



## **TRAVEL BASEBALL FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

The Dunlap Rec. Association offers players the opportunity to participate in competitive Travel Baseball at every age group. Travel baseball provides our player's opportunities to compete in competitive leagues and tournaments while representing the Dunlap Community.

There is generally a lot of confusion and misinformation surrounding Travel Baseball so we have setup this page to provide as much information as possible and to address as many frequently asked questions as we can. If you still have questions regarding Travel Baseball, you can always email our Travel Baseball coordinator.

### **What is Travel Baseball?**

Dunlap Rec. Travel Baseball fields multiple teams at the 8u thru 14u level. Travel teams are assembled by age group (8, 9, 10, etc.) and their age group is dictated by their age on **April 30<sup>th</sup>** of that year. Travel teams play in tournaments and leagues generally in the surrounding area, but some games/tournaments can be out of the area and out of state as well - depending on the team and the managers and families involved. Travel baseball provides a more competitive brand of baseball than you will generally see in our Rec. league but is also still focused on player development.

### **Who can play?**

To be eligible to play in our Travel Baseball program, players must reside within Dunlap Unit 323 School District. (Players may attend a private school or be home schooled.)

### **At what age does travel baseball start and end?**

Dunlap Rec offers travel baseball starting at 8u (kids ages 7-8 as of 4/30) and continues thru 14. We have typically have multiple teams per age group (Maroon, Gold, occasionally White) depending on numbers.

### **Does every player make a team?**

No. While we would love to place every player that comes to tryouts on a team, it is not possible so there will be cuts. However, every child from Dunlap that wants to play baseball can do so in Dunlap. Players that are not selected for a Travel team can play in our less competitive in-house league.

### **How much does Travel Baseball cost?**

Travel Baseball will vary in cost by team but the registration fee falls somewhere between \$400 and \$600 per player. This fee includes uniform, some indoor winter practices, 4-6 tournaments, and roughly 8-12 home games. Fees for extra uniforms, tournaments, leagues, and any travel expenses are an additional cost and determined on a team by team basis.

### **What is the commitment level for Travel Baseball?**

While we expect full participation, we do understand that family commitments can sometimes overlap with baseball. We have left the discretion in the hands of each coach and expect that communication will occur between families and coaches to ensure that we have no cases where teams are short-handed & have to withdraw from tournaments. *Players that play other competitive sports (travel soccer) during the Travel Baseball season are encouraged to split conflicts equally between the 2 sports.*

**Is there equal playing time in Travel Baseball?** No. In Rec. baseball we have rules that encourage and sometimes dictate how many innings players can and can't play in the infield/outfield, etc. These rules do not exist in travel baseball. While the overall goal is player development, coaches have the option to play kids where they will have the best chance to help the team and be successful.

### **When are tryouts?**

Tryouts are typically in late July for younger ages and mid August for 11u and older, and are announced weeks in advance on our website and Facebook page.

### **What if my child can't make the tryout?**

If that is the case, please notify our travel baseball director ASAP. As long as your child has a valid reason for missing, a make up evaluation will be scheduled. If a child is injured, their evaluation will be based on last season's performance (if applicable).

### **Do I need to volunteer at all?**

The Dunlap Rec. is a non-for-profit volunteer run organization. We have no park district and receive no tax money. Our Travel Baseball program is fortunate in that we have a great relationship with the Village of Dunlap and have full access to the 4 diamond baseball complex at North Park. In exchange for use of the complex, we maintain the complex and fields during the season. Additionally, the concession stand at North Park is managed by volunteer/s.

While we do not currently require parents to volunteer, we have been having increased difficulty in recent years to find volunteers so a volunteer requirement may be instituted in the future. (If instituted, parents would have the option to pay extra to avoid volunteer obligations.)

### **Can Dunlap teams compete with the "Club" teams that accept players from anywhere?**

Absolutely we can, and do! Many of our teams have winning records against what are considered "Club" teams.