



**Traveling All-Star Program
House Rules
2025**

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1. MISSION STATEMENTS

MTBA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Monroe Township Baseball Association is to lead the youth of Monroe Township in developing the fundamental skills of baseball, to understand and appreciate the rules of the game and to instill qualities such as teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play. We are committed to providing the very best educational and sports experience possible.

MTBA TRAVEL BASEBALL MISSION STATEMENT

- To provide an opportunity for all players who exhibit the skills, attitude and desire to play competitive baseball.
- To accelerate player development through player commitment, instruction, practice, preparation, teamwork and discipline.
- To instill in our players a desire to work toward excellence.
- To prepare our travel players to be successful at the middle school and high school levels.
- To maintain the integrity, character and commitment of our travel program.

2. TEAMS & ELIGIBILITY

PURPLE AND GOLD (AND GRAY) TEAM DESCRIPTIONS

In October of 2003, the Monroe Township Baseball Association's Executive Board voted to expand the sanctioned Summer Travel Baseball Program to a multi-leveled program at each age group, enabling more children to participate in travel baseball. It was determined that we would avoid the use of terms such as "A" and "B" Teams, and name them "Purple" and "Gold" teams.

Please refer to the 'Travel Team Selection Process' section which speaks to the team selection process. The 'A' team will be called **"Falcons Purple"**, and the 'B' team will be called **"Falcons Gold"**. In the event there are enough players for a 3rd team, they will be called **"Falcons Gray"**.

The objective of our program is to play the highest level of competitive baseball in an atmosphere promoting skill development and sportsmanship, with the goal to win the Tournaments we entered, Districts (and beyond) and invitational tournaments alike. All players are to be afforded the opportunity to participate in regular season and tournament play. The Purple Team will participate in Districts, States, and Regional tournaments, and during these specific tournaments it is the manager's discretion to play as few as nine players only. The Gold Team will participate in 12U 46/60 Tournament trail tournaments.

The success of this program is due in no small part to the successful implementation of our developmental strategies at the recreation baseball level and executed at all age levels within our Travel Baseball Program.

The policies and rules for the Travel Baseball Program contained in this booklet have been reduced to writing from various documents, guidelines, policies and common practices executed and utilized by the MTBA in organizing and governing the Travel Baseball Program, under the guidance and oversight of the MTBA Executive Board. Any discrepancies, petitions and/or rule interpretations shall be brought to the MTBA Executive Board for a ruling. All proposed recommendations will be voted on and become final by the MTBA Executive Board.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY FOR MTBA SUMMER TRAVEL TEAMS

Summer Travel Team tryouts will be held in the previous year's summer or fall for ages 7U through 13U. If there is interest for ages 14U and higher to participate in District play, these age groups would be sanctioned and be required to adhere to the same recreation rules and principles as applied to the 7U-13U teams in order to participate in their respective District play. 14U and older teams that wish to

forego District play may choose not to participate in recreation baseball. Eligibility, tryouts and the overall selection process for 14U and higher age groups would occur in the spring of the current baseball year and at the discretion of an approved Manager(s) and the MTBA Executive Board.

Any player that lives within the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken boundaries of the MTBA would be eligible to try out under the following (but not limited to) provisions:

- Player must be between ages 7 and older as of April 30th of the travel season year that they are trying out for in order to be eligible for MTBA Sanctioned Summer Travel Baseball Teams.
- Players that are selected for a Travel team must register for the following Spring Recreation Season by February 1st of that year. Please note that all Travel Players (other than 14U and older teams that choose not to participate on District play) must play in our Recreation program in the Spring Season that precedes the Summer Season.
- Player must remain a resident within the recruiting boundaries established by our Charter organization (Monroe Twp. Babe Ruth League) at the time the travel season is played. Eligible Towns within our boundaries currently include Monroe Township and Jamesburg.
 - Note - Travel players from outside the MTBA boundaries are not eligible for our 7U-13U travel teams. For our 14U and older teams, out of boundary players are permitted to complete a team roster but must have permission from the MTBA Executive Board and the Monroe Twp Recreation Department and that team would not be eligible for District play (Tournament play only).
- If a player was ejected from any recreation or Travel game in the prior season, that player might not be considered for a position on a travel team in the following season. The manager of said player's team at the time of the ejection will need to meet with the MTBA Executive Board to discuss the circumstances of the ejection. The Executive Board will render a final decision based on a vote (majority vote required) and that decision will be considered final. The Manager will not have a vote.
- If a player quits the travel baseball program at any point during the season after having attended the travel tryouts, being placed on any MTBA Travel team, their eligibility to tryout the following year is conditional upon a meeting with the MTBA Executive Board and the Board will have final say. If that player is approved by the MTBA Executive Board and decides to tryout the following year, they will be subject to paying the full travel fee at the time of the tryout ahead of being allowed to participate. This applies solely to the tryout immediately following a year that the player quit.
- Player must play in a minimum of 60% {6 out of every 10} games played by their recreation baseball team in MTBA Recreation Baseball during the current baseball season or whatever the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules dictate. If Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules state a higher % of required games, then that rule will apply. If Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth rules state the requirement to be less than 60%, then the MTBA rule applies. Players who are selected for a Travel team, but subsequently fail to complete the minimum number of recreation games will be removed from their respective Travel Teams.
 - The percentages stated above are the minimum, but the spirit of the MTBA is maximum participation in all levels of our program. The thought of playing the minimum recreation games just to be eligible to play Travel Baseball is extremely discouraged and not in the best interest of our program.
- Player's parent(s) or guardian(s) must agree to pay the required Travel Baseball registration fee. A player will not be eligible to play if any past recreation or Travel baseball fees have not been paid in full.
- If there is a financial hardship, the MTBA Executive Board should be made aware so an agreed upon deferred payment plan may be implemented.
- If selected for a MTBA Travel Team, players must make their **primary commitment** to the MTBA Travel Baseball Program. Conflicts with any other baseball program or club team, other sporting activities and or schedules will not be tolerated. Only academic, religious, scholastic sports (in season), or serious family conflicts will be considered excusable for missing games and/or

practices, and only if such issues are not frequent, or harmful to their team. A player's playing time could be affected and could result in a suspension or removal from the team.

- Managers have the discretion at any time to invoke suspension and or removal from the team if the Manager feels the player's absenteeism and or commitment to the team is detrimental to the team.
- Participation on any 14U or older Travel team that chooses not to participate in District play will not need to register for MTBA recreation baseball. Only those teams wanting to compete in their respective District tournament must register for the MTBA recreation program.

Participation in Unsanctioned Travel/Club Baseball

- As stated above, players **must** make their primary baseball commitment to the MTBA Travel Baseball Program Team. Therefore, players are **not permitted** to participate with any Travel or Club baseball teams not affiliated with MTBA during the spring and summer baseball season.

3. REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION AND WORK BOND FEE REQUIREMENTS

The registration fee and work-bond requirement (if required) will be determined by the Travel Baseball Vice President and Assistant Vice President from season-to-season and be approved by the MTBA Executive Board. The registration fee will be determined, based on historical costs incurred by the Association's Travel Baseball Program. Should the work-bond be instituted by the Travel VP and AVP and approved by the MTBA Executive Board, volunteers will need to fulfill the mandated requirements of service to be eligible to receive their work-bond fee refunded. The following core responsibilities will be available, but not limited thereto for the Travel parents to assist in order to fulfill their work bond required service hours.

- Acting as hosts and field supervisors during Monroe hosted games/tournaments;
- Field maintenance during all host tournaments and Travel games (before and after games);
- Field prep due to inclement weather;
- Snack Bar coverage if applicable;
- JMP spring and fall cleanups;
- Removal of tarps, mounds and storing field supplies when necessary

4. TRYOUTS & SELECTION PROCESS

SUMMER TRAVEL TEAM TRYOUTS

Tryouts are open to all players that live within the Monroe Twp. Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken boundaries. Travel tryouts for ages 7U through 12U will be conducted the prior summer (primarily in late July), before the start of fall sports. 13U tryouts will be held the prior fall and 14U and older team tryouts will be held in the early spring of that year's team playing.

A blind ratings system is utilized, and raters are selected for each age group by the Travel Baseball Vice Presidents and approved by the MTBA Board to participate in the ratings process.

Numbers are provided for the tryout process, and each player is evaluated with only the number as the identifier on their uniforms. Managers are instructed to notify their teams not to wear travel gear if possible.

Players are required to attend the scheduled tryout(s) in order to be selected for a Travel Baseball Teams. The only exception to the above rules will be injury, illness or religious observance. A player who is injured or sick and cannot participate in the Travel Baseball tryout(s) must produce a doctor's note, noting the nature of their injury, and inability to participate. Just because a player played during

the year before, doesn't mean that's where they will play during the current season if excused, please see below for the method that will be used to determine their status on a Travel Team.

The travel tryout format may vary within the different age groups. For the younger age groups (7-10), a more basic format consisting of fielding ground balls, catching flyballs, throwing, and hitting will be used. For the older groups, the managers may review the catcher position, pitching, base running, as well as offensive and defensive scenarios. This may be executed in a scrimmage format to allow the hitters to face live pitching and create live game scenarios to assess the player's baseball acumen.

If a player misses the tryout(s) due to an excused injury or illness, the player's travel rating will be assigned as follows:

- The player was not a purple player they cannot be considered for Top 6;
- If player was a Purple player previous season, they can be considered for a Purple team if requested by the Purple team manager and then approved by the MTBA Board;
- If player was not a Purple player previous season, they cannot be considered for the Purple team, but can be considered for the Gold or Gray team(s) if requested by that/those manager(s) and then approved by the MTBA Board;

If there are two tryouts and a player is unable to attend one tryout due to an excused injury, illness or other approved excuse, the player's travel rating will be assigned as follows:

- The rating from the one attended tryout will be carried over exactly to the second tryout;
- If the player was Purple player previous season, they can be considered for Top 6;
- If the player was not a Purple player the previous season, they cannot be considered Top 6 but can be considered for a Purple team coaches pick.

TRAVEL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

The Monroe Township Baseball Association has historically used ratings to determine the Travel Baseball Team Rosters. In each age group, a minimum roster will be determined based on the total number of players eligible to a maximum of 15 players per team. Selection will consist of several factors including:

- the tryout ratings,
- manager/coaches team pre-evaluation ratings,
- prior season performance,
- conversations between the MTBA Executive Board and Travel Team Managers.

In each age group, the top 6 rated players will be selected for the Purple team. In the case of a tie for the 6th spot in the ratings, then the 6th player selection will be at the Manager's discretion (for team manager determination, please see section 6 - MANAGER SELECTION & RESPONSIBILITIES.) If there are ties between multiple players that gets us to the top 6 (i.e., 3 players are tied for the 5th spot) then the player selection(s) to get to the top 6 between said players will be at the Manager's discretion. The rest of the Purple team roster to get the team to a total roster of 10-13 players*, will be chosen by the Purple team manager among the players that finished 7-16 in the tryouts. You must fall within the top 16 to be eligible to play on the purple team (ie; to be considered for a coach's pick).

- **Actual roster sizes for each team are determined by how many players are eligible to be chosen following tryouts).*

Once the Purple Manager completes their roster selections, the 6 highest rated players remaining would be selected for the Gold Team with the remaining spots being filled at Manager's discretion up to 15 players per team. The same selection process would apply if there are enough players for a Gray team.

EXPANSION OF TRAVEL ROSTERS

Travel season rosters could be expanded for both the Purple teams to a maximum of 15 players. Players eligible for roster expansion must have attended the tryouts and be on the MTBA Gold team in that age group. These players can only be called upon by the Purple Team Manager for District, State or Regional Play and must be approved by the Gold Manager and the MTBA Executive Board. This must be discussed and finalized prior to the MTBA Executive Board submitting Tournament rosters to BRL HQ.

- If the 12U Gold team is participating in the 12U 46/60 State/Regional/World Series trail and needs or wants to expand its roster, they cannot call upon a player on any of our other rostered teams as BRL tournament rules do not allow a player to be rostered on more than 1 team. Thus, they can call upon –
 - o a 12U Gray Player (if the MTBA has a 12U Gray team) and approved by the 12U Gray Manager;
 - o an 11U Gold player and approved by the 11U Gold Manager or;
 - o 12U player that played in the past Spring's rec program and is not playing on a 12U MTBA travel team.

Expanded roster players cannot start a game unless the Purple or Gold team has less than 9 players present. Other than this caveat, playing time for District/State/Regional tournaments does not guarantee playing time for any particular player based upon the rules of these tournaments and playing time is at the discretion of the teams Manager and coaching staff.

Players on the Purple team can be called upon to play for the Gold team in non-District/State/Regional tournaments, but the same rules outlined above apply.

OTHER MATTERS IN RELATION TO TRAVEL TEAM ROSTERS

Travel tryout participants who were not chosen for any team based on their tryout rating or were not chosen for one of the teams based on their tryout rating, can be invited to play for a team if a player opening occurs due to injury or a player quitting the program. For example:

- if a player quits the Purple Team or sustains a serious injury forcing them to miss a significant number of games, the Purple Manager may request that a player from the Gold Team replace that player;
- if a player quits the Gold Team or sustains a serious injury forcing them to miss a significant number of games, the Gold Manager may request that a player from the Gray Team replace that player if a Gray team exists;

That player may not necessarily be the next rated player released. The Purple or Gold Team Manager, with approval of the MTBA Executive Board, shall select the player who best fits the spot vacated.

If no Gold team exists for a Purple team to choose from, or if no Gray team exists for a Gold team to choose from, or if a Gray team needs an extra player due to injury or a player quitting the program, that player can be chosen from an age appropriate player that played in the past Spring's rec program.

Players will only be selected for a Travel Team based on their age during the current baseball season. Players are not permitted to play ahead/older of their age group.

In the event a travel team at any age level team cannot be formed due to unforeseen circumstances, including not enough players attending tryouts, the MTBA reserves the right to complete a full roster with other kids in the program, possibly from a lower age group if needed. A younger aged player will only be chosen if all players in that age group have been contacted and offered the opportunity to play. Specifically, this is in place to protect the importance of being represented in the highest division of Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth baseball at the 12U level. Those

players that may be chosen to play on the 12U team as an 11U player (as an example), must then play again as a 12U player the following season according to the existing policies. This exception will require a majority approval vote of the MTBA Executive Board before being implemented.

5. 7U AGE REQUIREMENTS

7U TRAVEL AGE REQUIREMENTS

No player younger than 7 as of April 30th calendar year will be allowed to try out for the 7U travel team. MTBA does not allow any other age group to play up, unless the circumstances exist that warrant it to maintain the continuity and viability in our program. In the case that there are not enough players for a 7U Purple team or a 7U Gold team, 6U aged players can be invited to a team if and only if no other 7U aged player in the MTBA aged program wants to participate on the 7U team(s).

6. MANAGER SELECTION & RESPONSIBILITIES

TRAVEL TEAM MANAGER SELECTION

Any Manager or Coach must be a **registered member in good standing** of the Association and must have completed the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y course and fulfilled all the MTBA background and safety protocols prior to coaching or managing any team before or during the season.

All Managers and Coaches are responsible for conducting themselves according to the published Cal Ripken League Rules, and/or published Babe Ruth League Rules and the respective house rules of this Association. Further, Managers and coaches are responsible for the conduct of their players as well.

All managers and coaches have the responsibility of teaching and training all players on their roster in fair play and fundamentals of baseball.

All managers and coaches are responsible for the execution of competition rules for their division, without exception. Further, Managers and Coaches are responsible for managing playing time for all players on his/her team. See Playing Time in Section 7.

Managers are required to sign for, and if deemed necessary by the Association's Executive Board, may be required to present a security deposit, for all equipment to be in the Manager's possession for the season. Managers are required to return all equipment clean, and in good repair at a time and date designated by the Association. Failure to return equipment in good shape, or advanced noticed of any issues with equipment, will result in forfeiture of any security deposit.

Specific travel team manager provisions regarding selection:

- Manager candidates must complete a Travel Baseball Team Manager's Application and upon selection will be required to sign the Travel Manager Code of Conduct.
- Manager candidates must have been an active Manager or Coach in Recreation Baseball for the Spring season that precedes the tryouts (does not apply if they were not living in town at the time) and must be also be an active Manager or Coach in the Spring Recreation Season that precedes the Summer Travel Season, within the Division they were selected to manage in or a different age division if they have children playing in that other division.
- In the absence of an interested candidate for a Team Manager's position, an active Manager or Coach from another Division may apply for any vacant Travel Team Manager's position.
- Managers must have a clean record regarding conduct from the current and prior baseball seasons. Travel Team Managers who have been ejected from games, and/or suspended, whether Recreation or Travel baseball related, might not be considered for a Travel Team Manager's position, unless the MTBA Executive Board approves application.

Manager candidates must appear for an interview before the MTBA Executive Board. Members of the Executive Board that have children playing in the age group that the manager is applying for, may be excused from participating in those interviews to avoid any conflict of interest.

Manager candidates must apply every season. There are no automatic appointments.

The Vice Presidents of Travel Baseball must review and sign all Travel Baseball Manager Candidate applications before review by the Executive Board.

The Travel Managers names will not be announced prior to the start of the Travel tryouts. However, a Travel Manager can be selected prior to the start of the tryouts, at the discretion of the MTBA Executive Board, if deemed appropriate by the Board.

TRAVEL BASEBALL MANAGER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The duties of our Travel Managers are to uphold the rules and policies the Travel VPs and Executive Board have outlined. To preserve the integrity of MTBA Travel Program, place the well-being of MTBA travel players above all and to provide their players with the necessary teachings and knowledge to excel in the sport of Travel Baseball, all Travel Managers must act in accordance with the written Travel Manager Code of Conduct.

Furthermore, the Manager and coaching staff **are required** to help out during Host tournament play, which is not limited to your own age bracket. These duties will include field prep on weekend's prior to and between games, Supervision for all games within his/her specific age bracket and other activities to ensure a successful tournament. Managers will be responsible to ensure a bracket is fully covered and assignment of field Supervisors are provided to the Tournament Director, the VP's of Travel and the Executive Board. Tournament Directors will involve the Managers and Coaches to help with the tournament preparations. Only those teams competing in the Districts, States or Regionals that directly conflict with their ability to be on hand to host tournaments, will be excused.

Additionally, Travel Managers **will not be allowed to** schedule tournaments from the beginning of rec season to Father's Day with exception of Memorial Day Weekend, **unless prior approval is given by the MTBA Executive Board**. Please also note that players are required to attend Recreation games over a spring or fall Travel games and practices. Travel Managers should recognize the recreation schedule when rescheduling or scheduling Travel games. Any Travel games scheduled during a recreation scheduled game managers should understand they will forfeit their player rights. Failure to comply with these scheduling rules will result in manager disciplinary action by the MTBA Executive Board.

TRAVEL PITCHING GUIDELINES

As a rule of thumb, Travel Players who participate in Spring Travel, and Recreation League play between the ages of 7U and 13U should follow Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth recommended pitching guidelines based on number of pitches thrown and number of days rest by age group. This is difficult to track, and the onus falls on cooperation between the Rec and Travel manager to ensure the safety of our players.

7. SUMMER SEASON COMMITMENT

SUMMER TRAVEL SEASON OUTLINE - COMMITMENT

- **Travel Baseball is a commitment, not a recreational activity** for players and parents. Once team selections are completed, your registration fee may entitle your child to participate in Summer Tournaments, typically a minimum of five (5), which traditionally last from Memorial Day Weekend through late July/early August. Total tournaments participated

in depend on the budget set by the MTBA to cover the registration costs of these tournaments, as well as any other additional tournaments a team decides to participate in above and beyond the budget set by the MTBA (usually funded by team fundraising efforts).

- These tournaments include Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth District Tournaments for all Purple teams. The 12U Gold Team has an opportunity to participate in the 12U 46/60 Tournament trail depending on whether the Gold Team Manager wants to participate. If the MTBA, where applicable, hosts an annual Memorial Day Tournament and Summer Invitational Tournament (Make-A-Wish), these tournaments are included in the paid tournaments included in the MTBA Summer Travel team tournament budget. These tournaments will be offered in all age brackets 7U and up.
- The selected travel managers are responsible to fill their respective age group for any hosted tournament. The MTBA will assist in filling the brackets by posting about tournaments in all online sites to reach a greater population, utilizing contacts and other means at its disposal.
- If for any reason an age bracket is not filled and therefore not played, the MTBA, *upon executive board approval*, will allow teams to find another tournament to take the place of the Monroe hosted tournament that is not played.
 - If it is deemed by the Vice Presidents of Travel Baseball that the team's manager did not put in the appropriate effort to fill the team's bracket at the Monroe hosted Tournament(s), a replacement tournament will not be offered to the team and the team will lose that portion of its allotted tournament budget. In addition, there will not be any refunds issued for any amount of the registration fee to the players on that team.
- The MTBA will make a reasonable time determination should all efforts to fill a particular age bracket are exhausted, thus affording travel managers ample time to find another tournament. As mentioned earlier, teams that do not make a reasonable effort to fill a bracket and request to play elsewhere, will lose a portion of their budget and must still assist in hosting responsibilities as highlighted above for the MTBA hosted tournament.
- Travel teams may choose to attend tournaments out-of-state. The payment for those tournaments (and any additional costs such as travel, lodging, food, etc.), are the full responsibility of the team.
- The only out-of-state tournaments that the MTBA will assist with funding are if our teams win the Regional Championship and need to travel for a World Series tournament (the amount of assistance will be determined and agreed upon by the MTBA Executive Board) and the payment of the \$1000 down payment for the 12U MTBA travel teams attending the Cooperstown Dream Park Tournament.

The commitment to the Travel team begins once the travel teams are publicly announced and posted on the MTBA website. The teams will be announced in a reasonable amount of time after the tryout(s) is/are completed. The commitment is in place for 12 months after the teams are announced.

- Team announcements on or about mid-August;
- Upon conclusion of fall team commitments including practices and/or USABL schedule and/or weekend tournaments;
- Team winter workouts (both at paid indoor facility as well as MTMS Gym workouts);
- Spring rec season and travel season (e.g., USABL)
- Summer tournament season (Memorial Day - end of July/early August)
- Announcement of the following season's travel teams following the late July tryouts.

Due to the fact the travel registration fee covers the summer tournaments, not all of the above are mandatory as the MTBA does not promote extra expenditures, above and beyond the registration fee and uniform costs (as described below), for our families. However, with that said, **the calendar as described above is highly recommended** as it enhances the players travel baseball experience, greatly helps in the improvement in each individual players skill-level, promotes a greater sense of team

work, improves the camaraderie for the team...both players and families, and certainly helps towards the success of the team.

Here is more detail -

Summer Tournament season is mandatory.

- Players who commit to play for a Travel Team, commit to play the full season; which includes the team's first summer travel team practice until the last scheduled game of the summer tournament season. During the summer season players cannot take family vacations, commit to other Travel or Club baseball teams or play other athletic sports that would prohibit them from playing on their team until the season's completion. Certain academic commitments or other events are permissible but must be told to and approved by the team manager at the earliest possible time.
- If a player becomes an attendance problem, the team manager may, at his discretion, remove the player from the team. This must be communicated to the MTBA Executive Board prior to the removal of the player. In addition, if the Manager, at their discretion, feels as though the player is not committed to the team because of any direct conflict, the manager will have the discretion to remove such player from the team. This must be communicated to the MTBA Executive Board prior to the removal of the player. If a player is removed from the team, no refunds will be provided. This does not include games or practices missed due to legitimate illness or injury.
- If a player quits a travel team, no refund will be provided. If a player is unable to play for a Monroe Travel Baseball Team due to illness or injury, the parents may request, in writing to the Executive Board, a refund for fees paid to play travel baseball (Registration Fee). Monies paid to purchase a uniform, or other equipment may not be refunded.

Spring Rec Baseball is mandatory.

- Mandated in our league by-laws, directives from the Township Recreation Department and is mandatory as per our charter with Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken Baseball.

Fall Team commitments (other than "free practices" at JMP, Oak Tree School or Thompson park) are not mandatory (but highly recommended).

- If a player is also involved with another sport whose "traditional" season is the fall (primarily football and soccer), the players are encouraged to attend those sports when an MTBA Travel Team game/practice conflicts with a scheduled event for those sports. Any reasonable attempt to avoid such conflicts allowing the player to play/practice with the MTBA Travel Team is greatly appreciated.
- If a player or players choose to not participate in any games the team plays during the fall season, they cannot be penalized (but again, it is highly recommended players participate).
- If replacement player(s) is/are needed for the team to participate in any particular game during the fall, only at that time can the Manager attempt to find a replacement player. Replacement players cannot be recruited from another MTBA Travel team without consultation with the MTBA Executive Board and that team's manager.
- If a non-MTBA player is needed for a "short-term" solution (i.e., making sure you have 9 players to play in a game), this must first be discussed and approved by the MTBA Executive Board and the Township Recreation Department.

Winter workout commitments (other than "free practices" at the MTMS Gym) are not mandatory (but highly recommended).

- If a player is also involved with another sport whose "traditional" season is the winter (primarily basketball and wrestling), the players are encouraged to attend those sports when an MTBA Travel Team workout conflicts with a scheduled event for those sports.

Any reasonable attempt to avoid such conflicts allowing the player to play/practice with the MTBA Travel Team is greatly appreciated.

Spring Travel Games are not mandatory (but highly recommended)

- Practices called during the spring season at JMP, Oak Tree or Thompson Park are mandatory but games in a “pay for” league such as USABL are not (but again, highly recommended).
- If a player or players choose to not participate in any spring travel games, they cannot be penalized (but again, it is highly recommended players participate).
- If replacement player(s) is/are needed for the team to participate in any particular travel game during the spring, only at that time can the Manager attempt to find a replacement player. Replacement players cannot be recruited from another MTBA Travel team without consultation with the MTBA Executive Board and that team’s manager.
- If a non-MTBA player is needed for a “short-term” solution (i.e., making sure you have 9 players to play in a game), this must first be discussed and approved by the MTBA Executive Board and the Township Recreation Department.
- Players should not attend a travel game or practice when at the same time, a rec baseball game or practice is scheduled...rec baseball is the priority in these instances. Travel managers/coaches should not be pressuring their players to choose the travel game or practice.

PLAYING TIME

A team's manager and coaching staff determine playing time. Parents are not permitted to confront managers and coaches regarding playing time. If you have a question regarding your child's playing time, it should be addressed with the Team Manager, in a civil manner, and not during a game or practice. A 24 hour “resting” period is recommended.

Managers are expected to follow the +1 rule (no one player will sit for more than 1 inning more than any other player) for League & Tournament pool play games. An exception can be made when a pitcher is attempting to pitch a complete game. For playoff games in League & Tournament play, Managers can choose to play a player a minimum of 3 innings in the field for a 6+ inning game, 2 innings for a 5 inning game and 1 inning for a 4 inning game. All players must bat in the lineup during all games. Exemptions for players that are hurt or request to sit are allowed. For Cal Ripken Districts, States and Regionals it is the Manager’s discretion on playing time for all games. A manager may only bat 9 players if they choose. However, the goal should be that all players get in if the game dictates.

8. UNIFORM

REQUIRED UNIFORM

Parents are required to purchase the required Uniform. The overall costs of the uniforms in any given year will be determined at the time a uniform supplier is chosen, and the uniform orders are placed.

The uniform is the parent's responsibility to keep and maintain properly, in clean and safe order. Holes are to be repaired, or the uniform item must be replaced. It is suggested that parents purchase multiple pairs of pants, socks, and undershirts, as the Travel Baseball schedule can get hectic, and washing uniforms after every game can be an issue.

The MTBA Board recommends that uniform numbers not be duplicated within an age group. All uniform numbers within a team must be separate and distinct. This enables ease of participation across teams within an age group.

In the event the Travel Baseball Committee adopts a uniform change, it is the parents' responsibility to purchase any uniform requirement that may have changed from season to season.

9. CODES OF CONDUCT

TRAVEL BASEBALL MANAGER AND COACH CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Below you will find the conduct policy taken directly from the form Managers and Coaches are required to sign.

Manager/Coaches Code of Conduct

As a Manager or Coach in MTBA Travel Baseball program, I understand that there are certain rules and conduct standards that I must always follow . It is expected that all Coaches of Monroe Travel Baseball read and understand the Coaches Code of Conduct and continue to observe and follow all the principles contained within the Code throughout the season.

- I will ensure the well - being and safety of each player above all other considerations.
- I will lead by example and always demonstrate good sportsmanship on and off the field.
- I will teach all players the skills of the game, values of teamwork and the meaning of good sportsmanship.
- I will communicate broadly any team issues (i.e. team rules, practices, games and issues)
- I will never use profanity, abusive language or threatening behavior towards any player, parent, coach or official.
- I will respect and accept the decisions and authority of the Umpires during games. I will instruct all players, parents and other team spectators to do the same.
- I will be responsible for my behavior and understand that if I am ejected from any game, I will not be able to return to that event, suspended from the next scheduled game and subject to disciplinary action by MTBA. I will notify MTBA within 24 hours of the ejection.
- I will refrain from smoking/vaping/chewing tobacco/etc. around practice and game fields. I understand my violation may result in disciplinary actions.
- No illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages at any games or practice. This will be instant removal from the Travel Program.
- I will report to MTBA any perceived misconduct by coach, player, parent or official so it can be dealt with in the appropriate manner.
- I will lead by example and do my best to ensure coaches, players, parents and team spectators act appropriately and bring any discredit to the MTBA.
- I will make sure that we leave our facilities and the facilities our teams visit in a clean condition before leaving the facility. This includes the dugout, the surrounding area of the dugout and the locations where the spectators of our team view the game (not just the bleachers).
- I will continually seek improvement of players and evaluate player performance.
- I will continue to educate myself in the sport of baseball in order to be able to educate the players in technical, situational and physical demands of the game.
- I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Written Warning by MTBA Executive Board;
 - Tournament suspension with written documentation of incident that will be

- kept on file;
- Season suspension by MTBA Executive Board.

TRAVEL BASEBALL PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Below you will find the conduct policy taken directly from the form parents are required to sign.

Parents Code of Conduct

The intention of this document is to promote Respect, Fairness and Sportsmanship for all participants within the Monroe Travel Baseball Program. It is expected that all parents of Monroe Travel Baseball read and understand the Parents Code of Conduct and continue to observe and follow all the principles contained within the Code throughout the season.

- I will not contact the manager, a coach or an evaluator prior to or after the tryout process.
- I will never yell, taunt, threaten or inflict physical violence upon any player, coach, official or spectator at any youth Travel Baseball activity.
- I will refrain from undermining the manager and coaches, starting rumors, creating sideline gossip and an atmosphere that promotes negativity...including on social media
- I will refrain from the use of abusive or vulgar language, racial, ethnic or gender-related slurs at any time.
- I will leave the coaching to the coaching staff. I will encourage my child to play in a manner consistent with the team's strategy or plans.
- I will respect and show appreciation for the volunteers who give their time to Travel Baseball for my child.
- I will never ridicule or yell at my child or any other players for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- I will respect the umpires and their authority during games. I will not confront an umpire before, during or after a game.
- I will refrain from coaching my child or other players during games and practices, unless I am one of the official coaches of the team.
- I will learn the rules of the game so that I may best support my child's development.
- I will not confront coaches at the field. I will take the time to speak with the coaches at an agreed upon time and place and it must be at least 24 hours after the game or practice.
- I will remember that my child plays Travel Baseball for his or her enjoyment, not mine or the managers and coaches.
- I will teach my child that playing by the rules, doing their best is more important than winning so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of a game or his/her performance.
- I will teach my child that this is a team sport and no one individual can determine the outcome of a game.
- I will not bring nor consume illegal drugs or alcoholic beverages at any games or practices. This will result in immediate parent removal from the Travel Program.
- I understand that pulling my child off the field during a game or practice abruptly without an excusable reason could lead to dismissal from the team.
- I will adhere to all posted park rules at JMP, Oak Tree School, or any other field utilized by the MTBA, and any other out of town facility I visit.
- I also agree that if I fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Written warning by MTBA Executive Board;
 - Parental three game suspension with written documentation of incident that will be kept on file;
 - Parental season suspension by MTBA Executive Board.

TRAVEL BASEBALL PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

Below you will find the conduct policy taken directly from the form Players are required to sign.

Players Code of Conduct

Players shall...

- Display good sportsmanship and team play at all times.
- Control their emotions at all times. MTBA Travel players need to think first then act, not the other way around.
- Follow the direction of the coaching staff.
- Respect all coaches, players, league officials, umpires, opponents and spectators.
- Make every attempt to be on time and ready to play for all games and practices.
- Not use abusive or profane language.
- Name-calling, taunting or humiliating other players will not be tolerated. This includes chants or chatter to frustrate the other team. Even if the other team is taunting us. MTBA will not participate in this type of activity.
- Question an umpire's call.
- Throw helmets, bats, gloves or anything of that nature in or out of the dugout. This will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Quit the travel team at any time. Quitting the travel team will possibly and probably cause a suspension from the travel program the following year.
- Leaving a game or practice abruptly without an excusable reason. This could be dismissal from the team.

10. PRACTICE & GAME ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Players are expected to be on time for practice, meetings and games. The team will not be able to achieve their goals and maintain a positive attitude if players are missing or arriving late for games and or practices. If you will miss a practice or a game, for any reason, the manager must know about it in advance. If you fail to notify your manager prior to the travel practice or game, this will be considered an unexcused absence. At the discretion of the Travel Manager you may be subject to the following:

- A. The first unexcused absence may impact playing time in the next game
- B. The second unexcused absence may result one game benching
- C. The third unexcused absence may be considered a disciplinary issue. Which may result in the player being removed for the balance of the season

Players can appeal to the Executive Director and Vice Presidents of Travel Baseball if they want to be considered for early reinstatement due to unusual circumstances.

Travel Players are discouraged from being involved with other Travel/Club baseball teams at any time.

Travel players are discouraged from playing other sports during the Spring and Summer. However, if the player is involved with another sport, they are expected to put their MTBA Travel Baseball obligation ahead of the other sport during the Spring and Summer. Scholastic sports will be an acceptable reason to miss MTBA Travel functions.

11. DISCIPLINE PROCEDURES

Any Manager, Coach, Player or Parent, or other fan of MTBA Travel Baseball that is subject to disciplinary action based on the MTBA conduct policies will face disciplinary action as recommended by our Executive Board's discipline committee, comprised of the Executive Director, Recreation Vice- Presidents, the Travel Baseball Vice-Presidents. In appropriate circumstances, the MTBA Umpire in Chief will also be consulted with.

The discipline committee will handle all matters of discipline for the Association's Travel Baseball Program.

The decisions of the discipline committee are final.

Anyone ejected from a game, ballpark, or facility, whether at Monroe Township, or at a facility we are visiting, carries a mandatory 2-game suspension. Depending on the severity of the incident, the penalty may be more than 2 games.

If a player is suspended, he must show up for all suspended games and sit on the bench in street clothes. The suspended player cannot participate in any team activities for that game, including huddles, pre-game warm-ups, etc.

Players suspended for major infractions (more than 2 games) must serve the suspension away from their team, and is not permitted to attend the team's games, practices, or any other team activities for the duration of their suspension.

If a Manager, Coach, Parent or Player is ejected from a game, they will face a mandatory minimum 2-game suspension and must appear before the MTBA discipline committee. Any Manager or Coach ejected from 2 games in the same season will be dismissed from the program and will serve a minimum 1-year suspension from participation in the MTBA program as a Manager or Coach. Any parent ejected from 2 games in the same season will face a minimum 1-year suspension from participation as a fan or volunteer, and their child will also be removed from the Travel Baseball Program for the remainder of the current Travel Baseball Season.

Disciplinary actions pertain to all sanctioned Travel Baseball activities including Travel/Club Teams sanctioned by MTBA's Executive Board.

Any parent or other fan ejected from a game, may be required to attend the Rutgers S.A.F.E.T.Y. Program for Parent and Fan awareness (if not already certified by this program).

Appeals of disciplinary sanctions may be made within 48 hours of the penalty, in writing, to the MTBA Executive Board – send to monroebaseball@gmail.com.

In summation, our Travel Teams will conduct themselves as ambassadors of the Township of Monroe. Unruly fan, coach, manager, or player behavior will not be tolerated. Ejections from home, or away games will be met with disciplinary action from MTBA's Executive Board, and penalties will apply not only to Travel games, but also to MTBA Recreation Games. This applies to all Managers, Coaches, Players, and Parents as outlined in the Parent, Coach and Player conduct language above.

12. SANCTIONED TRAVEL TEAMS AND OTHER NOTES

All teams formed by the processes already described herein will qualify as a sanction MTBA Travel team. For all sanctioned MTBA travel teams -

- The MTBA will provide a field for all home scheduled games, based on availability, at James Monroe Park, Oak Tree School and Thompson Park;
- The MTBA will provide insurance coverage, umpire in chief and the use of MTBA's equipment for maintaining the fields including bases, scoreboards, field maintenance equipment, and use of the facility's lights, rest rooms, and snack bar.

Any other team utilizing the players of the MTBA will not be afforded these privileges and will be on their own to appeal to the township's recreation department for assistance.

It is encouraged that the Manager enroll and participate in a Fall/Spring Travel type league. However, if the Manager elects to NOT form a spring or Fall Travel Team for any reason, this should be discussed with the coaches and parents on the team to make sure all are on the same page. If after such discussions are held, there is a desire by the team to do participate in a fall or spring league, a meeting must be requested by the team with the MTBA Executive Board to discuss. All families of the team, including the manager, must be invited to attend. From this meeting an equitable decision will be made that will hopefully ensure a smooth 12-month period for the entire team.

Recruiting another team's players, Travel or otherwise, is strictly prohibited. Managers are not permitted to recruit players from any other sanctioned team in Monroe Township, no exceptions. Managers who actively recruit players who have played for other Teams within town will appear before the MTBA Executive Board and answer for their actions. Penalty for recruiting players is subject to revocation of sanctioning by MTBA and possible removal as Summer Travel Manager.

If for whatever reason after travel tryouts a player places on a team where there is a mutual agreement among the team manager and coaches and the player's parents/guardians, that the player would benefit from not playing on that team and should be placed on another team in the age group, a meeting must be held with the VP's of Travel Baseball, and possibly the entire Executive Board, to discuss. Documentation in writing from all parties may be requested by the MTBA Board. This meeting must take place prior to the team announcements and posting on the MTBA website. The general consensus of the MTBA is that the players be placed on the appropriate team based on their tryouts, so a very compelling argument must be made to a change of team to even be considered. The fact that a change of one player has a "ripple effect" on the other players in the age group will be strongly considered as well. The decision from this meeting will be final...no further discussions will be had and no "back room" deals will be accepted.

13. MTBA'S TRAVEL HOUSE RULES REGARDING "RENEGADE" TEAMS

No MTBA member including directors, managers, coaches, or parents of players shall form a travel/all-star or any other organized team for competition in other leagues or outside tournaments utilizing players from the MTBA - a RENEGADE TEAM. The Vice Presidents of Travel Baseball without exception will govern all travel/all-star teams and managers.

However, with MTBA Executive Board Approval, an MTBA member may participate in tournament play with MTBA players in which MTBA sanctioned teams are not competing and in no way conflicts with any MTBA recreation or travel play and its teams. However, any such actions that does interferes with rec and sanction travel play, will be prohibited.

Any person who forms a non-sanctioned Travel Team and uses MTBA registered players, deliberately damaging MTBA's Travel Baseball Program, will be banned from participation in the Association for a minimum period of 2 years.

14. FUNDRAISING

Only the 12U MTBA travel team(s) attending the annual Cooperstown Dream Park Tournament and any MTBA Purple Team who have advanced to either the Cal Ripken Regionals or the Cal Ripken World Series are permitted to host fundraising events, raffles or other types of solicited fundraisers. There are two exceptions to this rule:

1. If there is an extenuating circumstance and an MTBA travel team receives written approval from the MTBA Executive Board, then they may also fundraise.
2. All MTBA travel teams may use FlipGive, Baseballism's "Fundraiser February" or any other similar type of shopping portal or cash back program with written approval from the MTBA Executive Board.

Any and all fundraising ideas must be verbally presented by the team manager to the MTBA Executive Board, along with an email to the VP of Travel and receive written approval from the MTBA Executive Board. The proposal must include why the fundraiser is being held, an overview of the fundraising exercise and an estimate for the respective expenses being paid for with the funds raised. All fundraising events must stop once enough money has been raised to cover the estimated expenses. Money raised via fundraising efforts should only be used for tournament fees, and out of state tournament travel related expenses for the player on the respective team (including lodging).

If travel teams are approved to conduct fundraising events, they must adhere to the following:

- Each team must keep a detailed accounting ledger of how much was raised during those events, what these fund-raising efforts are aimed to be used for and how the money was spent.
- Travel Managers are responsible for informing their team's parents and/or guardians of the fundraising rules, objectives, how the funds will be raised, how funds will be distributed and all other relevant information.
- Travel Managers will bear the full responsibility to oversee all fundraising events for their teams and must provide in full disclosure the accounting details to their teams and the MTBA Executive Board when they are asked to. In all circumstances the monies raised in any given season that is NOT utilized for that travel team must be returned accordingly per the documented ledger to all parents.
- Any flyers, social media posts, etc. must specifically identify the team that the funds will be allocated to and may contain the MTBA logo. All advertisements must be approved by the MTBA Executive Board prior to release.
- No fundraising may interfere or keep possible funds from benefiting league wide fundraising and sponsorship efforts. The league primarily gets these types of funds from "local sources". There is a finite amount of money that can go towards this and if our travel teams are tapping into these resources too frequently, it could impede league wide efforts. In addition, any one team exhausting resources could also hinder the fundraising efforts of our other travel teams. Therefore, the MTBA Executive Board reserves the right to have a team halt any and all fundraising events if these situations occur.

Additionally, if the MTBA Executive Board recognizes that the travel program is in need of additional funds to support their seasons, in lieu of having individual teams fundraise, the MTBA will run a fundraiser to support the travel program as a whole. If the MTBA Executive Board decides to proceed with a travel program fundraiser, a document will be drafted by the MTBA Executive Board and shared with all travel teams outlining the expectations and objectives of the fundraiser.