

East Bay Youth Athletics – Travel Ball Guidelines

2017-2018

These guidelines shall govern the East Bay Youth Athletics' (the "League") Travel Baseball and Softball programs and shall remain in full force and effect until such time as they are modified or amended by the Board of Directors (the "BOD") of the League, and shall not be modified or amended except upon approval of a majority of the members of the BOD.

The League's Travel Baseball and Softball Program will be governed and managed by the League's Board, under rules and policies established by the BOD. The League's Travel Baseball and Softball Program shall be operated by volunteers, and no one associated with the travel program – including BOD members, Managers and Assistant Coaches – shall be paid.

The League's Travel Baseball and Softball Program exists as an extension of and to complement the League's recreational programs. As such, the League must schedule travel activities to co-exist with the League's recreational baseball and softball program, which is its priority. The purpose of the League's Travel Ball Program is to provide the community's youth the opportunity to compete on a statewide and national level and to provide talented young athletes the opportunity to develop their athletic skills and sportsmanship-like attitude in a more competitive atmosphere.

The following guidelines shall govern the League's Travel Ball Program:

FOR ALL AGE DIVISIONS: Rules and regulations instituted by the League, as stated herein, and the rules and regulations of any other organizations or leagues under which the League's Travel Ball Program may be sanctioned (e.g. AAU, NSA, GSA, USSSA, etc.).

- I. **GENERAL POLICY:** An objective of the League is to develop good citizens as well as good athletes. Although the Travel Program is a more competitive program, with an increased emphasis on winning, the emphasis shall not be "win at all cost." Managers, coaches, players and parents that demonstrate "win at all cost" behavior are not wanted in the League, even in the Travel Ball Program.

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The Code of Conduct for players, coaches and parents for our Recreational Program shall also apply to the Travel Ball Program. Travel managers and coaches shall report to the League's BOD any violation of the Code of Conduct or other guidelines as outlined in the League's Constitution and Local Rules. The violation of these rules, procedures and/or guidelines may result in ejection, suspension or other such penalty as the BOD in its sole discretion may prescribe.

The League's BOD shall develop and maintain guidelines regarding the operation and administration of the Travel Ball Program. These policies, and any subsequent revisions, shall be governed by the Constitution and shall be submitted to the League's BOD for Approval.

- II. **NON-BURDENING OF LEAGUE'S RECREATIONAL PROGRAM:** Every player, coach, manager and team registered and sponsored by the League's Travel Ball Program shall give priority to the League's recreational program during the Spring Season. While every effort will be made by the BOD to coordinate the League's recreational and travel ball programs, there will undoubtedly be instances where it is difficult, if not impossible, to do so. In such instances, priority will be given to the recreational program, but all reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the travel ball program as well.
- III. **SELECTION OF MANAGERS/TEAM FORMATION:**
- a. All Existing Sponsored Travel Ball Managers will have a term of one-year. The term will begin August 1 of the Calendar year and end July 31 the following year. During this term, the Manager will facilitate selecting and managing the team during the Fall and Spring Travel Ball seasons. Travel Ball Managers are required to submit their request to extend the term an additional year by June 1 each year. This request shall be made in writing to the BOD. An existing manager's request shall be responded to in writing by the BOD within

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30 days. The manager, as determined by the BOD, may have to attend a special BOD meeting to be re-interviewed.

- b. New team requests shall be submitted in writing by the prospective team manager to the BOD by no later than July 1. A special BOD meeting will be held and the prospective manager will be interviewed by the BOD for this position.
- c. There shall be no presumption that any particular person will be selected and any member of the League is encouraged to apply. The manager sponsored by the BOD must submit their list of coaches to the BOD for approval as well. All managers and coaches must be certified by the NYSCA, and have a full and current NAYS card (including concussion training). It is recommended that all coaches be trained in CPR, but a minimum of one member of the coaching staff must be CPR certified. All members of the coaching staff and any others who may have direct contact with the players will be subject to background screening.
- d. If the manager of the sponsored travel ball team no longer wishes to be the manager, a formal resignation must be submitted in writing to the BOD. Any person wishing to take over the team (including any of the current coaches) must submit a written request to the BOD for consideration to be the new manager.
- e. Any person who has not managed a Travel Ball team before must first manage a Spring Recreation ball team and apply/manage a Spring Advanced Baseball or Softball team prior to being selected to manage a Travel Ball team.
- f. Any existing Travel Ball team not previously associated with the League's travel ball program must play one full season of Spring recreation ball prior to applying for a travel ball team. 70% of the potential travel ball players must have played during the Spring

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Recreation season prior to the application for a travel ball team to be considered by the board.

- g. The league understands that the commitment to manage a travel ball team is a huge undertaking and will require huge sacrifices in time, effort, etc. Therefore, the league will not permit a manager or coach to be allowed to participate on more than one travel ball team's coaching staff at any given time.

IV. **MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES:** The responsibility of a Travel Team Manager shall include:

- a. Ensuring players and coaches reflect the ideals of the League at all times. This includes maintaining a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship on and off the field.
- b. Maintaining adequate supervision and control of all League Travel Team players while in uniform before, during and after the game while at the field.
- c. Immediately advising the League BOD of any issues arising with respect to his or her travel team that may impact the League's Travel Ball Guidelines.
- d. Ensuring all coaches and volunteers/parents that have any contact with the players in the dugout or on the field, have completed background checks.
- e. Will abide by park pitch count guidelines (Ref. Section XII).
- f. Will abide by all financial responsibilities of the League (Ref. Section XIII).

V. **SPONSORED TRAVEL BALL TEAMS:** EBYA sponsored travel teams will be selected and administered by the League and will receive benefits with this sponsorship; including:

- a. Team Insurance through the League (As long as 100% of the players on the team play Spring recreation ball at EBYA).

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- b. At a minimum one weeknight per week batting cage use (to be coordinated with the league, and based on recreational season player registration numbers, number of recreational teams and field availability).
- c. At a minimum field practice availability on Sundays (As coordinated with the League. Recreation make-up games will take priority in the event of rain-out). There will be instances where the park will be hosting tournaments which will take priority over Sunday practices.
- d. Fundraising opportunities at the park for individual teams, with BOD approval.
- e. Opportunity to keep travel ball team through the recreational ball season as an Advanced Baseball team.

Prior to the start of the travel season, each new team will conduct tryouts for the creation of the Sponsored travel ball team. Tryouts shall be open to all eligible players and will be advertised beforehand utilizing the media available to the League. Existing sponsored teams are not required to hold tryouts if their team roster is complete, at the discretion of the manager.

VI. FEE SCHEDULE:

- a. Spring travel ball registration fee is \$150 per rostered player. This amount is due November 1 of the previous calendar year to reserve the team's slot in the practice schedule for the Spring season.
- b. Fall travel ball registration fee is \$150 per rostered player. This amount is due August 1 of the current calendar year, beginning August 2018.
- c. If the fees are not current as of the dates noted above, the sponsored travel ball's field access will be suspended until full payment is received.

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VII. TRAVEL BALL / RECREATION BALL PARTICIPATION:

- a. It is highly encouraged that 100% of the sponsored travel team players participate in the Spring recreational ball season. It is, however, not a requirement. Each travel ball player, at their own discretion, may opt out of the Spring recreational ball season and remain a rostered player on the Sponsored Travel Ball team.
- b. If a rostered travel ball player participates in the Spring Recreation ball season, their registration fee for that season will be \$50 for costs associated with uniforms, insurance and league charter fees.
- c. If, at a minimum, 70% of the rostered players on the sponsored travel ball team sign-up for and participate in the Spring Recreational season, the \$150 Fall travel ball registration fee (see Item VI.b. above) will be waived for the team.
- d. If 70% of the rostered players do not participate in the Spring recreational season, the full \$150 per rostered player will be due August 1.

Example: There are 12 players on the sponsored travel ball team. If only seven (7) players participate in the Spring rec ball season, all 12 players on the travel ball team will be required to pay the \$150 Fall Travel Ball registration fee on August 1.

- e. Only those players who participate in the Spring recreational season, are on a rostered recreation ball team, and live within the league's boundaries, will be eligible for the All-Star teams.
- f. For those players, managers and coaches who participate in the Spring Recreational ball season (including All Stars), the activities of that season will take priority over any Travel participation event. Activities include practices, games and other team activities.
- g. There is no requirement that a travel ball team or its players participates in the Fall Recreational season.

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- VIII. **PLAYING-UP IN AGE:** Players may be permitted to play-up in age, if in the sole discretion of the BOD. The Team Managers will make this request of the BOD directly. Players who play-up will be determined based on their size, skill, or experience of the player and is not prohibited by any organizations under which the League's travel program may be sanctioned.
- IX. **LATE REGISTRANTS/PLAYER REMOVAL:** Late registrants can be evaluated by the Travel Managers. Managers may pick-up additional players after the team has been selected, but may not cut players already on the roster without justified reason, as determined and approved by the BOD at the Manager's request. No player shall be cut by the team to make room for a more talented player. Players leaving/quitting a team will not be reimbursed for any fees after the team selections are finalized.
- X. **TEAM ROSTERS:** The maximum roster size for any Travel Team shall be 15 players. Exceptions to this maximum will be considered by the BOD upon Manager request in writing. The roster form must contain the player's name, uniform number, date of birth, address, phone number, email address and current school.
- a. The BOD must be notified in writing within 24 hours of any roster changes.
- XI. **NO "MUST PLAY" RULE:** In the absence of any rules to the contrary as specified by an inter-league, tournament or other rules that may be applicable, there is no must play rule in effect for any division of the League's Travel Ball program. It is encouraged that travel teams play everyone both offensively and defensively, however, this should not be construed as a requirement that all players must receive equal playing time or that everyone on the team must play in every game.

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- XII. **PITCHING RESTRICTIONS:** One of the primary considerations in coordinating the League's recreational program with its travel ball program is protecting the health, safety and welfare of all the participants in its programs. It is up to the TEAM MANAGER to protect and ensure the safety of their pitchers. The manager shall use their best judgement and follow any pitching restrictions that are placed upon the division and league the team is playing within. Keep in mind that 12U – 18U division players may also play middle or high school ball and this should be taken into consideration when pitching a particular player. Managers are responsible to enter their pitcher's pitch counts into the EBYA website following any scrimmage, tournament, etc. Managers are responsible to follow the league's requirement regarding pitch count (MLB Pitch Smart Guidelines).
- XIII. **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF TRAVEL TEAMS:** All financial accounting for Sponsored Travel teams shall be the responsibility of the team's Manager in conjunction with the League's Treasurer.
- a. The BOD must specifically approve all fundraising to ensure there is no detrimental impact of the fundraising activities connected with the League's recreational program, including post-season All-Stars. The BOD shall approve additional fundraising or expenditures on a case-by-case basis after reviewing the potential impact of the League's tax-exempt status.
 - b. To preserve the League's tax-exempt status, all financial donations must be made payable to East Bay Youth Athletics. Any such donation, grant or other payment must be immediately turned into the League's Treasurer. All such monetary receivable will be subject to all applicable IRS guidelines. Any money received by the League for a particular team's benefit will be dispensed to that team directly.

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- c. Each travel ball team is required to maintain all of their finances using a sub-account of the League's main bank account. **THIS IS NON-NEGOTIABLE AND A REQUIREMENT OF THE LEAGUE'S 501c3.** Failure to comply with this requirement will result in immediate Manager suspension and potentially further action as determined by the BOD.
- d. Travel Ball team managers must keep an accounting spreadsheet showing all team financials that is up-to-date. This must be turned into the TB Director/Treasurer/President quarterly. Spreadsheet must also be available upon request of the BOD at any time.
- e. As a rule, all monies within the team's sub-account may be used to pay actual reasonable and customary expenses associated with the players' and coaches' travel and gear. This includes the following:
 - i. Player and coach uniforms.
 - ii. Player and coach hats.
 - iii. Tournament registration fees.
 - iv. All additional tournament fees assessed to players or coaches (gate admission, purchase of playing balls, etc.)
 - v. Hotel rooms for players and coaches.
 - vi. Player gear (e.g. team ball bags, team helmets, etc.)
 - vii. Miscellaneous expenses such as ice, water, Gatorade or other reasonable miscellaneous expenses for the players.

Reasonable and customary items DO NOT include:

- viii. Entertainment and amusement expenses.
- ix. Parent's meals.
- x. Parent's travel.
- xi. Alcoholic beverages of any kind.

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It shall be the responsibility of the Manager for each Sponsored Travel Team to collect and keep track of all registrations fees, sponsorship fees, hotel money, and other money turned in for the benefit of each travel team.

- XIV. **UNIFORMS:** All sponsored travel teams shall provide their own matching uniforms to rostered players and coaches. Each team can design their own uniforms; however, the League and Warriors' logo cannot be modified in any way. All uniforms are required to have numbers and no two players may have the same number.

Understand that the league and Warriors logo cannot be transferred to a travel ball team or organization not sanctioned by the League.

- XV. **DISCIPLINE OF MANAGERS, COACHES AND PARENTS:** The BOD will consider any complaints regarding board members, managers, coaches, parents, players, fans or spectators brought to its attention in writing by the complaining party. The BOD will follow the disciplinary guidelines setup with the League's Constitution and Local Rules and all such guidelines apply to every travel ball team.

