

Dear Parents,

The following information, compiled by our executive board, provides a starting point for common understandings about our travel program. The content below will be revisited often in order to provide the most relevant information possible pertaining to travel baseball and softball.

League

A prerequisite for your son or daughter to play travel ball is that they participate in league. League play starts in mid-May and runs through our league tournament, typically concluding at the end of June. It is an expectation that you and your player(s) navigate the League season (concurrent with Travel season) maintaining good standing; namely, paying your respective fees, completing your volunteer obligations pertaining to field maintenance and/or concession stand hours, attending regularly scheduled games and practices, and generally carrying yourselves in an appropriate manner.

Travel

Tryouts & Team Formation

Travel team baseball and softball tryouts occur in August. During the tryout, players go through basic fundamental drills in front of an impartial judging panel. Scores are tabulated for each skill and combined to provide an overall score. These scores are then used by the President, Vice President, and respective tournament coordinators to finalize player placements and coaches for respective teams. There are extraneous circumstances that arise (e.g., player injury, family bereavement, etc.) that are handled on a case-by-case basis. Once rosters are finalized, coaches reach out to their respective travel team to inform them of team placement, as well as share any pertinent information they choose regarding the upcoming season.

Travel Tournament Fees

Each tournament that our teams participate in requires an entry fee (except for our home tournament, which our teams do not pay for entry). Each year, a specific travel fundraiser occurs, which offsets the cost of entry fees. Typically, the fees are between \$150-\$250. We reach that number by adding up the total amount of entry fees for each team's respective tournaments throughout the summer and then divide that number by the total number of travel participants. At that point, we settle upon the financial goal for each player to be paid equally among the teams/players. All players are expected to participate in the raffle or take the \$200 raffle buy-out.

Uniform

Updated uniforms and branding were introduced in 2022. Baseball jerseys are not going to change for the upcoming season. Fastpitch uniforms have changed to represent the colors teal and black. Players are required to have the same uniform. Typically, each player will have two jerseys, one pair of pants, socks, belt, and a hat (optional for softball). Cost for these items typically range between \$130-\$180. If new jerseys are needed to be ordered for the upcoming season, information will be provided when it is time to order.

Home Tournament

We host a minimum of two tournaments each year. The Lead-Off Baseball Tournament will occur May 29-May 31, 2026. The Silver Sluggers Baseball Tournament will occur June 5-7, 2026. The June Bug Classic will occur June 6-7, 2026. The tournaments will occur at the Kellner complex and at the Quadplex at Lincoln High School as needed.

It is important to note there are many responsibilities associated with each tournament. Each player's family will be expected to help out as required (concession stand staffing, field maintenance, facility cleaning, 50/50 raffles, beer sales, etc.). This is typically divided up by team, with the tasks and schedules communicated ahead of time. Please expect to stay on-site throughout the tournament days and be available to help as needed.

Away Tournaments

Most teams play in five tournaments that are spread throughout June and July. Tournaments are selected over winter to provide teams with as much advanced notification as possible. Most away tournaments attended are typically within a reasonable driving distance to minimize passing along hotel costs to families. Cost of hotels, travel expenses, and meals are the responsibility of the player's family. If your team adds additional tournaments to its schedule, the additional entry fees will be divided among the players on the team.

Practice

Practices typically begin in the early spring; however, some teams do meet periodically throughout the winter. Once the League season begins, WRYSA encourages travel practices to occur at least once per week. Once League season concludes, it is common to practice twice per week up until the respective tryouts for the following travel season.

The information above is surely not an exhaustive list but does help us have a shared understanding of the big ideas. As always, please reach out if you have questions. And, please keep an eye on your email, the WRYSA website/app, or the WRYSA Facebook page for more updates as we progress throughout the remainder of the season into the off-season.

To conclude, thank you for your continued interest in and support of our baseball and softball travel programs. We have a lot to be proud of, and we look forward to continued improvement and success moving forward. Please feel free to contact me directly with general questions, as well as the respective baseball and softball travel coordinators for specifics.

Nic Weiler

WRYSA President
president@wrysa.com
(715) 323-6449

Dennis Pierce

Baseball Tournament Coordinator
baseballtournaments@wrysa.com
(715) 572-0152

Eric Jacobson

Softball Tournament Coordinator
rapidsfastpitch1@gmail.com
(608) 792-1292