# Player Policies and Procedures
## (Section 2)

### 2A. Geographic Eligibility

Participants of Zimmerman Youth Baseball must follow residency requirements as approved by League Guidelines, as found on their website:

### 2B. Registration

1. **Scholarships**: If a family is experiencing financial hardship, Zimmerman Youth Baseball will make efforts to provide a scholarship for any player(s) impacted. A request for a scholarship must be made in writing and emailed to Zimmerman Youth Baseball: *zimmermanbaseballreg@gmail.com*. Scholarship requests must be made prior to March 31st of each year. Scholarship requests will be prioritized and allocated based upon circumstances, need and scholarship availability. No player is guaranteed or owed a scholarship, but the Board of Directors will attempt to make the resources available to ensure that any child who desires to play baseball is granted that opportunity.

   In return for a scholarship, the family of the player will be asked to donate additional volunteer time to partially offset the cost of the scholarship. The volunteer hours required for a scholarship are per Board recommendation.

2. **Registration Refunds and Family Discounts**:

a. Refund Policy for children participating in the Majors/Minors/ZBall Program:
- Zimmerman Youth Baseball will provide a full refund of registration fees if we receive notification prior to your child being assigned to a team by the house league coordinator.
- No refund will be provided if notification is received after your child is assigned to a team.

b. Refund Policy for children participating in the Travel Program:
- Zimmerman Youth Baseball will provide a full refund of registration fees if we receive notification by January 15th.
- If a family has 3 or more players participating in the Travel Program, the third and above registration will be reduced by 50%.

c. Injury related refunds will be made on a case-by-case basis.

## 2C. Levels of Play

1. **Zimmerman Z-Ball:** Z-ball (t-ball) will teach boys and girls, ages 3-5, the beginning fundamentals of baseball/softball. Kids will be practicing hitting, fielding, and base running through practices and games. Safety is our top priority, so a safety ball will be placed on an adjustable tee for every child to get an at bat. Helmets will also be worn for hitting and baserunning. Games/practices will last for one hour. We will be providing Thunder z-shirts in a variety of team colors.

2. **Zimmerman Minors:** For Current Kindergarten and First grades, ages 5 thru 7. Minors is a non-competitive league focusing on baseball fundamentals. This is a coach over hand pitch league. There are no player evaluations and the league commissioner randomly selects teams. At this age carpool sibling requests are considered so comment if needed in registration. Games are 3 innings long with no more than 2 or 3 events per week. Safety baseballs are used to protect the players and the Coaches. Practice time will be included in the game time. Major League Baseball team hats and jerseys are supplied. The season ends with a Minors Jamboree.

3. **Zimmerman Majors:** This league is formatted for 8 and 9 year olds (Currently in 2nd-4th grade) and introduces competitive play. Players pitch to each other in this league for the entire season from a 42-foot mound using official league balls (hard balls). Scores/standings are kept. Teams are formed by the Majors/Minors/Zball Director. Games are 4 innings long or an hour and 15 minutes. Practices will occur one-half hour prior to game time. Major League Baseball team hats and jerseys are supplied. The season ends with a Majors Bash.

4. **Zimmerman Travel League:** Traveling baseball is a competitive league offered to kids ages 9-15. 9U and 10U teams are more developmental as players get familiar with travel baseball with a focus on fundamentals and skill development. Equal playing time is encouraged as well as opportunities to learn to play multiple positions. At 11U and up, they tend to be more competitive as playing time and positions are more tied to skill levels. Teams will be traveling to surrounding towns and cities for games. The regular season is made up of 12-16 games depending on the age of your player. They will be playing in a minimum of two weekend tournaments paid for by ZYBA. Your team may attend more tournaments at the team's expense. The typical season runs from May through the end of July. Travel leagues typically consist of 16 regular season games played during the week with playoffs at the end of the year. You can expect 1-2 practices per week. Those players on 14U teams are required to assist in helping with the annual Zimmerman Classic Tournament.

## 2E. Travel League

The Travel League is a competitive league in which players continue to receive instruction designed to further develop their skills and abilities performing the fundamentals of baseball. Players must participate in all segments of the try-outs each year in order to make a Travel Team. Depending upon the number of participants and skill level of the teams, the Travel Director will determine if Zimmerman will field an AAA-Team, AA-Team, or A-Team.

Zimmerman Youth Baseball Travel League teams compete in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL), which is a summer traveling baseball league designed for players 9-19 years old. The league consists of a 16-game regular season for 9-15 year olds with an all inclusive playoff at the end of the season.

## 2F. Travel Age Classification

We allow players to try-out for teams solely based upon MYAS age guidelines. This means that sometimes a player might be able to "play-down" from their grade level.

1. Any player that wants to Play-Down, and their birthdate allows it (following MYAS guidelines) will be allowed to petition the Zimmerman Youth Baseball Board for an exemption. The Board decision will be considered final.

## 2G. Playing-Up in Travel League

1. Players wishing to Play-Up must have prior approval from the Travel Director. The result of the try-outs will be final.

## 2H. Travel Tryout Process

The Travel League Try-Out process is designed to create a fair and equitable means to evaluate the skill level of each player trying out for a Zimmerman Baseball travel team. A system has been designed that gives everyone an equal chance to compete for a spot on these teams.

There will be at least one team formed at each age level. Depending upon participant numbers, and/or ability levels, there may be an AAA, AA or A team.

Effective in 2027, once a player registers and tries out for a particular age level, that is the only registration they are allowed for tryouts.

Due to the amount of room, and for the overall benefit of the participants, no spectators will be allowed in the facility during try-outs. This rule will be strictly enforced.All tryout forms, as well as the overall rating of all participants in each group, will be kept on file for up to twelve months.

If a parent has a question regarding their child's performance at the try-outs they can write to the Board and request a review of the child's try-out and may receive a copy of their score.

## 2I. Travel Tryout Evaluators

The primary evaluators for Travel Tryouts are independent of Zimmerman Youth Baseball. Resumes for all evaluators will be available upon request.

## 2J. Travel Team Selection

The registered head coach is required to select the "locked-in" players and include them on the roster. The coach can fill the roster from the remaining players in the top 15. If there is enough for a second team, the remaining players are reordered. The number of locked players and number of coach options vary with the age group as follows:

| *Age* | *Locked* | *Coach Choice* |
|---|---|---|
| *9* | *8* | *4* |
| *10* | *8* | *4* |
| *11* | *8* | *4* |
| *12* | *7* | *5* |
| *13* | *7* | *Up to 6* |
| *14* | *6* | *Up to 7* |
| *15* | *6* | *Up to 7* |

Please note there will be no coaches picks at the A level unless there is an excess of 15 players, in which case they will be reordered and the "locked-in" players are in effect.

If there are no head coaches at try-outs, then the top 12 players will automatically be selected for that team.

## 2K. Player Code of Conduct

1. I will not berate the officials or tease, bait, or "trash talk" my opponent.
2. I will not use profanity
3. I will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, contest administrators and officials at every game.
4. I will place the emotional and physical well being of my teammates and opponents ahead of my personal desire to win.
5. I will treat other administrators, players, coaches, fans and officials with respect regardless of race, gender, creed or ability.
6. I will demand a sports environment that is free from drugs, tobacco and alcohol and will refrain from their use at sporting events.
7. I will do my best to remember that youth sports are supposed to be FUN and that winning and losing are part of everyone's experience.
8. I will express my concerns through the proper channels in a dignified manner.
9. I will respect the volunteers that are assisting with the conduct of these events.
10. I will respect and adhere to the rules governing eligibility and competition.

If any infraction occurs, it is up to the coach to decide enforcement including but not limited to, suspension or removal from the team. Any appeal can be submitted with the Board for review.

## 2L. Player Social Media Policy:

No Player shall post or share statements or photos on Social Media regarding Zimmerman Youth Baseball Board of Directors, Coaches, Referees, Parents or other Players that is, or could be perceived as, negative or derogatory. Should any post be brought to the attention of Zimmerman Youth Baseball Board of Directors, the offending player will be warned and the post must be removed immediately. If it is not removed, the Board of Directors reserves the right to remove the associated player from the Zimmerman Youth Baseball Program and ban them from any Zimmerman Youth Baseball activity or event. If an offending player has received a warning and repeats the offense a second time, the Board of Directors shall remove the associated player from the Zimmerman Youth Baseball program and ban them from any Zimmerman Youth Baseball activity or event.

In the event a player is removed from the program, registration fees will not be refunded.

## 2M. Player Attendance Guidelines

We realize players probably will not be able to attend every practice and game; therefore, we have developed some guidelines on attendance and absences. The following examples of excused and unexcused absences are only meant to be a guide, not a comprehensive list. It will ultimately be the coaches' discretion to determine on a case-by-case basis whether the absence is excused or unexcused.

| **Excused Absences** | **Unexcused Absences** |
|---|---|
| Death in the family | Forgot |
| illness or Injury | Other Sport Activities |
| Family Vacation *(if communicated 2 wks in advance)* | Could not get a ride |
| Community Service | 2 or more Family Vacations |
| School/Religious Activities | |

The consequences for an unexcused absence is that the player will see reduced playing time in a subsequent game. Each coach has the discretion to determine the timing of this consequence (i.e. during the next game vs two games later), but players must play a minimum of two innings in that subsequent complete game. As an organization we are recommending that each coach document both excused and unexcused absences.

Parents and players should show common courtesy and communicate to the coach if players will be late or cannot attend a game or practice. Written communication given to the coach helps support verbal communication and would be appreciated.