

TRAVEL BALL



INFORMATION AND LETTER OF INTENT - CAL RIPKEN

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in having your child tryout for Bismarck Youth Baseball's (BYB) 2024 travel ball program. BYB is a non-profit organization that sponsors youth league baseball and travelling teams for Cal Ripken baseball in the 9-, 10-, 11-, and 12-year-old age groups. Bismarck Youth Baseball is committed to growing the game of baseball, and this off-season BYB evaluated ways to provide additional opportunities in our travel program. For the 2024 season, BYB is continuing to expand opportunities for all age groups, 9YO-12YO. BYB intends to form two teams for each age division: Americans AAA and Americans AA. If there is enough participation, BYB will form an additional AA team. Depending on roster sizes and player safety, BYB will make its best effort to place kids who are interested in the travel program.

AGE BREAKDOWN

9YO | May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015

10YO | May 1, 2013 – April 30, 2014

11YO | May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013

12YO | May 1, 2011 – April 30, 2012

TRYOUT INFO

To be considered for a roster, your child is required to attend each session to get a valid evaluation. The sessions will include:

9 YO PLAYERS

Session 1 | Thursday, January 25 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Fore Seasons Golf Dome

Session 2 | Sunday, February 4 | 6:15 – 7:30 pm | Sanford POWER

10 YO PLAYERS

Session 1 | Thursday, January 25 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm | Fore Seasons Golf Dome

Session 2 | Sunday, February 4 | 7:30 – 8:45 pm | Sanford POWER

11 YO PLAYERS

Session 1 | Tuesday, January 23 | 5:30 – 7:00 pm | Fore Seasons Golf Dome

Session 2 | Sunday, January 28 | 6:15 – 7:30 pm | Sanford POWER

12 YO PLAYERS

Session 1 | Tuesday, January 23 | 7:00 – 8:30 pm | Fore Seasons Golf Dome

Session 2 | Sunday, January 28 | 7:30 – 8:45 pm | Sanford POWER

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TRYOUT INFO (CONT.)

Locations:

Fore Seasons Golf Dome, 2525 N. 19th St.
Sanford POWER, 3451 N 14th St. Ste. C

Players should arrive for tryouts no less than 15 minutes before their scheduled start time to get checked in. Baseball attire should be worn for tryouts (wear tennis shoes – no cleats) and players should each bring their own glove. Players are not allowed to wear any BYB travelling jerseys from previous years, or any clothing with their name on it.

There is a \$20 per player travel tryout fee that must be paid at the first travel tryout session, to cover the facility rental.

Note: Travel Tryout – Session 2 will be mandatory for all players who have been invited to participate in this second tryout session. The invitation to attend this second session will be based on the results of the player’s tryout – Session 1. It is possible that not all players will receive an invitation to attend Travel Tryout – Session 2. Players that are invited to the second session will receive an email the next day after session 1 tryouts.

It is the parent’s responsibility to spend time getting players in basic shape (i.e. arm strength, aerobic conditioning, etc.) prior to tryouts.

PRE-TRAVEL TRYOUT WORKOUTS

BYB will be hosting pre-travel tryout workouts on January 13 and January 20. This will be a chance for players to get a feel for the tryout process and get additional reps prior to travel tryouts. This is optional, and players are not required to attend to be placed on a travel team. BYB board members will be available to answer questions regarding the travel program

Location: Sanford POWER, 3451 N 14th St. Ste. C

SESSION TIMES

9YO | Saturday, January 13 | 4:00 – 6:00 pm
10YO | Saturday, January 13 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm
11YO | Saturday, January 20 | 4:00 – 6:00 pm
12YO | Saturday, January 20 | 6:00 – 8:00 pm

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EXPANDED OPPORTUNITIES AND COMPETITION FOR BYB BASEBALL PLAYERS

Bismarck Youth Baseball is committed to growing the game of baseball, and this off-season BYB evaluated ways to provide additional opportunities in our travel program. For the 2024 season, BYB is expanding the opportunities for all age groups, 9YO-12YO.

- BYB intends to form two teams for each age division: Americans AAA and Americans AA (exception of the 9YO division).
 - If there is enough participation, BYB will form an additional AA team. In that case, both AA teams would be split evenly.
 - Depending on roster sizes and player safety, BYB will make its best effort to place all kids who are interested in the travel program.
 - For the 9YO division, BYB intends to form two equal teams if numbers allow.
 - In the case we are able to form three 9YO teams, the travel committee may form one AAA team and two AA teams which would be split evenly.
- The Americans AAA teams will consist of the top 12 players from each age group and typically have more tournaments on the weekend. The Americans AAA will play in the North Dakota Cal Ripken state tournament.
 - The 9YO and 10YO teams will play in the state tournament.
 - The 11YO and 12YO teams will be the designated team for Bismarck to qualify for the AAA state tournament.
- The Americans AA will have a competitive schedule and will have access to local tournaments, either hosted by BYB or nearby Cal Ripken programs.
 - The Americans AA will be able to play in a North Dakota Cal Ripken state tournament in the AA division.
- In addition to participating in weekend tournaments, travel teams will have the opportunity to play against local and regional Cal Ripken travel teams.
- Again this year, the 11YO and 12YO AAA teams will be participating in the West Region Travel League.
- New this year, there will be a 10YO AAA and AA divisions for the North Dakota State Tournaments.
 - The 10YO AAA team does not have to participate in a West Region Travel League to qualify for the AAA state tournament.

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TRYOUT PROCESS OVERVIEW

SESSION 1

Hitting	Mechanics, Ball Contact, and Quality of Contact. Pitches will be delivered by BYB pitching machines.
Infield	Mechanics (footwork, body positioning, and throwing), Positional Knowledge and Defensive Movements (i.e. where to stand along with moving right, left, charging the ball, etc.), Fielding the Ball, Quality of Throw, and Arm Strength.
Outfield	Mechanics (footwork, body positioning, and throwing), Defensive Movements (i.e. moving up, back, right, left), Catching the Ball, Quality of Throw, and Arm Strength.
Pitching	Mechanics, Ability to Consistently Pitch Strikes, and Arm Strength.

This tryout session will be judged by independent (i.e. none of their own children will be players in the tryout group), experienced, and knowledgeable adult volunteers and/or college baseball players. BYB will attempt to get up to 2 judges per station, depending on availability of volunteers. Each player will be assigned a number for scoring, and the tryout process will ensure that no scoring mix-up occurs.

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TRYOUT PROCESS OVERVIEW (CONT.)

SESSION 2

Warmup	Ability to follow direction and warmup as instructed.
Hitting	Each player will get 8-12 cuts. Players will also have their exit velocity measured.
Throwing	Each player will participate in a throwing drill to measure throwing velocity and overall arm strength.
Infield/Outfield	Each player will participate in various infield and outfield drills designed to evaluate the player for both fundamentals and execution. Catchers will have an opportunity to be evaluated

This tryout session will be evaluated by the BYB Travel Committee.

At the conclusion of the tryout process, results will be reviewed by the BYB Travel Committee. Based on these results, the travel team(s) will be selected, and team rosters will be posted to the BYB website.

Note: Travel players will not be placed on a league team.

TRAVEL BALL FEES

If your child is selected to be on a travel team, there will be an additional travel ball fee to help offset tournament fees, uniforms, equipment costs, umpire costs, and volunteering fee. If teams, decide to play more games that require additional funds to pay for umpires the team must get permission from BYB and at the end of the season each family will be invoiced for the additional balance.

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TRAVEL BALL FEES

TRAVEL BALL COSTS

AAA		AA & 9YO's	
Travel Baseball Fee	\$200	Travel Baseball Fee	\$150

VOLUNTEER FEE

Each player's family will be required to volunteer at BYB hosted travel tournament(s). If volunteer standards are not met, BYB will send an invoice for \$100/player to be paid at the end of the season.

RAFFLE TICKETS

Bismarck Youth Baseball is a 501-c(3) non-profit and strives to keep player costs low for parents. BYB relies upon grants, sponsorships, advertising, and player fees to fund its operations. Since these funding sources do not cover the total costs of operation, and BYB does not currently operate any gaming sites in Bismarck or North Dakota, BYB will be asking Cal Ripken travel players and parents to sell 10 raffle tickets to help make sure our program has adequate program funding for the kids. BYB understands that selling raffle tickets can be difficult for some families, but BYB must continue with a raffle until different, but reliable, funding sources are procured. Thank you in advance for helping sell raffle tickets and helping BYB support our kids and baseball in Bismarck!

BYB CONTRIBUTES

- \$800 minimum in tournament entry fees per team
 - BYB also covers the entry fees for a BYB-hosted tournament(s) and each Cal Ripken state baseball tournament.
- Uniform set for players and coaches which includes: Hat, Custom Jersey, Practice Shirt, Pant, Socks and Belt.
- Umpire Fees
- Necessary team equipment

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RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance at all designated tryouts is mandatory to be considered for a travelling team. We understand that there can be various conflicts and have done our best to schedule tryout dates that encourage attendance and participation.

2. There is an expectation, and in order to prevent a hardship for traveling teams and league teams, no player shall:

- a. Miss more than one travelling tournament per year and must attend all of the post-season tournaments (may include State, Regionals, or World Series);
- b. Miss more than 10% of the travelling team practices and;
- c. Miss more than 15% of their regular season, BYB travel league games.

Failure to comply with the above standards may result in the player's head coach requesting the BYB travel committee for their removal. While BYB understands that conflicts may occasionally arise. However, the above participation requirements are important for the experience of the team. Travel teams typically participate in 4-8 tournaments per year, as determined by the head coach and group of parents at a preseason team meeting. In addition, there will be practices, end of year advancing tournaments: state, regional (if qualify), and world series (if qualify), and some scrimmages as arranged by the head coach. If a player or parent has any hesitation as to fulfilling the above commitments, then the player should not try out for Travel Ball.

3. Parents of travel players must be willing volunteers to help run any Cal Ripken Baseball Tournament hosted by BYB (invitational, qualifier, State, Regional, or World Series). If volunteer standards are not made, the \$100 fee will be invoiced at the conclusion of the season.

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RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

4. Each player that is selected to be on a travel team will receive a uniform. This uniform is to only be worn for game purposes. Each travel team may also choose to purchase other BYB-approved apparel as well. The cost for additional apparel is the responsibility of the parents.

5. In travel baseball, playtime is not equal. In addition, players are not guaranteed to have an equal rotation of infield or outfield positions or certain placement within the batting order. BYB relies upon its coaches to determine what is in the best interest of the team. That said, BYB has adopted a minimum play-time policy for travel ball (which exceeds Cal Ripken requirements), which includes the following:

- a. BYB Weekday Travel Games - In an effort to continue to develop each player in the BYB program, the travel committee will schedule weekday games against BYB travel teams and other Cal Ripken teams. Coaches are expected to foster an environment of development. In these games, teams are expected to bat all players and put players in new positions to encourage all-around player development.
- b. Travel Games- Each player shall play a minimum of one game during a double header. This applies towards the West Region Travel League for the 11YO and 12YO AAA teams.
- c. Invitational Tournaments - Each player shall play a minimum of six defensive outs and one at-bat per game. Understanding that games may be shortened for reasons outside of the coach's control (i.e. weather, 10-run rule, etc.), there may be occasions when this minimum play-time standard is not achieved.
- d. Advancing Tournaments (i.e. State, Regionals, World Series) - Each player shall make no less than one appearance per game. An appearance includes the following: a pinch hitter for the completion of one full at-bat, a pinch runner, a pitching change to face the minimum of one batter, a defensive substitution for the minimum of one defensive out, etc.

Play-time discussions will not be held outside of determining whether the coach has met BYB's minimum play-time standards.

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BISMARCK YOUTH BASEBALL DUAL ROSTER POLICY

1. General Principle:

Dual rostering of players is prohibited within BYB, unless approved by BYB. Players are expected to commit fully to a single team during a given season to ensure fairness, team cohesion, and consistent participation.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines regarding dual rostering of players within BYB. Once you are placed on a BYB team you are considered rostered and are not permitted to play on or be rostered on a second team that is not affiliated with BYB during the duration of the season.

3. Exceptional Circumstances:

In exceptional cases, a player may be granted permission to be dual rostered if it is deemed to be in the best interest of the player's development and the overall functioning of BYB. Such exceptions will be considered and approved by BYB's Board of Directors or designee.

4. Granting of Exception:

Players seeking dual roster status must submit a formal request to BYB, outlining the reasons for the request. The request must be submitted in advance of the season in question.

5. Consideration and Approval:

The decision to grant dual roster status will be thoroughly evaluated by BYB's Board of Directors or designee. Factors to be considered include the player's skill level, commitment, schedule compatibility, and the impact on both teams. The decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

6. Notification:

The player, along with the coaches and managers of both teams, will be notified of the decision regarding dual roster status. If approved, specific terms and conditions will be outlined, including expectations for attendance, playing time, and communication.

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7. Monitoring:

Players with dual roster status will be closely monitored throughout the season to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions set forth by BYB. Failure to meet these expectations may result in the revocation of dual roster status.

8. Revocation of Dual Roster Status:

BYB reserves the right to revoke dual roster status if it is determined that the arrangement is not serving the best interests of the player, the teams, or the league as a whole. This decision will be made by BYB's Board of Directors or designee and communicated to all relevant parties.

9. Amendments:

This policy may be amended or updated at the discretion of BYB's Board of Directors. Any changes will be posted on BYB's website.

By adhering to this policy, Bismarck Youth Baseball aims to ensure a positive and equitable experience for all players while maintaining the integrity of the league and promoting player development.

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We thank you for your interest in BYB Travel Baseball for the 2024 season. By signing the acknowledgement below, you are representing that you have received, reviewed, and agreed to the information contained within this **Travel Ball Overview and Letter of Intent**, and that you will abide by the decisions of the travel committee and BYB. If you are not willing to agree to this, please reconsider having your child tryout.

2024 BYB TRAVEL BALL OVERVIEW AND LETTER OF INTENT

Player Name and Age (Printed)

Parent Name (Printed)

Parent Signature

Date

By checking this box, I have read, acknowledged, and agree to abide by BYB's dual roster policy. *BYB's dual roster policy can be found on pages 9 and 10.*

PLAYER INFORMATION

- Parents, please bring along a t-shirt (preferably dri-fit – but cotton will work) that currently fits your player. We will have jerseys laid out for sizing reference, so players will not have to try anything on at the session.
- Players - Before tryouts, please write in your 1st and 2nd choice of jersey # below:

Jersey # - 1st Choice

Jersey # - 2nd Choice

AA ONLY DECLARATION

Parents, if you only want your child to be considered for AA, check the box below. Otherwise, the travel committee will place your child solely off their tryout evaluation and may be placed on an AAA or AA team. For 9YO AAA and AA players will have similar schedules as they participate in their first year of travel baseball regardless of designation, so declaring for AA only is not needed.

Please consider my child for AA only.
This does not guarantee your child will be placed on an AA team.

BYB USE ONLY

Age Division (Circle): 9YO 10YO 11YO 12YO Fee Paid (Circle): YES NO

Tryout Number: _____

Jersey Size: _____

Additional Notes: