



2026 SAYB Travel League Tryouts

When: February 7-8, 2026

Where: Day 1: TCO Sports Garden; Day 2: Mounds View High School (MAC)

Who: 10U-14U (Current Grades 4-8)

Day 1 Schedule (TCO Sports Garden)

Age	Tryout Start	Tryout Finish	Check-In
10U	8:45	10:00	15 Min Early
11U	10:00	11:30	15 Min Early
12U	11:30	1:00	15 Min Early
13U	1:00	2:30	15 Min Early
14U	2:30	4:00	15 Min Early

Day 2 Schedule (Mounds View High School - MAC)

Age	Tryout Start	Tryout Finish	Check-In
10U	8:45	10:00	15 Min Early
11U	10:00	11:30	15 Min Early
12U	11:30	1:00	15 Min Early
13U	1:00	2:30	15 Min Early
14U	2:30	4:00	15 Min Early

What to Bring:

Players should wear a baseball hat, long pants (doesn't have to be baseball pants), t-shirt + long sleeve and sneakers (or turf shoes at TCO). Players should bring all baseball gear, including catcher's gear if applicable (catchers will need gear on Sunday only). SAYB will provide catcher's gear for those that do not have their own set.

When to Arrive:

Posted times are the tryout start times. Players should arrive 15 minutes early to ensure adequate time to check in, receive their number, and drop their gear before the posted start time. Tryouts will start with a group warmup led by SAYB representatives.

What Will Be Evaluated:

The tryout process is designed to evaluate a variety of traits that make up a ball player and future teammate. Not all activities contribute directly to overall tryout score but will still be evaluated for use in team placement.

Included in Tryout Score

- **Hitting:** Scores will be assessed based on technique, power, adjustability, and barrel consistency.
- **Infield Defense:** Ground balls will be fielded off a bat, followed by the player making a throw to a live target. Evaluators will be looking at technique, range, glove confidence, arm strength and accuracy.
- **Outfield Defense:** Fly balls will be fielded off a bat, followed by the player making a throw to a live target. Evaluators will be looking at reaction, range, glove confidence, arm strength and accuracy.
- **Exit Velocity:** Ball speed will be measured as a player hits a baseball off a tee into a net. The maximum exit speed will be recorded as a direct metric.
- **Throwing Velocity:** Ball speed will be measured during the pitching evaluation station. The maximum throwing velocity will be recorded as a direct metric.

Not Included Directly in Tryout Score, But Recorded for Consideration In Placement

- **Running Speed:** Each participant will sprint 40 yards with time measurement recorded as a direct metric.
- **Pitching:** Bullpen session to a live catcher. Evaluators will review mechanics, command, velocity, and different pitches a participant may have (off-speed, breaking, etc.) – All participants are asked to pitch!
- **Catching (Optional):** Catchers will be evaluated on ability to receive and block pitches. Pop time and throw-down to second will also be included.
- **Attitude/Effort:** Though not directly scored, evaluators are asked to look at the complete baseball player/teammate. Tryout participants are strongly encouraged to remember that their evaluation starts when they walk in the door. Be respectful, listen to instructions, and hustle! It is noticed!
- **Decision Making/Baseball IQ:** Though situational baseball is difficult to evaluate with a large number of participants and a limited amount of time, evaluators are looking at the decision making of each participant as they react to ball placement, speed, and any adversity they may encounter during tryouts.

Additional Tryout Information



Tryout Purpose and Guiding Principles:

Tryouts will be held to evaluate players for the purpose of developing team placements that best support each player's level of development. SAYB's primary goal is to get it right. Proper placement maximizes developmental opportunities by creating a healthy balance of challenge and success for each player.

SAYB is committed to developing a fun, challenging, and opportunity-filled program for all participants to grow and learn within. We strive to keep as many kids loving baseball for as long as possible! We are committed to a fair tryout process that offers all players an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities.

What You Should Know About the Tryout Process:

1. Only outside evaluators are used for the tryout scoring process. No SAYB board members, coaches, or player parents determine or contribute to a player's tryout scores.
2. Upon check-in, players are assigned a tag that displays only a number. Evaluators are not provided the names of participants. Scores are recorded with only the assigned ID number identifying the participant.
3. Each evaluation station will have multiple evaluators assigned, meaning each participant will receive multiple scores at each station. These scores will be averaged to provide the most accurate final score.
4. The tryout process is facilitated by the SAYB Travel Leadership group. They will welcome player participants at the beginning of the day and provide initial instructions for what to expect and how to navigate the day.
5. Logistically, tryouts require many volunteers to manage the volume of participants that will be evaluated on a precise schedule. On the day of tryouts, these volunteers will assist with player check-in, hitting ground balls and fly balls, pitching to batters, and helping to escort groups from station to station.
6. SAYB volunteers present at tryouts are not allowed to provide advice or coaching to any individual participants. **Your player may see SAYB Board Members or past coaches that they are familiar with, however these SAYB representatives will not have any role in the evaluation/scoring.**
7. The tryout process is a closed event. Parents are asked to part from their player at the check-in table. This is critical both to space constraints and to the assurance that each participant is able to experience a consistent evaluation process, without external distractions or inputs.
8. Players will be grouped and evaluated with others at their same age/grade.
9. Individual player scores will not be published or available to participants, parents, coaches, or the SAYB board at large. Scores will only be viewed by the Team Formation Committee.
10. Teams will be announced within 10 days of the completion of tryouts. This time period is critical in allowing proper vetting of tryout data, identification of head coaches, and detailed review of previous season's coaches' evaluations to enable the best possible placement for each player.

Make-Up Dates:

To preserve the integrity and consistency of evaluations, make-up dates will not be offered. Indoor facility rental, evaluator scheduling, and volunteer coordinating effort requires that all prospective participants attend the scheduled dates. Participants must attend BOTH days of tryouts.

Fair Process Commitment:

SAYB is a parent-volunteer led association, with representation from parents of players of all ages and league levels. We recognize that this process can sometimes be more stressful on the parents than the kids! It's hard! Every effort will be made to promote a fair and inclusive tryout and team formation process. Information shared in this communication is intended to provide clear explanation and accountability for what to expect out of the process. Our priority in everything we do is to serve each and every SAYB kid as well as we can.

Team Formation Process



Teams Fielded:

The number of travel teams fielded by SAYB will be determined by registration (number of participants) and skill level of participants. Per MYAS guidelines the first team established at each age level must be at the AAA level. If additional teams are fielded at an age level, they are to be fielded next at the AA level, and finally at the A level. It is anticipated that SAYB will attempt to field a AAA, AA, and A level team at each grade level. If participation numbers or tryout scores do not align with this baseline, multiple teams at either the AA or A level will be considered.

Player Placement:

Team placement for each individual will be determined by the SAYB Team Formation Committee. Teams will consist of either 11 or 12 players per roster. While tryout scores will serve as the primary tool for team placement, the Team Formation Committee will carefully analyze results in the context of past performance and previous coaches' evaluations to provide the most well-rounded evaluation of each player. We believe this provides opportunity for growth and development between seasons to be recognized, while still acknowledging the body of work a player has demonstrated previously.

Team placement is final. Registration refunds will not be provided in the event of a player not accepting their team placement. If a player drops out after placement, the Team Formation Committee will make placement adjustments as necessary to maintain properly balanced teams. Players currently rostered in a neighboring Association's traveling program will not be allowed to try out for SAYB.

Players that are not assigned to a travel roster will be placed on an SAYB Recreational League team. 10U Players will be placed on teams in the SAYB Minor League. Players aged 11U-12U will be placed on teams in the SAYB Major League. Players aged 13U-14U will be placed in the Gopher State Recreational League. Recreational league team placement will be announced after travel teams are formed. Further communication will be provided for these players after the tryout process is completed.

Coach Selection:

Coaching applications will be received prior to tryouts for review by SAYB Travel League leadership. Upon initial team formation, a Head Coach will be identified for each team based upon the level that their child is placed and an acceptable Coaching application submission. Players will not be improperly placed based on their parent being selected to coach a team. Instead, team assignment for a prospective coach will be determined by the team level their child is assigned to. In situations where a head coach is not named, SAYB will work to fill the position as expeditiously as is possible.

Have Questions?

SAYB Travel leadership will be available at Tryout Prep Clinics to address any questions you might have about the SAYB Travel Program.