



Kimberly Baseball Organization families,

During the off season the Board of Directors, Friends of the Board, and coaches from across the organization gathered to review our philosophy on player development and our evaluation process, formerly known as tryouts. In February, we released [KBO's Development Philosophy](#) that highlighted the organizations renewed focus on individual and team growth through intentional practice, the promotion of soft skills, growth-oriented mindset through continuous learning, and holistic athlete development.

Each season coaches have evaluated players throughout the season and during our evaluation event. However, the method for evaluating players throughout the season has not always been consistent from coach to coach and tryouts were based on results, not baseball mechanics. For example, during past tryouts, a player was scored on the number of hits out of 5, not their hitting mechanics. To assist in consistent evaluation throughout the season, we developed the [Youth Baseball Development Progression](#) tool, also released in February. This tool is meant to assist coaches as they evaluate the key mechanics of the game important at each age level and will be used by all coaches to evaluate skills throughout the season. It is also a way for parents to better understand the skills KBO coaches focus on at each age level.

As a result of this work and to better align with our Development Philosophy, 2026 9u through 14u evaluations will look different. Evaluations for players entering 7u and 8u will occur in the Fall and remain the same. The process for signing up to play with a Legion team will also remain the same.

Below are the changes:

- Evaluations, formerly known as tryouts, will occur between July 21 and July 24, 2025.
- The last date will be reserved for those who missed their designated block and those who evaluators wish to call back for additional evaluation.
- The event will be a **closed** event inside the Kimberly High School Fieldhouse. During your player's evaluation, a parent meeting will be held in the foyer of the fieldhouse.
- Parents may stay onsite but will not be allowed inside of the fieldhouse during evaluations.
- Each age group will be assigned a 90-minute evaluation block.
- Coaches will warm up players 30 minutes prior to their designated block using the diamond outside of the fieldhouse.
- Coaches will escort players to each station.
- Evaluators have been vetted by the Board of Directors and are qualified members of the Kimberly baseball community.
- There will be two evaluators at each station.
- Players will be graded using a +/- based on their mechanics within each skill set.
- Each player's family will be contacted individually, via email, by August 8, 2025.

Once initial evaluations are complete, evaluators will determine which players they would like to call back for further evaluation. When the callbacks are complete, evaluators will provide data to the Board of Directors. After compiling the data, including the season's evaluation from existing coaches, members of the Board will meet with coaches to prepare player offers. 9u will remain split between 2 even A teams and one B team, 10u through 12u will split A/B/C, and 13/14u will split AAA, AA, and A.





Single A will play in the Babe Ruth, Fox Valley Youth Baseball League (FVYBL), AA will also play FVYBL along with some tournaments, while AAA will play travel ball only.

Coaches will connect individually with each player's family by August 8, via email, to review their offer and the expectations of accepting it. Families will have 48 hours to accept or decline. Most importantly, we expect the offer your player receives to remain confidential until the offer process is complete. Offers will be rolled out sequentially (A, B, then C), following a waterfall model. Rosters will not be published until all families of those offered and cut have been contacted.

Thank you for your continued support of KBO as we work to fulfill our mission to empower young athletes within the Kimberly School District to reach their full potential through the game of baseball.

