



TRUSSVILLE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION
TRAVEL BASEBALL PROGRAM

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Mission

The Mission of the TBA travel baseball program is to provide Trussville's youth ballplayers more intensive skill development and a higher level of competition on an additive basis to our recreational league program. TBA's travel program is an extension of the TBA recreational youth baseball program, which is designed to promote the development of strong character, a right attitude, a sense of responsibility and citizenship in youngsters using the game of baseball. It is the intent of the TBA travel program to achieve this goal through fair play, good sportsmanship, higher emphasis on development and a level of competitive baseball that meets the needs of a select group of children and their families.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of the TBA travel program is to develop skills, confidence, sportsmanship, teamwork and to have fun at a higher level. We want to provide a unique opportunity for children to experience competitive baseball at another level beyond the recreational league. Developing players in terms of baseball knowledge, skill, character, love of the game and sportsmanship are our top priorities. TBA's travel coaches will not limit the knowledge that they will teach to these players. Only the players and parents can limit the development progress by attendance, attitude and effort.

These goals and objectives will be achieved through, but not limited to the following:

- Quality developmental plans and instructions
- Management of opportunities for all players
- Encouragement and patience in stressful situations

Philosophy

Every player should have an equal opportunity to participate and develop. This does not necessarily equate to equal playing time. Coaches must use judgement in balancing the needs of individuals and the needs of the team. Winning is important, but only in the context of individual and team development. With that being said, decisions will be based Program > Team > Individual...in that order.

Teams Offered

TBA's travel program offers at least one team per age group for 8U and up levels. These teams will be based off of age and not grade level. A child may play up/tryout for an older team or age group, but cannot tryout for more than two age groups. Example: A 7u player may tryout for an 8u travel team, but cannot tryout for the 9u travel team.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be open for each of these age level for ALL residents of Trussville or non-residents that played in the previous season with TBA's recreational/travel baseball programs. There will be a one year grandfather clause that it will allow for open tryouts for the 2017-2018 season. If you are unable to participate in the mandatory tryout, you must communicate this to the Travel Commissioner prior to the tryout date. By participating in tryouts, you and your child accept the rules and policies governing the travel program and subscribe to TBA's goals.

Coach Selection Process

The Coach will be selected before tryouts begin to ensure parents and players are aware of who they are signing up to play for. The Coach for each team will be selected by the Travel Committee. The Travel Committee will consist of TBA's President, Vice President, and another active board member with at least two years of previous service. Criteria for selecting a Coach will include the following:

- Coaches for all travel teams are required to fill out a TBA Coaches Application and turn it into the TBA Travel Committee. The application form will be required for new managers/coaches, and may be waived under certain exception conditions by the Travel Committee.
- Potential coaches will need to provide 3 references that we can contact in regard to your coaching background/experience. At least 1 must be from a Coach that you have never coached with.
- Coaching conduct. Have you ever been removed or ejected from a youth sports game or activity by the umpires or officials, or have you been suspended by any local or state governing youth sports organizations or athletic association? If so, please explain.
- Candidates may be requested to interview with the Travel Committee or members of the TBA Board. The Travel Committee and TBA Board reserve the right to contact and obtain input regarding the candidate within and outside the Trussville community, including parents, coaches and/or umpires.
- If candidates are members of the selection committee, they will be excused from the decision process.
- Selection is ultimately at the discretion of the Travel Committee and the TBA board.

The Head Coach will get one selection for his team. The TBA Committee will select all of the team except for the last player. (Example: If a Coach is taking 11 players, the Committee will pick 10 players based off of the evaluations that every player must attend and the Coach will have the last pick.)

Coaching Responsibilities

All coaches that are on the field for any practices or games must have and completed Coaching Certification classes that is offered by the City of Trussville. All coaches must pass a background check yearly at their expense if not covered by the city. The Head Coach and any assistant Coach that is overseeing or left in charge of games or practices will need to have a current CPR certification.

Team Schedule and Budget

Teams will play a spring and summer schedule consisting of 30+ games divided amongst single games, double headers, and tournament weekends. Off season workouts will occur in the fall and winter. Each team will have a budgeted amount of money to spend each year on games and tournaments.

The Head Coach will decide on how many and when the games and tournaments that will take place. There are several different travel organizations in the area that will have different calibers of teams and different financial obligations. The Head Coach and staff will decide what organizations leagues and division that the travel team will play under. This decision will be based off of the caliber of team that he feels he has and financial cost. While winning is important, TBA's travel program is about pushing the

development, limits, and abilities of the players. A Head Coach will not continually look for weaker competition just to win trophies, rings, or awards. TBA expects all of its coaches to look for tougher competition to help in the development of the players and program. The Head Coach and team's secretary will create a team budget on estimated expenses and come up with a payment schedule for parents. Parents will be provided an estimated team schedule, team budget, payment schedule, and individual player account.

Head Coaches will open a team bank account that is separate from their personal accounts. No commingling of funds will be tolerated. At the conclusion of the season the Head Coach will close this account and turn over all financial information for the team's expenses to TBA's Travel Commissioner or Treasurer within 30 days.

Travel Expenses

All ballplayers given an invitation to play for TBA travel teams will be required to immediately pay a \$200 (current rate) Travel Player Fee to secure their reservation on that team. Non-paying ballplayers will not be permitted to participate on the team until all the Travel Player Fee are paid. The fees typically run from \$450 - \$900 (at the current time) per season (i.e. spring/summer, fall and winter are all separate "seasons"), but it is totally based on all of the expense components for that age group that make up the Travel Player fee:

- League fees for team entry (TBA Fee)
- Uniform Fees
- Tourney fees for team entry
- Umpires to be supplied for home games against non-TBA teams
- Baseballs and other equipment needed
- Independent manager fees (where applicable)
- Indoor training/tryouts facilities charges
- Other miscellaneous charges

Note: Most of these fees will be broken down and collected monthly to relieve any large financial burden on parents. Any problems with payments should go to the Head Coach and reported immediately to the Travel Commissioner and will be handled on a case by case basis.

Game and Practice Times and Attendance

Games and practices can begin at Coach's discretion. No games at TBA's field may be scheduled before Opening Day unless approved by the Travel Commissioner. All field times are assigned by TBA. No practices or games shall be held on TBA's fields Wednesday through Friday the week of Opening Day or the week of any tournament unless approved by the Director of Commissioners.

Coaches shall make no assumptions to field assignments. Final schedules and field assignments shall be at the discretion of the Director of Commissioners. All schedules must be turned into the Director of Commissioners no later than February 1st. After February 1st, the fields will be open on an availability basis only.

Uniforms and Team Name

The required uniforms are included in the total cost of the travel fee. The uniforms will be selected and ordered by TBA's Travel Committee. TBA Travel Teams will represent the Trussville Baseball Association and the City of Trussville. Each team will be referred to as the "Hewitt-Trussville Huskies" or the "Hewitt Huskies".

Fundraising

TBA is recognized as a 501C. Teams, coaches, players, and parents can find or bring sponsorships for their team. These sponsorships will be in the form of a check. These checks will be addressed to "TBA" or "Trussville Baseball Association." This money will be used to lower the financial burden for that individual player or parent. Any overages will go to the team. If the team has any unspent money at the end of the Travel season, these funds will be turned over to TBA to go to field and facility expenses. There will be a ten percent charge that will be deducted from all sponsorships that will go to TBA's field and facility expenses. All travel players and parents are expected to participate in TBA fundraising efforts. These fundraisers help offset the costs to maintain the facility and operations of TBA.

Volunteer Efforts

Each travel parent will work at the TBA facility during travel tournaments that their team is playing at or in the TBA facility. Teams that work concession stands, gates, field preparation, or other activities for that travel tournament, can help to offset the costs of the team's expenses. Parents will be expected to work concession stand duty or called upon to conduct other activities on behalf of the team. Such items may include field preparation, facilitating tournament activities, collecting gate fees and additional concession stand duties during tournaments.

Public Relations

Each team may provide information and photos to local newspapers for print recognition. Whenever a news release is submitted, please be sure to copy the Travel Commissioner so that they may forward to other appropriate TBA Board members (such as Public Relations and Website Administrator).

Umpires

All umpires for games held at TBA will be scheduled by the Travel Commissioner. The schedule will be communicated by the Director of Commissioners. All invoices for payment (or schedule confirmation for pre-payment) shall be signed by the Coach and Travel Commissioner prior to submission to the treasurer for payment. Only those games verified will be paid.

One-half of all umpire fees should be collected from visiting team prior to beginning of game. (Exception: when your team will be "visiting" the opponent's field during the season, coaches may agree to pay the umpire expense in full when at their home fields.) Procedurally, Coaches may submit on Monday for the entirety of games for the prior week all at once.

When umpire fees are required at visiting fields, Coaches shall notify the Team's secretary/treasurer in enough time to acquire check before game. Any concerns regarding umpires shall first be addressed to the Travel Commissioner or Travel Committee.

Post Season

At the end of each season, Coaches will review feedback on the prior season with the Travel Commissioner. Parents will be encouraged to provide feedback during the season, but at least at the end of the season as well.

Conduct

All Coaches must sign the Coaches Code of Conduct. Any player, Coach, parent or family that puts individual before the team or conduct that is against TBA's standards and teachings may affect their player selection process and potential playing time. Player and parent conduct can be a factor in selection. This program reflects TBA, the City of Trussville and what we are trying to teach our players. We hold all people that are involved in our program to a higher level and we expect the same out of our families and friends that are in attendance to support our teams.