

2024 AYBA Traveling Baseball FAQ

- Why are we doing this?
 - Gopher State Requirements
 - Opens playing opportunities to the entire Alexandria community
 - Will make teams more competitive
- What are the residency requirements to play?
 - Open to players in the Alexandria School district. Players must attend Alexandria school district to play AYBA travel baseball.
 - Non-Alexandria students are eligible to play AYBA in-house baseball.
- How do I determine what age group my player should register for?
 - Age of player as of April 30th, 2024.
- Can my player play up?
 - Yes, however, we encourage players to play with their grade.
 - Players will participate in the age group they are evaluated.
- How do I register for the evaluation, what is the deadline and what is the cost?
 - <https://www.alex youthbaseball.com/travel-reg-evals>
- Cost: \$150 registration fee (plus processing fees) - portion refunded if the player does not make a team.
 - 2nd payment is due 2/1/2024.
 - 10U & 11U: \$100 + processing fees
 - 12U: \$250 + processing fees
 - 13U & 14U: \$275 + processing fees
 - No player is eligible to practice until payment is made in full.
 - 2nd payment can be paid before 2/1/2024
- When and where are evaluations?
 - Evaluation schedule: <https://www.alex youthbaseball.com/travel-reg-evals>
 - September 6 & 7 at NorthStar Academy.
 - Players must register and be evaluated to participate.
- How are the evaluations structured?
 - Evaluations are closed to parents.
 - Parents can wait outside or in the lobby for your player to finish.
 - Players should show up 15 minutes prior to evaluation time to warm up.
 - Players are evaluated on hitting, pitching, fielding, running and throwing.
 - Players are scored on a 1-5 scale for each skill.
 - Catchers are evaluated at 13 & 14U separately.
 - Players are evaluated by a nonaffiliated entity and hired by the AYBA Association. Caleb Curry and his staff have been hired for the 2024 season evaluations.
 - Players are ranked top to bottom for each age group.
 - Previous head and assistant coaches will also provide input on skill, attitude, and coachability.

- How and when are head/assistant coaches selected?
 - All coaches must apply annually for coaching positions. This applies to all coaching applicants regardless of service history with the AYBA. Head coaching applications are due by **September 6, 2023** and a link to the application can be found on the player registration site.
 - Head coaches are selected after evaluations are completed.
 - If there are multiple head coaching requests for a team, the traveling committee will facilitate a meeting with the interested coaches to work out a solution. If a solution is not resolved, the committee will determine the head coach (in the case where a committee member is also a head coach candidate, they will be recused from this process).
 - Head coaches will select assistant coaches for their team – 2 per team.
 - Once head coaches of AAA, AAA assistants, and AAA players are selected, the process will replicate sequentially for AA and A teams if participation numbers warrant the process to continue.
- How are teams selected?
 - AAA teams are selected from top 15 players in each age group. For the U13 and U14 teams, a catcher can be selected outside of the top 15 players. Catchers must be evaluated during tryouts to be eligible for this selection and the travel committee will need to approve this selection.
 - AAA coaches have the ability to work out individual players in an effort to determine position needs and evaluate skill sets. AA coaches can work out players for position needs after the AAA roster is finalized.
 - Selections are then reviewed and approved by the board.
 - The process will be replicated for AA & A teams.
 - Players do not have the ability to decline a team selection to move down to a lower level.
 - Teams will consist of 10-12 players.
- How many teams will be in each age group?
 - This may vary by year as it is determined by the number of players and coaches available.
- Who is on the traveling committee and what is their role?
 - Scott Scholl, Tom Miller, Randy Anderson, Troy Putnam
 - The committee's role is to work with AYBA to develop, promote and foster a fair and competitive traveling youth baseball program.
- How much does it cost?
 - Registration fees (see above)
 - Additional tournament travel costs (hotel, food, etc.).
- Equipment:
 - League provides hats, jerseys, balls, catcher equipment, scorebooks, and first aid kits.
 - Players are responsible for gloves, helmets, pants, belts, socks, and shoes.

- League does not provide bats, however, team bats are generally shared.

- What are the time commitments?
 - This will vary among coaches/teams, but typically 1-2 practices prior to the season starting and once a week during the season.
 - 10U and 11U players will also be required to play in-house baseball and in-house league games and practices will take priority over travel during the in-house season.
 - 3-5 weekend tournaments plus state a tournament, if the team qualifies.
 - 10U & 11U: 3 tournament minimum
 - 12U: 4 tournament minimum
 - 13U & 14U: 5 tournament minimum
 - Gopher State weekly play – possible additional costs.
 - 12U and up only

- If a player makes the AAA or AA travel team, will they be on that team next season?
 - No, evaluations and team selection will occur each season.

- Why are evaluations being held in the fall vs. the spring?
 - Players are in baseball condition
 - Many coaches hold team practices beginning in January
 - Travel season starts early in the spring making it difficult for spring evaluations

- Can my player participate in the in-house league as well?
 - 10U and 11U players are REQUIRED to participate in the house league in 2024.