

HYAA TRAVEL TEAM EXPECTATIONS

To foster the team relationship amongst players and coaches and to foster the development of baseball in Holmdel and for Holmdel, HYAA travel baseball coaches and players are expected to take a "Holmdel First" approach. That is, coaches are expected to make the development of Holmdel baseball players their priority and players are expected to make a commensurate commitment to their HYAA travel team. The specifics laid out in this document typically apply to teams with 12 or few players, though they can usually be applied even with teams of 13 players. For teams of more than 13 players, modifications to minimum playing time and other aspects of these rules may be required. In such cases the coach should discuss with the Travel Baseball Commissioner as soon after teams are formed as is practical. The spirit of these rules apply to all HYAA travel baseball teams.

All HYAA travel teams are expected to participate in a spring baseball league, e.g. spring USABL as well as spring/summer tournaments.

- 10u and above: up to 3 tournaments ,or 2 tournaments and a summer league, e.g. summer USABL.
- 9u: typically 2, up to 3 tournaments (or a summer league in place of one)
- 8u: typically 1, up to 2 tournaments (or a summer league in place of one)
- For B teams, tournament and summer league play is at the discretion of the coach based on the competitiveness of the team.
- Spring/summer tournaments could start as early as Memorial weekend and run through mid/late-July,
- In addition to the above, some teams participate in a pre-season tournament.
- Tournaments should not exceed the numbers above unless previously approved by HYAA baseball commissioners.

HYAA travel teams are expected to practice in the off-season and during the season

- winter workouts beginning in early/mid-January through sometime in March,
- typically one or two practices per week during rec season, not to conflict with rec practices or games
- practices may increase in frequency during the summer season, once the rec season is over, typically 2x, up to 3x/week.
- Generally teams take a break after the summer tournament season and before the fall season.
- HYAA will seek to provide each team 1 to 1.5 hours of gym time on Sundays Jan & Feb.
- The coach is responsible for arranging additional winter workouts at local private facilities.

HYAA players are expected to participate fully in rec baseball, including practices and games. Failure to play at least 50% of the rec games will result in immediate expulsion from the travel team unless a special exemption for extenuating circumstances is granted by the baseball commissioners. Coaches are expected to schedule games and practices so as not to conflict with rec baseball.

Upon completion of tryouts, coaches should be prepared to discuss general level of commitment expected from players and parents.

- Parents and coaches are expected to communicate PRIOR to player accepting a position on the team to understand the level of commitment expected on the part of players and parents.
- Parents and players should be prepared to meet that commitment.

HYAA TRAVEL TEAM EXPECTATIONS

Coaches are encouraged to develop initial plans and communicate expectations to players and parents in January and provide updates throughout the season.

- Players are expected to participate fully on the team.
- Coaches are expected to fully engage all players on the team, and to facilitate full participation on the team, including in all games and tournaments.

Head coaches select their assistants from among the parents of the players on the team. There are 2 to 3 assistants. There will be no more than 4 coaches (head and 3 assistants) in the dugout for any game. The head coach has the option of asking other parents to help with practices and drills if necessary, or to help out in games when other coaches are absent, but no more than 4 coaches in the dugout for any given game. No non-approved coaches are allowed in the dugout. No other parents are allowed in the dugout.

- The head coach is selected by the HYAA baseball commissioners. Assistant coaches must be approved by the HYAA baseball commissioners.
- Coaches are expected to coach their team for the whole season, that is the significant majority of their team's games and practices. If they are unable to meet their obligations as a coach over an extended period of time, they should notify HYAA.
- Coaches are not permitted to delegate the leadership of their team for an extended period to an assistant coach without prior permission from the HYAA Baseball Commissioners.
- There is no designation of "co-coach".

Players are expected to place a priority on, and make a high level of commitment to the travel baseball team, and make a high percentage of games and practices. They should inform coaches as soon as possible about any conflicts.

- absences are grounds for reduced playing time
- excessive absences could result in forfeiture of that player's position on the travel team, or jeopardize selection to future HYAA travel teams.
- coaches should discuss absences with the parents to find a solution, and should notify the HYAA baseball commissioners well in advance for approval of any disciplinary action related to absences.
- If a player leaves a team or declines a position on an A or B team for which he has been selected, he may be deemed ineligible for future teams, at the baseball commissioners discretion.

Coaches may not bench players or tell them not to show up for non-disciplinary reasons.

As players are expected to commit to the team, the team is expected to have a commensurate commitment to the player, resulting in a certain minimum amount of playing time. In this spirit, for teams with 12 or fewer players, if a rostered player shows up for a game (including playoffs), he should play at least 1/2 the game on both offense and defense with the following exceptions:

- the bottom half of the last inning isn't played,
- the game is abbreviated due to weather, a "mercy-rule" or some similar condition, or
- the player is benched for disciplinary reasons.

If a player does not play 1/2 a game due to an abbreviated game, coaches should make an effort to provide *additional* playing time in the next game.

In the spirit of this rule, teams with 13 or more players should make an effort to meet the minimum playing time requirements above, but are exempt from strict implementation of this rule, as we recognize the challenges in doing so with a larger roster.

HYAA TRAVEL TEAM EXPECTATIONS

These policies do not mean that all players will have equal playing time. It is still a travel team where playing time is based on merit.

We expect coaches to have a fall baseball team starting at 10u, unless an exemption is granted in advance. Many HYAA travel coaches have a fall baseball team for younger age groups. Fall baseball at all age groups is typically a lower-level of commitment than the spring/summer season, and we recognize the potential for conflict with other sports.

- If a coach has a fall team, we expect it to be an HYAA team, and that it is open to all rostered travel players from the spring/summer season.
- Coaches are expected to recognize and be more tolerant of conflicts with other sports. It is expected there will be fewer and less frequent practices. Given the high potential for conflicts with other sports, and our policy to encourage participation in multiple sports, fall practices are generally optional.
- In fall baseball, 9u and under are expected to bat their full roster (all players who attend a game), i.e. if 12 players show up for a game, it is a 12 player batting order.
- In fall baseball, all players who attend are expected to play at least 1/2 the game in the field, including at least 1 inning in the infield or at catcher.

If additional players are required due to limited availability of rostered players (typically fewer than 10 players) a coach may add an age-eligible player from another HYAA travel team. If no such players are available, then an HYAA rec baseball player may be added.

Note: Any benching for disciplinary reasons should be communicated to the HYAA commissioners, in advance if possible, if not then as soon as possible after the fact.

To avoid cases where a conflict of interest arises, or cases where coaches selectively exclude HYAA travel team players from play, coaches are expected to restrict their baseball coaching to coaching HYAA teams only, unless a special exemption is given in advance by the HYAA baseball commissioners.

Expenses and fees:

- All teams are self-funded, e.g. the cost of leagues, tournaments and practice facilities are split equally among all players on the team.
- Players pay for their own uniform. Coaches handle the ordering, procurement and distribution of uniforms to their teams. HYAA Baseball can help provide direction for this effort.
- There is a per player fee payable to HYAA to cover HYAA GAO costs and tryout costs. The head coach is responsible for collecting this fee from every player and submitting it to HYAA prior to winter workouts. The Travel Baseball Commissioner can provide information on the amount of the fee.
- Each travel team is expected to sell two outfield signs for Phillips park for HYAA fund raising. These funds are used to prepare and maintain fields, and to improve facilities.
- The head coach should identify his assistant coaches to admin@hyaa.org and hyaa_baseball@yahoo.com by January 1.
- For questions, concerns or issues regarding these rules, please contact the HYAA Travel Baseball Commissioner.