



Haverford Township Hilltop Baseball, Softball and Challenger League



Dear Hilltop Parents:

I am excited for the opportunity to host tryouts for Hilltop's 9U tournament team and have summarized below some of the criteria on which your child will be evaluated for the 2026 Hilltop 9U team.

Tryout dates / times

Each player will be evaluated based on the following: Speed/Base Running, Throwing & Catching (Arm Strength/Accuracy, Catching with glove), Fielding (Ground Balls/Fly Balls), Hitting (Contact/Power), Hustle, Attitude, Team Chemistry, and overall team need. The goal is to put together the most complete and competitive team for the 9U tournament season. Please note that this is a tryout.... ***Roster spots are not guaranteed.***

Each player needs to attend both tryout dates shown below. If you cannot make both dates, please let me know in advance (these dates and times are subject to weather; they will be rescheduled if needed):

- Saturday, April 18; Hilltop Field
 - 8:00 to 9:15am
- Sunday April 19; Hilltop Field
 - 9:00 to 10:15am

Selection Process

Players will be rated based on the criteria noted above by myself, as well as independent evaluators.

These evaluators will not be related to any of the players and are there to help provide an unbiased view to help aid in the selection process. Please note that if more players are trying out than there are available spots available, *some players will not be chosen for the team.* Rosters can change from year to year.

If there are enough players to field a second team, the determination will be made by the League. Ideally, a "B" team is approved, and a "B" team manager will be approved by the Board and that manager will select his own team. Please note that *players do not get to select the team or manager to play for;* the player has the right to accept or decline the invitation to their assigned team. You must participate in tryouts to be eligible to participate in tournament play.

Player Availability/Participation

If selected, your child is expected to be available for all games and practices with an expectation that the season will last until about the end of July. Whereas we all recognize the importance of family vacations, I would ask that they be postponed until after the tournament season. If the commitment cannot be made, please do not take the spot away from a player who is willing to make the commitment, as it is simply not fair to the other members of the team.

Additionally, you are required to have participated in 75% of your Spring in-house games to be eligible to play for a tournament team. If there are reasons why this is not possible (sick, family vacation, etc...), please make your coach aware why you did not attend.

Expectation

The tournament team is different from our in-house season as there are ***no guarantees with playing time.*** Your child may be a substitute for any given game. It is essential that you and your child understand this prior to tryouts. Baseball games are won and lost as a team, and it takes the entire team to get it done.



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Schedule & Cost

Please keep your summer dates open. As of now, we are targeting participation in these tournaments in the summer, (subject to change):

- May 21-25 : Warrington Memorial Day Classic (Warrington, PA)
- June 19-21 : EHT Father's Day Tournament (Egg Harbor Township, NJ)
- June 23-28 : Ripken District 1 Tournament (Location TBD)
- July 3-9: Ripken PA State Tournament (Boyertown, PA)
- *July 17-23: Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament (TBD – must win States to qualify)
- *Early August: Cal Ripken 9u World Series (must qualify or be invited)

*another tournament may be added in July dependent on District and State outcomes.

The estimated cost for tournament play is \$300 per player. If selected, you will be required to pay a \$125 deposit to the league before tournament play begins. The balance of the total cost will be due at a later date. This will cover the cost of entering the tournaments. Cost for the uniform (Hilltop jersey and hat, pants, and socks) is separate.

Please read the player commitment letter carefully. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call me anytime (610-291-7504).

Sincerely,
Greg Chrest
gregchrest3@gmail.com

Detach and return at the first try-out along with a copy of your child's birth certificate.

If selected as a member of the 2025 Hilltop 8U tournament team, I will commit myself to teamwork and fair play. I understand that if I am selected to the team, I will be required to attend all practices and games. The tournament team will practice consistently through the months of May, June, and July. Expect to have an activity most nights. If I am unable to make the full commitment as stated above, I will withdraw my name from consideration; giving a player who can make the commitment the opportunity to play.

All guardians of the child must sign. Please sign and return along with a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Player Signature _____ Date _____

Guardian #1 Signature _____ Date _____

Guardian #1 Cell Phone _____ Guardian #1 Email _____

Guardian #2 Signature _____ Date _____

Guardian #2 Cell Phone _____ Guardian #2 Email _____