

**Brandon Valley Baseball Association (BVBA)**  
**9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U Travel Team Placement Guidelines**

(Last Updated: March 2013)

It is the desire of the Brandon Valley Baseball Association to provide an equal opportunity to all players in the community to participate in an evaluation process for placement on a BVBA Travel Team. The objective for player placement is to form teams of similarly skilled players and to place all players who want to participate in travel baseball. We believe our defined and well-documented process for meeting this objective is solid. There is diversity (different points of evaluation) and anonymity built into the process, which results in a fair and unbiased method of producing accurate placements.

**Evaluation Schedule**

Level	Date	Time	Location
9U	April 14th	1:00 – 4:30 PM	Aspen Park
10U	April 14th	1:00 – 4:30 PM	Aspen Park
11U	April 7 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 4:30 PM	Aspen Park
12U	April 7 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 – 4:30 PM	Aspen Park

**Evaluation Criteria (Outdoor)**

**Fielding:** All players will be evaluated on their ability to field a ground ball from shortstop and catch a fly ball. If the player's primary position is catcher, the player will be evaluated on their ability to catch a live bullpen session and live game at bats. The catcher's results will be factored into their overall fielding score.

**Throwing:** All players will be evaluated on arm strength and throwing accuracy. Players will demonstrate these skills during the fielding portion of the evaluation when they complete the play by throwing the ball from the shortstop position to first base. In addition, the players will be evaluated on their ability to throw from right field to third base. If the player's primary position is catcher, the player will throw from home plate to second base.

**Pitching:** All players will be evaluated on velocity and ability to throw strikes from the mound (46' Little League Standard) during a bullpen session and scrimmage with their peers.

**Hitting:** All players will be evaluated on their ability to make contact with the baseball while batting which includes bunting. The evaluations will take place during a live batting practice session with the coach pitching and during the live scrimmage with their peers pitching. In addition, the coaching staff will evaluate the player's ability to hit line drives and drive the baseball with power.

**Speed:** All players will have two attempts to run the 40 yard dash with their best time used for the evaluation.

**Hustle:** All players will be evaluated on their willingness to hustle during and between drills. Players are expected to complete the drill and hustle back to their respective line to be ready for the next task. Walking and horseplay during or between drills may hurt the player's score.

Scrimmage: Players will be evaluated in a game like situation. The rating will consist of pitching, hitting & fielding. Each player will be rated from 1-10 for their performance during the scrimmage. Opposition talent level will be taken into consideration. Players will be evaluated how they perform against the level of competition. Example: If a batter has a quality at bat against a top line pitcher and doesn't get a base hit this will be evaluated higher than a player who gets a base hit versus a lesser pitcher. The same criteria will be used for pitchers facing top rated batters during the scrimmage.

### **Evaluation Criteria (Indoor)**

Fielding: All players will be evaluated on their ability to field ground balls at all defensive positions with the exception of the outfield. If the player's primary position is catcher, the player will be evaluated on their ability to catch during a bullpen session and live game at bats. The catcher's results will be factored into their overall fielding score.

Throwing: All players will be evaluated on arm strength and throwing accuracy. Players will demonstrate these skills during the fielding portion of the evaluation when they complete the play by throwing the ball to first base. If the player's primary position is catcher, the player will have a chance to throw from home plate to second base.

Pitching: All players will be evaluated on velocity and ability to throw strikes from the mound (46' Little League Standard) during a bullpen session and cage game. The cage game will be similar to an at bat during a live game with one of their peers at bat. The batter will start with a 1 ball, 1 strike count and the pitcher will throw until the batter is retired or hits the ball in fair territory.

Hitting: All players will be evaluated on their ability to make contact with the baseball while batting which includes bunting. The evaluations will take place during a live batting practice session with the coach pitching and during the cage game with their peers pitching. In addition, the coaching staff will evaluate the player's ability to hit line drives and drive the baseball with power.

Speed: All players will have two attempts to sprint from the right handed batter's box to first base with their best time used for the evaluation.

Hustle: All players will be evaluated on their willingness to hustle during and between drills. Players are expected to complete the drill and hustle back to their respective line to be ready for the next task. Walking and horseplay during or between drills may hurt the player's score.

### **Evaluation Score and Player Placement**

All players will receive a rating of 1-10 on the seven baseball skills listed above which results in an overall score. The eleven players with the highest scores from each group will be placed on the "Black" team, unless the player requested placement on the "Red" team. The remaining players will be placed on the "Red" team.

## Evaluation Guidelines

- All players will be evaluated within their peer group unless the player is not available the day of their evaluation. In the event a player is unavailable for the evaluations, it is their responsibility to notify the Little League Committee to reschedule the evaluation.
- Players must participate in the evaluation process to be eligible for the BVBA travel teams unless they have a medical exemption.
- BVBA prefers for the evaluations to occur outdoors, but reserves the right to utilize an indoor facility.
- Only the players, BVBA Director of Baseball, and the Evaluators which include the BVBA High School, Legion, and VFW coaches will be allowed to attend the evaluations.
- Evaluations are performed by the BVBA High School, Legion, and VFW coaches and their decisions are final.
- All players within their respective group must complete the same seven baseball skills for it to be utilized during the evaluation process which typically occurs due to rescheduling or weather conflicts.
- During registration, the player will be provided with a number. All players are expected to call out their number before completing a skill.
- Upon completion of the evaluations, the Evaluators will provide the player's number and evaluation criteria to the BVBA Director of Baseball. The BVBA Director of Baseball will calculate the evaluation score and associate the number to the name of the player which remains sealed until the evaluations are complete.
- If the evaluation score results in a tie, the Evaluators may make the final decision or they may request input from the coach in the event the coach has applied, offered, and accepted the position.
- Team assignments will be announced within 48 hours following the completion of the evaluations.
- Medical exemptions will be reviewed on an individual basis. If a player cannot participate in the evaluations, the Little League Committee will work with the player to determine how long the player will be unable to play and reserves the right to hold a spot for that player based on prior year evaluations.
- All players must commit to attending the state tournament and 75% of the other tournaments. i.e. If your team plays in 7 tournaments, he must attend 5 of the selected tournaments and the state tournament.

If you have any questions please contact Chris Brown (605) 201-1045. Thanks for your interest in travel team baseball and best of luck!

Brandon Valley Baseball Association