

Travel Program Operating Procedures

2.2 Traveling (full time) Teams and Tournament (part time) Teams Overview and Principles

Through its Travel Program, Batavia Youth Baseball (BYB) provides the framework for the development of players desiring increased competition with similarly skilled players from other communities. BYB generally establishes full-time traveling teams (ages 9U through 14U) and part-time tournament teams (potentially ages 8U through 14U). **The Travel Program is guided by three basic principles: 1) Develop & prepare players for the next level of baseball; 2) Field as many competitive Traveling (full-time) and Tournament (part-time) teams as reasonable and 3) Provide an environment allowing for a greater level of skill development & game competition than offered in BYB's in-house programs.** In any given year, the number of Traveling (full-time) and Tournament (part-time) teams will be determined by: a) BYB's ability to identify a sufficient number of head coaches capable of teaching the game and exhibiting the behavioral & sportsmanship qualities desired by the Travel Program; b) BYB's ability to form a minimally talented team (or teams) at each age group from players meeting BYB's eligibility requirements and competing in the open tryout process described below and c) adequate field availability to accommodate the Travel Program teams' practice and game needs.

2.2.1 Selection of Coaches

The Travel League President is responsible for identifying Traveling (full-time) and Tournament (part-time) team head coaches. Coaching selection guidelines are set forth below:

- Travel league coaching application filled out by volunteer.
- Successfully pass a criminal background check.
- In-person interview with the Travel League President and Travel League Coordinators or other BYB designated representatives.

Before the end of the current travel season, current head coaches will be sent a form by the Travel League President. This will ask the coaches to state their intention to return as a head coach or resign their position by a published deadline prior to tryouts. The goals of this are to eliminate the need for travel coaches to resubmit a comprehensive application each year and to provide the Travel League President with time to identify appropriate head coaches prior to the beginning of the team formation process.

Please note that just because a coach wants to return doesn't mean they will. The Travel League President and Travel Coordinators will provide a recommendation to the BYB Board based on current team performance, feedback compiled from the end of year survey completed by travel families, logged incidents during the year (e.g., ejections), cooperation and communication with the Travel Coordinators, and adherence to BYB policies and procedures (including but not limited to field prep and maintenance, hosting a tournament, sportsmanship).

Prior to tryouts each year, BYB will also solicit applications from prospective coaches for the following travel season and require them to be submitted by a published deadline.

In cases where applications are submitted by prospective and returning head coaches, some

preference may be given to returning head coaches in the absence of negative issues from the previous season for returning coaches.

Every effort will be made to identify head coaches prior to the announcement of teams. The head coach of each Traveling and Tournament team identifies their assistant coach(s) after the team is formed. All head coaches and designated assistant coach(s) are required to submit to BYB's Criminal background check as well as sign & abide by BYB's Coaches Code of Conduct (COC). The Travel League President, Executive Committee and/or the BYB Board may discipline and/or disqualify any coach according to the terms set forth in the COC at any point throughout the year.

2.2.2 Player Tryouts

Traveling (full-time) Teams:

Mandatory player tryouts will generally be held near the conclusion of the season, but prior to players starting school in the Fall. BYB generally tries to schedule tryouts for a time period when prospective players are still in playing shape and active in the game. Where possible, the mandatory tryout dates, times and locations will be announced publicly at least two months prior to the first tryout date. Prospective players must attend a mandatory tryout session. At the discretion of the Travel League President, additional alternative tryouts dates or invitation-only tryout(s) may be planned. If deemed necessary, the additional tryout(s) will consist only of players specifically invited back for further evaluation or those players pre-approved by the Travel League President to attend an alternate tryout date. The number of players invited to the invitation-only tryout will vary depending on age group turnout and competition for available travel team roster slots. Unless specifically excused due to illness or injury prior to tryouts, players must participate in one of the mandatory tryout sessions to be eligible for selection to a travel team. Exceptions to this rule are made at the sole discretion of the Travel League President.

The minimum number of players per travel team will be determined by the Travel League President and Travel League Coordinators. The increased risk of injuries at older levels is a factor in these decisions. Evaluation of players may be performed by the Travel League President and/or one or more Travel League Coordinators and one or more evaluators independent from BYB. Independent evaluators will be selected from individuals who have a demonstrated knowledge of the skills and abilities required to compete at a full time travel team level. The evaluators will have no direct current affiliation with BYB, the travel program's players or prospective coaches.

Players will be evaluated on their throwing, catching, fielding, hitting and speed skills. All players will be given the opportunity to pitch. Players will rotate through a consistent set of drills with each player receiving the same opportunity to display their skills.

Tournament (part-time) Teams:

Player tryouts may be held in the Fall after Full-Time Traveling Team tryouts or during Spring based on potential player interest. Prospective players need attend only **one** tryout. Unless specifically excused due to illness or injury, players must participate in a tryout to be eligible for selection to a tournament team. Exceptions to this rule will be made at the sole discretion of the Travel League President.

To be eligible for selection to a tournament team, players must be formally registered for the

appropriate BYB in-house program for the following Spring/Summer season. The minimum and maximum number of players per tournament team will be determined by the Travel League President and one of the Travel League Coordinators. Evaluation of players will be performed by the Travel League President and one of the Travel League Coordinators—or their delegates.

Players will be evaluated on their throwing, catching, fielding, hitting and base running skills. All players will be given the opportunity to pitch and catch. Players will rotate through a consistent set of drills with each player receiving the same opportunity to display their skills.

For new, unanticipated Tournament Teams, it may be necessary to conduct open tryouts in the Spring (March through May). The same evaluation process will be followed as outlined above but in cases where a new, unanticipated team is to be formed, the number and exact timing of the tryouts will be left to the discretion of the Travel League President and the Travel League Coordinators.

2.2.3 Player Selection

Traveling (full-time) Teams:

Players will be selected based on a combination of the following criteria: a) Tryout Evaluations; b) Previous Year BYB Travel Team Head Coach evaluation & commentary (if applicable); c) Upcoming Season BYB Travel Team Head Coach input and d) Team Continuity. Each of the four criteria carries a varied weighting/importance depending on the age group. Players who were not members of a BYB Travel Team in the previous year will not be penalized for not having statistical information or coach’s commentary.

The goal of player selection is to identify, on an annual basis, those players who have earned - either through previous year performance and/or through tryout performance - an opportunity to participate in a higher level of baseball.

The matrix below outlines the weighting by age group.

	School Grade	Tryout Evaluation	Coaches Evaluation	Coach’s Input	Travel Team Continuity
9U	3rd	70%	30%	Low	n/a
10U	4th	60%	40%	Low	Low
11U	5th	50%	50%	Med	Low
12U	6th	40%	60%	Med	Med
13U	7th	30%	70%	High	High
14U	8th	20%	80%	High	High

- *Tryout Evaluation:* For the 10U through 14U age groups, players who were not members of a BYB Travel Team in the previous year will not be penalized for not having a BYB travel head coach’s evaluation. In these cases, a player’s tryout evaluation weight will be 100% and the BYB Coach’s Evaluation weight will be 0%.
- *BYB Coach’s Evaluation from the Most Recent Season:* At the 9U age group, the Coach’s Evaluation will be the player’s Rookie League in-house coach’s evaluation or evaluations

from the Tournament Team coaches. For the 10U through 14U age groups, BYB travel team head coach evaluations will be used. Statistics from the previous travel season are collected by the Travel League and used in a general way to validate the player evaluations by coaches. Coaches are not only required to rank their players by an announced deadline for all teams, they are also required to provide a general recommendation as to the player's appropriateness for playing at the Red, Gold, Black, or House levels. The Travel League President does provide the coaches with a worksheet that can be used for ranking players based on an assessment of individual skills. However, it is up to the coaches whether or not to use that worksheet. In general, teams should submit a single set of rankings as agreed upon by the head coach and assistant coaches, and the head coach and assistant coaches are required to be copied when submitting the final rankings to the Travel League President. In the rare cases where the coaches have wildly different perceptions of how the rankings should fall, head coaches and assistant coaches may submit separate rankings.

- *BYB Travel Head Coach Input:* Prior to finalizing player selections, tryout evaluations may be reviewed, and players discussed, with the travel team head coaches individually, not as a group for an entire age level. At the Travel League President's discretion, the Travel League Coordinator(s) may be included in these discussions.
- *Travel Team Continuity:* The travel program believes one component of travel team success and continued player development is to maintain roster continuity as much as possible. This DOES NOT mean returning travel players are exempt from having to maintain a travel team roster spot through on-field performance. It DOES mean, at the older age groups, some preference may be given to a returning travel player over a non-travel player assuming equal skill levels and attributes.

Tournament (part-time) Teams:

Players will be selected based on a combination of the following criteria: a) Tryout Evaluations; b) Previous Year BYB (travel or in-house) Head Coach evaluation (if applicable and when available) and c) Upcoming Season BYB Tournament Team Head Coach input. Each of the three criteria carries a varied weighting depending on the age group. Players who were not members of a BYB Tournament or Travel Team in the previous year will not be penalized for not having statistical information or coach's commentary. The goal of player selection is to identify, on an annual basis, those players who have earned – primarily through their tryout performance - an opportunity to participate in a higher level of baseball. *It is NOT the goal of BYB's Travel Program to necessarily perpetuate tournament teams comprised of the same group of players under the same coach for the program's six years.*

2.2.4 Team Formation

Traveling (full-time) Teams:

Team formation occurs from the pool of full time travel players identified through the processes in Section 2.2.3. In general, at age groups where two teams – Red & Gold – can be formed, the 'Red' team will be formed from the first 12 players while the 'Gold' team will be formed from the next 12 players. As necessary, a 'Black' team will be formed from the next 12 players. The Travel League President will attempt to form teams at each age group in collaboration with the Travel

Head Coaches at each age group. At the Travel League President's discretion, these collaborations may include the Travel League Coordinator(s).

Traveling (full-time) Team Formation: All Age Groups:

One Team @ an age group: Selection of twelve player team from player pool identified through the selection processes in Section 2.2.3. Player selection done in consultation with team's Head Coach.
Two Teams @ an age group: Identification of available player pool identified through the selection processes in Section 2.2.3. In collaboration with the Head Coaches at an age group, and following the Team Continuity and Coaches Input weightings in Section 2.2.3, specific teams are formed from the available player pool. At the Travel League President's discretion, the Travel Coordinator(s) may be involved in the collaboration process.

Tournament (part-time) Teams:

Tournament team formation occurs after the pool of qualified players has been identified through the open tryout process described in Section 2.2.3. Across all age groups, if a single tournament team is formed, it will be done so based on the players identified by the tryout process. If multiple teams are formed at an age group, those teams will be created on an equalized talent basis. Secondly, the travel program will attempt to form tournament teams from families in the same geographical area of Batavia (only if multiple teams are formed at a particular age group). Generally, teams will be based upon school grade, but exceptions can be made by the Travel League President to optimize the number of teams.

2.2.5 Scheduling of Games/Tournaments

Traveling (full-time) Teams:

BYB Travel (full-time) Teams will play outside of the in-house league. The Travel League President and Travel Team coaches are responsible for scheduling games and tournaments within approved budget parameters. Further, the Travel Program will work collaboratively with the in-house League Presidents to coordinate field availability for both practices and games.

To defray the cost to each participating BYB family, all BYB Travel (full-time) Teams are required to host one tournament on BYB fields each year.

Tournament (part-time) Teams:

BYB Tournament (part-time) Teams will play in conjunction with the in-house league. All players on BYB Tournament Teams must be registered for the in-house league and play a full in-house season. Tournament (part-time) Team practices and games will be scheduled in a manner to accommodate each player's primary in-house team responsibilities. As with Travel Teams, Tournament Team practice and game schedules will be coordinated with in-house League Presidents for field availability.

2.2.6 Tournament Team Rules

The Travel Program will attempt to find tournaments for our part-time teams with playing/game rules consistent with our in-house programs. However, there will be differences and Tournament Team coaches are expected to prepare team players for those differences.

Pitching: Tournament Team players cannot pitch on two consecutive days if one of those days includes an in-house game. In all cases, a Tournament Team player cannot pitch more than three

innings on any given day.

2.2.7 Uniform/League/Tournament Fees

All BYB Travel (full-time) and Tournament (part-time) Teams will be self-supporting with fees charged to cover all budgeted, BYB Board-approved Travel Program costs – including basic uniforms, equipment and budgeted out-of-town tournaments. For Tournament (part-time) Team players, families will pay two fees – a) the appropriate in-house registration fee and b) the budgeted registration fee specifically for Tournament Team participation.

Costs associated with operating Travel (full-time) and Tournament (part-time) Teams that are above and beyond BYB's Travel Program budget are to be funded by the Travel Program's players' families.

If team-coordinated fundraising is sought, it will be done so without contacting the local businesses and individuals supporting BYB's in-house programs. All fundraising efforts must be specifically approved by the Travel League President and all dollars collected must pass through BYB's accounting structure. BYB will track and maintain a separate, internal accounting for each Travel and Tournament team raising funds in the general community.