

Information About Traveling Baseball and the Possible 9U Team

The association has decided to provide the parents with players at the 9 year old "level" the option to sign up to try out for a 9U BPBA traveling team that will compete at the MYAS 10A level. Based on many factors after registration, a trial team for 2012 may be formed. If you decide to try out for the 9U traveling team and it is not formed or if your child is not drafted to that team, your child will automatically be eligible for drafting in the 9/10 American League.

As with all BPBA tryout levels ...

Team selection will be based on third party Hamline University tryout scores, consistent with the American League

- Parents have the option to have their player tryout for traveling. This decision can be changed in future years. A player may choose to try out for traveling at age 9, but decide to play AL/NL at age 10 the following year. They may opt the next year at 11 to again tryout for traveling.
- As with all other leagues, selection to the 9U traveling team does not guarantee the player a spot on a traveling team in future years.
- If this new team is formed, we will ne looking for qualified coaches. Please send your coaching application and background check form dhins31@msn.com . You can find the forms on our main web page at <http://www.bpaasports.org/Baseball>.

BPBA program is designed to provide development opportunities at all levels

Parents should be responsible for selecting the level appropriate for their child. Guidelines for selecting the appropriate level:

Traveling... Most competitive level, tryout, instructional, fun, Northern Suburbs League

American League...More competitive level, tryout, instructional, fun, Brooklyn Park League

National League...Competitive level, no tryout, instructional, fun, Brooklyn Park League

Traveling - ... "What to expect"

Traveling is designed to give kids the opportunity to play at a competitive level against other players of their skill level from neighboring associations. We feel the addition of the 9 year old level would provide more options to our program, improve our overall skill development, and provide more opportunity for all players to participate at a higher level. This would provide a third competitive level option for our 9 year old players consistent with the levels at the 10-12 year old levels.

The 9U traveling teams would be slotted in a GSBL (Gopher State Baseball League) Division and would have 12-16 league games (there are generally 16 at older age levels). There is also an end of season tournament similar to the BPBA end of season tournament. Games are scheduled with half home games and half away games. These games will be played in various suburbs (Osseo, White Bear Lake, Champlin, Orono, etc.) based on the make-up of the Division. MYAS tries to balance the divisions geographically to the best extent possible.

In addition to the league schedule there are other weekend baseball tournaments that communities host. Teams have the option to participate in as many or few of these tournaments as they choose. These tournaments are 2-3 day events and are at an additional cost to the league. As players get older teams tend to play in more of these events. Depending on performance the team may qualify to play in a State Tournament at the end of the year.

If you have questions or thoughts about this, please contact a board member or better yet, attend the BPBA Association meeting on February 12th at the Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center to share your views!