

Rogers-Otsego
Youth Baseball Association Travel
Baseball Handbook
2026 Season

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This handbook offers information about the Rogers-Otsego Youth Baseball Association (ROYBA) Travel Baseball program.

****The ROYBA Travel Handbook is subject to interpretation and can change at the discretion of the Travel Director and/or the Executive Travel Committee that can supersede the information below based on approval from the ROYBA Executive Travel Committee.****

Mission & Philosophy

The mission of ROYBA is to promote a fun, fair, and safe environment that maximizes participation and improves player's skills while developing sportsmanship, teamwork and self-confidence.

ROYBA seeks to provide a community and volunteer-driven program to promote the growth and development of our players. We strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Teach the fundamentals of baseball
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop respect for others, teamwork, pride in team and community
- Incorporate the spirit of good sportsmanship in victory or defeat
- Allow players an opportunity to participate and develop
- Play in a safe and healthy environment
- Build character and set priorities

ROYBA will field travel teams that play in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) with other communities and various weekend tournaments.

Commitment

Travel baseball requires dedicated time commitment from players, coaches, and parents from March through July, and possibly into early August. Every player's presence is important, and the player is expected to make every effort to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Unexcused and/or excessive absences will result in a reduction of playing time and may result in dismissal from the team.

Travel Baseball Program

ROYBA travel baseball will field travel teams at the 9-15 year old age levels. Our goal is to field 1 to 5 teams at every age level. 9U is the only exception to this, where we will field 1 to 3 teams.

ROYBA strives to have as many kids playing travel baseball as possible while ensuring they are competitive at the level they are assigned. Being competitive is important for player and team development, success on the field, and continued interest in the sport. The number and classification (AAA, AA, A) of teams may change each year (increase or decrease) depending on number of players registered at a grade level and competitiveness of past seasons.

The ROYBA travel committee will make the final determination on the number of teams and level of play.

Travel baseball teams will play in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) – about 14 games - along with entering three to four weekend tournaments. Teams could also play in up to three state tournaments in July if they qualify.

Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in ROYBA Travel Baseball team tryouts subject to the following criteria:

- In accordance with ROYBA Board policy, players must reside within the boundaries of Rogers High School or a student at a Rogers or Otsego school.
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any back fees from previous ROYBA seasons
- Must meet age guidelines specified by MYAS.
- Players wishing to play for ROYBA that live outside of the school boundaries must have a waiver from their home association (if applicable) to be considered for rostering on a ROYBA travel team.

Birthdate Cutoff

The birth date range for eligibility at a particular age level is April 30. The team (age/grade level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player's age on that date.

Players are allowed to play up in some cases based on the following:

- Playing up with their grade:
 - If any player has a May through August birthday (5/1 - 8/31) and was not held back a grade in school, will be allowed to try out for the one level up age group to play with their natural grade. They can also try out for their current age travel team as well. They should attend BOTH travel evaluation sessions for their grade and their age. ROYBA travel committee strongly recommends that a player play with his/her grade level whenever possible.
 - Ninth grade players will not be allowed to play on a 14U ROYBA travel team. Ninth graders wishing to participate in travel baseball will be required to play at the 15U level. If a ninth grader wishes to play for a 14U ROYBA travel team that has a birthday between May 1st and August 31st, will need to petition the executive travel committee a minimum of 2 months prior to tryouts.
- Playing up for 9U:
 - Anyone age 9 or younger as of April 30th can try out for a 9U team. Players in first grade or younger must be ranked in the top 5 in evaluations to make and play on a 9U team.
- Playing up above age and/or grade:
 - Any player that is age 9 or older by April 30th of the current year, may petition the Travel Director to play up a grade level (for example a player that is in grade 6 and is not of age for 13U team, can petition to play 13U if they desire). Players wishing to "play up" MUST submit a written petition to the Travel Director before registering for travel season. Players that are trying out for a higher grade level must finish in the top 6 of the grade level they wish to play for in order to be placed on the highest level team for the older grade level. If a player does not finish in the top 6 in the older grade level, they will automatically be placed down in their natural grade group. Players must attend the tryout session for BOTH the higher level grade

group and their natural grade group.

- A player who is wishing to continue to “play up” after already successfully making a higher grade AAA team in the previous year will only be required to make the AAA team in following years. Example, an 11 year old made 12UAAA team in 2026 and is wishing to continue to play up as a 12 year old on the 13UAAA team will not be required to finish in the top 6 of tryout scores, but will be required to finish in a range where they would be eligible for a coaches pick at the discretion of the travel director.

Players that are trying out for multiple levels need to note that in the “Comments” section of their registration form. They will also need to send their team selection preference to the Travel Director. For example: 13AAA, 12AAA, 13AA, 12AA, 13A and 12A.

Multi-Team Rostering

Players in the ROYBA travel program are not allowed to be rostered and play for any other team (club or other) or association from May 1 through the last game of the travel season. Any player found to be rostered on another team will be removed from the ROYBA team. There may be exceptions with high school and spring baseball leagues. These will be handled on a case by case basis by the ROYBA travel committee.

Twin Brother Policy

Parents with multiple kids in the same age group (for example – twins) will need to decide between two options below before the core travel tryouts. Parents should indicate their preference in their registration:

- Treat each player independently. Players will be placed on the appropriate level for their skill, with this option the players could be placed on different teams.
- Place brothers on the same team. Players will be placed on the same team at the appropriate level for the **lowest** ranked brother.

Tryout Participation

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions. If parents feel there are extenuating circumstances such as injury, family emergencies, etc... preventing their player from attending tryouts, they must petition the Travel Committee as soon as the family realizes there is a conflict. Family functions, vacations and club team events will not be considered extenuating circumstances. Any concessions or remedies would be at the discretion of the Executive Travel Committee and will be handled on a case by case basis. Supporting documentation (such as a doctors note) may be requested by the Committee. A player who is absent without being excused may be disqualified.

Injury, Illness or Absence Policy

A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically fit before he/she will be allowed to participate in any ROYBA activity. Players who are injured or ill; or have an excused absence will have the opportunity to be placed on a travel team at no higher level than what they participated at the previous season. The decision to add players under this Policy will be a joint decision between the head coach and the Travel Committee.

Fees

The initial registration and travel evaluation fee covers the team's expenses for participation in league games, umpires, equipment/uniforms, and entry fee for 1 state tournament (if the team qualifies). The initial registration and evaluation fee are collected at time of registration. The evaluation fee is non-refundable.

If a player makes a travel team, additional fees for a team slush fund will be collected. Each team's slush fund will cover regular season tournament fees, state tournament fees (entry fees for additional state tournaments as well as gate fees) and any other costs a team decides to cover (examples: alternate jerseys, team equipment, game changer, team parties, etc...). Please note: ROYBA will only cover the entry fee to 1 state tournament. The team must qualify for the state tournament in order for ROYBA to cover the entry cost (at-large bids are not covered by ROYBA). ROYBA does not cover any state tournament gate fees. There will be a parents' meeting conducted by the head coach to review all appropriate fees.

Once a player has been placed on a team, there will be no refunds except for players who suffer a long-term injury or illness. All refund requests will be handled on a case by case basis by the Travel Committee.

A player who makes a travel team and decides not to participate on that team will not be given a refund and will be ineligible to participate in the travel program the next season.

Example - a player that has been placed on a team for the 2026 season but decides to no longer play, will not be eligible to play travel baseball/VFW/Legion for ROYBA until the 2028 season.

Tryouts – Player Evaluations and Team Selection

Player Evaluations

The travel tryouts will be done by a group of independent evaluators hired by the Rogers - Otsego Youth Baseball Association (ROYBA). These evaluators have background in playing/coaching baseball at the high school/college level as well as being part of evaluations for other communities. None of the evaluators are affiliated in any way with ROYBA and they do not live or have children playing baseball in the district. Although some pre-selected travel coaches may be at the tryout and take notes, they will have NO input or weight in the scoring. This is to provide the coaches with as much info as possible when making the coach picked players.

Tryout Scoring Method – Ages 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U

11U, 12U, 13U and 14U players will be given a score based upon the following criteria.

- Infield grounders - fielding form / throwing form (20%)
- Fly balls - catching form / throwing form (20%)
- Hitting - swing form / bat speed / contact (35%)
- Pre Tryout Score (PTS) (25%) – refer to PTS score outline below.

Pre-Tryout Score (PTS)

A PTS score will be used in conjunction with a player's tryout score. PTS score will equal 25% of the player's total score. The PTS score applied to each player's score is based on their performance rating during the 2025 travel season, as assessed by their coaching staff. All coaches (one head coach and up to 3 assistant coaches) will provide player evaluations through an individual player survey at the end of the year. This will be used to determine the player's season performance rating. The season performance rating will be one of three different ratings. "A" rating

(top 4 player) “B” rating (middle 4 player) and “C” rating (bottom 4 player). Coaches will not be allowed to provide a player evaluation for their son/daughter. The travel committee will audit player evaluations and adjustments can be made at the discretion of the travel committee when needed. PTS scores are not provided for 9U players. PTS scores are as follows.

<u>Level</u>	<u>Performance rating</u>	<u>PTS Score</u>
AAA	“A” rating	10
AAA	“B” rating	9
AAA	“C” rating	8
AA	“A” rating	8
AA	“B” rating	7
AA	“C” rating	6
A	“A” rating	6
A	“B” rating	5
A	“C” rating	4

****Note when there are multiple teams at a skill level (i.e., upper 10A and lower 10A team) the PTS scores will be as follows.**

<u>Level</u>	<u>Performance rating</u>	<u>PTS Score</u>
AAA (upper)	“A” rating	10
AAA (upper)	“B” rating	9.5
AAA (upper)	“C” rating	9
AAA (lower)	“A” rating	9
AAA (lower)	“B” rating	8.5
AAA (lower)	“C” rating	8
AA (upper)	“A” rating	8
AA (upper)	“B” rating	7.5
AA (upper)	“C” rating	7
AA (lower)	“A” rating	7
AA (lower)	“B” rating	6.5
AA (lower)	“C” rating	6
A (upper)	“A” rating	6
A (upper)	“B” rating	5.5
A (upper)	“C” rating	5
A (lower)	“A” rating	5
A (lower)	“B” rating	4.5
A (lower)	“C” rating	4

Players that did not play traveling baseball the prior year will receive a **PTS score of 4**. Players moving into the ROYBA association that played travel baseball for a different association will be given a PTS score based on feedback from their previous travel association travel director and coaches. The travel committee will be required to reach out to the player’s previous association to determine PTS score for said player. This will be done on a case-by-case basis.

A player's PTS score that wishes to move up or skip an age level (example player who played at 10U in 2025 and wishes to play at 12U level for 2026) will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the travel committee.

Pitching and catching will not be evaluated during tryouts for 11U, 12U, 13U or 14U. Previous years pitching and catching performance survey results will be provided to head coach candidates during the player selection meeting after tryouts are completed.

NO SPECTATORS will be allowed at tryouts. This rule will be strictly enforced, and we ask that you respect this request. Only travel committee members, select ROYBA board members and tryout evaluators will be allowed at the tryouts.

Tryout Scoring Method – Ages 9U & 10U

9U & 10U players will be given a score based upon the following criteria:

- Infield grounders - fielding form / throwing form (30%)
- Fly balls - catching form / throwing form (30%)
- Hitting swing form / bat speed / contact (40%)

NO SPECTATORS will be allowed at tryouts. This rule will be strictly enforced, and we ask that you respect this request. Only travel committee members, select ROYBA board members and tryout evaluators will be allowed at the tryouts.

Week of Tryouts

Tryouts will be held outdoors; weather may become a factor. The ROYBA travel committee may make changes to the tryout format to work around weather conditions. This can include changing tryout group times, shorting tryout times or changing the format altogether. Families should be prepared to be flexible during the tryout days.

2027 ROYBA baseball travel dates are preliminary only: Exact time, age groups are all subject to change and are provided as example only – final age groups and times will be communicated at least 2 weeks prior to tryouts.

Wednesday August 5th 2026 (day 1 skills) - South Community Park Fields, Rogers, MN
9U, 10U & 11U age groups

Thursday August 6th 2026 (day 1 skills) - South Community Park Fields, Rogers, MN
12U, 13U & 14U age groups

Friday August 7th 2026 (day 2 skills) - South Community Park Fields, Rogers, MN
All age groups

August 8th & August 9th 2026 (day 2 skills) - South Community Park Fields, Rogers, MN

All age groups – hold for weather make ups.

Team Selection

After all the sessions of travel tryouts are completed, the top scores for each age group are automatically placed on the AAA travel team. Below is the top score “locks” for each age group:

- 9U: Top 10 players
- 10U: Top 8 players
- 11U Top 6 players
- 12U: Top 6 players
- 13U: Top 6 players
- 14U: Top 6 players
- 15U: Top 4 players (15U conducts separate spring tryouts)

The travel coaches will use the evaluator's scores plus PTS score to make final choices for the AAA travel team. The coach is limited to how far they can go down the "list" to select their final choices. For AAA team they cannot select any player lower than #20 on the evaluation list and lower than #32 for the AA. A coach wishing to select a player over a player with a higher tryout score must have justification and the approval of the travel committee during the selection meeting. After the AAA team is selected the same process is used for the AA team and the A team if we can field an A team. Coaches' children must participate in tryouts and receive acceptable scores just as any other player to be placed on the team.

ROYBA's goal is to have 12 players on a team. However, a team may consist of 11 to 13 players. The travel committee will have the final say on each team's roster size.

Tryout Dates

Tryout dates will be posted on the ROYBA website, www.royba.org and communicated via e-mail. It is the responsibility of the parent/player to register at the ROYBA website and provide an accurate e-mail address that will be used to notify players of their evaluation schedule.

For those unable to make a tryout, ROYBA will rely on last year's player evaluations and previous tryout scores in collaboration with the Travel Committee to determine at what level the player may be eligible for.

In cases where there is no previous involvement in the travel process with ROYBA, and roster availability exists, the Travel Committee will determine where or if the player will be placed on a travel team.

There is NO guarantee that a player missing a tryout will automatically be placed on a team or at the level they played at last year. The policy for injured/absent players is mentioned above.

Team Announcement

Players' names that have made a travel team for the 9U - 14U age groups will be posted on the ROYBA website. Final selections may take up to 2 weeks to be finalized. **Note that 14U teams will not be selected until October 1st of each year due to players exiting the association because of other factors outside of the association.**

Any players not making a travel team will automatically be registered into their corresponding house league based on their current grade.

NOTE: If a player tries out for a travel team and is NOT chosen for any travel team, they MUST attend their corresponding house evaluations which are held the following spring. See the House Information Center for those dates/times/ locations.

Uniforms

The association will provide each player with the following:

- Baseball socks
- Pants (2 pairs)
- Fitted baseball hat
- Belt
- Two uniform tops

Players will need to complete the uniform fitting process. Dates and times for uniform fittings can be found on www.royba.org. Anyone that does not attend the uniform fitting session, and has issues with the sizes they ordered, will be responsible for any costs associated with the exchange of sizes.

Equipment

Each player must provide their own bat, glove, helmet, baseball cleats, and personal protective equipment (except catcher's equipment). Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Most leagues require the wearing of a hard protective cup. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes. Players are encouraged to use cleated baseball shoes with hard rubber or metal cleats according to the rules of the league in which they participate.

The travel baseball program also supplies all catcher's gear, practice and game balls, and other equipment necessary for games and practices. Any damage caused by negligence or intentional abuse will be reimbursed by the player and/or parents. Failure to do so may result in denial of any further sport participation in any ROYBA program by the player or any other member of his/her family.

Teams may also purchase additional gear (ex: weighted balls, nets, wiffle balls, etc...) via their slush fund as they see fit.

Bats

Travel teams for ROYBA play in the Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) administered by MYAS. Parents should consult the latest league guidelines for bat standards before purchasing a bat for their player. The league guidelines can be found [here](#).

Umpires

All individuals responsible for a team and all spectators shall support the umpire. Failure to do so will undermine the umpire's authority and has the potential of creating a hostile environment for everyone involved. Consequently, ROYBA has adopted the following rules:

- Coaches may ask questions before the game, request clarification of a rule/call, call for substitutions, point out emergencies during the game, or respond to the umpire if addressed. Parents should not address umpires.

- NO YELLING at the umpire, EVER, and no criticism, sarcasm, harassment, foul language, intimidation, or feedback of any kind during or after the game from anyone.

ROYBA has adopted a zero tolerance policy dealing with umpires. Offenders at games may be ejected and are subject to disciplinary action.

General Policies

Attendance

Every player's presence is important and is expected. Unless otherwise exempted by the coach, all players are expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Excused absences will be granted for school events; however, it is expected that the coach will be notified in advance of such events. Unexcused absences (such as missing baseball to play another sport) may result in a reduction of playing time and excessive absences may result in dismissal from the team.

Code of Conduct

ROYBA believes that youth baseball plays an important role in promoting the physical, social and emotional development of players. To help achieve this goal we have implemented a Code of Conduct for Coaches, Players, Parents and Spectators. This Code is designed to enhance the player's experience and maximize their ability to learn and enjoy the great game of baseball. We believe that sincere efforts to honor the words of this Code will improve the quality of our program.

I understand that as a Coach, Player, Parent and Spectator, I must act in accord with the following Code of Conduct:

- Always keep the best interest and well-being of the children as the highest priority.
- Stress fair play and good sportsmanship during practices and in games whether winning or losing. Don't engage in or allow trash-talking, taunting, boastful celebrations, or other actions that demean individuals or the sport. If one of your players is disrespectful, irresponsible or overly aggressive, take the player out of the game at least long enough for him/her to calm down.
- Positive Coaching-use positive coaching methods to make the experience enjoyable, increase self-esteem and foster a love and appreciation for the sport. Refrain from physical or psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, and conduct that is demeaning to athletes, parents or others. No profanity is allowed!
- Effort and Teamwork-encourage your athletes to think and play as a team, to do their best and continually improve through personal effort and discipline. Discourage selfishness and put less emphasis on the final outcome, than upon effort, improvement, teamwork, and winning character.
- Rules-maintain a thorough knowledge of the rules and ensure that your athletes understand and follow the rules.
- Coaches are responsible for the conduct of the parents of your players. It is imperative to explain the game rules and the acceptable player and parent behavior.
- Coaches shall model inclusive behavior, actively supporting cultural diversity while opposing all types of discrimination, including but not limited to, racism, sexism and physical abilities.

- Always remember, it's not about winning but developing mature and well-adjusted children.
- Make it fun — if it's not fun, re-evaluate how you are teaching.
- Provide positive reinforcement and build esteem — every practice, every game.
- Remember, attitude is learned, both positive and negative.
- Before a game, introduce yourself to the opposing coach and to the umpire.
- After the game, thank the umpire and ask your players to do the same.

Disciplinary Procedures and Penalties

ROYBA Travel Committee or Board of Directors has the right to remove any coach, player, parent or spectator from a game or practice that does not abide by the ROYBA Code of Conduct. Once an alleged violation is reported to ROYBA, the following procedures will take place:

1. The Commissioner/Board will conduct an investigation into the alleged violation and verify details of the allegation, including interviewing the person or persons who have made the report, as well as any witnesses who may have observed the incident. Each party will have 5 days to respond.
2. The Commissioner/Board, at its discretion, may suspend a coach, player, parent or spectator from participation in league activities while they investigate the allegation.
3. The Commissioner/Board will determine if disciplinary action should be taken based on the findings of the investigation, the nature and severity of the offense, and on whether this represents a repeat offense.
4. If a coach, player, parent or spectator is found in violation of the Code of Conduct, they will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to the following penalties in any order or combination:
 - Official warning/reprimand- In writing, a letter that gives notice that an action or conduct will not be tolerated by ROYBA and the offender is made aware that future violations of the Code of Conduct will bring more severe penalties.
 - Suspension-While on suspension the person may not participate in any ROYBA practice, game or event. Suspension periods may last from a period of one week to one year.
 - Upon completion of a suspension, the offender will be given a probation period to be determined. A person on probation that commits the same offense will be assessed a minimum of one week suspension and additional disciplinary action may be taken.
 - Ban- A person may be banned when the violation is severe or is a continual occurrence that would involve the emotional or physical safety of players, parents or other persons associated with the team, association or league. When a person is banned that person may not attend or be on any property or location that is under the control of ROYBA. Banned periods may last from a period of one week to a lifetime ban.

Appeal Process: If an offender disagrees with the penalty issued they have (7) seven days to submit in writing to the ROYBA Board of Directors requesting a formal hearing. A formal hearing shall then take place no longer than 30 days from the date of request. A committee of three Directors, separate from the League Commissioner, shall sit at the appeal hearing. The decision of the ROYBA Board of Directors is final and binding. No further appeals will be available to the offender.

Appeal Hearing: Shall be set within 30 days from the date of the appeal request. The committee of 3 Board of Directors from ROYBA shall commence the appeal hearing (the Directors will be free of conflict of the parties appearing). The appeal hearing shall last 60 minutes. The location of the hearing will be decided upon by ROYBA. The appellant may provide testimony, witnesses or documents at the hearing. A final decision will be returned to the appellant no longer than 5 days after the appeal hearing.

Player Removal

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a team member solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following specific reasons:

- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the player's responsibilities
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and/or self
- Displaying an uncaring attitude which results in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the team's interest)
- Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Travel Director and the player's parent(s) and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion should include an objective description of the behavior and the intended discipline. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must then notify the Travel Director and Travel Committee who must approve any further action. The Travel Director must, in turn, notify the ROYBA Board of the action taken within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the Baseball Board.

Playing Time

Minimum playing time for 9 -13 year olds will be on average 4 defensive innings per game*. Minimum playing time for 14-15 year olds will be on average 3 defensive innings per game*.

The starting lineup will provide an opportunity for every player to have a place in the batting order when continuous batting is in effect.

The coach will make every effort to give each player appropriate playing time. However, the coach has the discretion to play players such that he looks out for the best interest of the team. For example, there will be tournaments where the rules prevent re-entry, which will require the coach to be careful to not "run out" of players. Additionally, it is important that in the event of an injury sufficient players are available to continue playing.

* Some game situations (e.g., 10 run rule) may prevent this from happening in a specific game. Injury, illness or disciplinary issues may also prevent this from happening. Note: If a player is in the lineup as a designated hitter (DH), he/she may not receive any defensive playing time for that game.

Coach Selection

Anyone who desires to be a Travel head coach must apply through the ROYBA website when the travel director opens coach applications for the season.

Primary selection criteria include past baseball coaching and playing experience, personal coaching and human development philosophies, organizational skills, strong moral and ethical characteristics, support of travel baseball and ROYBA policies/procedures, and the applicant's

commitment to devote significant hours to the program during the season. Coaches' responsibilities can begin as early as December with tournament selection. Coaches will be involved in ROYBA winter training, coaches meetings, game/practice scheduling and execution of the travel season. Head coaches season end in late-July with equipment check-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

Head coaches will be required to go through mandated training from ROYBA (concussion and safesport). Coaches will also be required to complete and pass a background check.

Once a coach is selected for a team based on the criteria above, and if that coach is a parent-coach, their player needs to be competent to play at the level of the team for which the coach has been selected in the opinion of the evaluators. The player must finish in the top 20 for the AAA team and the top 32 for the AA team.

Coach Removal

Removal of a team coach is a very serious situation and will be dealt with in a fair and open manner. Coaches may be removed for the following reasons:

- Failure to perform duties
- Conduct detrimental to the player, the team, the organization, and/or the parents
- Abusive behavior, whether physical or psychological, towards players, parents, opposing players, coaches, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials

Issues with coaches need to be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. The ROYBA Board of Directors or a committee appointed by the ROYBA Board will review the specifics of the allegations and take appropriate action which may include game suspension and/or dismissal.

Assistant Coaches

The head coach is responsible for appointing his assistant coaches. Assistant coaches will be selected after evaluations are completed and teams have been formed. Assistants will be required to go through mandated training from ROYBA (concussion and safesport). Coaches will also be required to complete and pass a background check. The head coach may also dismiss his assistant coaches after notifying the travel director and explaining the reasoning behind the removal. The travel committee also has the power to dismiss assistant coaches if deemed appropriate.

Behavior

The highest standards of sportsmanship will be expected from the players, parents, coaches, umpires, and spectators.

Conduct that will not be tolerated includes verbal abuse, tantrum-like acts, profanity, physical aggression on or off the field, and acts intended to cheat the spirit of the rules or to intimidate the umpires. Violations may result in suspension from play and/or attendance.

If a parent or player has a problem with the performance of an umpire, he/she should direct his/her concerns to the team's coach. The coach represents ROYBA and should be the only person communicating with the umpires. One of the objectives of the program is to teach respect for the officials and the proper procedure for dealing with any problems with the umpires.

Unless playing in the field, at bat, on base, on deck, or coaching, all players shall remain on the bench. Players will treat their coaches, parents, teammates, the umpires, and the opposition with respect. After each game, the participants will line up and shake hands. Spectators are restricted to

the areas that are “out of play” and away from the benches.

Any behavioral issues from a player/parent/coach should be brought to the attention of the travel director.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, the coach will communicate if there will be a practice.

At games, the home team’s coach is responsible for determining whether the game will be started. Once play begins, the umpire is responsible for determining whether play should be halted.

In all cases, unless you are contacted by your team’s coach (or team representative), you should appear at the site of the game or practice as scheduled. Weather conditions can vary widely even over short distances, so our policy is to make the decision at the field site.

Games and practices will be suspended when lightning is visible.

If you (parent/guardian) are not able to be present during an event, be sure that your child knows another parent who will be present and with whom he/she can take shelter if bad weather suddenly threatens.

Blood Policy

A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment cannot be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual will have to leave the game. (The length of time considered reasonable shall be in the umpire’s judgment.) Once the bleeding has been stopped, the player or coach may reenter the game. If there is a substantial amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual may participate.

Coaches’ Responsibilities and Rights

The coach is a teacher of baseball skills, a manager of the functions necessary to run a team, and is responsible for the development of all players in his/her care. He/she is accountable to the players, the parents, and the ROYBA Board of Directors.

Coaches’ Responsibilities include:

- Obey and enforce all ROYBA rules.
- Treat all players in an equitable and fair manner.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, self-control, and proper behavior.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of team players, assistant coaches, parents, and spectators.
- Attend the Coaches’ Meeting
- Attend all appropriate GSBL meetings.
- Assure that all players receive playing time that is as mandated by the ROYBA Board.
- Teach the players to have fun and enjoy competition.
- Help the players to develop a healthy, competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Assess individual player’s strengths and weaknesses and create a developmental plan to help each player improve in the areas of concern.
- Encourage and compliment players; use only constructive criticism.
- Attend a minimum of 90% of their team’s practices and games.

- Care for the equipment that is issued to them. If any equipment is lost or damaged, coaches should report the problem to the Travel Director.
- Attend any coaches' clinics arranged by the ROYBA Board.
- Conduct a pre-season parents' meeting. At this meeting, the coach should set the tone and expectations for the season, distribute team schedule, roster, team rules, and collect any additional fees that are due.
- Schedule team photographs.
- Schedule field time for practices and any make-up (home) games with the other coaches.
- Report any problems with fields to the appropriate Field Scheduler.
- Recruit parent volunteers as necessary.

Coaches' Rights include:

- To be treated with respect by players, parents, volunteers, umpires, league officials, and the ROYBA Baseball Board.
- To be made fully aware of the rules and policies under which they must function.
- To have access to necessary safety equipment and practice fields.
- To expect full cooperation from parents when they are asked to assist.

Parents' Responsibilities and Rights

Your child's participation in the travel baseball program will require a significant contribution of your time and effort. Parents can contribute many things to support their child, team, and the program.

Parents' Responsibilities include:

- Let your child know you love him/her, win or lose, whether he/she plays well or not.
- Compliment and encourage. Let the coaches handle coaching and criticism.
- Play catch with your child.
- Coordinate your efforts to help your child's development with the recommendations of the coaches.
- Support your coaches. Remember that they are responsible for many children in addition to yours.
- Don't compare your child to other players. Be honest with yourself and your child about his/her abilities
- Regard each player on the team as your own.
- Keep negative comments to yourself. Express concerns only to the coach and in a straightforward, fair, and objective manner.
- Teach your child to have fun and enjoy competition. Don't tell him/her that winning does not count because it does, and he/she knows it. Instead, help him/her to develop a healthy competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior. Don't criticize officials, coaches, or other parents or players.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of your child and your guests.
- Get your child to, and pick them up from practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach in advance whenever your child will miss or be late to a practice or a game.
- Provide a copy of your child's birth certificate to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre- season meeting.

- Volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible.

Parents' Rights include:

- Have your child treated fairly and with respect.
- Have your child practice and play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Have your child coached by effective and qualified adult leadership.
- Have your child engage in practice and playing activities that increase his/her skills and enjoyment of the sport.
- To be fully informed by the coaches with respect to schedules, team philosophies, team rules, and your child's strengths and weaknesses

Players' Responsibilities and Rights

Players on a travel team should take pride in themselves, their team, and in their community. They must follow the directions of the coaches, and must be willing to accept constructive criticism.

Players' Responsibilities include:

- Have pride and confidence in yourself, your teammates, and your coaches.
- Be attentive and work hard in practice and games. Make your best efforts to perform the tasks as directed by the coaches.
- Be a competitor, perform up to your full ability, and contribute to team unity. Compliment teammates and let the coaches handle criticism.
- Show respect toward your coaches, teammates, and parents.
- Show respect toward opposing players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Remember that baseball is a game and keep it in perspective with family, school, and/or church activities and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior.
- Remind your parents that you need to be at practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach whenever you will miss or be late for a practice or a game.

Players' Rights include:

- To participate at a level that matches your maturity and ability.
- To play as a child, not as an adult.
- To participate in a safe, healthy environment.
- To be treated fairly, with dignity, and with respect.
- To have fun in sports.
- To have an equal opportunity to develop your abilities and strive for success.
- To have good coaching; to be taught the fundamentals and strong character development.

Problem Resolution Guidelines

When a player or parent has a question regarding the general policies or procedures of travel baseball, they should address their questions to the coach of their team. Choose a time and place that is convenient for both parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and address your questions in an appropriate manner (keep the conversation polite, private, and out of the earshot of other players or parents). If a question is not answered satisfactorily and a player/parent feels the need to pursue the matter further, they may contact the Travel Director, but should do so

only after exhausting all efforts with the coach and his/her assistants.

When a player or parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or an individual player, they should:

- **Adhere to the “24 Hour Rule”** which requires a player/parent to wait at least **24 hours** before approaching a coach on the matter.
- Choose a time and place that is convenient for all parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and approach the situation in an appropriate manner (keep the emotions under control, keep the discussions polite and to the point, and keep the discussions private and out of the earshot of other players or parents).

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within 48 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. At this time, the Travel Director will act as a mediator between the player/parent and the coach. All parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution.

If the problem cannot be resolved at that level within 48 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the ROYBA Board of Directors.

If the problem involves the actual or perceived abuse of a player, whether verbal or physical, it should be brought to the Travel Directors attention immediately.

The ROYBA Travel Handbook is subject to interpretation and can change at the discretion of the Travel Director and/or the Executive Travel Committee that can supersede the information above based on approval from the ROYBA Executive Travel Committee.