



## ***BBA Travel Baseball Overview and Guidelines***

The Bethel Baseball Association will coordinate a Travel Baseball program for players who have advanced skills and abilities to provide them with the opportunity to participate in a competitive environment.

### **Overview:**

The Travel program will have one “A” level team for each age from ages 7 – 14. A “B” level team and in certain circumstances a “C” level team may also be selected as long as player and parental participation are available. The “A” level teams will consist of the top players from each age group, with the “B” and “C” level teams consisting of the next group of top players in each age group.

### **Eligibility:**

In order to be selected to an “A” or “B” level team, the player must have participated in the BBA in-house program AND played in a minimum of **75% of regular season in-house games scheduled**. If a player meets this criterion at the time the travel team is selected and subsequently fails to meet the eligibility criteria by the end of the in-house regular season (playoff games excluded), that player may be removed from the team. In addition, a player not currently meeting the minimum eligibility rule that could achieve the minimum eligibility rule prior to the end of the in-house season should be considered for selection. The decision to remove and/or add another player will be addressed at that time by the BBA Board of Directors. Extraordinary circumstances (i.e. injuries, family emergencies, etc.) will be reviewed by the BBA Board of Directors, which can make an exception to the eligibility criteria stated above.

A player selected to a travel team must be committed to play in tournament games during travel baseball season, which typically runs from the last weekend in June through the end of July. The BBA Board of Directors does recognize that this same time period may also be the only time available for family vacations. Players may miss up to one tournament for family vacations. It is highly recommended that players are also available for a minimum of two weeks prior to the first tournament to allow for team practices.

### **Travel Team Tenure:**

The travel team(s) selected each year remains the travel team for each respective age group until the team is re-evaluated and selected the following year. This means that each travel team will play together the following Spring in either the Metro or West Penn leagues, respectively.

The only exception to the tenure rule is at the 11yr old age group. The 11 “A” and “B” level teams will remain in place for two years to allow these teams to play together as much as possible prior to their participation in Cooperstown as 12yr olds. These players will be re-evaluated and the teams re-selected at 13yrs old.

**Player Evaluations:**

Any player that has expressed interest in playing travel baseball will be evaluated to determine the player's ability. Travel tryouts for 2017 will be held indoors on April 23 and May 7 at C-Side Sports. There will be a one-time fee of \$5 for each player to tryout. This fee is being charged to help offset the cost of the indoor facility. **Participation in at least one of the tryouts is mandatory for consideration on a travel team.**

The player evaluation will be a two part process consisting of the following:

1. In-house manager evaluations
2. Tryout evaluations

Each part of the process will be weighted and an overall score will be compiled for each player.

**Player and Manager Selection Timing:**

Travel teams at all age groups will be selected in May using a committee comprised of the BBA Board President, the Commissioner of the respective age group, the prior year travel manager, and another board member selected by the BBA Board President. The Travel team managers will be named within 3 days of the teams being selected.

**Roster Size:**

Rosters for ages 7 – 10 will be a maximum of 12 players per team. Roster sizes for ages 11 – 14 are typically 11 players per team, however each manager can add a 12<sup>th</sup> player at their discretion.

**Parent Responsibilities:**

Recognizing that the tournaments are a source of revenue for the BBA it is imperative that the parents of each travel team assist in the administration of the tournaments for their respective age group. Typically, this requires dedication of several hours of time during the tournament working in the concession stand, announcing games, field maintenance, scorekeeping, etc.

**Code of Conduct:**

Each travel team player and parent will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct to ensure that we are representing Bethel Park in a positive manner. If any player or parent violates the Code of Conduct, the committee used to select the travel team will determine what level of discipline, if any, is applied.