

Invitation to try out for 14U Baseball Tournament Team(s)

TO: Parents of Fond du Lac Youth Baseball players

REGARDING: 14U/8th Grade Tournament Baseball Team(s) for summer of 2026

ELIGIBILITY: All players must live within Fond du Lac School District boundaries or attend a school (private or public) located within those boundaries during the 2025-2026 school year. All players must be entering 8th grade this fall. All players must also be 14 years old or younger on April 30, 2025. (Any player that turns 15 before May 1, 2026, is ineligible due to tournament rules. Players that are older may try out for the age group/grade above.)

Dear Parents,

FDL Youth Baseball is excited to once again be organizing a tournament baseball team(s) for next summer. Tryouts for the 14U team(s) will be held in August so that the selected team(s) can start practicing around March 2026 and for fundraising efforts to begin this year. This team is for those interested in a competitive atmosphere that will remain focused on **fun** and baseball fundamentals. Players selected for the team(s) will travel to other communities for games and tournaments in addition to playing on their weekday league teams. There will be one or two teams selected based on interest and the number of players that try out. If, as expected, we have two teams, they will be evenly split by skill set. We will not be organizing an A/B team format.

Below is the information that we have at this time. We are presenting this to you so that you can determine if this is something your child and you, as a parent, would like to pursue. **If you are interested, you must contact the 14U tryout coordinator; Jason Keifenheim - jason.k@excelengineer.com.** The tryout will not interfere with flag football or JFL; and is set for Sunday August 24th.

COMMITMENT: Being on a youth baseball travel team requires a commitment of both athlete and parent/family. This will include a commitment of both time and money. The commitment to this team is more than to a recreational team and carries higher expectations. Players selected for this next year's 14U team(s) will likely start practice in March or early April and will need to help with fundraising. Players must also be committed to playing in the Fox Valley Baseball League once again. The league will likely consist of approximately 14 games played during the week, with 7 home games and 7 away games. The away games will then be played outside of Fond du Lac, such as in Oshkosh or Little Chute, etc. Games can also be scheduled on any night of the week, which is completely up to the coaches and diamond availability. The teams will also then be participating in 4/5 tournaments.

COST: The cost to participate on the team is \$175. This fee will be needed to cover costs related to entry fees of the tournaments, uniforms, team equipment, umpires, and field fees. The coaches will be volunteering all of their time to this team. We are able to keep our fees lower because of generous sponsorships from area businesses and family support at fundraisers such as brat fry's and Super Bowl Pools. This fee also includes the cost of the player uniform which you are able to keep at the end of the season. Since the players will not play in the Fondy Youth Baseball Rec league, there will be an additional approximately \$50 fee paid to Fondy Youth Baseball.

DATES: Tournament dates and game schedules are yet to be determined. However, we will “try” to not play or practice on Memorial Day weekend, Walleye weekend, and fourth of July weekend. Nothing is guaranteed though. We will possibly play 1-2 tournaments in May, 1-3 tournaments in June, and 1-3 tournaments in July. We will play 2-4 tournaments for the 13U age group, and maybe the possibility of adding a few single games here or there.

Indoor practices will likely begin in March/early April, once a week to help teach the kids hitting, fielding and pitching. In addition, this is a good opportunity to start teaching baseball concepts that the players will need to understand as we approach tournament play. As summer nears, practice days will increase, and additional scrimmages may be scheduled for late April and May.

TRYOUT: There will be one tryout date and that date is set for Sunday August 24th from 4:00-5:30. The tryout will likely take place at the Woodworth Baseball Complex. Players will be evaluated on all baseball skills such as hitting, throwing, pitching, fielding, base running, as well as behavior and coachability. We will be coach pitching to players during tryouts. We will stick with 2 teams and most likely select the top 22-24 players. Players must be registered by August 15th, so the Tryout Coordinator has an opportunity to plan and organize the tryouts.

COMPETITIVENESS: This team will be competitive in nature and thus will be playing to win games. However, at this age there will be a significant emphasis placed on fun and skill development; but there are no guarantees on playing time or positions played. Tournament playing time, batting order, fielding positions, etc. will be at the sole discretion of the coaches.

EXPECTATIONS: Those players selected for the team(s) will be expected to make practices and attend the tournaments. Please do not tryout if you cannot meet these expectations. It is reasonable to expect that players might miss a couple of practices due to other obligations, but they will need to be excused through the coaches. If too many practices are missed, it may affect a player's playing time. If a player is unable to attend a tournament, they must notify the coaches prior to May 1, 2025. Players must be able to attend all tournaments with the possible exception of one. Tournament weekends will likely be announced by February 1st.

WHAT NEXT AND HOW-TO SIGN-UP: Those interested in having their child tryout for the team must e-mail or call the 14U tryout coordinator to reserve a spot at the try-outs. If possible, please complete the form below. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact the tryout coordinator.

We look forward to working with the kids and having lots of fun.

Sincerely,
Jason Keifenheim
2026 14U Travel Coordinator
jason.k@excelengineer.com
920-279-5575

Please email the following information to the Tryout Coordinator.

DEADLINE FOR TRYOUT REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 15TH.

Player's Name:

Player's Birth Date:

Player's school:

Player's grade entering this fall:

Team's player played on this summer:

Coach's names from this summer: