



Welcome Back to the Diamond!

Baseball season is on the way. We wish success to the players that have moved to the high school level and thrilled to see a returning group of talented kids. We welcome all new players whether they are joining us from the house league or are young players about to participate in this great game for the first time.

RYBA is a community based non-profit organization. We strive to partner with the high schools and all HS coaches are honorary members of our board. They are invited to attend all meetings and be involved as much as they are able.

NEW IN 2018

High School Readiness Program - Mayo High school reached out to us this year with an idea for a school based team at the 14U age group. All high school coaches were also offered this opportunity. Mayo High School will pilot the program for 2018. Head Coach Tom Senne, will oversee this group. Its important to note that youth teams must be sponsored by a local association to be eligible to play in the state of Minnesota. We are proud to be their sponsor.

9U Training Camp - Also , we are piloting a new tryout process for the 9U level. These players will be invited to a 6 day tryout AND instructional camp over two weeks in April. We think this camp will allow us more time to get these young players used to the process as well as provide needed instruction. At the end of the 6 days, the players will be placed on their respective teams.

RYBA remains committed to listening to players and parents. We are continuing the changes that received high marks in our surveys and are making adjustments for the 2018 season as a direct result of your feedback.

On behalf of our entire travel committee, we want to express our excitement for the 2018 season. Let's play ball!

Corey Dahl
Co-Director

Matt Murphy
Co-Director

Tony Horvath
Travel Administrator

Travel Program Overview

The purpose of the Rochester Youth Baseball Association (RYBA) travel program is to provide players with the most game and practice time possible to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to play baseball at a high level. We want to give our players a chance to test themselves against the best players from across the state of Minnesota. The program is divided into three levels; AAA, AA and A. Kids are evaluated and placed on teams with players of similar skill level. The teams are then placed in tournaments and in leagues against like competition.



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Player Eligibility

The eligibility of players for Rochester Traveling Baseball is governed by the leagues that our teams participate in.

AGE

1. Players must be between the ages of 7-15 to participate in the RYBA travel program.
2. Players in their respective age groups must not reach the next age before May 1

Age/Grade exception

- a) Players are allowed to play up with their enrolled school grade. The decision to tryout by age or grade must be made prior to tryouts. Once a player goes through the tryout process, they are locked with that choice and must stay with that age group for that season.

RESIDENCY

1. Players must live within the ISD 535 school district tax boundary or be open enrolled in a Rochester public school.
2. Players that live outside of the Rochester district but attend a Rochester private or home school must obtain a waiver from their local association (if one is present) before registration per MBL rules.

Residency Exceptions

- a) Players that move into the city or school district anytime after the current year's league season has been begun, may petition to be placed on a Single A travel team providing there are open spots.
- b) Players that move out of the district during the school year may still be eligible to participate in the travel program provided the following criteria has been met and a waiver is granted by the league.
 - i. The player must have attended at least half of the calendar year within the Rochester school district.
 - ii. The community that the player is moving to, DOES NOT have a travel team participating at the AAA or AA level

Fees

Travel Baseball fees are charged in addition to the RYBA base fee. There are several additional costs for running the travel program that are charged back to only those participating in the travel program.

Travel Fees cover the following:

- All regular season tournament entry fees
- All regular season league fees
- All league post-season tournament fees
- One state tournament entry fee
- 2 uniform shirts (home white and away color)
- 1 Cap with embroidered name

Mandatory Fees

FEE TYPE	Payment Due	9U	10U	11U	12U	13U	14U
RYBA Base Fee	During registration	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140	\$140
RYBA Travel Fee	Due April 11	\$200	\$200	\$225	\$225	\$250	\$250
Total		\$340	\$340	\$365	\$365	\$390	\$390

Travel fees are not paid until AFTER tryouts and only if a player is assigned to a travel team.

Other Costs

Potential Additional Costs - Not Mandated by RYBA

In addition to the mandatory fees there are other costs that parents should expect with the travel program. While these fees are not required by RYBA, they occur almost every year. Examples of these costs are estimated as follows:

- 2nd State Tournament fee if team chooses to play \$ 35.00
- 2nd State Tournament gate fee \$ 12.50
- Non-fee apparel, ie; pants, socks, sweatshirt, etc. \$ 70.00
- *Team fund (need and amount determined by each team) \$ 50.00

* The team fund collected and managed at the discretion of the team and is often used to cover incidentals. RYBA does not get involved with administration of team funds.

Uniforms

Your fees covers some, but not all of the uniform and equipment needs. See the lists below for what is provided by RYBA and what other things your child will need to play baseball.

Uniform		Equipment	
Supplied	Not Supplied	Supplied	Not Supplied
Uniform shirts (2)	Pants	Balls	Fielder's glove
Hat (with number)	Socks	Catchers Gear	Bat
	Belt	Catchers Glove	Batting gloves
	Protective Cup	Hitting nets	Batting helmet
	Shoes / Cleats / Spikes	Hitting tees	
		Misc training gear	

Travel Tryout Process

The player tryout process, including stations, evaluation and scoring will be conducted by an independent, outside company. Great Lakes Baseball Academy from Woodbury, MN, is our chosen partner for the 2018 tryouts.

Evaluation will include the following.

- Fielding – technical form and success rate (grounders and fly balls)
- Throwing – accuracy and arm strength of throwing fundamentals (measured throughout all drills)
- Hitting – technical form and success with front toss and machine pitch (contact and power)
- Pitching – accuracy and form
- Attitudes – An important part of the assessment, especially for players close on decisions/selections (listen, follow directions, show appropriate respect to coaches and evaluators, etc.)

Each player is typically assigned a score of 1-10 for each evaluated skill (10 = highest, 1 = lowest). The RYBA traveling committee realizes that some players are nervous or anxious about tryouts, especially first time participants. We try to keep the kids at ease so that their baseball skills can be displayed.

Players should plan on attending all tryout sessions for their age group. If a player cannot attend a night due to a school function, illness, or injury, the traveling director needs to be informed. If a player misses a single night, scores will be adjusted such that the player is not penalized. If a player cannot tryout due to injury, the travel committee will determine how to best handle the situation.

Tryout Schedule

TRYOUT SESSION 1

Age	Date	Time	Location
10	Sunday, March 18	10:00 am – 11:30 am	RCTC Dome
11	Sunday, March 18	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	RCTC Dome
12	Sunday, March 18	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	RCTC Dome
13	Sunday, March 18	4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	RCTC Dome
14	Sunday, March 18	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	RCTC Dome

TRYOUT SESSION 2

Age	Date	Time	Location
10	Sunday, March 25	10:00 am – 11:30 am	RCTC Dome
11	Sunday, March 25	12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	RCTC Dome
12	Sunday, March 25	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	RCTC Dome
13	Sunday, March 25	4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	RCTC Dome
14	Sunday, March 25	6:30 pm – 8:00 pm	RCTC Dome

Tryouts area closed event. Only players and evaluators will be allowed in the tryout facility. Parents may wait outside or in the RCTC fieldhouse until their child's evaluation period has ended.

Please arrive at the dome no earlier than 30 minutes prior to your scheduled start time. There is limited space for waiting. For safety reasons, player will not be allowed to throw before the end of the previous session.

RESULTS: Final teams rosters will be posted on the RYBA website. Tuesday, March 27, approx 6:00pm,

Team Formation

Teams will consist of either 11 (minimum) or 12 players (maximum). This will be determined based on the number of players trying out at each age group. We want to place as many kids as possible in the travel program.

Examples

33 = 3 teams of 11

34 = 2 teams of 11 and one team of 12.

35 = 2 teams of 12 and one team of 11

36 = 3 teams of 12

If teams are full, then the players receiving the lowest evaluation scores will return to the house program. House tryouts will be held in April after spring break.

Regular Season Tournaments

Tournaments are an exciting way for teams to measure the growth of their skills. Travel baseball teams will play between 3 to 5 regular season tournaments each year and can also qualify for 1 to 3 state tournaments. The number of tournaments will vary by age and participation in leagues. Tournaments are held on weekends in May and June. No tournaments are held on the Memorial Day weekend. We do our best to minimize costs and attempt to schedule all road tournaments within 120 miles of Rochester when ever possible. Rochester also hosts home tournaments in June. It is our intention that all teams have a home tournament. Occasionally we have to cancel one if we don't get enough participation from other associations. While this is a rare occurrence, it may happen.

See the 2018 Schedule on our website <http://www.rybamn.com/travelinfo>

Leagues

The best way for players to improve is to play! Travel teams participate in organized leagues to increase the number of times they are on the field in competition. League games are almost always played Monday through Friday. Weekend league games are very rare.

Metro Baseball League - Rochester is a member of the Metro Baseball League at all levels for ages 11, 12, 13 & 14. This is the largest league in Minnesota and encompasses most of the Twin Cities metro area. There are 16 regular season league games that will be played against teams in our south metro division during May and June. Eight games are at home in Rochester and eight are on the road. RYBA does not set the league schedule. Schedules are set by the head coach. They attend a scheduling meeting in April and determine the dates and times in negotiations with the other head coaches in the league.

Zumbro Valley League - All 9U, & 10U,teams teams participate in the Zumbro Valley League. This league includes smaller communities that do not field teams at the AAA or AA level. This is a very competitive league as well. The games and scheduling process is similar to the MBL.

Practice

The RYBA travel program provides guidelines for practices, but we leave it up to the coach and parents to determine how much or how little time is spent in practices. Most teams practice 3-4 time per week prior to the start of the league season and then move to a 2-3 day schedule once league games and tournaments begin.

Each team is assigned a practice field. Most will share it with another travel team and the coaches need to work out their schedules to share time equally. These fields are dedicated to the travel teams and house teams should not be using them. Likewise, travel teams are to refrain from using the assigned house fields. If your field is unplayable due to weather you may not move to another field unless there is no team scheduled to use it that night. The assigned team should notify the travel director if this rule is violated.

There are four batting cages and one practice infield at the RBC complex that can be scheduled through the RYBA website by the head coach. Teams are allotted no more than 30 minutes for the cage, but they may schedule back to back sessions if there is available time.

State Tournaments

There are 3 associations that hold state tournaments in the month of July following the July 4th holiday: Minnesota Baseball Tournaments (MBT), Minnesota Youth Athletic Services, (MYAS-Gopher State), and Minnesota Sports Federation (MSF). Each tournament is held on a different weekend.

Teams can automatically qualify by winning or placing in a state qualifying tournament during May & June. They may also choose to submit for an “at-Large” bid to be awarded to non-qualifying teams that are chosen based on a set of criteria set by the host association.

RYBA base fee includes the cost for one state tournament and associated host gate fee. Any additional state tournaments that a team chooses to play in, must be paid by the parents. That would include the hosting site’s “gate fee” usually priced at \$150/team.

State tournament participation is not required, but it is encouraged and should be the goal of all travel teams. It’s a great experience for any player and the culmination of the season.

Coaches

Travel coaches will be selected and assigned to teams after the tryout evaluation process is completed. Candidates must go through several steps to become an RYBA travel coach. They must register through the website and go through a standard background check. They must take a state mandated concussion training course. Finally we ask them to attend an interview with a 5 person travel panel. We are looking for head coaches that have a solid background in baseball that can teach the game, but also people that have a good temperament when working with young kids.

Coaches may choose their own assistants, but all assistants must also go through the background check and concussion training prior to the start of league play. No coach will be allowed in the dugout if these requirements have not been completed.

RYBA is a volunteer organization. Our volunteer coaches put in many hours in practices, game preparation, tournament planning, and administrative tasks and we are thankful for their dedication to the kids.

Travel Committee

Travel Co-Director Corey Dahl	Treasurer Bruce Kall	Sr. Advisor Russ Weisner	Tournament Directors Tony Horvath Andrew Davick Director of Fields Mike Gozola Sr. House Director Dave Terpstra
Travel Co-Director Matt Murphy	Secretary Chris Powell	Sr. Advisor Paul Gronholz	
Travel Administrator Tony Horvath	Asst Secretary Brad Smoley	President Elect Mike Gozola Jr	

Feel free to contact any member of the travel committee at any time during the season.