

HFL-M Youth Baseball Travel Team Coach and Player Selection Policy

Objective: The purpose of this Policy is to document the processes used by HFL-M Youth Baseball (“HFL-M YB”) to select the coaches and players for HFL-M YB travel teams. This Policy does not apply to the selection process for coaches or players on HFL-M YB house league or HFL-M YB fall ball teams.

Introduction: HFL-M YB each year sponsors travel teams that compete with other community baseball teams during HFL-M YB’s summer baseball tournament and tournaments sponsored by other towns. HFL-M YB also sponsors teams that compete in other leagues, such as the Monroe County Baseball Region (“MCBR”) League. These teams are designed to allow selected players the chance to compete against teams selected by other towns. Unlike house league and fall ball, both of which are signup only (no tryouts, no cuts), the HFL-M YB travel teams are selected competitively. The HFL-M YB Board of Directors (“BoD”) established this Policy to document the travel team coach and player selection processes and to ensure those processes are transparent, fair and objective.

Player Eligibility:

1. 8U Teams: All HFL-M YB registered youths league age 6, 7 or 8 playing in the Intermediate or Minors house league are eligible to try out for 8U travel teams (i.e., a player must play house league to be eligible to be selected for a travel team that year). In addition to the current year, a player who neither lives within the HFL school district nor attends an HFL school (“non-HFL Player”) must also have played in the HFL-M YB spring house league in the previous year to be eligible to try out for 8U teams. League age is defined in the HFL-M YB League Age Policy.
2. 10U Teams (Minors): All HFL-M YB registered youths league age 8, 9 or 10 playing in the Minors or Majors house league are eligible to try out for 10U travel teams (i.e., a player must play house league to be eligible to be selected for a travel team that year). In addition to the current year, a non-HFL Player must also have played in the HFL-M YB spring house league in the previous year to be eligible to try out for 10U teams. League age is defined in the HFL-M YB League Age Policy.
3. 12U Teams (Majors): All HFL-M YB registered youths league age 10, 11 or 12 playing in the Majors or Juniors 14U house league are eligible to try out for 12U

travel teams (i.e., a player must play house league to be eligible to be selected for a travel team that year). In addition to the current year, a non-HFL Player must also have played in the HFL-M YB spring house league in the previous year to be eligible to try out for 12U teams. League age is defined in the HFL-M YB League Age Policy.

4. 12U Mendon Storm Team: All HFL-M YB registered youths who will be league age 10, 11 or 12 playing in the Majors or Juniors 14U house league during the year that the Mendon Storm team will play are eligible to try out for the Mendon Storm team. League age is defined in the HFL-M YB League Age Policy. Also, Storm players must have played in the HFL-M YB Minors or Majors house league the year before the player would play on the Mendon Storm team (i.e., a player must play in the house league in the season that the player would play on the Mendon Storm team and in the previous season to be eligible to try out for the Mendon Storm team). See Section 6.d.ii in the Player Selection paragraph below regarding non-HFL Players trying out for Mendon Storm.
5. 12U to 18U Travel Teams: All players that meet the age, geographic and any other eligibility criteria applicable to the league in which the HFL-M YB's travel team will play are eligible to try out for the HFL-M YB's travel team.
6. The BoD may waive the "must play house league to be eligible to be selected for a travel team that year" rule and the "play previous year" rule in sections 1 to 4 above if there are not enough players to field a team or if a player recently moved into the Honeoye Falls, Lima or Mendon community.
7. Time commitments and fundraising requirements vary from travel team to travel team. The BoD and/or the applicable travel team head coach will communicate these commitments and requirements to parents and players prior to or at the tryouts.

Process:

1. Head Coach Selection.
 - a. The league will use its website player registration information and contact all parents with a child eligible to try out for the travel team subject to an upcoming tryout(s). The notice shall state a parent should contact the league coordinator for the league coordinating the tryout(s) if the parent has interest in being considered for the head coach position.

- i. The league coordinators will submit to the BoD the names of the interested candidates.
 - ii. In addition to the candidates' names, the league coordinators should submit to the BoD a brief summary containing the each candidate's coaching interest level, an opinion on whether the candidate's son or daughter who would be on the travel team has the skills needed to play on that team and a summary of the candidates coaching and other relevant experience.
 - iii. If the League Coordinator is pursuing a travel team coaching position in the league in which he or she coordinates, then the HFL-M YB President will designate another BoD member to perform the duties contained in subsections i and ii above.
 - b. The BoD will consider the candidates' coaching experience and other credentials and may interview one or more of the candidates. The BoD will also consider a candidate's time demands when the house league game schedule overlaps with the travel team game schedule. The BoD will select the head coach of each travel team by a majority vote of the BoD casting votes. The head coach will be selected before any players are selected.
2. Notice to Players. HFL-M YB will advertise travel team tryouts to every HFL-M YB player registered in the baseball season in which the tryouts occur using the league's website player registration information and post on the HFL-M YB website the dates that the tryouts will take place.
 3. Player Numeric Assessments. The applicable HFL-M YB league coordinator will request each house league team head coach in the Intermediate, Minors and Majors HFL-M YB leagues to submit to the coordinator prior to the applicable tryouts (and workout, if any) a 1-5 assessment of each player on his or her team. Attachment A is a player evaluation form each house league head coach will be requested to complete. These assessments will be kept confidential, shared with only the BoD and the evaluators for the applicable travel team, and will supplement the player evaluations completed following the tryout(s).
 4. Tryouts/Workout.
 - a. Tryouts Occurring Within the House League Season. There shall be at least one tryout for each travel team that is picked during the house league season.
 - b. Tryouts Occurring Outside of the House League Season.

- i. There shall be one or two tryouts for each travel team that is picked outside of the house league season. If only one tryout occurs, then the head coach shall have a workout prior to the tryout session.
 - ii. Players are encouraged to attend both tryouts or the workout and the tryout. If two tryouts are held, players must attend at least one of the tryouts to be eligible for consideration. If a workout and a tryout are held, players must attend the tryout to be eligible for consideration.
- c. If a player has an important conflict or is ill, the evaluators will attempt to find an alternative date to evaluate that player if that player notifies the head coach sufficiently in advance. This should happen infrequently. If an alternative date to evaluate that player is not practical (for example, a player is injured prior to a fall try out for a spring MCBR team and the injury is expected to require several months to heal), then the evaluators will evaluate the injured player based on the player's performance on the most recent HFL-M YB teams.

5. Tryout Evaluators.

- a. At least three evaluators will be present at the tryout(s) to evaluate the players who participate. One of the evaluators will be the head coach and two of the evaluators will be BoD members. The evaluators should attend the workout (if any) to observe but not numerically evaluate the players participating in the workout.
 - i. Ideally, one of the two BoD members serving as an evaluator should be reasonably familiar with the current skills of all or many of the players anticipated participating in the tryout(s).
 - ii. A person cannot be an evaluator if:
 - 1. he or she has any children or step-children participating in the tryout; or
 - 2. is related to any player participating in the tryout in a way not stated in section 5(a)(ii)(1).
- b. Attachment B is an evaluation form that shall be completed by each evaluator immediately following the tryout(s).

6. Player Selection.

- a. The evaluators will select the travel team players based on the players' performances at the tryout(s) and the numeric assessments provided to the BoD by the house league head coaches.

- b. The only player guaranteed a spot on the travel team is the head coach's son or daughter.
 - c. When making the final cut(s), if any, if players are similar in skill level, the evaluators should give preference to player(s) who do not have another year to make the travel team which is the subject of the tryout(s). In other words, when making the final cuts, if players are similar in skill level, the evaluators should consider selecting the player(s) who don't have another year to make that particular team (a 12 year old trying out for a 12U team or a 10 year old trying out for a 10U team).
 - d. Mendon Storm.
 - i. Although 10 year olds are eligible to try out for the Mendon Storm team, a 10 year old player will be selected for that team only if the evaluators determine that he or she has one or more skills that are needed by the Storm team and these skills are significantly better than those same skills possessed by any 11 or 12 year olds who would not make the team.
 - ii. A player who neither lives within the HFL school district nor attends an HFL school ("non-HFL Player") may try out for the Mendon Storm team if he or she meets the eligibility criteria contained in paragraph 4 of the Player Eligibility section above. However, a non-HFL Player may not be selected for the Storm team unless there would be no 11- or 12-year old players who currently live within the HFL school district or who currently attend an HFL school ("HFL-Player") cut from the Mendon Storm team.
 - e. The head coach for each travel team will notify each player who participated in the tryout(s) as soon as possible after the tryout(s) is/are complete to inform the player whether or not he or she made the team.
 - f. If the number of players participating in a tryout is less than the number of players who will be rostered, the head coach may contact other player(s) to complete the team's roster. The other player(s) contacted must meet the player eligibility requirements stated above. Any player not meeting the player eligibility requirements stated above may not be added to the team roster without approval by majority vote of BoD casting votes.
7. Assistant Coaches. No assistant coach will be "pre-selected" prior to player selection. The head coach will identify proposed assistant coaches after the travel team roster is complete and inform the BoD of the assistant coach candidates. The BoD must approve each travel team assistant coach by a majority vote of the BoD casting votes.

House League: Players selected to play on a travel team must play on an HFL-M YB house league team that corresponds with the league age of the travel team on which the player is rostered. For example, a league age 10 year old selected to play on the Mendon Storm team must play on a Majors house league team during the season in which the player plays on the Mendon Storm team. Players are strongly encouraged to attend the January/February evaluation session for the league in which the player will play so that coaches for the league in which the player will play during the upcoming house league season can evaluate these players.

Questions: Questions about this Policy should be directed to the HFL-M YB league coordinator for the applicable travel team. The names and contact information for these league coordinators are located at the HFL-M YB website (www.hfmbaseball.org).

Approved: HFL-M YB BoD on April 4, 2016; revised on December 5, 2016, June 5, 2018 and December 4, 2018.