

What is Utah State Club Baseball?

The Utah State Club Baseball team is a member of the Campus Recreation Department at Utah State University. The mission of the team is to provide opportunities for students interested in baseball to improve their skills and to participate in a highly competitive league.

The Club Baseball team is not an intramural team, it is a highly competitive team that competes with some of the top baseball teams in the region (e.g. Salt Lake Community College, College of Southern Idaho, USU Eastern). Utah State is a member of the National Club Baseball Association ([NCBA](#)) which consists of 306 teams from around the nation.

Utah State has won 2 National Championships (2012, 2014), 3 Region Championships (2012, 2014, 2017), and 8 Conference Championships (2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019).

Below you will find the answers to some of the common questions that are asked when trying to figure out if the Utah State Club Baseball team is right for you.

Eligibility Requirements

Although both the NCBA and Utah State University have their own eligibility requirement we have seen the University resort to what the NCBA rules are. But beware that this may not always be the case. Make sure that you are eligible with both the NCBA and USU.

NCBA

As each player is different it is tough to sum up all of what the NCBA has in their eligibility sections. Some of the main points are as follows:

1. At the time of any roster submission, a letter from the academic institution must be submitted to the NCBA listing that each player holds a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA and is not on academic warning or probation. (8.01.0)
 - a. [Academic Warning \(USU Definition\)](#)
 - i. NOTE: [Semester GPA Warning](#) is different than Academic Warning. If you are *just* on Semester GPA Warning you ARE eligible for the NCBA.
 - b. [Academic Probation \(USU Definition\)](#)
2. A player with any previous professional experience in the sport of baseball is NOT eligible to play in any NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game. (7.04.0)
3. A player playing in an NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game MUST hold Full-Time Status with that team's College or University. (7.07.0)
 - a. An exception is if a Final Semester Student requires less than a Full-Time load in order to graduate. (7.07.1)
 - b. An exception is if a player who graduates at the end of the fall semester will remain eligible to compete in the immediately following spring season provided he is enrolled in at least 1 credit during the spring semester. (7.07.2)

- c. An exception is if a player who begins the spring season as a registered student and then graduates in the middle of the season will remain eligible to compete for the remainder of the season. (7.07.3)
4. Any player playing in an NCBA Sanctioned Baseball Game MUST have enrolled with Full-Time Status before their 25th Birthday. (7.08.0)
5. Each student-athlete shall complete his five seasons of participation in intercollegiate baseball within six calendar years from the beginning of the semester or quarter in which the student-athlete first registered for a minimum full-time program of studies in a collegiate institution, with time spent in the armed services, on official church missions or with recognized foreign aid services of the U.S government being excepted. (7.09.0)
6. For a player to participate in the NCBA using a fifth year of eligibility, that player must NOT have exhausted four years of eligibility at the Varsity Level. (7.10.0)

You can read the entire NCBA Rulebook [here](#). Eligibility is covered in sections 7 & 8.

Utah State University

1. All USU students participating in Club Sports must be registered for a minimum of 12 academic credits and maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA or higher.
2. Graduate students are to be registered for at least six credits and a 3.0 GPA.
3. Ineligible players are not allowed to travel or participate in any practices, games, or competitions.
 - a. They may serve as advisors and/or coaches, but not as a competing member.
4. Make sure you check with your national governing body pertaining to eligibility requirements. In some cases, students may be required to carry more credits and/or maintain higher GPA standards to be in compliance with national governing body guidelines.

You can read the entire Club Sports Manual [here](#). Eligibility is covered on page 9.

Tryouts

The team is chosen based on the skill that players demonstrate during tryouts. We expect a high turnout this year, as we have averaged 65 players each of the past five seasons.

When / Where / Cost

Dates: Tuesday, September 3rd – Friday, September 6th

Time: TBD*

Where: Richard V. Hansen Ballpark (500 W 100 N, Smithfield, UT 84335)

Cost: \$25

*Will be updated. Check at usubaseball.com on August 1st for the most up-to-date details. Please arrive early for registration, and to warm-up.

Format

Day 1: Fielding

Day 2: Hitting / Running

Day 3: BP Scrimmage*

Day 4: BP Scrimmage*

Each day will consist of pitching to ensure that position players have the opportunity to showcase their pitching skills.

*We've found that one of the key ways of evaluating players is by watching how they react to game situations. One way that we have found to get the most of our limited time is to have players taking BP and having them take their last rep live with fielders reacting at game speed. This gives us the opportunity to simultaneously evaluate hitting, and fielding.

Evaluations

Evaluations for players will be done by coaches, and team leadership. It is the hope of the coaching staff that each player trying out will receive an equal amount of reps, and an equal amount of opportunities to showcase their skills. We strive to create a fair atmosphere where new and returning players are given the same chance of making the team.

Because of the success of the program we strive to be one of the top teams in the country year in, and year out. For this reason, we choose players that we feel can make either an immediate impact, or ones that we feel will be vital to the success of the team in years to come.

Selection / Results

After the four days of tryouts the coaching staff, and team leadership, will meet together to discuss which players will be taken for the Fall team.

The Fall team will consist of the best 25-30 player.

The final Fall roster will be posted at usabaseball.com by 10:00pm on Friday, September 6th.

Fall Season

Team Dues (Cost): \$150

Date Range: September 7th – November 2nd

Practices: Tuesday's and Thursday's from 3:00pm – 5:00pm

The fall season is treated as an extended tryout period. We will have between 8-10 games scheduled vs other opponents. We will be scrimmaging during scheduled practice time, and arranging for scrimmages on the weekends that we don't have other opponents scheduled.

Because of the limited amount of funding that we have, we try to keep costs low during the fall season to save for the traveling and other expenses that we incur during the spring season.

At the end of the fall season we will make additional cuts to the team to trim the size to between 20-24 players. The final Spring roster will be posted at usubaseball.com by 10:00pm on Saturday, November 2nd.

Game Schedule: TBD

Off Season (Winter)

Date Range: November 3rd – January 5th

The offseason is used as a time to prepare for the spring season. Although we are giving this time to help players focus on school work we expect each of them to be improving their skills on their own time. We will be having several team meetings throughout this period to get necessary paperwork, forms, and letters filled out. These necessary things are for helping the Club function smoothly, as well as for the purpose of the University, and the NCBA to ensure that all players are academically eligible.

The offseason will also include required team events that will help the team raise funding for the spring season. Some examples of these opportunities include: cleaning the Spectrum after Basketball Games, providing security for the Hockey Club, cleaning the side of the highway, etc. Players are responsible for the funding of the team, and as such it is expected that players will help out with team sponsored fundraising events.

When winter break starts there will be no team events scheduled.

Spring Season

Team Dues (Cost): \$500

Date Range: January 6th – May 31st

Practices (Bad Weather): Tuesday's and Thursday's from either 8:00pm – 9:30pm or from 9:30pm – 11:00 (Whichever time slot the university assigns us to. We should know by November which time slot that will be.)

Practices (Good Weather): Tuesday's and Thursday's from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. These practices typically begin right after Spring break. However there has been times where we were able to have a couple of practices outside during mid-February, but that isn't common.

The spring season is the main season. We have around 30 games scheduled for the spring season, which is similar to the length of the high school baseball season. Here are some of the places that we have travelled to in the past: Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Georgia, Florida,

and North Carolina. We play other club teams, as well as some Community College teams which have included: USU Eastern, College of Southern Idaho, Salt Lake CC, Mesa CC, Glendale CC, and Paradise Valley CC to name a few from the past couple of years.

We try to have a full spring break with up to 8 games being played. This is a great opportunity for us to get out of the winter weather and travel to Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, Southern Utah, etc. Spring Break is typically the beginning of our season, we will then play games every weekend after that until the beginning of May where, if we qualify, we will have the opportunity for the post-season.

A typical week will be practices on Tuesday's and Thursday's, and then games on either Friday-Saturday, or Saturday-Sunday. For conference series we play a double header with two 7 inning games one day, and a single 9 inning game the other day. For series against Community Colleges we typically play two days of double-headers, one 7 inning, and one 9 inning game each day.

Although we try to avoid playing on Sunday's it is inevitable that we will have to play a couple of games on Sundays. Being a school in Utah, we understand that some players decide to not play on Sundays. If you are one of these players, please don't worry, we will make accommodations, and understand the decision. There will be no repercussion to missing a Sunday game, expect for the fact that you won't be getting the reps and allowing somebody else the opportunity to possibly get ahead of you on the depth chart because of the skills that they displayed while you weren't playing.

The dates for the Post-Season are still TBD, but have historically been the first week of May for the Region Tournament (for the 2019 season it was May 10-12), and the last week of May for the NCBA World Series (for the 2019 season it was May 24-30). So this is something to be aware of when planning summer internships, vacations, etc...

For the Spring season the team dues are more expensive because of Spring Break, the amount of travel, and hotel stays, officiating, equipment, and apparel. We want each player to have an incredible experience, and unfortunately being a self-funded team that means that we have to charge each player fees in order for the program to function.

Game Schedule: TBD (we will have around 30 regular season games, with post-season game begin added)

Additional Questions?

If you have any additional questions that weren't covered please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the members of the coaching staff, or team leadership. You can contact us by sending an email to usubaseball@gmail.com and one of us will reply.

We look forward to seeing you at tryouts this season, and seeing if you have what it takes to be a part of the Utah State Aggies Club Baseball team.