

Invitation to try out for 8U Baseball Tournament Team(s)

TO: Parents of Fond du Lac Youth Baseball players

REGARDING: 8U/Second 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 2nd grade this fall. All players must also be 8 years old or younger on April 30, 2026. (Any player that turns 9 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 8U team(s) will be held in August (see dates below) so that the selected team(s) can start practicing around March 2026 and for fundraising efforts to begin this year. 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 rec league teams. There will be one or two teams selected based on interest and number of players that tryout and the number of volunteer coaches. We will not be organizing an A/B team format.

Below is the information that we have at this time. 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 8U tryout coordinator; Blair Schumann - blair@blairschumann.com - 920-287-1619.** Tryouts will try to not interfere with flag football and final dates will be set once the player list is established and will be communicated to you via e-mail.

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 March or early April and will need to help with fundraising. Players must also be committed to attending the three 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. In future years the commitment grows to 5 weekend tournaments.

COST: The cost to participate on the team will likely be around \$150. This fee is in addition to fee to play in rec league. 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 or super bowl pools. This fee also includes the cost of the player uniform which you are able to keep at the end of the season. Players will receive a hat, jersey, baseball pants, socks, and a belt that they can keep. 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 play or practice on Memorial Day weekend, Walleye weekend, and Fourth of July weekend. Nothing is guaranteed though. We will play in 3 tournaments on weekends in June and July. Older age levels will commit to 5 tournaments.

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: There will be two tryout dates, and players are expected to attend both. These tryouts will be held on Wednesday, August 20th from 5pm-7pm & Saturday, August 23rd 9am-11am. Both tryouts will be at NEBAT Field (National Exchange Bank Field). Players will be evaluated on all baseball skills such as hitting, throwing, 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 likely select the top 22-24 players and then assign them to a team. Players must be registered by July 31st so the Tryout Coordinator has an opportunity to plan and organize the tryouts.

COACHES: If you are interested in coaching, please let the 8U Tryout Coordinator know. Coaches will be selected by Fondy Youth Baseball.

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. Players must make this team their #1 priority for sports during the season from April 1st to July 31st. Players should NOT miss any team activities to play on other baseball or sports teams or can risk being benched or suspended. It is reasonable to expect that players might miss a couple of practices or even games due to other family 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 April 1, 2026. Players must be able to attend all tournaments with the possible exception of one. Tournament weekends will likely be announced by February 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 will likely change from year to year.

WHAT NEXT AND HOW TO SIGN-UP: Those interested in having their child tryout for the team must e-mail the below information to the 8U tryout coordinator to reserve a spot at the try-outs. Tryout dates will then be shared with those registered. Please complete the form below and e-mail back. 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.

Sincerely,

Blair Schumann
2026 8U Travel Coordinator
blair@blairschumann.com

Cell: 920-287-1619

Please email the following information to the Tryout Coordinator.

DEADLINE FOR TRYOUT REGISTRATION IS JULY 31ST

TRYOUT DATES: Wednesday, August 20th from 5pm-7pm & Saturday, August 23rd from 9am-11am. Both tryouts will be at NEBAT Field (National Exchange Bank Field).

Player's Name:

Player's Birth Date:

Player's school for 2025/2026:

Player's grade entering this fall:

Team's player played on this summer:

Coach's names from this summer:

Color and # of Rec Jersey:

Do you live within the FDL School District Boundary?:

Parent Names:

Parent E-Mails:

Parent Cell Phone #'s: