

**Plymouth Wayzata
Youth Baseball Association
Travel Baseball Handbook**



Contents

Mission & Philosophy.....	1
Commitment	1
Travel Baseball Program.....	1
Eligibility	2
Birthdate Cutoff	2
Multi-Team Rostering	3
Twin Brother Policy	3
Tryout Participation	3
Injury, Illness or Absence Policy.....	3
Fees	4
Registration Fees.....	4
Additional Fees.....	4
Tryouts – Player Evaluations and Team Selection	5
Player Evaluations – 9-12 year olds	5
Team Selection – 9-12 year olds	5
Player Evaluations - 13-15 year olds	6
Team Selection – 13-15 year olds	7
Player Evaluation Tiebreaker Rules.....	8
Tryout Dates.....	8
Prospective Teams	8
Uniforms.....	10
Equipment.....	11
Bats.....	11
Umpires.....	11
General Policies.....	11
Attendance.....	11
Suspensions.....	11
Player Removal.....	11
Playing Time	12

Coach Selection 12

Behavior 13

Inclement Weather 13

Blood Policy 14

Drug and Alcohol Policy 14

Tobacco Policy 14

Equipment Abuse 14

Coaches’ Responsibilities and Rights 15

Parents’ Responsibilities and Rights 15

 PWYBA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct 16

Players’ Responsibilities and Rights 17

Problem Resolution Guidelines 18

This handbook offers information about the Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association (PWYBA) Travel Baseball program.

Mission & Philosophy

The mission of PWYBA is to promote a fun, fair, and safe environment that maximizes participation and improves player's skills while developing sportsmanship, teamwork and self-confidence.

PWYBA seeks to provide a community and volunteer-driven program to promote the growth and development of our players. We strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Teach the fundamentals of baseball
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop respect for others, teamwork, pride in team and community
- Incorporate the spirit of good sportsmanship in victory or defeat
- Allow players an opportunity to participate and develop
- Play in a safe and healthy environment
- Build character and set priorities

PWYBA will field travel teams that play in leagues with other communities and various weekend tournaments.

Commitment

Travel baseball requires dedicated time commitment from players, coaches, and parents from March through July, and possibly into early August. Every player's presence is important, and the player is expected to make every effort to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Unexcused and/or excessive absences will result in a reduction of playing time and may result in dismissal from the team.

Travel Baseball Program

PWYBA travel baseball will field travel teams at the 9-15 year old age levels. In general, there will be one AAA team at each age level, one or two parity AA teams, and one or two parity A level teams. 9U is an exception to this, where two or three teams will be formed: one AAA team and one or two AA teams.

PWYBA strives to have as many kids playing travel baseball as possible while ensuring they are competitive at the level they are assigned. Being competitive is important for player and team development, success on the field, and continued interest in the sport. The number of AA and A teams may change each year (increase or decrease) depending on the factors listed below.

1. Players registered – The depth of players at each grade level can have an effect on the number of players ready/available to play travel baseball.
2. Competitiveness – PWYBA wants players appropriately placed against competition that is best suited for their skills as a baseball player. This does not mean that the team must win every game but rather that the players can consistently challenge the competition before them in any given game. With competitiveness a somewhat subjective term, PWYBA considers winning percentage (winning percentages above .350 can still be competitive), run differential, number of times losing by more than 10 runs, number of times the team played on Sundays in tournaments, number of times a team placed (1st-3rd) in a tournament, and if they qualified for state.

3. Coach Feedback – Coach feedback is a tool used to get an understanding from those most familiar with the players’ abilities on their team and at their grade level. At the end of each season, and in subsequent follow up interviews if necessary, coaches are asked to discuss their season and the players. This feedback will be an important part of the grade level team formations.
4. History – Records are maintained at each grade level and will be utilized to gain a historical perspective of the grade levels overall success.

The travel oversight committee, made up of five board members, will make the final determination on the number of teams and level of play.

Travel baseball teams will play in the Metro Baseball League (MBL) or Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) – about 16 games - along with entering four weekend tournaments. Teams could also play in up to three state tournaments in July if they qualify.

Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in PWYBA Travel Baseball team tryouts subject to the following criteria:

- In accordance with PWYBA Board policy, players must reside within the boundaries of Independent School District 284 OR if outside the boundaries the player must be open-enrolled in a public school of ISD 284. A listing of those schools may be found at www.wayzata.k12.mn.us (this is consistent with MBL boundary rules)
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any back fees from previous PWYBA programs
- Must meet age guidelines specified by the national governing organizations.
- Proposed exceptions to this policy, describing extenuating circumstances for the exception, must be addressed to the PWYBA and reviewed by the PWYBA travel committee.

Players must have a legal residence within the Wayzata School District (ISD 284) boundaries as of April 1 OR if the player does not live within the boundaries the player must be open enrolled (registered) to a Wayzata School District public school as of April 1. Players who have made a travel team but move out of the district boundaries before April 1 OR players who qualify to play via open enrollment but are no longer attending a Wayzata public school on April 1 will be removed from the team.

Birthdate Cutoff

The birthdate cutoff is regulated by Metro Baseball League and Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS). The birthdate range for eligibility at a particular age level is May 1 - April 30. The team (age level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player’s age on that date.

A player can play up to play with his grade, but not because he or his parents believe he needs to be “at a more competitive level.” The Travel Director should be notified of a player wishing to “play up” with his grade. It should be noted that players who have not completed the third grade will not be eligible for the 9U program (unless their birthdate precludes them from playing with their class).

A player cannot “play down” (i.e., play on a team younger than his/her age level) for any reason, per the governing organizations. A copy of the child’s birth certificate should be supplied to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.

- 9-year-olds completing 3rd grade
- 10-year-olds completing 4th grade
- 11-year-olds completing 5th grade
- 12-year-olds completing 6th grade
- 13-year-olds completing 7th grade
- 14-year-olds completing 8th grade
- 15-year-olds completing 9th grade

A player who has the option of playing up with his grade can only be evaluated for the age level he has signed up for (cannot tryout for the 10 year old team if opt to evaluate with the 11 year olds at his grade level).

Multi-Team Rostering

Players in the PWYBA travel program are not allowed to be rostered and play for any other team or association from May 1 through the last game of the travel season (except for any player participating on a high school team). Any player found to be rostered on another team will be removed from the PWYBA team. There may be exceptions with high school and spring baseball leagues. These will be handled on a case by case basis. MBL does not allow double rostering and MBL and MYAS may have their own specific rules that apply to this issue.

Twin Brother Policy

Parents of twins (triplets, etc.) will need to decide between two options before the core travel tryouts:

- Option A, treat each player independently. Players will be placed on the appropriate level for their skill, with this option the players could be placed on different teams.
- Option B, place brothers on the same team. Players will be placed on the same team at the appropriate level for the **lowest** ranked brother.

Tryout Participation

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions unless the Travel Baseball Director grants an excused absence prior to the start of that session. A player who is absent without being excused may be disqualified. Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Injury, Illness or Absence Policy

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury, illness or excused absence will be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session. In the event of an injury or illness a doctor's note describing the player's limitations is required. A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically fit before he/she will be allowed to participate in any PWYBA activity. Players who are injured or ill; or have an excused absence will have the opportunity to be placed on a travel team at no higher level than what they participated at the previous season. The decision to add players under this Policy will be a joint decision between the head coach and the Travel Oversight Committee.

AAA Team

1. If the player has been on the AAA team for at least the last two seasons, the player may be added as one of the 12 rostered players.
2. If the player was on the AAA team last season (but not the previous season) and was rated

in the top four by last season's coach, the player can be added as one of the 12 rostered players OR if not in the top four, the player can be added as a 13th rostered player.

AA Team

1. If the player has been on the AA team for at least the last two seasons (or AA last year and AAA the previous), the player may be added as one of the 12 rostered players.
2. If the player was on the AA team last season (but did not play travel the previous season) and was rated in the top four by last season's coach, the player can be added as one of the 12 rostered players OR if not in the top four, the player can be added as a 13th rostered player.

A Team

1. If the player has been on the A team for at least the last two seasons (or AA or AAA the previous), the player may be added as one of the 12 rostered players.
2. If the player was on the A team last season (but did not play travel the previous season) and was rated in the top four by last season's coach, the player can be added as one of the 12 rostered players OR if not in the top four, the player can be added as a 13th rostered player.

Players age 10-15 who played travel baseball in another community last season and are injured/absent during tryouts may be added to the roster as a 13th player based on their previous coaches feedback (at the discretion of the Travel Oversight Committee).

Players who are injured/absent and have not played on a travel team (in PWYBA or in another community) in the past will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may be added to a team as a 13th player. Petitions for players who are unable to attend tryouts for any other reason will be reviewed by the Travel Oversight Committee.

Fees

Registration Fees

The initial registration and travel evaluation fee covers the team's expenses for participation in league games, umpires, equipment, and association administration and support. The initial registration and evaluation fee are collected at time of registration. The evaluation fee is non-refundable.

If a player makes a travel team, a travel fee will be collected. The travel fee covers travel uniform costs, tournament entry fees, field rentals, and equipment costs.

A player who makes a travel team and decides not to participate on that team will not be given a refund and will be ineligible to participate in the travel program the next season.

Additional Fees

If a team qualifies for and receives bids to a state tournament the association will pay the entry fee for one tournament (team may qualify for three state tournaments, the association will pay the entry fee to one of them), all other entry fees for state tournaments will be at the teams expense. Teams (parents) will also be responsible for any gate fees due to the host association for any tournaments that have this charge. There will be a parents' meeting conducted by the head coach to review all appropriate fees.

Once a player has been placed on a team, there will be no refunds except for players who suffer a long-term injury or illness. All refund requests will be prorated by the number of games played and must be approved by the Travel Director.

Tryouts – Player Evaluations and Team Selection

Player Evaluations – 9-12 year olds

At registration players will have the opportunity to register for the travel. All players for an age group will be evaluated at the same time by the same evaluators. A team of impartial evaluators provided by the PWYBA will evaluate each player's baseball skills. The evaluators will be people who have the knowledge necessary to evaluate a player's skill at a particular level. Evaluators will not be related to any of the tryout participants or involved in their assigned age level. Players will be evaluated on running, infield, outfield, pitching, catching and hitting skills. Many factors are considered in determining the rankings of the players. Players should be at their best during the tryout and be aware that evaluators look at many things in evaluating the overall player including: attitude, attention, ability to follow directions, teamwork, teammate interactions, etc. Players should note that arm strength and running/foot work are important criteria.

Players will be placed on a team based upon their own merits (skills, athletic ability, hustle, enthusiasm, coachability, attitude, character, etc.). If players have played on a previous year's team, their prior commitment, performance and character may be considered. No player will be placed on a team over a more deserving candidate simply because he has previously played on a travel team.

Players trying out for a 9, 10, 11, or 12 year old team will be evaluated in the following areas by approximately 14 different evaluators in roughly 84 scoring categories.

- Infield (range, hands/feet, arm strength, accuracy)
- Outfield (range, hands/feet, arm strength, accuracy)
- Running (speed from home to 1st)
- Pitching (mechanics, control, fastball)
- Catching (positioning, receiving, blocking, throw to 2nd, bunt, pop up)
- Hitting - Machine (bunting, mechanics, bat speed, power, contact)
- Hitting - Live (bunting, mechanics, bat speed, power, contact)

The scoring will be tabulated by percentages of importance, with the primary focus in the areas of hitting, pitching, infield and outfield.

Team Selection – 9-12 year olds

Team Selection - 9 year olds

PWYBA will field up to 2-3 travel teams at the 9U level. All 9U teams will participate in the 9U division of the MBL or MYAS and participate in four weekend tournaments. The determination for what team a player makes will be by the following:

AAA TEAM—The highest ranked six players from the evaluation rankings will automatically be placed on the AAA team. The AAA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for the AAA team.

TWO PARITY AA TEAMS - if the age group will have two parity AA teams, once the AAA team is determined the highest ranked 12 players will automatically be on one of the AA teams (six on each team). Once each team has determined their six "automatic" players, the two coaches in

conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for each team. Special consideration will be made to ensure pitching depth for both teams.

ONE AA TEAM - if the age group will have one AA team, once the AAA team is determined the highest ranked six players remaining will automatically be placed on the AA team. The AA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for the AA team.

Players who have not completed the 3rd grade by the summer are not eligible for the program)

Team Selection - 10-12 year olds

Each of the 10-12 year old teams will consist of 12 players, unless otherwise changed by the travel committee. The determination for what team a player makes will be by the following:

AAA TEAM - The highest ranked six players from the evaluation rankings will automatically be placed on the AAA team. The AAA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for the AAA team.

TWO PARITY AA TEAMS - if the age group will have two parity AA teams, once the AAA team is determined the highest ranked 12 players will automatically be on one of the AA teams (six on each team). Once each team has determined their six “automatic” players, the two coaches in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for each team. Special consideration will be made to ensure pitching depth for both teams.

ONE AA TEAM - if the age group will have one AA team, once the AAA team is determined the highest ranked six players remaining will automatically be placed on the AA team. The AA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for the AA team.

TWO PARITY A TEAMS - if the age group will have two parity A teams, once the AAA and AA teams have been determined the highest ranked 12 players will automatically be on one of the A teams (six on each team). Once each team has determined their six “automatic” players, the two coaches in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for each team. Special consideration will be made to ensure pitching depth for both teams.

ONE A TEAM - if the age group will have one A team, once the AAA and AA teams have been determined the highest ranked six players remaining will automatically be placed on the A team. The A coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next six players for the A team.

Player Evaluations - 13-15 year olds

For players in the 13-15 year old age group the core evaluations will include infield, outfield and hitting. The core evaluation scores will be utilized to determine the players invited to the second round of evaluations (AAA/AA pool or AA/A pool). The AAA/AA pool will have between 18-28 players and all players making the AAA/AA pool will be on the AAA team or a AA team. The AA/A pool will contain the remaining players eligible for a AA or A team). As players reach the 13-15 year old age group many of the players no longer pitch (or want to pitch) and many have never played catcher. The pitching/catching evaluations will be utilized by the coaches and travel oversight committee in getting the players into the appropriate pool. By separating the pitching/catching into a separate evaluation, players who do not pitch/catch will not be penalized in the overall core evaluation.

Core Evaluations (1st Round)

Players trying out for a 13, 14 or 15 year old team will be evaluated in the following areas by approximately 14 different evaluators in roughly 84 scoring categories: These core evaluations will be utilized in determining the assigned pool for the 2nd round of evaluations.

- Infield (range, hands/feet, arm strength, accuracy)
- Outfield (range, hands/feet, arm strength, accuracy)
- Running (speed from home to 1st)
- Hitting - Machine (bunting, mechanics, bat speed, power, contact)
- Hitting - Live (bunting, mechanics, bat speed, power, contact)

The following areas are optional but will also be evaluated and utilized for assigning players to the appropriate pool:

- Pitching (mechanics, control, fastball, off-speed)
- Catching (positioning, receiving, blocking, throw to 2nd, bunt, pop up)

The scoring will be tabulated by percentages of importance, with the primary focus in the areas of hitting, infield and outfield. Pools will then be created.

Pool Evaluations (2nd Round)

Players will be assigned a pool group for the 2nd round of evaluations (AAA/AA or AA/A pool). The 2nd round of evaluations may be multiple nights and will be run by the Travel Oversight Committee along with the coaches at each age group. Players who are in the AAA/AA pool but do not make the AAA team will be selected to a AA team and will not need to participate in the AA pool evaluations. Players who are in the AA/A pool and do not make a AA or A team will be assigned to a house team at their age level.

Team Selection – 13-15 year olds

Each of the 13-15 year old teams will consist of 12 players, unless otherwise changed by the travel committee. The determination for what team a player makes will be by the following:

AAA TEAM - The highest ranked three players from the core evaluation rankings will be placed on the AAA team. The AAA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next nine players for the AAA team.

TWO PARITY AA TEAMS - if the age group will have two parity AA teams, once the AAA team is determined the remaining players from the AAA/AA pool will be on one of the AA teams. The two coaches in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the remaining roster for each team. Special consideration will be made to ensure pitching depth for both teams.

ONE AA TEAM - if the age group will have one AA team, once the AAA team is determined the remaining players from the AAA/AA pool will be placed on that team. The AA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the remaining players for the AA team.

TWO PARITY A TEAMS - if the age group will have two parity A teams, once the AAA and AA teams have been determined the highest ranked 6 players will be on one of the A teams (three on each team). Once each team has determined their three “automatic” players, the two coaches in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next nine players for each team. Special consideration will be made to ensure pitching depth for both teams.

ONE A TEAM - if the age group will have one A team, once the AAA and AA teams have been determined the highest ranked three players remaining will automatically be placed on the A team. The A coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next nine players for the A team.

Player Evaluation Tiebreaker Rules

In the event players scores are tied for automatic placement on a team. The Travel Committee will break the tie by applying the following tiebreaker policy:

- 1st tiebreaker: Level of team the player played at the year prior
- 2nd tiebreaker: Year-end ranking as reported by previous seasons coach
- 3rd tiebreaker: Core score from the previous year's tryout

Tryout Dates

Tryout dates will be posted on the PWYBA website, www.pwyba.com and communicated via e-mail. It is the responsibility of the parent/player to register at the PWYBA website and provide an accurate e-mail address that will be used to notify players of their evaluation schedule.

There will be NO makeup tryouts. For those unable to make a tryout, PWYBA will rely on last year's coach's player evaluations and previous tryout scores in collaboration with the travel oversight committee to determine at what level the player may be assigned.

In cases where there is no previous involvement in the travel process with PWYBA, and roster availability exists, the travel oversight committee will determine where or if the player will be placed on a travel team.

There is NO guarantee that a player missing a tryout will automatically be placed on a team or at the level they played at last year. The policy for injured/absent players is mentioned above.

Prospective Teams

The PWYBA may field the following travel teams noted below. It is the goal of the association to ensure our teams are competitive at the level they will be playing at. Changes to the number of teams (and competitive levels) may occur due to the number of interested players and the previous year's results. We are limited in the number of travel teams that we can field due to the number of playing fields we have available to us. Please note that travel baseball is highly competitive and requires a full commitment.

The Travel committee believes a winning combined winning percentage of .350 or above to be competitive. This number alone will not determine what level ages play at, but may be used as a barometer.

9U (completing 3rd grade)

PWYBA will field up to two travel teams at the 9U level. The 9-year-olds will play their home games at Plymouth Creek Playfields, Greenwood, East Middle School and LaCompte.

AAA will participate in the Metro Baseball League and play in four weekend tournaments.

AA will participate in the Metro Baseball League or Gopher State Baseball League and will play in four weekend tournaments.

10U (completing 4th grade)

The 10-year-olds will play their home games at Greenwood, East Middle School, Plymouth Creek Playfields, and LaCompte.

PWYBA will field four or five travel teams at the 10U level (AAA, one or two AA, and one or two A).

AAA will participate in the Metro Baseball League and play in four tournaments.

AA Blue and/or AA Gold - will be parity teams. *AA Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *AA Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each AA team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

A Blue and/or A Gold will be parity teams. *A Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *A Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each A team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

11U (completing 5th grade)

The 11-year-olds will play their home games at Greenwood.

PWYBA will field four or five travel teams at the 11U level (AAA, one or two AA, and one or two A)

AAA will participate in the Metro Baseball League and play in four tournaments.

AA Blue and/or AA Gold - will be parity teams. *AA Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *AA Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each AA team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

A Blue and/or A Gold - will be parity teams. *A Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *A Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each A team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

12U (completing 6th grade)

The 12-year-olds will play their home games at West Middle School, Zachary, Plymouth Creek Playfields, or Gleason Lake.

PWYBA will field four or five travel teams at the 11U level (AAA, one or two AA, and one or two A)

AAA will participate in the Metro Baseball League and play in four tournaments.

AA Blue and/or AA Gold - will be parity teams. *AA Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *AA Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each AA team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

A Blue and/or A Gold - will be parity teams. *A Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *A Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each A team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

13U (completing 7th grade)

The 13-year-olds will play their home games at West Middle School, Zachary, Plymouth Creek Playfields, or Gleason Lake.

AAA will participate in the Metro Baseball League and play in four tournaments.

AA Blue and/or AA Gold - will be parity teams. *AA Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *AA Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each AA team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

A Blue and/or A Gold - will be parity teams. *A Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *A Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each A team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

14U (completing 8th grade)

The 14-year-olds will play their home games at Parkers Lake, Bass Lake, or Central Middle School.

AAA will participate in the Metro Baseball League and play in four tournaments.

AA Blue and/or AA Gold - will be parity teams. *AA Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *AA Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each AA team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

A Blue and/or A Gold - will be parity teams. *A Blue* will play in the Metro Baseball League and *A Gold* will play in the Gopher State Baseball League. Each A team will participate in four weekend tournaments.

15U (completing 9th grade)

The 15-year-olds will play their home games at Parkers Lake, Bass Lake, or Central Middle School.

AAA will participate in the Metro Baseball League and play in four weekend tournaments.

AA will participate in the Gopher State Baseball League and play in four weekend tournaments.

A - based upon the number of participants trying out a decision will be made by the travel committee to field one or two A level teams. If there are two teams they will be parity teams. The A teams will participate in the Metro Baseball league and play in four weekend tournaments.

15U baseball will not conflict with the high school season and will begin once the high school season has concluded.

Uniforms

The association will provide each player with the following:

- Baseball socks (2 pair)
- T-shirt
- Fitted baseball hat
- Belt
- Two uniform tops

Players will be responsible for their own:

- Pants
- Batting helmet

The association may negotiate with a preferred supplier for both the pants and helmets, to be used at the team's discretion.

Equipment

Each player must provide his/her own bat, glove, helmet, pants, baseball cleats, and personal protective equipment (except catcher's equipment). Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Most leagues and the PWYBA require the wearing of a hard protective cup. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes. Players are encouraged to use cleated baseball shoes with hard rubber or metal cleats according to the rules of the league in which they participate.

The travel baseball program also supplies all catcher's gear, practice and game balls, and other equipment necessary for games and practices. Any damage caused by negligence or intentional abuse will be reimbursed by the player and/or parents. Failure to do so may result in denial of any further sport participation in any PWYBA program by the player or any other member of his/her family.

Bats

Bats are an item of equipment, which, like gloves, need to be fitted to the individual player. Parents should consult coaches and/or specific league (Metro Baseball League or Gopher State) rules (see www.mbl.bz or www.myas.org) before purchasing bats. See also the www.pwyba.com travel page for bat information.

The travel baseball program does not provide bats as it is very difficult to anticipate the combination of lengths and weights that any given team would need.

Umpires

While our expectations of the quality of umpiring may be high, we must always exercise patience, understanding, good sportsmanship, and respect for their efforts. The character of our players, coaches, fans, and community will be measured by the message the umpires carry out into the baseball community statewide.

General Policies

Attendance

Every player's presence is important and is expected. Unless otherwise exempted by the coach, all players are expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Excused absences will be granted for school events; however, it is expected that the coach will be notified in advance of such events. Unexcused absences may result in a reduction of playing time and excessive absences may result in dismissal from the team.

Suspensions

The PWYBA Board reserves the right to suspend any coach, parent, or player who violates the PWYBA Code of Ethics provided by the PWYBA Board of Directors. Suspensions will be documented and distributed to the PWYBA Board. Suspension of a coach may lead to progressive disciplines. See Coach Removal section.

Player Removal

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a team member solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following specific reasons:

- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the player's responsibilities
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and/or self

- Displaying an uncaring attitude which results in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the team's interest)
- Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Travel Director and the player's parent(s) and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion should include an objective description of the behavior and the intended discipline. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must then notify the Travel Director who must approve any further action. The Travel Director must, in turn, notify the PWYBA Board of the action taken within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the Baseball Board.

Playing Time

Minimum playing time for 9 -13 year olds will be on average 4 defensive innings per game.*

Minimum playing time for 14-15 year olds will be on average 2 defensive innings per game.*

The starting lineup will provide an opportunity for every player to have a place in the batting order when continuous batting is in effect.

The coach will make every effort to give each player appropriate playing time. However, the coach has the discretion to play players such that he looks out for the best interest of the team. For example, there will be tournaments where the rules prevent re-entry, which will require the coach to be careful to not "run out" of players. Additionally, it is important that in the event of an injury sufficient players are available to continue playing.

* Some game situations (e.g., 10 run rule) may prevent this from happening in a specific game.

Note: If a player is in the lineup as a designated hitter (DH), he/she may not receive any defensive playing time for that game.

Coach Selection

Anyone who desires to be a Travel head coach must indicate interest at registration time, at the PWYBA website, or contact the Travel Director or a member of the coaches committee before the selection process is completed. The PWYBA Board of Directors will provide final review and approval of travel coaches. Candidates who have coached at the travel level in prior years and received positive feedback from parents and players via the evaluation process take precedent over new applications.

Primary selection criteria include past baseball coaching and playing experience, personal coaching and human development philosophies, organizational skills, strong moral and ethical characteristics, support of travel baseball and PWYBA policies/procedures, and the applicant's commitment to devote several hundred hours to the program during the season. Coaches' responsibilities begin in late February with tournament selection and entry, league meetings, and organization of tryouts. They end in August with equipment check-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

While it is important that a travel team coach have expertise in the sport, it is just as important for the coach to have the welfare of the individual players and the players' character and confidence development foremost in mind. Even a person of integrity, sincerity, and high idealism needs other qualifications (i.e., the ability to remain even-tempered under pressure, the ability to discover ways to impart his/her knowledge to each individual player, and the ability to understand children, to

relate to them, and to be sensitive to their developmental requirements). If chosen as a coach, a background check will be conducted.

Once a coach is selected for a team based on the criteria above, and if that coach is a parent-coach, his son needs to be competent to play at the level of the team for which the coach has been selected in the opinion of the evaluators.

Coach Removal

Removal of a team coach is a very serious situation and will be dealt with in a fair and open manner. Coaches may be removed for the following reasons:

- Failure to perform duties
- Conduct detrimental to the player, the team, the organization, and/or the parents
- Abusive behavior, whether physical or psychological, towards players, parents, opposing players, coaches, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials

Issues with coaches need to be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. The PWYBA Board of Directors or a committee appointed by the PWYBA Board will review the specifics of the allegations and take appropriate action which may include game suspension and/or dismissal.

Assistant Coaches

The head coach is responsible for appointing his assistant coaches. Those coaches will be required to submit to a back ground check, concussion protocol and any other requirements deemed necessary by the PWYBA or the leagues they play in. The head coach may also dismiss his assistant coaches after notifying the travel director and explaining the reasoning behind the removal. The travel committee also has the power to dismiss assistant coaches if deemed appropriate.

Behavior

The highest standards of sportsmanship will be expected from the players, parents, coaches, umpires, and spectators.

Conduct that will not be tolerated includes verbal abuse, tantrum-like acts, profanity, physical aggression on or off the field, and acts intended to cheat the spirit of the rules or to intimidate the umpires. Violations may result in suspension from play and/or attendance.

If a parent or player has a problem with the performance of an umpire, he/she should direct his/her concerns to the team's coach. The coach represents PWYBA and should be the only person communicating with the umpires. One of the objectives of the program is to teach respect for the officials and the proper procedure for dealing with any problems with the umpires.

Unless playing in the field, at bat, on base, on deck, or coaching, all players shall remain on the bench. Players will treat their coaches, parents, teammates, the umpires, and the opposition with respect. After each game, the participants will line up and shake hands. Spectators are restricted to the areas that are "out of play" and away from the benches.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, the coach will determine if there will be a practice.

At games, the home team's coach is responsible for determining whether the game will be started. Once play begins, the umpire is responsible for determining whether play should be halted.

In all cases, unless you receive a call from your team's coach (or team representative), you should appear at the site of the game or practice as scheduled. Weather conditions can vary widely even over short distances, so our policy is to make the decision at the field site.

Games and practices will be suspended when lightning is visible.

If you (parent/guardian) are not able to be present during an event, be sure that your child knows another parent who will be present and with whom he/she can take shelter if bad weather suddenly threatens.

Blood Policy

A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment cannot be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual will have to leave the game. (The length of time considered reasonable shall be in the umpire's judgment.) Once the bleeding has been stopped, the player or coach may reenter the game. If there is a substantial amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual may participate.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

PWYBA Travel Baseball mandates that all players/coaches/parents participating in a PWYBA youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game) refrain from the use of alcohol and/or a controlled substance.

It shall be a violation of this policy for a player/coach, while participating in a PWYBA youth activity, to use a beverage containing alcohol, or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any controlled substance.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention and a decision has been made, the player/coach will be informed of his/her ineligibility by a written letter from the Travel Director.

- First Violation: Upon notification by the Board, the player/coach shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a season in which the player/coach is participating, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted.
- Second Violation: The player/coach shall lose eligibility in travel baseball for that season. No exception is permitted.

Tobacco Policy

PWYBA Travel Baseball prohibits the use of tobacco for all players participating in travel baseball to use tobacco.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the player will be informed of his/her ineligibility. Ineligibilities will be the same as for the drug and alcohol policy. PWYBA Travel Baseball prohibits coaches from the use of tobacco in any form during a youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game). Reminder, no tobacco is allowed on any District 284 property.

Equipment Abuse

Under no circumstances will the abuse of equipment be tolerated. Coaches are instructed that each instance of equipment abuse will result in that player sitting on the bench for the remainder of the game.

If the abuse of the equipment results in any damage to the equipment, the player and/or his parents will be held responsible for the cost of replacing the equipment. Players may be suspended from participation in future PWYBA programs until reimbursement is made.

Coaches' Responsibilities and Rights

The coach is a teacher of baseball skills, a manager of the functions necessary to run a team, and is responsible for the development of all players in his/her care. He/she is accountable to the players, the parents, and the PWYBA Board of Directors.

Coaches' Responsibilities include:

- Obey and enforce all PWYBA rules.
- Treat all players in an equitable and fair manner.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, self-control, and proper behavior.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of team players, assistant coaches, parents, and spectators.
- Attend the Coaches' Meeting
- Attend all appropriate Metro Baseball League meetings.
- Assure that all players receive playing time that is as mandated by the PWYBA Board.
- Teach the players to have fun and enjoy competition.
- Help the players to develop a healthy, competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Assess individual player's strengths and weaknesses and create a developmental plan to help each player improve in the areas of concern.
- Encourage and compliment players; use only constructive criticism.
- Attend a minimum of 90% of their team's practices and games.
- Care for the equipment that is issued to them. If any equipment is lost or damaged, coaches should report the problem to the Travel Director
- Attend any coaches' clinics arranged by the PWYBA Board.
- Conduct a pre-season parents' meeting. At this meeting, the coach should set the tone and expectations for the season, distribute team schedule, roster, team rules, and collect any additional fees that are due.
- Arrange for team photographs.
- Schedule field time for practices and any make-up (home) games with the other coaches.
- Report any problems with fields to the appropriate Age Group Coordinator.
- Recruit parent volunteers, team manager, communication coordinator, and social director as necessary.
- Adhere to the PWYBA drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies.

Coaches' Rights include:

- To be treated with respect by players, parents, volunteers, umpires, league, MSF and MBL officials, and the PWYBA Baseball Board.
- To be made fully aware of the rules and policies under which they must function.
- To have access to necessary safety equipment and practice fields.
- To expect full cooperation from parents when they are asked to assist.

Parents' Responsibilities and Rights

Your child's participation in the travel baseball program will require a significant contribution of your time and effort. Parents can contribute many things to support their child, team, and the program.

Parents' Responsibilities include:

- Let your child know you love him/her, win or lose, whether he/she plays well or not.
- Compliment and encourage. Let the coaches handle coaching and criticism.
- Play catch with your child.
- Coordinate your efforts to help your child's development with the recommendations of the coaches.
- Support your coaches. Remember that they are responsible for many children in addition to yours.
- Don't compare your child to other players. Be honest with yourself and your child about his/her abilities
- Regard each player on the team as your own.
- Keep negative comments to yourself. Express concerns only to the coach and in a straightforward, fair, and objective manner.
- Teach your child to have fun and enjoy competition. Don't tell him/her that winning does not count because it does, and he/she knows it. Instead, help him/her to develop a healthy competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Follow the "Parents' Code of Conduct" supported and distributed by the PWYBA.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior. Don't criticize officials, coaches, or other parents or players.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of your child and your guests.
- Get your child to, and pick them up from, practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach in advance whenever your child will miss or be late f practice or a game.
- Provide a copy of your child's birth certificate to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.
- Volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible.

Parents' Rights include:

- Have your child treated fairly and with respect.
- Have your child practice and play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Have your child coached by effective and qualified adult leadership.
- Have your child engage in practice and playing activities that increase his/her skills and enjoyment of the sport.
- To be fully informed by the coaches with respect to schedules, team philosophies, team rules, and your child's strengths and weaknesses

PWYBA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

As a parent/guardian of a child involved in a Plymouth Wayzata Baseball Association (PWYBA) program, I/we agree to abide by and follow the rules and guidelines listed below:

- I/we will respect the property and equipment used at any sports facility, both home and away.
- I/we will encourage good sportsmanship through my/our actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game or practice.
- I/we will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I/we will provide support for coaches and officials working with the athletes to provide a positive experience for all.

- I/we will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free environment for my child, and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all PWYBA events, home or away.
 - I/we will remember the game is for the athletes and not for the parents.
 - I/we will demand that my/our child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
 - I/we will treat all players, coaches, and officials with dignity and respect in language, attitude, behavior, and mannerisms.
 - I/we will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
 - I/we will inform the coach, within a reasonable period of time, of any anticipated absence from a game or practice my child might incur due to sickness, injury, vacation, or any other reason.
 - I/we also agree that if I/we fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I/we may be subject to disciplinary action. This action could include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Verbal Warning
 - Written Warning
 - Parental Game Suspension
 - Parental Season Suspension
 - Parental Banishment
- These actions may not be necessarily taken in an escalated manner, and PWYBA reserves the right to select and apply any penalty depending upon the situation.
- I/we agree to support and promote the philosophy of PWYBA sports
 - Teamwork
 - Effort
 - Skill Development
 - Character
 - Sportsmanship
 - Safe Environment
 - Humble in Victory
 - Gracious and Complimentary in Defeat

Players' Responsibilities and Rights

Players on a travel team should take pride in themselves, their team, and in their community. They must follow the directions of the coaches, and must be willing to accept constructive criticism.

Players' Responsibilities include:

- Have pride and confidence in yourself, your teammates, and your coaches.
- Be attentive and work hard in practice and games. Make your best efforts to perform the tasks as directed by the coaches.
- Be a competitor, perform up to your full ability, and contribute to team unity. Compliment teammates and let the coaches handle criticism.
- Show respect toward your coaches, teammates, and parents.
- Show respect toward opposing players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Keep your (personal and team) equipment clean and in good repair.
- Maintain a responsible attitude toward your health. Be aware of, and adhere to, the PWYBA policies on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.

- Remember that baseball is a game and keep it in perspective with family, school, and/or church activities and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior.
- Remind your parents that you need to be at practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach whenever you will miss or be late for a practice or a game.

Players' Rights include:

- To participate at a level that matches your maturity and ability.
- To play as a child, not as an adult.
- To participate in a safe, healthy environment.
- To be treated fairly, with dignity, and with respect.
- To have fun in sports.
- To have an equal opportunity to develop your abilities and strive for success.
- To have good coaching; to be taught the fundamentals and strong character development.

Problem Resolution Guidelines

When a player or parent has a question regarding the general policies or procedures of travel baseball, they should address their questions to the coach of their team. Choose a time and place that is convenient for both parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and address your questions in an appropriate manner (keep the conversation polite, private, and out of the earshot of other players or parents). If a question is not answered satisfactorily and a player/parent feels the need to pursue the matter further, they may contact the Travel Director, but should do so only after exhausting all efforts with the coach and his/her assistants.

When a player or parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or an individual player, they should:

- **Adhere to the “24 Hour Rule”** which requires a player/parent to wait at least **24 hours** before approaching a coach on the matter.
- Choose a time and place that is convenient for all parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and approach the situation in an appropriate manner (keep the emotions under control, keep the discussions polite and to the point, and keep the discussions private and out of the earshot of other players or parents).

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within 48 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. At this time, the Travel Director will act as a mediator between the player/parent and the coach. All parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution.

If the problem cannot be resolved at that level within 48 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the PWYBA Board of Director.

If the problem involves the actual or perceived abuse of a player, whether verbal or physical, it should be brought to the Travel Directors attention immediately.

The PWYBA Travel Handbook is subject to interpretation and change at the discretion of the PWYBA Travel Director and/or the PWYBA Board of Directors.