



Storm Travel Baseball Tryouts

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: **How do I register and when does registration open and close?**

Answer: Registration will begin in late June 2025 for the 2026 season.

Question: **How much does it cost to tryout and to play Storm baseball?**

Answer: Players must register at the OMGAA website prior to the tryout and pay a non-refundable \$40 evaluation fee. These fees are used to hire and fund independent evaluators for the tryouts. All other fees for the upcoming season will be collected in October. We will notify families of the total cost to play prior to tryouts in August but directionally will be similar to last season. Payment plans will be available.

Question: **When and where will tryouts be held?**

Answer: Tryouts will be held during the day between 9am and 5pm on August 12-14, 2025, at Gleason Fields. Check website one week prior to tryouts for specific times. You can plan 2 hours of total tryout time each day. We have also reserved August 15 as a make-up date at Gleason in the event of inclement weather.

Question: **Why are tryouts moving to August?**

Answer: There are 2 main reasons OMGAA is moving Storm tryouts to August:

1. **Calendar Management:** It has become increasingly challenging for OMGAA and other organizations to properly plan and execute the

upcoming season when travel teams aren't rostered until late Spring. This has caused logistical issues with scheduling tournaments, uniform prep and distribution, and execution of our House baseball programs. By moving tryouts to August, we can properly plan for all the needs of the teams and the association.

2. **Team Formation Benefits:** We see tremendous value in being able to form teams early and giving them opportunities in the offseason to build team chemistry, stay in baseball shape by utilizing our assets, and fielding competitive teams. As an example, we plan to allocate Dome time to Storm teams in the offseason to accomplish these goals.

Question: **How was August decided for the tryout dates?**

Answer: The committee worked extensively to determine the best timeframe to conduct tryouts, understanding that no matter when the dates were selected, we wouldn't be able to accommodate everyone's schedule. Having said that, we looked at Gleason Fields availability, partnered with MGYFA and researched other associations tryout dates. After vetting all these factors, it made the most sense to hold tryouts the week of August 12. Having said that, and in an effort to accommodate as many athletes as possible, we made the decision to hold an alternate date to accommodate as many of those variables as possible. In future years, we will continue to collaborate to find the most optimal time to conduct tryouts.

Question: **How will using scores from previous years work if the tryout format is different?**

Answer: Day 1 Skills Day is largely the same format as previous years, which will allow the committee an apples-to-apples approach to evaluation in the event athletes cannot attend this year and we must use last year's scores. The purpose of the committee this year is to make sure we have individual conversation about players in the event they are unable to attend. The committee will use a combination of data including last year's scores and 2025 end of season coaches' evaluations to ensure we have a process to evaluate these unique situations.

Question: **What if my son has already used a previous year's score?**

Answer: Because this is a transition year, we are allowing a one-time exception in the event an athlete has already previously used their one-time previous year

score. This will only be applicable for the 2026 season tryouts. For the 2027 season and future tryouts, OMGAA will adhere to its current policy.

Question: **Because the tryouts are being held during the day, will there be a ride-share option for parents who cannot drive their athletes to tryouts?**

Answer: While the committee hasn't officially adopted a ride-share program, we are encouraging parents to communicate with each other to help with rides. The committee is also looking into options on how we can assist and will publish those as we determine feasibility.

Question: **What age should my child try out for?**

Answer: Based off MYAS and MBL rules, players in their respective groups must not reach the next age before May 1, 2026. In the event a player wants to play up an age, they must first contact Candy Anderson at Anderson@omgaa.org with their specific request. Requests are considered by the committee and there are no guarantees of placement.

Question: **What is the format of tryouts?**

Answer: Beginning in early 2025, an ad-hoc committee was formed consisting of the OMGAA President, Vice President, Travel Baseball Director, past and current coaches across all skill levels (A, AA, and AAA) and independent committee members to review our current tryout process, review other area youth baseball tryout processes, collaborate with local baseball clubs, and review the feedback from the OMGAA community. The format approved by OMGAA beginning with the 2026 season (August 2025 tryouts) will be as follows:

Day 1: Skills Day. Almost identical to the current tryout process today. 3rd party evaluators will score athletes across hitting (front toss and live machine), pitching, catching, baserunning, infield and outfield. The 3rd party evaluators will score and rank kids at each age level and present the report to the OMGAA Storm baseball tryout committee.

Day 2: Scrimmage Day. Athletes will be grouped based on the results of Day 1 and will participate in a controlled scrimmage (coaches will pitch). At the end of Day 2, the committee will meet and review Day 1 skills scores + Day 2 Scrimmage Scores + End of Year Coaches Evaluations and will present a final ranking of players by age. Day 2 evaluation committee will consist of 5 qualified evaluators, as follows:

1. 3rd party evaluators from local baseball clubs
2. MG and/or Osseo Varsity Baseball Coach
3. *Previous Year's AAA/AA coach
4. *Tryout Committee Member(s)

*Cannot evaluate kids in their son's own age group.

Day 3: Final Evaluation Day: By the end of Day 2, the Travel Baseball Director and Committee will finalize Head Coach decisions or Finalists for each age group for AAA and AA. Those coaches will run the Day 3 Final Evaluation Day and their curriculum will be at their discretion.

Question: Who performs the evaluation of the players at tryouts?

Answer: We will continue to have 3rd party evaluators perform the Day 1 Skills evaluation. Day 2 will be comprised of the committee outlined above.

Question: When will I find out if my player made a Storm team?

Answer: Integrity of the tryout process is a top priority. That being said, we want to make sure the evaluators and committee members take the proper time to ensure athletes are placed on the right team based off their skill level. Although we cannot guarantee a date or time of when travel teams are posted, we will do our best to have them posted on our website within 1 week of the conclusion of tryouts.

Question: What if my child cannot attend tryouts?

Answer: Similar to year's past, we will use the last season coaches' evaluation + last year's tryout scores in the event an athlete cannot attend tryouts. The athlete/parent must notify the OMGAA baseball tryout committee in writing if their athlete cannot attend and wants to use last year's scores. Please email Atkinson@omgaa.org or Anderson@omgaa.org no later than July 10. In the event that your player cannot attend tryouts and does not have previous year's scores nor a coach's evaluation, we will be conducting an alternate tryout date the week before the main tryouts for Storm consideration. More details on the exact day and time will be posted soon. We are currently looking at August 5, 6 or 7 for this date. There are no guarantees the committee will accommodate players with no previous history. Keep in

mind, with the new tryout format beginning this year, it is advantageous for athletes to do their best to attend, especially in situations where the committee has no prior history with the athlete.

Question: What if there is inclement weather during tryouts?

Answer: The beauty of Gleason Fields is the turf. So long as there is no lightning or a downpour, we will plan to conduct tryouts. That being said, we have reserved Friday August 15 in the event of a cancellation/makeup.

Question: Are tryouts open to the public for parents and potential coaches to watch?

Answer: *Yes, with the following rules:

1. Must refrain from leaving the bleacher area.
2. Must refrain from talking, cheering, or yelling at any on-field player or evaluator
3. Must refrain from videography, photography, or audio recording

*Any violations will result in immediate ejection from the fields.

** Potential coaches approved by OMGAA may attend these sessions to make personal notes and observations to assist themselves in assessing players. The notes can be used if they are selected as a Head Coach or Assistant Coach while teams are formed. Coach's personal evaluation notes are not utilized for the overall player evaluation rankings.

Question: What options are available if my child does not make a Storm travel baseball team?

Answer: Players not selected for a travel team will be eligible to play in the OMGAA House baseball programs. House teams will be formed in Spring 2026. More details will be communicated on the OMGAA website in December 2025.

Question: Does 15U try out during this period?

Answer: This tryout is for 9U – 14U. Because 15U is smaller and always subject to being able to properly roster a full team, we are going to wait until Spring to roster 15U. More information will be coming in the offseason on this.