



## Pros:

- **Better competition:** Players are more serious about the game and more driven to improve. This higher level of competition will help push your son or daughter to improve their own skills.
- **Better coaching:** Travel baseball coaches tend to be better qualified, more knowledgeable, and better-connected. At the highest levels of travel ball, teams often employ former professional coaches.
- **More exposure:** Aside from high school baseball, travel ball is the primary means of exposure to college coaches and pro scouts. Plus, travel teams often attend showcase tournaments and camps.
- **More games played:** Travel teams play significantly more games per year than rec ball teams.
- **Facilitates travel:** Sometimes seen as an ancillary benefit, the travel itself can be a valuable and eye-opening experience for players. Many kids don't have an opportunity to travel out of their own area or state, and travel baseball can provide that.
- **Encourages character development:** Because travel teams are more serious, there's a greater emphasis put on things like being on time, demonstrating maximum effort, and having a good attitude.

## Cons

- **Cost:** Travel baseball is expensive — sometimes absurdly so. Families often spend around \$2,500 per year, but the costs can be even higher.
- **Time commitment:** Even a moderately competitive travel team can consume an entire summer's worth of weekends.
- **Ultra-competitive:** On most travel teams, there's a balance between player development and winning. What you won't often find is an "everybody plays" approach. For the most part, the best players will play the most, which makes for a highly-competitive environment.
- **Tougher workouts:** This can be a pro or a con, depending on the player's perspective and goals. Tougher workouts can lead to better outcomes, but they can also be mentally and physically taxing if the player isn't fully invested.
- **Lack of diversity:** Because travel baseball is expensive, it has often been criticized for a lack of socioeconomic and racial diversity.