

# The Travel Manifesto

BMBL offers an advanced play baseball program that is considered one of the best in the surrounding area. Being chosen to coach on one of our advanced play teams should be handled with respect, honor and dignity. Not only are you representing your team but you are representing the long history of Boyertown Baseball, BMBL and the Boyertown community. Please keep this in mind every time you practice, play a game, hold fundraising events, make comments online, host tournaments and when asked to volunteer. The program is more important than any one of our teams.

The following document will help guide everyone and keep all teams on the same track throughout their time in this program. We have outlined what everyone needs to know and what they can expect moving forward. These rules and guidelines are meant to help coaches plan and manage their teams to ensure we continue to represent Boyertown Baseball in a positive way and continue keeping it the gold standard program in the area.

## Rules and Guidelines

### I. Try-Outs

- A. 9U teams through 12U (Black Bears) will have their teams formed in the fall. Dates will be determined by the Travel Board.
- B. 12U tryouts will go first followed by 11U and so on.
- C. Tryouts will be coordinated and run by the Travel Committee.
- D. Head coaches may be present for their tryouts but will not help out during tryouts.
- E. Parents will drop off participants and return when tryout is completed.
- F. Players will be assessed by independent assessors. Scores will be tallied by the Travel Committee and results shared with the travel head coach.
  1. The assessment scores are NOT to be shared with anyone other than the Travel Committee and the head coach. Under no circumstances can these results be shared in any way with anyone else.
- G. The 8U team will have tryouts sometime in February/March following the same methods used during the fall tryout sessions.
- H. Once teams are chosen, the Travel Director will email out acceptance letters to players/parents.
- I. The number of players in each age group will depend if we have B teams. This is reviewed year to year based on participation.

### II. Winter workouts

- A. Will be at the discretion of the coach.
- B. Workouts will be ONLY one time a week.
  1. Gilbertsville YMCA or The Hitting Club are great resources.
  2. 11u and 12u age groups can add one additional practice every other week but needs Travel Committee approval.
- C. Workouts should run for 10 weeks
  1. 2nd week of January through the middle of March.
  2. Players need time off too.
- D. Please, do not make this a job for the boys. Other sports should come first during the winter months. We strongly encourage participation in other activities during the winter months.
- E. These workouts are optional.

### III. In-Town/Rec Season

- A. When in-town season starts (End of March), in-town will take priority over advanced play.
- B. All travel coaches are required to be an assistant or head coach during in-town season.
- C. Your actions as coaches during both the in-town and travel seasons will have consequences if you are not in compliance with the league's Code of Conduct.
- D. Advanced play practice will be determined during the winter while working with the BMBL president. Typically practices have been on Wednesdays with one day available over the weekend.

#### **IV. Advanced Play Schedules**

- A. ALL tournaments must be approved by the Travel Committee prior to sending payment. NO EXCEPTIONS
- B. Tournaments can start no earlier than Memorial Day Weekend.
- C. Teams MUST complete their seasons by the 3rd week in July.
- D. Any participation in tournaments outside of these dates must be approved first by the Travel Committee.
- E. Teams will be able to extend their season and attend a Ripken Mid-Atlantic or World Series tournament at their age level if achieved.
  - 1. Travel season is expected to wrap up by the 3rd week of July so teams will NOT be able to buy their way into these tournaments. It must be earned.
- F. Practice and field schedules will be set by the scheduling coordinator.
- G. Any changes to this schedule must be made to the scheduling coordinator.
  - 1. No moving games/practice locations or times without first notifying the scheduling coordinator.
- H. New games and/or changes to existing games
  - 1. File a request using the Google request form.
  - 2. Select your field of choice and how many umpires you require.
  - 3. Once umpires and fields are confirmed you will be notified.
- I. Practice and field schedules locations/times begin with the Black Bears choosing first followed by 11U and so on.
  - 1. Historically and with no plans on changing
    - a) 8U's primary practice field is Stitzel field.
    - b) 9U's primary practice field is Boyertown Rear.
    - c) 12UB's primary practice field is Washington.

#### **V. Field Maintenance**

- A. Coaches are responsible for maintaining fields after every practice and game (raking bullpens, weeding park, dragging fields, watering fields, lining fields, emptying trash and assisting in the snack stand). Travel coaches and teams will do most of the volunteering around the park throughout the year. It's part of the gig. Prepare yourself, coaching staff and parents for this expectation.
- B. We have a field maintenance schedule that ALL travel teams must follow. This will be distributed over the winter prior to rec season starting.
- C. Your practice field is yours. If you find that your field is in need of work, needs dirt, missing equipment or whatever it may be, please bring this to the attention of the Travel Board and we will work to resolve any field issues. If we don't know we can't help.

## **VI. Fundraising**

- A. All fundraising plans and ideas must be approved by the Travel Committee.
- B. Team business sponsorships can only be from direct players' family owned businesses.
  - 1. Teams are not to solicit for donations and/or sponsorships
  - 2. Any non-family business that wants to sponsor must go through BMBL.
- C. Just as with field schedules, fundraising ideas begin with the Black Bears then 11u and so on.
- D. Fundraising cannot be made mandatory on your teams. It is highly encouraged for families to participate but it cannot be mandatory.
- E. The Snack stand is not to be used as a method to fundraise. Any items or merchandise sold out of the Snack Stand must be for BMBL or the Travel organization as a whole.
- F. General Fundraising Schedule:
  - 1. Following the last game of the season all fundraising must stop.
  - 2. In the fall, after teams are selected and fundraising plans approved, teams can begin fundraising.
  - 3. Teams/Coaches/Families cannot fundraise once the current season ends and prior to the next season's team is selected and announced. This includes promoting future fundraisers.

## **VII. Misc.**

- A. If issues arise throughout the year that need to be brought up to the Travel Director and/or Travel Committee please make sure those issues are brought up by the head coach and not assistants.
- B. Head Coaches are ultimately responsible for their teams on and off the field.
- C. If parents request a meeting with a coach, please work with the Travel Committee on scheduling to ensure one of the board members is present during this meeting. You should not be having parent/coach meetings without a board member present.

## Break down for each age group

- **Black Bears**
  - \$500 per player
  - Week long tournament (Pigeon Forge, Tn. – example)
  - 7 or 8 Total Tournaments (League tournament and week-long destination Included)
  - Ripken Districts and Ripken States
  - You will be able to find 3 to 4 other tournaments
  - Team may choose to attend a winter tournament (optional)
  - Approximately 50 games (Includes league play and tournaments)
  - Season Runs Approximately third week of April until last week of July
- **11U Team**
  - \$400 per player
  - 3 or 4 day tournament with overnight stay (Ripken or other location)
  - 6 tournaments including destination tournament
  - Ripken Districts and Ripken States
  - You will be able to find 3 other tournaments
  - Team may choose to attend a winter tournament (optional)
  - Approximately 30-35 games in total
  - Tournaments start Memorial Day Weekend and season will conclude third week in July
- **10U Team**
  - \$300 per player
  - 5 tournaments in total
  - 4 USA Bat tournaments with 1 non-USA bat tournament
  - Ripken Districts and Ripken States
  - You will be able to find 3 other tournaments
  - Team may choose to attend a winter tournament (optional)
  - Approximately 25-30-games in total
  - Tournaments start Memorial Day and season will conclude third week in July
- **9U Team**
  - \$250 per player
  - 4 Tournaments in total
  - USA bat only tournaments
  - Ripken Districts and Ripken States (Host Team)
  - You will be able to find 2 tournaments on your own
  - Approximately 20 - 25 games in total
  - Tournaments start Memorial Day Weekend and season will conclude third week in July
  - Will attempt to host the 9U Pa. South East State Tournament every year.

- **8U Team**

- \$200 per player
- 3 Tournaments in Total
- USA bat only tournaments
- Ripken Districts and Ripken States (Mandatory to work 9U State Tournament)
- You will be able to find 1 tournament(s) on your own if not already taken care of by the Travel Committee.
- Approximately 15 - 20 games in total
- Tournaments start Memorial Day Weekend and season will conclude third week in July
- 8U team will be responsible in assisting the 9U team during their state tournament

- **Combined Teams**

- Amount will be determined when the team is formed and what age group they are.
- Amount of tournaments will be determined when team is formed

## CONCLUSION

- The manifesto exists to move the program through a series of progressions. Each year should consist of building upon the preceding season. The goal of our travel program is to develop athletes into baseball players capable of succeeding at the next level . While playing to win is a fundamental element of the game, it cannot come at the cost of development of a roster.
- Please keep in mind that there are many factors beyond the program's control while playing in tournaments. You will be playing teams that specialize in baseball 12 months out of the year. You will be playing teams that practice everyday of the week. You will be playing teams that will sit kids a whole tournament. Our program isn't set up to chase any of them. All of the above can harm development by driving kids away. We want to win in the right way, not the worst way. This is the stepping stone to Bear Stadium and beyond. Slow and steady wins the race.
- Remember the formula. The players are kids. The coaches are volunteers. The umpires are human. You are helping to create lifelong memories these players will remember forever. The friendships they make now will carry into adulthood and beyond. Your impact on them, both positive and negative, also directs their path toward our game or away from our game. Govern yourselves accordingly.

## CONSENT AGREEMENT

Having read the above outline of the goals and direction of the program, I agree to abide by and be held accountable for the above outlined provisions for the Advanced Play program.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_