



**2026 Apple Valley Traveling  
Baseball  
Parent Meeting**

# 2026 Season Overview



**Welcome**

**Board Members Introductions**

**Overview of what will be discussed during the meeting**

- Handbook, Fields, VAA Incident Reporting, Tryouts, Tentative Tournament Schedule, Volunteer Hours, Fundraiser, Miracle League, Cooperstown, August Classic, Fall Ball, and Important Dates

# Apple Valley Travel Baseball Board Members

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>
Commissioner	Krystle Avila
Age Group Director 9-11	Tim Bartram
Age Group Director 12-14/15	Gabriel Quiroz
Treasurer	Brian Vollbrecht
Communications/Website	Luke Ingles
Concessions Coordinator	Position OPEN
Tournament Director	Cameron Kackman Brian Martin
Equipment Coordinator	Gary Wurtzberger
Tryouts/Fields Coordinator	Bradley Willis
Volunteer Coordinator	Steve Howe
Uniform/Spiritwear Coordinator(s)	Luke Ingles Brian Vollbrecht Brian Martin
Fundraiser/Sponsorship Coordinator	Jose Avila
At Large Member	Ryan Tauer



# Season Overview - Expectations and Commitment

**As a general rule, expect your child to participate in up to four AVTB “events” per week or up to five events on tournament weekends.**

- Two games and two practices per week are typical. Prior to fields being opened by the City of Apple Valley, coaches may schedule practices held in parking lots or indoor facilities (batting cages, dome time).

**AVTB families should expect to participate in 3 to 4 tournaments throughout the season.**

- Teams that qualify for a State tournament please note those are played in July.
- Games typically played Friday afternoon/evening through Sunday
- AVTB has no control over tournament game times for other leagues or state tournaments

**League playoffs are an end-of-season single elimination bracket tournament run by MBL.**

- 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.



# AVTB Handbook

The Apple Valley Traveling Baseball board has approved a handbook which outlines AVTB's guiding principles and mission, code of conduct requirements and other important information. We encourage every family to read the handbook. Families will be required to turn in a signed copy of the Acknowledgement of Adhering to Handbook signature page at registration. The handbook is readily available on our website or you can use this link: [AVTB Handbook](#)

**Acknowledgement of Adhering to Handbook - This signature page must be signed at the time of registration through the online portal. 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



## Update from MBL Travel Director Meeting

### Umpire Shortage

- Not a new issue and not unique to baseball. Officials are leaving the profession and the main reason is the increase of behavior issues and confrontations from coaches/players/spectators.
  - Especially at the younger age groups, the umpires are young. Remember, they are learning the game.

### Coach/Player/Spectator Expectations

- From AVTB Handbook: 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.

### Pitching Restrictions

- No changes to last year's pitch count restrictions for either MBL or MBT.

# Update from the City for Fields

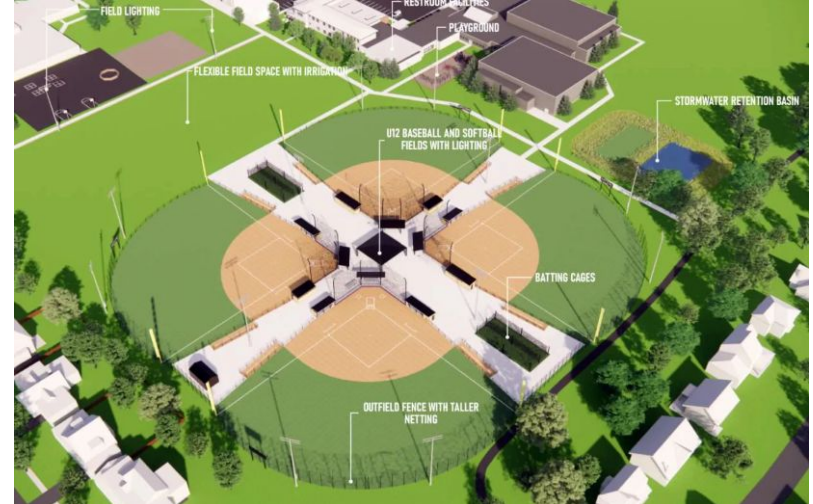


## Flexibility

- There are multiple projects finishing up this spring for our parks system. We will need everyone to keep an open mind with the fields they are given and understand you may need to share space with other teams.
- This does not only affect our organization but Community Baseball, Slow Pitch Softball, Fusion Fastpitch and EVAA programs. We made changes last year to ensure all teams had the fields they needed. We will continue with these changes this year, which means we may need to share space with other organizations.

## Hayes Complex

- We do not have access to these fields for 2026 while project is finishing up. The city will be laying more seed this spring and the ground needs time to firm up before being used. We are working with the city to finalize additional space for teams who utilize this field.





## Player Safety/Communication

- We encourage all parents who have concerns with either their players safety or with the coaching staff to have open communication. Communicate to your head coach or assistant coaches any concerns you have. If you feel the issue has not been addressed, we ask that you reach out to your Age Group Coordinator for assistance resolving any issues. Just because a team is winning does not mean we excuse bad behavior by coaching staff or compromises to player safety.
- **We cannot fix a problem if we do not know there is one.**



# Tryouts



## **Sunday, March 1st at the Cages in Burnsville - Hitting**

- 8-10 years old (9U-10U) — 10AM-11:30AM
- 11-12 year old (11U-12U) - 11:45AM-1:15PM
- 13-14 years old (13U-14U) — 1:30PM-3PM

## **Friday, March 6th at The Savage Sports Dome - Fielding (No school for ISD 196)**

- 8-10 years old (9U-10U) — 10AM-11:30AM
- 11-12 year old (11U-12U) - 11:45AM-1:15PM
- 13-14 years old (13U-14U) — 1:30PM-3PM

*Players must be registered to participate in tryouts.* Players must bring their own equipment. (Glove, Helmet, and Bat)

**NO CLEATS ARE ALLOWED INSIDE THE CAGES OR THE SAVAGE DOME.**

Please note: players are not allowed to wear any prior Apple Valley, Club Baseball, or MBL apparel (example: hats, jersey, or shirts). Players will be asked to remove any identifying items.

Rosters will be sent by email and posted on website by **5PM on March 10th.**

After tryouts have been scored, there is a possibility that some registrants may not be placed on a 2026 Traveling Baseball roster. In the event that a player does not make a team, AVTB will refund the registration fee minus the tryout fee. It would be recommended that players continue their development in the Community Program. We will also share opportunities if they present themselves with any local community traveling team looking for numbers.

# 2026 Tournament Schedule

Team	May 1-3	May 8-10	May 15-17	May 22-24	May 29-31	June 5-7	June 12-14	June 19-21	June 26-28
9AA			Blaine		Albert Lea		Chanhassen		Menomonie
10A		Apple Valley			Albert Lea	Inver Grove Heights	Delano		
10AA	Lakeville	Apple Valley				Becker	Delano		
11A			Delano		St Louis Park	Burnsville			
11AA	Woodbury		Delano				Mahtomedi	Apple Valley	
12A			Minnetonka	Field of Dreams (Iowa)		Burnsville		Apple Valley	
12AAA		Apple Valley		Field of Dreams (Iowa)		Burnsville		Northfield	
13A		Apple Valley		Field of Dreams (Iowa)		Edina	Mankato		
13AA		*White Bear	*Blaine	Field of Dreams (Iowa)	*St Louis Park	East Ridge		Apple Valley	
14+		Apple Valley	*Inver Grove Heights			*South St Paul	*Woodbury		Hopkins
14AA		*Bloomington	*Prior Lake			East Ridge	Owatonna		

**MBT State Tournament:**  
**July 10-12** – 10A, 12A, 12AAA, 13A & 14AA  
**July 17-19** – 9AA, 10AA, 11A, 11AA, 13AA & 14+

**GSTC:**  
**July 10-12** – 10AA, 11AA & 13AA  
**July 17-19** – 12AAA  
**July 25-27** – 9AA, 10A, 11A, 12A, 13A, 14+ & 14AA

\*Waitlist

# Early Season Practice Sessions

AVTB has secured some preseason practice space at The Cages in Burnsville. Each team will get access to two 1.5 hour practice sessions.

Teams will get an additional indoor practice session scheduled for a later date in the season.

Coaches will communicate reminders to families at the start of the season.

**9AA:** 4/1 @ 6:30pm & 4/12 @ 12pm  
**10A & 10AA:** 4/4 @ 10:30am & 4/12 @ 12pm  
**11A & 11AA:** 4/4 @ 12pm & 4/12 @ 1:30pm  
**12A:** 4/4 @ 1:30 & 4/15 @ 6pm  
**12AAA:** 4/10 @ 5pm & 4/16 @ 6pm  
**13A:** 4/4 @ 1:30pm & 4/17 @ 6:30pm  
**13AA:** 4/10 @ 5pm & 4/17 @ 6:30pm  
**14A+ & 14AA:** 4/4 @ 4:30pm & 4/12 @ 3pm

**\*\*\*Dates are subject to change**





# 2026 Volunteer Hours

**VAA is hosting 2 tournament weekends for 2026 season.  
May 8th-10th and June 19th-21st**

- Volunteer hour requirement is estimated to be approximately **7-8 hours per player**. This may fluctuate slightly as we finalize our registrations and tournament schedule.
- \$350 deposit checks will be collected at uniform/hat pickup. Uniforms will not be distributed without a check.
- Volunteer Sign-Up will go live by **April 21st**.
- Assistant coaches will have first access to volunteer shifts.
- Deadline for signup will be **May 1st**. Families that do not sign up for volunteer hours by this deadline will have their volunteer checks cashed.
- Families may choose whatever day/location works best for them. We are hoping to provide site details for each age group so families can volunteer at players site, if possible.
- Siblings/friends/family may fill the hours for you, but the age minimum to sign up is 16 years old. Kids under the age of 16 are not allowed in concession stands (City of AV rule).
- Families that do not show up and/or check in for their assigned volunteer shifts will have their deposit checks cashed post-tournament.
- Volunteer Job Descriptions - Site Coordinator, Fields/Groomer, Concessions

# 2026 Fundraiser



*AVTB will **NOT** be having a fundraiser for the 2026 season. This decision is based on the financial status of our program and the revenue generated by hosted tournaments the past two seasons.*

*However, if our 2026 hosted Tournaments are impacted by weather and cancellations and refunds need to be issued, **AVTB board has the discretion to bring back a fundraiser for next season.***

# 2026 Uniforms



**HOME:**



FRONT

**AWAY:**



FRONT

**Uniform Fitting:**  
At the Apple Valley Community Center  
March 11th & 12th 6-8pm



BACK



BACK



# 2026 Spirit Wear

Spirit wear store open 3/1 - 3/15





## ML Mission

The mission of the South Metro Miracle League is to provide opportunities for children and adults ages 3 years old and over with cognitive and/or physical disabilities, to play Miracle League Baseball, regardless of ability.

Provide the opportunity to make new friends and build self-esteem in a fun and safe environment by using the Buddy Program, which pairs players up with able-bodied peers or adults to help them in the game.





# Cooperstown

Each year VAA sends one 12U team to Cooperstown, NY to play at Cooperstown Dreams Park in a week-long national tournament. Visit VAA Traveling Baseball website for more information and a link to Cooperstown Dreams Park website.

Because the application and fundraising process is long, the Cooperstown Team is determined a year ahead of time by using the final roster for the highest level 11U team.

*Example: This year's highest 11U team will be next summer's Cooperstown Team*

That team spends the next 1+ year fundraising and planning for their week in Cooperstown the following summer. Being part of the Cooperstown team is a full time commitment. AVTB expects players to prioritize baseball during the season and exhibit good sportsmanship. This is an opportunity to represent AVTB at a national level.

AV teams typically go to Cooperstown in late July/early August after the regular season is over.

# 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.

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.***

# Fall Baseball

## WHAT IS FALL BALL?

An opportunity to continue developing fundamentals and play at the age group for the the following spring season. Season runs from Mid-August through Mid-October. Games start after Labor Day.

Double headers on Sundays in Metro Area

**Registration will open early-mid July.** All registration is through AVTB, not the MBL page. If you register through MBL, you may not be guaranteed to be placed on an Apple Valley Team.

More information to follow later in the season.





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**VALID MARCH 6<sup>TH</sup> - MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

# 2026 Summer Season – Dates to Know



- Registration: Early Bird pricing ends 2/20; registration closes 2/26
- Winter Semi-Formal: February 21st (American Legion) — 7-11PM
- Tryouts - Hitting: March 1st (The Cages)
  - 8-10 years old (9U-10U) — 10AM-11:30AM
  - 11-12 year old (11U-12U) — 11:45AM-1:15PM
  - 13-14 years old (13U-14U) — 1:30PM-3PM
- Tryouts - Fielding: March 6th (Savage Sports Center)
  - 8-10 years old (9U-10U) — 10AM-11:30AM
  - 11-12 year old (11U-12U) — 11:45AM-1:15PM
  - 13-14 years old (13U-14U) — 1:30PM-3PM
- **Spiritwear Store:** Open March 1st-15th
- Uniform Fittings: **March 11th and 12th 6:00-8:00** at Apple Valley Community Center
  - ***Players are required to attend with their guardian!***
- Spaghetti Dinner: April 4th (American Legion) — 12:00-3:00PM
- Uniform Pickup: Late April — VOLUNTEER CHECKS DUE AT THIS TIME
- ***Volunteer Sign Up: April 21st***
- Apple Valley Tournaments: May 8th-10th and June 19th-21th
- Picture Day: May 12th AVHS Pond -(**schedule TBD**)

All information and updates can be found at <https://www.vaasports.org/travelbase>

**Tickets:** \$40 per person

## Ticket Price Includes:

- Admission to the semi-formal
- Live entertainment from DJ Charles Martin
- One complimentary drink per guest
- Hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening



**APPLE VALLEY COOPERSTOWN 2026 12U**

# WINTER SEMI-FORMAL

**2.21.26**  
7 PM - 11 PM

You're invited to an adults-only winter semi-formal to support our 2026 Cooperstown team! Let's come together for a fun night out to help our players reach their Cooperstown goals.

<p><i>Featuring:</i></p>  <p><b>DJ CHARLES MARTIN</b></p> <p>Charles brings 20+ years of DJ experience and strong ties to VAA as a coach, parent, and father of one of our 2026 Cooperstown players.</p>	<p><i>Hosted by:</i></p> <p><b>AMERICAN LEGION</b> 14521 Granada Dr, APPLE VALLEY</p> 
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**REGISTER**



→

Ticket pricing:

- \$40 per individual

Each ticket includes:

- Admission to the semi-formal
- Live entertainment from DJ Charles Martin
- One complimentary drink per guest
- Hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening

\*Tickets are limited and confirmed once payment is received.

QUESTIONS? [damon.laliberte@vaasports.org](mailto:damon.laliberte@vaasports.org)

**VAA SPAGHETTI FEED**

**APPLE VALLEY COOPERSTOWN 2026 12U**

**\$12 PER PERSON**  
(kids 5 and under free)

**SATURDAY APRIL 4** AV LOCATION  
**AMERICAN LEGION** 12-2:30PM

QUESTIONS? DAMON.LALIBERTE@VAASPORTS.ORG

Event and raffle tickets on sale during uniform fitting sessions.

**Spaghetti Feed:**

\$12 per person  
 \*Kids 5 and under free

**Raffle Tickets:**

1 - \$5  
 5 - \$20

**Raffle Prizes Include:**

Grand Prize: YETI Portable Cooler

2nd Prize: 55" INSIGNIA Smart Fire TV

3rd Prize: Bose Bluetooth Speaker

Other prizes include: \$50 XGolf gift card, \$50 Cole's Salon gift card, Saint Paul Saints tickets and more

**Drawing May 14th, 2026 5PM (Live Facebook Event)**



# Conclusion

- Wrap up
- Questions

Thank you to everyone for your dedication to VAA traveling baseball. We are excited to get this 2026 season kicked off!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any AVTB board member.

## GO EAGLES!

