



ERAA Baseball Tryout Process

Updated: 9/2/2021

The ERAA Baseball Board is committed to managing a fair and open tryout process for interested baseball players and their families. To meet this goal, we use tryout procedures that are understandable, unbiased, and offer opportunities for all qualified players to demonstrate their skills. ERAA Baseball Board believes that players develop their baseball talents under different timelines, so tryout procedures must provide all players an opportunity to graduate from one level to another as his/her skill improves over time.

Age-Driven Tryout Philosophy

At ages U10-U11, the traveling program needs the most flexibility as baseball skills are still being developed and players are making decisions about their commitment to traveling baseball. The tryout process must reflect the introduction of a number of new players of varying talents, and the likelihood of movement between levels.

At ages U12-U14, player participation in the traveling program is likely to be more stable than it was in U10-U11, so a significant emphasis of the tryout process is placing players at the level that best aids their skills and development.

Tryout Process

For U10-U14 the tryout process typically occurs in the Fall in three steps:

Step 1: rating from the previous year of baseball

For players who played ERAA traveling baseball the previous year, this rating is determined by computing the average of the three evaluation scores provided by coaches (Basic Coaches Rating), multiplied by a factor based on the level of traveling experience from the previous year (1.25 for AAA, 1 for AA and 0.75 for A), resulting in the Adjusted Coaches Rating. This rating will be weighted to serve as 60% of the Total Player Score for tryouts. The ERAA Baseball Board will not adjust these ratings, unless it determines that a coach or set of coaches has ranked a player or group of players in such a way that creates significant and glaring inequities in our tryout process for the other players of that age group.

Not all players trying out will come from the ERAA Baseball program. If a player comes from another traveling baseball program, he/she will be given the average Adjusted Coaches Rating for an ERAA player from the previous year at the same age and level of baseball.



For example, if the player was in Woodbury U10 AA baseball, his/her score will reflect the average of the previous year ERAA players at U10 AA.

If a player did not play traveling baseball in the previous year and is trying out for U10 or U11 baseball, the player will receive the Adjusted Coaches Rating for the 40th percentile player at A ball for his/her age group.

If a player did not play traveling baseball in the previous year, and is trying out for U12 and above, the player will receive the Adjusted Coaches Rating for the 50th percentile player at A ball for his/her age group.

Step 2: rating from tryouts

An independent set of evaluators will score each player based on throwing, fielding and hitting skills. As players get older, pitching and catching skills may also be evaluated. The evaluators will come from college programs and other sources that are not directly connected to ERAA Baseball, and all efforts will be taken to avoid any conflict-of-interest during this evaluation. This rating will be weighted to serve as 40% of the Total Player Score for tryouts.

Step 3: coaches' evaluations

Players will be divided into two groups based on Total Player Scores, and asked to participate in game drills and other activities to help next year's ERAA coaches learn more about their baseball skills. No rating will be created from these scrimmage/practice sessions – this session is an opportunity for current ERAA coaches to work with and view their potential players for next year. All ERAA provisional coaches must participate in their age group sessions unless excused by the Board, and coaches must spend adequate time at all fields and tryout sessions that include players who may be selected for their team.

Selection Process

After Step 3, the ERAA Board shall ratify the assignment of coaches, or identify teams that currently do not have coaches and assign a Board member selecting players for that team. Within each age group, the Board will attempt to create one AAA team made up of 10-12 of the highest ranked players. Additional teams will be created at the AA and A levels based on the number of players and their skill level. As players get older, all attempts will be made to field as many AA teams as reflect the players' skills. However, the decision on the numbers of teams in age group, and the levels to be played, rests with the ERAA Baseball Board.

The AAA coach must select the six players with the highest Total Player Score who are interested in playing AAA baseball. The remaining players for his/her team must come from the next 12 highest rated players who are interested in playing AAA baseball. Players with AAA ability are strongly encouraged to play AAA ball if selected, and the ERAA Baseball Board will



act if it believes that a parent or coach is attempting to gain an unfair competitive advantage by assigning a player below his/her appropriate level.

If there is one AA team, the AA coach must follow the same procedure as the AAA coach with the remaining players. If there are two AA teams, the two coaches shall alternately select 6 players from the top 12 players remaining who want to play AA baseball, and then fill their teams from among the next set of ranked players, using no player ranked lower than 42 on the list. For three AA teams, the coaches shall alternately select 6 players from the top 18 players remaining who want to play AA baseball, and then fill their teams from among the next set of ranked players, using no player ranked lower than 54 on the list. Note: it is within the discretion of the Director to create uneven teams at a level if he or she decides that is in the best interest of the association and players at that level.

The A teams shall be filled through a similar procedure. There is no guarantee that all players who tryout will be assigned to a team, but ERAA will make every reasonable effort to do so, including requiring that all coaches select at least 12 players within an age group if that will guarantee that all players will make a team.

It is the intention of ERAA to complete the team selection process with all teams filled and settled within a week of the tryouts. Parents will be notified of assignments as soon as they are available. In situations where no head coach is named, the ERAA Baseball Board will work to fill that position prior to the start of practices.

As players move into the ERAA attendance area after tryouts, accommodations will be made if spots are open at the appropriate age and level of baseball. ERAA Baseball Board reserves the right to seek solutions that allow for participation in ERAA traveling baseball by all qualified players.