

## **Travel Programs – Governing Rules and Policies**

**Mission:** The travel program is designed to provide kids that have the desire and ability the option to play baseball more often and at a more competitive level. The travel program is designed to let kids have more fun playing more baseball, while also providing situations and opportunities to teach the importance of sportsmanship and provide a nurturing environment that allows players the ability to mature physically, mentally and emotionally.

### **1.0: Travel programs shall participate in an established travel league (BCML, Harford County, etc)**

1.0.1: In-house rec program activities (practices and games) take priority over travel activities by players and coaches. Travel team games and practices cannot take place at the same time as in-house games. If there is a conflict, the player must participate in the in-house activity. It is the travel and in house team coaches' responsibility to ensure this rule is enforced. Violation could lead to suspension of the player and/or the coach.

1.0.2: Coaches will provide the Travel Coordinator with the selection of the league in which they plan to participate prior to registration and, upon the Travel Coordinator's confirmation that games and practices will not interfere with the in house program, the coaches will be responsible for team registration with their selected league after receiving approval from the Travel Coordinator.

### **2.0: Team Selection**

2.0.1: All players that wish to play travel baseball *must* attend at least one of the scheduled travel tryouts. Players must tryout for the age group or groups for which he or she wants to be considered. For example, if a 12-year old wishes to tryout out for 13/14 and does not make a team, he or she can only be considered for 11/12 if he or she also attended at least one 11/12 tryout as well. These rules are intended to ensure that all coaches have an opportunity to evaluate and see all potential players.

2.0.2: Tryouts for the Spring season will occur in late January/early February and tryouts for the Fall season will occur in May and June. Tryout timing is set to try and avoid summer tryouts when more families may be out of town and players may not be able to make the tryouts.

2.0.3: All coaches that have already been identified and/or are likely to coach that upcoming season should be present at all of the tryouts. If an identified coach cannot be present, then he or she shall designate another to be his or her proxy. Coaches may invite other individuals to assist with the evaluation of players.

2.0.4: Teams will be selected by the coaches. Prior to the final tryout, the Travel Coordinator and expected Head Coaches for the upcoming season shall meet and determine how many teams they expect to be able to field and the order in which rosters will be set. Typically, "A" teams shall be set first, with the remaining pool of players being considered for "B" teams. However, in the case of some teams playing under different age groupings, discussion ahead of time will be needed to set the order by which teams are set. Final approval of this process will rest with the Travel Coordinator.

2.0.5: Rosters will be determined and set no later than 3 full days after the last tryout. This time includes the time needed to call and confirm that a player will accept an invitation to play on the team. Rosters will be posted to the RPBL website no later than the fourth full day following the final tryout. So, if the final tryout is on a Saturday at 3pm, rosters must be agreed upon and set by no later than Tuesday at midnight and posted on the RPBL website on Wednesday. This is to ensure that participants know when to check the website and unreasonable delays in posting rosters are avoided.

2.0.5.a: Final rosters will be communicated to and officially approved by the Travel Coordinator and RPBL Commissioner prior to any coaches communicating to any player tryout results and final selections.

2.0.6: If there is more than one Roland Park team in the same age/division, teams shall be roughly balanced. All coaches playing in the same age or division must agree to an equitable division of players among their teams. In the case of coaches not being able to agree, the Travel Coordinator will be empowered to resolve disputes as to the placement of any player(s).

### **3.0: In Season Play**

3.0.1: All Roland Park travel teams will adhere to the stated rules of the league that they participate in, with the following exceptions:

3.0.1.a: All Roland Park travel players 10 and under will be required to wear a helmet with a facemask. This is in accordance with Baltimore City rules and regulations.

3.0.1.b: Roland Park travel coaches will adhere to pitch count limits for their pitchers. This is to ensure safety for the pitchers and not result in overuse and injury. Pitch count limits will be determined by the USA Baseball guidelines (guidelines will be provided to the coaches).

3.0.1.c: Even if a travel league does not require it, all Roland Park travel players age 14 or under, that are not also playing for their school's baseball team, will be required to also play in the RPBL in house rec program as well

3.0.2: In house program will always take priority over travel practices and games. In the event of a conflict, the travel and in house coaches have the responsibility to ensure that the player participates in the in house game.

3.0.3: All Roland Park travel teams must remain in good standing with their respective leagues, which includes playing the required number of games to qualify for and then also participate in that league's playoff tournament. This is to ensure that the Roland Park league is well represented in the various travel leagues.

3.0.4: Teams can participate in outside tournaments at the coaches' discretion with the following guidelines:

3.0.4.a: All fees for the tournaments must be paid for by the travel team's players. Coaches should provide the parents of players trying out for their teams with an idea of how many

tournaments their team plans to enter and the approximate costs associated before the tryout.

3.0.4.b: Tournaments cannot interfere with the in-house program. If a player has an in-house game that conflicts with a tournament game, he or she shall play in the in-house game and either not participate in the tournament or only participate in the tournament game(s) that do not conflict with the in-house game(s).

3.0.5.c: Travel coaches shall provide the Travel Coordinator with a request to play in a tournament prior to registering. The request shall include the location and dates of the tournament and approximate registration costs and how those will be assessed per travel player. The Travel Coordinator shall review and give final approval on all tournament requests. If requested by the Board, the travel coordinator shall provide a report of the tournaments at which travel teams will participate.

3.0.6.d: RPBL will participate in 2018 in the American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament ("Tournament") in Cooperstown, NY. Guideline for the selection, financing and participation in this event are as follows:

1. Roland Park Baseball League ("RPBL") will sponsor one team ("2018 Cooperstown Team") for entry in the 2018 American Youth Baseball Hall of Fame Invitational Tournament ("Tournament") in Cooperstown, NY during the week of August 18, 2018. League sponsorship beyond 2018 shall be discussed and determined after the 2018 tournament takes place;
2. RPBL will not provide financial support to the 2018 Cooperstown Team from general operating revenue of the league, including rec. registration fees, but may cover incidental minimal costs including additional insurance premiums which may be required by the tournament sponsors. RPBL may also provide Get-in-the-Game ("GITG") funds for players selected to play on the 2018 Cooperstown Team who demonstrate financial need. It is recommended that the Board utilize GITG funds to ensure equal access to the Tournament to all RPBL players selected to play in Cooperstown regardless of financial ability;
3. RPBL will allow the 2018 Cooperstown Team to conduct fundraising at RPBL events, which may include the league opening ceremonies, rec all-star and play-off games, closing ceremonies, and travel games hosted by RPBL. Fundraising efforts are subject to approval of the RPBL board;
4. The coach of the 2018 Cooperstown Team shall submit a fundraising plan to the RPBL Board at its January 2018 meeting for discussion. The fundraising plan may include proposed use of GITG funds;
5. Players selected for the 2018 Cooperstown Team shall include only those that have played on an RPBL team in either the Spring or Fall of 2017 and who register to play with RPBL in the Spring of 2018;

6. Players for the 2018 Cooperstown Team shall be selected in connection with RPBL 11/12 year-old travel try-outs to be held in January and February of 2018. At a minimum, eight (8) players selected for the Cooperstown Team shall be available to pitch in the Tournament.
7. Players selected for the 2018 Cooperstown Team shall secure their place on the roster with a \$500.00 deposit due no later than March 1, 2018. A payment for the remaining fees owed shall be due on or before July 1, 2018 in an amount to be determined after factoring in tournament costs and fundraising proceeds. Selected players may be dropped from the team roster if full payment is not made by July 1, 2018.
8. 2018 Cooperstown Team try-outs shall be open to all players registered in the RPBL rec. league for the 11/12 age group (provided that player satisfies the requirements of Rule #5, above). Player selections shall be made by the Head Coach of the team and shall be reviewed and approved by the RPBL Travel Coordinator and the RPBL Commissioner. Alternates may be selected in the event that a selected player drops out before the Tournament takes place.
9. Selected players and their families shall be expected to participate in fundraising events related to the Cooperstown trip, and players shall provide voluntary service to RPBL which may include mentoring and coaching younger players, umpiring games in the tee ball or coach-pitch leagues, maintaining fields, and assisting at RPBL events such as the opening and closing ceremonies.
10. A meeting shall be scheduled for late November, 2017 which will provide notice to RPBL families of the Cooperstown opportunity and information about it. Notice of the meeting shall be given to all players eligible for RPBL Rec. American League play in 2018 through no less than two e-mail blasts from the league commissioner and the conspicuous posting of a notice of the meeting on the RPBL website;
11. At least two coaches will chaperone the 2018 Cooperstown Team at all times during the Tournament;
12. Coaches of the 2018 Cooperstown Team shall adhere to pitch count recommendations from USA baseball;
13. A transportation plan shall be developed by the 2018 Cooperstown Team Head Coach. The plan shall be conveyed to members of the 2018 Cooperstown team no later than two weeks before the start of tournament play;
14. RPBL should research the potential liability of parents and coaches who agree to transport team members to the tournament, and parents shall be advised of their potential liability. RPBL shall require executed waiver forms for all parents of team members which forms will release RPBL from any liability in connection with transportation of team members to and from Cooperstown for the Tournament.

#### **4.0: Coaches**

4.0.1: The Travel Coordinator, in consultation with the Commissioner, will review previous season evaluations and other feedback available to select and approve the Head Coaches.

4.0.1.b: Assistant coaches will be picked by the Head Coaches and will be submitted to the Travel Coordinator for approval.

4.0.2: Any head coach that is sanctioned or asked to leave a coaching position (in house or travel) for any reason, may not coach again before the Travel Coordinator deems he or she will be a good representative for Roland Park Baseball and after review of his or her application for reinstatement with the Board.