



2026 New-to-Travelling Baseball Parent Orientation

Welcome

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Minneapolis Youth Baseball Association

The Minneapolis Youth Baseball Association (MYBA) is a non-profit, volunteer run organization focused on teaching kids to play baseball in Minneapolis. Our goal is to place kids at a level of competition that best supports their long-term development and reaffirms their love of baseball.

- MYBA operates two baseball programs
 - **Millers Traveling Baseball** - higher level of competition for players to develop against other community-based programs in the surrounding metro-area
 - **Mini-Millers** - In-house developmental (recreation) baseball league
- 501c3 non-profit, volunteer-based organization
- Founded in 1997 as Washburn Youth Baseball Association
- Renamed Minneapolis Youth Baseball Association in 2003 to broaden appeal to the entire city
- Grown from 2 teams in 1997 to 39 teams in 2025

30th

Season in 2026

500+

Players in 2025

39

Teams in 2025



MYBA Programs

Millers Traveling Baseball

- Ages 9-15
- 3 skill levels - AAA, AA and A (in descending order) to ensure the right mix of competition to foster development
- Season runs from early April to late July
- Season consists of:
 - Games starts in late April/early May (depending on weather)
 - League play & weekend tournaments in May and June
 - MBL league playoffs in early July
 - Year-end state tournaments (if qualify)



Mini-Millers Baseball

- Fun, supportive environment where players improve their skills, cultivate respect for teammates, coaches and opponents, and develop a lifelong passion for the game
- Three levels*
 - Coach pitch - K-2nd grade
 - Kid pitch - 2nd-4th grade
 - **TENTATIVE 2026 - 5th-6th grade*
- Designed for players or families who are:
 - Just starting out in baseball
 - Not interested in the rigor of traveling baseball (commitment, time or ability)
- Season from late-April to July



Metro Baseball League (MBL)

MBL Overview

- Metro Baseball League (“MBL”) was founded in 1992
- Non-profit organization overseeing community-based youth traveling baseball for 9-15U age levels
 - Twin Cities metro (primarily southern and western suburbs)
 - Southern Minnesota
 - Western Wisconsin
- MBL establishes the rules and regulations that MYBA follows
- MBL operates Metro Baseball Tournament (“MBT”) as one of the end of year state tournaments
- MBL is one of the largest independent leagues in the U.S. with over 10,000 players on 700+ teams

MBL Boundary Policy

- Millers Traveling Baseball follows MBL established guidelines for player registration
- Players are eligible to participate on teams from
 - The **community in which they live** with their parent(s) or legal guardian
 - Their **school attendance area**
- For players attending private school, players may register with
 - Community program where they live
 - Their school’s summer team

Millers Travel Baseball Policy

Players must either:

- (i) Reside in the City of Minneapolis
- or-
- (ii) Attend a Minneapolis Public School



2026 Season Age Groups

Age Group	Grade	OR	DOB Range
9U	3		5/1/2016 - 4/30/2017
10U	4		5/1/2015 - 4/30/2016
11U	5		5/1/2014 - 4/30/2015
12U	6		5/1/2013 - 4/30/2014
13U	7		5/1/2012 - 4/30/2013
14/15U	8-9		5/1/2010 - 4/30/2012

Note: Any player who's birthday falls between 5/1-8/31 may elect to try out for their (i) designated age group or (ii) designated grade group. For example, if a player is born on 7/1/13 and is in the 6th grade, that player may elect to play in the 12U or 13U age group. Once a player makes this decision they cannot change after teams are formed (i.e. if a player chooses to 'play up' and does not make a team, they can not join the lower age group)





Millers Traveling Baseball Overview

Traveling Baseball Season

Winter

- ~1-4 practices per month; but varies based on team, age and level
- Millers finalizing more specific guidance to be shared in October

Spring

- 60-90+ minute practices each week in April
- 3-4 practices per week

In-Season

- Games typically start in late April/early May (depending on weather)
- 1-2+ practices per week (depending on game/tournament schedule)
- 14-16 MBL league games (typically weeknights)
- 3-4 weekend tournaments in May/June (3-5 games each)

Post-Season

- MBL league playoffs (early July)
- MBT, Gopher & MSF state tournament(s) (up to 3 in July)
 - July 10-12, July 17-19 and July 24-26



Projected 2026 Teams

Age Group	# of Teams	AAA	AA	A	2025 Totals	2026 Est
9U	1	0	1	0	1	AAA - 1 AA - 0 A - 0
10U	2-3	1	1-2	1-2	3	AAA - 1 AA - 1 A - 1
11U	4-5	1	1-2	1-2	4	AAA - 1 AA - 2 A - 2
12U*	5	1	2	2	5	AAA - 1 AA - 2 A - 2
13U	5	1	2	2	5	AAA - 1 AA - 2 A - 2
14/15U	5	2	1	2	5	AAA - 0 AA - 2 A - 2
Mini-Millers	12-15	N/A	N/A	N/A	16	TBD

Note: Team numbers are estimates based on expected demand. Actual number of teams formed by Millers at each age group may vary.



Traveling Baseball – Player Commitment

Travel Baseball Expectations

- Players are expected to actively participate in all games and practices
- Players should prioritize games and tournaments above most other conflicts
 - Unexcused or excessive absences **may affect playing time**
- Other sports should not take a **greater** priority than baseball during the season
- **Any conflicts should be communicated and managed proactively by the family**
- Teams schedule games and practices based on known player availability
- Players are expected to:
 - Have a positive attitude
 - Respect others
 - Follow the Player Code of Conduct
 - Wear Miller's uniform during games



Conflicts

Acceptable Conflicts

- Missing a few occasional games/practices (i.e. 3-5 throughout the season)
- Illness or injuries
- School/religious activities
- Known, important, scheduled activities, like a wedding or reunion
- Missing significant time (camps, vacations or other sports) must be communicated at the start of the season
- 14/15U players on high school teams need to prioritize and manage both teams

Unacceptable Conflicts

- Because “I don’t want to go”
- Consistently missing games or practices
- Scheduling camps/trips/other sport activities after teams are formed
- Going to the cabin during a tournament

Traveling Baseball – Parent Commitment

Be a Supporting Parent

- Players are expected to actively participate in all games and practices
- Parents are expected to:
 - Have a positive attitude
 - Respect umpires, teammates, coaches and other players
 - Follow the Parent Code of Conduct
- Use your strengths to help your team - volunteer, volunteer, volunteer!
- Let the coaches coach
- Be constructive when issues arise



Grievance Policy / Conflict Resolution

- Matters of child welfare should be brought to the **MYBA Board's attention immediately**
- For other team related matters, please wait 24-hours to cool down before contacting a coach to discuss the issue from a constructive point of view
- If still unsatisfied with resolution, contact MYBA President
- In rare cases, Board may arrange mediation



Volunteer Requirements

MYBA Volunteer Policy

- Each family is required to fulfill volunteer hours (“DIBS”) for the season
 - Total hours TBD, but likely between 0-10 hours per family depending on league and age
- Families with multiple players are required to fulfill the highest player’s DIBS hours
- DIBS are managed and tracked through the DIBS page on the website
- If DIBS hours are not fulfilled by the end of the year, families will be billed \$500
- Questions? Contact the Volunteer Coordinator - dibs@mplsmillers.org

Example of Volunteer Opportunities

Team Related DIBS

- Head or assistant coach
- Team Manager
- GameChanger scoring

Millers Related DIBS

- Tryout Support
- Uniform Try On Sessions
- MYBA Events (ex. Opening Weekend, Mini Millers Year End Bash, etc.)
- Pre-Season & In-Season Field Support
- Scheduling, fundraising and other board-support roles
- Other approved and posted opportunities on the Millers DIBs website





Tryout Overview

MYBA Tryout Overview

Millers Traveling Baseball

- Competitive tryouts - not all players will receive a roster spot
- Typically field 3-5+ teams across the A, AA and AAA skill levels (ascending order)
- Requires a greater level of commitment by players and families
- 30-45+ games per season
- Season runs from April to July
- 9U and 10U players* are guaranteed a Mini-Millers roster spot if they are not placed on a Traveling Team

**Pending Mini-Millers expansion, this may extend through 12U players*

Mini-Millers Baseball

- MYBA's in-house league focused on developing player fundamentals in a fun, supportive environment
- Evaluations are run to evenly distribute skill levels to create competitive balance
- Coach and Kid pitch leagues available depending on age and skill set of player
- Typically 2-3 events per week
- ~18 games per season plus playoffs
- Everyone will receive a roster spot
- Season from May to July



Traveling Baseball Tryout Process

Round 1

- Players tryout with other players at the same age level
- Players cycle through various stations
 - Hitting, fielding and timed running
- Independent evaluators are focused on form over result
 - A player who makes a good play on a grounder but misses the ball because of a bad bounce will score higher than someone who falls to the ground but stops the ball



Round 2

- Players are placed into either A/AA or AA/AAA tryout groups based on Round 1 scores and prior season ranking
- The top players in A/AA Round 2 may then be asked to tryout with the AA/AAA Round 2 group
- Players in AA/AAA group may be placed on a AAA or AA team
- Players in A/AA group will be placed on a AA or A team

Team Formation

- Team Formation Committee will use Round 1 and Round 2 scores, among other inputs, to determine player placement
- MYBA will place as many players as possible given roster and logistical constraints



Round 1 Tryouts - September 6 & 7

Overview

- Tryouts are conducted by age levels
- Time is selected during registration
- Each tryout session will be 90 minutes
- **Parents are not allowed to watch tryouts** - please plan to leave the field and pick your child up at the end
- Players have time to warm up properly
- Make Up Date - September 9 and 10

What to Expect

- Players will check in and receive a “pinnie” with their assigned number
- Players should wear
 - Pants (no shorts)
 - Baseball cleats or tennis shoes
 - No Millers gear or name on clothing
- Independent evaluators will score player performance
- Players rotate through skills stations
 - Hitting, fielding and timed running

WHERE

Neiman Sports
Complex
6247 Bloomington Rd
St Paul

WHEN

Saturday 9/6 &
Sunday 9/7
8:30-3:00pm

ARRIVAL

- Receive a “pinnie” with their assigned tryout number
- Player pictures will be taken



Round 2 Tryouts - September 13, 14, 20

Overview

- Tryouts are conducted by age levels
- Time will be assigned
- Players will be assigned to either the A/AA or AA/AAA session for Round 2
- Each tryout session will be ~120 minutes
- **Parents are not allowed to watch tryouts** - please plan to leave the field and pick your child up at the end
- Make Up Date - September 23

What to Expect

- Players must have pinnie at check-in
- Players should wear
 - Pants (no shorts)
 - Baseball cleats or tennis shoes
 - No Millers gear or name on clothing
- Independent evaluators will score player performance
- Players rotate through skills stations
 - Fielding, pitching, situational play, & coach-pitch hitting

WHERE

Neiman Fields
6247 Bloomington Rd
OR
Bossen Fields
5701 S 28th Ave

WHEN

AA/A September 13 & 14, 8:30-3:30
AAA/AA September 20, 8:30-3:30

ARRIVAL

- Bring your pinnie from Round 1



Player Evaluations

Round 1

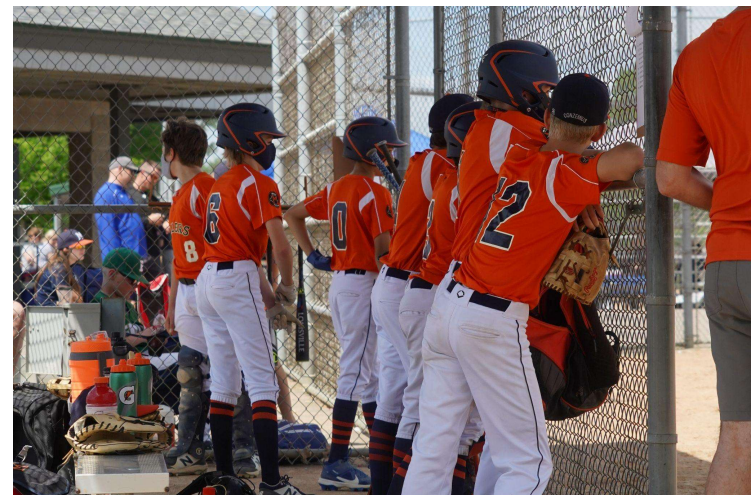
- Players will be evaluated based on:
 - Hitting - front toss and overhand pitching. Graded on mechanics and exit velocity
 - Fielding and Throwing - ground and fly balls
 - Timed running

Round 2

- Players will be evaluated based on:
 - Fielding grounders & fly balls
 - Pitching - graded on mechanics, control and velocity
 - Situational play and scrimmages
 - Coach-pitch hitting

Other Factors

- Previous year performance evaluations and player statistics for returning players
- Non-returning players will receive a median score for evaluations and statistics



Team Formation

- Players are initially ranked based on independent evaluator scores
- Teams will be formed after Round 2 tryouts are complete
- The Team Formation Committee is comprised of 5 MYBA board members
 - Members cannot be involved in the rostering of their own player or the team they coach
- The number of A, AA and AAA teams will be based on overall player abilities, and MYBA will attempt to place as many players as possible while remaining competitive
- MYBA will attempt to create balanced teams at all ages and levels
 - We do not form a higher and lower level team if multiple teams are formed at a certain level
- Head coaches are not confirmed until after player placement
- Returning head coaches may have an opportunity to provide players input, but final placement decisions are made by the Committee
- Returning player evaluations and statistics from prior year may be factored into placement
 - Non-returning players are given a median score to baseline their prior performance
 - MYBA may also collect prior season performance, statistics, and player feedback for non-returning players from previous organizations, if available
- Roster spots must be accepted by the deadline or the next ranked player will receive the open spot



Additional Key Tryout Details

Waitlist

- Players not offered a roster spot will be placed on the waitlist
- Players will be ranked in descending order with the highest ranked player being the first player eligible to join a roster should a spot become available
- Any unclaimed roster spots after teams are formed will be opened to the waitlist
- Players on the waitlist are only eligible to be placed on a A-level team
- Prior to the start of the season, players on the waitlist will also be considered for placement if a roster spot becomes available
- 9U and 10U players* will be guaranteed a roster spot on a Mini-Millers team

*May extend through 12U, pending Mini-Millers expansion

Key Tryout Dates

- **August 26** - Registration closes
- **September 6, 7** - Round 1 tryouts
- **September 13, 14, 20** - Round 2 tryouts
- **September 30** - Last day to withdraw registration to receive Commitment Fee refund
- **October 1** - Team formation process begins
- **Mid-October** - Team placement announced
- Registration and payment deadline will be communicated with team placement
- Rosters finalized and waitlist invites (if any) are confirmed





Season Fees

Traveling Baseball Season Fees

2026 Season Fees

- 2026 season fees:
 - 9U-10U: \$575
 - 11U: \$655
 - 12U-15U: \$750
- Payment Timing
 - \$260 upon registration
 - \$60 Tryout Fee (non-refundable) plus
 - \$200 Commitment Fee (refundable)
 - Remaining balance payable upon accepting a roster spot
- **Financial aid and payment plans** are available through the Treasurer

Commitment Fee

- Commitment Fees are in place to fortify each family's commitment to the Travel Baseball season
 - MYBA must limit families from backing out after teams are formed
- Our expectation is that any player given a roster spot is committed to play regardless of their assigned team
 - Travel teams are formed to be competitive at each level and to foster each player's continued development
 - **Travel teams are not formed for friends to play together**
- It is **very difficult to reconfigure** teams once rosters have been announced
- Commitment Fees can be refunded before September 30 or if your player does not receive a roster spot



Traveling Baseball Season Fees (Cont.)

2026 Season Fees Breakdown

2026 season fees include

- Uniform kit
 - Hat
 - Home & Away Jerseys
 - Pants, Belt, Socks
- Team equipment (balls, catcher gear, nets, etc.)
- Practice and Game Field Fees
- Tournament Entry Fees



Potential Additional Expenses

- Bat (required)*
- Batting helmet (required)*
- Baseball glove (required)*
*MYBA can help provide required equipment for players if families do not have the ability to provide their own.
- Player equipment bag (optional)
- Batting gloves (optional)
- Other protective gear (optional)
- Extra jerseys, pants or socks (optional)
- Additional in-season tournaments or State Tournament(s)
- Indoor practice facilities
- Team meals and events
- All extra team related expenses **must be agreed upon unanimously by the team**



**Additional In-Season
Traveling Baseball
Details**

Playing Time

- MYBA's philosophy is to develop players in an **equitable** manner
 - Coaches are expected to **give all players** the chance to be challenged in multiple positions and contribute to the team
 - During league games, players hit in a **continuous batting order** from game to game and have **unlimited position substitutions**
 - All players should have multiple opportunities to play pitcher and catcher if they are interested
- Coaches have latitude to decide player batting order and position placement within MYBA's framework:
 - Players should not sit more than 2 innings/game (assumes a full roster)
 - League play - lineups focused on player development
 - Tournaments - lineups focused on being competitive
- In non-tournament games
 - Players should play at least one to two innings in the infield
 - Players should play at least one inning in the outfield
- Commitment and behavioral issues may impact playing time



Coaching

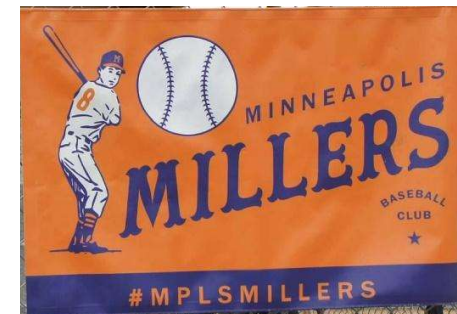
Coaching Overview

- 9-15U teams are 100% volunteer coaches
 - *Under rare circumstances MYBA has needed to hire coaches, but it is not funded to regularly pay coaches*
- If you are interested in coaching but do not have experience, MYBA will provide you with resources and support to help
- We want to help parents become comfortable with coaching and to grow as coaches as their players grow as players
- MYBA depends on parent volunteers to operate successfully
 - Parent volunteers are vital to each team's success



MYBA Coaching Development

- Experienced coaches monitor practices and provide feedback
- Mentoring as needed – embedding an experienced coach with teams
- Coaching “guidebook” to ensure more consistent experience
- In-house and external training
- Completion of USA Baseball ‘B’ Certification for all head and assistant coaches
- Concussion certification and background verifications



Buying a Bat

Overview

- The “wrong” bat does more harm than the “right” bat will help
- Considerations in buying a bat:
 - Legality
 - Barrel size
 - Weight/length
 - Material/price
- Key Terms
 - **Drop** - The difference between the length (in.) and weight (oz.)
 - a 30”, 18oz bat = “drop 12” or “-12”
 - **Certification** - several governing bodies establish bat criteria, performance and design
 - **Small barrel bat** - 2 ¼” barrel size
 - **Big barrel bat** - barrel size > 2 ¼”

MBL Standards

- MBL allows USA and USSSA bats
- USA Bats
 - Lighter in weight to allow an easy swing and hitting experience
 - Helpful for players who are learning the fundamentals of the game
- USSSA Bats
 - Designed to provide a performance advantage
- Both bats are acceptable, **MYBA recommends using USSSA certified bats**

MBL Standards for 9-11U

- 9-11U - Barrel: 2 ¾” or less / Drop: Unlimited
- 12-13U - Barrel: 2 ¼” or less / Drop: Unlimited
OR Barrel: 2 ¾” or less / Drop: -10 or less
- 14-15U - Barrel: 2 ¾” or less / Drop: -5 or less



Additional Information

- MYBA Spirit Wear – Winter, Spring and Summer Stores
 - Purchase Millers gear to support your player and MYBA
- Like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram
 - We share team game and tournaments updates
 - Share your team's photos and events
- Get involved with MYBA!
 - Attend Board meetings the 1st Tuesday of the month
 - Join the Board!
 - Elections take place at Annual Meeting in November
- Important Websites
 - MYBA – www.mplsmillers.org
 - Metro Baseball League – www.mbl.bz



Questions?

