

# **Travel Team Procedures**

## **Baseball**

### **Team Formation**

Plainview Travel Baseball Teams will be formed on or around June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. The teams will stay together until around May 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. The League goal is to have at least two (2) teams at each level from 7-12.

Plainview Travel Team age groups will be based on the Plainview Little League ages as listed below. Players will be eligible to play on an age-appropriate travel team only. There will be no playing for older or younger Plainview Travel Teams.

12 year old Baseball: (Players born between May 1, 2003 – April 30, 2004)  
11 year old Baseball: (Players born between May 1, 2004 – April 30, 2005)  
10 year old Baseball: (Players born between May 1, 2005 – April 30, 2006)  
9 year old Baseball: (Players born between May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2007)  
8 year old Baseball: (Players born between May 1, 2007 – April 30, 2008)  
7 year old Baseball: (Players born between May 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009)

Players may not play for a Plainview Travel Team and another travel team at any time during the year.

Plainview Travel Team players and Williamsport Travel Team players must participate in the League Spring intramural program, and attend a minimum of 60% of intramural games.

It is important to note that the Plainview Travel Team ages breakdown is different than our Spring intramural divisions for which we use a grade-based system.

Players who go to sleep-away camp during the entire summer or part of the summer will not be able to give the travel team a full commitment and are therefore not eligible to be on a travel team.

## Managers and Coaches

Travel baseball managers will be named on or around May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year by the Travel Director with the approval of the Board. The current manager and coaches are not guaranteed to be the manager or coach for the following season. Should a manager or coach need to be replaced during a season, the replacement will be named by the Travel Director in his/her sole discretion.

A manager must be a manager during the intramural season in order to qualify to manage a travel team.

'B' travel team managers will be named by the Travel Director, with approval of the Board, after the 'A' travel team rosters are named.

Travel team coaches will be named by the Travel Director, with approval of the Board, after the travel team rosters are named.

A coach must have managed or been an official coach during the intramural season in order to qualify as an official coach of a travel team.

## Little League (Williamsport) Tournament

The League will place 8/9/10, 9/10/11 and 10/11/12 teams in the annual Little League Williamsport Baseball Tournament. The rosters for these teams will be named on the dates specified by Little League International. Each Plainview 10, 11 and 12 Year-Old 'A' Travel Team must participate in the Little League Williamsport Tournament. All and every player selected by the 'A' team managers for the Plainview 10, 11 and 12 Year-Old 'A' Travel Teams must participate in the Little League tournament.

Because Little League mandates that teams span age groups for the Little League Williamsport Tournament, it will be possible for a 'younger' player to be added to the roster of an 'older' team for Little League tournament play only. For example, a player on the 9 Year-Old Travel Team may be placed on the 8/9/10 Little League Williamsport Tournament Team (subject to Little League tournament roster limits). 'Younger' players may only be added to the roster of an 'older' team; they may not replace an 'older' player. Beyond Little League Williamsport Tournament rules regarding playing time, there are no League regulations on playing time for 'older' or 'younger' players on a tournament team roster. It is the belief of Plainview Little League's Travel Program that the most appropriate and safe place for a player is within his own age group, for example, a 10 year old should only play on the 8/9/10 year old Williamsport Tournament team.

In order for a 'younger' player to be considered for the Little League Williamsport Tournament Team roster of an 'older' team, he must attend the tryout for the 'older' Plainview Travel Team as well as the tryout for his age Plainview Travel Team. For example, a 9 year-old player who wishes to be considered for the 8/9/10 Little League Williamsport Tournament Team roster, must attend the tryouts for both the 9 Year-Old and 10 Year-Old Plainview Travel Teams.

Any player is eligible to try out for an age appropriate Little League Williamsport Tournament Team, regardless of any other team commitment.

## Team Activities

Travel teams will remain together for an entire calendar year approximately from June 1 – May 31. Teams are expected to have activities in each season – Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring. These activities may include tournaments, practices and/or training sessions.

### Spring

Travel teams may play 'pre-season' tournaments in March until opening day of the intramural season.

Travel teams may play in Memorial Day weekend tournaments.

Travel baseball teams will practice on Sundays 3-5pm during the intramural season.

Travel teams may not play games during the intramural season.

### Summer/Fall

Travel teams may play in any tournament in which they wish to play during the Summer and Fall seasons.

### Winter

Travel teams are expected to workout at an indoor facility during the Winter, usually during the months of January and February.

## **Other Procedures**

### **Adding Players**

Players may only be added to a travel team roster for a specific tournament and only if the team will be forced to forfeit games without the addition. A player added to a roster for a specific tournament is not 'on the team.' The following procedures must be followed to add a player for a tournament:

- Must pull from 'B' team if any
- If no 'B' team, must pull from Spring intramural players
- Travel Director must approve all additions

No players may be added to the team for Winter activities (other than the regrouping described above).

### **Removing Players**

All travel players and their families are bound by the League code of conduct. Any player who fails to uphold the code of conduct may be removed from a travel team. Any player whose family/friends fail to uphold the code of conduct may be removed from a travel team.

Before a player may be removed from a team, a hearing must take place before the League disciplinary committee.

### **Team Fees**

Fees for all team activities will be paid by the team and may be broken out on a player by player basis to account for players added to a roster for a tournament.

### **Tryouts**

All interested players must attend a tryout. All rosters are subject to approval by the League President.

# FAQ

## **What is Travel?**

By definition, Travel baseball/softball is competitive. Travel teams play competitive schedules. Although teaching is always a focus, travel teams will play to win. At the younger levels, some intramural teams play in non-competitive Divisions or in competitive Divisions where the focus is clearly on teaching fundamentals. Travel is different. During the travel season, your child may not get a "turn" to play a particular position and may not play as many innings per game as some other players. Playing time and positioning is at the sole discretion of the travel team manager.

## **How old do you have to be to tryout for a Plainview travel team?**

Travel baseball teams begin at age 7. Travel softball teams begin at 8u (Little League 7 and 8 year old girls).

## **What team should my child tryout for and what is his/her LL Age?**

For baseball, the travel age year runs from May 1 – April 30. For Softball, the travel age year is based on the previous calendar year.

There is at least one baseball team at each age level 7-12. There are softball teams at 3 levels, 8u, 10u, 12u simply because of the limited number of players. This is not unique to Plainview. Softball, all over, is generally played in 2 year age groups.

## **What is the commitment?**

When your child decides to try out for a travel team, you have to understand it is a choice not to be taken lightly both as an individual player and as a family.

Whether your child makes the "A" or "B" team you will be spending at least 3 -5 days a week on a field. In essence, you have chosen to make Travel baseball/softball an integral part of your summer vacation. Players are expected to attend all games and practices. We hope you make this choice and have the opportunity to share an amazing summer with your child playing baseball/softball.

Guidelines will be addressed by the manager of each team.

## **How many days of the week do you play?**

Typically "A" teams play 4-5 times a week consisting of possibly two practices and three games per week or a combination of both. Possibly 25-40 games

Typically "B" teams play 3-5 times a week consisting of possibly two practices and two games per week or a combination of both. Possibly 20-30 games

Our travel teams now play year-round. The season begins in the summer which is the most intense of the seasons. The teams then play in the fall, usually just on the weekends. During the winter, the team will work out once per week, usually from January – March. Teams may play in a pre-season tournament in March. Once the intramural season begins, the travel teams will practice once per week, the exception being that they may play in a Memorial Day tournament.

### **When are the games and practices?**

**Practices** typically begin 6pm during the week and various times on the weekend depending on a polling of the players and, of course, the coaching staff availability.

**Games** during the week may start approximately at 5:45 and during the weekend can occur as early as 8am depending on the league or tournament the team is registered in.

### **To where do you travel?**

Most teams stay local and play mostly on the Island.

Older teams such as 10/11/12 may do a weekend Tournament

(Cal Ripken-MD, Rehoboth Beach-De/Triple Crown CT/Diamond Nation –NJ)

The typically tournament/Leagues listed below are not final or all inclusive

### ***Boys 8 and 9 (possibilities)***

PLL Tournament

LSWAA (Levittown, Seaford, Wantagh

Bethpage

Glen Cove

### ***Boys 10/11/12 (possibilities)***

Williamsport

Bethpage July 4<sup>th</sup>

NJBL

LSWAA

Glen Cove

Bethpage

Baseball Heaven-Yaphank

Diamond Nation

Cal Ripken

Rehoboth Beach

Triple Crown

Cooperstown (12's only)

### ***Girls 8u (possibilities)***

East Meadow 8u Futures Tournament

East Meadow Summer Sizzle

### ***Girls 10u/12u (possibilities)***

Williamsport

East Meadow Summer Sizzle

Glen Cove

NJBL

### **My child goes to camp can he/she play?**

If your child goes to sleep away camp for several weeks during the summer, that child obviously cannot make the commitment to the team so the answer is no. If your child goes to a sports day camp or regular day camp there is no reason that he or she cannot make the practices and games at 5:45 or 6pm.

As the children get older and choose to go to teen travel camp, then it becomes problematic for your children to make the commitment.

**We have a vacation played can we still play?**

We want all travel players committed to the program. Having said that, if it's a one time thing it needs to be discussed upfront with that particular manager. If you have a summer home and plan on going away every weekend, then travel is not going to work for you or the team.

**When does the season start?**

Boys 7, 8 and 9 year old teams usually begin end of June or early July.

Boys 10, 11 and 12 year old teams usually begin with the Williamsport Tournament which starts approximately the third week of June.

Girls 8 year old team begins last weekend of June.

Girls 10 and 12 usually begin with Williamsport third week of June if they enter.

**When does the season end?**

Depending on the Manager, depending on A or B team, usually by mid-August the Summer season is winding down for the team. However depending on the interest level of the team and parents the team may enter a Labor Day tournament

**Will there be two teams in an age group?**

It will depend on the following criteria, (1) sufficient number of players with competitive abilities (2) sufficient number of players with pitching ability and (3) availability of a manager for secondary team.

PLL wishes to accommodate the needs of children and will do so provided we can enter such a team into an environment that will provide them with both an enjoyable and positive experience.

**How many make the team?**

For baseball, at the younger ages we encourage managers to take more players - suggested number is 13. At the older ages it is usually 12 players per team.

Softball is a very fluid situation and really depends on the number of girls who show up for tryouts.

**Can my child tryout and "play up" on an older team?**

There is no playing up allowed. Each Plainview travel team will be formed by Williamsport Little League age definitions. However, teams entered into the Williamsport tournament are 8/9/10, 9/10/11, 10/11/12. Therefore, a baseball player who is Williamsport age 9 may be added to the roster of the 10 year old baseball team for the Williamsport Tournament only. In order to be eligible to be added to the roster, the player must attend the tryout for the teams in both age groups (in this case the 9 year old and the 10 year old teams).

**Can my child tryout for the B team only? We don't want such a commitment**

We run our travel teams based on skill level, not on the commitment level, so we cannot allow players to request to be just considered for the B team. Obviously, the "A" Team schedule is more intensive but we expect the same level of commitment from our B teams as we do from our A teams even with the reduced B team schedule.

### **Who is the Manager and how is he/she selected?**

Travel Managers are selected from the current pool of Manager in the intramural season. It is highly recommended that a Manager's child have a significant chance of being selected for the Travel team based on his/her merits. Each Travel Manager candidate that requests to be a manager is interviewed and recommendations are made to the PLL based on the following criteria: baseball/softball knowledge, coaching experience, availability for all Travel related activities, satisfactory history with PLL

All Manager and coach selections must be approved by the PLL President.

Once a manager is selected, he/she will remain with the team as it ages unless removed, for cause, by the President.

### **How are players selected?**

The managers will select their teams

The following tools are used:

- Intramural ratings - Players are rated on:
  - Pitching (if they pitch) –Velocity, Control, Ability
  - Player rating- Hitting, Fielding, Throwing, Running, Presence
- Scouting - Managers are expected to watch games involving players in the age group of the team in order to get a sense of how players perform during games
- Tryout

### **What is the player Selection Criteria?**

While it would seem obvious that the best baseball players would make the Travel Team, or for that matter the ("A") team, this is not always the case. The selection process involves the evaluation of many tangibles and intangibles. Some of these include:

- › **Baseball/softball talent and ability:** Obviously the primary criteria for selection to a Travel Team.
- › **Eligibility:** Any player trying out for a Plainview Travel Team, **MUST** be enrolled, and be an active participant, in the Intramural season (see DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY below). Players are required to participate in **at least 60% of all intramural games** during the intramural season. In cases where conflicts with school athletics prevent participation of an enrolled intramural player, eligibility will be determined by the PLL Board.
- › **Coachability:** If a child has shown an inability to follow direction, lacks focus, or has been a behavioral problem, he/she might not be selected, even if he/she is one of the best players in the division. Conversely, a child who shows a strong willingness to learn and improve, but is not one of the top players, might be selected.

- › **Sportsmanship:** A child who has exhibited a lack of sportsmanship towards his/her teammates, opponents, coaches or parents may be excluded from consideration. Additionally, if a parent has exhibited a lack of sportsmanship toward players, coaches, other parents or umpires, the parent's child may be excluded from consideration.
  
- › **Commitment:** If a child has shown prior disregard for practice and/or game dates he/she might not be selected, even if he/she is one of the best players in the division.
  
- › **Parental issues:** Managers may consider parents/guardians' on- and off-field behavior. Parents are expected to be supportive of the team and the team's coaching staff and their coaching decisions.

### **Playing time/Position?**

There is no guarantee of any playing time; there is no guarantee as to which field position a player will have; there is no guarantee of position in batting order. In each and every case above the Travel manager determines each player's participation.

### **What does it cost to play travel?**

This amount varies based on the number of players that are selected for each team. Every player pays their share of the team expenses. For example, if there are 12 players, each player pays 1/12 of the total budget of the team.

Budgets of teams shall include but not limited to:

- Uniforms (personalized)
- Administrative travel costs
- Baseballs (game and practice)
- Tournament Fees
- League Fees
- Various Equipment (hit stick or net)
- Landscaping –our fields are maintained by a private independent landscaper

Fees can range from \$250 - \$500 or more, depending on the age group.

The 12 year old team will have an additional cost of \$1,200 or more for the Cooperstown 7-day trip.

In some cases, teams fund raise to help alleviate the cost per each child.

If you have a financial hardship, you can always approach the PLL to confidentially discuss the hardship. Only the PLL President can grant a waiver/reduction of fee and may request documentation to support the request.

**When and how do I pay for Summer Travel?**

Summer Travel is a separate season and payment is expected to be made shortly after being selected to the team.

Uniforms will not be distributed until player issues payment to the PLL.

Payment methods accepted are Cash or Check- Check preferred. Payment may be moved online via credit card.

**What is Fall Travel?**

Fall Travel is a separate season and additional cost from the summer and all travel team players are expected to participate.

Children who are on the Summer Team are automatically carried into the Fall provided they can commit to the Fall Season. Some players like to play other sports in the Fall. If the A Team requires more players due to the inability to field a team in the Fall, they must first go to the B team to fill their roster. If there is no B team, then the A team must go to the most previous registered spring intramural player of travel ability to fill their roster.

NO player may be registered on two travel rosters

Players may not tryout out specifically for a Fall travel team.

**Who do I speak with if I have a problem with the process?**

If you are unhappy with the selection process, you will need to discuss the issues with the team manager.