

# **East Valley Baseball Travel Team Rules**

(Revised Spring 2023)

## **Mission Statement**

To provide East Valley players with the opportunity to play baseball at a higher level of competition in pay-for-play & invitational tournaments as well as in leagues sponsored by such governing bodies as AAU, AABC, CABA, USSSA, Babe Ruth & PONY. The goal is to help build up the quality of EVB play by exposing the more skilled players to a higher brand of baseball that they can then bring to the masses of the League.

### **1. East Valley Baseball will consist of the following Programs:**

- a. East Valley Baseball (EVB) - incorporates the Spirit, Shetland, Pinto, Mustang, Bronco, Pony, Colt & Girls Softball Divisions.
- b. East Valley Eagles Program (EVEP) - designed for the skilled athlete who, together with their parents, desires a more competitive environment. A Travel Commissioner (TC), accountable to the League, will oversee the EVEP. As such, all EVB rules & regulations governing managers, coaches, players, and parents, including, but not limited to the League's Code of Conduct, are applicable & will be enforced.

### **2. Eagles Teams**

- a. The goal is to create single age teams from players league age 4 to league age 16. The number of players carried will be set at a minimum of 12 & a maximum at the manager's discretion. However, the League encourages managers to carry more players to create a greater learning environment for as many players as possible. This can only strengthen both EVEP & EVB as a whole.
- b. If a single age team cannot be formed, the Eagles Manager, along with the (TC) and (BOD) Board of Directors will explore the possibility of forming an "and under" or "hybrid" team within a single division of the League. "And under/Hybrid" teams are teams that have players with different league ages, within the same division. Players on "and under/hybrid" teams may only play within their division from year to year. "And under/hybrid" are formed when a single age team cannot fill a roster with same age players. When the "and under/hybrid" team moves up to the next division, it can only retain the players that move up to that division.
- c. All EVEP teams MUST stand down during ALL Stars unless they are the current 12U team committed to CDP or have earned the right thru a National Affiliation (USSA, CABA, AABC etc.) & represent EVB in All Stars. If the team fails to comply, they will be disbanded for a minimum of one (1) season following All Stars and lose all EVB privileges.

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- d. An Eagles team that has completed in their 10U-12U age group a minimum of a Fall & Spring (Must have played 2 seasons) and committed to CDP and paid their CDP fee may stand down in their 12U year to focus on tournaments. The team must play a minimum of 2 (two) tournaments in a month.

### **3. Make Up of Team**

- a. All players on any Eagles team must be a registered EVB player & MAY NOT play on other “non-league sanctioned “travel teams or other youth league’s that may cause conflict to their commitment to the EVEP & EVB. This will hold true for Spring and Fall.
- b. All players MUST pay their EVB League fees prior to participating with an Eagles team. In the event meeting this goal presents a hardship, the manager must present their situation to the TC who along with the BOD will rule whether to grant the exception.

### **4. Age Cut Off**

- a. EVB & EVEP team age groups will be determined using the players age as of April 30<sup>th</sup> of the current Fall/Spring Season.

### **5. Newly Formed Teams**

- a. A new Eagles Team must abide by the age cut-off date for all players. Anyone interested in forming a new Eagles team, in any division, must contact the TC. The TC will meet with the BOD to obtain approval of the creation of the team and the proposed manager. The BOD must approve the manager before steps regarding that team can be taken. Once a manager is given approval to form a team, they will meet with the TC to schedule mandatory try outs.

### **6. Eagles Players**

- a. A player in the EVEP is a player within the EVB league & has all the same rights and privileges as any other dues paying EVB player. Please note being on an Eagles team is a PRIVILEGE NOT A RIGHT.
- b. EVEP managers shall not solicit players from the roster of any other EVEP team/s. The TC & BOD will approve all player movement between EVEP teams as well as all player assignments when more than one team in a particular age group exists.
- c. Charges of tampering will be resolved by the TC in conjunction with the BOD.
- d. In regards, to manager discipline, a warning(s) may be issued with potential expulsion for repeated offenses.
- e. Current EVEP players (or their parents) may request that the TC place them

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on a different EVEP team. The TC will work with the managers & the BOD to determine if such a move should be made and at what point in the season such a move should take place. Player/s movement must remain consistent with the current Division structure as created in the sections above.

- f. EVEP managers are encouraged to solicit players from EVB. Player assignment to an EVEP team will be done with the involvement of the TC, BOD & managers(s) with player movement remaining consistent as described in the paragraph above.
- g. A player from an EVB team that joins an EVEP team during an EVB season must also complete the season in progress with the EVB team. Should an EVEP player be interested in PONY All star participation, he/she will be required to play in EVB.
- h. All EVEP players MUST make themselves available for EVB all-star play, should they be selected, & pay the All Star fee on top of their EVEP & EVB fees prior to the start of All Stars. Failure to do so will result in immediate removal from the team.

## **7. Manager Selection**

- a. Candidates will make their intentions known in writing to the TC. The BOD, along with the TC, will judge the candidates on a number of qualities, which will include, but not limited to tenure, integrity, patience reliability, enthusiasm, loyalty, deportment, perspective & knowledge of the game & then make a decision. It is possible that no candidate will be acceptable to the TC & BOD & all candidates will be declined.
- b. In the event a hybrid team is formed, the TC & BOD will give preference when selecting a manager to one of the managers already in place on the respective age group teams to be combined.

## **8. Coach Selection**

- a. Managers nominate their coaches for approval by the TC. The TC will review the nominations utilizing the same qualities specified above in the Manager selection. Managers are encouraged to nominate as coaches, other manager candidates that the TC & BOD felt were strong candidates but were not awarded a team due to lack of players.
- b. It is also required that each team must have a business manager (liaison to the TC & EVB). They must not be a manager or a coach.

## **9. Scheduling Conflicts with EVB Play**

- a. EVB schedules take priority over EVEP schedules. This includes practice and games. Example – any team playing in a weekend tournament, or a Sunday league must make sure the EVB teams will not be affected. We don't want EVEP teams causing forfeits for EVB play.
- b. An EVEP manager, who also manages an EVB team, cannot use their

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EVB's practice time for EVEP games/practice.

- c. If a player misses 2 EVB practices and/or games (i.e., 1 practice & 1 game, or 2 practices, etc.) in a calendar month, because they have an EVEP commitment, they will be suspended from the Eagles team for the rest of the that season. During suspension if a player continues to practice or attend games, they will be permanently suspended from the Eagles team.

## **10. Travel Commissioner (TC)**

- a. This individual will oversee the operation of all EVEP teams, from supervising tryouts to maintaining a current file of contacts (AABC, USSSA, AAU, various local, national pay for play, invitational tournaments, etc.) to assist managers in planning an appropriate schedule for their team. The TC & BOD will participate in the manager selection process.

## **11. Board of Directors (BOD)**

- a. All special cases and exceptions are to be reviewed by the BOD.
- b. All Managers/Coaches are answerable to the BOD, who reserve the right to review any decision related to the EVEP.

## **12. Evaluations**

- a. All teams will hold published evaluations, both in the Spring & Fall Seasons. All EVB players will be eligible to be evaluated for EVEP teams within their age group and MUST be notified via email at least seven (7) days in advance. This will help with the growth and development of interested players.
- b. All players, including returning EVEP players, must try out to be considered for the roster spot on any EVEP team.

## **13. Registration and Fees**

- a. All EVEP players/teams must register with EVB before they begin practices, tournaments, or travel league play.
- b. Each season, the TC & BOD will determine the EVEP per player fee. This fee will cover team insurance & use of the facility for practices &/or games.
- c. All travel players must register in EVB's online system (a special code will be provided to the Manager and Business Manager of the team to be distributed to the families) by the deadline determined by the TC each season. All fees must be paid at the time of registration in order to be considered an EVEP player.
- d. All managers, coaches, business managers, etc. who will be helping with the team must also register on-line and meet all required EVB volunteer criteria to be considered on the team.
- e. Additionally, each EVEP team will be responsible for covering its own costs

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relative to tournament &/or travel league entry fees, travel expenses & any other acquired fees and expenses during their season.

- f. As per League by-laws, all funds (player fees, team fees, fundraising, donations etc.) raised in the name of East Valley Baseball MUST be deposited into the League treasury, are property of EVB and will not be refunded. Teams CANNOT have separate bank accounts VENMO, Pay Pal, Square, etc. that do not run through League treasury.
- g. The League treasurer will keep accounting for each team, collect funds & write checks, as needed.

## **14. Uniforms & Equipment**

- a. The League will provide hats, belts, socks, practice shirt & jerseys to all EVEP teams at the team/player expense. Teams must wear the league issued uniform when competing as the Eagles. Eagle's colors shall be Brown and White with gold or black accents/trim. New hats may be issued before each season, Spring/Fall at the team's expense. Uniforms, names & likeness are the property of East Valley Baseball. Any baseball related items must be purchased through the League at the team's expense.
- b. For safety reasons, the TC & BOD must approve any request to have names on the back of jerseys.

## **15. Code of Conduct**

- a. All EVB rules regarding Code of Conduct apply at EVB or any other facility where the team is representing EVB.
- b. Conduct detrimental to the league will result in suspension for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense and expulsion for 2<sup>nd</sup> offense from the travel program. This applies to Manager, coaches, players, up to and including spectators.

## **Preparing for Cooperstown Dreams Park (Starting with Age 12 Fall Season)**

### **1. Cooperstown Dreams Park (CDP)**

- a. The Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament is available to all League age 12-year-olds of that year., whether they are an EVEP player or not. The tournament takes place in July/August time frame in Cooperstown, New York (the home of the National Baseball Hall of Fame). This prestigious tournament is an amazing experience that East Valley is able to uniquely offer to its players/families.

### **2. CDP Eligibility**

- a. To be eligible for CDP. A player must have participated in EVB for no fewer than 2 years; must be league age 12; must pay league fees; must

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participate in all EVEP & EVB events & fundraisers; must pay their travel fees; must make payments for the CDP in a timely fashion as outlined by the league; may be removed from EVEP or EVB for any reason that the league deems detrimental to the team or league, without refund.

- b. EVEP teams will take precedence over teams consisting of non-EVEP players.
- c. Any EVEP players who have committed to Cooperstown will become ineligible for CDP, in the event that, they break their contract or leave their EVEP team following their 11 U season.

## **3. CDP Costs**

- a. The per player cost for attending the CDP tournament is significant and may require teams to hold TC & BOD approved fundraisers. All fundraising activities MUST have written approval from the TC.
- b. The TC & BOD requires a non-refundable deposit from all CDP players no later than August 1<sup>st</sup> of their 11U season of the year prior to the CDP tournament (August of the league age 11 season) The amount of the deposit will equal half (1/2) of the individual registration fee for CDP. The balance of the of the CDP registration fee will be due no later than June 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year. (Spring Season following 11 U fall season).
- c. The TC will provide a list of due dates for payment of tournament fees, travel costs, etc. Any team fundraising dollars will be used to offset the team costs and per player amounts needed.
- d. EVEP players are encouraged to make additional non-refundable deposits to their individual CDP accounts.

## **4. CDP Contract/Commitments – Players**

- a. By August 1 of an EVEP team's age 11 season, all players must declare their intention to attend the CDP tournament following their Age 12 season. This declaration will consist of an official EVEP Cooperstown Statement of Intent- a contract delineating player/parent responsibilities and expectations.
- b. Any player breaking his/her commitment to their EVEP team following this Statement of Intent will be ineligible to attend CDP with any other East Valley sponsored team.

## **5. CDP Contract/Commitments- Manager, Coaches & Business Manager**

- a. By August 1 of an EVEP team's Age 11 season, the EVEP team manager must declare their official staff. The staff MUST include at least two (2) Coaches and one (1) Business Manager.
- b. The Business Manager will work closely with the TC, to track all fundraising activities and cost/deposit due dates.