OUR VISION
OF PLAYER DEVELOPMENT PILLARS IN LETHBRIDGE & AREA

SUGGESTED PATH IN LETHBRIDGE - DEVELOPING KIDS FROM T-BALL TO COLLEGE/PRO BALL

THIS IS OUR PATH

- LDIBF has provided supplementary programming in baseball for Southern Alberta athletes for over 22 years.
- We believe Lethbridge has the ability to take baseball to the next level for the elite athlete and at the same time provide a good experience to the traditional player who is in it for quality participation with education/development/and enjoyment of the game.
- We want to have a path for all kids no matter what direction they want the game of baseball to take them. – Competition, Developmental or Fun/Recreation.
- Join us and get behind the vision for all baseball players in our area as being part of the powerhouse that could be Lethbridge Baseball.
- Whether it be teams, participants, training, facilities, fans, etc.
- We also desire to have opportunities for those who wish to participate to experience baseball in a recreational sense.

HISTORY

- LDIBF was founded in 2000
- For 14 years, ran the Spitz Canadians 15 yr old travel program (mainly in the fall).
- Worked with PBA & Bulls to start the Junior Academy in 2014
- Offered programming for 10U, 11U, 12 U and 13U spring travel teams
- Entered a Bantam AAA in 2017 to provide our top 15 yr olds the best high performance opportunity available based on feedback from baseball leaders in the area
- Bantamm AA/Junior Little League partnership was another key component that is offered to encourage more players to participate and continue the legacy of hosting the National Junior tournament in Lethbridge each year

LDIBF BOARD

- Members:

Kevin Kvame (Lethbridge Bulls)
Todd Hubka (PBA)
Les McTavish (Vauxhall Baseball Academy)

Valerie Wallace (Member at Large)
Jesse Sawyer (Member at Large)
Trevor Garrett (Member at Large)
Brent Radlinsky (member at Large)

- LDIBF is a non-profit society. All profits go back into programs and facilities in the Lethbridge area
- The LDIBF Board considers long time baseball advocates to apply for membership in the fall with the organization., Board positions are available for individuals who are full members of the organization. Parents of all LDIBF programs are associate members of the organization.

2024 AGE CHART FOR OUR VISION OF PROGRAMS 13 – 19 YEARS OF AGE

- Jan1, 2005 – Dec 31, 2005 – 19 year old – American Legion/Baseball Canada (Junior/Midget)
- Jan 1, 2006 – Dec 31, 2006 – 18 year old - American Legion/Baseball Canada (Midget)
- Jan 1, 2007 – Aug 31, 2007 – 17 year old – American Legion/Baseball Canada (Midget)
- Sept 1, 2007 – Aug 31, 2008 – 16 year old – Little League Canada Programming
- Jan 1, 2008 – Dec 31, 2008 – 16 year old – American Legion/Baseball Canada (Midget)
- Sept 1, 2008 – Aug 31, 2009 – 15 year old – Little League Canada Programming
- Jan 1, 2009 – Dec 31, 2009 – 15 year old – Baseball Canada (Bantam)
- Sept 1, 2009 – Aug 31, 2010 – 14 year old – Little League Canada Programming
- Jan 1, 2010 – Dec 31, 2009 – 14 year old – Baseball Canada (Bantam)
- Sept 1, 2010 – Aug 31, 2011 – 13 year old – Little League Canada Programming
- Jan 1, 2011 – Dec 31, 2011 – 13 year old – Baseball Canada (PeeWee)

To see what programming is available for an athlete, apply the birthdate to the dates. May be one age in American Legion/Baseball Canada and a different age in Little League programming

2024 AGE CHART
4 – 12 YEARS OF AGE

- Sept 1, 2011 – Aug 31, 2012 – 12 year old – Little League Canada Programming
- Sept 1, 2012 – Aug 31, 2013 – 11 year old – Little League Canada programming
- Sept 1, 2013 – Aug 31, 2014 – 10 year old – Little League Canada programming
- Sept 1, 2014 – Aug 31, 2015 – 9 year old – Little League Canada programming
- Sept 1, 2015 – Aug 31, 2016 – 8 year old – Little League Canada programming
- Sept 1, 2016 – Aug 31, 2017 – 7 year old – Little League Canada programming
- Sept 1, 2017 – Aug 31, 2018 – 6 year old – Little League Canada programming
- Sept 1, 2018 – Aug 31, 2019 – 5 year old – Little League Canada programming
- Sept 1, 2019 – Aug 31, 2020 – 4 year old – Little League Canada programming

OUR GOALS

- TEACHING VALUES, LOYALTY & RESPECT
- COHESIVE TEAMWORK
- TEACHING PLAYERS TO COMPETE – Playing against older and tougher competition coupled with correct messaging from the coaches can be great character builders and lead to future success
- To work with all local baseball organizations to maximize our player development opportunities and work together to ensure athlete's can play regardless of their desired goals
- Best Teams when Competition Warrants:
    - Minor AAA – 10U
    - Major AAA – 12U
    - Bantam AAA – Provincials – 15U
    - Elks – Top Team – 19U
    - PBA - College
    - Bulls – Summer College
    - Other Teams
    - Programs are more developmental in scope but can provide the foundation for players to advance in the future

JUNIOR ACADEMY LEVELS – TEAMS 2024

- 13 U
- 12 U
- 11 U
- 10 U

- Bantam AAA
- Bantam AA (Junior)

THE 3 TYPES OF ATHLETES - QUALITIES

HIGH PERFORMANCE

- Committed to the sport.
- Dedicated to attend all practices and events.
- Desire to learn everything about the game
- Desire to reach the highest level possible by being challenged.
- Committed to core principles of nutrition, training, and sport psychology.
- Become more sport specific at ages 14-15

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

- Similar to High Performance
- Less serious and still learning the game
- Looking and testing the options and other sports
- Either trying to achieve or thinking about becoming high performance.

FUN & RECREATIONAL

- Want to learn about a sport and have the opportunity to participate.
- Generally speaking, fair play principles employed.
- Basically offered 2 or 3 times a week.
- Staying active and enjoying a sport.

4 – 8 AGE GROUP

High Performance

None

Education & Development

OCT – MARCH

- Sport Camps/Other Sports

APRIL – SEPTEMBER

- Well run training programs

Fun & Recreational

MARCH – JUNE

- House League Program
- Camps

9-10 AGE GROUP

High Performance

MARCH – JUNE

JUNIOR ACADEMY PROGRAM

LITTLE LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON

JUNE – AUG

Little League All Stars - AAA

AUG – OCT

Junior Academy FALL BALL (2024)

OCT – MARCH

Elite Camp/other Sport

Education & Development

MARCH – JUNE

LITTLE LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON

JUNE – AUG

Little League All-stars - AA, A

AUG – OCT

FALL BALL

OCT – MARCH

Sport Camps/other sports

Fun & Recreational

- **MARCH – JUNE**
  - HOUSE LEAGUE
- **JUNE – AUG**
  - Other sport camps
- **AUG – OCT**
  - FALL BALL
- **OCT – MARCH**
  - Camps

11-12 AGE GROUP

High Performance

MARCH – JUNE

JUNIOR ACADEMY PROGRAM

JUNE – AUG

Little League All Stars - AAA

AUG – OCT

Jr Academy FALL BALL

OCT – MARCH

Elite Camp

Education & Development

MARCH – JUNE

LITTLE LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON

JUNE – AUG

Little League All-stars - AA, A

AUG – OCT

FALL BALL

OCT – MARCH

Sport Camps/other sports

Fun & Recreational

- **MARCH – JUNE**
  - HOUSE LEAGUE
- **JUNE – AUG**
  - Summer Camps
- **AUG – OCT**
  - FALL BALL
- **OCT – MARCH**
  - Camps/other sports

13-14 YR AGE GROUP

High Performance

MARCH – JUNE

JUNIOR ACADEMY PROGRAM

Bantam AA Program

JUNE – AUG

Intermediate/Junior Little League All Stars – AAA

Top 14 yr olds can try for Bantam AA as well

AUG – OCT

Jr Academy FALL BALL

OCT – MARCH

Elite Camp

Education & Development

MARCH – JUNE

LITTLE LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON

JUNE – AUG

Little League All-stars - AA, A

AUG – OCT

FALL BALL

OCT – MARCH

Sport Camps

SEPT – OCT

Jr. High Fall Development

Camps

Fun & Recreational

- MARCH – JUNE
  - HOUSE LEAGUE
- JUNE – AUG
  - Little League All Stars A, AA
- AUG – OCT
  - FALL BALL
- OCT – MARCH
  - Camps

15 - YR AGE GROUP

High Performance

FEB – JUNE

Bantam AAA

SEPT - DECEMBER

Elite Camp

High School Junior Varsity Program

Education & Development

MARCH – JUNE

LITTLE LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON

JUNE – AUG

Little League All-stars - AA, A

AM Legion B team

AUG – OCT

Fall Ball

OCT – MARCH

Sport Camps

Fun & Recreational

- **MARCH – JUNE**
  - HOUSE LEAGUE
- **JUNE – AUG**
  - Summer Camps
- **AUG – OCT**
  - FALL BALL
- **OCT – MARCH**
  - Camps

16-19 AGE GROUP

High Performance

MARCH – JUNE

PBA High Performance Academy

JUNE – AUG

HIGH PERFORMACE SUMMER PROGRAM

AM Legion Program

AUG – OCT

PBA High Performance Academy

SEPT – APRIL

Lethbridge Longhorns Highschool Academy

Education & Development

MARCH – JUNE

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

JUNE – AUG

Sr. Program

AM Legion B program

AUG – OCT

OCT – MARCH

CAMPS

Fun & Recreational

- MARCH – JUNE
  - HIGH SCHOOL
- JUNE – AUG
- Camps or other sports
- AUG – OCT
- Other Sports
- OCT – MARCH
  - Camps

18-22 AGE GROUP

High Performance

MARCH – JUNE

PBA (Other College Baseball)

JUNE – AUG

Lethbridge Bulls

Other Summer Collegiate League

AUG – OCT

PBA (Other College Baseball)

OCT – MARCH

PBA (Other College Baseball)

Education & Development

MARCH – JUNE

JUNE – AUG

AUG – OCT

OCT – MARCH

Fun & Recreational

- MARCH – JUNE
- JUNE – AUG
- AUG – OCT
- OCT – MARCH

PARTNERS

- College
- University
- ASDC-SW
- Sports Medicine
- Nutrition
- Sports Psychology

JUNIOR ACADEMY PROGRAMS & PRINCIPLES

- Spring Training – Family Day Weekend
- Travel Ball
- Dryland/Weight Training
- Baseball Life Skills
- Anti-Chew Tabaco initiative
- Fall Development Program

MISSION STATEMENT

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WHY WAS JUNIOR ACADEMY FORMED

- Little League in Canada has short seasons and lacks quality competition throughout the entirety of the season.
- To give the elite players in Lethbridge and area more opportunity to play against high calibre opponents, win or lose
- 11 years ago we decided that the younger players needed more opportunity to play high level baseball earlier in the Spring
- The goal from the coaches back then was give the players a legitimate opportunity to play in the Little League World Series

WHY IT WAS FORMED OUTSIDE OF LITTLE LEAGUE

- PBA and the Bulls worked together to create the Junior Academy and provide their name and vision to the program. They give the management of the program to the LDIBF, which oversees the program, provided their vision, mission, and messaging is adhered to.
- Vested interest by the Board which is made up of Bulls, Prairie Baseball Academy, and other long-term baseball persons
- Coaches who are asked to follow the culture of the program and who want to see success & skill development at younger ages
- Program culture designed to mirror that of the Prairie Baseball Academy
- Program goals which align and give players interactive opportunities to see baseball at the highest levels in the city, ie with the Lethbridge Bulls and Prairie Baseball
- Coaches resources provided when available

WHY US

- Vested interest by the board – coaches who want to see success & skill development at young ages
- Program Culture
- Program Goals
- Coaches Resources
- Long term vision from an experienced policy board.

PROGRAM CULTURE & PRINCIPLES

- We are trying to create a culture similar to college programs, especially Prairie Baseball, throughout all the age groups
- Blue Collar - Hard working
- 8 seconds on 8 seconds off
- Winning is very important to any culture but winning does not take precedence over program/player development or player health

JUNIOR ACADEMY SCHEDULE & COSTS

- Tryouts – January 26 – 28, 2024 (Two per Team Selection Group)
- Training Camps – Family Day weekend
- Spring Baseball – Schedules determined by coaches in consultation with parent group – usually 3-4 tournaments plus practices and exhibition games
- Summer Baseball – Players in Little League programming is expected
- Fall Baseball (if desired)
- Total Cost with 3 tournaments is about $320-$350 plus a $300 fundraising fee. This covers all costs, practices, games, apparel, coaching, facilities, entry fees, etc.

WEARING THE A & L

- PBA –
- BULLS -

PBA and the BULLS brands have represented the top baseball in the City for 25 years. We want our local area young aspiring athletes to feel pride and a sense of belonging while wearing these brands that we permit the Junior Academy to use.

Together – they are the Junior Bulls Academy

COACHING

- Guidance from PBA regarding the goals at each level
- Learning to compete is the coaching goal
- Ideally, former College Baseball Coaches & Players

COACHING

- 10U – Head Coach – Omar Kadir
- 11U – Head Coach – Mitch Carpenter
- 12U – Head Coach – Lucas Puszkar
- 13U – TBA early January
- Bantam AA – TBA early January
- Bantam AAA – Head Coach & LDIBF Technical Director – Tim Blake
- LDIBF/Little League/Baseball Alberta Liaison & Coaching Mentor – Myles Fletcher

NEWEST ADDITION

- LETHBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL ACADEMY
  - The Longhorns

WHY WE STARTED

- We felt that there was a void for high school aged players who wanted a chance to develop year-round for a chance to become college baseball players.
- To give local players an opportunity to get the academy experience without relocating

GOALS

- Give players year-round development
- Help players achieve their goals of playing college baseball
- Assist players in recruitment of post-secondary education and athletics
- Help players improve their baseball and athletic abilities, leadership skills, life skills, strength & conditioning, nutrition, character development, and ability to handle adversity

OPPORTUNITIES AFTER THE ACADEMY

- We will provide players with every resource we have as an organization to help players reach their goals of attending a post-secondary institution that fits best for the player, whether that be at a school in the United States or Canada.

LETHBRIDGE BASEBALL SYSTEM TESTIMONIALS

- **Chris Leroux**

- My son Dawson Leroux grew up playing hockey and baseball for many years in conjunction with each other. During the hockey season Dawson would attend the PBA skill sessions held during the week. It was a busy schedule for many years, but the cross training was beneficial (training different muscles / training the brain with another sport / moving the body differently / being around a different set of coaches and friends / different types of environments you put the body in / spatial awareness / etc, etc.

- As parents we just managed the workload and made sure there was no potential burn out.

- These skill session's exposed Dawson to a higher level of baseball training, hitting / pitching / fielding / etc - and Dawson had fun at these sessions because they were challenging, and it pushed him.

- As the hockey season ended and the baseball spring season approached Dawson played on the PBA Dawgs travel team. This was an elite / high performance stream that we chose to play. From a very young age Dawson experienced spring baseball. This became important to Dawson / us because we knew it was a competitive program that would challenge the players.

- Being a multi-sport athlete has so many benefits for the athlete, and there is actual scientific data behind it. Dawson also played other sports as well during the year at school. We did not allow Dawson to play Spring hockey because it's a long hockey season and changing the environment was needed mentally and physically.

- The higher level of coaching and training had many benefits to Dawson as a baseball player / athlete. Furthermore, the extensive travel and game competition was great for Dawson as an athlete because we played against very good competition most of the time. Playing against a higher competition level can increase your chance of becoming a better baseball player and athlete. Things at a higher level are faster, quicker, more challenging, your brain needs to react in different ways, more situations can occur that need you to adapt.

- Playing in a high-performance area created many successes and failures for Dawson. This built mental toughness, increased confidence, developed fundamental and sport specific skills that carry over in any sport. At the time the travel seemed extensive but looking back on it know we But I would suggest that Dawson's baseball experience enhanced his hockey abilities and made him a better person and athlete. --

- **Matt Kabayama**

- I would be considered a “hockey guy”. My perspective is from a dad who grew up playing hockey and baseball. Hockey became my passion, and I was involved professionally in the game for more than 20 years.

- Our experience dealing with our son was which sport to specialize and at what age.

- Hockey or Baseball.

- When hockey season finished baseball started and when baseball finished hockey started. There was some overlap depending on how far the team went into provincials, nationals, or worlds.

- We chose to focus almost exclusively on the sport which was in “season”. Some teammates were exclusively baseball players and some were multi sport but continued to play and train for hockey during ball season. The parents and coaches communicated, they understood there were consequences if you chose to participate in one vs the other when there was a conflict of schedules.

- His age group was fortunate to have multi sport kids and parents who wanted to expose their kids to elite level sports and competition. Looking back, if he specialized at age 10 we would have likely chosen hockey (He actually didn’t play organized baseball until he was 9). We would have missed out on many memorable experiences.

- Val’dor Quebec and Winning a National Championship
- Valleyfield Quebec for Nationals
- Ottawa Ontario Nationals
- Calgary and winning Nationals
- Livermore California representing Canada at Intermediate Little league World Series
- Hosting and winning Nationals Taylor Michigan representing Canada at Jr. Little League World Series

Throughout my time in the Jr. Dawgs Program High Level Coaching was the blueprint of it all. When I first became a part of the program I was a young, goal setting and energized kid. I left a disciplined, charismatic and determined young man. Coach Wade, Coach Hub, Coach Kab and all the other coaches that had a part in making this program the best youth program a young kid could ask for, you guys shaped me into the person and player I am today. This program believed in me first and guided me to have fun, build character, create interpersonal skills, have respect and most importantly possess all of these attributes into my everyday life. The Jr. Dawgs Program will be a part of my youth but the people, relationships and accomplishments we created along the way will last a lifetime.

Ty Wevers

Jr. Dawg of the Year 2015

LDIBF PAST PIT FALLS

- Covid really affected the Junior Academy
- Coaching was difficult to obtain
- Communication was infrequent and not consistent which led to messaging problems and confusion
- Stronger working relationship with Little League and other baseball partners is the desired goal

LDIBF - WORKING TOGETHER TO HAVE A PATH FOR EVERY ASPIRING BASEBALL ATHLETE

- We believe that Little League is the vehicle for kids 12 & under, with a focus on being as successful as possible at the Minor AAA & Major AAA levels
- We believe that the 13-15 year old age groups need flexibility in Baseball Alberta and Little League Alberta, as well as American Legion at the older age groups
- We believe American Legion baseball organizations should determine the best competition for the 16 – 19 year olds in Southern Alberta
- We believe in providing additional training avenues through camps and the High School Baseball Academy in the September to April periods

TEAM LETHBRIDGE

Let's all pull together as individuals to build

Lethbridge Baseball

Into a baseball system that is united and strong.

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE LOYALTY, TEAMWORK & SUCCESS OVER TIME

SEPARATELY WE GAIN QUALITIES & VALUES THAT MAY BE LESS DESIREABLE IN THE END

Questions