



Winfield Wolves Travel Baseball Tryout Policies

Tryout Process

Please keep in mind any tryout process is not perfect. Some players do not perform as well in tryouts, sometimes players have bad days, some players have exceptional days. The policies and procedures make the tryout process as fair and objective as possible.

Age/Grade Requirements

The birth date cutoff is April 30 of the playing season. The team (age level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player's age on that date. A player cannot play up (i.e. play on a team older than his/her age level) unless he/she is in the same school grade as the older age as seen in the chart below.

Age as of April 30	And in School Grade	Team Level
8	2nd	9U (May repeat 9U next year)
9	3rd	9U (May repeat 9U next year)
9 or 10	4th	10U
10 or 11	5th	11U
11 or 12	6th	12U
12 or 13	7th	13U
13 or 14	8th	14U

Overall Evaluation Score

New players will be ranked based on their tryout score. Incumbent players will be ranked based on their tryout score (40%) combined with a coach's evaluation score from their previous season (60%).

Tryout Sessions

Participation

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions, unless the Travel Baseball Commissioner grants an excused absence prior to the start of that session. Without limitation, and by way of example only, excused absences are considered for injury and illness, and shall not be considered for family vacations, conflicting sporting events, etc. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each tryout session. ***A player who is absent without being excused will be given 0's for all sessions missed. Receiving such scores would likely prevent the player from making the team.*** For excused absences, the Commissioner and incumbent coach will use previous or current (for sessions completed) year's tryout results and other available information, such as coach feedback, to determine where the player should be ranked.

Injury or Illness Absence

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury or illness will be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session, upon delivery of a doctor's note describing the player's limitations. A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically fit before he/she will be allowed to participate in any Winfield Wolves activities. A player who misses more than 50% of the scheduled tryout sessions due to illness, and provides a doctor's excuse, may be granted a special tryout, once he/she provides a physician's release to participate. A player who misses any of the scheduled tryout sessions due to an injury may be placed on a team at the discretion of the Travel Baseball Commission.

Supplemental Tryout

If the first tryout does not identify enough travel-ready players to form a team, a supplemental tryout can be conducted. The supplemental tryout will be posted on the Wolves website and those who did not make the team (based upon initial tryout) are welcome to participate in the supplemental tryout.

Individual Tryout

If the both tryouts do not identify enough players to form a team. Individual tryouts can take place on an 'as-needed' basis. The results of the individual tryout will submit results to WIA/WPD for approval.

Player Identification

A number assigned at the tryout sessions will identify each player. ***A player must not wear clothing from any year's travel team or any article of clothing with his/her name imprinted on it. Also, players may not bring any travel team gear such as equipment bags or helmets. Players in violation will be sent to change and may miss all or part of one or more sessions.***

Player Evaluation

The goal of the evaluation process is to ensure that all players are given a fair evaluation, and that players are placed at the best level for their abilities. As per Winfield Park District policy, all players' baseball skills will be evaluated by a team of at least three evaluators for each of the sessions. The incumbent head coach (travel commissioner, if no coach has been selected) and the evaluators will make final roster decisions, with the input of the tryout coordinators and assistant coaches. In addition to the WPD policy, the Wolves will add an independent evaluator from either the Winfield Park District or a professional coach from a local sports training facility or high school, if they are available. If the park district, local sports training facility, or local high school cannot provide an evaluator, a coach from the team (age level) above and/or below will function as the independent evaluator. This helps ensure the player's skills are evaluated by a large number of qualified evaluators.

Placement of 3rd Graders (8 or 9-year-olds)

Note that we will also fill the 10U team prior to filling a 9U team. That is, we won't field a 9U team if we don't have enough players for 10U. In this case, the qualified 8 or 9-year-olds will be placed on the 10U team. If cuts need to be made for any the 10U team, 3rd graders (8 or 9-year-olds) will be cut over 4th graders (10-year-olds) regardless of the tryout rankings of the 3rd graders.

Tryout Results Player Evaluation

Specific tryout results will not be shared with players or parents. History dictates it is not appropriate to share specific results of evaluations with players or parents. The commissioner, if requested by a parent, can provide a verbal summary of their child's performance.

Player Evaluation Criteria

All athletes trying out for the travel baseball program will be evaluated and graded on their abilities in the following categories:

Main Evaluation Areas:

Hitting (32%)

Infield (32%)

Outfield (32%)

Speed (4%)

Catching and pitching are optional activities. Unless a player does not want to pitch or catch, participation is recommended as scores will be given by the evaluators for those participating. The scores are not included in the mandatory evaluation results; however, the optional scores are made available to the coaches during team selection. Note that pitchers and catchers may have priority roster spots due to the importance of these positions. All tryouts will use the following format without exception. The process will be standardized for all ages. All players' scores will be compiled and players will be rated from highest to lowest total points.

Evaluation Categories

Hitting	Form Contact Hitting Power Bunt-Form and contact (11U-14U)
Outfield	Fielding form/Positioning Fielding Range/Catch Strength of arm Throwing accuracy
Infield	Fielding form/Positioning Fielding Range/Catch Strength of arm Throwing accuracy
Speed	Timed home to first base Timed home to second base (time permitting)
Pitching	Strength of arm Throwing accuracy
Catching	Fielding Range/Catch Strength of arm Throwing accuracy

Player Selection

The selection process contains four steps:

1. Player evaluation scores are compiled.
2. Incumbent head coach (travel commissioner, if no coach has been selected) and the evaluators will make final roster decisions, with the input of the tryout coordinators and assistant coaches.
3. Player selection and all tryout data are sent to Winfield in Action for review. Approval Required.
4. Player selection and all tryout data are sent to Winfield Park District for review. Approval Required.

Player Notification

The player notification process will begin after the player selection process. The players will be notified as follows:

- Players will have a tryout number assigned. Players who make the team will be contacted by phone and have 24 hours to accept the offer and 72 hours to submit a non-refundable deposit of the team registration fee.
- Once the team has been finalized, players who did not make the team will receive an email notifying them of the results. This process could take one week.
- If supplemental tryouts are needed, the dates and times will be posted on the main page of the Wolves website. Players who did not make the team are able to tryout again.
- Coaches will not be allowed to discuss player selections with any players or parents until after the player selection process has concluded unless approved by the travel commissioner.

Appendix

Winfield Park District Residency Policy for Travel Teams

The Winfield Wolves travel baseball program is **open to all** as follows:

"WIA Travel teams are defined as teams that are comprised of players who are placed/selected on that team based upon a subjective, tryout/evaluations process. In order for these teams to receive the same priority field allocations as the "in-house" WIA teams, these teams must be comprised of a minimum number of players who meet the following criteria:

Each team shall have a majority of the team comprised of players in the "in-district" classification. "In-district" will be defined by the Winfield Park District boundaries or past WIA in-house participation.

Coaches, players and parents must understand the mission of the travel program. The mission is: To provide opportunities for the more competitive ballplayer. The WIA travel program strives to provide WIA players with a higher level of coaching and training that will assist in the development of a more skilled player.

8 of 12 players should be former WIA In-house league players or residents of the Winfield Park District (9 of 13 if the roster is expanded).

Once this requirement has been satisfied, all other roster decisions will be based on:

- a. Talent, if equal then,*
- b. Incumbent players, if this is not a factor then,*
- c. WIA participation, if this is not a factor then,*
- d. Winfield Park District boundaries.*

Each team's tryout will be evaluated by a committee consisting of a minimum of three evaluators. The incumbent head coach (travel commissioner if no coach has been selected) and the evaluators will make the final roster decisions, with the input of the tryout coordinators and assistant coaches.

Final roster size is at the discretion of the head coach, with input from the assistant coaches. Any player trying out for a part-time team must have played at least one season in the WIA in-house league program to be eligible. Players trying out for the 10U – 14U full-time teams will be encouraged to play at the age appropriate level.

If an insufficient number of "In District" players tryout for a team, a 1-year exemption will be granted to this team. Teams that do not meet the above criteria will be assessed field use and prep fees"

What does this mean?

There is a requirement that 8 of the 12 players be from Winfield, but the other slots are determined as defined above. Keep in mind that this means that sometimes there are 'out-of-district' players that have a better tryout, but they don't always make the team. This is a Park District requirement which the Wolves are obligated

to abide by. We do all we can to have a fair and competitive tryout and treat all the players equally during the tryout. Not until after all the scores are compiled are the residency factors considered. If 8 players from Winfield are not available, then those slots can be filled by non-residents.

This also means that the tryouts are indeed 'open'. Just because a player played on a team the previous year, it does not guarantee them a spot on the current roster.

Email any additional questions to: winfieldwolves@outlook.com