

## **AYRA Uniform Policy**

AYRA's travel teams will be known as the "Athletics" or "A's" going forward from this point.

- That the uniform colors will consist of Hunter Green (ala Oakland A's) and Vegas Gold (ala Hammond Bears).
  - That the name Athletics or A's is a baseball team name and is not in use in the County or region to our knowledge
  - That the mascot on the uniform, if one is put on the uniform, will consist of a Bear and a baseball or a Bear and a bat with the Bear being similar to the currently approved logo.
  - That AYRA Baseball supports all local High School teams and has players on teams from:
    - Atholton
    - Hammond
    - Reservoir
    - River Hill
    - Oakland Mills
    - Wilde Lake
    - Centennial
    - Mt. Hebron
    - Marriott's Ridge
    - Chapelgate
    - Mt. St. Joseph
    - St. Louis
  - We acknowledge respect for these programs and all other programs in the area. We find it difficult to honor this respect on our uniforms via color, logo, or otherwise, for each school. We do recognize that we utilize the fields for Hammond & Atholton High Schools and have a close relationship with both programs. We do not want to jeopardize these relationships but desire to build them. No disrespect is intended by this move. In fact, it is with respect that the two primary colors honor those two schools. We honor our recent travel history with the bear and ball or other use of the bear in non-prominent uniform locations. We believe that this move will allow the organization to maintain the name into the future without need for concern by anyone.
  - The choice of Athletic's or A's is the ultimate honor for AYRA as an organization that has its roots in Howard County that pre-dates the city of Columbia. The name is an alliteration of the 2 A's in the name AYRA. It honors AYRA, its founders, participants, and those that will follow. It honors an organization that dares to attempt to teach baseball the proper way without partnering directly with others that may not share our concern for this.
  - We desire to build this brand and have it represent the organization. We acknowledge that there are existing Travel teams that have investments in "AYRA Bears" gear. In some cases, the investment is

substantial. These investments can be either monetary or through years of use. We know these are real. With that in mind and taking into account specific situations we add the following:

- For 2012, any new team MUST use the new brand as defined herein for the current and any future years. There is no choice in this. Any and all All-stars teams will use this branding in 2012 and into the future. We will not use Athletics for our teams in the Rec leagues to avoid confusion that the team using it would be an all-star team.
- For 2012, the 15U (Grabow) team and the 12U (Dutton) team may use their existing jersey's. The hats that these teams use MUST NOT have a bear but SHOULD have an "A". The color scheme should be such that it is consistent with the prior requirements – maroon & vegas gold, with Athletic Bold font. No additional color on the hat other than black. The determination of the hat for the 12U team will need to have Board approval as matching the unapproved colors that are used in their uniforms would be difficult. (Suggestion, use Vegas Gold letter on Black background).
- For 2012, the 19U (Kopnitzky) team may maintain the previous colors and name. Maroon, Vegas Gold, and Bears. This team has been together for nearly 8 years. The team could have an additional 3 years of life in the 19U league. We would prefer that this team change to the Athletics but will allow them the choice to maintain the old color scheme.
- Once changed to the new brand, any team allowed to use the old scheme – as outlined above only – can change back.
- Development of our brand requires that we adhere to detail and requires enforcement. As such, the Board must be involved in the approval of Travel uniforms and the use of logos, fonts, colors, and therefore institutes the following rules:
  - The Board requires final approval on proofs of any and all elements of uniform orders before proceeding. This is necessary as can be evidenced by how this has gone wrong for over half of our teams in one way or another just last year.
  - The Board has better things to do than color maintenance but desires to do this without overwhelming the agenda. It will do this by managing the vendors who provide the uniforms.
    - The Board will define the accepted vendors for the purchase and manufacture of uniforms. A list will be made available from time-to-time. To start, Eye of the Needle and Nightmare Graphics are approved vendors.

- The Board will not tolerate any deviation from this policy. With the exception of the grandfathering in as outlined above, all uniforms MUST be in accordance with the current policy and the grandfathered uniforms must be in accordance with policy dictated herein.
  - Failure to follow this policy will lead to consequences including but not limited to: not allowing for payment of invoices for unapproved uniforms and suspension.
- The specifics of the uniform are as follows:
  - Athletic's or A's in script use d on the Oakland A's uniform as seen here.





- The green is to be Hunter Green. The Gold is Vegas Gold. (Note that the picture above is an example without appropriate colors).
  - That a logo will be developed for use on the sleeve. This and only this logo will be available on the sleeves.
  - Basic shirt colors will be:
    - Hunter Green
    - Vegas Gold
    - White
    - Grey
    - Black
  - Pants will be either white or grey, will coordinate with the shirt and will have piping of:
    - Hunter Green
    - Vegas Gold
    - Black
    - No piping
  - Hats will include the following and only the following colors:
    - Hunter Green
    - Vegas Gold
    - Black
    - White
- See here for example (note, color's need to be as defined). The League will define hat's for use each year by January 1.

The teams have the choice of using one or more of those hats. If the definition is not done by January 1, then teams may use the colors and fonts noted above with a look that is similar to the hat below (with appropriate colors) subject to approval. The League will make decisions on the hats and other travel uniform issues at the December general meeting. Proposals should be made in advance of that meeting to be considered then.