

Eagan Baseball Association

Travel Baseball Tryout Criteria and Team Selection Guidelines

(Updated: August 2025)

The Eagan Baseball Association Board is continually striving to make our program and process the best it can be. It's important to keep in mind that there is no perfect process. We feel it is vital to continually consider improvements to the tryout and team selection process based on changing circumstances and conditions.

In its tryout and team formation guidelines, the EBA Board would like to reiterate the board's goals of helping develop young athletes and baseball players, while also attempting to form teams that are competitive on the field. The goal should be not for each player to be on the top team, but for each player to be on the team that helps them be successful, enjoy the game, and to improve. Over the years the board has solicited feedback from families, coaches, and third-party evaluators as well as benchmarking vs. other programs. These guidelines are reviewed, and our goal is the continuous improvement of the overall process.

Injury / Missed Tryout Process

All players must complete a tryout out to be considered on an EBA team, with one exception. If a player is injured or has a family emergency, which makes it impossible to attend the tryouts, then that player must petition the Selection Committee of EBA for a "Tryout Waiver" ahead of the tryouts. The player/family will pursue the waiver by contacting the president of EBA. That tryout waiver will only be given at the full discretion of the EBA Selection Committee, and that decision shall be considered final and binding. If the player does not tryout and does not receive a formal tryout waiver from the EBA Selection Committee, then they will not be placed on an EBA team for that given year, unless there is a space on the lowest level team of that age group and the coach agrees to take that player.

Tryout Format

The tryout format is detailed below. If something occurs that makes this format impossible (e.g., a facility is not available for some reason, equipment malfunction, or the time for an age group needs to be condensed to fit in all tryouts), adjustments will be made at the discretion of the EBA Tryout Committee to the below guidelines to ensure that all tryouts can be completed and are consistent within an age group. To the extent possible, any changes will be communicated in advance. Each player will receive a specific time slot to start their tryout.

Measurement Criteria

Measurement Criteria and Weighting for 9U

Since very few 9U players will have a coach evaluation from the previous season, tryout scores for all 9/10U players will be weighted as follows.

- 40% Total Fielding
 - 10U - Includes both Infield and Outfield skill evaluations
 - 9U - Includes just Infield skill evaluation
- 50% Hitting
 - Includes evaluation of both Overhand and Front Toss
- 10% Running/Agility
 - Includes both a Shuttle Run and a Dash

- Pitching – A component of tryouts that is not scored but will be viewed by coaching candidates to possibly aid in the team selection process

Measurement Criteria and Weighting 10U – 14U

- 25% Prior Year Coach Review
 - When a player is new to Travel and doesn't have a coach eval the value for this is calculated used the 40% Fielding, 50% Batting, & 10% Running with a cap equal to the medium score of existing players
- 30% Total Fielding
 - Includes both Infield and Outfield skills evaluation
- 35% Hitting
 - Includes evaluation of both Overhand and Front Toss
- 10% Running/Agility
 - Includes both a Shuttle Run and a Dash
- Pitching – A component of tryouts that is not scored but will be viewed by coaching candidates to possibly aid in the team selection process

Measurement Criteria 15U+

The 15U+ level will try out in a true high school style with all ages working out together. Evaluation and recommendations from the high school coaches will also be taken into consideration when working on team placement. Players at this level can be placed on both the 15U team or asked to play up in the Legion program based on skill level and need.

Tryout Stations 9U – 14U

Tryout Stations at The Cages: Each player will have an opportunity to warm up in a batting cage before entering the hitting evaluation stations.

Underhand Front Toss Hitting – Location: The Cages or Eagan Field (depending on age)

10 Scored Pitches that will be thrown underhand from a standing position behind an L-screen approximately 15' away. Pitches will be thrown at an age-appropriate speed allowing all players to show their contact and swing mechanics. Players will be evaluated on 2 criteria: 1) Contact and 2) Bat Speed and Mechanics/Stance

Overhand Front Toss Hitting – Location: The Cages or Eagan Field (depending on age)

10 Scored Pitches that will be thrown overhand from a standing position behind an L-screen at an age-appropriate batting practice length (approximately 30-45'). Pitches will be thrown at an age-appropriate batting practice speed allowing all players to show their contact and swing mechanics. Players will be evaluated on 2 criteria: 1) Contact and 2) Bat Speed and Mechanics/Stance

Infield – Location: The Cages or Eagan Field (depending on age)

An infield will be setup to the age-appropriate dimensions. All players will field groundballs from the shortstop position. A groundball machine will feed balls to the same spot. Each player will field a total of nine ground balls – with varying degrees of movement and positioning involved – making throws to first base after each one. Each player will be graded on two parts of the infield skill. Players will be evaluated on 2 criteria: 1) Footwork and Fielding and 2) Throwing Mechanics, Arm Strength and Accuracy

Outfield – Location: Eagan Field

A fly ball machine will feed fly balls to the same spot. Each player will field two balls to his left, two balls to his right, and two balls straight on; making throws to the cutoff man after each one. Each player will be graded on two parts of the outfield skill. Players will be evaluated on 2 criteria: 1) Footwork and Fielding and 2) Throwing Mechanics, Arm Strength, and Accuracy

Running and Agility– Location: The Cages or Eagan Field (depending on age)

Players will participate in two exercises with the intent to judge speed and agility. Each player's time and performance at these two stations will be ranked within the age group and will then be given points based on the percentile in their age group among the other players trying out. The two exercises to be timed will be a 40-yard dash and a 10 yard shuttle. 1) 40-Yard Dash and 2)10-Yard Shuttle

Pitching (Not Scored) – Location: The Cages or Eagan Field (depending on age)

Players will be asked to throw 8-10 pitches. Pitches will be evaluated and graded equally on the following criteria: accuracy, velocity, and mechanics. Data compiled will be reflected in the player's tryout sheet and in the pool list, but NOT factored into the tryout scoring.

Previous Year Coach's Evaluation

Each player who participated in the Eagan Traveling Baseball program in the previous season received an evaluation by their previous coaching staff, which will be used in the evaluation process. To ensure fairness and mitigate bias, coaches' rankings of each player are averaged between all coaches filling out an evaluation. When a player is new to Travel and doesn't have a coach eval the value for this is calculated using the 40% Fielding, 50% Batting, & 10% Running with a cap equal to the medium score of existing players.

Team Selection Guidelines 9U – 14U

The following are guidelines used to select teams at each age group with the exception of 9AA. The 9AA teams will be snake drafted by the Selection Committee to create two equal teams. The EBA Selection Committee will follow these guidelines for team formation, however they also reserve the right to determine which teams are formed, how many players will be placed on each team, and will be the final decision maker on any uncertainty that may arise during the selection process. The birthdates for each age group is dictated by Metro Baseball League and is included on their website. It is EBA's goal to have at each age group: one "AAA" team, one "AA" team and one or more "A" teams, depending on the numbers registering in each age group. Each team will have a target of 11-12 players with teams having more than 12 players requiring approval of the committee. The final decision on team formation and number of players on each team is at the discretion of the Selection Committee.

8u players are allowed to try out for 9U. However, these players will be required to play two years at the 9U level and only move to 10U based on age. 8U players are only guaranteed spots if they make the AAA pool for 9U. If cuts are made, 8U players will be the first players cut if they are not in the AAA pool.

AAA Team Selection:

The AAA team selection will be based on the following guidelines:

- AAA pool will consist of the top 16 ranked players. The top 4 ranked players will be locks. An injured player using previous year's scores will not be eligible to lock.
- The coach chosen for the AAA team will then select the remainder of the team from the AAA pool.
- Coaches are expected to select their team from their pool of 16. Only under the following circumstances will one reach beyond the pool be considered: - Significant needs of the team (e.g.,

needing a catcher) - The player played at the AAA level the previous season. - To select a player who has been granted a tryout waiver due to injury, illness, or family emergency. - The Selection Committee must approve any request for a reach on a case-by-case basis.

AA Team Selection:

The AA team selection will be based on the following guidelines:

- The AA pool will consist of the top 16 ranked players after the AAA players are removed.
- Any player that remains from the AAA pool that has not been chosen is a lock on the AA team. An injured player using previous year's scores will not be eligible to lock.
- The coach chosen for the AA team will then select the remainder of the team from the AA pool.
- Coaches are expected to select their team from their pool of 16. Only under the following circumstances will one reach beyond the pool be considered: - Significant needs of the team (e.g. needing a catcher) - The player played at the AA level the previous season. - To select a player who has been granted a tryout waiver due to injury, illness, or family emergency. - The Selection Committee must approve any request for a reach on a case-by-case basis.
- 9AA teams will be an exception to the rule as stated above as there is no A level for 9U.

- **A Team Selection:**

The A team selection will be based on the following guidelines:

- The A pool will consist of all players who have not yet been selected after AAA and AA players are removed.
- Any player that remains from the AA pool that has not been chosen is a lock on the A team. An injured player using previous year's scores will not be eligible to lock.
- The coach chosen for the A team will then select the remainder of the team from the A pool.
- Remaining players left after selection of the A team will be cut unless there are enough players to form an additional team (see next section)

Additional A Team Selection:

- If enough players are left after the formation of the AAA, AA, and A teams then additional teams may be formed at the discretion of the section committee. The selection of this team will follow those same process outlined above and is dependent on:
 - o If a head coach is available or can be found within that pool
 - o The committee feels the talent level of the remaining pool is at a level where they can complete at an A level.

Cuts:

A player who tries out but who is not selected to a team will receive a refund of their registration fee (if paid in full) minus the tryout fee identified on the registration and will be eligible to be placed on an In-House team. If In-House registration is still open, the player may simply be registered for In-House. If In-House registration is closed, the player will be placed on an appropriate In-House team (late fees will be waived). A player who tries out and is placed on a travel team, but who then elects not to play the

season for any reason other than injury or moving out of the Eagan area, will not be refunded their registration or tryout fee.