

Warrington Youth Baseball

General Rules and Regulations (revised 2012)

Warrington Youth Baseball's (WYB) goal is to provide an opportunity for children from the ages of 4 through 12 to learn baseball in a safe, fun, and fair environment. WYB is a 501C (3) not for profit organization with a national charter with Babe Ruth League (Cal Ripken Division).

Conduct (Coaches, Players, Parents and Umpires)

In order to meet the goals of providing a safe and fun baseball experience, certain conduct is expected and enforced. All members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is not only sportsmanlike, but respectful of other members of WYB as well as opposing teams/parents and umpires during travel and tournament play.

Unsportsmanlike and/or dangerous behavior will not be tolerated by the WYB board. The following presents some general rules that will be enforced:

1. Verbal abuse of any WYB or Opposing player, coach, umpire or parent will not be tolerated during any WYB games (In-house, Travel or Tournament). Verbal abuse could result in ejection from the game and further disciplinary action by the WYB Board.
2. Alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are not permitted at any time at any field locations. Anyone observed drinking alcoholic beverages during a WYB (In-house, Travel or Tournament) game will be asked to leave the field location. Note the local authorities may be called if anyone is observed to be "under the influence," during a WYB game.
3. There will be no smoking in any dugout or on the field of play by anyone.
4. After each and every game WYB teams (players and coaches) will shake hands with the opposing team. No negative talk during the game or during the post-game handshake will be condoned or allowed.

If a player, coach or parent is ejected from a game (in-house, travel, or tournament) they are required to leave the field immediately. All ejections or violations of WYB's codes of conduct will be reviewed by the WYB Code of Conduct Committee. Following the first ejection the individual will be suspended for 1 game, following a 2nd ejection the individual will be suspended for 3 games, and following a 3rd ejection the individual will be suspended for the remaining games of that season. If a 3rd ejection occurs eligibility of that individual will be evaluated prior to being allowed to register for the next season.

Ejections from Travel and Tournament games will be dealt with in accordance with the travel league or tournament specific rules in addition to the suspensions noted above.

Age Requirements

It is WYB's policy that it's Intramural (In-house), Tournament and Travel Baseball programs remain age pure. This means that each child will be placed in the age group corresponding to their date of birth, and the cut off date for that year. For example, for the Spring 2013 season a child must be the age corresponding to the age group for which they wish to play by April 30, 2013.

"Playing-up" will only be allowed if a player has been able to tryout for and successfully make an "A" level travel team at a higher age level. In this case the player will also play intramural (in-house) baseball at that higher level.

Birth certificates are required for all players trying out for Travel and Tournament teams prior to the start of tryouts. Starting with the 2013 Spring Baseball Season **ALL** players signing up to play baseball with WYB will be required to provide a birth certificate.

Travel and Tournament Baseball:

For WYB's travel program players are encouraged to play to their highest level of ability, which means that players will be allowed to tryout for travel teams at a higher age level. A player who successfully makes a travel team at a higher age level will need to continue to try out for and make the higher age level travel team in order to "play up" for subsequent years. A player who is "playing up" may return to their true age group at the beginning of any season, as a result of personal choice or because they did not make the travel team at the higher age level.

A travel player will only be allowed to “play up” to a higher age levels “A” team and will not be eligible to make the higher age levels “B” team.

Boundaries

Intramural (In-house)/Cal Ripken Tournament & Travel Baseball:

WYB is affiliated with Cal Ripken Baseball and will only accept players who live within the boundaries established by the local district administrating the area. The area currently assigned and approved by our board along with the district includes Warrington and Warwick Townships. ***Please refer to the map provided on the WYB website for specific boundary definition.***

Our organization will not accept or attempt to obtain a waiver for anyone that resides outside of our area. Recruiting of players from outside our boundaries to participate in any of our baseball programs in not permitted.

Any requests for boundary exceptions must be approved by the Executive Board (President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Travel Director). In no event will an exception be granted that jeopardizes WYB’s standing or ability to participate with Cal Ripken Baseball or its Travel Leagues or negatively impact our relationships with neighboring baseball programs. Examples of boundary exceptions that may be considered include:

1. If you move from WYB’s boundaries into another area that isn’t part of WYB. This is typically what is called the “grandfather rule”. We will attempt to obtain a waiver in this case, but our organization recommends that you associate with the league to where you now live, so that your child can develop new friends where they reside and/or go to school with.
2. If a child is of tee ball age (4 or 5 years old). However, in these cases when the child turns 6 years old he/she should be registered in the proper organization. WYB allows for younger children to play in its Tee-Ball Program since other organizations do not provide baseball for this age group.

Travel Baseball

Travel Baseball is played during the spring, as is in-house baseball, except the games are on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons, usually starting the first week of April and ending to the first week of June. When playing travel baseball your child must also play in-house baseball. Thus, your child, if

selected, would play on 2 teams in the spring – his/her in-house team, and the travel team.

The purpose of the Travel team is to offer a more challenging level of baseball than can be seen in the in-house league. The intention of the Travel League is to have many players with similar talent levels competing with each other on a weekly basis. The Travel teams will play against their counterparts from Warwick, Pennsbury, Council Rock, Lenape Valley, Doylestown, and other surrounding area teams. Playing travel baseball is an excellent opportunity to further develop the talents of all the boys on the team.

Travel league rules generally do not mandate a minimum amount of playing time that each player needs to play in each game. WYB prefers that its coaches ensure that players get the opportunity to participate in each game, however, that decision is left to the Travel Team's Head Coach.

Player and Parent Commitment:

Our local league participates in the Suburban Travel Baseball League (STBL) to provide a more competitive environment.

Playing travel baseball will require a commitment by not only the players, but also the parents. As mentioned above, the season runs concurrently with the in-house season. With that said, by mid April, the Travel team players will play Friday and Sunday, plus an in-house game on Saturday and one weekday. Additionally, expect to practice at least once a week, which will result in at least five days of baseball per week for your son. This is stated so as to inform you prior to tryouts, and to remove the possibility of this commitment being a surprise to anyone involved.

All parents will be asked to assist with the running of the travel baseball program by getting fields ready, manning the snack stand and volunteering when WYB hosts tournaments.

Players voluntarily register for Travel Baseball. Tryouts are held and not all players will make the team. This is a reality that all parents and players MUST understand. There is no guarantee that your child will be selected to be on a Travel Team Roster.

Once on the team roster, there is a separate fee above the in-house fee. This fee covers uniforms, insurance, umpires, and equipment. History has shown that a large percentage of Travel players try-out for Post-Season Tournament teams in the summer. A player must play intramural (in-house)

baseball to be eligible for a Post-Season Tournament team. NO EXCEPTIONS ALLOWED.

A few important differences exist between Travel Baseball and Intramural (in-house) Baseball. These differences are found in the Suburban Travel Baseball League Rulebook.

A Few of These Differences Are:

- Travel leagues permit unlimited base stealing; Intramural generally limits the number of steals per inning.
- Travel pitchers generally throw harder & faster than those in most Intramural programs.
- Travel players are not guaranteed to play every inning or even in every game. Intramural programs focus on instruction and more equal playing time for all.
- Travel players should understand that belonging to a Travel team (regardless of the amount of playing time experienced) is a unique opportunity and places that individual among the BEST Baseball players in the Bucks County region. There is no other venue where so many talented youngsters play competitive baseball at these age levels.

WYB attempts to field two Travel teams per age group whenever possible based on participation requests.

Tournament Baseball

Tournament Baseball is played during the late spring, and possibly through the summer. Prior to playing tournament baseball your child must play during the in-house baseball season to qualify to play on ANY tournament team. The purpose of the Tournament team is to compete and win, in either individual tournaments or the Cal Ripken flight of tournaments which are progressive as long as you continue to win. Example: if you win the district tournament, you will progress to the next level which is the State tournament and if you win that one, you will progress to the regional and so on. If you continue to win, you could be playing baseball until August.

WYB does not sponsor teams for participation in Tournaments at Cooperstown. WYB does not have a policy that restricts its players from participating on these teams, but it does not sponsor or control these teams. These teams typically are run by the coaches and parents with players on these teams. In many cases WYB players participate on these teams, however, these teams are not WYB teams.

Player and Parent Commitment:

Playing tournament baseball will require a commitment by not only the players, but also the parents. As mentioned above, the season begins once the in-house season ends. Between games and practices, your child will be playing baseball between five to seven days per week during the tournament season. This is stated so as to inform you prior to tryouts, and to remove the possibility of this commitment being a surprise to anyone involved.

All parents will be asked to assist with the running of the tournament season by getting fields ready, manning the snack stand, and officiating games hosted at WYB facilities.

Players voluntarily try-out for Tournament Baseball; tryouts are held and not all players will make the team. This is a reality that all parents and players MUST understand. There is no guarantee that your child will be selected to be on a Tournament Team, and your child could be one or two that get cut for a specific team.

A player must play intramural (in-house) baseball and meet the minimum games requirement to be eligible for a Post-Season Tournament team. NO EXCEPTIONS ALLOWED (playing Travel Baseball does not count towards satisfying the in-house minimum games requirement).