



Deerfield Warriors

Travel Baseball Handbook

Last Revised 10/2008

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Deerfield Travel Baseball Handbook

DYBA Mission Statement

The purpose of the Deerfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association shall be to help promote and maintain high moral character as well as good mental and physical health in the young people involved in the baseball and softball programs. This objective will be attained by providing supervised athletic games. The supervisors shall bear in mind at all times that the attainments of exceptional athletic skill or winning of games is secondary to the objective herein.

Deerfield Travel Baseball Mission Statement

Deerfield Travel Baseball was created by DYBA to provide a higher level of competition for talented and motivated DYBA baseball players who are willing to commit a great deal of time 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. Deerfield Travel 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.

DYBA Travel Baseball Program Management

1. The DYBA Board of Directors will determine a Director of Travel Baseball for each new board year and announce the Director of Travel Baseball at the September board meeting annually. The Director of Travel Baseball shall be responsible for the general oversight of the Travel Baseball Program and the Deerfield Wood Bat Tournament.
2. The Director of Travel Baseball will present team manager recommendations to the DYBA Board for approval prior to appointing a team manager. Once approved by the DYBA Board, the manager will then be responsible for the operation and oversight of all activities associated with their travel team. Additional coaches may be named to help the manager run the team, and team parents can be used to handle other duties such as scheduling, uniform sizing, etc.
3. The Director of Travel Baseball will present the DYBA Board with a Wood Bat Tournament Director recommendation, prior to naming a Tournament Director. Once approved by the DYBA Board, the Wood Bat Tournament Director will be responsible for creating and overseeing a committee to help organize and run the Deerfield Wood Bat Tournament under the supervision of the Director of Travel Baseball and the DYBA Board of Directors.

All Managers, Coaches, and Tournament Volunteers are subject to DYBA Board Approval and must complete a DYBA conflict of interest form and a volunteer form.

4. The Director of Travel Baseball has the option to assemble a Committee, chaired by the Director of Travel Baseball and composed of a subset of members of DYBA. Such a committee may be formed to review Travel policies, act as a steering committee, or for any other reason deemed necessary.

5. The DYBA Board of Directors will identify the incoming Travel Baseball Director no later than the September Board meeting; however, the outgoing Travel Director should determine the fall tryouts dates as a final responsibility for the new Travel Director to oversee.

At all times, the DYBA Board of Directors will have oversight and final say regarding issues that pertain to the Deerfield Travel Baseball Program.

Deerfield Travel Baseball Program Definition

9 – 11 year old travel teams will be considered “**Developmental Teams**”. The goals in our developmental 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. Minimum playing time will be 3 innings in a complete game (unless playing time is being reduced due to a disciplinary issue). We will roster bat whenever possible. Playing time will not be equal and players will not be moved around as much as in house league, but probably more than in the Feeder program.

12 – 14 year old travel teams will be considered “**Feeder Teams**”. “**Feeder**” is a philosophy to train players in a way that best prepares them for playing baseball at the High School level. Being on a feeder travel team by no means guarantees that a player will be selected for any future DYBA travel teams or for a Deerfield High School baseball team. The goals of our feeder teams will be:

1. To provide more complex strategy and situational training to our older players.
2. To provide an opportunity to play in a spring games.
3. To provide coaching based on the Deerfield High School philosophy.

Our Feeder teams will play in spring games and/or tournaments (that allow them to schedule around our house league commitments) as well as a local summer league and tournaments. Managers will be paid “non-parents” (if available) and the High School philosophy will be emphasized. Minimum playing time will be 3 innings in a complete game (unless playing time is being reduced due to a disciplinary issue). We will roster bat whenever possible. 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 our feeder teams.

Guideline Travel Schedule

Teams must get approval from the Travel Director to play a tournament before Memorial Day. The following are guidelines regarding the number of games and the schedule components for each age group:

Developmental Teams

- 9’s – 3 Tournaments and 1 league (25 – 30 Games)
- 10’s – 4 Tournaments and 1 league (30 – 35 Games)
- 11’s – 4 Tournaments and 1 league (35 – 40 Games)

Feeder Teams

- 12’s – 2-4 tournaments and 1-2 leagues (45 – 50 Games)
- 13’s – 2-4 tournaments and 1-2 leagues (45 – 50 Games)
- 14’s – 2-4 tournaments and 1-2 leagues (45 – 50 Games)

Travel Team “Official” Season

The “Official” Spring/Summer Season shall be from April 1st through July 31st. During the official season a player may have travel and/or house league events up to 5 – 6 days per week. Any travel team that plans on playing beyond July 31st must receive approval from the Director of Travel prior to playing in any additional games. During the “official” season a player is allowed to miss no more than the following number of travel events (team meetings, games, or practices) for discretionary reasons (e.g., reasons other than injury, illness or family emergency):

- 9-10 non-camper 4
- 9-14 camper on Red or Gray 2
- 11-14 non-camper 4
- 11-12 Black team 4

Also, no player is allowed to miss travel events on two consecutive days for discretionary reasons, unless approved prior to the season by the Travel Director and the manager. Any player who has more than the maximum number of discretionary absences may be removed from his team’s roster and may be ineligible to try out the following season. Roster and eligibility decisions will be made by the Travel Director in consultation with the manager. The rule allowing a certain number of discretionary absences before a player is in jeopardy of losing his roster spot does not mean that taking discretionary absences is without consequences. Players who make use of their discretionary absences may be subject to disciplinary action (e.g., reduced playing time) at the discretion of their manager.

Winter team practices and/or workouts are at the manager’s discretion. The manager may appoint a parent to organize or run winter workouts in his absences. Winter workouts are not funded by the DYBA and any costs associated with such workouts are out of pocket costs not encompassed by the travel dues collected by the DYBA.

All fall league and/or tournament teams that play games outside of our “Official” season are **not** affiliated with DYBA or Deerfield Travel Baseball. DYBA is **not** responsible for teams that are formed to play games outside of our “Official” season and/or any team other than the team identified as a DYBA Deerfield Travel Baseball team. On the rare occasion that a DYBA Travel Baseball team is required to play a game before April 1st or after July 31st, they must first notify the Director of Travel Baseball for approval. If approval is granted, DYBA will continue to be affiliated with that team, but only for the approved game(s). We consider any fall and/or tournament team, which is not formed by DYBA, as independent of DYBA.

Travel Team Manager Selection

Any parent wishing to manage and/or coach a Travel Team must apply in writing and submit a volunteer form. Selections will be made based on many criteria including, but not limited to; baseball knowledge, schedule flexibility, youth sports philosophy, past DYBA experience, past experience in any other youth sports organization, and (if requested) by their ability to communicate their coaching goals and objectives during a personal interview by phone or in person. The travel director may ask for documentation or references that support any claims made by an applicant.

For returning travel managers, the travel director shall conduct a survey of all participants on their prior travel team. In addition the Travel Director may extend the investigation (of the prior season) to any lengths that is deemed necessary. This review may include; contact with league and tournament

officials, umpires, and/or managers of opposing teams. After this review process, the Travel Director will determine if the returning manager should be considered for approval to manage or coach again. Returning managers (who are in good standing with DYBA) will be given priority during the selection process due to the enormous time commitment they made in the past.

The manager selection process should be completed no later than January 1st for teams that tryout in the fall (11's – 14's) and within 10 Days of announcing the teams that tryout in the spring (9's & 10's).

Paid Managers will be used where needed, however our goal is to use parents to manage our 9-10 year old teams and paid (non-parent) managers for our 11 year old and feeder teams (12's – 14's).

If a team requires additional coaches, the Travel Director will appoint additional parents or hire assistant coaches as necessary. All coaches must be in good standing with DYBA and approved by the Director of Travel Baseball and the DYBA Board.

Managers are expected to act responsibly and set a good example for our young players at all times. Managers must adhere to DYBA policies and procedures (including our lightning policies and our pitching guidelines) to provide a safe and supportive baseball environment for our players.

All managers and coaches must complete the DYBA volunteer application form and are subject to a background check and DYBA Board approval.

Travel Team Base Number of Teams

Typically the DYBA rosters two teams -- one (1) Red Team and one (1) Gray team – at each age group from 9-14, but the DYBA reserves the right to increase or reduce the number of teams for any reason at any age group (see below re Travel Team Selection).

Travel Tryout Process

1. We are a **“tryout based”** travel program. All eligible players interested in playing travel baseball will be required to attend the tryouts for the next season if they wish to make a team. Tryouts will be closed to parents. Travel teams will be selected primarily based on tryout performance. It is within the discretion of the coach conducting the tryouts and selecting the teams to consider other information, and to schedule makeup tryout sessions to accommodate unique circumstances, including but not limited to: injury, sickness, a family emergency, or a tiebreaker to determine team selection.
2. The Director of Travel Baseball will be responsible for organizing the tryouts, selecting the coaches who will evaluate and rank the players, and updating the participants during the selection process. The Director of Travel Baseball is not involved in team selection or player evaluations during the tryouts. If any additional information is required to determine team selection, the Travel Director will gather and provide that information to the tryout evaluator(s) for their review.
3. Players will be registered and identified during tryouts by a number and/or color code. A non-parent baseball coach (preferably from DHS or another local High School or College) will compile data on all the players at the tryouts and select the teams. Typically two teams are rostered with 12 players on each team (the top 12 on the Red team and the next 12 on the Gray team), but the number of players on each (or any) team may vary. **Parents:** Please understand

that a placement decision for a Red and/or Gray team is never perfect. Tryouts are difficult for the players... please don't emphasize or belabor team selection with your player regardless of which team they are placed on. All 24 players should be congratulated and encouraged. A parent's disappointment regarding team selection is damaging to our program and your own child's spirit. In addition, being overly enthusiastic if your player makes a Red team can send the wrong message as well.

Travel Team Selection

1. Each participant will be given a fair opportunity to display their fielding, hitting, base running, and throwing talents. All tryout drills, to accomplish this goal, will be determined by the head coach running the tryouts and implemented in an orderly fashion. Additional help may be obtained from non-coaches to complete the tryout drills.
2. DYBA reserves the right to cut down to a manageable number of participants after the first tryout session (if the number of players attending is excessive). If a cut down is going to be used it will be announced at the end of the first tryout session and communicated to the players who do not make the first cut via e-mail or on the website. If listed on the web site, then only the player's number/color code will be used to post cuts on the website.
3. On the 9 and 10 year old teams, we will allow up to one (1) camper per team. On the 13 and 14 year old teams, effective for the 2010 season, there are no camper spots; for the 2009 season, there will be two camper spots on the Gray teams only. To be considered for a camper spot during the tryouts, you must acknowledge that you are going to attend overnight camp when you register. A camper is defined as a player who will be available to their team until mid July. Because campers are leaving early, only 3 discretionary absences will be allowed during the season (See the "Travel Policies" and/or "Code of Conduct" for details). On the 11 and 12 year old Red and Gray teams, there will be no camper spots, but the DYBA will pre-register campers for a "Black Team" that will play a front loaded, spring league schedule (including tournaments), and complete its season before the second session of camp begins. Provided there is sufficient registration, the DYBA may try out and roster Black teams at 11U and 12U, or one combined team at 12U. Any player who registers and tries out for a Black team will be eligible only for a Black team; he cannot try out for or fill a spot on a Red or Gray team. All players who register for the Black team try outs will be required to provide at or before the try out some proof of their camper status for the upcoming summer. All other Travel Team Selection criteria and rules apply to the Black teams.
4. If team vacancies occur for any reason prior to the start of the season, then the first cut player (from the tryouts) will be added to the Gray team roster and the highest ranked player will be moved from the Gray team to the Red team. If either team already has a camper, than the added player cannot be a camper. If team vacancies occur during the season, no roster additions will be made unless a team falls below 10 players, and only then if an addition is deemed necessary by the Travel Director. If a team falls below 10 players, we will use a call up system that is acceptable to the league we are playing in at the time.
5. If a player withdraws from a travel team after being selected, but before their travel fee deposit is paid, they will be not be allowed to take part in the next set of travel tryouts for the following season. If a player withdraws from a travel team after their travel deposit has been paid, they will forfeit their travel deposit and they will not be allowed to take part in the next set of travel tryouts for the following season. In effect, they will miss two (2) travel seasons before they can try out for a DYBA travel team again. Players can appeal to the DYBA Board of Directors if they want to be considered for early reinstatement due to unusual circumstances that were out of their control.
6. For teams that tryout in the fall, travel fee deposits are due within 30 days of the team selection announcement. The balance of the travel fee is due by April 1st of the travel season. For teams

that tryout in the spring, the entire travel fee is due within 30 days or prior to the first travel game (whichever comes first). If the entire travel fee is not paid to DYBA by the deadline, the player will not be allowed to attend any travel team event until the fee is paid in full. In addition, DYBA reserves the right to open the roster spot and fill it with the next best player (from the tryouts). If a financial hardship makes it impossible for a family to pay the travel fee or deposit on time, DYBA must be notified prior to the due date (in writing or by e-mail) so that special arrangements can be considered.

Travel Team Field Usage

In general, our house league has field priority in the spring and travel teams must schedule around the house league field usage in the spring. During the summer, most of our travel games will be scheduled prior to the start of summer house league. It is important to coordinate shared fields with representatives in house league and softball. Common sense should prevail and common courtesy should be used when working to schedule travel games and practices. We have a limited amount of fields and must be flexible and cooperative to make it all work. Travel managers must communicate with house league and/or softball officials to coordinate and schedule field usage for their travel team.

Travel Umpires

Umpires must be scheduled in advance with as much notice as possible. It is extremely important that umpires are notified if a game is cancelled. Also notify the house league, if a game is cancelled, so they know that the field is open for usage again.

Travel Team Finances and Fundraising

Travel fees are subject to change from year to year. All travel fees must be sent directly to the DYBA P.O. Box. Travel fees cover team expenses during the “official” season (4/1 – 7/31). 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 by the Director of Travel Baseball and/or any activity that takes place outside of the “official” travel season. For 11-14 year olds, half of the fee is due upon announcement of the roster, and the other half by the commencement of the official season on April 1st. Any player whose fee isn’t fully paid in a timely manner will not be issued a uniform, and any player whose fee is not fully paid by April 15th will be subject to removal from his team. For 9-10 year olds, the entire fee is due upon announcement of the roster. Any player whose fee isn’t fully paid in a timely manner will not be issued a uniform, and any player whose fee is not fully paid within 3 weeks of announcement of the rosters will be subject to removal from his team.

12-year-old players that go on the Cooperstown trip will be required to pay for their share of the cost to attend the Cooperstown tournament. Cooperstown costs are not included in the 12’s travel fee and must be paid to DYBA before the team leaves for Cooperstown. If the Cooperstown fee is not paid by the due date, the player will not be allowed to play with the team in Cooperstown. Any fundraising that takes place to help offset the cost of any travel team expenses must be coordinated by the team manager or team parent and be approved by the Travel Director and the DYBA Board of Directors.

A Message to Parents

Parents are asked to be supportive of their players and their coaches. Part of being supportive is trusting that your coaches are making decisions that are best for the team and leaving coaching decisions up to them. Parents are 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 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. Smoking and/or drinking alcohol is not allowed at a Deerfield Travel Baseball game. Travel baseball 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 unnecessarily tense.

As with all aspects of the Deerfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association, the DYBA Board of Directors has ultimate authority over the Deerfield Travel Baseball Program.

DYBA Travel Team Eligibility Policies and Requirements

1. Travel teams are divided by age group. A player may be the age of the team or less. For travel baseball, the age of the player on April 30th (of the upcoming season) is the youngest age that they are allowed to tryout for. (e.g. If a player will be 12 years old on April 30th but will turn 13 on May 1st, they are considered a 12 year old player and are allowed to tryout for the 12 year old team or any team of a higher age group)
2. A player may try out for any travel team he or she is eligible to play on. However, no player may try out for more than one travel team for any given season.
3. All travel players must play on DYBA Spring House League teams.
 - a. No travel player may miss more than 10% of his or her Spring House League team's practices and/or games.
 - b. Conflicts between regularly scheduled Spring House League events (including House League tournament games) and the travel schedule must defer to House League.
 - c. Excused illness does not count toward the total of missed events.
 - d. Any player who violates this rule will not be eligible to play on a DYBA travel team during the current season or the next travel season.
4. Players must live within the boundaries that allow them to attend Deerfield High School to be eligible to play on any DYBA Travel Baseball team.
5. No member of any travel team may have more than the maximum number of absences from any travel event (team meetings, games, or practices) during that team's "official" season.
 - a. The official season is from April 1st – July 31st. However, players who are identified as campers will be excused from their team in mid July to attend overnight camp.
 - b. Excused illness / injury and conflicts with the Spring House League schedule will not count toward the total of discretionary absences.
 - c. Any player who violates this rule may be dropped from the team roster and will not be eligible to play on a DYBA travel team during the next season. Players can appeal to the DYBA Board of Directors if they want to be considered for early reinstatement due to unusual circumstances.
6. Travel fees will be assessed and paid as follows:
 - a. For teams that tryout in the fall: Within 30 days of being selected to a travel team each player will be required to pay DYBA a nonrefundable travel fee deposit. The remaining balance of the travel fee will be calculated and due to DYBA by April 1st of the upcoming travel season.
 - b. For teams that tryout in the spring: The entire fee is due upon announcement of the roster. Any player whose fee isn't fully paid in a timely manner will not be issued a uniform, and any player whose fee is not fully paid within 3 weeks of announcement of the rosters will be subject to removal from his team.

DYBA Travel Baseball Code of Conduct

I. Philosophy and Objectives of the DYBA Travel Baseball Program.

The aim of the DYBA Travel Baseball program is to help young baseball players to develop a wholesome attitude toward leadership, to create and maintain loyalties to the travel program and to the team, to improve physical conditioning and playing skills, and to develop a competitive spirit governed by good sportsmanship.

It is the philosophy of the travel baseball program that: **"IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN COMPETITIVE TRAVEL BASEBALL IN DYBA."**

By definition, a privilege is a "special right," and therefore, since it is special, it follows that special responsibilities are then placed upon those who wish to accept this privilege.

If a young player is serious about accepting the privilege of competing in travel baseball, he must be willing to accept the following responsibilities:

II. Dress and Appearance

1. Hair will be at a length that is deemed appropriate by the coach. No one's hair will hang down below the eyebrows and players general appearance must be acceptable to the manager of the team while players attend any DYBA travel baseball event.
2. Wearing jewelry of any type (rings, watches, necklaces, or earrings) will not be permitted during games and practices. (IHSB Rule)
3. Wear uniforms and practice attire properly. You will be required to be fully dressed from the time you get to the field until the time you leave. This includes shirt, socks, and caps. Wear your uniform in a respectful manner at all times.
4. Everyone will be required to wear long pants and to wear proper baseball attire for all games and practices. Everyone must wear jackets and/or long sleeves when necessary to all games and practices, especially early in the season. Spikes and an athletic supporter and protective cup are required equipment at all times.

III. Player Conduct

On the Field

1. Swearing, name-calling, or razzing other players will not be tolerated. This includes chants or chatter to frustrate the other team. Even if the other team is razzing us, DYBA Travel Teams will not get involved in this type of activity.
2. Control your emotions at all times. We need players that will think and then act, not the other way around. Throwing of helmets, bats, gloves or anything in the dugout will not be tolerated and you will be disciplined if you do it.
3. Treat all officials, opposing coaches and players with respect. If you have nothing positive to say, than don't say anything at all!

4. During games all players on the bench must assist in shagging foul balls, charting pitches, charting hitters, keeping score, and "keeping house." (Keep helmets and bats neatly lined up, balls in the ball bag, and all other equipment in its place).
5. Never throw balls or swing bats unless a coach is supervising the activity.

Off the Field

1. You will be expected to conduct yourself in a First Class manner around the Deerfield community and in any other community you visit for games or practices.
2. Whenever you are representing DYBA Travel Baseball you are expected to behave in a respectful manner. That includes any time that you are wearing DYBA Travel attire throughout the year. People in our community are familiar with our DYBA Travel uniforms, hats, and jackets and you are representing our Baseball program any time you choose to wear your Deerfield Travel Baseball attire.

IV. Practice and Game Attendance

1. You are expected to be on time for practice, meetings and games. The team cannot achieve their goals and maintain a winning attitude if players are missing or arriving late for games and/or practices. If you will miss a practice or a game, for any reason, the manager must know about it as soon as possible. If you fail to notify your manager prior to the travel event, then that miss will be considered an **unexcused** absence and count toward the allowance of 5 discretionary absences.
2. Players are discouraged from being involved with other sports during the "official" travel baseball season. However, if a player is involved with another sport, they are expected to put their Deerfield Travel Baseball obligation ahead of that other sport during the "official" travel season. If a player misses a Deerfield travel baseball game or practice to take part in another (non DYBA) sporting event, they should expect it to have a negative impact on their playing time when they return to their team.
3. Players are given up to 5 absences (3 absences for campers) during the season to provide them with some flexibility. Any player that exceeds that amount of absences will be removed from the roster for the balance of the season and will not be allowed to play on a Deerfield travel team during the next season as well. Players can appeal to the DYBA Board of Directors if they want to be considered for early reinstatement due to unusual circumstances.

