



Cottage Grove Baseball 2024 Traveling Baseball Player Evaluations

Posted: August 1, 2023

2024 CGAA Traveling Baseball Evaluations

CGAA Baseball is committed to holding a fair and open evaluation process for all eligible traveling baseball players. The evaluation is an opportunity for all players to demonstrate their skills to an independent group of evaluators and to be placed on a team that meets their baseball ability and skill level.

CGAA Baseball has developed the following evaluation process and guidelines for 2024 with the best intentions for the program. Unforeseen circumstances, including but not limited to weather, field conditions, volunteer staffing or other factors, may arise between the time these guidelines are posted and/or during the evaluation process. CGAA Baseball reserves the right to change or amend the timing, format and process as needed in and for the best interest of the program using common sense and fairness in those circumstances.

All players that wish to participate in 2024 Player Evaluations must register via the CGAA Baseball website and SportsEngine platform by August 18 (or August 27 with late fee). A link to register can be found on both the Registrations page and the Traveling page. The cost to participate in 2024 Player Evaluations is a non-refundable fee of \$40 if you register between now and August 18 and \$60 if you register between August 19 - August 27. This fee covers evaluation costs and shirts for each player. This fee is separate from 2024 Player Registration fees, details of which will be announced after 2024 Player Evaluations conclude and teams are formed.

Team Philosophy

CGAA Baseball will make every attempt to field teams at each level of play, with AAA being the highest, AA second-highest and A third-highest, so long as the prospective teams are and will be competitive with other surrounding communities.

CGAA Baseball will attempt to field one AAA team at each age level. If determined by the Board, with input from the Age-Level Coaches and Age-Level Advisors, that the top team in an age level cannot competitively play at the AAA level, the team may be placed at the AA level. Similarly, if based on evaluations, it is determined that any team cannot compete at the A level or would benefit from more development time, the Board may designate them as a Practice and Tournament team that does not compete in MBL league play.

Brian Steffes is the CGAA Baseball Traveling Director. CGAA Baseball has Age-Level Advisors who assist the Traveling Director in organizing the season and communicating with parents. Contact information for these individuals is posted in the [Board section of the CGAA Baseball website.](#)

Multiple teams may be formed at the AA or A level if determined by the Traveling Director, with input from Age-Level Head Coaches and Age-Level Advisors, that there is enough talent to support two competitive teams. CGAA Baseball will attempt to form as many A-level teams at each age level with the players at evaluations and including players recruited after evaluations. If multiple teams are formed at any level, the Board will determine if teams are chosen equally with talent or chosen by ranking with the highest scores on one team and subsequent players placed on a second team.

The number of players per traveling team is decided and finalized in concert by the CGAA Baseball President, Traveling Director, Age-Level Advisor and each Age-Level Head Coach. If additional players are needed to fill A-level teams, players may be recruited by the Traveling Director, Age-Level Advisor or Age-Level Head Coach after evaluations to fill out A-level teams.

CGAA Baseball expects players to play at the highest level according to their skill and play at the level they are suited for based on the evaluation process. Once a player makes a team for a given year, that player will not be moved down. Additionally, once the season begins, teams at the AAA or AA level may lose players due to injury or other circumstances. In such instances where a higher level team can only field 9 players or less, players at the lower levels are subject to be called up to roster spots on the higher team at the higher level coach's request. Any disagreements on such a request will be subject to the decision by the Travel Director and an additional two Board Members.

All Traveling teams and players will abide by all CGAA Baseball bylaws, general rules and policies, as well as league rules of Metro Baseball League (MBL) and/or MYAS-Gopher State Baseball League, as applicable to the league each team is playing in.

Player Eligibility

CGAA Baseball players should play on traveling teams with their school grade as of April 30th of the 2024 season as follows:

Grade	9/10	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
Age Level	15U	14U	13U	12U	11U	10U	9U	9U

However, if a player is a year older on April 30th than his grade, he will play at the higher age level, according to age, (not grade), as required by MBL and MYAS league rules. For example, a player that is in 5th grade and is 12 years old on April 30th, will play 12U baseball.

Exceptions may be given to players with exceptional skill desiring to play UP an age level ahead of their grade and age level. Any player desiring to play up an age level beyond their school grade, EXCEPT 9U players, must submit a request in writing to the Traveling Director prior to evaluations and must be pre-approved to participate in the evaluation process for the older age level. 9U players cannot move up to 10U and are expected to begin their traveling baseball experience with their age group. For ages 10U and up, those players desiring to play UP at an age higher than said player will only be eligible to play for one (1) team but must get evaluated in their appropriate age group as well as the age group they wish to play up to. To be eligible for the older AAA team, the player's score must be in the top three (3) scores of the evaluation in that age level and selection must be approved by the Traveling Director, Level Advisor and Age-Level Head Coach. If the player desiring to play up does not make the top team, the option may be given for that player to play at the older age level AA or A team, depending on their final ranking and both team and age-level needs at the sole discretion of the Traveling Director. If the player is not chosen for any older level team, they will be put back into the lower age level and chosen based on their score and ranking at the lower age level evaluation.

Eight years old (8 years old on April 30th of playing year) is the minimum age to participate in evaluations for 9U teams, however, all 8 year-olds must petition and secure pre-approval in writing to register and participate in evaluations from the Traveling Director and two Board Members.

Cottage Grove baseball 9AA team(s) will focus on development, practicing and scrimmaging throughout the week and playing in at least three tournaments, with the possibility for more. Cottage Grove Baseball will not field a 9AAA or 9A team. 9AA team(s) will not play a traveling league schedule or in the Cottage Grove Baseball In-House League.

Any player that attends an evaluation for another baseball association, or has been granted a waiver to play for another association, and returns to CGAA Baseball will only be eligible to play on an A-level team, and will only play Traveling baseball if players are needed to fill a roster.

2024 Player Evaluation Details

CGAA Baseball will hold player evaluations for the upcoming 2024 season on September 9 and September 10, 2023 (players must participate on both days).

2024 Player Evaluations will be held at the following locations and times:

Schedule for Saturday, September 9

Check-in begins 30 minutes before each age group's evaluation session.

Field: Park High School

14U - 8:30am to 10:30am

15U - 11:00am to 1:00pm

Field: Hamlet Park Fields 1-4

10U/9U - 8:30am to 10:15am

11U - 10:45am to 12:30pm

12U - 1:00pm to 2:45pm

13U - 3:15pm to 5:00pm

After Day 1 concludes, players will be pooled for Day 2 evaluations based on their independent evaluation scores.

Schedule for Sunday, September 10

Check-in begins 30 minutes before each age group's evaluation session.

Field: Park High School

15U - 8:30am to 10:00am

14U - 10:30am to 12:00pm

Hamlet Park Fields 1-4

13U - 9:00am to 11:00am

12U - 11:15 am to 1:15pm

11U - 1:30 pm to 3:30pm

10U/9U - 3:45 pm to 5:45pm

Players should arrive approximately 30 minutes early to their scheduled evaluation time to check-in at the registration table and to warm up.

Saturday, September 16 and Sunday, September 17 are being reserved and should be held by parents as potential weather-related makeup days. CGAA Baseball may also use these dates for select player evaluation call-backs (secondary, follow-up evaluations). Any change to the September 9 or September 10 evaluation dates due to weather conditions will be communicated with as much advance notice as possible.

Unless an exception is granted in writing by the CGAA Baseball President, Traveling Director and Age-Level Advisor for medical or special circumstance/conflict reasons (more detail below), a player must attend player evaluations on the date and times outlined above.

Players registered for Traveling baseball who do not secure a waiver PRIOR to evaluations AND who do not participate in evaluations will be placed on an A team if and only when roster spots remain available after placing players participating in evaluations. CGAA has made reasonable efforts to coordinate the date and times of 2024 Player Evaluations and is currently not planning to grant routine conflict waivers.

Any player that moves into town after evaluations have concluded, teams are rostered and/or the season has started will be directed to the Traveling Director and Level Advisor for further conversation and potential placement on an existing team.

2024 Player Evaluation Format

Day 1 (September 9) player evaluations will be focused on fundamental skills analysis, administered and scored by independent evaluators and appointed help with no affiliation to the age group being evaluated.

Day 1 Format

After breaking into equally divided groups, players will rotate through:

- Warm-ups/throwing progression
- Infield drills evaluating arm strength, accuracy, footwork and glove work
 - 3 ground balls hit to 3B (batted balls) and thrown to 1B
 - 3 ground balls hit to SS (batted balls) and thrown to 1B
 - A radar gun will be used to measure arm strength as a player throws into a net.

- Outfield drills evaluating arm strength, accuracy, footwork and glovework
 - 3 fly balls to center field (machine); throw to 3B
 - 3 ground balls hit to center field (machine); throw to home
 - A 60-yard dash to evaluate player speed also will be conducted during outfield drills
- Hitting drills evaluating ball contact, power, mechanics and plate presence:
 - 5 full swings in batting cage (live arm)
 - 5 full swings on field (pitching machine)
 - Players will hit 2 baseballs off a tee into a net; a radar gun will be used to measure exit velocity.

Day 2 Format

Day 2 (September 10) player evaluations will focus on situational and live game-play. Players at each Age-Level will be pooled based on their Day 1 independent evaluation data. The Traveling Director, Age-Level Advisor, selected Age-Level Head Coaches and Traveling Director-appointed help with no affiliation to the age group being evaluated will facilitate Day 2 of Player Evaluations.

Additional Day-Of Evaluation Information

Players should wear weather-appropriate baseball clothing, including baseball pants, cleats, sweatshirt, t-shirt and hat.

Players will receive a t-shirt with a random number on the back. Players are required to wear this t-shirt during evaluations. **Players are not allowed to wear any shirt, jersey or hat that indicates they were on any sort of baseball team as part of CGAA Baseball or any other club. Do not have your player wear previous year's CGAA hats or jerseys.**

Players should bring their own baseball gloves. Players can bring their own bats, subject that they conform to the guidelines located on the Traveling Baseball page of our website: <https://www.cgabaseball.org/page/show/103619-traveling>. If players do not have their own bats, they can use CGAA's bats, which will be available onsite.

Traveling baseball evaluations are CLOSED to parents and guardians. Players should be dropped off 30 minutes before their actual start time so they can sign in at the registration table and receive instructions about where they can warm up.

Parents and guardians shall be instructed to leave the inner perimeter of the fields at Hamlet and in the seating area and hillside at Park High School after dropping their player off and ensuring they are properly checked in. CGAA Baseball reserves the right to ask parents and guardians near the evaluation location to leave before their son can continue with evaluations.

Coaches

Traveling level coaching applications are due by August 18, 2023. All coaching applications will be reviewed by the CGAA Baseball Board. Additional selection committee members shall be appointed by the Traveling Director, as applicable. Coaches may be asked to interview for a prospective position.

Prospective Age-Level Head Coaches will be selected after Day 1 evaluations conclude on September 9, with final coaching determinations based on the stipulations outlined below. Selected Head Coaches are responsible for helping facilitate Day 2 of 2024 Player Evaluations on Sunday, September 10. The names of coaching candidates will not be publicly announced before evaluations. Age-Level Head Coaches will be selected based on experience, knowledge of the game, past involvement, and support of the entire baseball program.

The prospective head coach will NOT actively participate or be on the field during Day 1 of player evaluations but instead shall have the opportunity to observe the independent evaluations from afar with the Age-Level Advisor.

- In order to be a coach for the top team, the coach's son must rank from 1-16 in the evaluation.
- In order to be a coach for the second team, the coach's son must rank from 1-32 in the evaluation.
- In order to be a coach for the third team, the coach's son must rank from 1-48 during the evaluation process. A similar process will continue for subsequent teams.

A coaching applicant that does not have a son in the level in which they are applying for may be considered for any team. All assistant coaches will be selected after Player Evaluations by the Age-Level Head Coaches and Age-Level Advisor (subject to the approval of the Traveling Director) based applicants and what players made what team as outlined in the Player Selection Process. If an assistant coach has no son playing, they may be selected to coach at any level.

Player Selection Process

Independent evaluators will rate each player based on fielding, throwing and hitting skills. Players may be given the option to be evaluated on pitching skills on Day 2. Such opportunities are not guaranteed, but may be utilized depending on the age level and/or in conjunction with other evaluation factors. Previous pitching, hitting, catching and running skills, along with attitude and commitment, may be taken into consideration when determining final teams.

No Age-Level Head Coaches will be allowed on the field or in the batting cages during Day 1 of player evaluations. Prospective Age-Level Head Coaches and Age-Level Advisors will be allowed to observe player evaluations from afar to take notes but shall have no interaction with any of the evaluators and players. Age-Level Head Coaches, Age-Level Advisors and other volunteers shall be permitted to assist in facilitating evaluations (i.e. organizing kids, hitting baseballs, etc.) so long as the individual does not have a son participating in the evaluations at that time. All coaching applicants are expected to help facilitate evaluations on Day 1 at age levels other than those in which they applied to coach.

Evaluations will be done by a point system. At the end of the session, the scores from the independent evaluators will be totaled and the players will be ranked from highest score to lowest score. Scores will be furnished to the Traveling Director and President, with tiered rankings provided to the Age-Level Advisor and Head Coaches. Evaluation scores will not be made public.

CGAA Baseball plans to post all 2023 rosters no later than Monday, September 25. All teams will be posted on the CGAA Baseball website. After evaluations conclude, please do not call, text or email the Traveling Director, Age-Level Advisors or CGAA Baseball Board asking about team assignments. Please wait for teams to post on our website. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

Additional Player Selection Process Details

Ages 9 to 15

AAA team selections will be made first (if CGAA Baseball determines/fields a AAA team), with AA team selections made second and after the AAA team players are confirmed. A team selections will be made third, after AA team players are confirmed.

The top three (3) players as rated by the independent evaluators will play on the top team. The remaining players to fill each team will be chosen by each Head Coach with input from the Traveling Director, Age-Level Advisors and based on the final rankings of the independent evaluators and their observations. Additional information may be obtained from previous years coaches to help in the selection process. Other factors that will be considered are commitment, attitude and team needs.

The same process as above will be followed for forming the AA team and A team. After the AAA team is selected, the remaining top three (3) players as rated by the evaluators will play on AA team and the coach will select from the remaining players to fill said team. After the AA team is selected, the remaining top three (3) players as rated by the evaluators will play on the A team and the coach will select from remaining players to fill said team.

- To be eligible for selection to the AAA team, a player must rank from 1-16 during the evaluation process. Exception: Pitchers and catchers may be chosen to fill a specific team need with the approval of the Traveling Director; the pitcher or catcher must be ranked from 1-18 during the evaluation process and must be considered a primary pitcher or primary catcher.
- To be eligible for selection to the AA team a player must rank in the next top 16 players during the evaluation process. If multiple AA teams are formed, the first team will be selected with the next available top 16 players; after players are confirmed for the first team, the second team will be selected with the next available top 16 players. If determined by the Board that the multiple AA teams are to be formed equally, the AA coaches must select players alternately from the next available 32 players.
- The A team will be filled through a similar procedure as the AA teams. There is no guarantee that all players who participate in evaluations will be assigned to a team, but CGAA Baseball will make every reasonable effort to do so, including adjusting roster sizes within an age level and recruiting players after evaluations.

Evaluation Waivers

Any player who has a scheduling conflict and can not participate in 2024 CGAA Traveling Baseball Player Evaluations on September 9-10 at the prescribed time for their age level MUST submit a Waiver Request (LINK BELOW). This waiver must be submitted by Sunday, September 3.

All waiver requests will be reviewed and assessed by the CGAA Baseball President, Traveling Director and Age-Level Advisor. Waiver approvals or denials will be communicated in writing to the email provided in this form. Simply submitting a waiver request does not imply a waiver has or will be granted. Waiver requests will be highly scrutinized. The CGAA Baseball Board has the sole discretion to either approve or deny a waiver request.

As CGAA Baseball has communicated with other CGAA Sports Divisions regarding evaluations and schedules, example waivers that are more likely to be approved are and should be related to unique out-of-town commitments and other once-in-a-lifetime opportunities (family wedding, etc.). Waivers requests related to other ongoing off-season sports commitments, including MBL Fall Ball, or routine events may or may not be approved.

Additionally, any player granted a special circumstance/conflict waiver must participate in a re-scheduled player evaluation on Tuesday, September 12 (14/15U) or Wednesday, September 13 (9U-13U). Additional time and location details TBD (though it will be in the evening). This make-up session will be mandatory and led by members of the CGAA Baseball Board, Age-Level Advisors and Age-Level Coaches.

As stipulated in the Evaluation Guidelines above, any player that does not participate in Player Evaluations during the regularly scheduled time and/or during a make-up session will be placed on an A team if and only when roster spots remain available after placing players that did participate in evaluations.

For medical waivers, a letter from a licensed physician providing the basis for requesting the waiver must be provided. Medical waiver requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis (including team placement), with all medical waivers and team placement subject to approval by the CGAA Baseball President, Traveling Director and Age-Level Advisor. Waivers will ONLY be granted if notification is made to the Traveling Director PRIOR to the scheduled evaluation time. Please complete the form at the link below and email the Traveling Director requesting your medical waiver as soon as possible. The Traveling Director will inform all Age-Level Advisors and Age-Level Coaches if a medical waiver has been granted. Players that become ill or injured during evaluations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Teams are not required to pick up medical evaluation waiver players or players that are unable to complete a player evaluation due to any other circumstance. In order for a waiver player to make a Traveling team, careful consideration about the player's ability had they been able to participate will be used, including but not limited to discussions with current and past coaches. After the CGAA President, Traveling Director and Age-Level Advisor have considered the player's ability, it will be compared with the evaluations of current year participants at evaluations. Based upon this comparison, a final decision will be made on the player's team placement.

PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE WAIVER REQUEST FOR EACH PLAYER.

2024 Waiver Request Form

<https://forms.gle/sy5GsY3D3PPk5sTY9>

Traveling Player Registration Fees and Uniforms

In order to play CGAA Traveling Baseball, all players must register via the CGAA Baseball website and SportsEngine platform. Additional 2024 Player Registration details will be shared at the time teams are rostered and announced. Again, the \$40 2024 Player Evaluation fee (or \$60 late fee) is non-refundable and separate from 2024 Player Registration Fees.

Similar to previous years, Player Registration Fees once announced will NOT include fees for player uniforms. We are currently working with our uniform partner to arrange ordering for 2024. Ordering uniforms will occur upon registration in 2024. Additional details will be shared separately.

Any player who does not get placed on a 2024 Traveling team is encouraged to play [In-House CGAA Baseball](#). Additional detail will be shared with appropriate families after teams are rostered.

Any player who quits or who can no longer participate in Traveling baseball after they have been registered, rostered and the season starts (defined as the first day of practice) will not receive a refund unless approved by the Traveling Director.