



2021AABA Traveling Baseball FAQ

- Why are we doing this?
 - Gopher State Requirements
 - Opens playing opportunities to the entire Alexandria community
 - Will make teams more competitive
- What are the residency requirements to play?
 - Open to players in the Alexandria School district. (**New this year** – players must attend Alexandria school district to play AABA travel baseball. Non Alexandria students are eligible to play AABA in-house baseball).
- How do I determine what age group my player should register for?
 - Age of player as of May 1, 2021.
 - Minimum age requirement is 10. Exception will be made for 9 year olds who will be entering the 4th grade.
- Can my player play up?
 - Yes, however we encourage players to play with their grade.
 - Players will be limited to participate in the age group they are evaluated in.
- How do I register for the evaluation, what is the deadline and what is the cost?
 - www.aababaseball.org
 - Deadline registration date is 8/7/20
 - Cost \$345.70
 - Registration fee of \$145.70 per player
 - \$5.70 processing fee paid to our online registration vendor
 - \$15.00 evaluation fee paid to our external evaluation vendor
 - \$125 deposit (refunded only if player does not make a team)
 - **Remaining \$200.00 is due 2/1/2021.**
 - No player is eligible to practice until payment is made in full.
- When and where are evaluations?
 - August 11th, Location Northstar Sports Complex
 - 10U 5:00pm – 6:15pm
 - 11U 6:30pm - 7:45pm
 - 12U 8:00pm – 9:15pm
 - August 12th, Location Northstar Sports Complex
 - 13U 5:00pm – 6:15pm

- 14U 6:30 – 7:45pm
 - Make Up 8:00 – 9:00pm
 - August 17th: Location TBD
 - Make up: 6:00-8:00pm
 - Players must register and be evaluated to participate.
- How are the evaluations structured?
 - Evaluations open to parents, however this year, due to COVID-19, one parent or guardian per player (social distancing)
 - Players should show up 15 minutes prior to evaluation time to warm up.
 - Evaluated on hitting, pitching, fielding, and throwing. Players are scored on a 1-5 scale for each skill and timed for running.
 - Catchers are evaluated at 13 & 14U separately.
 - Players are evaluated by a nonaffiliated entity and hired by the AABA Association. Caleb Curry and his Northern Diamond Academy staff have been hired for the 2021 season evaluations.
 - Players are ranked top to bottom for each age group.
- How and when are head/assistance coaches selected?
 - All coaches must apply annually for coaching positions. This applies to all coaching applicants regardless of service history with the AABA. Head coaching applications are due by 8/9/20 and a link to the application can be found on the player registration site.
 - Individuals wishing to head coach will sign up at the time of player registration.
 - Head coaches are selected after evaluations are completed.
 - If there are multiple head coaching requests for a team, the traveling committee will facilitate a meeting with the interested coaches in an attempt to work out a solution. If a solution is not resolved, the committee will determine the head coach (in the case where a committee member is also a head coach candidate, they will be recused from this process).
 - Head coaches will select the assistance coaches for their team – 2 per team.
 - Once head coaches of AAA, AAA assistants, and AAA players are selected, the process will replicate sequentially for AA and A teams as long as participation numbers warrant the process to continue.
- How are teams selected?
 - 10-12 players per team. AAA teams will be finalized by 8/31/20. AA teams will be finalized by 9/7/20 and A teams by 9/14/20.
 - AAA team is selected from top 15 players in each age group. For the U13 and U14 teams, a catcher can be selected outside of the top 15 players. Catchers must be evaluated during tryouts to be eligible for this selection and the travel committee will need to approve this selection.

- AAA coaches have the ability to workout individual players prior to 8/31 in an effort to determine position needs and evaluate skill sets. AA coaches can work out players between 9/1 and 9/6 for position needs.
- Selections are then reviewed and approved by the board.
- Process will be replicated for AA & A teams.
- **Players do not have the ability to decline a team selection to move down to a lower level.**
- How many teams will be in each age group?
 - Will be determined by number of players and coaches available.
- Who is on the traveling committee and what is their role?
 - Kelly Anderson and, Shaynen Schmidt.
 - Committee's role is to work with the AABA and the AYBA to develop, promote and foster a fair and competitive traveling youth baseball program.
- How much does it cost?
 - \$345.70 (see above)
 - Additional tournament travel costs (hotel, food, etc.).
- Equipment:
 - League provides hats, jerseys, balls, catchers equipment, scorebooks and first aid kits.
 - Players are responsible for gloves, helmets, pants, belts, socks and shoes.
 - League does not provide bats, however team bats are generally shared.
- What are the time commitments?
 - Will vary among coaches/teams, but typically 1-2 practices prior to season starting and once a week during the season.
 - 3-4 weekend tournaments plus state tournament if team qualifies.
 - Gopher State weekly play – possible additional costs.
- If a player makes the AAA or AA travel team, will they be on that team next season?
 - No, evaluations and team selection will occur each season.
- Why are evaluations being held in the fall vs. the spring?
 - Players are in baseball condition
 - Many coaches hold team practices beginning in January.
 - Travel season starts early in the spring making it difficult for spring evaluations