

# Apple Valley Traveling Baseball Handbook



## 2024/2025 Apple Valley Traveling Baseball Board Members

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Fundraiser/Sponsorship Coordinator	OPEN	

# Welcome to Apple Valley Traveling Baseball (AVTB)

**Purpose:** The purpose of this handbook is to assist parents and players in understanding the Apple Valley Traveling Baseball program including the tryout process and how teams may be formed and managed. Any discrepancy will be interpreted and resolved by the Apple Valley Traveling Baseball Board, hereafter known as “Board”. The Board reserves the right to edit this document at any time for the benefit of the program.

For purposes of this document, AVTB (Apple Valley Traveling Baseball) shall mean the committee or person(s) operating under the express authority of AVTB. AVTB shall resolve issues and make decisions with regard to the organization within its sole and absolute discretion.

## 1. Mission & Guiding Principles

Apple Valley Traveling Baseball (AVTB) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed and operated by an all-volunteer board composed of individuals who are passionate about teaching kids to play baseball the right way. Our goal is to consistently place athletes at the most appropriate level of competition that best supports their long-term development.

AVTB draws its players from the city of Apple Valley and fields teams for players aged 8-15 years old. AVTB is a member in good standing of the Metro Baseball League (MBL) and competes against teams from other Metro Baseball League communities in regular season league play.

### Mission

AVTB’s mission is to offer young athletes an opportunity to learn and play competitive baseball with players of similar ability at a higher level than offered by in-house programs. The program is created to provide a fun, fair and challenging environment for players to develop their baseball skills. AVTB’s goal is to equip players with a solid baseball foundation in terms of technical skills and game strategy so they can effectively compete at higher levels.

### Guiding Principles

AVTB board members and coaches are expected to embrace the following principles, and use them as guidelines in making all policy decisions, particularly with regard to player development and team placement.

1. Act in the best interests of a child's athletic development at all times — We are fully aware that all kids are born with different levels of athletic ability; each child progresses at a different

pace. With this in mind, we believe that a child will ultimately have the best sports experience and maximize their skill development when he/she competes at a level that presents a challenge best suited to the child's skills. If the level is too difficult, the child will find it difficult to gain confidence. Conversely, if the level doesn't present a challenge, the child will not reach his/her true potential.

- Note: When parents enroll their kids in the program, they have entrusted AVTB to assess their skill level and assign them to a level where AVTB believes they can best develop their skills, and eventually compete at the high school level.

2. Fairness – We understand that fairness is never 100% achievable. Nonetheless, we strive for it in all facets of our player evaluation, team selection, and coach selection processes. AVTB continually reviews and improves its player evaluation, team selection and coach selection processes each year to ensure they provide the most accurate assessment possible, so all players are placed at the skill level that will maximize their development.

3. Objectivity – We recognize that AVTB is composed primarily of parent volunteers who currently have kids participating in the program. To act in the best interests of a child's athletic development, AVTB fully expects all board members, coaches, parents and evaluators to maintain objectivity regarding each player's skills, regardless of parental relationships, friendships, politics and other factors that can affect player evaluation and team selection. All relationships, friendships and politics must be set aside when making decisions affecting player team placement and development. We seek to always put the kids' interest first, with the belief that the organization is designed to serve them first and foremost.

4. Accountability – Parents, coaches, players, and board members must abide by all AVTB policies set forth (coach expectations, codes of conduct, etc.) and be accountable to all consequences. Adults involved in AVTB as a volunteer or a fan are expected to maintain their composure at all times, and should be role models for the kids they are supporting.

## **2. About AVTB**

AVTB Board is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization governed and operated by an all-volunteer board composed of individuals who are passionate about teaching kids to play baseball the right way. Board governance requires establishment and enforcement of proactive and reactive policies with a focus on making decisions that are in the best interest of the player and the association. The Board operates with sole and absolute discretion under the association's bylaws located on our website.

## Eligibility

1. Age – A player must register for the age bracket based upon the player's age as of April 30th of the current year and play within their own age bracket. Players who are 8 years old can only play on a 9U team.

2. Residency – Player participation in AVTB is restricted to children ages 8 to 15 currently residing within the City of Apple Valley or attending an ISD 196 school associated with the Apple Valley High School attendance area. AVTB may allow non-residents to participate in AVTB, however, under very limited circumstances, and only under the approval of the Metro Baseball League within their rules set forth below.

**(Taken from MBL website on 12-12-2024)**

*E. The Metro Baseball League is a community-based program. Players are eligible to participate on teams from the community in which they live with their parent(s) or legal guardian, or their school attendance area. In some cases, a "natural baseball community" or co-op program exists, which may be a combination of nearby communities based on high school attendance area. However, this is NEVER intended to allow all-star or recruited teams to be formed. The MBL Board of Directors reserves the right to rule on any questionable situations.*

*F. If a player attends a private school in a different community than the one in which he/she resides, that player may register (1) with their community program where they reside or (2) with their school's summer baseball program. For example: if a player lives in Pipestone and attends school at Holy Angels, then the player would be eligible to play for either Pipestone's or Holy Angels' Summer Program.*

*H. Policies on double rostering – such as a player participating on a club team or legion team and a community team – are the responsibility of each association.*

3. Outside / Core Group teams – The AVTB Board, within its sole and absolute discretion, will not permit outside teams already formed to participate in AVTB. All players must be evaluated at AVTB tryouts and coaches must apply to coach in the organization. If, for example, a coach has coached a group at the community level, all players would have to participate in the tryout process and the coach would have to participate in a coach interview.

## Waiver Policy

As a matter of general policy, VAA does not grant waivers unless there isn't a team available for the player requesting the waiver. Below is the waiver policy adopted by the VAA Board of Directors. AVTB will operate in full compliance with this policy.

- A Commissioner will have the ability to grant two waivers at their discretion per season. The Commissioner must confirm that the waiver complies with any applicable rules or regulations of its governing body (i.e. MBL/MBT, MYAS) and confirm that the

organization for which the player wishes to play is agreeable and has knowledge of the waiver. Discretionary waivers granted by a Commissioner must be reported to the VAA Board of Directors.

- Any other waiver requests will be submitted to the VAA Board of Directors for review. Waivers will only be granted for good cause.
- Disagreement with team placement or level of play will not be considered a good cause.
- Any waivers that are granted, including the discretionary waivers issued by a Commissioner, are on an annual basis and would have to be requested and granted in the following year.

Any waiver request must be submitted in writing to the AVTB Commissioner and must include the player's name, age group, and reason for waiver.

## **Participation Commitment – What to Expect**

As a general rule, expect your child to participate in up to four AVTB “events” per week. This means that, once the regular season begins, two games and two practices per week are typical. Coaches may modify the number of weekly practices depending on the number of games and tournaments in a given week. Prior to fields being opened by the City of Apple Valley, coaches may schedule practices held in parking lots or indoor facilities (batting cages, school gymnasiums, dome time).

AVTB families should expect to participate in 3 to 4 tournaments throughout the season. These typically run Friday afternoon/evening through Sundays. AVTB has no influence in how other organizations run their tournaments nor what times teams play. Teams that qualify for a State tournament please note those are played in July.

League playoffs is an end-of-season single elimination bracket tournament run by MBL. Teams are ranked based on league record, then placed into Tiers (1, 2, or 3). Teams will play against teams with similar records. League playoffs take place after the regular season and the championship game takes place in late July.

Player attendance and participation at all practices and games is expected. It is critical to the development of the individual player and to the team. Unexcused absences may result in a reduction of playing time at the discretion of the team’s head coach and, in certain cases, dismissal at the discretion of the AVTB board. There is much to teach and learn in a short season!

## **Parent Commitment**

Parents engaged in the overall team’s progress are more likely to enjoy the season and appreciate coaching decisions about position, playing time and strategy. AVTB encourages parents to volunteer to assist the team in a variety of roles (assistant coach, book-keeper, team

manager, etc.). These roles are critical to a successful team and allow the Head Coach to focus on player development and team success.

## **Volunteer Hours**

AVTB calls upon its parents to volunteer on an association level to help with fundraising, hosted tournaments, and other activities.

- Each year AVTB hosts 1-2 tournaments. The revenue after expenses from the tournament are used to reduce individual participation fees. Therefore, it is expected that parents or guardians of each child in the traveling program work to fulfill the volunteer hours per player set forth by the Volunteer Coordinator.
- To ensure total commitment, it is required that each family submits a check for \$350.00 per child at uniform pick-up. If you fulfill your assigned commitment, the check will be returned/destroyed. If your work commitment is not fulfilled, the check will be cashed and added to the tournament revenue.
- Please note that your child will not be able to pick up their uniform or participate in games until your \$350.00 check is received.
- If you know prior to the season that you will not be completing the volunteer requirement, you still need to provide the \$350 payment. The money will go towards the tournament revenue or ***used to pay additional workers to cover open shifts.***

## **Fundraising**

AVTB will, at the discretion of the Board, participate in fundraising efforts to help offset costs and aid in keeping registration fees reasonable. The need for fundraising will be determined on a year to year basis and dependent on the financial costs of running the program. Examples of past fundraising efforts include selling Papa Murphy's Cards or using the Snap!Raise platform.

## **Playing Expectations**

Philosophy – Player development is core to the mission of AVTB. To support this goal, AVTB coaches will focus on teaching and equipping players with a solid baseball foundation in terms of technical skills and game strategy so they can effectively compete at higher levels as they advance. Practice time and games will provide an opportunity for players to learn baseball fundamentals (throwing, hitting, base running, etc.) while competing against players of similar caliber.

Playing Time – AVTB seeks to field competitive teams for play in traveling baseball. Decisions concerning playing time for each player are left to the sole discretion of the coaching staff. Parents and players alike should understand that AVTB is not committed to the concept of equal playing time for every member of the team nor is there any guarantee of playing time. However, in the interest of player development, AVTB expects its coaches to provide meaningful playing

time for each player in every game, subject to issues of discipline, injury or other mitigating factors.

Position Rotation – AVTB does not require that coaches rotate every player through every position, either during the course of a game or over the course of the season. Determinations of player positions and rotation are subject to the sole discretion of the teams' coaches. AVTB encourages coaches to let players of comparable ability play in various positions but, again, this is left to the discretion of the coaches.

Parental Expectations – AVTB understands that parents may at times have a concern with playing time of an individual player. In these situations, it is strongly encouraged that parents communicate any such concerns to the head coach. Playing time decisions are at the sole discretion of the head coach and any discussion and subsequent remedy of a concern is encouraged to take place between parent and coach. If after discussing concerns with the coach; the parents do not feel their concerns were addressed, they may reach out to the respective Age Group Director.

### **3. Codes of Conduct**

#### **Board Members**

AVTB Board Members are expected to adhere to all policies, guidelines and rules of the association as outlined in this handbook and the association bylaws. As stipulated in the Guiding Principles (Section 1), Directors are expected to act on behalf of the association at all times, and should strive to remove any bias or lack of objectivity from their decisions made on behalf of the organization.

Consistent with this expectation to act in the best interests of a child's athletic development, AVTB fully expects all board members to maintain objectivity regarding each player's skills, regardless of parental relationships, friendships, politics and other factors that can affect player evaluation and team selection. Directors must retain a high degree of professionalism on and off the field, and are subject to discipline or removal if they fail to display conduct consistent with the governing rules of the association.

#### **Parents/Spectators**

Philosophy – In order to represent Apple Valley with class and dignity, parents and spectators are expected to maintain conduct consistent with good sportsmanship by showing positive support and respect for all players, coaches, administrators, and umpires. Parents and spectators will remember that the baseball field is for the kids to play a game, not for adult interference. Parents will make events a positive experience for the players and will not undermine or question the coach's instructions, directions, or decisions.

Policy – The Apple Valley Traveling Baseball (AVTB) has certain conduct expectations of all of the parents of players participating on AVTB teams. These conduct expectations apply to parents of all players regardless of age group or team level (AAA, AA and A). AVTB's expectations regarding parent conduct apply equally at practices, games and tournaments. A parent who fails to adhere to the behavioral expectations set forth below may jeopardize his or her child's continued participation in the AVTB organization. In certain circumstances, a parent's conduct may result in a child's suspension or removal from a team. Decisions to suspend or remove a player from a team because of a parent's behavior must be approved by the AVTB Board.

Any removal of a player, parent or coach by an umpire is automatically reported to MBL and disciplinary action will be followed as shown below.

**(Taken from MBL website 12-12-24)**

*A. All players, coaches, spectators and umpires are to behave in a manner that reflects and promotes a positive and fun environment commonly associated with the game of baseball. Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. This includes but is not limited to: \* Verbal abuse towards an umpire or anyone on site \* Profanity \* Physical aggression \* Tantrum-like acts.*

*B. Any player, coach or spectator ejected from a game will also be suspended for their team's next game – be it a tournament, league game or league playoff game – on the schedule at the time of the ejection. If the suspension is not served in the team's next game because the game is cancelled, it shall be served in the next game on the schedule at the time of the infraction that is played. (Tournaments may have their own ejection/suspension policy; MBL's rule is that the player, coach or spectator must serve one game, and it is acceptable for that game to be a tournament game played after the game where the individual was ejected. If the ejection occurs in the last game of a tournament, the suspension would be served in the next game on the schedule at the time of the ejection.) Depending on the severity of the infraction/behavior, supplemental discipline may be given by the MBL. A second game ejection in the same season will result in the suspension for the remainder of the season and playoff games.*

*C. Anyone suspended for the season is entitled to an appeal. The appeal should be submitted in writing to the MBL Board of Directors. A hearing will be scheduled with the MBL Board of Directors*

Set forth below are the minimum expectations for the parents of each player in the AVTB organization. Please read these expectations carefully.

### **Games and Tournaments**

- 1) During games, parents will be respectful of the umpires.
- 2) During games, parents will be respectful of the players on the other teams.
- 3) During games, parents will treat their child's teammates and the coaches respectfully.
- 4) During games, parents will be respectful of the fans of our team and our opponents.
- 5) During games, parents will not enter the dug-out to express criticisms of the coaching staff or the players on the team, including their own child.

## **General**

6) Parents will not use profanity or vulgarity when observing practices or games.

7) If Parents have concerns about the way their child is being treated (e.g., playing time or position issues, general treatment issues, etc.), they will address these issues with the coaching staff, but will not do so during or immediately after a game.

8) If Parents are not comfortable addressing issues referenced above with the coaches, they will notify their respective Age Group Director. They will try to do so promptly after the issue has arisen, recognizing that delays in sharing these concerns prevents the AVTB organization from responding meaningfully to the issues identified.

10) If Parents observe their child's failure to adhere to the rules delineated in the Player's Code of Conduct, or if a coach on his team alerts you to violations of the Player's Code of Conduct by my son, Parents will discuss these issues with their child and help him understand that his failure to adhere to the rules set forth by AVTB could have negative effects on his participation on his AVTB team.

Parents failing to comply with the code of conduct may be suspended or permanently dismissed from AVTB participation. The AVTB Board shall decide upon parent suspension or dismissal in its sole and absolute discretion. The AVTB Board may elect to take all, some, or none of the following actions in regard to a parent under review for improper behavior:

- Verbal Warning
- Written Warning
- Practice(s) and / or Game(s) Suspension
- Season Suspension
- Permanent dismissal from AVTB

## **Players**

Players are expected to display the highest level of sportsmanship at all times, reflecting positively on the team and the association. Players that do not display high standards of conduct and sportsmanship may be subject to discipline from the head coach and/or AVTB Board.

A player may be dismissed from AVTB for reasons including, but not limited to:

- failure to attend practices and/or game based on reason for absence at the coach's discretion;
- consistent and uncorrected disruptive or defiant behavior at practices or games;
- abusive behavior toward the team's coaches or teammates, umpires or opponents;
- negligent or intentional damage to the team's or other's property;
- conduct that endangers the safety of teammates or others;
- uncorrected use of profanity or vulgar language;
- continued play in such a manner as to endanger others;
- failure to comply with rules governing play;
- uncorrected unsportsmanlike behavior;
- or for any conduct that violates the law.

Before requesting that the AVTB Board remove a player, the head coach shall review the situation with the player and his parents in an attempt to correct the behavior in question. If, in the coach's opinion, there is a failure to agree to or affect satisfactory changes in behavior, the coach shall bring the matter before the AVTB Commissioner which shall review the facts and circumstances and may bring the matter before the AVTB board, who, in its sole and absolute discretion, may dismiss the player from AVTB or take any other action to correct the situation.

A coach may immediately suspend a player or request his removal by the AVTB Board without first addressing the player's parents if the player has engaged in criminal conduct toward a teammate, a player on another team, a member of the coaching staff, a spectator, or an umpire.

## **Dispute Resolution**

Players and parents should address any questions concerning AVTB or team policies/issues to the team's head coach. AVTB recommends that such discussions take place away from other players and parents and not immediately before, after, or during practices or games. Please keep all conversations civil.

If a player or parent believes their question or issue has not been addressed by the coach in a satisfactory manner, they may contact their respective Age Group Director, but should do so only after exhausting all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter with the coach or the coaching staff. When approaching the Age Group Director, the player or parent should follow the same guidelines for civility and discretion as indicated above.

"24 Hour Rule" – When a player or parent has a major concern about the handling of the team, an individual player or a general AVTB matter, they should adhere to the "24 Hour Rule" which urges a party to wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach on the matter. The 24-hour waiting period permits passions to subside so that the parties may address issues objectively. Failing resolution of a major issue with the team's coach, a player/parent may bring their concerns to the AVTB Board for review. Any disputes brought before the AVTB Board shall be subject to action within AVTB's sole and absolute discretion. Actions may include, but are not limited to, internal mediation of the dispute or making a direct determination as to a resolution.

## **PROBLEM RESOLUTION STEPS**

*When a player or parent has a concern or a question regarding the policies or procedures of Traveling Baseball, they should follow the steps below to resolve the issue:*

*1. Any concerns or issues should not be addressed until at least 24 hrs after the incident and*

*should not be addressed at any game or tournament.*

*2. Bring the issue to the attention of the coach of the team involved and work to bring about a solution to the problem.*

*3. If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player, parent and the coach, it should be brought to the attention of your Age Group Director who will act as a mediator between the player/parent and the coach.*

*4. If the problem persists or cannot be resolved at that level, it should be brought to the attention of the Traveling Baseball Commissioner. Again, if necessary, all parties may meet to discuss the situation and find a solution.*

*5. If mediation still is unable to resolve the issues, and all of the above steps have been followed, the parents or commissioner may submit a letter stating the issues in question to the Executive Committee of the VAA.*

## **4. Costs & Participation Fees**

Tryout Fee - covers the cost of hiring independent evaluators to score tryouts.

Registration Fee covers the cost of the following:

- Uniforms
- Team Equipment
- MBL League Fees
- Umpire Fees
- Tournament Entry Fees

## **5. Team Formation**

AVTB's tryout and team selection rules and procedures are designed to comply with AVTB's general philosophy of desiring to provide a competitive and high level baseball experience for Apple Valley youth. AVTB desires that its tryout process accurately, and without bias, evaluates the baseball skills of its players. A detailed breakdown of the tryout process and team formation can be found on the league's website [www.vaasports.org/travelbase](http://www.vaasports.org/travelbase) .

**Team Selection** – AVTB desires that its players be selected, and teams formed, on the basis of player skill and the ability of the team to be competitive within its division. Prior participation on a specific team and prior participation at a specific level does not entitle the player to preference in future seasons.

**Tryout and Team Selection Criteria** – AVTB believes that players shall be evaluated on their baseball skills in an unbiased manner. Players are selected for a team based on tryout scores and previous season coach evaluation score.

AVTB believes that its tryout and team selection procedures will produce appropriate placement of players on teams. Compliance with these rules and procedures is in the best interest of all AVTB players, parents, and coaches.

**Timing** – Tryouts are generally scheduled in early March. While AVTB attempts to establish dates that present the least conflict, the dates chosen shall be at AVTB's sole and absolute discretion.

**Location** – The location of tryouts shall be established each year by AVTB, and while it attempts to select a convenient location, the decision as to the location of the tryouts shall be within AVTB's sole and absolute discretion.

**Format** – The overall format for tryouts shall be within AVTB's sole and absolute discretion. The format of tryouts may vary from year to year and may vary with each age group. AVTB is committed to continuous improvement and as such will work to refine and improve the tryout process where possible. AVTB's goal is to fairly evaluate all players and to place all players at the appropriate level.

For more information regarding AVTB tryout procedures, please visit the Apple Valley Traveling Baseball website.

## **Rosters**

Rosters will be published on our website post tryouts and will be sent out via email. AVTB understands the time between tryouts and team placement can be stressful for our players. We try to post rosters in a timely manner but strive to ensure that team placement accurately reflects the player's skill and development level.

In cases where team rosters show player TBD, please understand that AVTB will work to fill those roster spots, oftentimes working with other area programs. Please be patient as this process can be arduous and takes some time.

In cases where a coach is listed as TBD, AVTB will actively communicate with parents of the team and ask if anyone is willing to serve as head coach. Keep in mind that AVTB is a volunteer organization and without volunteers our program can not serve our community. Any interested party should contact the AVTB Commissioner.

## **Refund Policy**

Our goal is to make sure every kid that is registered is getting the opportunity to play. It is the AVTB's expectation that all families will honor their commitment to the program. Therefore, should a family decide not to accept their placement, no refund will be issued.

## **6. Coaching**

### **Philosophy**

Ultimately, AVTB's goal is to teach players to play baseball the right way; that is, to play fundamentally sound baseball and represent Apple Valley with class and sportsmanship. The AVTB Board considers teaching the game of baseball the most important element of the AVTB mission. AVTB fully expects coaches to help us enthusiastically accomplish these goals.

Every year, we receive feedback from parents about our organization and coach performance that helps refine our tryouts, team selection process, and other policies. As parent expectations in the area of player development continue to rise, AVTB continually raises the bar for its coaches. The following clearly summarizes AVTB's expectations and requirements for coaches relative to the AVTB mission.

### **Basic Requirements**

Anyone interested in coaching is eligible. Selection of coaches will be the responsibility of the Board. All those applying to coach will be interviewed by the Board and will be subject to a background check that is conducted by VAA. In addition, all coaches have to complete a Mandatory Concussion in Youth Sports training and any other State mandated training.

Coaches will be selected after the tryouts. Therefore, a parent volunteering to coach will have no impact on their child's team placement. In addition, if two or more individuals are qualified candidates, the person selected to be the Head Coach will be chosen based on recommendation of the Coach Interview Committee.

Incumbent AVTB coaches are not guaranteed a coaching position in the next season. All individuals interested in coaching for AVTB must apply and interview with the AVTB Board Members each year and be selected by the committee to coach a AVTB team.

### **Expectations**

Basic Criteria -- AVTB also evaluates candidates based on prior baseball coaching experience, coaching experience in other sports, rapport with players, organizational skills, and willingness to devote the required time.

Coach/Child Objectivity -- AVTB recognizes that many parents can successfully coach their child's team. However, AVTB also expects that parent coaches assess all players within their charge with ultimate objectivity regarding playing time at key positions and to not offer an unfair advantage to their child.

Demeanor -- While it is important that a coach have baseball expertise, it is equally important that the coach be sensitive to the welfare of the individual players. Coaches must treat all

players in an equitable and fair manner. Coaches must demonstrate good sportsmanship, self-control, and proper behavior at all times. Coaches must display the ability to remain even-tempered under pressure, to impart knowledge to each individual player, and to be reasonably sensitive to kids' developmental requirements.

Practice/Player Development -- Developing players so they can compete successfully against the state's best baseball programs requires a substantial commitment. Rotating players in different positions (infield/outfield) is important to player's development and game knowledge. Coaches should strive to develop multiple pitchers due to pitch count restrictions and to ease the burden of relying on a couple of young arms. Developing multiple catchers per team is important as this is a physically demanding position.

Required Practice Format -- AVTB expects each head coach to have a solid practice plan designed to consistently improve fundamentals over the course of a season.

Time Commitment and Responsibilities -- Head coaching applicants should understand that leading an AVTB team is a time consuming proposition. Coach responsibilities include, but are not limited to, participation and attendance at meetings conducted by the Metro Baseball League (including the initial organizational meeting and the scheduling meeting); providing regular information regarding practices and games to the players' parents, coordinating obtaining equipment; and assisting with field preparation, if required.

Continuous Improvement of Coaching Skills – AVTB encourages all coaches to continue developing their coaching skills. AVTB may provide coaches the opportunity to attend Coaching Clinics. There are several resources available on the AVTB website and other online platforms.

## **7. Cooperstown Team**

Each year, AVTB sends one 12U team to participate in a national week-long tournament in Cooperstown, NY - the home of baseball!

Because the application and fundraising process is long, the teams are determined a year earlier using the final roster for the season's highest level 11U team. That team then spends the next 1+ year fundraising and planning for their week in Cooperstown. Apple Valley typically goes to Cooperstown in late July/early August after the regular season is over.

Example:

2025's Cooperstown Team is 2024's highest 11U team.  
2025's highest 11U team will be 2026's Cooperstown team.

Visit VAA Traveling Baseball website for more information and a link to Cooperstown Dreams Park website.

## 8. August Classic

The August Classic is a season ending event, coordinated by the MBL. The August Classic takes 2-4 players from every MBL team and groups those players with 3 to 4 other MBL teams to create an August Classic team. That August Classic team then plays 5 games in the August Classic tournament (weather permitting) against other August Classic teams in their age and level group.

Each Head Coach will be responsible for choosing the correct number of players to represent Apple Valley in the August Classic. The selection of players will be at the sole discretion of the coach. AVTB entrusts our coaches to determine the method in which they select players. Some approaches include coaching staff nominating players or letting players vote who will best represent AVTB. AVTB encourages coaches to be upfront at the beginning of each season with their selection method whether that be a team vote or a vote amongst the coaching staff.

There are several factors that aid coaches in selecting players.

- Player Availability
- Player Development over the season
- Player Attitude and Sportsmanship

***Participation in the August Classic should be a celebration for the players selected but in no way used to rank players or divide team morale.***

**Acknowledgement of Adhering to Handbook - This signature page must be turned in at tryouts. Players will not be allowed to tryout without a signed copy. AVTB requires a signed copy per player.**

I hereby pledge to live up to the AVTB's Parents' Code of Conduct as well as acknowledge the information provided in the Apple Valley Traveling Baseball Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Child Name/Age Group