

WILBRAHAM BASEBALL COMMITTEE

BYLAWS PURPOSE AND GUIDE

REVISION JULY 29, 2025

OUR MISSION

The mission of Wilbraham/Hampden Falcons Baseball, hereafter referred to as "Falcons Baseball", is to communicate to the children of our community the ideals of good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, courage, hard work, and respect. To those ends, we are committed to coaching proper fundamentals and fostering competitive playing opportunities for all skill levels. We will create an enjoyable, high-energy, safe, and supportive environment so that each child is given the chance to develop, progress and grow.

BASEBALL COMMITTEE PROMISE

In adhering to the principles and goals within their Mission Statement, the volunteers of the Wilbraham Baseball Committee promise that they will work to ensure the best youth baseball experience available for all Falcons Baseball Players. All decisions, motions, and rules will be administered under the following hierarchy of impact and benefit: program first, team second, player third.

THE COMMITTEE PURPOSE

The Wilbraham Baseball Committee is charged with planning and overseeing the town baseball program. The committee will determine program policies and procedures, and will serve the baseball program to help set its direction, clarify and interpret procedures, and provide feedback on issues that present themselves within the organization. Its purpose is to provide a broad-based sounding board for critical decisions within the baseball program and to guide and assist the recreation department with recommendations and direction to help support the mission statement.

Officers: the Baseball Commissioner (President) serves as chairman of the committee, vice commissioner (VP), Secretary and a Treasurer. All officers have been voted to their positions by a majority of the committee. The committee shall consist of no less than 5 members and no more than 11 members.

WILBRAHAM BASEBALL COMMITTEE

BYLAWS PURPOSE AND GUIDE

REVISION JULY 29, 2025

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The members as of July 2025 are:

- Jessie Donovan - President
- Nikki Morin - Secretary
- Dave Costello - Treasurer
- Pete Appleby
- Don Laware
- Shawn Summers
- Bobby O'Neil
- Dan Beauregard (non-voting member from WPRD)

**other officers positions: Vice President*

The Committee members will hold their position for a minimum of two years. After the two year term is completed, the member may be voted in for an additional two year term. They may also voluntarily resign their position at that time. Special situations may also, with committee approval, result in member movement.

Elections of new members –

When a member leaves the committee, the request will be made through the Recreation Department and local advertising or via Recreation Department mass emails for interested individuals to forward their related resume. The selection will take place within the Wilbraham Baseball Committee, final candidates brought to the Recreation Department. The candidate will be reviewed for their ability to honor the Mission Statement & Promise, be in good standing with the Recreation Department, express a desire to participate and be a Wilbraham (or possibly a Hampden resident) resident. Final selection will be made by the Recreation Department. New members will be considered “at-large members” and will not have voting rights for (3) months and until officially approved by the Recreation Department for instatement as voting members.

Chain of Command –

Each baseball age division will have a WBC member Division Lead. The lead focuses on tasks and issues related to that age division. Age division communications flow into the WBC through the division lead. Communication and issues are handled within the WBC, back out to the age division via the division lead. Where communication and issues cannot be solved within the WBC the WBC President and Officers will solve with Recreation Department involvement. Note: the age division

WILBRAHAM BASEBALL COMMITTEE

BYLAWS PURPOSE AND GUIDE

REVISION JULY 29, 2025

leads are not written in these bylaws as they may change from year to year, or perhaps during the year.

Summary for the Recreation Commission –

The WBC will create a summary highlighting the current state of the Wilbraham Baseball Program and/or participate in a Rec Com meeting per their request. The summary will be delivered upon request by the Recreation Department for submission to and for the Recreation Commission's use.

The committee will also:

1. Set and oversee youth baseball tryouts and evaluations at each level of competitive ball.
2. Maintain a relationship with the Recreation Baseball program and support as required.
3. Assign no less than 2 coaches to lead competitive teams at each level.
4. Field, handle and resolve situations and complaints that develop from Falcons Baseball operations that cannot be handled at the team/coach level. Provide age Division Leads for initial communication resolution.
5. Oversee and supervise WBC-funded player and coaches clinics.
6. Drive and foster youth baseball in Wilbraham and Hampden. Focus on fun for all age groups.

1. TRY-OUTS (PLAYER EVALUATIONS), SEE “WBC EVALUATION & DRAFT GUIDELINES”

Signups will be in the fall for competitive players. Signups will be in the spring for recreation leagues (tryouts times will vary by age group).

- a. All tryouts are to be held by the WBC including independent evaluators, and a grading system will rank player ability. All players will be given an equal chance of making a team.

2. RECREATION BASEBALL

- a. Recreation baseball will have a home in Wilbraham. Sign-ups will be in the spring and teams will be formed.
- b. Players who choose not to be evaluated for a competitive team, or who do not make a competitive team can enter the recreation program in the spring.
- c. Coaches will be assigned from within each team by the recreation department.

WILBRAHAM BASEBALL COMMITTEE

BYLAWS PURPOSE AND GUIDE

REVISION JULY 29, 2025

3. ROSTER CHANGES (COMPETITIVE TEAMS)

If a competitive team's coach would like to add players to their roster due to injury/relocation of active players/ vacations/or other reasons he/she shall proceed as follows.

The coach would need to set a predetermined number of players to complete his/her roster during the team selection process as approved by the WBC. The coach has the ability to make roster additions from the selection of players cut from the team. The selection process would begin from the first player cut and continue until either the roster is complete or there are no players remaining. At this time the coach would then be able to choose from recreation players after an evaluation in the presence of the WBC has taken place.

4. COACHES COMMITMENT

- a. To be considered eligible for a competitive team's head coach position the following season, all competitive team coaches (head and assistant) must:
 - 1) Volunteer to help staff & evaluate players in at least (1) one baseball program evaluation/tryout event during the year in which they are coaching. Fulfillment of this obligation is determined by the WBC.
 - 2) Complete one "post season player evaluation" for their team and submit it to the WBC prior to the completion of the fall tryouts for the following spring season's team.

5. COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTES

The committee is willing and able to handle any baseball operations complaints, ranging from but not limited to:

- a. Coaching selection
- b. Player Evaluations
- c. Behavioral issues
- d. Draft selection
- e. Program cost
- f. Volunteer issues

For each age division, a WBC committee member Division Lead will be assigned to oversee the teams and act as the first point of contact for any questions, issue or complaints that may arise from a parent or coach that cannot be solved within the scope of the individual team. Coaches and parents in each age division will be provided with the name and

WILBRAHAM BASEBALL COMMITTEE

BYLAWS PURPOSE AND GUIDE

REVISION JULY 29, 2025

contact information for their WBC contact. When an issue is received, it will be addressed by the appropriate WBC Division Lead within a reasonable time period. If the issue cannot be resolved, it will be brought before the WBC for action and resolution within an appropriate time period. If a resolution still cannot be achieved, it will be forward to the Parks and Recreation Department for further review within a reasonable time period. *The committee will insulate the Recreation Department and the Recreation Committee wherever possible.*

6. CLINICS

- a. Players:
 - 1. First priority is to make sure we have quality coaches that develop quality players; wins and losses are secondary.
 - 2. We will plan to host or support a Falcons-baseball-exclusive winter clinic to provide all levels of baseball players the opportunity to grow, develop, and improve their baseball skills. This will provide an opportunity (OPTIONAL) for all players to improve their baseball skills in the off-season if they so wish.
 - 3. WBC clinics are available for Wilbraham & Hampden based players who are playing under the Wilbraham Recreation program.
- b. Coaches:
 - 1. One goal of the committee is to develop a consistent method of instruction as to the teaching of fundamentals. We believe that these clinics will contribute to that goal.
 - 2. The committee plans to host at least one annual coaches clinic and/or provide support for coaches and players development during the season as needed.

7. DRIVE AND FOSTER YOUTH BASEBALL IN WILBRAHAM. FOCUS WILL BE TO MAKE A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE, CREATING A FUN ATMOSPHERE FOR ALL PLAYERS.

- a. We will not make reactionary changes to appease the players that are **not** under our Recreation Dept's jurisdiction which may cause turmoil in our program.
- b. Long-term goal is to make Falcons Baseball one of the best baseball programs in Western Massachusetts, from Tee Ball to High School.

WILBRAHAM BASEBALL COMMITTEE

BYLAWS PURPOSE AND GUIDE

REVISION JULY 29, 2025

- c. Recreation and competitive players will be put in the best situation to play baseball effectively based on their level in order to provide the opportunity to celebrate and develop a passion for the sport of baseball, meaning the WBC will adhere to the Mission Statement and the Promise.
- d. Create an atmosphere where baseball is fun, and players are excited to return each year to baseball.

CHANGE SUMMARY:

07Aug2021: updated officers names and WBC roster

11Aug2022: added 4.f, Head coach eligibility

13Nov2022: edited 4.f.1 for clarity "evaluation/tryout event"

01July2023: added and deleted WBC members as required

Sept 01, 2024: updated committee members and promise

Dec 10, 2024: extensively updated, including new member S.Summers

July 30, 2025: updated the list of members to be current