

Long Valley Baseball Club Travel Charter

The Long Valley Baseball Club (“LVBC”) has, as part of its organization, a travel baseball program. This Long Valley Baseball Club Travel Charter document is to be considered an addendum to the LVBC Bylaws

The Long Valley Baseball Club Travel (“LVBC Travel” or “Travel”) program has teams in various age groups and is governed by the LVBC. This Travel baseball program is an extension of LVBC’s recreation baseball program and is intended to provide a more advanced and competitive environment for suitable players. It is not intended as, shall not be viewed as, and may not be used as a substitute for the recreation program. A primary objective of the Travel baseball program is to provide opportunities for eligible highest caliber players to participate on the most competitive team possible at an age group against teams from other towns and clubs with comparable ideals, goals, and requirements. Above all else, the LVBC Travel program is intended to create an overwhelmingly positive experience for both players and parents with higher standards of play than LVBC’s basic recreational baseball program

All travel teams are directly affiliated with the LVBC and must conform to the rules and guidelines established by the LVBC. Travel teams are under the guidance of the Travel Advisory Board and are represented to the LVBC board by the Travel Coordinator.

Travel teams will generally participate in the “Spring, Summer, and Fall” Travel Leagues and/or tournaments typically beginning with Winter practices in January and Fall baseball ending in late fall each year. Exceptions to this general schedule may be considered by the LVBC.

TRAVEL COORDINATOR

The LVBC will have a Travel Coordinator position appointed by the LVBC Officers. The Travel Coordinator’s role is to ensure that the travel team guidelines are followed, participate in the General Board monthly meetings, and provide updates to the LVBC Travel Advisory Board accordingly. The Travel Coordinator shall 1) be accessible to Travel managers, coaches, and parents; 2) attend games and practices as time reasonably permits; and 3) intervene in matters/issues arising from or related to Travel activities including but not limited to field scheduling, tournaments, and participant issues.

TRAVEL ADVISORY BOARD

The Travel Advisory Board will consist of the Travel Coordinator and the Executive Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Past President). All members of the Travel Advisory Board must be in good standing and maintain their voting eligibility throughout the year. This board will rule on any issues outside of the control of the Travel Coordinator and/or issues deemed by any Travel Advisory Board member to require broader Travel Advisory Board review. The Travel Advisory Board shall generally be called to action prior to any disciplinary action regarding a travel coach, parent, or player. This board will act per the rules and regulations set forth by this document and The LVBC Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations.

TEAMS

The LVBC Travel Advisory Board shall make an effort to create and recognize one single Travel team per age group (currently ages 8U through 14U). Should the LVBC Travel Advisory Board determine that player interest, talent, and player and coach availability may justify the creation of a second team in an age group, a maximum of one additional team per age group may be permitted. Furthermore, if it becomes unreasonable to create a full team for a certain age group due to player ability, availability, logistical constraints, or other issues, the Travel Advisory Board may consider merging age groups as necessary.

TRAVEL TEAM NAMES

All LVBC travel teams are required to exclusively use the following Long Valley Wolfpack naming schema. Generally, each age group will have one team named and referred to as “Long Valley Wolfpack.” In the event that an age group has a second team, one team shall be assigned the name “Long Valley Blue Wolfpack” and the other “Long Valley Gray Wolfpack.”

TRAVEL TEAM UNIFORMS

Each player, included as part of standard player fees, will be supplied a new travel uniform. It is each player’s responsibility to keep this uniform clean and in good condition. Players shall be financially responsible for the repair or replacement of lost or damaged uniforms. Should the style of a season’s uniform be materially unchanged from a prior season and a returning player owns a prior season’s jersey in suitable and usable condition, that player shall have the option to forgo the right to a new jersey in exchange for a fee reduction. Player numbering shall be on a request basis, and in the event of conflict, shall be resolved by each team’s head coach.

PLAYER ELIGIBILITY

Players must try out for the appropriate age team according to their age as of April 30th. If a player is born after April 30th but before September 1st they will have the option to try out for the next older team (“playing up”). Special permission for playing up may be granted by the Travel Advisory Board. Team rosters are limited to players that are Washington Twp. Residents, players eligible per district geography, or players attending a school in the Washington Township School District.

PLAYER TRYOUTS & TEAM FORMATION

All players to be placed on a travel team must attend tryout or, in special circumstances, have an alternate evaluation. Tryouts will be held prior to each distinct travel season.

During the tryouts, potential players will be evaluated and tested on all relevant baseball skills in an orderly manner by an unbiased team of evaluators. Tryout format will be designed by the Travel Coordinator and approved by the Travel Advisory Board. The evaluators for each age group will be selected by the Travel Advisory Board. Although an age group's head coach is not selected until after tryouts, it is generally accepted that the head coach of the previous year's age group will participate in player evaluation.

Team selection is the responsibility of the evaluators working with the Travel Coordinator and the Travel Advisor Board. Player selection should be based on the tryout evaluations along with team position requirements, player availability and commitment, recreation ratings, and past travel performance.

In the event that potential player interest, availability, and/or skill dictates that a Travel team would be initially formed with fewer than 12 players, the Travel Advisory Board may give special consideration to additional potential players post-tryout in order to bring the team's roster total to a maximum of 12 players.

PUBLICATION AND SCHEDULING OF TRYOUTS

The Travel Coordinator will secure tryout dates from the LVBC. A complete list of tryout dates will be established and published through various media outlets including at least the Long Valley Baseball website, LVBC social media, and LVBC email distribution lists. It is the responsibility of the LVBC to ensure that all eligible residents are given an opportunity to try out for the travel teams. At the discretion of The LVBC Travel Advisory Board, additional alternate tryouts for those who may not be able to attend the primary tryout may be arranged.

TRAVEL HEAD COACH SELECTION

Head Coach selection shall be made by the LVBC Travel Baseball Committee shortly after each season's tryout. All perspective head coaches must fill out an application for each season to be considered. Previous team head coaches to not automatically maintain their position in subsequent seasons, potentially returning coaches must re-apply every season.

The Travel Advisory Board will review all completed applications. All applicants must have an exemplary history of sportsmanship and conduct; have a solid understanding of the game of baseball; have previous coaching or playing experience; have strong organizational skills; and be committed to the travel program, to LVBC, and to player development. If more than one eligible applicant applies for the head coaching position of a team, the Travel Advisory Board will use the following factors to make their decision.

HEAD COACH SELECTION FACTORS:

- 1) Travel Head Coaching Experience and Their Players' Experience (45%)
- 2) Baseball Coaching Certifications / Training / Growth Minded (25%)

3) Board Membership / Position / Time Served (20%)

4) Playing Experience (10%)

In the event that a selected head coach cannot accept the position, cannot or should not continue in the position, or is removed from the position, then the LVBC Travel Committee shall be responsible for appointing a replacement head coach.

TRAVEL HEAD COACH AND COACHING STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDUCT

All travel coaches are required to devote all necessary time to the travel baseball team, agree to conduct themselves in a professional manner, and agree to comply with all LVBC rules and regulations. The head coach and coaching staff shall be responsible for the conduct of their team and parents. Coaching staff must teach, exemplify, and always insist on good sportsmanship. The coaching staff is generally responsible for instructing the players on the rules, regulations, techniques, and strategies of the game. The head coach shall be responsible for insuring good communication with LVBC, the travel league and its coordinators, and opposing team coaches. All head coaches (or a designated representative) shall be responsible for attending meetings held to discuss rules, scheduling, field selection, and/or league matters.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATION VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT

All Travel team players, coaches, parents, and spectators are subject to the general LVBC Rules and Regulations. The Travel Coordinator shall discretionarily present severe rule infractions and incidents to the Travel Advisory Board for review and potential disciplinary action.

Travel participants are subject to immediate action by LVBC should they acts in a way that is deemed to be unsportsmanlike or against the LVBC code of conduct. Please see the LVBC Rules and Regulations: "4.0 Conduct of Coaches, Players, and Spectators."

Under no circumstances will the LVBC or the LVBC program tolerate a manager, coach, player, or parent being ejected from a game or a field. Should an ejection of a LVBC Travel participant occur during a Travel activity or if any LVBC Travel participant is requested to leave the premise, that person will face at minimum a one game suspension. All such incidents must be reported by the team's head Travel coach to the Travel Coordinator within 24 hours.

In the event that the Travel Advisory Board determine that a violation of the general LVBC Rules and Regulations has occurred, it shall, at a minimum issue a warning. An egregious violation or continued violations may result in probation, suspension, or removal from the program. Any player or coach who is suspended through the end of a season or otherwise removed from the program shall be required to petition the LVBC Travel Advisory Board prior to being permitted to return. The LVBC and the LVBC Travel Advisory Board reserves the right to, in its sole discretion, discipline, suspend, remove, or otherwise sanction players and coaches as necessary for the overall health of the program or individual.

PROBATION AND SUSPENSIONS

Any Travel participant, including, but not limited to: coaches, players, parents, and other spectators, may be placed on “probation” by the Travel Advisory Board for violation of any rules. A person on probation who commits a second violation may be given a second and final warning and a one game suspension. A suspended person may not be on or around the team’s playing or practice field, even if only as a spectator. One game suspensions will be effective immediately and will not expire until the end of the game immediately following the incident. If a suspension occurs during a tournament, that participant shall not be permitted to be on the premises for the remainder of the tournament. Suspended coaches may not coach remotely. After a second and final warning, participant who commits an additional violation in that same season may be immediately suspended and potentially dismissed from the travel program. All participants agree that decisions by the LVBC and the LVBC Travel Advisory Board are final.

COACH REVIEW

The Travel Advisory Board shall have the authority to investigate any potential or current coach’s past coaching experience by interview of any individuals it deems appropriate. The LVBC reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any coach’s application and remove any selected coach for any reason, at any time.

Completion of an application for a coaching position shall constitute approval for this inquiry. The Travel Advisory Board shall have full authority to determine the competency and standing of a coach.

As part of this ongoing review process, the Travel Advisory Board will investigate any written complaints presented to the LVBC or Travel Coordinator. Should a coach’s removal be potentially necessary, the voting members of the broader LVBC Board shall be informed, a discussion will be had, and a vote shall be held. A simple majority vote is necessary for removal of a coach.

TRAVEL ROSTERS & REGISTRATION TERMS

All players assigned to travel teams must register, pay required appropriate fees on time, and participate accordingly. All rosters must be turned in to the Travel Coordinator. Rosters may generally carry up to 12 players, only to be exceeded with approval by the Travel Advisory Board.

The Travel Coordinator will verify all travel team registration forms for their accuracy. Any player that has a registration form that contains false information related to residency/eligibility, age, or conflicts will be immediately removed from the Long Valley Baseball Club Travel Program. A coach found to be supporting violation of eligibility rules will be suspended indefinitely. All parents give the LVBC Travel Program permission to contact existing school, town, and other organizations to verify enrollment (if needed). Copies of

birth certificates may be requested and required prior to the first game or practice or at any point during the season.

TRAVEL TEAM “CALL-UP” PLAYERS

Travel teams are permitted and encouraged to request eligible players from other LVBC teams (“call-up” players) to fill in for games when the number of players from the team’s official roster will be low enough to justify a need. If a team is in need of one or more call-up players for a particular game, the Travel Coordinator/Player Coordinator must be consulted prior to the formal request being issued. Potential call-up players may not accept the request should acceptance create a conflict with their officially assigned team. Call-up players are prohibited from pitching in any game unless there are no other eligible pitchers remaining from the team’s official roster. Coaches should make every effort to exercise good judgment in playing call-up players so not to detract from the experience of the permanent roster players for that team.

TRAVEL TEAM ACCOUNTING

Travel head coaches are responsible for accounting for all monies received and spent by their assigned team. LVBC shall be responsible for all outgoing payments for tournaments, uniforms, fields, and any other approved financial obligation of each team. At the discretion of LVBC, in the event of excess funding, a partial refund may be provided. A spreadsheet for purposes of tracking monies received and team debits shall be provided by LVBC on a monthly basis to each head coach.

FUNDRAISERS

Travel Teams are permitted to fund raise to offset seasonal costs so long as such fund raising does not interfere with the LVBC fundraising. All fundraisers by travel teams require the approval of the LVBC Travel Advisory Board. Potential travel team sponsorships must be reviewed by the LVBC and must not be accepted by an individual team prior to board approval.

USE OF LONG VALLEY FIELDS

All Long Valley field usage, including but not limited to that for games, practices, scrimmages, and tournaments, must be pre-approved by the Field Scheduler. Travel teams will generally have fixed practice days and times reserved, with additional usage opportunity based on availability. Use of Long Valley fields requires compliance with all LVBC rules and Washington Township ordinances and regulations.

TRAVEL PLAYER ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION OBLIGATIONS

All Travel players are expected to be committed to their Travel team. In general:

1. Players are expected to be on time for all practice, meetings, and games. Players who must miss a Travel practice or a game, for any reason, must inform the team manager as early as possible.
2. Players who fail to notify the team manager prior to missing a Travel event shall be charged with an unexcused absence.
3. Though not required, all travel players are strongly encouraged to also participate in the LVBC Recreational Baseball Season (“rec”) each spring.
4. Players who opt to participate in other sports or for other teams shall prioritize their commitment to their LVBC Travel team above other athletic obligations. Should a player miss a LVBC travel baseball practice or game to take part in another (non LVBC) sporting event, an unexcused absence will be charged.
5. Receipt of three unexcused absences in a season may result in the immediate removal from the roster.

In general, all Travel players are expected to maintain an absolute minimum of 50% attendance to all Travel related baseball activities. This attendance expectation will be monitored by each team’s head coach. Attendance below 50% may result in immediate removal from the roster.

AMENDMENTS TO THIS CHARTER

This Charter may be amended by a 75% vote of the entire voting eligible LVBC Board Membership. Any amendments must be presented for consideration at one or more LVBC Board meetings prior to any vote. Notice of any meeting at which an amendment will be initially proposed and of any meeting where an amendment shall be put to a vote shall be provided to all Board members at least two weeks prior to such a meeting. The proposed revised formal Charter and/or amendment language must be provided in full to all LVBC Board members at least one week prior to the voting meeting.