

Invitation to try out for 10U Baseball Tournament Team(s)

TO: Parents of Fond du Lac Youth Baseball players

REGARDING: 10U/fourth 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 10 years old or younger on April 30, 2026. (Any player that turns 11 before May 1, 2025 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 10U team(s) will be held Monday, August 11th & Wednesday, August 13th from 6pm-8pm at the 4th St. Diamonds. Selected team(s) can then start practicing around 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 that will be evenly split by skill set so that both teams are competitive in a tournament format. We will not be organizing an A/B team format.

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 10U tryout coordinator; Blake Bogenhagen – Cell phone: 920-948-3030 - blakebogie@gmail.com.** Tryouts will not interfere with flag football or JFL; and are set for Monday, August 11th & Wednesday, August 13th from 6pm-8pm at the 4th St. Diamonds. If necessary, an additional tryout may be scheduled later in August or early September.

COMMITMENT: Being on a youth tournament team requires the commitment of both athlete and parent/family. This will include a commitment of both time and money. The commitment to the travel team is more than to a recreational team and carries higher expectations. Players selected for this tournament team(s) will likely start practice in March or early April and will need 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 \$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. In the past the cost has been \$150-\$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 \$40 fee paid to Fondy Youth Baseball.

DATES: Tournament dates and game schedules are yet to be determined. However, we will "try" not play or practice on Memorial Day weekend, Walleye weekend, and Fourth of July weekend. Nothing is guaranteed. We will possibly play 1/2 weekends in May, 1/2 weekends in

June, and 1/2 weekends in July. We will play no more than 5-6 tournaments for the 10U age group.

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.

TRYOUTS: Tryouts have been scheduled for Monday, August 11th & Wednesday, August 13th from 6pm-8pm at the 4th St. Diamonds. If necessary, there may be an additional tryout date scheduled for later in August or early September. 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. The top 22-24 players will be contacted and then assigned 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 10U 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. 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 by 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. Tournament weekends will likely be announced no later than March 1st.

FUTURE: These teams will likely 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 or call the 10U 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.

Thank you as always,

Blake Bogenhagen
10U Travel Coordinator
blakebogie@gmail.com
Cell: 920-948-3030

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: