

TRAA Baseball Scheduling and Travel Team Management

In late March, MBL will notify head coaches that regular season, league game scheduling, is open. Head coaches will receive contact information for all teams within their MBL region so that they can arrange games between them.

MBL will outline who you play and whether you are Home or Away; you simply need to agree with the other team what date and time to play the game.

It is expected that teams will schedule 1 practice and 2 games per week, or 2 practices and 1 game per week at a minimum. If there are no games scheduled a given week, consider an extra practice. 1.5-2 hrs is the right duration for a practice. 1 hr is often too short and rushed.

Weekend tournaments can take a lot of energy, so try to space activities out. If no weekend tourney, hold a 2 hour practice one day.

Go heavy on practices early in the season if you can! Remember to have fun and look for patterns of skills that need to be developed. Develop competitive drills within practice that can sharpen those skills.

The home team will generally log the game into the MBL site specifying the date, opponent, field, and time. Once inputted, the game is official, and both teams will see the game on their MBL schedule.

Dos: (tools to help admin and manage teams are in **bold**)

- Use the **TR Fields Calendar** showing the events (games and practices) you need a field and what nights the other team(s) have it. Share and populate the calendar with the other teams so you know who has the field on which night and when the field is available for practices. This helps the field coordinator ensure our fields are mowed before game days and that we don't have conflicts for field use.
- Each field is typically shared by 2-3 travel teams. 9U teams are assigned Valley Park and the 10Us are assigned Marie, 11U is Hagstrom-King, 12U Victoria Highlands, 13U is Civic Center/Mertensotto, 14U & 15U use Pelano, along with TR JV and 9th grade fields (after the high school season ends). TR JV softball and Friendly Hills Park fields are backup practice fields for travel teams and also used by in-house. Mendakota and Harmon are primarily used for in-house and hosted tournaments. Coaches will be provided specific details prior to the start of scheduling in late March for extra field availability.
- If sharing a field with another team within the association, reach out to the other coach(es) and identify what days of the week you have available for scheduling home games. It is best if all teams who share the field, know ahead of time, what nights are theirs. Ex. AAA team Mon/Wed, AA team Tue/Thur.

- Enter in your scheduled league games, scores and pitch counts in the **MBL Website**: <https://www.mbl.bz/>

This is where you will enter in games for the league season, that assures you have an umpire assigned. You will also be entering in pitch counts at the end of each game. You will need to ask your families to register their sons and all coaches will need to register. You will be given admin rights for your team to update schedule and pitch counts. Add your coaching staff and roster your team as your families register in MBL. Here is a great link to learn how to do all the stuff on the website just mentioned: <https://www.mbl.bz/pages/help>

- Note: You do not need to report pitch counts to MBL for tournaments. Each tournament will have a pitch count limit for each kid per day and weekend and are reported to the tournament. Manage arms carefully.
- Use **GameChanger** to schedule practices and games, communicate those schedules with families and send email communications to families. The app is very user friendly and provides an easy way to connect with families.
- Schedule games to start at 6 PM, Mon-Thur. City fields are not reserved Fri-Sun but can be made available upon request. Have a standard warmup time for away (30 minutes minimum) and home games (45 minutes minimum). Get your families to understand that means the boys are with bat and glove in hand, shoes tied and jersey tucked at the start of pregame. 10 min early is on time!
- Schedule a Home/Away with the same team at least 2 weeks apart. Try not to play the same team twice in a short time span.

Don'ts:

- Try to avoid games, especially away games, on Mondays following tournament weekends or Thursdays prior to tournament weekends. Scheduling on some of these nights may be unavoidable, so be aware of your pitcher usage.
- Avoid scheduling games that conflict with school concerts and other school events, hockey tournaments, fishing opener, last day of school, etc. Ask parents for these dates.
- Do not schedule away games for late April. Weather often prevents these games from taking place. Traveling to a makeup game in late June on a night you had planned to be open, is not desirable.

Tips:

- Create a mock schedule for what you would consider your “perfect” regular season schedule.

- Call or text opponent coaches immediately to slot games into your mock calendar. Be specific, “Two Rivers would like to play you in Mendota Heights on Thur May 16. We could come to your place and play on Monday June 10 or Wednesday June 12”. You are asking them to play at your field on a night that you know is reserved for you, and you are requesting to play at their place on a night where one of the teams you share your home field with, is trying to schedule a home game.
- You’ll likely have district opponents that are out of the metro (Rochester, River Falls, etc). Schedule those away games for after the school year ends so you don’t have to get kids out early or rush straight from school and then get back late on a school night.

More on Tournaments:

SIGNING UP FOR TRAVEL TOURNAMENTS

The registration for tournaments typically begins in November and tournaments fill up quickly.

TRAA sponsors three (3) tournaments per team and will support registration for teams that qualify for the MBT State Tournament. Teams may add additional tournaments at their own expense.

- **Finding Tournaments:** Tournaments can be found at www.mbt.bz and www.myas.org and registration typically occurs through Tourney Machine. Registering usually holds your place temporarily until payment is received.
- **Registering:** Complete all required paperwork and submit to TRAA Executive Director (director@traawarriors.com) and cc the Baseball Commissioner (baseball@traawarriors.com). We will process a check and deliver it to the tournament coordinator, or reimburse you if paid individually with proper proof of payment. Follow up with the tournament coordinator to confirm they have received your check if you are electing to have the association pay with check directly and your team is in the tournament.
- **Weekend of Tournament:** Gate fees are the responsibility of the team, except for the MBT State Tournament. Those are reimbursable, as they are budgeted, like tournament fees.

Create a folder that you keep in your team bag that has each player's birth certificate, and each coach's Trusted Coaches documentation (background check, concussion training, safe coaches training), as they will need to be presented when checking in to a tournament.