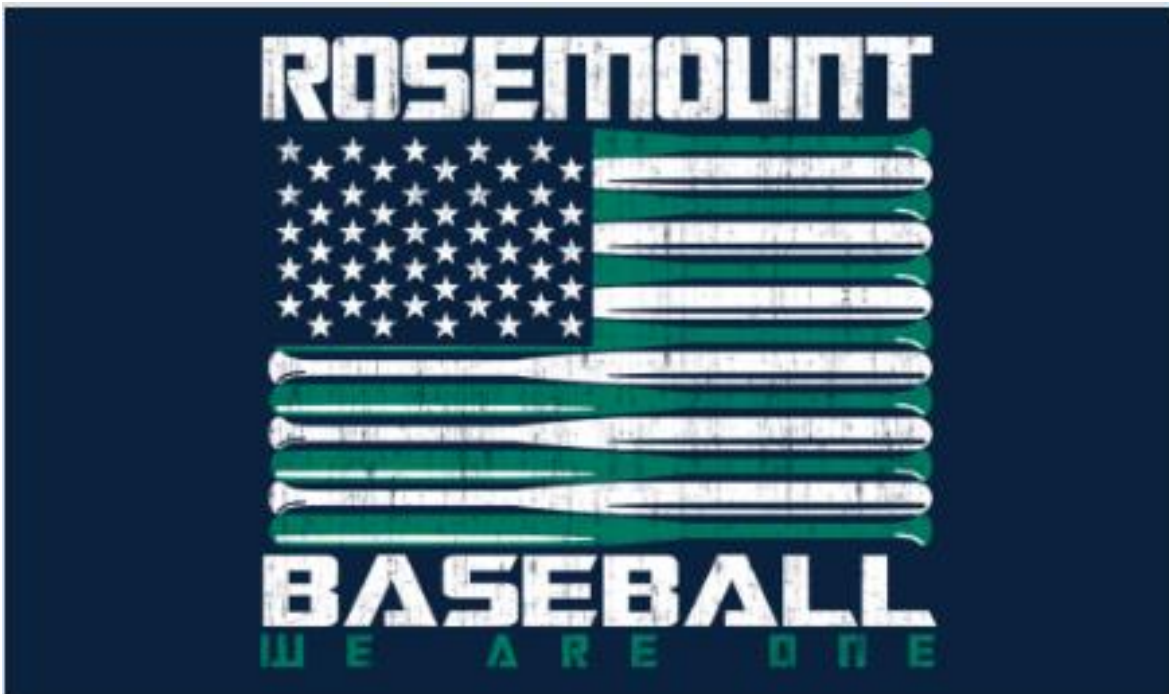


# Rosemount Traveling Baseball Handbook



Revised January 2019

<http://www.rosemountbaseball.com/traveling>

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The goal of the Rosemount Traveling Baseball program is to develop players with quality baseball and interpersonal skills, capable of participating at the high school level. We strive to produce players of sound character and principles. We want our players to be proud representatives of our Rosemount community. We will insist on good sportsmanship and proper behavior both on and off the field. We will grow athletes with baseball skills and knowledge, grounded in the spirit of teamwork. Our desire is for everyone to have fun and enjoy the season -- from the players to the coaches to the parents and the fans. We want our opponents, their fans, and the umpires to enjoy the experience of participating in Rosemount baseball. It is our ultimate goal to produce a program that will be recognized as a standard of excellence by other communities. We want you to be a part of the experience.

This handbook will assist you in gaining a better understanding of our program and hopefully answer any questions you may have. Please take the time to read it in its entirety. Be sure to also review the Traveling Baseball Try-Out Summary which can also be found on the Traveling Baseball Website.

Thank you for being part of RAAA Traveling Baseball.

Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board

## **MISSION & PHILOSOPHY**

Our mission is to assist athletes in developing advanced baseball skills and provide the opportunity to compete with other players of similar abilities.

Our objectives are to provide an organized program for the youth of the community that will:

- promote physical fitness, stamina, and agility;
- develop self-confidence;
- develop respect for others, teamwork, pride in team and community;
- teach the fundamentals of baseball;
- incorporate the spirit of good sportsmanship in victory or defeat;
- allow every player to have an opportunity to participate and develop;
- play in a safe and healthy environment;
- build character and set priorities in our lives;
- Allow everyone to have fun and enjoy life.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Commitment**

Traveling baseball requires a significant time commitment from both players and parents, from April through July, and possibly into early August. Every player's presence is important and he/she is expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Commitment from our parents to have their child at all games and practices on time and with the necessary uniform and equipment is critical for the efficient operation of the team and sanity of the coaching staff.

### **Tryout Fees**

This fee is used to cover facilities, hire outside evaluators, provide the necessary equipment and supplies, and for any other miscellaneous costs specifically relating to the tryout and evaluations process. This fee is separate from the actual participation fees relating to the regular season. If a player who is not placed on a team decides to play In-House Baseball, the tryout fee will be used to partially offset the In-House Baseball registration fee. Otherwise, this fee is not refundable.

### **Registration Fees and Expenses**

In addition to the tryout fee, those players who are selected for a traveling team will pay registration fees to cover the team's expenses for participation in league games, umpires, equipment, uniforms, field usage, field maintenance and improvement, association administration and support.

The costs for entering tournaments will be equally distributed among all players. Additional money may be required as determined by the coaches and parents of each individual team to support costs such as indoor practice space rental, electronic scorekeeping/communications or other miscellaneous team expenses.

Any additional tournaments, including State Tournaments, are decided on a team-by-team basis and will be collected and paid by team coaches or managers accordingly.

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. Any refund requests of this nature will be taken under consideration by the Board and, if approved, prorated based on costs incurred up to that point in time.

### **Volunteering**

Our hosted tournaments are the primary means of funding our association. For our association to be successful and to keep registration fees reasonable we require that all families support the association by working two volunteer shifts per registered player. A \$400 deposit check per player will be collected at the beginning of the season. This check will be cashed if the volunteer requirements are not met by seasons end. The deposit checks are destroyed when the volunteer commitment is met.

A communication will be sent via email when volunteer shifts are available for selection. Scheduling will be completed in DIBS via the Rosemount Baseball website. Once a shift has been claimed it may be unclaimed up to one week prior to the event. Unclaiming a shift less than one week prior to the event may result in the volunteer deposit being forfeited if that shift remains unclaimed. Please contact a volunteer coordinator from the Traveling Baseball Board if short notice must be given.

It is preferred that the volunteer requirements are fulfilled by an adult. At a minimum the person fulfilling the volunteer requirement must be 15 years old or older. Volunteer credit is not given if the shift is rained out.

While great effort is taken to set the volunteer schedule in advance there are several things that can affect the final schedule, including weather, number of volunteers, city events, etc. We appreciate your flexibility if start and end times vary slightly from the original schedule or if asked to fill a different role or at a different site than originally signed up for. We ask that you stay for the entirety of your shift unless dismissed by the volunteer coordinator or a tournament official.

Head coaches are exempted from the volunteer requirements, but assistant coaches and team managers are still required to fulfill the volunteer requirements.

### **Tryout Preparations**

It is the responsibility of each player to come prepared to the tryout process. Tryouts will focus on hitting mechanics, hitting results, infield and outfield mechanics and results. Arm Strength will also be evaluated on both infield and outfield drills. Please see the document listed on the Rosemount Baseball website entitled "Traveling Baseball Tryouts and Team Selection Summary" for more details on the tryout process.

### **Parent and Team Meetings**

A mandatory parents meeting will be held in March to present details on the upcoming traveling season, and also highlight information and updates included within the Traveling Baseball Handbook.

Team meetings will be set up immediately after team selections. This will provide you as parents an opportunity to meet your coaches and ask questions. The volunteer deposit check is also collected at this time. All parents **must** attend this meeting. These meetings are listed on the Rosemount Baseball website.

### **Tryout Dates**

Tryout dates are typically scheduled in mid/late March or early April each year (depending on Spring Break timing). Tryout dates and times are listed on the Rosemount Baseball website at <https://www.rosemountbaseball.com/traveling-tryouts>

### **Player Eligibility**

A player is eligible to participate in Rosemount Traveling Baseball team tryouts subject to the following criteria:

- Must be a registered member of RAAA
- Players may not be registered for more than one Community Traveling Baseball Program. This includes summer club teams participating at the same time as Rosemount Traveling Baseball. If a

player is determined to be registered for tryouts in another community and registered for tryouts with Rosemount Traveling Baseball the player will NOT be allowed to tryout in Rosemount until situation is rectified. Once a player begins an evaluation process in another community they may not attend the tryout process within the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Program.

- Players must currently be attending a Rosemount School and/or be living in a parents (official legal guardian) resident that's primary address aligns them with Rosemount High School. Example: A player may be living in a residence that aligns him with Rosemount High School but has chosen to attend a private school. This player is still eligible to play summer traveling baseball in Rosemount.
- Players who live outside of the Rosemount High School attendance area but open enrolls to a Rosemount School and wants to play summer baseball in the community of their primary home address can do so but can only play under one association. Rosemount Traveling Baseball does not allow and or support players playing in multiple associations.
- If a selected players HOME (primary) residence does not reside in the Rosemount High School attendance area, a waiver must be obtained from the athletic association that serves his/her high school attendance area. For AVHS, the association is VAA; for EHS, EAA; and for EVHS, EVAA. Without this waiver, the player will not be eligible to play in Rosemount Baseball and/or AAU sanctioned tournaments.
- Addresses of grandparents, relatives, and friends will not be considered as a primary address unless those persons are legally documented as the legal guardian for the player. Proof of legal documentation will be required to support primary address.
- If a fraudulent birthdate, grade, and/or primary address are uncovered; the player will be banned from the program until corrections are made to make the player legal under the approved guidelines. This will be enforced by the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board and supported by the RAAA board. All fees will be forfeited if player is determined to be not eligible.
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any arranges from previous RAAA programs.
- Must meet age guidelines specified by the Metro Baseball League ([www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz))

### **Community Alignment Waivers**

- Per Metro Baseball League rules, all waivers involving Rosemount Traveling Baseball MUST be approved by 3 Boards.
  1. Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board
  2. The other Community Program Involved
  3. Metro Baseball Board
- Parents must fill out the waiver request form and submit to Traveling Baseball Program Director. Waiver forms may be found on the Metro Baseball League website. ([www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz))
- All waivers must be approved with a majority vote by the Rosemount Traveling Board to be eligible for participation.
- All players asking for a waiver out of the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Program must be approved with a majority vote by the Rosemount Traveling Board.

### **Birth Date Cutoff**

Rosemount Traveling baseball requires that all participants play with their current school GRADE. Players CURRENTLY must be in the 3rd grade thru 9th grade. Players will then play at the corresponding AGE level.

- 3rd graders play at the 9 year old level
- 4th graders play at the 10 year old level
- 5th graders play at the 11 year old level
- 6th graders play at the 12 year old level
- 7th graders play at the 13 year old level
- 8th graders play at the 14 year old level
- 9th graders play at the 15 year old level

### **Tryouts Participation**

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions unless a medically excused absence is granted prior to tryouts. All absence requests must be presented to the Program Director prior to tryouts. Vacations or other personal activities are not an excused absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each tryout session. Players absent without being excused may be disqualified. Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but are not guaranteed an excused absence. The board will do everything possible to accommodate school functions, but the player is still ultimately responsible for attending the tryout session. A player who does not have an excused absent will NOT be considered for the AAA team. Any player with an unexcused absence will miss the opportunity to move up in

level of play. An unexcused player may potentially be placed at the single A level if there are no cuts and there is an opening. Players that attend the tryouts will have priority over an unexcused absence.

Participation in a state or national competition for a community or school-based organization is considered an excused absence if the Traveling Baseball Director is notified in advance and if reasonable efforts to attend try-outs are not possible.

### **Injury or Illness Absence**

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury or illness may be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session, ***upon delivery of a doctor's note describing the player's limitations*** to the Traveling Baseball Director. A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically unable to participate in the tryout process due to the nature of the injury or illness. A player who misses more than 50% of the scheduled tryout sessions due to illness or injury, and provides a doctor's excuse, will be reviewed and evaluated by an existing panel of Board Members. The Board will review these unique situations, and a decision may be rendered based on a variety of factors and input relating to previous experience or precedence, past or present coach input, or many other potential factors relating to past participation in our program. These situations should be avoided whenever possible, and ultimately will be assessed as the board.

Players with an excused injury or illness who can't participate in any of the two try-out sessions will be placed in the pick zone at the level he played the previous season. The head coach will have the option to use one of his 4 picks for this player. The player will not have the option to move up but could potentially be moved down if the head coach does not pick the injured/sick player.

If a player is able to participate in one of the two sessions and is either injured during tryouts, or becomes sick, the scores from the one session he attended will be doubled.

Any player unable to tryout who has not previously participated in the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Program will be placed at the Single "A" level only if there is an opening available.

### **Tryout Player Evaluations**

Every player's baseball skills will be evaluated by a team of impartial evaluators provided by the Traveling Baseball Board. The evaluators will be people who are known to possess 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 traveling team. A board member for each age level will organize and facilitate the tryout sessions, but will not participate in the actual player evaluation scoring process.

### **Playing Up or Down**

Rosemount Traveling Baseball does NOT allow a player to "play up" (i.e. play on a team greater than his/her grade level, except when **required** by MBL rules.) It is our philosophy that it is best for the players to play with their grade.

The only potential exception is with the 14 and 15 year olds. Some 14 year olds may be required to play at the 14/15 A level, and some 14 year olds may be asked to play at the 15 year old AA level. This will vary from year to year depending on the number of players. Some 15 year olds may also be asked to join a team from a neighboring community. This will only be done on years where we are short on players to field another full team.

A player cannot "play down" (i.e. play on a team lower than his/her age level) for any reason, per AAU and MSF rules.

Players in their respective age groups must not reach the next age level before May 1 of the current season. The team (age level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player's grade, except when required by MBL age rules for the cutoff date. A copy of the child's birth certificate must be supplied to the head coach at the first parent/coach meeting.

### **Players Transferred to In-House Baseball**

Those players not making one of the traveling teams are eligible for the RAAA In-House

Baseball program but must complete the registration process with that program. The Traveling Baseball Board will communicate with the RAAA In-House program to be sure enough spots are available for these players. If a player who is not placed on a team decides to play In-House Baseball, the try-out fee will be used to partially offset the In-House Baseball registration fee.

### **Games and Practices**

Weather permitting practices will begin shortly after teams are formed. League play begins in May and continues into July, with approximately 12-16 weekday league games, plus 3-4 regular season tournaments played on weekends. Post season tournament play (state and national events) is by invitation and depends upon success in qualifying tournaments throughout the season.

### **Uniforms**

Traveling Baseball requires players to order uniforms. Players should attend a uniform fitting to determine if a new one is needed for the season. Uniform fitting and uniform distribution dates will be communicated by email and also posted on the Traveling Baseball website. Sample uniforms will be available at the fittings. Uniforms consist of two different jerseys, a hat, baseball pants, socks and a hat. Non-standard team jerseys are not permitted under RAAA policies.

### **Equipment**

The Traveling Baseball program supplies:

- new, league approved game baseballs
- practice balls and nets
- catcher's gear (including helmet, mask, chest protector, glove & shin guards)
- first aid kits & scorebooks

Any damage caused by negligence or intentional abuse will be reimbursed by the player and/or parents. Failure to do so will result in denial from any further sport participation in any RAAA program by the player or any other member of his/her family.

Each player must provide his/her own **glove, proper shoes, bat, batting helmet, and personal protective equipment**. Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes.

Most leagues require the wearing of athletic supporters with a hard protective cup. The use is required by the Traveling Baseball Board. Players must wear cleated baseball shoes with hard rubber or metal cleats according to the age rules of the Metro Baseball League. (see "League Specific Information").

### **Bats**

Bats are an item of equipment, which like gloves, need to be fitted to the individual player and also comply with league-sanctioned rules. Parents should consult coaches and/or specific league rules (see "League Specific Information") before purchasing bats. Visit the MBL website ([www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz)) for information on bat standards for each age group.

The traveling baseball program does not provide batting helmets or bats as part of the team's equipment bag. It is very difficult to anticipate the combination of bat lengths and weights that any given team would require, and therefore a large and very expensive inventory would need to be maintained, thus resulting in additional costs to the program.

### **Umpires**

All umpires are provided to us by certified umpiring associations. While our expectations regarding 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 gauged by the message the umpires carry out into the baseball community statewide.

### **Coach Evaluation**

Parents and players are asked to complete an evaluation at the end of each season on their experience with the traveling 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 Traveling Baseball Program Director and select members of the Board. Please take advantage of this opportunity. The evaluation will be sent at the end of the season.

### **Suggestions**

The Traveling Baseball Board, and all of our volunteers, value your opinions. If you have suggestions for improving the program, the best way to communicate them is to include them on the evaluation forms you are asked to complete at the end of the season. Please include as much detail as necessary for us to understand what you would like to see discussed or possibly implemented.

If evaluations are not timely, you may submit suggestions to any Traveling Baseball Board member, but please put them in writing so they receive the attention they deserve. The Traveling Baseball Program Director can be Contacted at [traveling-baseball@rosemount-aaa.org](mailto:traveling-baseball@rosemount-aaa.org).

Suggestions specific to your child's team are also appreciated, but should be held in private with the coach and at least 24 hours after a practice or game/tournament.

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

### **Attendance**

Every player's presence is important and expected for the entire season. 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 and religious 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. *(Out of season sporting activities is not an excused absence.) Unexcused absences may result in a 1 game suspension. This will ultimately be the decision of the head coach and the entire team should understand the head coach's expectations PRIOR to the start of the season.*

### **Suspensions**

The Traveling Baseball Board reserves the right to suspend any coach, parent, or player who violates the RAAA Code of Conduct/Ethics provided by the RAAA Board of Directors and or any rules/conduct/ethics described by the RAAA Traveling Baseball Board. Suspensions will be documented and distributed to the RAAA Board of Directors.

A coach or umpire may suspend any player, parent, or assistant coach who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, as described in the "Behavior" section. Subsequent violations may result in the player, parent, or assistant coach being removed from the program. All violations must be reported to the Traveling Baseball Board.

### **Player Removal**

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot remove 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, this resulting in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential.
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the teams).
- Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior.

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Age Group Coordinator and the player's parents in attempt to correct the situation. The discussion should include an objective description of the behavior and of the intended discipline. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must then notify the appropriate Age Group Coordinator and the Program Director who must approve any further action. The Program Director must, in turn, notify the RAAA Board of Directors of the action taken within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the Traveling Baseball Board.

## **Playing Time**

Minimum playing time for 9-14 year olds will be 4 defensive innings per game on average during the season.

No player shall sit more than two consecutive innings in any game unless for disciplinary reasons. The starting lineup will provide an opportunity for every player to have a place in the batting order.

Minimum playing time for 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.

\*\* State and qualifying tournaments for 14 year olds may use a 9 man batting order so an equal number of at bats for each player during tournament play is highly unlikely. During any such tournaments, playing time rules for the 15 year olds will apply.

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.

## **Coach Selection**

Anyone who desires to be a head coach must check the box at the time of on-line player registration or contact the Traveling Baseball Board or Program Director before the selection process is completed. Interviews and selection of Provisional Head Coaches will typically be held in the first quarter of the year. Provisional head coaches chosen by the selection committee will be allowed to attend the tryout process in order to evaluate the players for the coach's player selections.

Selection as a Provisional Coach in no way guarantees that the coach's child will be selected for a given team. All candidates are informed during their interview that their status as coach (if selected) will be provisional upon their child qualifying for that team via the tryout/evaluation process. If the player qualifies for a different team, or no team, the Provisional Coach will be excused, and a new coach will be selected from the parent/coach applicants of the players who were chosen for the team.

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 traveling baseball and RAAA policies/procedures, and the applicant's commitment to devote several hundred hours to the program during the season. They end in September with equipment check-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

All coaches interviewing for a head coaching position must provide (3) references and phone numbers from their most recent baseball coaching experience. While it is important that a traveling team coach have expertise in the sport, it is just as important for the coach to have the welfare of individual players and the players' character and confidence development foremost in mind.

## **Non-Parent Coaches Stipend**

In order to try and improve baseball skills and better prepare participants for higher level baseball, the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board seeks to select non-parent coaches for the 14 and 15 year old AA and AAA teams. A significant level of effort is put forth to solicit highly qualified candidates. The baseball board will annually determine a stipend amount necessary to attract and retain qualified coaches. The stipend amount is augmented by an additional \$100 registration fee per player on teams coached by a non-parent.

If a non-parent coach is not found two weeks before tryouts, then the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board will seek out parents as provisional head coaches. Parents are not included in the coach stipend or any other financial benefit (e.g. – reduced Traveling Baseball fees) even when the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board seeks out parents.

## **Coach Removal**

Removal of a team coach is a very serious situation and must 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, another coach, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials.

In order to remove a coach, a written complaint must be submitted to the Program Director. If there is sufficient justification, a hearing before the Traveling Baseball Board will be held. The vote of a simple majority will be sufficient to dismiss the coach. Written documentation must be given to the RAAA Board of Directors.

## **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. Umpires may use their discretion whether to issue a warning or to immediately eject the violator (coach, player, or spectator) from the game. The umpires and/or coaches are responsible for reporting all incidents to the Traveling Baseball Board. Subsequent 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 RAAA Traveling Baseball 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. It is mandatory that each batter, on deck player, runner, player in a coach's box, or non-adult bat/ball assistant on the field wear a batting helmet that meets NOCSAE standards.

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 head coach will determine if there will be a practice.

At games, the home team's head 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 or notification from your team's coach, 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**

RAAA Traveling Baseball mandates that all players/coaches participating in an RAAA youth activity should 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 an RAAA 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 Traveling Baseball 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 Program Director.

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

- b. Second Violation: The player/coach shall lose eligibility in traveling baseball for that sport season. No exception is permitted.
- c. Accumulative Penalties: Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and continuing throughout the player's/coach's participation in any and all RAAA activities.

### **Tobacco Policy**

RAAA Traveling Baseball does not condone the use of tobacco by players under the legal tobacco age. It shall be a violation of this policy for a player participating in traveling baseball to use tobacco. This includes the use of e-cigarettes.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the player will be informed of his/her ineligibility. Ineligibility's will be the same as for the drug and alcohol policy.

RAAA Traveling Baseball recommends that coaches and parents refrain from the use of tobacco in any form during a youth sport activity. If a coach or parent must use tobacco during a baseball activity, they must remove themselves at least 100 feet from the playing area, which includes the bench area. This includes the use of any chewing tobacco and e-cigarettes during any practice, game and/or tournaments.

### **Equipment Abuse**

Under no circumstances will the abuse of equipment be tolerated. Umpires and coaches are instructed that each instance of equipment abuse will result in that player sitting on the bench for the remainder of the game. At the umpire's or coach's discretion, one warning may be given. If any of the equipment is abused and results in any damage; the player and parents will be held responsible for reimbursement. Players may be suspended from participation in future RAAA 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 social, psychological, and physical development of all players in his/her care. He/she is accountable to the players, the parents, the Traveling Baseball Board, and the RAAA Board of Directors.

### **Coaches' Responsibilities**

- Obey and enforce all RAAA rules.
- Complete a background check.
- Have a valid concussion certificate.
- Complete RAAA training requirements for the Positive Coaching Alliance.
- 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 and the Parents' Meeting.
- Attend all Metro Baseball League meetings and functions.
- Assure that all players receive playing time that is mandated by the Traveling Baseball 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 to help each player improve.
- 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 appropriate Age Group Coordinator.
- 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 if not participating in Traveling Baseball negotiated picture day.
- 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 as necessary.
- Return equipment at the end of the season.
- Provide suggestions to the Traveling Baseball Board for improving the program in future years.

- Provide player evaluations to the Traveling Baseball Board for improving the team selection process in the future year.
- Arrange to have an alternate attend any required functions (e.g., coaches' meetings, etc.) that they are unable to attend.
- Adhere to the RAAA drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies.

### **Coaches' Rights**

- To be treated with respect by players, parents, volunteers, umpires, league officials, the Traveling Baseball Board, and the RAAA Board of Directors.
- 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 Traveling 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**

- 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. 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 and 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 RAAA.
- 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 at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.
- Volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible.
- Volunteer your time and talents to make our hosted tournaments a success.
- Cheer, cheer, cheer.

### **Parents' Rights**

- 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.

### **RAAA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

As a parent/guardian of a child involved in a Rosemount Area Athletic Association (RAAA) 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 RAAA 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.

#### **Additional parent conduct policies set forth by the Traveling Baseball Board**

Parent bullying, verbal or physical abuse and any other misconduct to any player, coach, other parent, and other team, umpire, or Traveling Baseball Board member will NOT be tolerated. The board will be aggressive in its disciplinary actions. Parents failing to abide by the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. This action could include, but is not limited to the following actions listed below.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

Parents will NOT be allowed to contact ANY Board Member for **24 hours** after posting of tryout results. Any communication thereafter must first be done in writing by filing a written complaint to Traveling Baseball Program Director. The complaint will be addressed by a committee of 3 board members of a different age level. **Anyone NOT following this 24 hour rule will receive a verbal AND written warning immediately.**

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(s)
- Parental Season Suspension
- Parental Banishment

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

I/we agree to support and promote the philosophy of RAAA sports:

- Teamwork - Effort - Skill Development - Character - Sportsmanship - Safe
- Environment - Humble and Thankful in Victory; Gracious and Complimentary in Defeat.

### **PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS**

Players on a traveling 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**

- 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 RAAA 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**

- 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 traveling baseball team, 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 appropriate Age Group Coordinator, but should do so only after exhausting all efforts with the coach and his/her assistants. When approaching the Age Group Coordinator, the player/parent should follow the same guidelines as those stated above.

When a player/parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or 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 emotions under control, discussions polite and to the point, and also private and out of the earshot of other players & 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 Age Group Coordinator. At this time, the Coordinator will act as a mediator between the player/parent and 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 Traveling Baseball Program Director. Again, all parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution. The Program Director shall communicate in writing with the RAAA Board any necessary mediation and outcome of that mediation.

If mediation still is unable to resolve the issues and all of the above steps have been followed, the Program Director shall inform both parties in writing within 5 days that the complaint has been referred to the RAAA Board of Directors. The decisions of the RAAA Board of Directors will be final. If the Program Director is the subject of the grievance, a written complaint should be submitted directly to the RAAA Board of Directors.

## **AGE SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

### **9-11 Year Olds**

- "AAA" and, "AA" (9-11 year olds), and "A" (10 & 11 year olds) teams will be formed for each age level where possible, and will play in the Metro Baseball League and in weekend tournaments. If registration numbers justify it and resources allow, additional teams may be added wherever possible.
- Bases will be 60 feet apart for 9 & 10 year olds and 65 feet apart for 11 year olds.
- The pitcher's mound is 46 feet from home plate.
- Players will pitch to the opposing team, and there will be no adults on the field except for the umpires and coaches in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base coaches' boxes.

### **12-13 Year Olds**

- “AAA”, “AA”, and “A” teams will be formed for each age level where possible, and will play in the Metro Baseball League and in weekend tournaments.
- Bases will be 75-82 feet apart for 12 & 13 year olds.
- The pitcher's mound is 52 – 54 feet from home plate for 12 & 13 year olds.
- 12 & 13 year olds are allowed to lead off and pitchers will pitch from the stretch.
- 13 year olds are first year where metal cleats are allowed.

### **14-15 Year Olds**

- “AAA”, “AA” and 14/15 “A” teams will be formed for each age level where possible and will play in the Metro Baseball League and in weekend tournaments.
- Bases will be 90 feet apart (full size).
- The pitcher's mound is 60½ feet (full size) from home plate.
- Metal cleats are allowed

Please see the MBL website ([www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz)) for a complete set of age specific rules and equipment requirements.

## **STATE TOURNAMENTS**

State tournament expenses are not included in the initial season registration fees. State Tournament registration fees are the direct responsibility of the team. Be aware that the following events may charge for parking and/or admission. They are not RAAA events. They are fundraisers for the sanctioning organizations; we have no control over them.

### **Metro Baseball Tournaments (MBT) [www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz)**

- “AAA”, “AA” and “A” levels
- Requires qualification from a MBT qualifier tournament
- Weekend tournament in July\*

### **Gopher State Tournament of Champions (GSTC) [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org)**

- “AAA”, “AA” and “A” levels
- Requires qualification from a GSTC qualifier tournament
- Weekend tournament in July\*

### **Minnesota Sports Federation (MSF) [www.msf1.org](http://www.msf1.org)**

- “AAA” and “AA” levels
- Requires qualification from a MSF qualifier tournament
- Weekend tournament in July\*

\*Dates are published annually, so check with your coach for any dates or sites for your State Tournament

National Tournament participation is invitational, based on results of AAU (only) State Tournaments. There is no further advancement based on MSF/MBT State Tournament participation.

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Traveling Baseball Board**

The Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board is made up of parent volunteers interested in supporting the operations of our baseball program. The board meets monthly during the off-season to prepare for the upcoming season. Special committee meetings may occur as needed. Parents interested in joining the board should contact the Traveling Baseball Director at [traveling-baseball@rosemount-aaa.org](mailto:traveling-baseball@rosemount-aaa.org). All levels of baseball experience are welcome!



### **Fall Baseball**

There is no formal Rosemount Traveling Baseball program for fall baseball, although fall field scheduling is coordinated by a board member. Fall baseball teams can be organized by any parent interested in coaching a team. The coach will utilize their network to find players to fill a team. There are no tryouts for fall baseball. If a full team of players cannot be found the group can register with the players they have and the league will attempt to match up individual registrations to help fill out the roster. Players can also register with the fall ball league individually and will be placed on a team of players from various communities.

Fall baseball a great opportunity to get game experience with next year's rules and field sizes. Players will register for the age level they will play the following year. There are two metro area fall leagues, MBL ([www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz)) and Gopher State ([www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org)). MBL is the league Rosemount plays summer ball in and games tend to be closer to home. Gopher State offers different levels of play that can provide a more competitive experience. Both are run in similar formats. Registration is done through the league website and is generally due by mid-August. Games are generally scheduled as double headers on the five Sundays following Labor Day.

### **Traveling Prep League**

Rosemount Traveling Baseball organizes an annual 5-week preparation league for incoming 2nd and 3rd graders who might be considering trying out for Traveling Baseball the following year. The primary objective of prep league is to introduce and teach kids live pitching, hitting, game situations and get prepared for what 9/10 year old baseball will be like within the traveling program. Prep League generally occurs after the In-House Baseball season starting the week after the 4th of July holiday weekend. Please see the traveling baseball website for more details. <https://www.rosemountbaseball.com/traveling-prep-league>

### **Cooperstown Tournament**

The Cooperstown program is separate from Rosemount Traveling Baseball, but utilizes our selection process as the basis for the Cooperstown team formation. Players are generally selected for Cooperstown teams based on their 11 year old team assignment and participate in the Cooperstown tournament during their 12 year old season. This program involves considerable expense and time commitment and is not mandatory. Finances and fundraising are governed by RAAA, not by Traveling Baseball.

## **REFERENCES**

Rosemount Traveling Baseball website – <http://www.rosemountbaseball.com/traveling>  
Traveling Baseball Email Address: [traveling-baseball@rosemount-aaa.org](mailto:traveling-baseball@rosemount-aaa.org)  
Metro Baseball League – <http://www.mbl.bz>

## **ROSEMOUNT TRAVELING BASEBALL CALENDAR**

Event	Date	Time	Location/Comments
Coach Interviews	First Quarter	TBD	TBD
Mandatory Parent Meeting	Mid March	7:00-8:00pm	RCC Auditorium
Tryouts	Late March / Early April	Check Website	Irish Sports Dome
Ages 9 and 10 Single A player coaches evaluations (if necessary)	After Tryouts	TBD	Irish Sports Dome
Uniform Fitting	Feb/March	TBD	RCC

Metro League Scheduling	April	TBD	Check MBL website for times and location. <a href="http://www.mbt.bz">http://www.mbt.bz</a>
MBL Mandatory Coaches Meeting	April	Must attend one!	Check MBL website for times and location. <a href="http://www.mbt.bz">http://www.mbt.bz</a>
League Games Begin U10-14	Late April		Metro Baseball League
League Games Begin U15	Early / Mid May		Metro Baseball League
Rosemount Hosted Tournament	Early May	Check Website	Erickson
Rosemount Hosted Tournament	Early June	Check Website	Shannon Park, Erickson
MBT 10 A State Tournament	Early / Mid July	10A State	Shannon Park, Erickson
Equipment Return	Aug / Sept	TBD	TBD