

**TRAVELING EAGLES
PLAYER/PARENT HANDBOOK**



2010 SEASON

It measures just 9 inches in circumference, weighs only about 5 ounces, and is made of cork wound with woolen yarn, covered with two layers of cowhide, and stitched by hand precisely 216 times.

It travels 60 feet 6 inches from the pitcher's mound to home and it can cover that distance at nearly 100 miles an hour. Along the way it can be made to twist, spin, curve, wobble, rise, or fall way.

The bat is made of turned ash, less than 42 inches long, not more than $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter. The batter has only a few thousandths of a second to decide to hit the ball. And yet the men who fail seven times out of ten are considered the game's greatest heroes.

Baseball is played everywhere—in parks and playgrounds and prison yards, in back alleys and farmer's fields, by small children and old men, by raw amateurs and millionaire professionals.

It is a leisurely game that demands blinding speed, and the only one in which the defense has the ball. It follows the seasons, beginning each year with the fond expectancy of springtime and ending with the hard facts of autumn.

It is a haunted game in which every player is measured against the ghosts of all who have gone before. Most of all, it is about time and timelessness, speed and grace, failure and loss, imperishable hope and coming home.

“Baseball: an illustrated history”
by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
EAGLE HISTORY	5
TRAVELING EAGLES ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	6
PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES.....	6
UNDERSTANDING THE COMMITMENT	8
GOALS.....	9
IMAGE GUIDELINES	10
APPEARANCE GUIDELINES	10
FUNDRAISING	11
TRAVELING EAGLES CODE OF CONDUCT	12
Forward.....	12
Managers/Coaches	12
Players	13
Parents/Fans	13
TRAVELING EAGLES CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT	15
PROBLEM RESOLUTION GUIDELINES	16
GENERAL INFORMATION.....	17
Registration Fees.....	17
Additional Fees	17
Suggestions	18
Baseball Fields	18
Personal Equipment.....	18
Bats.....	18
GENERAL POLICIES.....	18
Blood Policy	18
Drug and Alcohol Policy	19
Tobacco Policy.....	19
Equipment Abuse.....	19

INTRODUCTION

Congratulations on being selected as a member of the Traveling Eagles Organization! We are excited about the upcoming season and would like to welcome you to one of the most dynamic traveling baseball organizations in Northwest Florida.

Our teams enjoyed great success again in 2009 and we want to carry our tradition into 2010 and beyond. We enjoyed placing in many local, regional and state competitions.

Your Traveling Eagles Executive Board has been busy planning for another great season. In order to introduce you to the philosophy of the organization, as well as the rules and guidelines, we have put together this handbook for your use. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the contents and then get ready to play competitive baseball and enjoy some of the greatest memories that will last a lifetime.

Whether it is hosting a tournament, holding fundraisers or participating in other Traveling Eagles events, fundraisers are a very important part of our program. Fundraisers allow us to purchase team equipment, enter tournaments, and keep player fees at a minimum. We need all our parents to volunteer throughout the year, especially hosted tournaments. Please support our fundraisers as all the money goes back into the program and is a direct benefit to you and your player.

EAGLE HISTORY

The Traveling Eagles Organization was founded in December 1998 by a small group of parents that could not find a competitive baseball organization that would allow their boys to grow further in the sport. With the encouragement and guidance from these parents, the group made the leap into the unknown with the philosophy that is the cornerstone of today's teams—

Dedication ~ Determination ~ Discipline.

The first year of operation included one team, age 12U. The next year we expanded to three teams. In the following years, we exploded to six teams from 9U to 14U. In the Fall of 2007 we started an 8U team and in the Spring 2008 we supported a 7U team play several travel tournaments. We continue on the original quest *“to provide an environment that recognizes and enhances the abilities of talented youth baseball players, and to ignite their passion for higher level competition while preparing them for playing and excelling at the middle school and high school level.”* We know that achieving this goal means that our organization must become the premiere youth baseball organization in this state. We believe the definition of premiere lies in highly competitive baseball, excellent instruction and coaching, year-round training, and an organization that creates an atmosphere of support, encouragement, and a true love for the game.

TRAVELING EAGLES ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

An Executive Board consisting of a President, Past President, Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations, Vice President Organization Operations, Secretary and Treasurer and various committee members manage the Traveling Eagles Organization. We also have an extensive website in order to provide you updated information at all times. Check us out at www.travelingeagles.com. **E-mail is the official means of communication for the organization.** The following individuals are your 2009 Traveling Eagles Executive Board:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
Brian Cromwell	President	bkcromwell@cox.net
Don Collins	Past President	collins1258@cox.net
Joe Nedoroscik	Founder	eaglebasebal@aol.com
Mike Wells	VP, Baseball Operations	wells1617@aol.com
Kim Brooks	VP, Organization Operations	brookskk@cox.net
Mike McDorman	Treasurer	mike@mcdorman-construction.com
Billie Jo Gruwell	Secretary	gruwell2@cox.net

The Executive Board has the following responsibilities:

1. Set the organizations annual budget.
2. Establish goals and principles for all teams.
3. Establish operating guidelines for all teams.
4. Establish guidelines for image and appearance for all teams.
5. Manage the business aspects of the organization.
6. Assist teams in procuring umpires for home tournaments.
7. Select managers.
8. Coordinate team tryouts.

The Executive Board is a hard working group of individuals who volunteer many hours to continuously improve and enhance this organization. They enthusiastically embrace new ideas and are always open to suggestions. Please feel free to contact any board member with your ideas.

PHILOSOPHY AND PRINCIPLES

We are adamant in adhering to our fundamental philosophy and principles. Our philosophy sets the standard for our teams to follow:

DEDICATION to continually strive for excellence.

DETERMINATION to succeed despite adversity.

DISCIPLINE to prepare, mentally and physically; to sacrifice individual glory to attain team success; to represent ourselves, our parents, our team, and the Traveling Eagles Organization with class and dignity.

Our organization will operate and be governed by a set of principles:

Integrity shall be the overriding principle that will be present in all dealings with players, parents, sponsors, business partners, and other baseball associations.

Class will be the word that defines our reputation. We will put ourselves on exhibit as a first class organization in everything we do.

Competitiveness will be the result of reaching for excellence in developing our players and coaches.

Spirit comes from a positive and enthusiastic attitude; not just from the teams, but especially from the families and friends who support the teams.

Our goal is to develop our athletes and help them understand that hard work, attitude, teamwork and integrity are the key ingredients in all of life's challenges. We are very selective in choosing our players. We look for commitment, desire and ability; in players and their families. We want families who truly love the game. We want players who have a burning desire to play in middle school or high school and beyond.

The Traveling Eagles Organization is more than practices and games...it's friendship and lifelong memories. Selection is an honor. Parental support is essential. Learning, working and improving is expected.

UNDERSTANDING THE COMMITMENT

Have you ever fielded 200 ground balls, taken 100 hacks in the cage, and sprinted from home plate to first base 25 times...all in one workout? Now imagine doing that kind of workout at every Eagle practice. If the thought of such rigorous training turns your stomach, then maybe Traveling Eagles baseball isn't for you. This is the type of commitment and dedication you are going to need if you want to play baseball for the Traveling Eagles. If you're ready to accept the challenge, then your baseball future could be very bright.

As an Eagle player, the following is expected:

- Always give your best, 100% effort.
- Put the team first—be a team player.
- Think baseball—whether in a game or practice, stay focused on baseball.
- Be a good sport. Show respect for opponents, officials and fans. Most of all, demonstrate your respect for your team and the game by conducting yourself with honor on the field.
- Play every pitch.
- Do your very best in school.

You should know you are making a considerable investment in time and resources. Players are asked to adhere to a daily workout regimen. Teams will practice at least two times per week and games are played almost every weekend. All teams will play between 5 and 12 tournaments from February through August. Most tournaments are held out of town and sometimes are far enough away that overnight stays are more practical. Some teams will travel to tournaments out of state. The goal of all our teams is to qualify for a national championship or national invitational tournaments which are held throughout the United States.

The reason we consider this an investment is because there is a tremendous payback. The principles we stress and are striving to develop as baseball players will establish the kind of positive character in our young people that will carry them through the rest of their lives. We have already seen a positive impact to self-esteem and confidence that comes from learning, improving, and being successful in a challenging environment. We have seen the thrill and excitement that comes from winning a big game, or the introspection and determination that comes from falling short. For talented athletes, these lifelong lessons can only be learned in a highly competitive environment. **Traveling Eagles baseball is not for everyone.** Only you can decide if it is right for you and we, as an organization, will only benefit if you are comfortable with being part of it. You should consider how much you and your son enjoy baseball. Your team will practice and play more than any other baseball organization in this area. You should also consider athletic ability, either current or future potential. You should keep in mind our goal is developing players for the future. Youth players develop physically at different rates and develop skills at different rates. We believe boys that are athletic and have a real desire to learn the game can be taught, even if it takes time for them to develop the physical tools needed to excel. Though we will play our strongest team when necessary to compete in every game, we

will also make sure our practices are organized to provide skill development for all players equally.

GOALS

Our primary goal is to develop players to be successful in middle school, high school, college or other forms of advanced baseball. We believe that the ingredients necessary to achieve this goal are hard work, positive attitude, excellent instruction, and playing in a competitive environment. We measure our progress towards that goal by the performance of our teams and the character and spirit by which we compete. One of the ways we can measure our performance is how well we do in tournaments and qualifying for national championships. We believe with our foundation, this aggressive goal is achievable and we have shown progress over the past six years. Achieving the goals for our teams goes beyond the performance of the players. It also requires our families to show the same spirit and work ethic we are asking of our players. No other baseball organization in our area plans on spending 12 weekends at tournaments and plans family vacations around a national tournament hundreds of miles away. The labor comes from our friends and us. This is the way it must be. The Traveling Eagles families have paved the way through their hard work and commitment of time and resources. We must continue that tradition in order to create the learning environment we seek. We can continue on that path by committing ourselves to contribute our time and talents. More importantly, we can impress on our players the philosophy of “**Dedication ~ Determination ~ Discipline**” if we demonstrate that ourselves in everything we do.

The primary goal is to develop players to be success in high school, college, or other future advanced forms of baseball. The goals necessary to achieve this are:

1. Qualify all teams for national tournaments and be competitive at a national level.
2. Be the premiere baseball organization in Northwest Florida.
3. Develop positive character in our players and their families.
4. Have families and players that are loyal to the Traveling Eagles Organization.
5. Our players will put the team goals before individual success, and recognize that the synergy of the team is greater than the collection of individual talents.
6. Our teams will work hard, will be fundamentally sound, and will really stick together.
7. Our teams will be characterized by the word “class.”
8. Our teams will give outstanding effort, not only to do their best, but also to do what is right.

Our success in games and tournaments is simply a measurement of our progress towards our primary goal. A major validation of our philosophy and principles is the fact that we have won numerous tournaments throughout the southeastern United States.

A more exact measurement is the number of players who make their middle school and high school teams. Our organization is responsible to form a relationship with the middle school and high school coaches and promote the players that attend that school. Our guideline is that school baseball takes priority, so our coaches familiarize themselves with the school schedule to avoid conflicts and to make sure players are always ready for practices and games. Our coaches also familiarize themselves with the role that player is likely to play on the school team, as well as

what areas the school coach needs him to work. Our coaches will then work with that player in every way possible to ensure he has the best opportunity to excel on his school team.

IMAGE GUIDELINES

Our organization is a composite of the players, family members and friends who attend the game and tournaments. To maintain a reputation of being a first class organization, it is essential that we all understand what it takes. Sanctioned events have rules regarding the ejection of unruly, abusive or generally disruptive players, coaches, or spectators. The Traveling Eagles Organization has an excellent track record on this account; and with the success of our teams, has become a model in Northwest Florida. We are very proud of our reputation and have established the following guidelines to help you understand what is necessary to maintain this reputation:

1. All coaches, players, and families will conduct themselves with dignity and class at all times, demonstrating good sportsmanship in even the most intense of competitive situations.
2. Parents shall refrain from abusive conduct towards umpires which is cause for ejection at any sanctioned event.
3. Parents shall at all times strive to build camaraderie among families. Team chemistry among the players depends in part on the chemistry of the parents.
4. Parents should speak directly to the manager about any dissatisfaction. The manager is responsible for all player decisions and is charged with the responsibility of effectively communicating those decisions to the parents.
5. Families are encouraged to attend the games of other Traveling Eagle teams to provide support and demonstrate that we are a unified and enthusiastic organization.

APPEARANCE GUIDELINES

All Traveling Eagle teams will wear the same uniform. Players will be responsible for all mandatory items which will be voted on each year by the Executive Board. Uniforms for all teams will display the official Traveling Eagles trademarked "Eagles" and be consistent with Traveling Eagles colors of maroon, black and gray. The following rules will be in effect when wearing the Traveling Eagles uniform:

1. Players will wear appropriate uniform specified by their coach to include socks, belt and hat.
2. Eagle shirts will be tucked in at all games, practices and events.
3. Eagle hats will be worn properly. No hat shall be worn backwards, sideways or any other way that constitutes improper wear.

FUNDRAISING

The Traveling Eagles Organization can only help its baseball players with your help. The Traveling Eagles Organization is a totally self-funded, nonprofit organization. We rely on sponsorships and individuals so the players can be picked for their ability to play, not pay. Because of our nonprofit status, donations may be tax deductible. All funds help maintain a program that provides not only instruction and education, but a way for players to develop lifelong memories.

Our families are the key to fundraising. Each player and family is expected to participate in various fundraisers throughout the year. It takes a combination of sponsors and various fundraising programs to raise the amount of money required to meet our annual budget. We need everyone to contribute his or her time and talents to make it happen. Please work with your team and offer your ideas and contacts in the business world to make our teams and our organization a success. ***All players benefit from the funds collected, so please ensure you do your part for the organization.***

TRAVELING EAGLES CODE OF CONDUCT

Forward

In order to advance the principles of sportsmanship and fair play and to promote mutual respect among players, coaches, umpires and spectators, the Travel Eagles Organization has established a “**Code of Conduct.**”

The **Code of Conduct** shall govern the actions of players, coaches and spectators. The Code is intended to provide behavioral guidance and establish clear expectations for all involved. The **Code** was not conceived to address every possible behavioral circumstance; however, it shall serve as the Organization’s standard for behavioral evaluation.

It shall be the obligation of all coaches, players, parents and spectators to comply with the terms and provisions of the **Code of Conduct**. Any person violating the Code shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of his/her privilege to participate in, or attend, any and all Traveling Eagles sponsored activities.

Managers/Coaches

- Obey and enforce all Traveling Eagles rules.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, self-control and proper behavior.
- Attend all coaches meetings and clinics.
- Care for the equipment issued. If any equipment is lost or damaged, coaches should report the problem to the Vice President of Uniforms/Equipment.
- Conduct a pre-season parent’s meeting. At this meeting, set the tone and expectations for the season. Distribute rosters, team rules, etc.
- Recruit parent volunteers as necessary.
- Adhere to Traveling Eagles alcohol and tobacco policies.
- Only the use of positive reinforcement is considered appropriate.
- Promote honesty, teamwork, fair play and responsibility.
- Treat your players with dignity and respect.
- Encourage and motivate your players with patience and positive talk. Be a good role model.
- Help your players to improve their athletic skills, knowledge of the game, physical condition, ability to control their emotions and their self-esteem.
- Remind them at all times to be respectful of their teammates and opponents.
- Although there may be circumstances which warrant discipline of a player, a manager/coach must still respect the player and treat him with dignity. If further action is required, the parent will be asked to remove the player from the field.

- Do not permit attacks of any kind by your coaches, players, or parents and fans on the umpire, the other coaches, or any players.
- Do not challenge judgment calls by the umpire. It is acceptable to challenge the interpretation of a rule.
- Never put a player in harms way. Ensure they are using and wearing the proper equipment.
- Report any incident that may violate any rule or standard of conduct or reflect adversely on the Traveling Eagles Organization.
- Keep your ego out of coaching and try to make the experience interesting, enriching and fun.

Players

- Be on time for practices.
- Be on time for games and in full uniform.
- Ensure your shirt is tucked in at all times and hat is worn properly.
- Hustle at all times and do not sit down on the baseball field.
- Be a competitor, perform up to your full ability, and contribute to team unity.
- No friends or parents in the dugout.
- Be honest, fair and do the right thing.
- Think before you act and take responsibility for your actions.
- Support, respect and cooperate with your teammates and coaches.
- Be courteous to the umpires, the other team and its coaches. Always be polite and positive.
- Foul language, negative comments, violent behavior or fighting is not allowed.
- “Get on the fence” and encourage your teammates.
- Ensure all trash is removed from dugouts even if you didn’t put it there.
- Follow the coach’s rules for team equipment.
- Carry your own equipment. Do not allow your parents to carry your gear.
- If you are not going to be at practice or a game, call one of the coaches!

Parents/Fans

- Ensure your player arrives on time for practice and games.
- Inform the coaches of any medical condition or ailment that may affect the safety of your player.
- Respect and support all players, coaches and umpires. Never belittle or shout negative remarks to anyone. Foul and abusive language is strictly prohibited.

- Trash talk, taunting and negative rooting are not acceptable regardless of the unsportsmanlike conduct of opposing players or coaches.
- Only the coach should question an umpire's call relating to the proper interpretation of a rule. Judgment calls should not be questioned.
- Parents and fans should respect the proper requests made of them by coaches and umpires.
- Always put garbage in the trash cans. Encourage your player to do the same.
- Parents and fans should inform a member of the Executive Board of any improper conduct of a coach. Feedback is an important consideration when assessing the quality of coaches and ensuring the well-being of all players.
- Parents and spectators will be drug and alcohol free during any Traveling Eagles practice or game.

TRAVELING EAGLES CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT

It is the purpose and intent of the **TRAVELING EAGLES** to create and offer quality learning and baseball playing opportunities. The following **CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT** is constructed as an instrument to emphasize those values, principles, and beliefs which are central to the foundation, structure, and operation of the **TRAVELING EAGLES**.

At all times, we agree to and support:

- Positive and exemplary sportsmanship and appropriate demeanor by everyone.
- Safety and well-being of players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- First-class representation of players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Full respect for the presentation of our flag, pledge of allegiance, and national anthem (...and that of other countries).
- Always playing within the established rules of the game (e.g., age limits, etc.).
- The understanding that participation with the **TRAVELING EAGLES** is a privilege and a player/family decision, completely voluntary, without any pressure or coercion.
- Realization that all of our activities are designed to enhance growth and development of all our players, families, and coaches.
- Mutual respect, tolerance, understanding, and caring in all team matters.
- Coaches decisions (...whether we understand, like, or agree with them!)...and, no "coaching" from the stands.
- Emphasis on team spirit, team unity, team effort, and team success.
- Encouragement of everyone involved... players, coaches, family members, et al.
- The reality that some players may have more plate appearances, playing time, positions/roles, and starting assignments, than others.
- Tactful, quiet, one-on-one discussions of any concerns with the team manager/coaches.
- Acknowledgement that each of us is responsible for our own thoughts, feelings, attitudes, decisions, and behaviors.
- Giving 100% of our attention, commitment, and effort to our team, and therefore to our team goals.
- Importance of leaving each other, each dugout, each ball park, each tournament site, and each situation in better shape than we found them.
- Outstanding player talent, effective/experienced coaching, and top competition.
- The clear understanding that all medical, financial, and legal liability issues, activities, and consequences are the exclusive responsibility and domain of the player and/or his respective family, parent(s), and/or guardian(s)... *at no time will the **TRAVELING EAGLES** nor any of its associated personnel (founder, manager, coaches, Executive Board, et al.) be sued legally (individually, collectively, or organizationally) in any manner, for any expenses, damages (perceived or real, intentional or unintentional), losses, injuries, complaints/problems, complications, and/or inconveniences which may result from participation with the team activities and/or team initiatives. We agree to release and forever hold harmless said team and related personnel in all matters, legal, medical, personal, financial, and/or otherwise. **No claims shall be made for any reason.***

We have read, have discussed, and understand this **CODE OF CONDUCT AGREEMENT**, and fully, unequivocally support it, its intent, and its essence.

Player signature/date

Parent/guardian signature/date

PROBLEM RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

When a player or parent has a question regarding the general policies or procedures of the Traveling Eagles Organization, they should address their questions to the manager of their team. Choose a time and place that is convenient for both parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and address your question in an appropriate manner (keep the conversation polite, private, and out of the earshot of other players or parents). If a question is not answered satisfactorily and a player/parent feels the need to pursue the matter further, they may contact the Executive Vice President, but should do so only after exhausting all efforts with the manager and their assistants. When approaching the Executive Vice President, the player/parent should follow the same guidelines as those stated above.

When a player or parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or an individual, they should:

- Adhere to the “24 Hour Rule” which requires a player/parent to wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach on the matter.
- Choose a time and place that is convenient for all parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and approach the situation in an appropriate manner (keep the emotions under control, keep the discussion polite and to the point, and keep the discussion private and out of the earshot of other players or parents).

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the manager within 72 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Executive Vice President of Baseball Operations. At this time, the Executive Vice President will act as a mediator between the player/parent and the coach. All parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution.

If mediation still is unable to resolve the issues and all of the above steps have been followed, the Executive Vice President will notify the Executive Board. The Executive Board will make a decision and inform both parties within 5 days of final outcome. The decisions of the Executive Board will be final.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration Fees

Registration Fee: \$175. This fee is due by 15 Dec 2009 and is required by all players in all age groups.

Pay-n-Play Option / Spring Fees

If a player registers online for the Pay-n-Play option then they will be required to pay a Spring Fee which is a function of age group as shown in the table below. Pay-n-Play participants will not be required (only encouraged) to participate in fundraising activities during the Spring season.

Age Group	Spring Fee Total	Payment 1 Due 12/15/09	Payment 2 Due 1/15/10	Payment 3 Due 2/15/10	Payment 4 Due 3/15/10
8U	\$425	\$125	\$100	\$100	\$100
9U	\$425	\$125	\$100	\$100	\$100
10U	\$525	\$150	\$125	\$125	\$125
11U	\$525	\$150	\$125	\$125	\$125
12U	\$650	\$200	\$150	\$150	\$150
13U	\$650	\$200	\$150	\$150	\$150
14U	\$650	\$200	\$150	\$150	\$150

Fundraising Option

Those players that elect the fundraising option will become a member of the fundraising team and are not required to pay the Spring Fee described above. The fundraising team will be lead by the Fundraising Committee which is overseen by the NAYB Executive Board. The Fundraising Committee will determine the fundraising events/tasks required to cover the spring budget not covered by the players participating in the Pay-n-Play program described above. If the fundraising team does not meet their fundraising goals then the difference will be divided equally amongst the members of the fundraising team. All fundraising events are expected to be complete by February 28, 2010 and any fundraising shortage is due from players on the fundraising team no later than March 15, 2010.

Additional Fees

In addition to the registration fee, all players who are selected for a Traveling Eagles team will pay a Niceville City fee of \$10 for residents and \$20 non-residents (Bluewater Bay and Eglin are considered non-residents) plus the cost of uniforms. The City Fee is to be paid by separate check made out to the City of Niceville and given to your team representative by 1/31/2010.

Suggestions

The Traveling Eagles Board and all our volunteers value your opinions. If you have a suggestion for improving the program, the best way to communicate them is in writing. Please include as much detail as necessary for us to understand what you would like to see implemented. You may submit suggestions to any Traveling Eagles Executive Board member, through the www.travelingeagles.com website or mail them to:

**Niceville Amateur Youth Baseball
P.O. Box 1903
Niceville, FL 32588-1903**

Baseball Fields

The City of Niceville has asked us to remind you to please be considerate of the residents living adjacent to the Niceville Softball Complex and other facilities that we may use. Park your vehicle appropriately, drive safely, pick up your trash, and keep your children off other peoples property.

Personal Equipment

Each player must provide his own glove, baseball cleats, and personal protective equipment (except catcher's equipment). Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes. **The wearing of athletic supporters with a hard protective cup is mandatory.**

Bats

Bats are an item of equipment which, like gloves, need to be fitted to the individual player. Parents should consult coaches before purchasing bats.

The Traveling Eagles Organization does not provide bats as part of the team's equipment. It is very difficult to anticipate the combination of lengths and weights that any given team would need, so a large and very expensive inventory would have to be maintained.

GENERAL POLICIES

Blood Policy

A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating in a game or practice until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment cannot be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual will have to leave the game or practice. (The length of time considered reasonable shall be in the umpire or coaches judgment). Once the bleeding has been stopped, the player or coach may reenter the game. If there is a substantial amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual may participate.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

The Traveling Eagles Organization mandates that all players/coaches/parents participating in a Traveling Eagles event (practice/scrimmage/game) refrain from the use of alcohol and/or a controlled substance.

Tobacco Policy

The Traveling Eagles Organization does not condone the use of tobacco by players under the legal tobacco age.

It shall be a violation of this policy for a player participating in Traveling Eagles events to use tobacco.

The Traveling Eagles Organization mandates that the managers/coaches refrain from the use of tobacco in any form while on the playing field.

Equipment Abuse

Under no circumstances will the abuse of equipment be tolerated. Coaches may sit players on the bench for each instance of equipment abuse. If the abuse of the equipment results in any damage to the equipment, that player and/or his parents will be held responsible for reimbursing the cost of replacement. Players may be suspended from participation in future Traveling Eagles events until reimbursement is made.