

Brandon Valley Baseball Association
Travel Team Policy (9u-12u)
Effective March 12th, 2017

It is the Association's goal to provide an equal opportunity to all players in the community to participate in an evaluation process for placement on a BVBA Travel Team. The objective for player placement is to form teams of similarly skilled players and to place all players who want to participate in travel baseball. We believe our defined and well-documented process for meeting this objective is solid. There is diversity (different points of evaluation) and anonymity built into the process, which results in a fair and unbiased method of producing accurate placements. Placement is not guaranteed, but it is our desire to be as fair, transparent, and consistent as we possibly can be within the constraints of registration number, age cut-offs, and coach volunteers. It is required that the athletes that choose to go through the evaluation process for one of these travel teams also participate in the BVBA league play.

The BVBA will provide travel teams formed through our process the following:

1. Access to BVBA fields to host practices in addition to league play and practices.
2. Entry fees into tournaments that their travel team coach selects and has approved by the BVBA, including free entry into BVBA conducted tournaments. Currently there are four BVBA conducted tournaments.
3. Access to BVBA fields to host friendship games in addition to tournaments that are arranged by team coaches with our area teams.
4. Umpires for schedule friendship games hosted on BVBA fields.
5. All BVBA Travel Teams will get the opportunity to represent the BVBA and the Community of Brandon in the South Dakota A Baseball State Tournament in their respective age groups.
6. Equipment including game balls, practice balls, batting helmets, catcher's gear, uniform tops, and hats.
7. Liability Insurance Coverage under the blanket of the BVBA.
8. BVBA formed travel teams will be recognized as formed teams from the date the teams are announced until the final BVBA Tournament of the year or the Little League World Series for the All-Star Team.

The association is a community project allowing each player to develop from the Rookies League to the Legion Baseball players. In addition to playing the game of baseball, the association provides opportunities to develop players, umpires, and volunteers while working as one community to improve baseball in Brandon. The entire association including players, umpires, and volunteers is made up of community members who strive for improvement for all- not just a particular group. Independent teams that form outside of the BVBA travel team process will be subject to the following actions:

1. To be eligible to play on a BVBA Travel Team, player must be registered and play in a BVBA league (Little League Minors or Majors)
2. Independently formed teams will not be recognized as a BVBA team thus losing the opportunity to participate in the South Dakota State A State baseball tournament for their respective age group.
3. The BVBA is responsible for the scheduling of activities on the fields at Aspen Park, McHardy Park, and Valley Springs. All organized activities must be coordinated through the Director of Baseball. Field access for independently formed teams will be based on availability when not in use by the BVBA and other city recognized groups.
4. Independently formed teams are not part of the BVBA, and therefore are not covered under the BVBA Liability Policy and will be responsible for insuring themselves.
5. BVBA eligible players participating on independently formed teams may lose their eligibility to participate in the Little League All Star Team based on the following requirements: (i)
 - a. 11 year olds must have participated in 2 consecutive years of BVBA league play including their 11 year-old year.
 - b. 12 year olds must have participated in 2 consecutive years of BVBA league play including their 12 year-old year.
6. Travel team players may try out for a travel team based on their current age according to registration age cutoff's, or their current school grade. Players may not tryout for a team 2 years older than their current age or grade. (example; 9 year old player in 4th grade as of January 1st of current year may try out with the 9u team or the 10u team. Player will not be allowed to try out with the 11u team.) Player must play with the age group player tried out on. (example; 9u player tried out for 10u team and was placed on 10u red team. Player is not allowed to then move down to the 9u black or red team.)
7. Due to recent age cutoff's made by Little League International, some 12 year old players may be too old to play Little League Majors as a 6th grader. In an effort to allow a player to continue to play with players in his grade, the Association will allow affected players the opportunity to play 12u Travel Team baseball without participating in league play for that year only. (6th grade.) A Player who is 12 years old in 7th grade, who has aged out of Little League Major's must play with the 13u team.

i Players new to the BVBA due to being new to the community or new to the sport of baseball will not be subject to the All Star eligibility requirements and may be considered for the All Star team.