

STMA Youth Baseball Association

Travel Baseball Handbook



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This handbook offers information about the STMA Youth Baseball Association (STMAYBA) Travel Baseball program.

Mission & Philosophy

The mission of STMAYBA is to promote a fun, fair, and safe environment that maximizes participation and improves player's skills while developing sportsmanship, teamwork and self-confidence.

STMAYBA seeks to provide a community and volunteer-driven program to promote the growth and development of our players. We strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Teach the fundamentals of baseball
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop respect for others, teamwork, pride in team and community
- Incorporate the spirit of good sportsmanship in victory or defeat
- Allow players an opportunity to participate and develop
- Play in a safe and healthy environment
- Build character and set priorities

STMAYBA will field travel teams that play in leagues with other communities and various weekend tournaments.

Commitment

Travel baseball requires dedicated time commitment from players, coaches, and parents from March through July, and possibly into early August. Every player's presence is important, and the player is expected to make every effort to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Unexcused and/or excessive absences may result in a reduction of playing time and may result in dismissal from the team.

Travel Baseball Program

STMAYBA travel baseball will field travel teams at the 9-year-old thru 15-year-old age levels. In general, there will be one AAA team at each age level, one or two AA teams, and one or two A level teams.

STMAYBA strives to have as many kids playing travel baseball as possible while ensuring they are competitive at the level they are assigned. Being competitive is important for player and team development, success on the field, and continued interest in the sport. The number of AA and A teams may change each year (increase or decrease) depending on the factors listed below.

1. Players registered – The depth of players at each grade level can have an effect on the number of players ready/available to play travel baseball.

2. Competitiveness – STMAYBA wants players appropriately placed against competition that is best suited for their skills as a baseball player. This does not mean that the team must win every game but rather that the players can consistently challenge the competition before them in any given game. With competitiveness being a somewhat subjective term, STMAYBA considers winning percentage (winning percentages above .350 can still be competitive), run differential, number of times losing by more than 10 runs, number of times the team played on Sundays in tournaments, number of times a team placed (1st-3rd) in a tournament, and if they qualified for state as measures of competitiveness.
3. Coach Feedback – Coach feedback (Head and Assistant Coach) is a tool used to get an understanding from those most familiar with the players' abilities on their team and at their grade level. At the end of each season, and in subsequent follow ups, if necessary, coaches are asked to discuss their season and the players. This feedback will be an important part of the age level team formations.
4. History – Records are maintained at each age level and will be utilized to gain a historical perspective of the grade levels overall success.
5. Field Availability We need to ensure we have enough fields to provide space for each team level.

The STMAYBA Board members will make the final determination on the number of teams and level of play.

Travel baseball teams will play in the Metro Baseball League (MBL) or Gopher State Baseball League (GSBL) – about 16 games - along with entering four weekend tournaments. Teams could also play in up to three state tournaments in July if they qualify.

Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in STMAYBA Travel Baseball team tryouts subject to the following criteria:

- In accordance with STMAYBA Board policy, players must reside within the boundaries of Independent School District 885 OR if outside the boundaries the player must be open- enrolled in a public or private school within the ISD 885 boundaries. A listing of those schools may be found at www.stma.k12.mn.us/our-schools (this is consistent with MBL boundary rules)
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any back fees from previous STMAYBA programs
- Must meet age guidelines specified by the national governing organizations.
- Proposed exceptions to this policy, describing extenuating circumstances for the exception, must be addressed to the STMAYBA and reviewed by the STMAYBA board.

Players must have a legal residence within the STMA School District (ISD 885) boundaries as of the upcoming school year OR if the player does not live within the boundaries the player must be open enrolled (registered) to a STMA public or Private School as of April 1 of the school year in which the baseball season will begin. Players who have made a travel team

but move out of the district boundaries before April 1 OR players who qualify to play via open enrollment but are no longer attending an STMA public or private school on April 1 of the school year the baseball season will begin, will be removed from the team.

Birthdate Cutoff

The birthdate cutoff is regulated by Metro Baseball League and Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS). The birth date range for eligibility at a particular age level is May 1 - April 30. The team (age level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player's age on that date.

A player can play up to play with his/her grade, but not because their parents believe he/she needs to be "at a more competitive level." You will need to indicate your desire to play up on the registration form. It should be noted that players who have not completed the third grade will not be eligible for the 9U Travel program (unless their birthdate precludes them from playing with their class).

A player cannot "play down" (i.e., play on a team younger than his/her age level) for any reason, per the governing organizations. A copy of the child's birth certificate should be supplied to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.

- 9-year-olds completing 3rd grade
- 10-year-olds completing 4th grade
- 11-year-olds completing 5th grade
- 12-year-olds completing 6th grade
- 13-year-olds completing 7th grade
- 14-year-olds completing 8th grade
- 15-year-olds completing 9th grade

A player who has the option of playing up with their grade can only be evaluated for the age level they have signed up for (cannot try out for the 10-year-old team if opt to evaluate with the 11-year-olds at their grade level).

Multi-Team Rostering

Players in the STMAYBA travel program are not allowed to be rostered and play for any other team or association from May 1 through the last game of the travel season (except for any player participating on a high school team). Any player found to be rostered on another team will be removed from the STMAYBA team. There may be exceptions with high school and spring baseball leagues. These will be handled on a case-by-case basis. MBL does not allow double rostering and MBL and MYAS may have their own specific rules that apply to this issue.

Twin Sibling Policy

Parents of twins (triplets, etc.) will need to decide between two options before the travel tryouts:

- Option A, treat each player independently. Players will be placed on the appropriate travel level for their skill, with this option the players could be placed on different teams.
- Option B, place twin siblings on the same team. Players will be placed on the same team at the appropriate level for the lowest ranked sibling.

Tryout Participation

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions unless the Travel Baseball Director grants an excused absence prior to the start of that session. A player who is absent without being excused may be disqualified. Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Injury, Illness or Absence Policy

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury, illness or excused absence will be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session. In the event of an injury or illness a doctor's note describing the player's limitations is required. A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically fit before he/she will be allowed to participate in any STMAYBA activity. Players who are injured or ill; or have an excused absence will have the opportunity to be placed on a travel team at no higher level than what they participated at the previous season. The decision to add players under this Policy will be a joint decision between the head coach and STMA Board Members.

AAA Team

If the player has been on the AAA team the previous season, the player may be added as one of the 12 rostered players.

AA Team

If the player has been on the AA team the previous season (or AA last year and AAA the previous), the player may be added as one of the 12 rostered players.

A Team

If the player has been on the A team the previous season (or AA or AAA the previous), the player may be added as one of the 12 rostered players.

Players aged 10-15 who played travel baseball in another community last season and are injured/absent during tryouts are not eligible for STMAYBA Travel Baseball. In this case, the Travel Director will approve a release to play in their previous Association or place this player on an In-House Team.

Players who are injured/absent and have not played on a travel team (in STMAYBA or in another community) in the past will be placed on an In-House Team.

Petitions for players who are unable to attend tryouts for any other reason will be reviewed by the STMAYBA Travel Director and presented to the STMAYBA Board Members.

Fees

Registration Fees

The initial registration and travel evaluation fee covers the team's expenses for participation in league games, umpires, equipment, and association administration and support. The initial registration and evaluation fee are collected at time of registration before try-outs. The evaluation fee is non-refundable.

If a player makes a travel team, a travel fee (Travel Invoice) will be collected in March. The travel fee covers travel uniform costs, winter/spring training (Dome), facility/field rentals, up to four tournament entry fees (not including State Tournaments), fundraising cards and equipment costs.

A player who makes a travel team and decides not to participate on that team will not be given a refund and will be ineligible to participate in a travel team above the A level travel team the next season.

Additional Fees

Additional fees would include, but are not limited to: Gate Fees, State Tournament entry fees, Instructional Services, hotel stays, player gifts, etc.

If your team earns a bid, or is awarded an "at-Large" bid for any of the three State Tournaments, entry fees will be at the team's expense. Teams (parents) will be responsible for any gate fees due to the host association for any tournaments that have this charge. There will be a parents' meeting conducted by the head coach to review all appropriate fees.

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. All refund requests will be prorated by the number of games played and must be approved by the Travel Director.

Uniforms

The association will provide each player with the following and players will be expected to wear:

- 2 Custom Jerseys
- Fitted Baseball Hat
- Belt
- Baseball Pants (2 pairs issued)
- Blue Socks

Players will be responsible for their own:

- Bat
- Batting helmet
- Glove (Catchers glove is provided)
- Batting Gloves
- Cleats

Equipment

Each player must provide his/her own bat, glove, helmet, baseball cleats, and personal protective equipment (except catcher's equipment). Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Most leagues and the STMAYBA require the wearing of a hard protective cup. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes. Players are encouraged to use cleated baseball shoes with hard rubber or metal cleats according to the rules of the league in which they participate.

The travel baseball program also supplies all catcher's gear, practice and game balls, and other equipment necessary for games and practices. Any damage caused by negligence or intentional abuse will be reimbursed by the player and/or parents. Failure to do so may result in denial of any further sport participation in any STMAYBA program by the player or any other member of his/her family.

Bats

Bats are an item of equipment, which, like gloves, need to be fitted to the individual player. Parents should consult coaches and/or specific league (Metro Baseball League or Gopher State) rules (see www.mbl.bz or www.myas.org) before purchasing bats. See also the <https://www.stmayouthbaseball.org/> bat page for bat information.

Umpires

While our expectations of 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 measured by the message the umpires carry out into the baseball community statewide.

General Policies

Attendance

Every player's presence is important and is expected. 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 or 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; coaches reserve the right to have players sit out innings or games and/or change the batting order after an unexcused absence. Excessive absences may result in dismissal from the team.

It is expected that between March 1 & August 1 (Baseball Season) that Baseball takes priority over other sports. If you cannot commit to the travel schedule, you are better suited in our In-House League.

Any absence from Tournament play must be approved by the Travel Director by March 1st. If not approved, you are subject to dismissal from your team without refund. A player from the appropriate house team may be promoted.

Suspensions

The STMAYBA Board reserves the right to suspend any coach, parent, or player who violates the STMAYBA Code of Ethics provided by the STMAYBA Board of Directors. Suspensions will be documented and distributed to the STMAYBA Board. Suspension of a coach may lead to progressive disciplines. See Coach Removal section.

Player Removal

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

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Travel Director and the player's parent(s) and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion should include an objective description of the behavior and the intended discipline. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must then notify the Travel Director who must approve any further action. The Travel Director must, in turn, notify the STMAYBA Board of the action taken within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the Baseball Board.

Playing Time

Coaches will strive to develop players who can play at all positions through player development and game situations. With that said, there is a difference between trying to meet even playing time and complete abuse of the system. We advise all our coaches to follow the guidelines below but certain conditions may not allow it. A short Inning game, weather, pitching, etc. can all have an effect on a coach's "perfect rotation" plan.

Minimum playing time for 9-year-old thru 11-year-olds will be on average 4 defensive Innings per game. *

*Coaches will use full rotation at each position, every player will pitch and have an opportunity to catch, play infield and outfield.

*Coaches are allowed to "play to win" in Tournaments while still meeting the 4 Inning minimum per player.

Minimum playing time for 12-year-old thru 13-year-olds will be on average 4 defensive Innings per game.*

*Coaches will rotate players. This will include 1 Infield spot, 2 outfield at min. while still maintaining the 4 Inning minimum.

*Coaches are allowed to “play to win” in Tournaments while still meeting the 4 Inning minimum per player.

Minimum playing time for 14- & 15-year-olds will be on average 4 defensive Innings per game. *

*Coaches will rotate players. This is not specific to infield/outfield as long as they still meet the 4 Inning minimum per player.

*Coaches are allowed to “play to win” in Tournaments while still meeting the 4 Inning minimum per player.

Batting Lineups

The starting lineup will provide an opportunity for every player to have a place in the batting order when continuous batting is in effect.

The coach will make every effort to give each player appropriate playing time. However, the coach has the discretion to play players such that he looks out for the best interest of the team.

* Some game situations (e.g., 10 run rule) may prevent this from happening in a specific game. 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 Travel head coach must indicate interest prior to registration. The coaching tab located on the STMAYBA website will be “live” at all times. The deadline to submit your request is June 1st. The STMAYBA Travel Director will conduct an interview with at least two other STMAYBA Board Members before August 1st.

Candidates who have coached at the travel level in prior years and received positive feedback from parents and players via the evaluation process take precedence over new applications.

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 travel baseball and STMAYBA policies/procedures, and the applicant’s commitment to devote several hundred hours to the program during the season. Coaches’ responsibilities begin in late February with league meetings, winter training, baseball camp obligations and league scheduling. They end in August with equipment check-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

Any coach that does not provide player evaluations, or equipment bag at the close of the season will not be considered for head coach the following season.

While it is important that a travel team coach have expertise in the sport, it is just as important for the coach to have the welfare of the individual players and the players' character and confidence development foremost in mind. Even a person of integrity, sincerity, and high idealism needs other qualifications (i.e., the ability to remain even-tempered under pressure, the ability to discover ways to impart his/her knowledge to each individual player, and the ability to understand children, to relate to them, and to be sensitive to their developmental requirements). If chosen as a coach, a background check will be conducted.

Once a coach is selected for a team based on the criteria above, and if that coach is a parent-coach, their son needs to be competent to play at the level of the team for which the coach has been selected in the opinion of the evaluators.

Coach Removal

Removal of a team coach is a very serious situation and will 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, coaches, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials

Issues with coaches need to be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. The STMAYBA Board of Directors or a committee appointed by the STMAYBA Board will review the specifics of the allegations and take appropriate action which may include game suspension and/or dismissal.

Assistant Coaches

The head coach is responsible for appointing his assistant coaches. Those coaches will be required to submit to a background check, concussion protocol and any other requirements deemed necessary by the STMAYBA or the leagues they play in. The head coach may also dismiss his assistant coaches after notifying the travel director and explaining the reasoning behind the removal. The travel committee also has the power to dismiss assistant coaches if deemed appropriate.

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. 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 STMAYBA 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/in the dugout. 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 coach will determine if there will be a practice. FYCC (Family Youth Community Connections) monitors the fields and will post if there is a field closure.

At games, the home team’s 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 communication from your team’s coach (or team representative), or STMAYBA notification, 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

STMAYBA Travel Baseball mandates that all players/coaches/parents participating in a STMAYBA youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game) 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 a STMAYBA 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 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 Travel Director.

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

Tobacco Policy

STMAYBA Travel Baseball prohibits the use of tobacco for all players participating in travel baseball to use tobacco.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the player will be informed of his/her ineligibility. Ineligibilities will be the same as for the drug and alcohol policy. STMAYBA Travel Baseball prohibits coaches from the use of tobacco in any form during a youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game). Reminder, no tobacco is allowed on any District 885 property.

Equipment Abuse

Under no circumstances will the abuse of equipment be tolerated. Coaches are instructed that each instance of equipment abuse will result in that player sitting on the bench for the remainder of the game.

If the abuse of the equipment results in any damage to the equipment, the player and/or his parents will be held responsible for the cost of replacing the equipment. Players may be suspended from participation in future STMAYBA 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 development of all players in his/her care. He/she is accountable to the players, the parents, and the STMAYBA Board of Directors.

Coaches' Responsibilities include:

- Obey and enforce all STMAYBA rules.
- 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
- Attend all appropriate Gopher State League meetings.
- Assure that all players receive playing time that is as mandated by the STMAYBA 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 and create a developmental plan to help each player improve in the areas of concern.
- Encourage and compliment players; use only constructive criticism.
- Attend a minimum of 90% of their team's practices and games.
- Arrive on time to practices, games and tournaments.
- Care for the equipment that is issued to them. If any equipment is lost or damaged, coaches should report the problem to the Equipment Director
- Attend any coaches' clinics arranged by the STMAYBA Board.
- 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.
- Schedule field time for practices and any make-up (home) games with the other coaches.
- Report any problems with fields to the Fields & Facilities Director.
- Recruit parent volunteers, team manager, communication coordinator, and social director as necessary.
- Adhere to the STMAYBA drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies.

Coaches' Rights include:

- To be treated with respect by players, parents, volunteers, umpires, league, MYAS, MSF and MBL officials, and the STMAYBA Baseball Board.
- 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 travel 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.

Volunteer Requirement:

Parents will be expected to complete volunteer hours. Specific details will be communicated prior to the start of the baseball season.

Parents' Responsibilities include:

- Let your child know you love him/her, win or lose, whether he/she plays well or not.
- Recognize baseball season is March 1st through August 1st and baseball takes priority over other sports during this time.
- Compliment and encourage. Let the coaches handle coaching and criticism.
- Play catch with your child.
- 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. 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 the STMAYBA.
- 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 practice or a game.
- Provide a copy of your child's birth certificate to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre- season meeting. (Coaches will return at end of season)
- Volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible.

Parents' Rights include:

- 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

Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

As a parent/guardian of a child involved in a STMA Baseball Association (STMAYBA) 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 STMAYBA 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.
- 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
 - Parental Season Suspension
 - Parental Banishment

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

- I/we agree to support and promote the philosophy of STMAYBA sports
 - Teamwork
 - Effort
 - Skill Development
 - Character
 - Sportsmanship
 - Safe Environment
 - Humble in Victory
 - Gracious and Complimentary in Defeat

Players' Responsibilities and Rights

Players on a travel 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 include:

- 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 STMAYBA 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 players 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 include:

- 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 travel baseball, 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 Travel Director, but should do so only after exhausting all efforts with the coach and his/her assistants.

When a player or parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or an 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 the emotions under control, keep the discussions polite and to the point, and keep the discussions private and out of the earshot of other players or parents).

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within 48 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Travel Director. At this time, the Travel Director will act as a mediator between the player/parent and the 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 48 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the STMAYBA Travel Director, Vice President, or President.

If the problem involves the actual or perceived abuse of a player, whether verbal or physical, it should be brought to the Travel Director and President's attention immediately.

Please Note:

The STMAYBA Travel Handbook is subject to interpretation and change at the discretion of the STMAYBA Travel Director and/or the STMAYBA Board of Directors.