CICB Tryout Manual

Travel Baseball Policies and Procedures

1. Introduction

The purpose of this manual is to outline the policies, procedures, and rules governing the Cambridge-Isanti Community Baseball (CICB) travel baseball program and tryout process.

CICB is committed to providing a fair and equitable process for all players seeking placement in the travel baseball program. This manual is intended to promote transparency and ensure that families understand the evaluation, selection, and team-formation processes.

All policies outlined in this manual are subject to review and change with approval from the CICB Board of Directors.

2. Eligibility and Registration

2.1 Registration Requirements

All participants must be registered with CICB and enrolled in a school or living within the Cambridge-Isanti School District before participating in tryouts. No exceptions will be made.

- CICB may request a release from another baseball association when necessary.
- Homeschooled participants must reside within the Cambridge-Isanti School District boundaries to be eligible for placement on a travel team roster.

All eligible participants who register for and attend CICB tryouts will be considered for travel baseball placement.

2.2 Declining a Travel Team Invitation

Families who choose to decline a travel team invitation must do so at the time the invitation is offered.

2.3 Travel Baseball Age and Grade Guidelines

Travel baseball age eligibility must follow MYAS guidelines.

CICB intends to offer a travel team at each eligible grade level, subject to player participation and program needs.

Playing Down

Players whose birthdays fall after the MYAS age cutoff date of May 1 may petition the travel director and committee to play with the grade level below them.

The following requirements apply:

- The request must be approved by the board of directors
- Both coaches involved must agree to the placement.
- The request must be submitted and approved before tryouts.
- This exception applies to travel baseball only. In-house players must play within their designated grade-level group.

Example: A sixth-grade player with a June birthday may request to play with the fifth-grade travel team.

Playing Up

Players requesting to play above their current grade level must meet the applicable MYAS age eligibility requirements for the higher-level travel team.

Example: A second-grade player with a summer birthday who turns nine within the same age eligibility period as the third-grade group may be eligible to try out for the 9U travel team, provided the player meets MYAS guidelines.

3. In-House Baseball and Alternative Playing Options

CICB's in-house and alternative playing options will generally follow the structure below:

Age Group	Grade Levels	Program Placement
8U	Kindergarten–2nd grade	In-house baseball
10U	3rd–4th grade	In-house baseball
12U	5th–6th grade	In-house baseball
13U–14U	7th–8th grade	Players not selected for the top travel team may be placed on an A-level travel team
15U	9th grade	Register with Cambridge-Isanti High School Baseball

8U Eligibility: Kindergarten players must have completed at least one year of CICB T-ball before participating in 8U, unless an exception is approved by the CICB Board of Directors.

13U–14U Alternative Teams: Players who do not make the top travel team may be placed on an A-level or Rec travel team.

Playing Up in the In-House Program: We do not allow players to play up or down in the in-house league, players must play with their grade.

4. Tryout Evaluation Process

4.1 Evaluator Selection

Evaluators will be used to assess players and establish tryout scores.

- Evaluators must be approved by the CICB Board of Directors.
- In rare circumstances, board members may serve as evaluators.
- Board members who coach travel baseball teams may not evaluate the age group they coach.

4.2 Evaluation Stations

Evaluators will establish stations designed to assess players' baseball abilities and skill levels.

Stations may evaluate the following areas:

- Proper technique and form
- Hitting and throwing power
- Accuracy
- Speed and agility
- Other relevant baseball skills

Evaluations will be based on the skills and performance demonstrated during the tryout process.

5. Coaches Pool Formation (9U–14U)

Following tryouts, a coaches pool of up to 20 players may be formed at each applicable age level: 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, and 14U.

The CICB Board of Directors will notify players who advance to the coaches pool.

5.1 Coaches Pool Selection

- The 10 players with the highest tryout scores will receive automatic invitations to the coaches pool.
- The head coach may select up to 10 additional players from the tryout list to invite to the coaches pool.

Advancement to the coaches pool does not guarantee placement on a travel team.

5.2 Excused Absences

In cases of injury, illness, or another circumstance approved by the CICB Board of Directors, special consideration may be given to a player who is unable to attend tryouts. All absences must be submitted to and approved by the Board of Directors.

Participation in another non-baseball sport is not considered an excused absence for players seeking consideration for the travel baseball program. Players who miss tryouts for this reason will not be eligible for special consideration or advancement to the coaches pool based on an excused absence.

An approved absence does not guarantee placement on a travel team. Any special consideration will be determined by the CICB Board of Directors in accordance with the tryout policies.

- Written notification explaining the absence must be submitted to the CICB Board of Directors.
- A returning travel player may be granted a place in the coaches pool for further evaluation by the head coach.
- A player who was not on the previous season's travel team but has an absence excused by the Board may also be considered for participation in the coaches pool.

5.3 Declined Coaches Pool Invitations

If a player declines an invitation to the coaches pool, the head coach may invite another eligible player who is not already in the pool, with approval from the Travel Director.

Extending a replacement invitation is optional and remains at the coach's discretion.

If a player can’t make the coaches pool, but made the tryout date, the coach will take their score, coaches feedback and previous seasons game changer stats for consideration.

5.4 Coaches Pool Evaluation

The coaches pool allows the head coach to conduct additional evaluations and determine the final team roster.

The date, time, and location of the coaches pool evaluation will be determined by the head coach in coordination with the CICB Board of Directors. Details will be communicated to invited players by the Board.

6. 9U Tryout, Team Formation and Coaches

For 9U travel baseball, the top 20 players based on tryout scores will be considered for the coaches pool. The CICB Board of Directors will notify the selected players.

For the 9U head coaching position, interested candidates must have a player who finishes in the top five of tryout scores to be considered. If no candidates within the top five express interest, candidates with players who finish in the top nine will be considered. If multiple candidates meet the eligibility requirements and express interest, an interview process will be conducted to determine the head coach.

Head coaches for the 10U–14U teams will be given the first opportunity to return as head coach for the upcoming season, provided there are no outstanding issues, complaints, or prior notifications that would prevent their return.

In all age groups, individuals interested in serving as assistant coaches must have a player who finishes in the top 5 of tryout scores to be eligible to attend the coaches pool.

Board Member Participation: All CICB Board of Directors members are permitted to attend tryouts and any coaches pool evaluations, regardless of whether they are coaching a team.

7. Travel Team Formation and Selection

The CICB Board of Directors takes the tryout and team-formation process seriously. The program's goal is to continue growing and developing players so they are prepared for high school baseball.

Tryout scores are an important part of the selection process; however, they are not the only factor considered when forming travel teams.

7.1 Factors Considered

During the coaches pool and team-formation process, coaches may consider:

- Overall tryout scores and demonstrated skill level
- Performance during the coaches pool evaluation
- Previous-season GameChanger statistics, when available
- Previous coaches feedback
- Attitude and sportsmanship
- Commitment and attendance expectations

- Coachability and willingness to learn
- Ability to be a supportive teammate
- Overall team composition and fit

Players may demonstrate similar skill levels during tryouts. These additional considerations help coaches determine which players will best meet the needs of the team.

7.2 Head Coach Responsibilities

The CICB Board of Directors will establish the coaches pool parameters:

- The top 10 players based on tryout scores must be included in the coaches pool.
- The head coach may select up to 10 additional players from the tryout list.

The head coach is responsible for making final roster selections and presenting the proposed roster to the CICB Board of Directors, including the rationale for the selections.

Final team formation must follow CICB policies and the applicable approval process established by the Board.

8. Team Invitations and Player Placement

8.1 Roster Size

Travel teams will generally consist of 11 or 12 players.

8.2 Invitation Notifications

The CICB Board of Directors will notify players selected for a travel team and provide the deadline for accepting or declining the invitation.

Families will generally be given no more than one week to respond.

8.3 Placement for Players Not Selected

Players who are not selected for the top travel team at their age level will be placed according to the following structure:

- **10U–12U:** Placement on an appropriate in-house team.
- **13U–14U:** Placement on an A-level or Rec travel team.

When forming additional teams, CICB will strive to distribute players equitably based on tryout scores.

If a current tryout score is unavailable, a player's previous-season score may be considered to help maintain balanced team skill levels.

9. Disqualification from the Tryout Process or Travel Program

CICB expects all players to demonstrate appropriate sportsmanship, respect, and safe behavior throughout the tryout process and travel baseball season.

9.1 Behavioral Concerns

If the CICB Board of Directors receives written documentation from a head coach regarding a player's significant behavioral concerns, poor attitude, or other relevant issues, the Board may review the circumstances and consider disqualifying the player from the coaches pool or travel baseball program.

9.2 Unsafe or Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A player who demonstrates unsportsmanlike behavior or acts in an unsafe manner during tryouts may be removed from the evaluation process by a CICB Board member.

Removal from tryouts may end the player's eligibility for consideration in the coaches pool and travel baseball program.

Any resulting decision will be handled by the CICB Board of Directors in accordance with applicable program policies.

10. Travel Baseball Volunteer Policy

Each family participating in CICB travel baseball is required to complete **four volunteer hours per season**.

10.1 Volunteer Deposit or Fee

Before the season begins, each family will acknowledge the volunteer policy established by the CICB Board of Directors.

- Families that complete the required four volunteer hours will not be charged.
- Families that do not complete the required hours will be charged the volunteer requirement agreed upon amount.

The Board will communicate payment requirements, deadlines, and applicable procedures before the season begins.

10.2 Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer opportunities and instructions for fulfilling the requirement will be communicated by the CICB Board of Directors.

Families are responsible for completing their required volunteer hours within the established timeframe. If the volunteer hours are not completed, the volunteer fee will be charged and if the volunteer fee cannot be collected, your player will be ineligible to participate in future seasons until the outstanding payment has been made.

Policy Administration

The CICB Board of Directors is responsible for administering this manual and interpreting its provisions. Any amendments, exceptions, or policy changes must be approved by the Board in accordance with CICB procedures.