

Information for Parents of, Coaches of and the Players who will be 14 for next summers' competitive baseball season

The baseball season after the 13's can be a confusing time for competitive baseball players. The 14-u is the last year of FCBC club-based baseball. After the season players will go on to play at the high school level. Those of you who are coaches will turn your players over to the high school coaching staffs. The players will have to get to know their new coaches as well as many new teammates. Parents too will have to give-up their control and give their sons to the high school staffs which is sometimes difficult to do. Mandatory bat restrictions of BBCOR -3 come into play, field dimensions are always 60'6" for pitching and 90' on the bases, no more rule addendums – primarily National Federation of High Schools Rules -, and competition will include older players. This is all part of the continuing baseball adventure.

There are options and opportunities for players to consider and then decide which is best.

Based on the recent trend we are seeing - FCBC 14u teams (these teams are made up primarily with current incoming eighth graders and have often been playing together for a number of years) – *while not required but are choosing to disband after Memorial Day*. They play in the FCBC Northern Colorado Rookie League 14-u “short season” next spring, which includes play against other teams from Fort Collins and the surrounding area and conclude their schedules by Memorial Day. These teams also play other tournaments during this spring season in preparation to their transition into the high school program teams.

High school summer baseball may include playing in a variety of summer leagues such as Legion, NCCL, the CBL, and some tournaments. There will be multiple games each week - while most game times are 5:30, some weekday game times may start as early as 3:30. The high school coaches should have more information for you, at least what they have done in the past

For next summer baseball - each of the Fort Collins High Schools Head Varsity Coach will determine the number of teams and level of play each will compete that will be their club teams for the summer. The coach then provides FCBC with their roster and game schedules. **The local high schools all have next Summer Ball tryouts for current 8th Graders (14u players) in the fall. Information on these tryouts may be found on the FCBC website in late July.**

** Players who are not selected to play for their high school teams next summer or simply choose to, may still play in the FCBC summer 7th and 8th grade recreation league. These teams are determined by a players' current grade level in school.

If you are a coach and you choose to continue with your current 14-year old team or form a new team (independent of any high school), you may want to have a contingency plan for your team in case some of your players are playing for the high school program. We suggest that you contact the coaches of other 14-year-old teams to possibly combine teams for summer tournament baseball.

If you have additional questions, please email the FC Baseball Club.