

Are you a "Baseball Parent?"

- I used to have a regular life (actually, many of my friends say that sentence should say, "I used to have a life," period). It doesn't really seem that long ago. Then I became a travel ball parent.
- I used to think anything over \$40 was an exorbitant price for a baseball bat. Now the contents of my son's equipment bag are worth more than everything else in the house; including clothes, jewelry, watches, and my laptop computer.
- I used to be one of the leaders in my field of work. I still am (you have to keep a good paycheck coming in if you want to support a travel ball habit!).
- I used to think a double-header was a long day at the ball field. Now after two games, we're just getting warmed up!
- I used to look for little restaurants that served seafood fresh off the boat. Now I'm a connoisseur of nachos and hot dogs and my kids rate a city by the quality of a tournament's snack bar.
- Sunflower seeds used to be something I would see at a store and wonder who would eat those things? Now, I don't feel comfortable leaving the house without a bag in my pocket.
- My lawn used to be like a carpet. It was green, mowed, trimmed, fertilized, and watered. Now I have two big bare spots fifty feet apart and dents in my garage door from fastballs that got away!
- My car used to draw admiring looks and comments. It was clean and waxed and shined and Armor-All'd. Now, it only draws attention when it wins the "dirtiest car in the parking lot" award.
- I used to have a garage. Now I have an indoor batting area.
- My friends and I used to spend Monday mornings talking about a round of golf or movie we had just seen. Now I bore them to death with detailed play-by-play descriptions of five or six low-scoring ball games.
- We used to sit and talk for hours. We still do-- however, now it's to keep the driver awake when we're headed home late Sunday evening after a tournament.
- My summer casual wardrobe used to be made up of color-coordinated polo shirts, cool cottons in bright colors, and the occasional "aloha" shirt. Now I have a closet full of T-shirts that have Tournament Names on the front and competing teams on the back.
- We used to spend our summer vacation relaxing on the beach or visiting family. Now we hit the road with 20 of our closest friends in a caravan that could rival some small town parades.
- I used to be concerned that I would fall into the trap of living my life through my kid. Now I know that I'm privileged to live my life WITH my kid!!!
- Yes, I'm a Travel Ball Parent, what could be better!

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