

SUMMARY OF EVAA 2026 TRAVELING BASEBALL TRYOUTS

EVAA traveling baseball tryouts will be held at The Cages in Burnsville and the Savage Dome. Times for individual age groups are posted on the EVAA website. The dates for different age groups are as follows:

Fielding

- Monday, February 16th at Savage Dome, 10:30am-3pm

Hitting

- Tuesday, February 17th at The Cages, 5-8pm
OR
- Friday, February 20th at The Cages, 5-8pm

There will be 4 main components of the tryouts: running (1.5%), infield (32.9%), outfield (20.5%), and hitting (45.1%).

At the Cages, all age groups will use a tee-time format to go thru the hitting. Players will rotate as follows: start in a general warm up area, move to the soft toss cage (1st area that is scored) then move to the live hitting cage (scored) and after that are free to leave. This process should take about 30 minutes.

At the Savage Dome, players will be in small groups based on their ages and rotate between infield, outfield, and running\agility. At each area they will have a practice ball or two so they are familiar with the process before being scored.

Other than Board members and provisional coaches, parents are not allowed on the floor of the Savage Dome or in the main batting areas at The Cages. Players are not allowed to wear any clothing that contains their name or indicates in any way that they played on a traveling baseball team or any other club team (i.e. Mash, Blizzard, Saints, etc.) in a previous season. All such attire would need to be removed prior to the player being able to participate in tryouts.

Please note that the bat standards for 2026 have not changed from last year. EVAA adheres to bat standards set by the Metro Baseball League (MBL). EVAA baseball requires players to use bats compliant with MBL rules in tryouts and games. Bats may be checked prior to a player being able to participate in the tryout process. If the bat does not comply, then the player will not be able to use that bat. Visit MBL website at www.mbl.bz and familiarize yourself with the bat rules.

The EVHS coaching staff will provide two independent evaluators at each station. These evaluators are hired for this event and do not have any kids in the EVAA traveling baseball program. In addition, the provisional AAA and AA coaches evaluate 1 round of hitting and infield. The provisional AAA and AA coaches' scores for each station are combined and then averaged for each player. The evaluation by the provisional coaches constitutes 11.9% of the total evaluation score.

RUNNING (1.5%)

For the running portion of the tryouts, each player will be timed running a 30-yard dash as well as running a 10-yard shuttle run. The total time for both components of the running tryout will constitute the time for the player. The players in the top 1/3 of the age group will receive 6 points. The players in the middle 1/3 of the age group will receive 3 points. The players in the bottom 1/3 of the age group will receive 0 points.

INFIELD (32.9%)

Infield ground balls are “thrown” from a pitching machine. For the scoring portion of the tryout, each player will start between 2nd and 3rd base. When the player raises their hand, a ball will be thrown directly at them at a speed appropriate for the age group. The player will need to field the ground ball and throw to first base (a current Eastview Traveling Baseball Board member not associated with the age group will play 1st Base). The player then goes to 2nd base and places the edge of their foot on the base. When the player raises their hand, a ball will be thrown half way between 2nd and 3rd base at a speed appropriate for the age group. The player will need to field the ground ball and throw to first base. The player then goes to 3rd base and places one foot on the base. When the player raises their hand, the ball will be thrown to the same spot halfway between 2nd and 3rd base. The player should field the ball and throw it to first base. The player then stands between 2nd and 3rd base. When they raise their hand, a ball will be thrown directly at them which they should field and throw to first base. After completing the last throw, the player charges towards home plate. A grounder will be rolled to them which the player should field on the run and throw to 1st base.

Please Note: In some instances, the ball does not reach the prescribed ‘spot’ between 2nd and 3rd base. When that happens, the Infield Coordinator/Evaluators grant another opportunity.

The evaluators provide points in the following areas for infield:

- 0-7 points – form and style
- 0-6 points – arm strength
- 0-6 points – throwing accuracy
- 0-7 points – fielding range

There will be 26 points from each independent evaluator, plus 26 points from the combined average of the two provisional coaches for that age group. The scores from the independent evaluators are doubled ($52 \times 2 = 104$), plus the 26 from the average of the two provisional coaches for that age group bring the maximum point total to 130.

OUTFIELD (20.5%)

Outfield fly balls are “thrown” from a pitching machine. Each player will get one or two practice fly balls. For the scoring portion of the tryout, each player will start standing on the X. When the player raises their hand, a ball will be thrown to an X marked on the floor in the middle of 3 bases. The player will need to catch the fly ball and throw to a cutoff person (a current player from Eastview Traveling Baseball Board member will act as cutoff). The player then goes to “first base” and places one foot on the base. When the player raises their hand, the ball will be thrown to the X. The player should catch the ball and throw it to the cutoff person. The player then goes to "second base" and places one foot on the base. When the player raises their hand, the ball will be thrown to the X. The player should catch the ball and throw it to the cutoff person. The player then goes to "third base" and places one foot on the base. When the player raises their hand, the ball will be thrown to the X. The player should catch the ball and throw it to the cutoff person.

Please Note: In some instances, the ball does not reach the prescribed ‘landing spot’ designated with an X. When that happens, the Outfield Coordinator/Evaluators grant another opportunity.

The evaluators provide points in the following areas for outfield:

- 0-7 points – form and style
- 0-6 points – arm strength
- 0-6 points – throwing accuracy
- 0-7 points – judgment and range
- 0-4 points – making the catch (1 point for each ball caught)

The total possible points would be 60 points (30 points from each independent evaluator). This total will then be multiplied by a 1.35 weighting factor to increase the maximum outfield score to $60 \times 1.35 = 81$.

HITTING (45.1%)

All players take some practice swings in a separate batting cage immediately prior to their tryout at the hitting station. During the first round of hitting the players will be hitting front underhand toss balls. An independent pitcher (a person who does not have a child trying out in the age group) will be located approximately 25-30 feet away behind an L screen. They will toss balls for the hitter at a medium speed for the age group. Each hitter will have at least 8 swings. Players should swing at all pitches that are strikes. Pitches that are strikes that are not swung at will count as swings. During the second round the players will hit live pitching by an independent pitcher (a person who does not have a child trying out in the age group). In the second round, each player will have 2 bunts and 8 swings. Players should swing at all pitches that are strikes. Pitches that are strikes that are not swung at will count as swings.

The evaluators provide points in the following categories for each round of hitting: 0-5 points – bunting
0-7 points – power
0-7 points – well hit

0-7 points – mechanics

For the first round of hitting the total possible points would be 42 points (21 points from each independent evaluator). In the second round of hitting the total possible points would be 73 points -- 52 points (26 points from each independent evaluator) plus 21 points from the combined average of the two provisional coaches for that age group. The total possible points for hitting are $42 + 73 = 120$. This total will then be multiplied by a 1.55 weighting factor to increase the maximum hitting score to $120 \times 1.55 = 186$.

Summary of points available for all Age groups:

Running – 6 pts (1.5%)
Infield – 130 pts (32.9%)
Outfield – 81 pts (20.5%)
Hitting – 178.3 pts
(45.1%)
Total = 395.3 pts

TEAM SELECTION

Upon completion of the tryout process each player is ranked from number 1 through the total number of participants based on the scoring set forth above. Through the 2 rounds of tryouts there are 395.3 total possible points. For all age groups, the top 6 players automatically are placed on the AAA team (or highest level team). The provisional AAA coach will then select 6 of the next 16 ranked players to complete the 12-player team. The provisional coach can review the player profiles completed by the coach from the prior year to consider the game performance of those players during the prior season in connection with selecting the final 6 players on the team. If the provisional coach decides to select a player for the AAA team outside of the top 12 players, he or she must have a sound baseball reason which is approved by members of the Team Selection Committee. Once the 12 players are selected for the AAA team, the next 6 ranked players are automatically placed on the AA team. The provisional AA coach will then be allowed to pick 6 players from the next 16 players to complete the 12-player team. Again, the provisional coach will be allowed to review the player profiles from the previous year to look at a player's game performance during the previous season. The process continues until all teams are filled.