



Brookings Friends of Baseball

U9-U12 Travel Team Policies

The Brookings Friends of Baseball advanced 9U-12U travel baseball program is designed to give players of these age groups additional competitive baseball opportunities outside of their in-house league schedule.

The objective of the program is to provide an excellent travel baseball program for interested players to compete in local, state and regional baseball tournaments as well as have the opportunity to compete in the state tournament for each respective age group.

Travel teams will represent the community of Brookings and Friends of Baseball. Participation is reserved for players and parents who have residence in Brookings or attend school in the Brookings school district.

Players must participate in Friends of Baseball in-house leagues to be eligible for travel teams.

Players who participate on an FOB-sponsored travel team may not participate on any other travel teams sponsored by FOB or another organization.

Teams

A minimum of one team will be fielded for each age group, with the possibility of additional teams being added based on player registration and interest, age cut-offs, coach volunteers and competitive balance.

Placement on a team may not be guaranteed, but it is the desire of FOB to provide as many opportunities as possible based on equal competitive opportunities for every player around his/her ability, attitude and commitment to the team.

Teams will be selected on feedback and evaluations from FOB coaches hired or appointed by the spring and summer coaching coordinators. Teams will be selected to create the greatest opportunity for a competitive team environment and player development in each case. The first team selected will be the Black team, the second team will be the Red team.

Cost

The travel team registration fee will be utilized for tournament fees, team equipment needs and umpires for any home tournaments. Cost for each player will be \$200 which is paid at time of registration. The fee is refundable if a player is not selected to any travel team. The fee is non-refundable once a player attends tryouts or begins to practice with the respective team.

Tournaments

Each travel team will be scheduled to participate in a minimum of three regular season tournaments. The Black team in each age group will participate in the state tournament. The Red team in each category may participate in the state tournament if approved by FOB. Optional tournaments may be scheduled in place of the state tournament for the Red team.

FOB will determine which tournaments the organization will fund the entry fees. Any additional tournaments beyond that will be at the expense of the families. Teams must play the schedule determined by FOB.

Both the Black and Red teams will play in any tournament hosted by Brookings Friends of Baseball.

Player Commitment

In addition to the tournament schedule, players will be required to attend at least one additional practice a week outside of any in-house practice or games. Practices will generally be held on Monday, Wednesday or Friday of the week at the coach's discretion and generally no more than 1 or 2 times each week. The practice schedule will be altered around the July 4th holiday based on the schedule for in-house games.

Travel team coaches may schedule additional or optional practices at any time throughout the season.

Parent's Commitment

It is the expectation that players will be available for tournaments and practices. Any potential conflicts need to be noted to the coaches at the time of tryouts. Player placement may be impacted by their availability to participate.

The number of tournaments that will be sponsored by FOB generally do not exceed five regular season tournaments plus the state tournament. Currently, two of those tournaments will be played in Brookings. Any tournament beyond what FOB agrees to support will be at the expense of the parents for that team.

Coaches for each travel team will be nominated by the youth baseball director and approved by the Brookings Friends of Baseball Board of Directors. Coaches may be required to do a background check prior to coaching. Each travel team will have a head coach and two assistant coaches. A third coach may be allowed as needed.

Registration & Tryouts

Players will be required to register for travel baseball during the normal FOB registration window (Oct. 1 - Dec. 15). Parents who are new to travel baseball and have questions are encouraged to contact FOB at post74baseball@gmail.com or attend a FOB Board Meeting in October or November.

Tryouts for all travel teams will be held the last week of March and may be conducted at an indoor facility. They will be conducted by the FOB spring and summer coaches. No parents will be allowed to conduct or attend the tryouts. Players will also have the opportunity to register for any off-season workouts provided through FOB.

Travel Team Objectives & Playing Requirements

In addition to the previously stated commitments for players and parents, it is understood that the objective of the travel team program is to develop baseball skills and baseball knowledge under the following guidelines:

- Each player is part of a team that represents Friends of Baseball and the community of Brookings. It is the expectation of FOB that each player, coach, parent and family member will act accordingly and work with the [FOB organizational values](#).
- Travel baseball is a competitive environment in which each player will be expected to accept their role within the team.
- Players will participate in each game and efforts will be made to get a minimum of one at-bat and two innings in the field during a six inning game. Coaches will need to use discretion if games do not reach the full six innings and any game under six innings does not eliminate an attempt to get each player some playing time.
- A player's preferred position **MAY NOT** necessarily be the player's position during the travel season. It is the goal, however, to develop each player into at least two positions - three if possible. It is encouraged that coaches will provide written feedback and evaluation to each player at the end of the season based on attitude, team-first approach, areas to improve and overall impressions of the season.
- Coaches, players, parents and family friends are expected to maintain a positive attitude at all times. Coaches are volunteers dedicated to the development of baseball skills within a team concept. No college scholarships will be awarded during the travel team season.

Equipment

FOB provides each travel team with catcher's gear and hats. Teams will need to order their own uniforms and in general each player will need to purchase their own bat. Travel team uniforms can have one sponsor and must be the same look as the player purchased jerseys for 13U through Senior Legion teams.

Players are expected to wear uniforms in accordance with the brand of Brookings Friends of Baseball.. Uniform tops are required to be tucked in at all times.

Questions

Questions can be directed to post74baseball@gmail.com.