



Hickory/Fountain Green Baseball Guidelines Governing Travel Teams

Revised Oct 2008

Background

Travel baseball is for players looking to challenge their ability and better their skills through higher levels of competition. It requires a high level of commitment on the parts of both parents and player.

Each season, the Hickory/Fountain Green Baseball (HFG BB) will sponsor teams for various age levels from age 7-16. The number of teams will be determined by the number and ability of participants at each of the various travel team tryouts and the availability of a qualified manager. All travel teams must be self-funding and will be under the direct jurisdiction and supervision of HFG BB Board of Directors. Players participating in the travel program must register and participate in the HFG BB in-house program from ages 7-12. For further discussion on this issue, see the section titled – Travel Players and In house Baseball. Travel players aged 13-14 must register in HFG BB but are not required to participate in in-house games under applicable Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken baseball guidelines. As of 2007, travel players must play in their appropriate age division and are not permitted to play up in an older group. Players on a HFG BB travel roster as of 2006 are exempted from this rule.

Selection of Managers

Managers are selected and evaluated by the HFG BB Board of Directors on an annual basis. Managers wishing to start a travel team must submit their request and experience in writing to the Board of Directors for review by Jan 15 of the travel year. Openings on current travel teams are filled by the Board of Directors.

Evaluations and Team Selection

Travel Evaluations shall not take place prior to Feb 1. HFG BB will attempt to schedule one indoor tryout per team in early to mid Feb. This cost will be paid by

HFG BB. Additional tryouts are recommended and will be funded by the individual travel teams. Evaluations shall be an open process and shall consist of several evaluators with baseball knowledge and no ties to the specific travel team. All travel managers shall use the [HFG BB Travel Eval Form](#). Final team selection is the responsibility of the travel manager with consultation of the evaluators. All players participating in the tryouts shall be informed of the decision no later than two days after the last evaluation.

Commitment and Scheduling

Travel teams practice several times per week prior to the start of the season. Once the season begins, practice is normally held Friday nights with two weekend games. Games may be a double header on Saturday or Sunday or individual games both Saturday and Sunday. The season runs late March through early July. The 12U team's season may run into mid- August. Most travel teams consist of 12 players, so commitment and attendance are critical to each team's success.

Game and Tournament Scheduling

Generally, travel coaches should avoid scheduling weeknight (Mon- Thu) travel games during the season to avoid conflicts with in-house. In addition, **no weeknight travel games should be scheduled during the 9-10 and 11-12 Postseason Tournaments – which run the first two –three weeks in June. Also Weekend tournaments should be avoided during that time to avoid conflict with 9-10 playoffs Saturday mornings in June.**

Playing Time

Travel baseball is competitive. While committed to winning, the coaches will field the players at the positions that put the team in the best position to win at that time. While winning is important, having fun, showing good sportsmanship and being a team player are consistently reinforced.

Costs/Expenses

Travel teams are self-funded. Each player must have a travel uniform, which consists of pants, belt, socks, jersey, vest and hat. The uniform cost is approximately \$125. No alterations to the HFG BB Travel uniform will be permitted without approval of the HFG Board of Directors. The travel team is also responsible for umpire fees and tournament fess where applicable. Once the team

is selected, the team will need to collect additional monies for these. The typical cost per player is an additional \$150-300. All fundraising to offset travel costs must be approved by the HFG BB Board of Directors.

Tournaments

Each travel team manager shall have the responsibility to determine the number of tournaments their team participates. Each year the 12U team is required to participate in a Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament and the Cal Ripken World Series Qualifier Tournament. Fundraising for this tournament shall be the responsibility of the 12U team with approval of the HFG BB Board of Directors.

Equipment

Each team is provided with two dozen baseballs and standard equipment with bag. Additional equipment is the responsibility of the team. If applicable, any non-personal equipment (bats, catcher's gear, helmets etc.) awarded to a player during the Cal Ripken World Series shall be the property of HFG BB.

Travel Players and In house Baseball

Without a strong rec in-house program there would not be a travel program. There are several key reasons HFG Baseball and Ripken Baseball require Travel players 12U and under to play in house rec baseball.

1. Travel players strengthen the in-house teams, increase competition and improve our in house players.
2. In house baseball allows travel players to play and practice twice as much baseball.
3. In house baseball allows travel players to shine on a team and become an active role model for kids on their teams.
4. In house baseball allows travel players to play with school and neighborhood friends.
5. In house baseball allows travel players to play with different coaches and experience different methods to learning baseball.
6. In house baseball allows travel players to compete against fellow travel teammates on other teams.
7. In house baseball allows travel players an opportunity to relax and enjoy baseball outside the intense competition of travel baseball.
8. In house baseball allows travel players to play other positions, including pitcher, which they may not normally play in travel.

9. In house baseball allows travel players to compete for additional championships and trophies.

Currently the 10U travel team is permitted (manager's discretion) to play as a team in 11-12 in house, but are not eligible for the post season tournament. All other travel players 12U and younger are distributed throughout the appropriate in house age groups.