

**Plymouth/Wayzata Youth Baseball
Association
Travel Baseball
Handbook
2009**

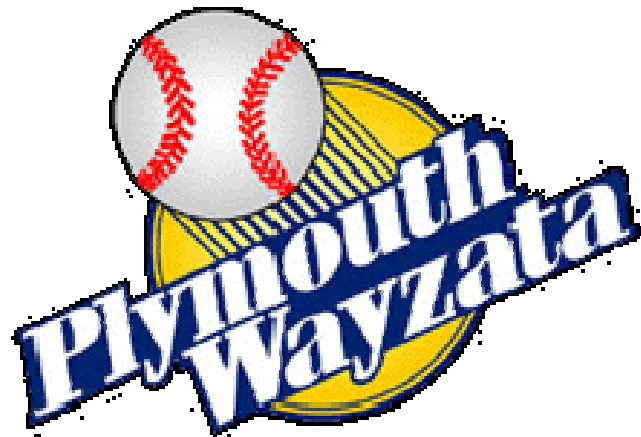


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Introduction

This handbook offers information about the Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association Travel Baseball Program. We have made our best effort to include as much information as we could. We hope you find it informative. Thanks for your interest in Travel Baseball and have a great season.

Mission & Philosophy

The mission of the Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association is to promote a fun, fair and safe environment that maximizes participation and improves player's skills while developing sportsmanship, teamwork and self-confidence.

Our Association seeks to provide a community and volunteer-driven program to promote the growth and development of our players. We strive to achieve the following objectives:

- teach the fundamentals of baseball
- develop self-confidence
- develop respect for others, teamwork, pride in team and community
- incorporate the spirit of good sportsmanship in victory or defeat
- allow players an opportunity to participate and develop
- play in a safe and healthy environment
- build character and set priorities in our lives

Commitment

Travel baseball requires dedicated time commitment from players, coaches and parents, from April through July, and possibly into early August. Every player's presence is important and the player is expected to make every effort to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Unexcused and/or excessive absences will result in a reduction of playing time and may result in dismissal from the team.

Travel Baseball Teams

PWYBA travel baseball will attempt to field three teams at each age level (11-15 year olds). The association will field two teams if there are an insufficient number of players signing up or if the talent level is determined to be counter productive to fielding more than two competitive teams. There will be one AAA team at each age level, the travel committee will make a determination if there will be two equal AA teams, or one AA and one A team. It is the goal of the association to ensure that teams are competitive at the level they will be playing at. Travel baseball teams will play in the Metro Baseball League or Gopher State League (roughly 16 game schedule) along with entering four

weekend tournaments. The teams could also play in several state tournaments in July if they qualify.

Tournament Baseball Teams

Tournament teams exist to allow 10 year old players to have some travel experience by playing in weekend tournaments. Players are required to play in the house program to be eligible for the tournament teams.

PWYBA travel baseball will attempt to field three teams at the 10 year old level. The association will field two teams if there are an insufficient number of players signing up or if the talent level is determined to be counter productive to fielding more than two competitive teams. There will be one AAA level tournament team and the travel committee will make a determination if there are two equal AA teams, or one AA and one A team. The tournament teams will be selected at the regular travel tryouts in March. Each team will play three weekend tournaments from the end of May through the end of June. The teams could also play in various state tournaments in July if they qualify. Additional practices, aside from the in house practices will be required – typically Friday and Sunday evenings. House league practices and games have priority over tournament team when there are conflicts.

Registration Fees

Baseball fees for the current baseball year can be found on the Plymouth Wayzata Youth Baseball Association website at www.pwyba.com

The initial registration and travel fee covers the team's expenses for participation in league games, umpires, equipment, and association administration and support. The evaluation fee is non-refundable and will be collected at the time of registration.

Additional Fees – Travel Teams

If a team qualifies for and receives bids to a state tournament the association will pay the entry fee for one tournament (team may qualify for three state tournaments, the association will pay the entry fee to one of them), all other entry fees for state tournaments will be at the teams expense. Teams (parents) will also be responsible for any gate fees due to the host association for any tournaments that have this charge. There will be a parents' meeting conducted by the head coach to review all appropriate fees.

Once a player has been placed on a team, there will be no refunds except for players who suffer a long-term injury or illness. All refund requests will be prorated by the number of games played and must be approved by the Travel Director.

Tryout Dates

Tryout dates will be posted on the PWYBA website, www.pwyba.com and communicated via e-mail. It is the responsibility of the parent/player to register at the PWYBA website and provide an accurate e-mail address that will be used to notify players of their evaluation schedule.

Evaluation Forms/Suggestions

Parents and players are asked to complete an evaluation at the end of each season on their experience with the travel baseball program and their coaches. This is your most significant opportunity to express your opinions and to help us make improvements. Contents of evaluations are confidential and are only viewed by the Travel Baseball Director and the Board. Please take advantage of this opportunity.

Uniforms

The association will provide each player with the following:

- Baseball socks (2 pair)
- Fitted baseball hat
- Uniform tops (need to be returned)

Players will be responsible for their own:

- Pants (gray)
- Batting helmet

The association will negotiate with a preferred supplier for both the pants and helmets.

Equipment

Each player must provide his/her own bat, glove, baseball cleats, and personal protective equipment (except catcher's equipment). Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Most leagues and PWYBA require the wearing of a hard protective cup. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes. Players are encouraged to use cleated baseball shoes with hard rubber or metal cleats according to the rules of the league in which they participate (**see "League Specific Information"**).

The travel baseball program also supplies all catcher's gear, practice and game balls, and other equipment necessary for games and practices. Any damage caused by negligence or intentional abuse will be reimbursed by the player and/or parents. Failure to do so may result in denial of any further sport participation in any PWYBA program by the player or any other member of his/her family.

Bats

Bats are an item of equipment, which, like gloves, need to be fitted to the individual player. Parents should consult coaches and/or specific league (Metro Baseball League or Gopher State) rules (see www.mbl.bz or www.myas.org) before purchasing bats.

The travel baseball program does not provide bats as it is very difficult to anticipate the combination of lengths and weights that any given team would need.

Umpires

While our expectations of the quality of umpiring may be high, we must always exercise patience, understanding, good sportsmanship, and respect for their efforts. The character of our players, coaches, fans, and community will be measured by the message the umpires carry out into the baseball community statewide.

Other

Those players not making one of the travel teams are automatically registered for the PWYBA In-house Baseball program.

Tryout Policies

Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in PWYBA Travel Baseball team tryouts subject to the following criteria:

- In accordance with PWYBA Board policy, players must reside within the boundaries of Independent School District 284 **OR** if outside the boundaries the player must be open-enrolled in a public school of ISD 284. A listing of those schools may be found at www.wayzata.k12.mn.us
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any arrearages from previous PWYBA programs
- Must meet age guidelines specified by the national governing organizations.
- Proposed exceptions to this policy, describing extenuating circumstances for the exception, must be addressed to the PWYBA and reviewed by the PWYBA Board of Directors at a regular monthly meeting.

Birthdate Cutoff

The birthdate cutoff is April 30, 2009. The team (age level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player's age on that date. A player can play up to play with his grade and not because he or his parents believe he needs to be "at a more competitive level." The Travel Director should be notified of a player wishing to "play up" with his grade. A player cannot "play down" (i.e., play on a team younger than his/her age level) for any reason, per the national governing organizations. A copy of the child's birth certificate should be supplied to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.

10 year olds 5/1/98 through 4/30/99 or completing 4th grade.

11 year olds 5/1/97 through 4/30/98 or completing 5th grade.

12 year olds 5/1/96 through 4/30/97 or completing 6th grade.

13 year olds 5/1/95 through 4/30/96 or completing 7th grade.

14 year olds 5/1/94 through 4/30/95 or completing 8th grade.

15 year olds 5/1/93 through 4/30/94 or completing 9th grade.

A player who has the option of playing up with his grade can only be evaluated for the age level he has signed up for (cannot tryout for the 10 year old team if opt to evaluate with the 11 year olds at his grade level).

Players in the PWYBA travel program are not allowed to be rostered and play for any other team or association from May 1 through the last game of the travel season. Any player found to be rostered on another team will be removed from the PWYBA team.

Participation

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions unless the Travel Baseball Director grants an excused absence prior to the start of that session.

A player who is absent without being excused may be disqualified.

Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Injury or Illness Absence

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury or illness will be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session, upon delivery of a doctor's note describing the player's limitations. A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically fit before he/she will be allowed to participate in any PWYBA activity. A player who misses more than 50% of the scheduled tryout sessions due to illness or injury, and provides a doctor's excuse, may be

granted a special tryout, once he/she provides a doctor's release to participate. If a player is unable to participate in any of the tryouts due to injury he may be added to a team by the head coach as a 13th player, this decision will be based on the level the player participated at in the past and feedback from his previous coaches. A player cannot be added to a team at a higher level than where he participated last year.

Player Identification

A number assigned at the tryout sessions will identify each player. A player must not wear any article of clothing with his/her name imprinted on it.

Bats

All bats used for the tryouts must be baseball bats and adhere to the regulations as outlined below:

10 year olds,	2 ¼" barrel with unlimited differential
11, 12 & 13 year olds,	2 ¼" barrel with unlimited differential or 2 ½" – 2 ¾" barrel with -9 differential or less
14 year olds,	2 ¾" or smaller barrel with -5 differential or less
15 year olds	2 5/8" or smaller barrel with -3 differential or less

Player Evaluation (Ages 10 – 15)

A team of impartial evaluators provided by the PWYBA Board will evaluate every player's baseball skills. The evaluators will be people who have the knowledge necessary to evaluate a player's skill at a particular level. Evaluators will not be related to any of the tryout participants involved in their assigned age level. The evaluation scores will be the primary basis used to select the players for each travel team. Provisional coaches for each age team may watch the tryout sessions but will not participate in the actual player evaluation scoring process.

In the event an evaluator does not show up for an assigned tryout session, the Travel Director will fill his role or someone designated by the Travel Director (however, the evaluator will not be related to anyone trying out for that age group).

Players will be evaluated on running, infield, outfield, pitching, catching and hitting. Many factors are considered in determining the rankings of the players. Players should be at their best during the tryout and be aware that evaluators look at many things in evaluating the overall player including: attitude, attention, ability to follow directions, teamwork, teammate interactions, etc. Players should note that arm strength and running/foot work are important criteria and will be measured in the evaluation process.

Player Selection

Players will be placed on a team based upon their own merits (skills, athletic ability, hustle, enthusiasm, coachability, attitude, character, etc.). If players have played on a previous year's team, their prior commitment performance and character may also be considered. (No player will be placed on a team over a more deserving candidate simply because he/she has previously played on a travel team.) No player selection system is perfect but we continue to look to improve the process.

Each of the 10-15 year old teams will consist of 12 players. The determination for what team a player makes will be by the following:

AAA TEAM—The highest ranked four players from the evaluation rankings will automatically be placed on the AAA team. The AAA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next eight players for the AAA team from the next 20 highest rated players.

TWO EQUAL AA TEAMS--If there are two equal AA teams, once the AAA team is determined teams will then be formed by the following method: The highest ranked eight players not on the AAA team will automatically be on one of the AA teams (four on each team). Once each team has determined their four "automatic" players, the two coaches in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next eight players for each team from the top 48 rated players. Special consideration will be made to ensure pitching depth for both teams.

ONE AA TEAM--If there is one AA team, once the AAA team is determined the AA team will then be formed by the following method: The highest ranked four players not on the AAA team will automatically be on the AA team. The AA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next eight players for the AA team from the next 20 highest rated players.

ONE AA TEAM and ONE A TEAM (or B1, B2)--If there is one AA team and one A team, once the AAA team is determined the teams will then be formed by the following method: The highest ranked four players not on the AAA team will automatically be on the AA team. The AA coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next eight players for the AA team from the next 20 highest rated players. Once the AA team is formed, the highest ranked four players not on the AA team will automatically be on the A team. The A coach in conjunction with the travel committee will then jointly decide on the next eight players for the A team from the next 20 highest rated players.

General Policies

Attendance

Every player's presence is important and is expected. Unless otherwise exempted by the coach, all players are expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Excused absences will be granted for school events; however, it is expected that the coach will be notified in advance of such events. Unexcused absences may result in a reduction of playing time and excessive absences may result in dismissal from the team.

Suspensions

The PWYBA Board reserves the right to suspend any coach, parent, or player who violates the PWYBA Code of Ethics provided by the PWYBA Board of Directors. Suspensions will be documented and distributed to the PWYBA Board. Suspension of a coach may lead to progressive disciplines. See Coach Removal section.

Player Removal

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a team member solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following specific reasons:

- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the player's responsibilities
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and/or self
- Displaying an uncaring attitude which results in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the team's)
- Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Travel Director and the player's parent(s) and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion should include an objective description of the behavior and the intended discipline. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must then notify the Travel Director who must approve any further action. The Travel Director must, in turn, notify the PWYBA Board of the action taken within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the Baseball Board.

Playing Time

League Play

Minimum playing time for 10 -13 year olds will be on average 3 defensive

innings per game.* The starting lineup will provide an opportunity for every player to have a place in the batting order when continuous batting is in effect. On average the minimum playing time for 14-15 year olds will be 2 innings defensively*.

- Some game situations (e.g., 10 run rule) may prevent this from happening in a specific game.

Note: If a player is in the lineup as a designated hitter (DH), he/she may not receive any defensive playing time for that game.

Tournament Play

The coach will make every effort to give each player appropriate playing time. However, the coach has the discretion to play players such that he looks out for the best interest of the team. (e.g. there will be tournaments where the rules prevent re-entry, which will require the coach to be careful to not “run out” of players. Additionally, it is important that in the event of an injury sufficient players are available to continue playing.)

Coach Selection

Anyone who desires to be a Travel head coach must fill out an application at registration time, at the PWYBA website, or contact the Travel Director or a member of the coaches committee before the selection process is completed. The PWYBA Board of Directors will provide final review and approval of travel coaches. Candidates who have coached at the travel level in prior years and received positive feedback from parents and players via the evaluation process take precedent over new applications.

Primary selection criteria include past baseball coaching and playing experience, personal coaching and human development philosophies, organizational skills, strong moral and ethical characteristics, support of travel baseball and PWYBA policies/procedures, and the applicant’s commitment to devote several hundred hours to the program during the season. Coaches’ responsibilities begin in late February with tournament selection and entry, league meetings, and organization of tryouts. They end in August with equipment check-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

While it is important that a travel team coach have expertise in the sport, it is just as important for the coach to have the welfare of the individual players and the players’ character and confidence development foremost in mind. Even a person of integrity, sincerity, and high idealism needs other qualifications (i.e., the ability to remain even-tempered under pressure, the ability to discover ways to impart his/her knowledge to each individual player, and the ability to understand children, to relate to them, and to be sensitive to their developmental requirements). If chosen as a coach, a background check will be conducted.

Once a coach is selected for a team based on the criteria above, and if that coach is a parent-coach, his son needs to be competent to play at the level of the team for which the coach has been selected in the opinion of the evaluators.

Coach Removal

Removal of a team coach is a very serious situation and will be dealt with in a fair and open manner. Coaches may be removed for the following reasons:

- Failure to perform duties
- Conduct detrimental to the player, the team, the organization, and/or the parents
- Abusive behavior, whether physical or psychological, towards players, parents, opposing players, coaches, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials

Issues with coaches need to be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. The PWYBA Board of Directors or a committee appointed by the PWYBA Board will review the specifics of the allegations and take appropriate action which may include game suspension and/or dismissal.

Behavior

The highest standards of sportsmanship will be expected from the players, parents, coaches, umpires, and spectators.

Conduct that will not be tolerated includes verbal abuse, tantrum-like acts, profanity, physical aggression on or off the field, and acts intended to cheat the spirit of the rules or to intimidate the umpires. Violations may result in suspension from play and/or attendance. If a parent or player has a problem with the performance of an umpire, he/she should direct his/her concerns to the team's coach. The coach represents the Plymouth/Wayzata program and should be the only person communicating with the umpires. One of the objectives of the program is to teach respect for the officials and the proper procedure for dealing with any problems with the umpires. Unless playing in the field, at bat, on base, on deck, or coaching, all players shall remain on the bench. Players will treat their coaches, parents, teammates, the umpires, and the opposition with respect. After each game, the participants will line up and shake hands. Spectators are restricted to the areas that are "out of play" and away from the benches.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, the coach will determine if there will be a practice.

At games, the home team's coach is responsible for determining whether the game will be started. Once play begins, the umpire is responsible for determining whether play should be halted.

In all cases, unless you receive a call from your team's coach (or team representative), you should appear at the site of the game or practice as scheduled. Weather conditions can vary widely even over short distances, so our policy is to make the decision at the field site.

Games and practices will be suspended when lightning is visible.

If you (parent/guardian) are not able to be present during an event, be sure that your child knows another parent who will be present and with whom he/she can take shelter if bad weather suddenly threatens.

Blood Policy

A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment cannot be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual will have to leave the game. (The length of time considered reasonable shall be in the umpire's judgment.) Once the bleeding has been stopped, the player or coach may reenter the game. If there is a substantial amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual may participate.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

PWYBA Travel Baseball mandates that all players/coaches/parents participating in a PWYBA youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game) refrain from the use of alcohol and/or a controlled substance.

It shall be a violation of this policy for a player/coach, while participating in a PWYBA youth activity, to use a beverage containing alcohol, or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any controlled substance.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention and a decision has been made, the player/coach will be informed of his/her ineligibility by a written letter from the Travel Director.

- First Violation: Upon notification by the Board, the player/coach shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a season in which the player/coach is participating, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted.
- Second Violation: The player/coach shall lose eligibility in travel baseball for that season. No exception is permitted.

Tobacco Policy

PWYBA Travel Baseball prohibits the use of tobacco for all players participating in travel baseball to use tobacco.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the player will be

informed of his/her ineligibility. Ineligibilities will be the same as for the drug and alcohol policy. PWYBA Travel Baseball prohibits coaches from the use of tobacco in any form during a youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game). Reminder, no tobacco is allowed on any District 284 property.

Equipment Abuse

Under no circumstances will the abuse of equipment be tolerated. Coaches are instructed that each instance of equipment abuse will result in that player sitting on the bench for the remainder of the game.

If the abuse of the equipment results in any damage to the equipment, the player and/or his parents will be held responsible for the cost of replacing the equipment. Players may be suspended from participation in future PWYBA programs until reimbursement is made.

Coaches' Responsibilities and Rights

The coach is a teacher of baseball skills, a manager of the functions necessary to run a team, and is responsible for the development of all players in his/her care. He/she is accountable to the players, the parents, and the PWYBA Board of Directors.

Coaches' Responsibilities include:

- Obey and enforce all PWYBA rules.
- Treat all players in an equitable and fair manner.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, self-control, and proper behavior.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of team players, assistant coaches, parents, and spectators.
- Attend the Coaches' Meeting
- Attend all appropriate Metro Baseball League meetings.
- Assure that all players receive playing time that is as mandated by the PWYBA Board.
- Teach the players to have fun and enjoy competition.
- Help the players to develop a healthy, competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Assess individual player's strengths and weaknesses and create a developmental plan to help each player improve in the areas of concern.
- Encourage and compliment players; use only constructive criticism.
- Attend a minimum of 90% of their team's practices and games.
- Care for the equipment that is issued to them. If any equipment is lost or damaged, coaches should report the problem to the Travel Director
- Attend any coaches' clinics arranged by the PWYBA Board.
- Conduct a pre-season parents' meeting. At this meeting, the coach

- should set the tone and expectations for the season, distribute team schedule, roster, team rules, and collect any additional fees that are due.
- Arrange for team photographs.
 - Schedule field time for practices and any make-up (home) games with the other coaches.
 - Report any problems with fields to the appropriate Age Group Coordinator.
 - Recruit parent volunteers, team manager, communication coordinator, and social director as necessary.
 - Adhere to the PWYBA drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies.

Coaches' Rights include:

- To be treated with respect by players, parents, volunteers, umpires, league, MSF and MBL officials, and the PWYBA Baseball Board.
- To be made fully aware of the rules and policies under which they must function.
- To have access to necessary safety equipment and practice fields.
- To expect full cooperation from parents when they are asked to assist.

Parents' Responsibilities and Rights

Your child's participation in the travel baseball program will require a significant contribution of your time and effort. Parents can contribute many things to support their child, team, and the program.

Parents' Responsibilities include:

- Let your child know you love him/her, win or lose, whether he/she plays well or not.
- Compliment and encourage. Let the coaches handle coaching and criticism.
- Play catch with your child.
- Coordinate your efforts to help your child's development with the recommendations of the coaches.
- Support your coaches. Remember that they are responsible for many children in addition to yours.
- Don't compare your child to other players. Be honest with yourself and your child about his/her abilities
- Regard each player on the team as your own.
- Keep negative comments to yourself. Express concerns only to the coach and in a straightforward, fair, and objective manner.
- Teach your child to have fun and enjoy competition. Don't tell him/her that winning does not count because it does, and he/she knows it. Instead, help him/her to develop a healthy competitive attitude toward winning and losing.

- Follow the “Parents’ Code of Conduct” supported and distributed by the PWYBA.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior. Don’t criticize officials, coaches, or other parents or players.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of your child and your guests.
- Get your child to, and pick them up from, practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach in advance whenever your child will miss or be late for a practice or a game.
- Provide a copy of your child’s birth certificate to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.
- Volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible.

Parents’ Rights include:

- Have your child treated fairly and with respect.
- Have your child practice and play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Have your child coached by effective and qualified adult leadership.
- Have your child engage in practice and playing activities that increase his/her skills and enjoyment of the sport.
- To be fully informed by the coaches with respect to schedules, team philosophies, team rules, and your child’s strengths and weaknesses

PWYBA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

As a parent/guardian of a child involved in a Plymouth Wayzata Baseball Association (PWYBA) program, I/we agree to abide by and follow the rules and guidelines listed below:

- I/we will respect the property and equipment used at any sports facility, both home and away.
- I/we will encourage good sportsmanship through my/our actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game or practice.
- I/we will promote the emotional and physical well being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I/we will provide support for coaches and officials working with the athletes to provide a positive experience for all.
- I/we will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free environment for my child, and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all PWYBA events, home or away.
- I/we will remember the game is for the athletes and not for the parents.
- I/we will demand that my/our child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.

- I/we will treat all players, coaches, and officials with dignity and respect in language, attitude, behavior, and mannerisms.
- I/we will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I/we will inform the coach, within a reasonable period of time, of any anticipated absence from a game or practice my child might incur due to sickness, injury, vacation, or any other reason.
- I/we also agree that if I/we fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I/we may be subject to disciplinary action. This action could include, but is not limited to the following:
 - *Verbal Warning*
 - *Written Warning*
 - *Parental Game Suspension*
 - *Parental Season Suspension*
 - *Parental Banishment*

These actions may not be necessarily taken in an escalated manner, and PWYBA reserves the right to select and apply any penalty depending upon the situation.

- I/we agree to support and promote the philosophy of PWYBA sports:
 Teamwork -Effort -Skill Development -Character -Sportsmanship
 Safe Environment -Humble in Victory; Gracious and
 Complimentary in Defeat.

Players' Responsibilities and Rights

Players on a travel team should take pride in themselves, their team, and in their community. They must follow the directions of the coaches, and must be willing to accept constructive criticism.

Players' Responsibilities include:

- Have pride and confidence in yourself, your teammates, and your coaches.
- Be attentive and work hard in practice and games. Make your best efforts to perform the tasks as directed by the coaches.
- Be a competitor, perform up to your full ability, and contribute to team unity. Compliment teammates and let the coaches handle criticism.
- Show respect toward your coaches, teammates, and parents.
- Show respect toward opposing players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Keep your (personal and team) equipment clean and in good repair.
- Maintain a responsible attitude toward your health. Be aware of, and adhere to, the PWYBA policies on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
- Remember that baseball is a game and keep it in perspective with family, school, and/or church activities and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior.

- Remind your parents that you need to be at practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach whenever you will miss or be late for a practice or a game.

Players' Rights include:

- To participate at a level that matches your maturity and ability.
- To play as a child, not as an adult.
- To participate in a safe, healthy environment.
- To be treated fairly, with dignity, and with respect.
- To have fun in sports.
- To have an equal opportunity to develop your abilities and strive for success.
- To have good coaching; to be taught the fundamentals and strong character development.

Problem Resolution Guidelines

When a player or parent has a question regarding the general policies or procedures of travel baseball, they should address their questions to the coach of their team. Choose a time and place that is convenient for both parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and address your questions in an appropriate manner (keep the conversation polite, private, and out of the earshot of other players or parents). If a question is not answered satisfactorily and a player/parent feels the need to pursue the matter further, they may contact the Travel Director, but should do so only after exhausting all efforts with the coach and his/her assistants.

When a player or parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or an individual player, they should:

- **Adhere to the "24 Hour Rule"** which requires a player/parent to wait at least **24 hours** before approaching a coach on the matter.
- Choose a time and place that is convenient for all parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and approach the situation in an appropriate manner (keep the emotions under control, keep the discussions polite and to the point, and keep the discussions private and out of the earshot of other players or parents).

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within 72 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. At this time, the Travel Director will act as a mediator between the player/parent and the coach. All parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for

a solution.

If the problem cannot be resolved at that level within 72 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the PWYBA Board of Directors.

State Tournaments

The Association will pay the entry for 1 state tournament per team, and the team needs to earn that berth by winning an appropriate qualifying tournament. PWYBA does not pay the entry fees for At-Large State Tournament berths.

The PWYBA Travel Handbook is subject to interpretation and change at the discretion of the PWYBA Travel Director and/or the PWYBA Board of Directors.