
Youth Baseball Team Poker Tournament Fundraiser

Fundraising is not easy. Some say it can't be fun either. Our goal in this fundraiser is to make it both fun, and easy.

As an overview, you want to create the 'best' entertainment value for your guests, so that they will come back next year, when you have to raise another amount of \$\$\$ for next year's team. This fundraiser was by far our best attended event, and raised nearly \$5000 in one night, year after year.

The fundraiser is set up as a poker tournament, yet the format of the tournament is that of a baseball game. More on that in a minute. Because you are raising money for a baseball team, the baseball format for the tournament increases the entertainment value, and makes for a great evening.

But wait. What do you mean baseball format?

Simply, we've taken the normal poker tournament, and modified it a bit to fit baseball lingo and our love for baseball.

For example. A normal poker tournament has rounds, in which people play, and the blinds progressively grow. In our tournament, we do not call them rounds, rather 'innings of play'. We design the tournament to have 9 innings of play. There are no 'rebuys', which are common in a poker tournament.

Another example... We have designed our rebuy system around the free-agent market.

If you need to rebuy (because you are down on your luck), you can go to the free-agent market, and get a 'starting pitcher', just as a baseball team must do if they are down on their luck. But free-agents come at a price. Instead of paying \$20 for a traditional rebuy of chips (in a normal poker tournament), a standard free-agent starting pitcher worth 1000 chips might cost you \$20. But if you went to the free-agent market and picked up Randy Johnson (one of the best pitchers of all time), then he costs \$60 for 1500 chips, for example, since he's worth more than a 'standard' starting pitcher. We do the same in the late innings with relief pitchers (after the 7th inning)

The entire tournament is themed in baseball. We put a twist on the tournament, and it's a lot of fun. After running the tournament for a couple years, I had players call me early each season reminding me to make sure they had a spot at the table for next years event.

In this unit, we have also packed all of the media you need to make the tournament a success. You can edit the files (most are Word documents) to print and post for the tournament, in your theme (i.e. instead of a bulldog printed on the cards, maybe you put a tiger, if your team's mascot is a tiger).

Some years we used money (fake printed money) to spice up the game, additional cards that can be added to the board (like an Ace if someone has one in a Baseball Card Envelope), etc. These files have been made available to you.

Lastly, you can add/subtract from the format as best you like. It's your fundraiser, go make it a success!



General Setup:

Admittedly, the Poker Tournament does take a large commitment from the parent group to pull off successfully. In the past, we have incorporated a free Spaghetti dinner, free beer, snacks and prizes to make the event a true night out, full of fun. Here are some of the setup items:

What? We would set up 6 tables, and we did our best to have dealers at the tables (usually coaches). Each table could hold 8-10 tables. If you have a bigger space, you can go bigger! We would need a significant amount of Poker Chips. We found that our parent group, when pooling resources, usually had enough poker chips.

Who? We asked each of the players to invite 10 potential poker players - which consisted of their parents, friends, coworkers, family members, and neighbors. Most often, inviting ten each resulted in at least 50 poker tournament players. We set our tournament entry fee at \$50. Sometimes we'd have a few more players than that, and had to add a 7th table.

Where? We usually reserved a community club-house that could house 80-100 people for the evening.

When? The day has to be a Saturday. Any other night proved to be too much logistically (even Friday's weren't good)

How? We needed the following help:

- a. 4 Parents to make large pots of spaghetti
- b. 1 Parent to get 2 kegs of beer
- c. 1 Parent to collect tables and chairs (if Clubhouse is not available). We had multiple parents who owned a poker table, and we brought those.
- d. 2 Parents to help setup tournament (table cloths)
- e. 1 Parent to Build the Baseball Card Envelopes.
- f. 1 Parent to help sort Chips into stacks of 1000, and bagged in Ziplock baggies. Mark each bag from #1 - #50. As you hand this out randomly, this will become their seating numbers (provides randomness).

General Info:

Players would arrive, and we'd process them into the tournament. Processing included:

- a. Entry fee of \$50. Players would get entry, 1000 chips, and 2 tickets.
- b. For the first "x" amount of players, if you bought \$100 worth, we gave you 10 bonus tickets.
- c. Before we got started, we'd auction off the 'Baseball Cards' which were sealed in an envelope that they could not see/open until they chose to use it. You will have to edit each card to make sure the prizes line up with the gifted/prizes collected from families.
- d. We then would randomly select a 'bat bounty'. This player was given a CHIP that was to be carried through the tournament. If he/she was eliminated from the tournament, the CHIP continues to be passed through the tournament by the winner of the pot. Whoever holds the chip during the 7th inning stretch wins the autographed bat.
- e. Need to print out DH, Relief, and Starting Pitchers (with accompanied chip counts). These are taped to the wall (bullpen) in the clubhouse, where folks who need help, can get on the horn for support, and get more chips during the tournament.

Items needed to purchase:

- a. Autographed Baseball Bat (Chosen from local team - this is your Bounty Bat)
- b. Fun Autographed Baseball Cards (do not have to be expensive)
- c. Envelopes, Card Stock, Printing Supplies
- d. Had to collect one prize from each family. It could be anything. A gift basket. A signed baseball jersey. Tickets to a dinner movie. We then put these prizes up along the wall, with ticket buckets in front of them, where ticket holders could put tickets in to win that prize during the 7th inning stretch.

FORMAT

As promised, we have planned for this event to be the most fun-filled poker tournament you have ever played in. **The Poker Tournament is a Texas-Hold 'Em style tournament with a 'baseball twist'**. Generally, the tournament will be good, old-fashioned, poker (except that there will be seven lineup cards, a "Bat Bounty", relief pitching, and some designated hitters). Below you will find the tournament format, rules, and general information.

Donation to Play?

The "buy in" (or donation to play) for the Team Poker Tournament Fundraiser is flexible. The minimum 'franchise fee' is \$50 to play. If you want to 'buy' yourself more power (a.k.a. George Steinbrenner), you can pay a luxury tax to do so.

Tournament Format?

The Team Poker Tournament Fundraiser will follow a 9 inning format (20 minute innings). If needed, we will go to extra innings... We will break after the fourth inning, and at the seventh inning.

Re-Buy Option?

The Team Poker Tournament Fundraiser will have a 'Re-Buy' option (a.k.a. "Starters", as in starting pitchers). However, there are only 15 starting pitchers in our bullpen. So if your pitcher (a.k.a. chip stack) goes down quickly, you can call for another starter from the bullpen --- but remember, there are only 15 of 'em for the whole tournament. If your stack goes below 500 chips, you can call a starter between the first and fifth innings.

Late Inning Relief?

The bullpen also has six relievers (a.k.a. relief stack of chips). **Relievers are those pitchers that give you a short burst in late innings, might get you through to the end, and may save your game.** The six relievers can only be called upon late in the game... the relievers will be auctioned off during the seventh inning stretch.

Bounty Play?

The Team Poker Tournament Fundraiser will have a "bounty" put on one of the players, with the other 49 trying to knock him/her out of the tournament. **The prize for knocking out the bounty player will be the "Bounty Bat" – an autographed baseball bat by Larry Walker.** Not all is lost though, since a \$5 bounty protection is available. If the bounty player wins the tournament, he/she wins the bat as well. The bounty will be chosen at random from the unprotected pool of participants.

Line Up Cards?

"Line up" cards have special power to influence the poker play on one hand only and must be used in innings 1-6. Players are not allowed to look at the contents of the lineup card until they have declared to play the card at their table. The TEAM will auction seven lineup cards to the entire tournament pool just before the tournament starts...consider it a "luxury tax".

Designated Hitters?

During the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th innings, we will have designated hitters enter the game. "Designated Hitters" are called upon when you need a clutch hit. During each inning, a random table will be selected, and the "low stack" (a.k.a. #9 hitter) will get a DH card to play at their disposal. You never know what you are going to get with a DH hitter... could be a home run. Could be a strike out.

Blind Structure?

\$50 for 1000 chips, \$75 for 2200 chips, and \$100 for 3000 chips. Additional chips will be put into play through DH cards, lineup cards, etc.

RULES

1. Whenever possible, all rules are the same as those that apply to live games, with the exception of Tournament Baseball Lineup Cards.
2. Initial seating is determined by random draw or assignment.
3. The starting position of the button is determined by the players drawing for the high card.
3. The appropriate starting amount of chips will be placed on the table for each paid entrant at the beginning of the event.
4. Limits and blinds are raised at regularly scheduled intervals.
5. If there is a signal designating the end of a betting level, the new limits apply on the next deal. (A deal begins with the first ripple of the shuffle.)
6. When a player is needed to move from a table to balance tables, the player due for the big blind will be automatically selected to move, and will be given the earliest seat due for the big blind if more than one seat is open.
7. The number of players at each table will be kept reasonably balanced by the transfer of a player as needed. Table size will be kept within one player.
8. There will be a redraw for seating when the field is reduced to one table.
9. A player may not show any cards or verbally state one's hand during a deal. Table talk (openly talking about the hand in play) shall not occur.
10. All players must either use a verbal statement giving the amount of the raise or put the chips into the pot in a single motion.
11. Non-tournament chips are not allowed on the table. All tournament chips must remain visible on the table throughout the event.
12. Inappropriate behavior like throwing cards that go off the table, length of time. A severe infraction such as abusive or disruptive behavior may be punished by eviction from the tournament.
13. In heads-up play with two blinds, the small blind is on the button.
14. All hands will be turned face up whenever a player is all-in and betting action is complete.
15. If two (or more) players go broke during the same hand, the player starting the hand with the larger amount of money finishes in the higher tournament place for prize money and any other award.
16. All 'tournament cards' must be played in the 'situation' prescribed on the card.
17. If the bounty bat is won by two players in the same hand (split pot), the player who had the biggest chip stack, before the hand was dealt, is declared the winner.
20. If there happens to be a wild card play, a Royal Flush beats five of a kind.

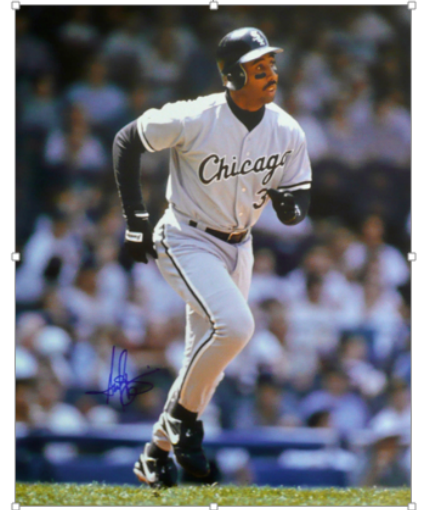
SAMPLE: DESIGNATED HITTER CARDS



Frank Thomas
750 Chips



Dave Parker
650 Chips



Harold Baines
700 Chips

SAMPLE: LINEUP CARDS

muy bueno!

Add vinny castilla Autographed Ball to the current pot.

Add 300 chips to current pot.



JUMP!!!

Add 750 chips to the pot.

Add jumpstreet tickets to pot.



Has a Stick!

Add an autographed Milan Hejduk card and 5 raffle tickets to the pot.



"Trade-errrr"

Trade one of your current hole cards for the card on the bottom of the deck.

Add 10 raffle tickets to the pot.



SAMPLE: STARTING PITCHER CARDS



Roger Clemens

1500 Chips / \$37.00

SAMPLE: SCHEDULE

Food, Fun, and Some Drinks: 6:00 – 6:45 p.m.

Tournament Rules & Lineup Card Auction: 6:45 – 7:00 p.m.

Inning #1: 7:00 – 7:20 p.m.

Inning #2: 7:20 – 7:40 p.m.

Inning #3: 7:40 – 8:00 p.m.

Inning #4: 8:00 – 8:20 p.m.

Break 8:20 – 8:35 p.m.

Inning #5: 8:35 – 8:55 p.m.

Inning #6: 8:55 – 9:15 p.m.

Break (Auction Remaining Relievers) 9:15 – 9:35 p.m.

Inning #7: 9:35 – 9:55 p.m.

Inning #8: 9:55 – 10:15 p.m.

Inning #9: 10:15 – 10:35 p.m.

Extra Innings 10:35 p.m. --- ???