

## **Invitation to try out for 12U Baseball Tournament Team(s)**

TO: Parents of Fond du Lac Youth Baseball players

REGARDING: 12U/Sixth 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 6th grade this fall. All players must also be 12 years old or younger on April 30, 2026. (Any player that turns 13 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 12U team(s) will be held early August, 2025 so that the selected team(s) can start practicing around mid/late March 2026 and begin fundraising efforts for 2026. 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 rec teams. Provided there are enough players that tryout, there will be two teams which we would address at that time.

Below is the information that we have currently. 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 12U tryout coordinator; Eric Rebedew – erebedew@yahoo.com.** Tryouts will not interfere with flag football or JFL; and is set for 2 Sunday's, August 3rd and 10<sup>th</sup>. The planned time is from 5pm – 7pm at Woodworth Softball Diamond each day. Your player will only need to attend 1 tryout session. Please add a reminder to your calendar.

**COMMITMENT:** Being on a youth tournament 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 tournament team(s) will likely start practice in mid/late March and will need to help with fundraising. Players must also be committed to attending the 5/6 weekend tournaments in which the team will be playing. Players and parents must also be committed to skill development as the team will be competing against teams selected from other communities.

**COST:** The cost to participate on the team is \$150. 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 the beef jerky sale. In the past the cost has been about \$125-\$175 to participate, but that number can go up if we are not successful at hitting our fundraising targets. This fee also includes the cost of the player uniform which you are able to keep at the end of the season. If players do not play in the Fondy Youth Baseball Rec league there will be an additional \$50 fee paid to Fondy Youth Baseball.

**DATES:** Tournament dates and game schedules are yet to be determined. However, we will "try" not to 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, 1/2 tournaments in June, and 1/2 tournaments in July. We will play no more than 5-6 tournaments for the 12U age group.

Indoor practices will likely begin in mid-March once a week to help develop 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 be twice a week and additional scrimmages may be scheduled for late April and May.

**TRYOUTS:** There will be two tryout dates and are set for Sunday August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at the Woodworth Softball diamond from 5pm – 7pm. Players only need to attend 1 session. 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. If two teams are to be formed we will select the top 22-24 players and then assign them to a team. Players must be registered by August 1st so the Tryout Coordinator has an opportunity to plan and organize the tryouts.

**COACHES:** If you are interested in helping coach, please let the 12U Tryout Coordinator know. Coaches will be selected by the FDL Travel Baseball Board.

**COMPETITIVENESS:** This team will be competitive in nature and thus will be playing to win games. **At this age, we still put a significant emphasis on skill development and fun but also expect players to develop situational awareness (Baseball IQ).** There are no guarantees on playing time or positions played. Player's attitudes and effort level will also determine playing time. **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, 2026. Players must be able to attend all tournaments with the possible exception of one. Tournament weekends will likely be announced by February 1<sup>st</sup> or shortly there after.

**FUTURE:** This team(s) will move forward each year with a similar format. Those that cannot make the commitment this year or do not make the team are welcome to try-out in subsequent years. Players who have not made teams in previous years, have tried out in later years; and then been selected after further development and practice. As players develop and families move to and from the Fond du Lac community, the team rosters do typically change from year to year.

**WHAT'S NEXT AND HOW TO SIGN-UP:** Those interested in having their child tryout for the team must e-mail the 12U tryout coordinator to reserve a spot at the try-outs. If possible, please complete the form below. Please also indicate what day your player will attend tryouts. Players are welcome to attend both if desired. 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.

Thank you as always,

Eric Rebedew  
Class of 2032 - 12U Travel Coordinator  
erebedew@yahoo.com  
920-602-0324

Please email the following information to the Tryout Coordinator.

**DEADLINE FOR TRYOUT REGISTRATION IS AUGUST 1st**

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:

Date your player will attend:    August 3<sup>rd</sup>      August 10<sup>th</sup>