

BYRON
YOUTH
BASEBALL
ASSOCIATION

2017 TRAVELING TEAM PARENT & PLAYER
HANDBOOK



Amended by BYBA Board 2017

I. Byron Youth Baseball Traveling Mission Statement

A. Purpose

The Byron Youth Baseball Association (BYBA) Traveling Baseball teams were created to provide a higher level of competition for talented and motivated Byron area baseball players, with a commitment to the improvement of their skills in a team focused environment. Teams will work hard to win games, but winning will never become more important than teamwork and good sportsmanship. BYBA baseball will ask players to work toward excellence, not perfection. Baseball is a fun and challenging game that requires players to develop the ability to overcome mistakes and to look forward to their next opportunity. Ultimately, the development of skills and team focused play will be the guideline for our program, which we believe will create better baseball players and better people.

B. Mission

The Mission of the Byron Youth Baseball Travel program is to provide Byron youth, between the ages of 9 and 12, intensive skill development and a high level of competition.

C. Motto

PLAY HARD, HAVE FUN and COMPETE

II. Message to Parents

Parents are asked to be supportive of the players and coaches. Trust your coach in making decisions for the team and leave the coaching to them.

We encourage communication! If you have any concerns please speak with your coach. We are all volunteers and do this for the love of the game and the kids. We do ask that you wait **24 HOURS** before addressing your coach, out of anger or frustration. **NEVER** address your coach in such a manner with your player present.

Parents are also encouraged to practice with children on their own time, using your coaches' suggestions to work on improving individual skills. Interaction with players during games and practices is strongly discouraged, so that players can give 100 percent of their attention to their coaches and their teammates. Only positive cheers and words of encouragement are appropriate during games from parents, who are required to remain seated in the bleachers away from the dugout. There will be no tolerance of criticism or arguments with umpires. Games can get very intense, which can be fun and exciting, whether they are wins or losses. We ask that everyone work to make that intensity fun and not uncomfortable.

III. **Byron Youth Baseball Travel Program Guidelines**

(BYBA Board reserves the right to make changes to these guidelines)

A. Teams

Teams in the 10U and 11U age bracket will be considered **Developmental Teams**. Evaluations will be used to form teams as evenly as possible. The goals in the development program will be to focus on the fundamentals of baseball skills through repetition and skill improvement drills. Players will be developed at more than one position on the field. We will roster bat whenever possible. Playing time **WILL NOT** be equal and players will not be moved around as much as in traditional House League.

Teams in the 12U will be considered competitive teams. "A/B" teams will be formed based off of evaluations. While the primary goal will continue to be development of baseball skills, players at this level will begin to develop more complex strategy and situational training along with playing at a highly competitive level. Playing time will not be equal and players are more likely to be limited to only a couple positions on the field. Attitude, ability, hard work, and sportsmanship will play a larger role in determining playing time for this level.

B. Tryout/Evaluation process(week of Apr 17th)

We are a “tryout/evaluation based” travel program. Travel teams will be formed based solely on tryout performance whenever possible. However, Byron Youth Baseball reserves the right to consider additional information and/or to schedule makeup tryout sessions to accommodate unique circumstances, including but not limited to: injury, sickness, a family emergency, or other factors to determine team selection.

10U/11U – Evaluators will rate the participants and teams will be selected as evenly as possible using these scores.

12U - Evaluators will rate participants and determine top 10. Head Coach will select the two remaining spots via wild card selections. Head Coach will be pre-selected and included in the evaluations. They will be present to observe for their wild card selections.

Board members may be present to oversee the evaluations. Evaluations are not open to the general public. Players may not wear any gear that identifies them with any tournament team, plain shirts only. Evaluations are intended to be held outside, however weather will dictate that. There will be 1 “warm-up” practice held prior to evaluations in April. **(practice and evaluation schedule can be found at www.byronyouthbaseball.com)**

C. Playing Up

A player’s age, based on born on or after May 1st, determines his eligibility to participate in many tournaments and which

team he may try out for. Players **WILL** be allowed to move up a level to play with classmates. BYBA **WILL NOT** move players up more than one age group.

D. Team Specific Rules

1. 10U Traveling Team (Equal Teams)

a) BYBA is working with BYSA to coordinate schedules so the players don't have to choose at a young age. Plan on spending 2-4 nights per week at the baseball field. Also additional expenses parents may incur for hotel/gas should be expected frequently traveling to and from games or playing in tournaments.

b) Practices will be held approximately twice per week (~1 1/4 hours per practice).

c) Traveling team will participate in the Zumbro Valley League (ZVL). 16 game schedule played as double headers and end of year tournament. The ZVL schedules are subject to change.

d) Traveling teams will play up to 2 additional Tournaments (if budget allows) played on Fridays and/or Saturdays and/or Sundays. These tournaments will be local (within 1hr).

e) The tournament teams are based on ability and playing time is granted accordingly. However, the coach may choose to reduce a player's game time if they are not regularly attending practices or for other reasons.

2. 11U Traveling Team (Equal Teams)

a) BYBA is working with BYSA to coordinate schedules so the players don't have to choose at a young age. Plan on spending 2-4 nights per week at the baseball field. Also additional expenses parents may incur for hotel/gas should be expected frequently traveling to and from games or playing in tournaments.

- b)** Practices will be held approximately twice per week (~1 ½ hours per practice).
- c)** Traveling team will participate in the Zumbro Valley League (ZVL). 16 game schedule played as double headers and end of year tournament. The ZVL schedules are subject to change.
- d)** Traveling teams will play up to 2 additional Tournaments (if budget allows) played on Fridays and/or Saturdays and/or Sundays. These tournaments will be local (within 1hr).
- e)** The tournament teams are based on ability and playing time is granted accordingly. However, the coach may choose to reduce a player's game time if they are not regularly attending practices or for other reasons.

3. 12U Traveling Team ("AA/A" Teams)

- a)** It is EXPECTED that players who choose to play a second sport make baseball practice and games their first priority. Plan on spending 3-5 nights per week at the baseball field. Also additional expenses parents may incur for hotel/gas should be expected frequently traveling to and from games or playing in tournaments.
- b)** Practices will be held approximately two to three times per week (~1 ½ hours per practice).
- c)** "AA" team will compete in the Metro Baseball League. This will be a 14-16 game schedule with games split between playing in Byron and South Metro. "A" team will participate in the Zumbro Valley League (ZVL). 16 game schedule played as double headers and end of year tournament. The ZVL schedules are subject to change.
- d)** "AA" team will play in 3-4 Tournaments. "A" team will play up to 2 additional Tournaments (if budget allows) played on Fridays and/or Saturdays and/or Sundays. These tournaments may require an overnight stay.
- e)** "AA" team will play in State Qualifying Tournaments and must qualify for State Tournaments by finishing first or second or accepting a playoff berth. IF qualifying for the State

Tournament, BYBA will cover the entry fee (not including gate fee) of one state tournament.

f) 12U teams are based on ability and playing time is granted accordingly. However, the coach may choose to reduce a player's game time if they are not regularly attending practices or for other reasons

E. Team Finances and Fundraising

1. In order to meet our financial needs and responsibilities, we are asking for your help! As a tax-exempt organization, we rely on donations from parents and local business as well as periodic fundraisers. Your help and support in the fundraising efforts, finding sponsors and opportunities to promote Byron Baseball can really help make this a memorable experience for the players.

2. Travel Team and Player fees cover team expenses during the "official" season. These expenses include (but are not limited to) uniforms, league entry fees, tournament entry fees, umpire costs, coach fees and incidentals, insurance, park district fees, and equipment costs. Travel fees will not cover the cost of any activity not pre-approved and/or any activity that takes place outside of the "official" travel season.

3. Player uniforms will consist of a team jersey/hat(BYBA provided), **black batting helmet, white pants w/black piping, black belt, black socks, and black spikes**. All items (except jersey and hat) listed will be in addition to the travel team registration fee. The items in **BOLD** are your responsibility to purchase.

IV. CODE OF CONDUCT

A. Managers and Coaches

- I will be a positive role model for the players and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, as well as by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
- I will read, understand and abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the Byron Youth Baseball Association.
- I will be on time and be prepared for games and practices, thereby setting an example for my team.
- I will only use eligible and properly rostered players for any and all league, playoff and tournament games. I understand violation of this regulation is cause for immediate relief of managerial responsibilities.
- I will be responsible for the conduct and control of baseball players and fans.
- I will always maintain good sportsmanship with my players, parents and the opposing team.
- I will not smoke, chew tobacco products, drink alcoholic beverages, or use profanity or any illegal substance on the baseball fields or in the presence of the baseball teams during the progression of scheduled league games and practices.
- I understand that pursuant to the code of ethics for youth, managers and coaches who engage in the use of or distribution of illegal substance shall be suspended from participating in the Byron Youth Travel Baseball Association. There is no course of redress on this issue.
- I will have the medical release forms, team roster and player birth certificates with me at all games and practices.
- I will not conduct myself in a manner that damages the Byron Youth Travel Baseball Association's reputation or public perception.

Coaches Signature(s)

B. Players

- I will wear my uniforms and practice attire properly. I will be fully dressed from the time I get to the field until the time I leave.
- I will wear long pants and proper baseball attire for all games and practices. I will wear jackets and/or long sleeves when necessary to all games and practices, especially early in the season. I understand that cleats and an athletic supporter with protective cup are required equipment at all times.
- I will not participate in swearing, name-calling, or razzing other players. I understand this includes chants or chatter to frustrate the other team. Even if the other team is razzing us, I will not get involved in this type of activity.
- I will control my emotions at all times. I will be a player that will think and then act, not the other way around. I will not throw my helmet, bat, glove, or anything in the dugout. I understand this will not be tolerated and I will be disciplined if I do it.
- I will treat all officials, opposing coaches and players with respect. If I have nothing positive to say, then I won't say anything at all!
- I will never throw balls or swing bats unless a coach is supervising the activity.

C. Parents

- I will do my best to get my player(s) to games and practices on time.
- I (and my guests) will be a positive role model for my child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
- I (and my guests) will not engage in any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing and taunting; refusing to shake hands; or using profane language or gestures.
- I will teach my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
- I will demand that my child treat other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex or ability.

- I will teach my child that doing one’s best is more important than winning, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or other participants for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will refrain from making negative comments about the coaches in my player’s presence. I understand that this plants a negative seed in my player’s head that can negatively influence his motivation, performance and overall experience. If I have a problem with one of the coaches, I will request a conversation or meeting with the coach to discuss the situation. I will observe a 24-hour rule to discuss issues to allow a “cool-down” period so emotions can be controlled.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.

Parent Signature

Player Signature

BYBA Board Member (Witness)

2017 BYRON YOUTH BASEBALL BOARD

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