



TRAVEL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules apply to ALL divisions within the BYS Travel Program.

TRAVEL PROGRAM RULES & REGULATIONS

The purpose of the BYS Travel Program is to provide an opportunity for players to participate at a more competitive level. The program is designed for teams to participate in a non-city league. While the programs provide higher levels of softball and baseball, the intent is to create a positive experience for both players and parents. All travel teams are directly affiliated with the BYS and must conform to the rules and guidelines established by the BYS.

Travel Commissioners – Boys and girls travel teams are governed, and represented on the BYS board, by a Boys Travel Commissioner and a Girls Travel Commissioner. As trustees, these positions are established by the BYS. The Travel Commissioner's role is to ensure that the travel team guidelines are followed, to coordinate all travel activities such as tournaments, field scheduling coordination, and address issues relating to leagues for which teams play.

Travel Team Advisory Board (TAB) – As required, the BYS Executive Board will serve as the TAB.

Manager Selection – Every manager must be approved by the BYS Board. If at any point throughout the year a manager is removed, resigns from their position or if a new team (second team) is formed in an age group, the position of manager will be deemed open. Anyone interested in an open manager position shall contact the corresponding Commissioner and complete a Manager Application and/or provide a resume, background check release, and complete a Concussion course, as requested by the Commissioner. The Travel Program follows the same Background Policy guidelines as the BYS Recreation League. The Commissioner may arrange to interview the applicant. The acceptance of a managerial position constitutes acceptance of all terms and conditions set forth by the BYS and/or Travel Commissioner.

General Criteria for Travel Managers – In selecting travel managers, individuals shall:

- Have proper knowledge of the game of baseball/fast pitch
- Have previous coaching and/or playing experience
- Maintain strong organizational skills
- Maintain a strong commitment to the travel program and player development

- Maintain a strong commitment to spend the necessary time required to properly manage a team
- Conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times
- Maintain a strong commitment to follow all rules set forth by BYS and their respective league, or other appropriate governing bodies

Manager's Responsibilities – The manager and coaching staff shall be responsible for the conduct of their team and for complying with all applicable travel rules. Managers (or designated representative) shall be responsible for attending meetings held to discuss rules, scheduling, field selection or other league matters.

Manager Conduct – Managers agree to represent the City of Brunswick in a professional manner at all times. Managers shall be responsible for their coaches, players and parents, and must do everything in their power to ensure they conduct themselves properly. Managers shall take immediate action against a coach, player, parent, guardian or spectator for all inappropriate actions. The BYS Code of Conduct shall be followed. Any manager failing to follow the Code of Conduct shall be placed on manager probation, or may include further disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Pending severity of situation, a manager may be released from coaching within the BYS organization for failure to follow BYS Code of Conduct.

Manager / Coach Probation – A manager or coach may be placed on probation by the TAB for violation of the BYS rules. If a manager is on probation and commits a second violation, the manager will be given a final warning, and serve a one game suspension. That one game suspension will be the game immediately following the incident, or if in a tournament, the manager will not be permitted to manage or be on the premises, for the remainder of the tournament. If after the one game suspension the manager commits another violation, the manager will be immediately dismissed from the travel program. Managers dismissed will not be permitted to manage any team in the BYS organization, unless reinstated by the TAB.

Ejections from a Game or Field – Under no circumstances will the BYS tolerate a manager, player, parent, guardian or spectator being ejected from a game, a field or premises. If anyone associated with a travel team is ejected from a game, or is requested to leave the premise, that person will face at *minimum* a two-game suspension. There will be no appeals. All such incidents must be reported to the proper Travel Commissioner within 24 hours. If the Commissioner feels that the action was severe, he/she will present it to the corresponding TAB. The TAB will decide if additional action is necessary. All incidents involving a travel manager will result in that manager being placed on probation or being removed from the travel program. If the action was by a player, parent or guardian, the Commissioner will contact the person and inform them that further behavior inconsistent with the Code of Conduct, will not be tolerated. The player involved in the incident or the player associated with the parent or guardian involved in the incident, may be dismissed from the program for the remainder of that year. Any player dismissed must be reinstated by the TAB, to be eligible for future travel programs. Any adult dismissed is prohibited from managing or coaching in future recreation or travel programs, until reinstated by the TAB.

Player Eligibility –Team rosters are limited to players that are Brunswick residents or players attending a school in the City of Brunswick School District. Teams may roster non-resident players in accordance with the limits listed below. Non-resident players must be approved by the appropriate Commissioner.

1) Boys U8-U13 – Are permitted to roster no more than two (2) players from outside the stated boundaries.

2) Boys U14-U18 – Are permitted to roster no more than three (3) players from outside the stated boundaries.

3) Girls 10U-18U- Are permitted to roster no more than two (2) players from outside the stated boundaries. (As described in the Emerald Necklace Rules)

Parent Waiver and Approval Form – Parents/Guardians of a player trying out for a travel team shall complete the Information and Waiver Form. The form can be found on the BYS website. All parents signing the form agree to let their child participate in the BYS Travel Program and to adhere to the BYS rules and regulations.

Registration – Players selected for a travel team shall complete the BYS registration process. Any player falsifying a registration form, relating to residency or age requirements will be immediately removed from the BYS travel program. Also, if the related manager had prior knowledge of the false information and knowingly permitted the player to register with the false information, he/she will be suspended indefinitely. All parents shall provide a birth certificate if requested and give the BYS permission to contact existing school organizations to verify enrollment.

Registration & Roster Deadlines – Final Rosters, fees and registrations are due prior to the dates below. The appropriate Commissioner shall approve rosters, and any changes required after the deadlines.

1) Boys U8-U14 – September 15.

2) Boys & Girls U15-U18 – September 15.

3) Girls U10-U14 – September 15.

Leagues

1) Boys – Teams will participate in the Cuyahoga Valley Baseball Association (CVBA).

2) Girls – Teams will participate in the Emerald Necklace Girls Fast Pitch Softball Association.

3) Any Boys or Girls team desiring to play in a league not associated with the above leagues must receive approval from the appropriate Commissioner.

Teams – The following age groups are eligible to host travel teams.

1) Boys U8 – One (1) team is permitted.

2) Boys U9-U14 – If there are enough players to field a competitive team, two teams may be established. The Boys Travel Commissioner and the BYS has the final decision if a second team will be established.

3) Boys U15-U18 (High School) – If in the year prior to moving into the U15 age group, two U14 teams exist, both teams will be eligible to move into the U15 age group, and will remain eligible until reaching the U18 age group, as long as there are enough quality players to field a competitive travel team. If two teams move into the U15 age group, the second team will remain the community plus team. If only one team exists in any age group within the U15-U18 divisions, a second team will not be permitted, unless approved by the Travel Commissioner.

4) Girls U10 – U18 – A minimum of one team is permitted. Subsequent teams will be established if there are enough quality players to field competitive teams. In the event there are not enough quality travel players in an age group, that particular age group will have only one team. There is a maximum of (2) teams per age level. If there are enough quality talent to fill more than 2 teams at any age level, an additional team must be approved by the Travel Commissioner.

Roster size

Minimum roster size 11 per team. A team MUST roster 11 players in order to continue through a season.

Community & Community Plus Teams

1) Boys U9-U14 – The community team can elect to play in either the CVBA Open Division (if available for that age group) or the CVBA community division. If the community team plays in the Open Division, the community plus team may elect to play in the community division. If the community team plays in the community division the community plus team shall play in the community plus division. (In the 9U age group, the CVBA normally has only one division which both 9U teams would play in.

2) Boys U15-U18 – The community team shall play in the CVBA community division or open division and the community plus team shall play in the KICVBA community plus division. If the CVBA only maintains an open division, the community plus team will play in the lower of the two divisions. If a team plays in an open division, that team must still abide by the roster eligibility rules associated with the community team division.

Team Nicknames – The travel organization is established for Brunswick. Travel teams have the obligation of using the Blue Devils nickname, or any related Blue Devils theme as the team name. Nicknames and logos must be approved by the appropriate Commissioner.

1) Boys Community Team – “Blue Devils” must be used.

2) Boys Community Plus Team – A Blue Devils related nickname must be used.

3) Girls – “Blue Devils” or a related nickname must be used.

Team Uniforms – Teams will prominently display “Brunswick”, “B” or the team nickname, on the front of the jersey. Uniforms shall be approved by the appropriate Commissioner.

1) Boys Community Team – Uniforms shall include Blue, white, black, and/or gray ONLY.

2) Girls Teams – Uniforms shall include Blue, white, black, and/or gray ONLY.

Tryouts – General

- 1) It is the responsibility of the Travel Commissioner and the Travel Managers to ensure eligible players are given an opportunity to try out for travel teams. Players shall be given a fair and equitable chance to make a team, and judged on playing ability, attitude, availability and other criteria that the manager feels relevant.
- 2) Commissioners shall approve the tryout dates.
- 3) Tryout information shall be published on the BYS website. Additional forms of advertisement are permitted.
- 4) Tryout Dates
 - a) Boys & Girls U14 and under – Dates and times will be established by the Travel Commissioner, and typically take place in July and August. Travel managers may be consulted.
 - b) U15-U18 – Tryouts may be held at the discretion of the managers but must be held prior to any roster deadlines. Travel Commissioner must be consulted.
- 5) Players desiring to be placed on a travel team must attend tryouts. Players are not permitted to be placed on a roster without attending a tryout.
- 6) Players (parents/guardians) attending tryouts shall be notified of the tryout results from the team manager within 14-days from the final tryout date.
- 7) If a player requests further information, the manager shall discuss the team selections with the player's parent or guardian.
- 8) Tryout information shall be kept confidential.
- 9) Special situations regarding players moving into Brunswick after the tryout date, or not being available for tryouts, shall be presented to the Commissioner. Additional tryout dates may be scheduled to accommodate such situations.

Tryouts – Evaluations & Team Selection

- 1) Boys U8 – During the tryouts, players shall be evaluated on relevant baseball skills. Player ratings will be evaluated. The top 11 or 12 players will be identified and selected by the Travel Commissioner. The manager position will be deemed open (see Travel Manager Selection).
- 2) Boys U9-U14 – In the event of an open manager position, the Commissioner shall oversee the appropriate player evaluation and team selection duties.
 - a. The Boys Travel Manager (if applicable) shall conduct the tryout and have a minimum of two independent evaluators. Independent evaluators shall have little or no affiliation with the team.
 - b. The Boys Travel Manager (if applicable) and the two evaluators shall determine player ratings. At the conclusion of the tryouts, all ratings must be given to the Travel Commissioner and the Community Travel Manager

- c. The Community Travel Manager shall compile the final player ratings, rank the players and review the ratings with the Community Plus Manager (if applicable). The Community and Community Plus may adjust the player rankings based on the previous year performance and finalize the player rankings.
- d. The Community Manager will select the top-rated players and those boys shall play on the Community team.
- e. The Community Plus manager (if applicable) will select the next top-rated players and those boys shall play on the community plus team. At the U9 level, if there are enough quality players to field a second competitive travel team, the existing community manager and/or the Boys Travel Commissioner shall select the players for the community plus team.
- f. Players selected for the Community team MUST play on that team. If they elect not to play on the Community team they CANNOT play on the Community Plus team and are only eligible for the BYS recreation league.
- g. If a player was on a Community team the previous season and is not selected for the community team, he shall be placed on the community plus team. However, if the player is not ranked as one of the highest rated players after the evaluation process, or the manager feels other circumstances are preventing the player from being rostered on the community plus team, the manager may present the case to the Travel Commissioner. The Commissioner will determine the status of the player.
- h. Rankings shall be kept by the Travel Commissioner in order to maintain a waitlist.

3) Boys U15-U18

- a. Teams will be selected between August 1 of the prior year and April 30, of the upcoming season.
- b. Managers may select players directly from their respective High School tryouts held each spring or from observing and rating them while they play for their High School team.
- c. The manager may hold tryouts for non-High School team players if there are not enough High School team players available or interested in playing in the BYS High School Travel program.
- e. If two (2) teams exist in any one age group, the Community Manager will have the first right to select his players and the Community Plus Manager will have the second right to select his players.
- f. Managers are not permitted to recruit players who have either played on a team or who have been selected by another Manager in the Boys High School Travel division.

h. The Commissioner must approve any changes or additions. Players on a team cannot be removed without Commissioner approval. If a player quits a team, the manager may add a player that had previously attended the tryouts. Rankings shall be kept by the Travel Commissioner in order to maintain a waitlist.

4) Girls U14 and under – Managers and commissioner shall evaluate the players.

- a. The managers and travel commissioner shall evaluate the players, and collaboratively. The top-rated players shall be chosen for the teams, based on performance at try-outs.
- b. The managers shall compile the final player ratings, rank the players, and submit to the commissioner prior to team selection.
- c. The commissioner shall approve the team selection, before managers notify players of selection.
- d. Players selected for the team MUST play on that team. If they elect not to play on the team they CANNOT play on the other team of that same age group and are only eligible for the BYS recreation league.
- e. If a player was on a travel team the previous season and is not selected for a team, the manager will need to present the case to the Commissioner. If the player is not ranked as one of the highest rated players after the evaluation process, or the manager feels other circumstances are preventing the player from being rostered on a team, the manager may present the case to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will determine the status of the player.
- f. All Managers shall host a fair and consistent tryout and give each player the opportunity to earn a spot on the team. No “picks” shall be due to familiarity if another player has ranked higher than the familiar player. If the player ranks equal to the “familiar” player, the commissioner will review.
- g. Rankings shall be kept by the Travel Commissioner in order to maintain a waitlist.

5) Girls JV & Varsity (U15-U18)

- a. Teams will be selected before August 30, of the upcoming season.
- b. Managers may select players from their high school tryouts in spring, during BHS softball “contact” days held the previous summer, or from observing and rating them while they play for their respective high school.
- c. Managers are forbidden from approaching U14 eligible players who have tried out and rostered on a U14 team.
- d. U14 eligible players are expected to try out and play for U14 teams. A U14 eligible player may be contacted by U18 manager during BHS softball "contact" days.
- e. A rostered player may not change teams at any age group after accepting an offer from a team, without the Brunswick Girls travel commissioners approval.
- f. Rankings shall be kept by the Travel Commissioner in order to maintain a waitlist.

Call Up Players – Travel teams may roster players as long as they are age appropriate BYS travel team provided that they are eligible to play in the respective league/division. Call Up players may participate in tournament and non-tournament games, as long as there are no conflicts with their own team’s schedule.

Use of Brunswick City Fields – All teams will be given dates that they can utilize the Brunswick City fields for practices and games. The BYS controls these field times and the BYS has first right to use that field. In the event that a conflict arises, the BYS Scheduler will give the appropriate manager adequate time to reschedule a game. If a travel team needs additional field time for a makeup game or a special situation exists, a request should be submitted to the proper Travel Commissioner.

Team Accounting – It is the responsibility of each travel team to be financially self-sufficient. Travel managers are responsible for accounting for all monies received and spent for their team. Due to the BYS association with the City of Brunswick, teams are required to provide statements of accounting and adhere to the compliance requirements set forth by the City and the BYS. These statements shall be provided in a format acceptable to the BYS and the City of Brunswick, at intervals set forth by the appropriate Travel Commissioner. All monies collected through fundraisers and donations shall be properly accounted for by the manager and used by the travel team. No manager shall maintain a team checking or bank account with any reference to BYS, the city of Brunswick, BYS Travel Baseball, or any form thereof. All team funds donated or raised shall be deposited with BYS Travel Treasurer. BYS Treasurer shall maintain record of travel expenses. Travel Managers shall submit travel expenses to the BYS Board to deter any question or concern of use of funds. BYS shall provide Managers and Associations with checks for payment from each Travel Team Fund. Managers shall request in writing to the BYS Treasurer, the request for check, or payment. Travel Team Funds are to be used for equipment, uniforms, registration fees, insurance payment, tournament entries, indoor/ practice expenses and more. The BYS will not refund any monies to travel families at the end of the season.

Payment of Umpire Fees – All games on Brunswick fields will be assigned an umpire(s) by the association under contract with the BYS. Prior to the start of the season, all managers will provide their finalized home schedule to their respective Travel Commissioner and the BYS Scheduler. This home schedule will identify all games being played during the season on Brunswick City fields. Umpire rates for each division will be available to the managers. Umpire fees shall be the responsibility of the travel team and shall be paid through the BYS treasurer, prior to the start of the season. Teams that have not paid prior to the start of the season will not be furnished umpires. BYS will supply each travel team with the cost of umpires for 8 (eight) home games. Any further games beyond eight will be removed from the coaches travel fund.