

METUCHEN BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

Travel Program Manual

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SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

This document contains the general rules and policies that govern how Metuchen Baseball and Softball, ("MBS") will manage its baseball and softball travel programs. The MBS Travel Program is divided into two (2) seasons: Spring/Summer, and Fall. The Spring/Summer season is competitive in nature and Fall is developmental in nature. This document will assist Managers, Coaches and Parents/Guardians and will cover various topics that pertain to the administration of the Metuchen Baseball and Softball Travel program. Included are rules of conduct that must always be adhered to. These rules are being documented in this fashion to avoid conflict should problems arise.

The MBS Travel Program will be a program administered by Metuchen Baseball and Softball and the MBS Board will govern the program. The primary function of MBS is to offer baseball and softball for all children. However, Travel Baseball and Softball are available only to a small percentage of children who, through a selection process and exposure to the coaching staff, are chosen as the best candidates to represent MBS in games against teams from surrounding areas. Priority on resources will always be given to the MBS recreational program. Priority will also be given to the MBS recreation season where usage rates are a factor (pitching/catching). Conflicts between MBS recreational events and MBS travel events will always be resolved by the MBS recreational event taking priority over the travel event. Travel managers and coaches should be committed to developing recreational players during the recreation season. If this is found to not be the case, then the manager and coach is subject to removal from the travel program.

This document is one of several documents available to all Managers and Coaches for guidance. Other documents:

- The Official Babe Ruth Rules and Regulations
- The MBS Coaching Manual
- The MBS By-Laws
- The MBS Safety Plan.

This document will be reviewed annually, prior to the start of the travel baseball and softball season. It will be published on our website and distributed to all Board Members, Managers, Coaches and Parents.

If a situation arises that is not covered or stipulated herein, and which requires action prior to a regular meeting of the Board, an interim rule may be adopted and implemented by the majority vote of the Board.

SECTION 2 – CODE OF CONDUCT

Managers, Coaches, Players, Parents or Spectators should set an example of sportsmanship for children to follow. Team play should be emphasized. Parents will make sure their children show respect for all players, coaches, officials and spectators.

Parents and spectators will comply with the decisions of league or tournament officials and observe all league or tournament rules, policies and procedures. Abusive language, profanity, discourtesy or rudeness, verbal, physical or visual harassment, bullying or taking unfair advantage of anyone at any league or tournament function is strictly prohibited and is subject to penalties provided by the league or tournament officials. Violators are subject to review by the MBS Board.

Players shall display good sportsmanship and team play always. Players will be respectful and courteous to coaches, umpires, players, parents and spectators. The throwing of a bat, helmet, or any other piece of equipment is strictly prohibited.

When attending any travel team event, Parents are expected to:

1. Be a positive role model for your child and encourage sportsmanship by showing respect and courtesy, and by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, officials and spectators at every game, practice or other sporting event.
2. Refrain from any kind of unsportsmanlike conduct with any official, coach, player, or parent such as booing, taunting or using profane language or gestures, etc.
3. Refrain from any behaviors or practices that would endanger the health and well-being of the athletes.
4. Teach their child to play by the spirit of the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility or violence.
5. Demand that their child treats other players, coaches, officials and spectators with respect regardless of race, sex, or ability.
6. Never ridicule or yell at their child or other participant for making a mistake or losing a competition.
7. Respect the officials and their authority during games and will never question, discuss, or confront coaches or umpires at the game field, and take time to speak with coaches at an agreed upon time and place.
8. Refrain from coaching their child or other players during games and practices, unless they are one of the official coaches of the team.
9. Inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of their child or the safety of others.

Parents who fail to abide by the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action that could include, but is not limited to the following:

1. Verbal warning by official, head coach, and/or member of league organization
2. Written warning
3. Game suspension with written documentation of incident
4. Season suspension

Fighting

If any player engages in a fight, that player will automatically be suspended for 2 games. If the player engages in a 2nd fight, he or she will automatically be suspended for the remainder of the season. There are no appeals and no extenuating circumstances.

If a manager or coach engages in a fight, he or she will automatically be suspended from managing or coaching for the remainder of the season. The Board may consider permanent expulsion for violence. Managers and Coaches are expected to set a proper example and act as adults. There will be no second chance, no appeals and no extenuating circumstances.

Abuse, Taunting and Lack of Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is the goal. Abusive behavior by players, coaches, managers, parents and fans will not be tolerated. Abusive behavior includes, but is not limited to, foul language, arguing with, taunting or cursing at players, managers, coaches, or fans. It also includes throwing helmets and equipment. There will be no appeals of the umpire's action. Any ejection of a player, manager or coach by the umpire for abusive or unsportsmanlike conduct will result in an automatic one game suspension. A 2nd ejection will result in a suspension for the remainder of the season.

Fans and Parents

The manager is responsible to maintain control over parents and fans affiliated with his or her team.

SECTION 3 – SPRING/SUMMER TRAVEL TEAMS

Teams

MBS will look to sponsor one or more travel teams that correspond to travel league and tournament offerings. Baseball will attempt to offer one or more teams for the following ages: 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U and 13-15. Softball will look to sponsor one or more travel teams for the following ages: High School, 14U, 12U, 10U, and 8U. For each season, the number of teams for each age will be determined by the number of committed players and coaching volunteers. Travel team rosters will be comprised of 10-15 players, 3 coaches (one may be designated a scorekeeper) and 1 manager. Where two teams are possible, the target for both teams will be 50% of the overall candidate pool, although agreements between managers may provide flexibility to allow for the success of two teams. The creation of a second team will be reviewed by the MBS Board to make sure that a second team can play at a competitive level in any league or tournament they are entered in.

General Eligibility

MBS recreation Baseball and Softball are designed to be programs for all children, regardless of talent or ability. MBS Travel Baseball and Softball programs are available only to a small percentage of children who, through a selection process and exposure to the coaching staff, are chosen as the best candidates to represent MBS in games against teams from surrounding areas.

While it would seem obvious that the best baseball and softball players would make the Travel Team, this is not always the case. The selection process may include the evaluation of many tangibles and intangibles. Some of these include:

Talent and Ability: The primary criteria for selection to a Travel Team.

Eligibility: Any player on a Travel team must be enrolled, and be an active participant, in the MBS spring recreation program. Additionally, all players must be in good financial standing with MBS (\$0 balance owed to MBS).

Coachability: If a child has shown an inability to follow direction, lacks focus, or has been a behavioral problem, they might not be selected, even if they are 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, their child may be excluded from consideration.

Commitment: If a child has shown prior disregard for practice and/or game dates they

might not be selected, even if they are one of the best players in the division.

Spring/Summer Travel Season

Spring and Summer Travel teams are meant to be competitive offerings with the summer season being the most competitive. The Spring Travel season begins shortly before and runs parallel to the recreation season. However, Spring Travel games do not conflict with MBS recreation games and will be primarily scheduled on Sundays or on spring recreational league blackout dates. Recreation practices and games take precedence over Spring Travel practices and games. The Summer Travel season begins almost immediately after the completion of the Recreation Season.

Spring/Summer Travel Team Eligibility

- Players must meet the residency rules of Metuchen Baseball & Softball (“MBS”) as established by Babe Ruth Inc. Players must be registered in Metuchen Baseball & Softball. All players must be in good financial standing with MBS (\$0 balance owed to MBS) prior to accepting team placement. Hardship exceptions will be made in confidence by the board.
- Selected players must participate in greater than 55% of the regular season games of their recreation team. If injury or extenuating circumstances caused a player to miss a significant number of games during the rec season an exception may be made. If a selected player does not participate in greater than 55% of the recreational regular season games, and an extenuating circumstances exception isn’t made, they will be replaced by an alternate that will be identified during the tryout process. Extenuating circumstances will be reviewed by the MBS Board. No refund of expenses incurred will be made. Travel team managers will need to monitor eligibility.
 - High school players are exempt from the recreation games played requirements. Priority for high school eligible players will be given to players with MBS experience and Metuchen public school experience.
 - If a player misses a recreation game due to a conflict with a Metuchen public school affiliated game in either baseball or softball, it will not count as a game missed.
- Players may participate on teams of their respective age group or on a team of an older age group that they have tried out for and made through evaluation and meeting the ranking needed to "play up".
- Trying out for an older age group is predicated on the following conditions
 - The player has previous MBS travel experience on the “Blue” team from the spring/summer travel season immediately preceding the spring/summer season being showcased.
 - The player is only attempting to “play up” to the division immediately above their designated division defined by birth date.
 - Specific experience or circumstances where it is recommended by the Player Agent to the MBS Board and approval has been received. MBS Board members with interest in decisions regarding exceptions should recuse

themselves from the decision process.

- Exceptions requested by the family of players can be addressed to the MBS Board. It will be reviewed by the MBS Board for approval. MBS Board members with interest in decisions regarding exceptions should recuse themselves from the decision process.
- Once placement on a team is made, a younger player will play on the older age group's team. In certain situations, outside of travel league play, a younger player that is playing up may be "called-down" to play with the younger age division team. This must be allowed within the rules of the applicable league or tournament. This must be approved by the Player Agent.
- Trying out for an older age group does not take the place of trying out at the player's normal age team. If the player intends to play on the younger travel team if they are unable to successfully make the older team, they must try out for the player's normal age travel team as well.
- In order to "play up", a player must be ranked within the required number of candidates for each division they are attempting to play up to. The required number of candidates is based on the previous spring's recreational age group population or division population. 10% of that number will be used after rounding down (x0...x4) or rounding up (x5...x9) to determine the rank number required. See example below.

League	Age/Division	Population	Rounded	Rank Required
Baseball	8U	25	30	3
Baseball	9U	36	40	4
Baseball	10U	41	40	4
Softball	U12	50	50	5
Softball	U10	38	40	4

- A tie ranking with the required rank number will not qualify that player to "play up". For instance, if the player is required to be top 4 in the division and he/she is tied at 4 with another player(s), they are not qualified to "play up".
- A player attempting to "play up" cannot be a manager selection.
- If a player has met the criteria and has been evaluated to "play up", they will also be moved to the corresponding recreation division to match the division they "play up" for in the travel program.

Spring/Summer Availability:

The Travel Baseball and Softball season is competitive and each team being at full strength is a contributor to the success of that team. Players in the travel program should attempt to make MBS Travel his or her first priority over any other sport or postseason program. Players should note their known availability on the Travel Program Acknowledgements Form (available in the Appendix) and reasonable exceptions can be made where conflicts exist. If a child's family goes away for one or more weeks during the spring/summer season, this may impact their selection.

Player & Manager Selection Requirements and Process (Spring/Summer Travel)

1. Players must register within the registration system to be evaluated.
2. Managers must register within the registration system to be considered for a manager position.
3. Players must bring signed Travel Program Acknowledgements Form to the try outs - no exceptions. Form is available in Appendix.
4. Managers will be selected by the MBS Board. Any Board member that is a candidate or that is directly or potentially involved with the team in question must recuse themselves from the manager selection for that team. Provided there are no indications of disqualifying feedback, the criteria for the board selection of the manager will be done using factors that reward volunteerism within the league and maintaining cohesiveness within the program. Some of the factors used during the Board review will be recreation league participation as a volunteer, filling an official league role (board member, coordinator etc.) as well as travel season coaching experience. Any instance of a violation of the league code of conduct that has been documented will be considered when evaluating the prospective manager.
5. A player may self-select to be considered as an alternate or opt for selection only to a White team. This means that they cannot be part of the auto-selected population or among the group of first 10-15 players selected. If their score does not place them within the alternate range for either a Blue or White team, this will not apply.
 - If the player self-selects for the White team and a White team is not formed, the player is not eligible for the Blue team regardless of their score and ranking. A manager for the Blue team is also unable to select this player.
6. Each Baseball and Softball team will have a roster consisting of 10-15 players.
7. Try outs will be conducted in the manner outlined within this manual.
8. Based upon the scoring criteria outlined in this manual, 8 players for each team will be auto-selected by their tryout score. If there is a tie between two or more players for the 8th spot, those players will all make the roster if the experiential differentiators do not break a tie. (See scoring criteria below).
9. A player cannot be auto-selected if they did not designate MBS Travel as their primary commitment on the Travel Program Acknowledgements Form. However, not making this designation will not disqualify the player from being a manager selection.
10. After auto-selection is complete, the manager may finish his or her roster by selecting at least 2, but no more than 7 additional players to fill the team roster that meet specific needs of the team. Should the manager's child(ren) not have made the 8 auto-selected players, their child(ren) will be added and the manager minimum/maximum selection spots will be reduced by the number of that manager's children making the team.
11. A manager can select a player whose availability is limited during either season, but it will count towards a roster spot. A roster spot cannot be shared across the spring/summer season. If a player is available in spring, but not in summer, they are still considered to hold a roster spot in the summer.
12. A manager may not select a player attempting to "play up" if that player did not meet

the criteria to “play up” (ie. receive Board approval).

13. At this point, where a second team is able to be created and staffed, the process will be repeated with the remaining prospective players. The creation of a second team will be reviewed by the MBS Board to make sure that a second team can play at a competitive level in any league or tournament they are entered in.
14. Up to 3 players from the tryout pool that were not selected as either a Blue or White Team player will be identified as a potential alternate based upon their tryout scores.
15. The manager will inform the selected team members that they made the team.
16. Communication to the players that did not make a team should also be done by the first manager selected. If a player is designated as an alternate, they will be informed at this time and can indicate whether they are interested in remaining on the alternate list.
17. Parents will be required to pay all player fees and uniform costs prior to the start of that travel season
 - Alternates will not be required to purchase uniforms or pay fees. If an alternate is called to participate on the team, their uniforms can be ordered and a pro-rated payment of fees can be arranged if warranted. Teams also have an option of ordering extra uniform options at the start of the season.

Tryout Process

1. There will be two separate evaluations held for a player wishing to try out for a travel team. These tryouts will typically be held after the completion of the fall season and prior to January 1st of the next season. It is required that each potential player attend one of the tryouts, however they can attend both. Travel team evaluations will be conducted by two independent evaluators and the selected team manager with equal weight given to their score. The steps and scoring criteria below outline the travel team evaluation. Independent evaluators will be defined as individuals with no connection to players within the program. A final determination of the independence of the evaluator will be made by the MBS Board if there are any questions on whether an evaluator will be able to approach the tryouts from an unbiased perspective.
2. The tryouts will consist of evaluation on the following criteria
 - Running Speed
 - Outfield Play
 - Infield Play
 - Arm Strength / Accuracy
 - Hitting Form / Ability
 - Player Characteristics:
 - Awareness, Attitude, Effort, Coachability, Sportsmanship and Commitment
3. Evaluation as a pitcher and catcher is optional. However, it is strongly encouraged for players intending to play those positions to be evaluated.
4. Players will receive a score of 1-10 in each of the categories except for Running Speed. Fractional scores will also be used. Running speed will be timed.

Scoring Criteria and Ranking

1. Players will have their individual scores in each of the areas aggregated for a total score for each evaluator and manager. The scores of both evaluators and manager will be added to account for player's final score.
 - If a player attends multiple tryouts – the highest score for each area will be used.
2. Players opting to try out for catcher and pitcher will have their scores aggregated in those areas solely. The scores of both evaluators and manager will be added to account for player's final score. There will be no additional experiential differentiator used for these positions.
3. Scores will be ranked for all participants from highest to lowest across the standard criteria.
4. Catchers and pitchers scores will also be ranked from highest to lowest. These scores will be used for manager selection should they be needed.
5. An experiential differentiator will be used as a tie breaker in the instance where one or more players may not make the team due to the remaining spots being filled dependent on the outcome. In the instance that there is a tie between two or more player's final score, an indicator of whether they played the previous fall and spring/summer season will be used. Preference will be given to those that have committed to additional seasons. If a tie still exists after this indicator is used, each of the tied players will make the team.
6. All scores will be reviewed by the player agent and final rankings will be approved by the MBS Board. Board members should recuse themselves from approving any team's rankings where their children tried out for.

Fairness of Play

While the goal of the Travel Baseball and Softball program is to provide a more competitive environment, the league's overall objective of developing individuals and teams still apply.

Below are guidelines the league expects managers to follow as part of the travel experience.

1. Manager must abide by MBS travel play guidelines in addition to travel league or tournament rules.
2. **Travel league regular season or tournament pool play rules**
 - All players who attend a game must bat as part of the starting lineup unless tournament rules specifically limits batters to 9 or 10 players (ie. Ripken Districts/States/Regions tournaments/Older divisions).
 - All players must play a minimum of 3 innings each game in the field in every full game played.
 - Managers must pay special attention to catcher usage, taking into account such factors as inning duration, arm usage and weather.
3. **Travel league or tournament playoff play rules**
 - Manager can play Semi Finals and Finals game as they see fit. If a game is specifically designated as a Quarter Final game, the manager can play the game as they see fit.

4. Travel League or Tournament Pitching

- Spring:
 - For baseball travel teams during the spring season, pitcher availability will be based on rules that take into account the MBS recreational games pitched and logged in the same central location as the recreation league. Please consider not playing double headers and respecting the pitch counts of all pitchers in the recreation league. These rules and regulations do not apply to Travel Softball.
 - Please refer to the Spring Pitching Limit and Rest Rules in the Appendix of this document for the rules pertaining to each age level of baseball.
 - These rules are intended primarily for the safety and long-term health of the players. ABSOLUTELY NO DEVIATIONS SHALL BE PERMITTED.
- Summer:
 - At a minimum, baseball teams will follow the Cal Ripken Rules and Regulations in regards to pitch counts and managing pitcher rest. Please see chart below. These rules and regulations do not apply to softball.

AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days
9-10	75	1 - 40	41 - 65	66+
11-12	85	1 - 40	41 - 65	66+
13-15	95	1 - 45	46 - 75	76+
16-18	105	1 - 45	46 - 75	76+

- However, if tournament or league rules regarding pitch counts, inning counts and managing pitcher rest are stricter than the rules above, those rules will take precedence to the Cal Ripken Rules and Regulations and will be followed by both baseball and softball as applicable.
 - Manager is responsible for submitting pitchers and pitch counts to the league within 48 hours of game end.
5. The league can request copy of a team's score book at any time.

Other

1. Practice for the Spring/Summer Travel season can begin on January 1st. The teams will practice with the players on the official roster.
2. Penalties for missing games or practices for reasons other than health issues or preapproved family conflicts will be decided by individual managers.
3. Should a replacement player be needed on a permanent basis, the Player Agent and President should select the player from the alternate pool determined during the tryouts. If the identified replacement player is currently on a second team, the Player Agent, President and both managers will discuss options.
4. In instances where travel teams are unable to be formed for any division due to lack of interest during the tryout period, a travel team may still be formed for the summer season based on interest. In this case, legacy rules can be used where recreation

managers will select the teams. Those legacy rules can be found in the appendix of this document. Eligibility rules documented within this manual still apply.

5. Where certain divisions have a 'White' team, the manager of the team may request that a player be added to their summer roster at the conclusion of the spring recreation season. This request may also be initiated by any of the recreation managers in the division on behalf of the player. This case will be reviewed by the Player Agent and a recommendation will be submitted to the board for review. The Player Agent may use different means to arrive at a recommendation, such as, but not limited to, showcase score, travel tryout score and discussion with the managers in the recreation division. In rare cases, where a Blue team was formed without needing a tryout process due to participants, the same process may be employed.
6. Travel and tournament team managers must make MBS travel their priority over other coaching commitments during the season.
7. The MBS Officers will review all tournament team selections. Any person, or group of people, who conspire to 'fix' or attempt to unfairly influence the Travel team selection process, as determined by the MBS Board of Directors, will be permanently banned from participating in Metuchen Baseball & Softball and MBS Travel.
8. The Board of Metuchen Baseball & Softball retains the right to correct any errors identified in guidelines above even it results in the previously defined guidelines being usurped.

SECTION 4 – FALL TRAVEL TEAMS

Fall Travel Season

The fall season focuses on development. This season plays at the next baseball and softball year and therefore may be the first season a player plays with new age/division rules. Typically, the season will begin on or around September 1st and conclude by October 31st.

Fall Travel Eligibility / Requirements

1. Players must meet the residency rules of Metuchen Baseball & Softball (“MBS”) as established by Babe Ruth Inc. Players must be registered in Metuchen Baseball & Softball. All players must be in good financial standing with MBS (\$0 balance owed to MBS) prior to accepting team placement. Hardship exceptions will be made in confidence by the board.
2. Players must have participated in the MBS recreational season or intend to participate in the next MBS recreational season.
 - If a player has not played in the previous recreational season, and then does not participate in the next recreational season, they will not be able to participate in the Fall Travel season until they complete a Spring recreational season.
3. Players may only participate on teams of their designated age group unless an exception is granted by the Baseball or Softball Vice President with agreement from the Player Agent or they have played at that age group for the previous Spring/Summer Travel season.
 - Once the exception is granted, the younger player will play on the older age group’s team and not switch between teams for certain games and tournaments during that season.
 - In certain situations, outside of travel league play, a younger player that is playing up may be “called-down” to play with the younger age division team. This must be allowed within the rules of the applicable league or tournament. This must be approved by the Player Agent.
 - In certain situations, players that may have played on a team designated for the next baseball and softball year as expected, may play on the team below that in which they are still age-eligible. This should only be done in cases where team balance warrants it and parents accept the placement. This placement does not determine the player’s placement for the upcoming recreation season.
4. Parents will pay all player fees and uniform costs prior to the start of that travel season. Exceptions and/or alternate arrangements will be considered where a financial hardship exists.
5. Commit to missing no more than 50% of the travel games for Fall.
6. Notify coaches of other extracurricular activities that may interfere with play time.

Teams

Teams may be selected for baseball 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, and 14U and softball U8, U10, U12, U14 and High School.

Player and Manager Selection

1. The player agent will communicate via e-mail the organization of the Fall Travel Season.
2. Players must register within the registration system to be evaluated.
3. Managers must register within the registration system to be considered for a manager position.
4. Managers selection will be done in the following order:
 - Previous spring/summer Blue team manager for current division's team
 - Previous spring/summer Blue team manager for the younger division's team
 - Previous spring/summer White team manager for current division's team
 - Previous spring/summer White team manager for younger division's team
 - Previous fall Blue team manager for current division's team
 - Previous fall Blue team manager for the younger division's team
 - Previous fall White team manager for current division's team
 - Previous fall White team manager for younger division's team
 - MBS Board selection based on the criteria outlined in the spring/summer manager selection process.
5. If enough players meet the eligibility requirements on the list for an age group and there are 4 committed coaches/managers, then two teams, a Blue and White, may be designated for the selection process with board approval. The creation of a second team will be reviewed by the MBS Board to make sure that a second team can play at a competitive level in any league or tournament they are entered in.
6. The Blue team manager selects the first 10-15 players. The manager of the White team selects the next 10-15 players based on current year showcase scores and or current year evaluation from the Spring/Summer travel season. The amount of players on each team (from 10-15) will be at the discretion of the manager. The selection of 12-15 players is encouraged during the fall season.
 - If the amount of potential players exceeds the ability to form one or two teams within the roster guidelines, the managers of all respective teams should meet to determine options for placement. Options for placement, may include moving players up/down where necessary. This placement does not determine the player's placement for the upcoming recreation season.
 - If all options for placement are exhausted or managers are not able to agree, then the following priorities will dictate teams.
 - Participation on that age division's Spring/Summer Blue Travel Team

- Participation on that age division’s Spring/Summer White Travel Team
 - Participation on the previous age division’s Spring/Summer Blue Travel Team
 - Participation on the previous age division’s Spring/Summer White Travel Team
 - Showcase scores from the previous spring recreation season
7. No player who is selected for the Blue team is permitted to play for the White team.
 8. The selection process for the Fall Travel team will be done within the first two weeks of August.

Fairness of Play

While the goal of the Travel Baseball and Softball program is to provide a more competitive environment, the league’s overall objective of developing individuals and teams still apply.

Below are guidelines the league expects managers to follow as part of the travel experience.

1. Manager must abide by MBS travel play guidelines in addition to travel league or tournament rules.
2. **Travel league regular season or tournament pool play rules**
 - All players who attend a game must bat as part of the starting lineup unless tournament rules specifically limits batters to 9 or 10 players (ie. Ripken Districts/States/Regions tournaments/Older divisions).
 - All players must play a minimum of 3 innings each game in the field when a full game is played.
 - Managers must pay special attention to catcher usage, taking into account such factors as inning duration, arm usage and weather.
3. **Travel league or tournament playoff play rules**
 - Manager can play Semi Finals and Finals game as they see fit. If a game is specifically designated as a Quarter Final game, the manager can play the game as they see fit.
4. **Travel League or Tournament Pitching**
 - At a minimum, baseball teams will follow the Cal Ripken Rules and Regulations in regards to pitch counts and managing pitcher rest. Please see chart below. These rules and regulations do not apply to softball.

AGE	DAILY MAX (PITCHES IN DAY)	REST PERIOD		
		0 Days	1 Days	2 Days
9-10	75	1 - 40	41 - 65	66+
11-12	85	1 - 40	41 - 65	66+
13-15	95	1 - 45	46 - 75	76+
16-18	105	1 - 45	46 - 75	76+

- However, if tournament or league rules regarding pitch counts, inning counts and managing pitcher rest are stricter than the rules above, those rules will take precedence to the Cal Ripken Rules and Regulations and will

be followed by both baseball and softball as applicable.

- Manager is responsible for submitting pitchers and pitch counts to the league within 48 hours of game end.
5. The league can request copy of a team's score book at any time.

SECTION 5 – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Travel Manager Responsibilities

Requirements: Each manager will have participated in the necessary coaching clinics, safety clinics and will have completed all required background checks. Where leagues or tournaments require, managers must complete online Babe Ruth Coaching Certification and submit certificate to MBS. Managers must sign MBS travel form acknowledging their responsibilities.

Recreation Commitments: The primary function of MBS is to offer baseball and softball for all children. Priority on resources will be given to the recreational program. Priority will also be given to the recreation season where usage rates are a factor (pitching/catching). Conflicts between recreational events and travel events will be resolved by the recreational event taking priority over the travel event. Travel managers and coaches should be committed to developing recreational players during the recreation season. If this is found to not be the case, then the manager is subject to removal from the travel program.

Player Eligibility Tracking: Travel team managers will need to monitor eligibility of their travel team players based upon the commitment to participate in greater than 55% of their recreational regular season games.

By-Laws / Rules: Read, understand and follow the MBS Travel Manual. Ensure that you comply with all rules in how you manage your team. Keep a copy of the by-laws and rule book with you during games.

Practices: Schedule practices at your discretion. In advance of practices, develop a structure and plan the drills you expect to run based on the skill level of the players on your team. Teach the fundamentals of baseball/softball by providing verbal instruction, demonstrations and positive feedback/guidance. Ensure the safety of the players during all practices.

Games: set line-ups for each game and positions for each inning. Ensure that you comply with MBS travel program guidelines, your league or tournament rules with respect to infield/outfield rotations, pitch counts, innings pitched, sitting out innings etc. Warm-up your team ahead of each game (drills/stretching). Follow the rules for utilization of call ups. Make pitching changes as needed. Coach bases. Ensure the dugout is clean for the next team.

Scorebook: ensure that a scorebook is maintained for each game and that you report the outcome to the appropriate person.

Call Ups: in the instance that a team cannot field a full roster for a game or tournament, the manager is responsible for identifying a replacement player. Substitutes must be from a team in the team's age group or the age group immediately below. This replacement can be at the manager's discretion when choosing from that pool.

Attend league meetings: Attend minimum of 6 scheduled monthly meetings. Provide suggestions on how to improve the program and its impact on players.

Draft: Select players for your team via the procedures outlined within this document.

Field Maintenance: Direct and participate in the field maintenance before and after games. This includes raking, dragging, and lining the field etc.. Solicit help from your team's parents in all these efforts. Participate in league requested field cleanups.

Communication: Maintain an accurate e-mail and phone communication list for your team. Communicate regularly about games, practices and other league business. Conduct a pre-season meeting with the parents of your players and supply a copy of this manual.

Report Issues: alert the MBS board of any problems or concerns as soon as possible (including but not limited to injuries, rule violations, manager/coach/player/fan behavior...)

Player Development: focus on player development. The goal should be that each player exits the season with a better understanding of the game and an improvement in their abilities.

Ambassador: be an ambassador for MBS. Address questions or concerns from parents.

Managing Coaches: Select coaches who will be active participants in practices and games, in field maintenance and player development. Set expectations early, hold coaches accountable for those responsibilities and provide them opportunities to contribute to tasks that teach teamwork, camaraderie, sportsmanship, skills development and game knowledge.

Safety: Review and adhere to the rules and requirements as outlined in the safety plan. Ensure all coaches required to participate in the CPR and First Aid training attend. Ensure all equipment (e.g. bats, helmets, spikes, catchers gear, safety equipment) used by players is in compliance with rules as outlined in the safety plan and league and tournament regulations – check this each game. For each game, walk the field and facility to ensure there are no unsafe conditions and report any issues immediately. Ensure MBS field box is stocked with first aid kits and ice packs and that all catchers equipment is in safe, working order – report to the Safety Director when materials are running low/out. Prior to starting every practice and every game, lead (or have a coach lead) drills to stretch the legs and throwing arms of all players to improve their flexibility and prevent injury. On hot days (80 degrees and above) bring water for your players and ensure they take water breaks between innings.

Uniforms: Uniforms will be coordinated by each Manager at prior to the start of the season.

Foster Sportsmanship and Teamwork. Teach life lessons.

Be the kind of manager the players will remember decades from now (for good reasons).

Travel Coach/Assistant Coach Responsibilities

Requirements: Each coach will have participated in the necessary coaching clinics, safety clinics and will have completed all required background checks. When leagues or tournaments require, coaches must complete online Babe Ruth Coaching Certification and submit certificate to MBS. Coaches must sign MBS form acknowledging their responsibilities.

Recreation Commitments: The primary function of MBS is to offer baseball and softball for all children. Priority on resources will be given to the recreational program. Priority will also be given to the recreation season where usage rates are a factor (pitching/catching). Conflicts between recreational events and travel events will be resolved by the recreational event taking priority over the travel event. Travel coaches should be committed to developing recreational players during the recreation season. If this is found to not be the case, then the coach is subject to removal from the travel program.

By-Laws / Rules: Read, understand and follow the MBS Travel Manual. Ensure that you comply with all rules in how you coach your team.

Practices: Assist your manager in running practices. Teach the fundamentals of baseball/softball to the players by providing verbal instruction, demonstrations and positive feedback/guidance. Ensure the safety of the players during all practices.

Games: Assist your manager in warming-up your team ahead of and during each game (drills/stretching). Coach bases. Ensure the dugout is clean and litter free for the next team. Be responsible for the scorebook if needed.

Field Maintenance: Participate in field maintenance before and after games. This includes raking, dragging, and lining the field etc.. Participate in league requested field cleanups.

Player Development: Focus on player development. The goal should be each player exiting the season with a better understanding of the game and an improvement in their abilities.

Report Issues: Alert your manager of any problems or concerns as soon as possible (including but not limited to injuries, rule violations, manager/coach/player/fan behavior...)

Safety: Review and adhere to the rules and requirements as outlined in the safety plan. Participate in CPR and First Aid training if you have not attended in the past two years. For each game ensure all equipment (e.g. bats, helmets, spikes, catchers gear, safety equipment) used by players follows rules as outlined in the safety plan. For each game, walk the field and facility to ensure there are no unsafe conditions and report any issues to the manager.

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APPENDIX - SUMMER TRAVEL/TOURNAMENT LEGACY SELECTION PROCESS

Availability

- Players must commit to being available to play or practice from the end of the MBS season for the summer (June through July). If a family is going on vacation for a total of 7 days or more than one weekend during June 1st through July 31, the player should not be nominated.
- Prior to nominating a player, the manager **MUST** contact the player's family and explain the tournament team time commitment and receive approval from the family that their child is prepared to make the necessary time commitment to participate on the tournament team. Parents need to confirm the availability and commitment to the team prior to nominating a player.

Ability

The top performing players for each age group should be considered for the team. Throughout the season, managers should observe players from other teams who may be nominated as well as identify potential nominees from their team to opposing managers.

Teams

Teams may be selected for baseball 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, and 14U and softball U8, U10,U12, and U14

- Junior division managers vote for the U13 and U14 teams. In the event there is a Junior's District Team, the Team can be comprised of both U14 & U13 players.
- Intermediate division managers vote for the U11 and U12 teams.
- Major division managers vote for the U9 and U10 teams.
- Minor division managers vote for the U8.
- Softball U14 managers vote for the U14 team.
- Softball U12 managers vote for the U12 team.
- Softball U10 managers vote for the U10 team.
- Softball U8 managers vote for the U8 team.

Player Selection Process (Summer Travel)

1. Managers must bring signed nomination forms to the draft - no exceptions. (included in the appendix)
2. Each baseball team will have up to a 15-player roster, 15 for softball and Junior with no alternates.
3. If an older division's team cannot fill its roster with players from that age group, the roster can be completed with players from younger divisions.
4. After determining that the roster cannot be filled, nominations from the younger age group can be brought forward and considered for selection.
5. All players nominated from the older age group will be placed on the team before filling in with younger players.
6. The regular season team managers will vote from the nominated pool of players to fill

the team. If a division has less than 4 teams, a selection committee will be comprised of the division managers plus a combination of the division commissioners, coaches, and/or volunteers. The President and Player Agent will determine the members of the selection committee.

7. Prior to the vote for an age group, each of the age group's managers will be given an opportunity to advocate for players he/she feels have earned an opportunity to participate in Tournament team games based upon their level of play during the regular season.

Voting

1. If 10 players are unanimously selected on the first ballot, a team manager is announced, and a second ballot will be taken.
2. Players unanimously selected on the second ballot will be added to the team. Players not receiving 30% of the votes will be eliminated from the pool of players available for a third ballot or managers selection. After the second ballot, the team manager may select the final player(s) or allow the division managers or selection committee to vote on the final position(s).
3. If less than 10 players are unanimously selected on the first ballot, a second ballot will be taken to fill the team roster. Players who were not unanimously selected on the first ballot, but who receive votes on the first ballot will be eligible for the second ballot. Players who did not receive votes on the first ballot will be eliminated from the pool.
4. Players unanimously selected on the second ballot will be added to the team. Players receiving less than 30% of the votes will be eliminated from the pool for the third ballot and/or the manager selection.
5. If after the second ballot, the entire team roster has not been unanimously selected; a final ballot shall be taken. The player(s) receiving the most votes in the 3rd ballot will be added to the team.
6. In the event of a tie for the remaining team positions, the Player Agent shall vote to break the tie unless the Player Agent is participating in that age group's selection process as a manager, in which event the President shall cast the tie-breaking vote. If both shall be participating in that age group's selection process as managers, then the Vice-President shall cast the tie-breaking vote.
7. The names of the remaining players receiving votes for Tournament team selection shall be placed in a pool from which Tournament team replacements will be made. The Player Agent will maintain the list of replacement players.

Other

1. Penalties for missing games or practices for reasons other than health issues or preapproved family conflicts will be at the manager's discretion.
2. Should a replacement player be needed, the Player Agent and President will select the player from the replacement pool who had received the highest number of votes.
3. Once the required numbers of players have been elected to each of the team rosters, the Tournament committee will select the Tournament team managers. Each

Tournament team manager will then select their coaches based upon a list of eligible coaches provided by the Tournament committee.

4. Travel and tournament team managers must make MBS travel their priority over other coaching commitments during the season.
5. The MBS Officers will review all tournament team voting. Any manager, or group of managers, who conspire to 'fix' or attempt to unfairly influence the Tournament team selection process, as determined by the MBS Board of Directors, will be permanently banned from participating in Metuchen Baseball & Softball.
6. The Board of Metuchen Baseball & Softball retains the right to correct any errors it identifies in the above guidelines even it results in the previously defined guidelines being usurped.

APPENDIX – SPRING PITCHING LIMIT AND REST RULES

Pitching 11/12u Levels

1. The pitch limit applies to recreation games plus travel games, cumulative for all travel pitchers.
2. A calendar week for the purpose of Pitching Rules is defined as Monday - Sunday.
3. A player may pitch a maximum of six (6) innings or 100 pitches in a calendar week, whichever comes first:
 - The pitch and innings limit applies to recreation plus travel games, cumulative.
 - A player may pitch a maximum of three (3) innings or 70 pitches in any one (1) one game, whichever comes first.
 - The pitch limit applies to recreation games as well as travel games.
4. The number of pitches in recreation, scrimmages, or games declared “no contest” shall be charged against the pitcher’s eligibility. If a game is resumed in a following week, the last pitcher in the game may continue up to the extent of his remaining pitch count eligibility with appropriate number of rest days.
5. Any player who participates for any Metuchen Baseball tournament team may pitch for his team only if he follows the Rest Rule table. This applies to any travel related games.

REST RULE

# of Pitches	# of Rest Days
1-20	0
21-35	1
36-50	2
51-65	3
66+	4

6. Recreation and tournament managers are required to report pitchers and their pitch counts to the Commissioner every Saturday (rec) or Sunday (tournament) evening via email.
7. Failure to adhere with the letter and spirit of these pitching rules may lead to a manager or coach’s suspension or removal from the program.

Pitching 8/9/10u Levels

- The pitch limit applies to recreation plus travel games, cumulative for all travel pitchers.
- A calendar week for the purpose of Pitching Rules is defined as Monday - Sunday.

9/10U

1. The pitch limit applies to recreation games plus travel games, cumulative for all travel pitchers.
2. A calendar week for the purpose of Pitching Rules is defined as Monday - Sunday.
3. A player may pitch a maximum of six (6) innings or 100 pitches in a calendar week, whichever comes first:
 - a. The pitch and innings limit applies to recreation plus travel games, cumulative.
 - b. A player may pitch a maximum of two (2) innings or 55 pitches in any one (1) one game, whichever comes first.
 - c. The pitch limit applies to recreation games as well as travel games.
4. The number of pitches in recreation, scrimmages, or games declared “no contest” shall be charged against the pitcher’s eligibility. If a game is resumed in a following week, the last pitcher

in the game may continue up to the extent of his remaining pitch count eligibility with appropriate number of rest days.

5. Any player who participates for any Metuchen Baseball tournament team may pitch for his team only if he follows the Rest Rule table. This applies to any travel related games.

REST RULE

# of Pitches	# of Rest Days
1-20	0
21-35	1
36-50	2
51-65	3
66+	4

6. Recreation and tournament managers are required to report pitchers and their pitch counts to the Commissioner every Saturday (rec) or Sunday (tournament) evening via email.
7. Failure to adhere with the letter and spirit of these pitching rules may lead to a manager or coach’s suspension or removal from the program.

8U

1. The pitch limit applies to recreation games plus travel games, cumulative for all travel pitchers.
2. A calendar week for the purpose of Pitching Rules is defined as Monday - Sunday.
3. A player may pitch a maximum of six (4) innings or 80 pitches in a calendar week, whichever comes first:
 - a. The pitch and innings limit applies to recreation plus travel games, cumulative.
 - b. A player may pitch a maximum of two (2) innings or 40 pitches in any one (1) one game, whichever comes first.
 - c. The pitch limit applies to recreation games as well as travel games.
4. The number of pitches in recreation, scrimmages, or games declared “no contest” shall be charged against the pitcher’s eligibility. If a game is resumed in a following week, the last pitcher in the game may continue up to the extent of his remaining pitch count eligibility with appropriate number of rest days.
5. Any player who participates for any Metuchen Baseball tournament team may pitch for his team only if he follows the Rest Rule table. This applies to any travel related games.

REST RULE

# of Pitches	# of Rest Days
1-20	0
21-35	1
36-50	2
51-65	3
66+	4

6. Recreation and tournament managers are required to report pitchers and their pitch counts to the Commissioner every Saturday (rec) or Sunday (tournament) evening via email.
7. Failure to adhere with the letter and spirit of these pitching rules may lead to a manager or coach’s suspension or removal from the program.

APPENDIX – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORMS LOCATION

Form Purpose & Locations:

- **Travel Program Acknowledgments Form**
 - This form is for players wishing to tryout and participate in the spring/summer travel program.
 - <http://metuchenll.sportssignup.com/site/ClientSite/article/166389>
- **Travel Program Manager & Coach Acknowledgments Form**
 - This form is for volunteers wishing to serve as manager or coach in the spring/summer travel program.
 - <http://metuchenll.sportssignup.com/site/ClientSite/article/166389>
- **Legacy Travel Program Acknowledgement Form**
 - This form is for players that are nominated to participate in a summer travel team that is formed outside of the normal travel process.
 - <http://metuchenll.sportssignup.com/site/ClientSite/article/166389j>