treat everyone with respect
- Total courtesy at all times to any media and Baseball administration. All media must come through the EO first
- When a coach, EO or player is addressing the team everyone must stop talking and listen
- All players' mobiles must be turned off from arrival at the field until all post-game routines are completed

Any serious or continued breaches of the code of conduct will result in exclusion from the 2026 NT Buffaloes Representative programs and may influence selections in future teams.