

Travel **Baseball** Guidelines

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OVERVIEW

Our mission is to provide a higher level of competition for talented and motivated Mundelein baseball players who want to continue playing beyond the house league.

MBSA offers a competitive travel baseball program for age levels **8U-12U**, followed by Mundelein Feeder for 13U-14U, administered by Mundelein High School.

By offering a competitive travel baseball experience in Mundelein, our players and families benefit by:

- Being able to play competitive baseball together with their fellow classmates and friends
- The development of a program that focuses on building local pride in the Mundelein area community and demonstrates that pride in the surrounding communities
- Improvement of skills in a team-focused local environment
- Indoor winter practices from January to March allow each player to improve their skills and abilities with increased reps and the opportunity to build team chemistry early on.
- Participating on teams that emphasize teamwork, effort, and good sportsmanship first while also competing hard to win games
- Gaining a nearly year round, high value experience of competitive baseball, with their friends, for roughly half the cost of other travel baseball programs

Our travel baseball teams participate in The Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League. All 8U-12U: Teams will play a 16 game season in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (www.lsfbl.com) between May and July.

The Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League was formed by member communities to work collectively and collaboratively to further the development of their players and community-based travel programs. The members of the non-profit league wanted to create a competitive environment balanced with the desire to keep kids playing community baseball.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The MBSA Code of Conduct is strict and serious in our sport. All people associated with the game are always expected to act with sportsmanship, dignity and respect for others. This includes coaches, parents, players and umpires.

PLAYERS

Poor sportsmanship includes:

- Arguing with coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or spectators
- Using threatening or Profane language
- Baiting or taunting coaches, officials, teammates, opponents or spectators
- Unsafe play
- Uncontrolled behavior in the bench area

Poor sportsmanship will carry, at a minimum, the following consequences:

- First Offense Verbal warning
- Second Offense Dismissal from game of offense as well as the following game
- Third Offense Dismissal from the team for remainder of season
- Fourth Offense Dismissal from the league

We, parent(s) and player, have discussed the MBSA Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it. We understand that there is no refund or recourse for dismissal from our program as a consequence of breaking this Code of Conduct. Parents and/or players will attest to their youth athlete having read and understood this code of conduct each year as part of registration. The disciplinary actions above are minimum guidelines and, depending on offense, may be more severe as determined by the MBSA Board of Directors.

COACHES/MANAGERS

As a manager or coach you are a role model to your players. If you want them to display good sportsmanship, attitudes, discipline, healthy competitive spirit, and commitment, then you must demonstrate these traits in all of your actions. With kids more than anyone, actions speak louder than words.

In accordance with this theory and its spirit, MBSA asks its managers and coaches to adhere to the following code of conduct:

- I have read, understood and adhered to the MBSA mission statement.
- I understand that sportsmanship and fair play are more important than winning, at all levels.
- I will treat all of my players fairly and with respect. Positive motivation will be used rather than negative.
- I will reward effort and team play over results and never single out any individual for criticism in front of the team, or engage in practices such as publishing player statistics.
- I will equalize playing time and positions as much as possible.
- I will not argue with the umpires or opposing coaches or make negative or taunting comments, directed toward the opposing team or the umpires.
- I will control taunting or unsportsmanlike conduct by my team and its fans.
- I will not drink alcohol or smoke at any MBSA house or travel event, including, but not limited to, games, practices, travel tournaments and related events such as MBSA Championship Weekend and/or Fall League.
- I will obey all rules, regulations and directives of MBSA.

I understand that violation of this code may lead to forfeit, ejection from a game, and/or suspension.

TIME COMMITMENT

The Travel teams play at a higher level of competition than the standard House baseball season and require a strong commitment from both player and family.

To continue and enhance the development of the Program's participants, the following expectations will be the foundation of Mundelein's competitive travel baseball program:

8U

- 6-10 indoor winter practices from January to March (ends by spring break)
- 1 practice a week during the House season.
 - House season starts April 1 for practices and 3rd weekend of April for games.
 - All 8U travel players have to play on a MBSA house baseball team
- Weekend games starting May until House season is over
- Baseball practice 1-2 times per week minimum with 1-2 games per week once the House season is over
- One tournament that will occur after the House season is over.
- Playoffs that occur in the third week of July. (Single elimination)
- The House season is generally complete with Championship weekend occurring Father's Day weekend

9U

- 12-15 indoor winter practices from January to March (ends by spring break)
- 1 practice a week during the house season, sometimes two.
 - House season starts April 1 for practices and 3rd weekend of April for games.
 - All 9U travel players, regardless of team, have to play on a MBSA house baseball team
- Weekend games starting May until House season is over
- Baseball practice 1-2 times per week minimum with 1-2 games per week once the House season is over
- Three (3) tournaments that do not conflict with House baseball weekends
 - Memorial Day
 - After House Championship Weekend
- Playoffs that occur in the third week of July. (Single elimination)
- The House season is generally complete with Championship weekend occurring Father's Day weekend

10U-12U 'A' Teams

- 12-15 indoor winter practices from January to March (ends by spring break)
- One practice a week during the house season, sometimes two
 - House season starts April 1 for practices. 3rd weekend of April for games.
 - All 10U Black travel players have to play on a MBSA house baseball team
- Weekend games starting May/late April until House season is over
- Baseball practice 1-2 times per week minimum with 1-2 games per week once the House season is over
- Three (3) tournaments that do not conflict with House baseball weekends
 - Memorial Day
 - After House Championship Weekend
- Playoffs that occur in the third week of July. (Single elimination)
- The House season is generally complete with Championship weekend occurring Father's Day weekend

10U-12U 'B' Teams

- 12-15 indoor winter practices from January to March (ends by spring break)
- Baseball practice 2 times per week minimum with 1-2 games per week starting April 1
- Five (5) tournaments that can begin in April and are completed by the end of July that do not conflict with the League playoffs

Older level teams may include longer distance overnight trips as well.

TRAVEL SEASON & PHILOSOPHIES

The philosophy of travel play is to seek the most competitive team(s) possible. Mundelein has a rich history of baseball from t-ball through high school and by continuing to offer a strong travel program we are able to give a great experience for the kids and families who support our community at all skill levels.

The **Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League** was formed by member communities to work collectively and collaboratively to further the development of their players and community-based travel programs. The members of the non-profit league wanted to create a competitive environment balanced with the desire to keep kids playing community baseball.

- It is possible to balance the competitiveness of travel baseball alongside house league play.
- While learning a great game, players and families benefit by being alongside other school aged friends with common interests, all while building community pride.
- The Travel teams will be competing against quality competition from other area programs, while developing good sportsmanship and respect for all players on all teams.
- The program seeks to prepare players for participation in high school baseball. We are teaming with the MHS coaches to teach our coaches the drills and skills they would like the players to know. This partnership will help transition the kids from youth baseball to high school baseball to have them better prepared along the way.

Our teams participate in [The Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League](#) (additional *optional* league: **Mid-Suburban Baseball League**):

- 8U-9U: Teams will play a 14 game season in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (www.lsfbl.com) between May and July.
- 10U: Teams will play a 16 game season in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (www.lsfbl.com) between April/May and July.
- 11U-12U: Teams will play a 18 game season in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (www.lsfbl.com) between April/May and July.

In addition, teams will enter tournaments as schedules allow.

- One tournament is included at the 8U level to be determined by the manager.
- Three tournaments are included at the 9U level to be determined by the manager.
- Three tournaments are included for 10U-12U travel teams regardless of color (Red/Black). Tournaments are selected at the discretion of the manager and MBSA.
- Two additional tournaments are included for 10U-12 Red travel teams. Tournaments are selected at the discretion of the manager.

TRYOUTS

The following information clarifies Mundelein Baseball's Travel League standards for coaches and players participating in the Travel program in an effort to avoid misunderstandings and misconceptions.

- *How are travel team players chosen and what criteria are used in making choices about selection?*
 - Tryouts are held annually in July for ages 9U-12U. Tryouts for 8U are in November.
 - Most surrounding community travel teams have tryouts in July/August. This also helps get teams set for uniform fittings (November) and winter indoor practices that start in early January.
 - Players who are 8-12 years of age and who are interested in Travel must try out for a Travel team. Tryout dates, times and locations will be communicated to all MBSA participants and their parents via emails, posted at the fields, and placed on the MBSA website. Extenuating circumstances, such as injury or illness during the tryout period, must be communicated to the league directors so that a player can be evaluated at a later date, if possible.
 - Unless exempt by age and ability level, every player who tries out for the travel team must also play in the house league; it is the philosophy of the program to have a strong travel program but not at the expense of our community house league. 10U-12U "A" level players are exempt.
 - Tryouts at each age level will be conducted by the Board of Directors and selected volunteers who do not have children trying out for a team. As much as possible we will have outside evaluators to run the tryouts.
- *The evaluations will focus on the following areas:*
 - FIELDING: Strength of Arm, Accuracy, Fielding, Range
 - HITTING: Balance, Contact, Power, Hands
 - PITCHING: Velocity, Command
 - CATCHING: Stance, Receiving, Blocking, Arm Strength
 - OTHER: Speed, Hustle, Listening, Baseball IQ
- The number of players chosen for a travel team and the number of travel teams at each level will be predicated on the skill level of those trying out for the team. The number of skilled players will determine the number of teams.
- Trying out does not mean that a player is automatically selected for a travel team.

- When available, manager input will be accepted only for their specific teams in which the manager will be overseeing the direction all year.
- Team placement is based on the tryout evaluation combined with manager input from the recent season (as available) to build out competitive teams at each level for the upcoming season.
- *How is talent divided within an age group?*
 - Teams will be broken up into A & B teams at age levels 8U-12U.
 - Though it is the goal to have two teams at each level (A&B), some years we may only have one team and some we may have three teams.
- *How are coaches chosen and what criteria are used in making choices about coaches?*
 - Anyone interested in coaching a Travel team should contact the VP of Baseball @ vpbbmbsaonline.org to discuss further.
 - All former and potential new coaches will be interviewed by members of the Board and approved by the Board of Directors; coaching a travel team for one year does not guarantee selection as a coach for the following year(s).
 - Travel managers will be confirmed shortly following team selection.
 - All Coaches must complete the MBSA volunteer application form and are subject to a background check.
 - Managers and Coaches are not compensated.
 - Coaches will be required to attend Baseball Program Meetings and Coaching Clinics prior and during the season.
 - Coaches must be able to demonstrate competency regarding knowledge of baseball and have sufficient time to devote to coaching the travel team.
 - Coaches must be able to demonstrate proficiency in their ability to:
 - teach mechanics of baseball to players; and
 - have the proper temperament to both teach baseball and serve as a role model for managing issues on the field during games
 - represent our community well
 - Coaches should not assume that their children are guaranteed placement on a travel team; children of travel coaches must have the ability to be selected for a travel team independent of whether or not their parent has been a travel coach.

REGISTRATION, FEES, REFUND POLICY

REGISTRATION

- A registration link will be shared with you upon receiving an offer to join a team.

FEES

- Players have 24 hours to accept an offer. Offers are verified/confirmed by payment.
- Deposits are due at the time of registration. This deposit is your player's agreement to play a full season for the Mundelein Mustangs Travel Baseball League.
- Payment plans are available.

REFUND POLICY

- No refunds are made after any payments are made, as we have held your players' spot and began building our teams, cut other players, attracted managers, and began ordering uniforms, etc. for the upcoming season.

Offers are typically sent out 24-48 hours after tryouts.

What do FEES typically cover?

- Indoor Practice Facility
- Paid Coach for Winter Sessions
- Tournaments
- Umpire Fees
- Additional Practice Equipment
- Field Crew
- Field Maintenance
- Uniform

UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT

Included with your fees:

- 2 Game Jerseys
- 1 Practice Jersey
- 1 Pair of Socks
- 1 Pair of Pants
- 1 Hat
- Helmet
- Bag (every 2 years)

Players responsibility to purchase:

- Red Belt
- Bat
- Mitt
- Baseball Cleats (no metal cleats- *metal cleats are allowed for 13U and 14U*)
- Sliding Shorts
- Baseball Cup (cups are mandatory for all practices and games)
- Batting Glove (optional)

Bat Requirements

- 14u: All bats with a max barrel of 2 3/4" diameter, a max length of 34 inches, with a maximum differential of -5, and stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed. All BBCOR bats meet these standards. USA Baseball and USSA stamped bats meeting these size and weight standards are allowed.
- 13u: All bats with a max barrel of 2 3/4" diameter, a max length of 34 inches, with a maximum differential of -8, and stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed. All BBCOR bats meet these standards. USA Baseball and USSA stamped bats meeting these size and weight standards are allowed.
- 12u-9u: All bats with a max barrel of 2 3/4" diameter, a max length of 33 inches, with a maximum differential of -12, and stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed. All BBCOR bats meet these standards. USA Baseball and USSA stamped bats meeting these size and weight standards are allowed.
- 8u: All bats with a max barrel of 2 1/4" diameter, a max length of 33 inches, with a maximum differential of -13, and stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed. All BBCOR bats meet these standards. USA Baseball and USSA stamped bats meeting these size and weight standards are allowed.

Discovery of an Illegal Bat: Any batter that enters the batter's box with an illegal bat (i.e. does not comply with the MBSA Bat Rules) shall be called out immediately upon discovery (via appeal or umpire's call). The batter may also be called out after his/her time at bat is complete, so long as the illegal bat is discovered prior to the first pitch of the following batter.

HOUSE LEAGUE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All travel players on 'B' teams (and ALL 8U-9U teams), between age levels 10U-12U, are *required* to play House.

House league registration is separate and will begin in November. Travel players who are required to register for House will be reminded to register until registration has been completed. This is a non-negotiable aspect of MBSA baseball that helps maintain the robustness of the House Program and the reputation for quality community recreation baseball.

FALL BALL

Travel players who are interested, will continue on to play in the Mundelein Fall Baseball League. The players will be on the team they just tried out for, not the spring team they played with. If players cannot commit to Fall Ball for the entire fall season (football, soccer, vacations, etc.) or simply choose not to play Fall Ball, coaches need to be informed by August 1st.

Depending on the number of interested players from each team, we will determine the number of teams we enter at each age level. The goal will be to enter two teams at each level.

Since not all travel team players choose to play Fall Ball, this fee is not included in the Travel Fees.

Uniforms are at the discretion of the coaches and are not included in the Fall Ball fees. Players mostly end up using their previous spring season uniforms unless new uniforms are agreed upon by the coaches and their team.

GAMES & SCHEDULES

Questions, contact the VP of Baseball-vpbb@mbsaonline.org

These are estimates and are subject to change

Age Level	Winter Workouts	Tournaments	House Season	Travel Season	Fall Ball Games	Total Games - Practice Estimate
8U	1-2/Week Jan-March	One Tournament June/July	14-16 Games April-June	14-16 games, plus playoffs May-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	41-52 Games - 25+ Practices
9U "A" & "B"	1-2/Week Jan-March	3 Tournament May-July	14-16 Games April-June	14-16 games, plus playoffs May-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	47-62 Games - 40+ Practices
10U "A"	1-2/Week Jan-March	5 Tournaments April-July	<i>Exempt</i>	32-36 games, plus playoffs April-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	51-66 Games - 40+ Practices
10U "B"	1-2/Week Jan-March	3 Tournaments May-July	14-16 April-June	14-20 games, plus playoffs May-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	47-66 Games - 40+ Practices
11U "A"	1-2/Week Jan-March	9-15 Games April-July	<i>Exempt</i>	32-36 games, plus playoffs April-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	51-66 Games - 40+ Practices
11U "B"	1-2/Week Jan-March	9-15 Games April-July	14-16 April-June	14-20 games, plus playoffs May-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	47-66 Games - 40+ Practices
12U "A"	1-2/Week Jan-March	9-20 Games with Cooperstown option April-August	<i>Exempt</i>	32-36 games, plus playoffs April-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	51-70 Games - 40+ Practices
12U "B"	1-2/Week Jan-March	9-20 Games with Cooperstown option April-August	14-16 April-June	16-20 games, plus playoffs May-July	10-12 Aug-Oct	49-70 Games - 40+ Practices

COMMUNICATION

- Practice and game schedules are available through **Sports Engine**.
- Please RSVP to practices & games in **Sports Engine**.
- Be sure to check **Sports Engine** often for messages, alerts, and schedules.



- [optional] Games can be live streamed through **Game Changer**- please contact your child's coach/manager to see if **Game Changer** will be used this season.



- MBSA's Board of Directors are available to help you. Please see their roles and contact information on our website or click [HERE](#).
- Also, there is always a *Board Member on Duty* while games are being played at the MBSA Complex, during the season. Please visit the concession stand to see who is available that day and they can assist you.