



Marlboro Mustangs Baseball

Travel Club

Parent & Player FAQ Guide



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2027 Travel Season



Marlboro Youth Baseball and Softball Association

Develop. Compete. Represent Marlboro.



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At-a-Glance Program Summary

Topic	Key Information
Tryouts	Typically held mid-late July.
Season timeline	Runs from August through July of the following year.
Fall season	Teams can choose to play in Fall travel leagues, tournaments only, or both; optional Marlboro rec league available.
Winter training	Mandatory indoor training typically runs January through March.
Spring season	Marlboro rec league participation is required. Spring travel league and tournaments available. Some teams may choose to enter tournaments only.
Summer season	Peak tournament season is June through July.
Memorial Day Tournament	Annual Marlboro tournament and a major program event and fundraiser.
Program cost	\$1,150 for players 12U and younger; \$1,200 for players 13U and older; \$1,200 for out-of-town players regardless of age.
Payment timing	Program fees are typically due in August.
Uniforms	Purchased separately; standard package is approximately \$175-\$225.
Commitment	Players are expected to attend practices, games, tournaments, and winter training whenever possible and to communicate conflicts with coaches.

About This Guide

This FAQ is designed to help families understand how the Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club operates, including player expectations, seasonal structure, and program policies. The goal is to provide clear, accessible information so families can make informed decisions and know what to expect throughout the travel baseball year.



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1. Program Overview

What is the Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club?

The Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club (MMBTC) is the travel baseball program operated by the Marlboro Youth Baseball and Softball Association (MYBSA). The program provides players the opportunity to further develop their baseball skills while competing against teams from surrounding communities.

The Mustangs program places a strong emphasis on player development, teamwork, sportsmanship, and love for the game, while also providing players the opportunity to compete at a higher level of baseball.

Typically, volunteer managers and coaches from within the community lead MMBTC teams, whose dedication helps create a positive and rewarding baseball experience for players.

The program strives to create a competitive but supportive environment where players can grow both as athletes and teammates.

2. Why Play for the Mustangs?

Mustangs Baseball Travel Club	Typical Private Club Teams
Community-based / local program with long-term player development focus	Regional club structure
Access to 8 local fields (6 with lights)	Limited shared field access
High-level development without inflated club fees	Higher annual fees
Dedicated and consistent coaching staff invested in player growth	Paid instructors or rotating coaches
Stable long-term program	Frequent roster turnover limits continuity and development

Advantages of playing for the Marlboro Mustangs Travel Baseball Club

MMBTC offers many advantages compared to private club teams while still providing a competitive and development-focused baseball experience.

The program is designed to give players the opportunity to develop their skills, compete at a higher level, and represent their local community while participating in a structured and supportive environment.



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Community-Based Program

MMBTC players represent the Marlboro baseball community while continuing to participate in our local recreational Babe Ruth League.

This structure helps players build friendships with teammates from their community and maintain strong connections with the local baseball program.

Near Unrestricted Access to Local Fields

MMBTC teams benefit from near unlimited access to the MYBSA Baseball Complex (Marlboro Babe Ruth League), which includes eight baseball fields, six of which are equipped with lights.

This allows teams to schedule consistent practices and games throughout the season without the facility limitations that many private club teams face.

The availability of multiple fields and lighting provides flexibility for practices, evening games, and team development activities.

Lower Cost

MMBTC provides competitive travel baseball experience at a significantly lower cost than most private club organizations.

Because the program is volunteer-driven and community-supported, families can participate in high-level travel baseball without the high costs often associated with private clubs.

Experienced Coaches

MMBTC teams are led by dedicated coaches from the community who are committed to developing players both on and off the field.

Many of these coaches have years of experience coaching youth baseball and are invested in the long-term success of the Marlboro baseball program.

Program Stability

MMBTC has a long-standing presence within the Marlboro baseball community and is supported by the Marlboro Youth Baseball and Softball Association.

Unlike some private club teams that may change rosters, coaches, or organizations frequently, the Mustangs program offers consistency, stability, and long-term commitment to player development.

Families can expect a program that prioritizes the success of its players and the strength of the local baseball community.



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Continuity Within the Marlboro Baseball Program

MMBTC provides players with a clear development pathway within the Marlboro baseball community.

Players often progress through the program beginning with Marlboro recreational baseball, continuing into the Mustangs travel program, and potentially participating on Marlboro District All-Star teams.

This continuity allows players to develop alongside teammates they have played with for years and strengthens the overall Marlboro baseball program.

Balanced and Family-Friendly Schedule

MMBTC provides competitive travel baseball while maintaining a balanced schedule for families.

The season can include fall league play, winter training, spring league play, and tournaments, while still allowing time for vacations and other family commitments.

Strong Player Development

The program focuses on fundamental skill development, teamwork, and competitive game experience.

Players receive instruction through team practices, winter training sessions, and league and tournament play throughout the year.

Opportunity to Represent Marlboro

MMBTC players represent their town and local baseball community while competing against teams from surrounding areas.

This creates a strong sense of pride and connection to the Marlboro baseball program and community at large.

3. Who Is Eligible to Play?

Who is eligible to try out for the Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club?

All players are welcome to try out for the MMBTC.

The program encourages players who love the game of baseball and are committed to improving their skills to participate in the tryout process.

While baseball ability is evaluated during tryouts, the program also values effort, coachability, enthusiasm for the game, and commitment to player development.

Players who are willing to work hard, support their teammates, and grow as players are encouraged to attend tryouts and experience the Mustangs travel program.



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Do players have to live in Marlboro to play on a Mustangs travel team?

No, but younger teams are generally geared toward Marlboro residents to strengthen the recreational Marlboro Babe Ruth League and District All-Star teams.

While many Mustangs players are Marlboro and Morganville residents, the program may also include players from surrounding communities when appropriate to help ensure teams are properly formed and competitive.

What age group does the Mustangs travel program offer?

MMBTC typically offers teams beginning at 7U and continuing through the teenage divisions.

Teams are formed by age group based on a player's *baseball age*, which is determined by the player's age as of April 30 of the playing year.

Are travel players required to play Marlboro recreational baseball?

Yes. All Mustangs travel players are required to register for and participate in the Marlboro Babe Ruth League during the *spring* season.

Non-Marlboro residents are encouraged to join our recreational league but may be restricted based on residency.

Participation in fall recreational baseball is optional, but many players choose to participate to continue developing their skills.

Do returning travel players have to try out every year?

Most players must attend the annual tryouts to be considered for a Mustangs travel team.

- Players in the 7U through 12U age groups are required to attend tryouts each year, even if they were previously on a Mustangs team.
- Returning players moving into the 13U and older age groups may not be required to attend tryouts, depending on program needs and team structure.

The tryout process helps ensure that teams are formed fairly and that all players are evaluated consistently each year.

4. Tryouts and Team Selection

When are Mustangs travel baseball tryouts held?

Tryouts for the Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club are typically held in July, prior to the start of the upcoming travel season.

Exact tryout dates and registration information are announced each year through the Marlboro Youth Baseball and Softball Association.



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How do players register for tryouts?

Players must register in advance for tryouts through the Marlboro Youth Baseball and Softball Association website.

Registration deadlines are typically set prior to the tryout dates to allow the program to properly organize evaluations and field assignments.

What happens during tryouts?

Tryouts typically consist of a series of baseball drills designed to evaluate fundamental skills such as:

- Hitting
- Fielding
- Throwing
- Catching
- Overall athletic ability

Tryouts generally begin shortly after check-in and may last approximately two to three hours, depending on the number of participants.

What should players wear or bring to tryouts?

Players should arrive dressed for baseball and ready to participate in drills.

Players should bring their own baseball equipment, including:

- Glove
- Bat
- Batting helmet
- Cleats

Players should wear appropriate baseball attire such as baseball pants and protective equipment, including a cup and heart guard when applicable.

Can players wear their Mustangs uniform to tryouts?

No. Players who currently play or previously played in the Mustangs program should not wear Mustangs uniforms, hats, practice shirts, or other team-branded apparel to tryouts.

This policy helps ensure a fair and unbiased evaluation process for all players participating in tryouts.

If a player only has a Mustangs helmet or equipment bag, those may be used, but players should avoid wearing Mustangs team apparel during the tryout.



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Who evaluates the players at tryouts?

Independent evaluators rate players during the tryout process.

These independent evaluations help ensure that the process remains fair and objective for all participants.

Player selection may also consider additional evaluation points such as prior Marlboro recreational league ratings and travel program evaluations when applicable.

How are teams ultimately selected?

Team selections are based on a combination of factors including:

- Tryout performance
- Independent evaluator ratings
- Player evaluations from prior recreational and travel seasons
- Positional needs
- Overall team balance

The goal of the selection process is to form teams that provide the best developmental environment for players while maintaining competitive teams within each age group.

Final roster decisions are made at the discretion of MMBTC leadership.

5. Relationship with Marlboro Babe Ruth League

Why are Mustangs travel players required to play Marlboro recreational baseball?

The Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club is designed to supplement the Marlboro Babe Ruth League, not replace it.

All Mustangs travel players are required to participate in the Marlboro Babe Ruth League during the spring season.

Participation in Marlboro Babe Ruth League outside of the spring season is optional.

The goal of the travel program is to help players further develop their baseball skills so they can contribute positively to their recreational league teams and the overall Marlboro baseball community.

By participating in both programs, players benefit from additional training, game experience, and competition while still supporting the local league.

Which games take priority if there is a scheduling conflict?

During the spring season, Marlboro Babe Ruth League games always take priority over Mustangs travel games. In addition, All-Star / District games also take priority over travel games.

Travel managers and coaches work to coordinate schedules as much as possible, but when conflicts arise, players are expected to attend their Marlboro Babe Ruth League commitments first.



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How do travel and recreational teams coordinate during the Spring season?

Mustangs travel managers and coaches work closely with Marlboro Babe Ruth League managers and the MYBSA Executive Board to help coordinate schedules when possible.

This coordination may include:

- Communicating schedules
- Coordinating pitching usage and workloads
- Avoiding unnecessary scheduling conflicts when possible

The goal is to support both programs while ensuring players remain healthy and able to contribute to their teams.

6. Season Structure and Calendar

What does the Mustangs travel baseball season look like?

MMBTC operates on a year-round cycle that can include fall league play, winter training, spring league play, and tournaments throughout the year.

The travel baseball fiscal season runs from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

Each team's exact schedule may vary depending on league participation, tournament availability, and training programs selected by the team's manager and coaches.

What types of leagues and tournaments do Mustangs travel teams play in?

Mustangs teams commonly participate in USABL travel leagues during the Fall and Spring seasons, along with several tournaments throughout the year.

Most teams typically participate in approximately four to five tournaments during the season, although this may vary depending on team scheduling and available budget.

Tournaments are commonly offered by (but not limited to) USABL, Diamond Nation, Perfect Game and Ripken Experience.

Team managers are responsible for coordinating league registrations and tournament schedules for their teams.

What is winter training?

Winter training is an important part of the Mustangs player development program and is required for all travel players.

During the winter months, teams participate in indoor training sessions focused on developing fundamental baseball skills, including hitting, fielding, pitching, and throwing mechanics.

These sessions allow players to continue developing their skills during the offseason and prepare for the upcoming spring season.



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Typical Mustangs Travel Baseball Calendar

The following calendar provides a general overview of how the Mustangs travel season typically unfolds throughout the year.

Timeframe	Typical Activities
Mid-Late July	Travel team tryouts and team formation for the upcoming season.
August	Administrative paperwork, fee collection, team organization, and practices begin. August is typically a lighter month and is often considered vacation time for many families.
September – October	Fall travel league play and occasional tournaments. Optional Marlboro recreational Fall baseball available.
November – December	Off months with no scheduled team activities.
January – March	Mandatory winter indoor training focused on skill development.
March	Occasional early spring tournaments. Spring travel league play may begin in late March.
April – Early June	Marlboro recreational baseball season alongside spring travel league play and occasional tournaments, including the Marlboro Memorial Day Tournament.
June	All-Star / District tournaments.
June – July	Peak travel tournament season.



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7. Player Commitment Expectations

What level of commitment is expected from travel players?

Players selected for MMBTC teams are expected to demonstrate a strong commitment to their team and the program.

Attendance at practices, games, tournaments, and winter training is an important part of both team success and player development.

Players are expected to make every effort to attend scheduled team activities and to communicate with their coaches if conflicts arise.

MMBTC understands that families have other commitments, and coaches will work with families when scheduling conflicts occur.

Open communication between families and coaches is encouraged.

At the same time, travel baseball is a team commitment, and consistent participation helps ensure fairness to teammates and a positive experience for everyone involved.

What happens if a player misses games or practices?

Coaches understand that players may occasionally miss team activities due to school events, family commitments, or other circumstances.

Families are encouraged to communicate with their coaches in advance whenever possible.

Coaches will work with players and families when conflicts arise, while also balancing the needs of the team.

Consistent participation helps players develop their skills and allows teams to properly plan for games and tournaments.

Can families still take vacations during the season?

Yes. Families are encouraged to communicate vacation plans with their coaches as early as possible.

While the Mustangs program understands that families may travel during the summer months, the peak travel tournament season typically occurs in June and July, so families are encouraged to plan vacations with the team schedule in mind when possible.

August is typically considered vacation time, and teams often have fewer scheduled activities during that period.



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What if a player attends summer sleepaway camp?

MMBTC understands that some players attend summer sleepaway camps or other extended programs.

Families should communicate these plans with their coaches as early as possible so teams can plan accordingly.

Coaches will work with families when possible while balancing the needs of the team and tournament schedules.

Can players play on another travel baseball team?

Players 12U and under who are selected for a Mustangs travel team are not permitted to participate on another travel baseball team at the same time.

This policy helps ensure that players remain committed to their Mustangs team and are available for team activities throughout the season.

What happens if a player decides to leave the team during the season?

Participation in the Mustangs travel program represents a commitment to the team for the full season.

If a player or family chooses to leave the program after accepting a roster spot, registration fees are generally non-refundable, and refunds are granted only at the discretion of MMBTC leadership.

8. Costs and Fees

How much does it cost to participate in the Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club?

The annual registration fee for the MMBTC is:

- \$1,150 per player for 12U and younger
- \$1,200 per player for 13U and older
- \$1,200 per player for out-of-town players (regardless of age group)

Program fees are typically due in August, at the beginning of the travel baseball fiscal season.

This fee covers participation in the travel program for the full season, which runs from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.



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What does the registration fee include?

The registration fee helps cover a variety of program expenses, including:

- League registration fees
- Tournament entry fees
- Insurance
- Team equipment and baseballs
- Field maintenance and facility upkeep
- Administrative program costs

A portion of the registration fee also contributes toward winter training sessions for players.

Are uniforms included in the registration fee?

No. Uniforms and personal equipment are not included in the travel program registration fee.

The standard uniform package typically costs approximately \$175–\$225 and usually includes team jerseys, hat, pants, socks, belts, and practice shirt.

Additional apparel items, bags, and helmets may also be available for purchase through the team apparel store.

Is winter training included in the registration fee?

The program contributes \$50 per player toward winter training, but the full cost of indoor training sessions will exceed that amount.

Typical winter training programs may cost approximately \$300–\$350 per player, depending on the training facility and number of sessions scheduled.

Are there any additional costs during the season?

Teams are typically budgeted to participate in several leagues and tournaments during the season.

If a team chooses to participate in additional tournaments beyond the standard team budget, additional costs may be shared by families or offset through team fundraising efforts.

Managers will communicate any additional team expenses with families in advance.

Why does the program charge these fees?

The Mustangs travel baseball program is self-funded and operated by volunteers.

Registration fees help support the leagues, tournaments, facilities, and equipment necessary to operate the program and provide a high-quality experience for players.



9. Parent Responsibilities

What is expected of parents in the Mustangs travel program?

Parents play an important role in supporting a positive environment for players, coaches, and officials.

Parents are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship and respect toward players, coaches, umpires, and opposing teams at all times.

How should parents behave during games?

Parents should:

- Encourage players in a positive manner
- Allow coaches to coach
- Respect umpire decisions
- Avoid negative or confrontational behavior

Maintaining a positive sideline environment helps ensure a great experience for all players.

What happens if a parent violates the code of conduct?

Violations of the parent code of conduct may result in actions such as:

- Verbal warning
- Removal from a game or event
- Suspension from team activities
- Additional disciplinary action as determined by program leadership

Chronic issues that are not resolved may affect a family's standing within the program.

Are parents expected to volunteer?

Yes. MMBTC is volunteer-driven, and families are encouraged to support team and league activities whenever possible, including helping with tournaments, fundraising events, and team logistics.

In addition, Mustangs travel families are required to volunteer during the Marlboro Memorial Day Tournament, which is one of the program's largest annual events and an important fundraiser that helps support the travel program.

Parent participation helps ensure the continued success of the tournament and the overall Mustangs program.



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10. Player Code of Conduct

What behavior is expected from Mustangs players?

Players representing the Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, respect, and a positive attitude both on and off the field.

Players should always represent the Mustangs program, their teammates, and the Marlboro baseball community in a positive manner.

What are the expectations for players during games and practices?

Players are expected to:

- Show respect toward coaches, teammates, umpires, and opponents
- Give their best effort during practices, games, and training sessions
- Maintain a positive attitude and support their teammates
- Follow team rules and instructions from coaches
- Always demonstrate good sportsmanship

Players should take pride in representing the Mustangs program and strive to be positive teammates and role models.

How should players treat teammates and opponents?

Mustangs players are expected to treat teammates, opponents, and umpires with respect at all times.

Unsportsmanlike conduct, disrespectful language, or negative behavior toward others is not acceptable and may result in disciplinary action.

The goal of the program is to promote competitive baseball in a respectful and supportive environment.

What happens if a player violates the code of conduct?

If a player violates the code of conduct, disciplinary action may occur depending on the situation.

Possible actions may include:

- Discussion with coaches and parents
- Temporary removal from a practice or game
- Suspension from team activities
- Additional action determined by program leadership

These expectations help ensure that the Mustangs program remains a positive environment for all players and families.



11. Frequently Asked Questions by New Families

How many players are typically on a Mustangs travel team?

Most Mustangs travel teams carry approximately 10–13 players, although roster sizes may vary slightly depending on the age group and team needs.

This roster size helps ensure adequate playing time while still allowing teams to manage scheduling conflicts throughout the season.

Will all players receive equal playing time?

The Mustangs program focuses on balancing player development and competitive team play.

Playing time may vary depending on game situations, attendance, effort, and player development.

Coaches work to provide opportunities for players to develop their skills while also making decisions that support team success.

Do players specialize in one position?

At younger age levels, players are typically encouraged to develop experience at multiple positions to help build well-rounded baseball skills, while also keeping player safety in mind.

As players get older, they may begin to focus more on specific positions that best fit their abilities and team needs.

How far do teams typically travel for games and tournaments?

Most travel league games are played within a reasonable driving distance of Marlboro, typically throughout Monmouth County and surrounding areas.

Tournament locations may vary but are generally scheduled within a manageable travel distance for families.

As players get older, they may have opportunities to play in regional or out-of-state tournaments.

How do teams communicate schedules and updates?

Each team's manager typically communicates with families using email, messaging apps, or team scheduling platforms (i.e. Game Changer, Sports Engine, Team Snap)

Managers will provide updates regarding practices, games, tournaments, and other team activities.



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12. Contact Information

Who should families contact with questions about the Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club?

Families with questions about the MMBTC can contact the Mustangs Travel Program Administrators or the Marlboro Youth Baseball and Softball Association (MYBSA).

Mustangs Travel Program Administrators

Dave Mandarino — Vice President of Travel

Mike Spishock — Travel Controller

Email: traveltryouts@marlborolittleleague.com

Questions related to team schedules, practices, or team-specific matters should be directed to the team's manager or coaching staff.

General program questions may be directed to the travel program administrators listed above.

13. Document Information

Document Title: Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club — Parent & Player FAQ Guide

Program: Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club (MMBTC)

Organization: Marlboro Youth Baseball and Softball Association (MYBSA)

Version: Version 2.0

Effective Date: 2027 Travel Season

This document may be updated periodically to reflect changes to program policies, schedules, or league requirements.



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14. Closing Message

The Marlboro Mustangs Baseball Travel Club exists because of the dedication of players, families, coaches, and volunteers who work together to create a positive baseball experience for our community.

Our goal is to provide players with opportunities to develop their skills, compete at a higher level, build friendships, and grow as teammates and young athletes.

We appreciate the commitment of our families and look forward to another exciting season of Mustangs baseball.

Go Mustangs!

