

RTJBL Parent Travel Meeting 2026 Season



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Overview



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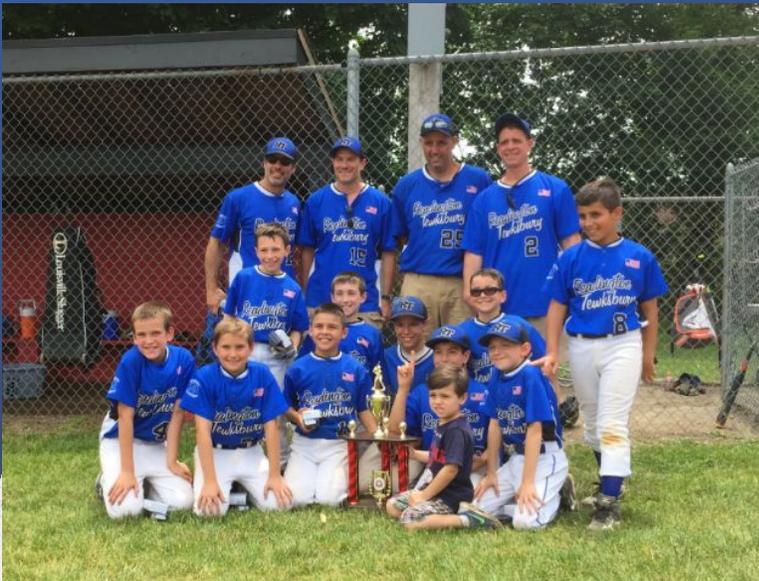
What is a Team Administrator

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Tryout Information

Questions

What is Travel Baseball?



- A great experience for youth baseball players to grow and improve in a competitive environment
- Teams are formed to field the most competitive teams to represent RTJBL
 - Making the team one year does not guarantee it the following year.
 - Teams will typically be made up of 10-12 players.
 - When there are enough players that attend tryouts we encourage two teams to be formed, a first and second team. We need coaches to also make this happen. - Note once teams are formed there may not be enough players for a 2nd team, some players tryout at multiple age groups and families think that we have enough players for two teams.
 - Players typically will be slotted into one or two positions in the field that help their team be the most successful.
 - Playing time is not equal amongst all players during a game.
- Teams play in local leagues & tournaments
 - Typically USABL or New Providence Gold/Green League
 - Some teams play in weekend tournaments.
- Players must play 65% of Rec games to be eligible for RTJBL travel teams.
- Rec practices and games take priority over travel events.

When is the Travel Baseball Season?



- Practices could start as early as January and continue through the Rec season. Once the Rec season starts, practices are usually held on Friday and or Sunday.
- Scrimmages and some games may be played in the spring before and during the Rec season.
- Tournaments and league play start after the Rec ends in early/mid June and goes through the end of July.
- Tournaments
 - Districts
 - Memorial Day and July 4th
 - Other weekend tournaments possible
- Some teams play in the fall, but this is optional and not considered an official RTJBL travel team.

How far do we Travel?



- Typically games are in towns along the Route 78, 287, 202/206 Corridors
- USABL Tournaments could be slightly further away, but usually not.
- Some teams may choose to do a destination trip to places like the Ripken facility in Maryland over a weekend
 - This sort of thing is discussed with parents in advance before being finalized, these events usually sell out and should be booked in the late fall/early winter.
- 12U Team participates in the Cooperstown Dreams Park Tournament every year
 - More on this later

What Travel Baseball is NOT



- An extension of the more casual recreational baseball season.
- Even with paid coaches on a town travel or club team, practices are not private lessons.
- A Club Baseball Team. Know what you are getting into with a club organization.
(Ex: Diamond Jacks, Zoned, Jays)

Commitment

- Your team needs you, you are committing to be a part of this team.
- Summer vacations should not be taken until August. If one player is away it hurts the entire team.
- Once spring season starts, other sports should not be a conflict.
- No double rostering of RTJBL Travel team and Outside Club/Travel sports are allowed.
- You can only play on one RTJBL travel team, you can sub for another one if you are age eligible but only when the team is shorthanded as described in our bylaws.



Costs



- Approximate cost per player \$600-\$800 per player
 - Includes off season, cages and or fields.
 - Could also include paid instruction
 - Scrimmages
 - League or Tournament play
 - Paid coaches for some teams, will add more to that cost
- Why use paid coaches?
- Not included in the above costs are uniforms
 - ~ \$100 for hat, jersey, pants
 - Can be reused from year to year
 - All RTJBL teams wear the same uniform, no alternative uniforms are permitted

Team Administration



He is our travel baseball team administrator,
kind of old school

Travel Team Administrator

- Travel Team Administrator is typically a volunteer parent that is not on the coaching staff. Their role is very important to the success of the team and requires someone that is organized and can handle team finances.
- **Responsibilities:**
 - Finances
 - RTJBL will establish a bank account for each travel team at Citizens bank.
 - Checkbook and bank card will be provided for the person managing finances.
 - Manage all funds for the team, which includes helping to set a budget, guidance from coaches and past team treasurers, collecting and depositing payments from participating families, making payments for registration of tournaments/league, paying district tournament fees, having cash available for coaches to pay umpires. Paying coaches if applicable.
 - Scheduling/Communications
 - Coaches will setup a guideline of practices, games and or tournaments with the team administrator. The administrator will schedule practices, book facilities/fields, coordinate games and scrimmages as planned. Administrator will use our league 'Sports Engine' app or Team Snap app to update schedules and RSVP information for the team. Administrator will also communicate with the team of schedule updates and with other teams coaches and league scheduler as needed for any of the above.
- Administrator does not set the schedule or decide which tournaments the team will participate in and has no say in on field operations other than that of any other parent, unless also having a position on the coaching staff.

Cooperstown Dreams Park

Cooperstown Dreams Park, 12U only.

- Once in a lifetime experience for the entire family
 - RTJBL's commitment/certificate
 - Week long sleepover camp in Cooperstown, NY
 - 100 plus Team national tournament, 22 fields
 - Opening and Closing Ceremonies
 - Players inducted into the American Youth Baseball HOF
 - Skills Competitions
 - Pin Trading



Tryout Information



Sunday, October 5th. Independent Evaluators

- Schedule on website, RTJBL.com
 - Other obligations and downside of doing a makeup tryout
- Only players who participated in travel tryouts are eligible for the upcoming spring and/or summer travel season, this includes first, second, and any subsequent teams that are formed. If players cannot attend the tryout due to a family commitment the VP of Tournament baseball will try and reschedule an evaluation for that player.
- Each player needs to have a \$20 cash fee and a signed Code of Conduct at registration
- Players should do not wear any RTJBL Travel or Club organization attire. This includes hats and sweatshirts. Baseball Pants with no logos on them are fine regardless if they were worn in travel. Anyone arriving with this attire will be asked to turn it inside/out or go home and change.

2026 Tryouts for 8U-12U October 5th @ RRA, RRB,

Schedule 2026 Tryouts- Arrive 15 min prior

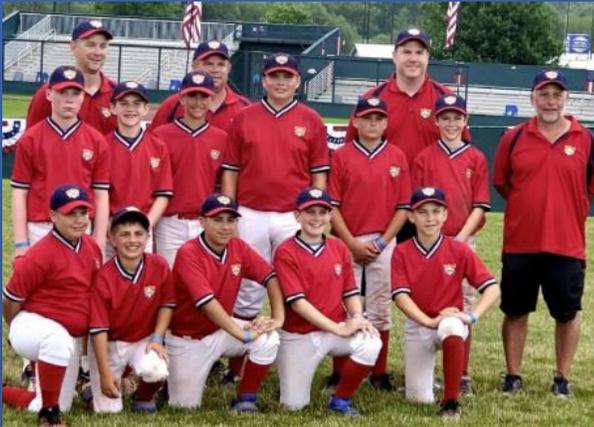
9U 9am - 10:00am

8U 10:00am - 11:15am

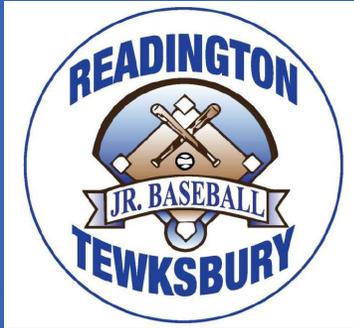
10u 11:15am-12:15pm

11u 12:15-1:15pm

Team Selection



- **The manager is named after an application is submitted, interviewed, and reviewed each year.**
 - If it is a parent we first use the information from tryouts or previous seasons to ensure the child would make the team.
 - Assistants could be selected before tryouts, but if they are parents to a player trying out the player is not locked into being on the team if their rankings don't reflect them being chosen.
 - For tryouts assistants may or may not be allowed to be at tryouts, case by case depending on previous season evaluation and discussion with manager
- **The team is selected by the head coach chosen based on the following information:**
 - The tryout information including numbers from evaluators and what the manager witnessed at tryouts, recreation rankings, past performance in Rec and Travel.
 - Managers will consult with the VP of Tournament baseball on choosing which players are qualified for Travel baseball and will make the overall team as competitive as reasonably possible. This does not assume that the Manager selects the best individual players, rather, the best players to field the overall team.
 - Players and parents when offered a spot on a travel team may Accept or Decline that invitation responses need to be done within 5 days. All decisions are final at the time of acceptance. If a player declines, they will not be eligible for that team or any other team in the Travel Program for the upcoming travel season.
 - Trying out for RTJBL vs Club teams, accepting then declining.



League perspective on some common questions

- The league's goal is to have the most competitive team possible to represent our league.
- As such, we can not allow parents to choose the teams their kids are on or who the coaches will be.
- Not enough playing time or not playing enough different kids at different positions.
- Batting order concerns
- Playing coach's children in 'marquee roles'
- Locking kids into positions at too young an age
- League Bylaws
- We take your feedback very seriously
 - All feedback is summarized anonymously for coaches so they can work on it if they are chosen as coaches the following year.
 - In extreme cases the Executive Board has made the decision to change coaches, and we take all feedback (positive and negative) into account when making these decisions.

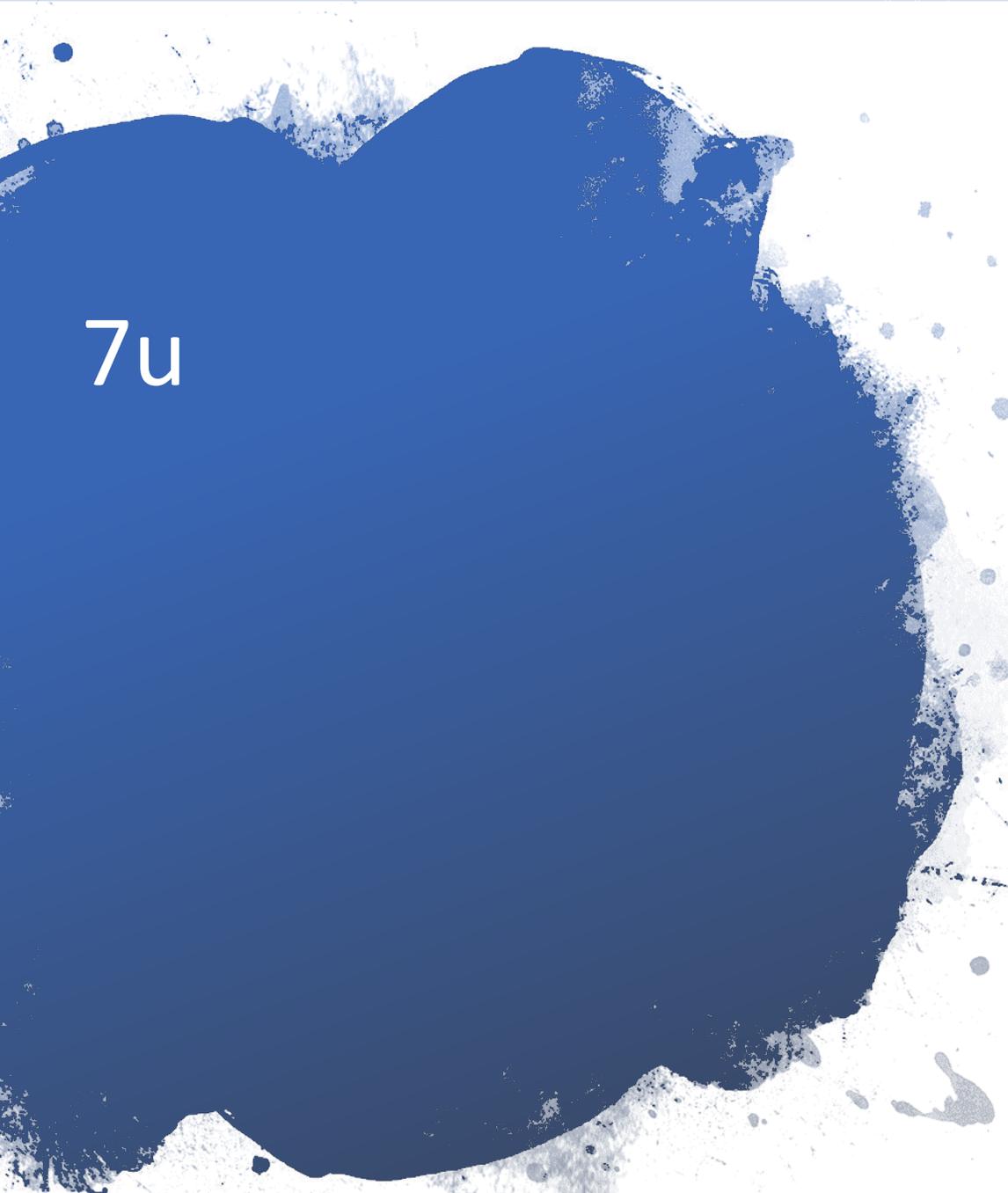
Age Eligibility

- We encourage players to play on the team their age makes them eligible for, but they can try out for one division higher. They must attend a tryout for both age groups if they want to be considered for two teams.
- Age cutoff is May 1st

Two examples;

Player turns 10 on or before April 30th, That player is considered 10u and can also try out for 11u.

Player turns 10 on May 1st, That player is considered 9u and can also try out for 10u.



7u

- 7u Tryouts are planned to take place in late April.
- Costs TBD
- More information late March Meeting.

Concerns or Feedback



- Communicate with coaches
(remember to give it the 24 hr window as mentioned in the code of conduct)
- Reach out to league contacts as soon a concern develops.
- Let us know problems when they arise, not in August when the season is over.
 - Comments will remain anonymous.
- Our board member who oversees Tournament Baseball
 - Jim Swanton (rtjbltravelvp@gmail.com)