



# ALEXANDRIA YOUTH

## Travel Baseball FAQ

- Why does AYBA support travel teams?
  - Gopher State Requirements and MBT/MBL (Metro Baseball)
  - Opens playing opportunities to the entire Alexandria community.
  - Will make teams more competitive.
- What are the residency requirements to play?
  - Open to players living in the Alexandria School district.
  - Non-Alexandria students are eligible to play AYBA in-house baseball.
- How do I determine what age group my player should register for?
  - Age of player as of April 30th, 2025 and/or grade of player.
- Can my player play up?
  - No. Players should play with their designated age group and/ or grade level.
- How do I register for the evaluation, what is the deadline and what is the cost?
  - [Travel League Information](#)
- Cost: \$100 registration fee (plus processing fees) - \$100 refunded if the player does not make a team.
  - 2nd payment is due 2/1/2025.
    - 9U, 10U & 11U: \$250 + processing fees
    - 12U & 13U: \$400 + processing fees
    - 14U: \$425 + processing fees
  - Account must be paid in full by 2/1/2025 or the player is not eligible to practice.
- When and where are evaluations?
  - Evaluation schedule: [Travel Evaluation Information](#)
  - September 8th at Knute Nelson field (inclement weather location - TBD)
  - Players must register and be evaluated to participate in travel baseball.
- How are the evaluations structured?
  - Evaluations are closed to the public, including family members.
  - Players should arrive 15 minutes prior to evaluation time to warm up.
  - Players are evaluated on hitting, pitching, fielding, running and throwing.
    - Players are scored on a 1-10 scale for each skill.
    - Catchers are evaluated at 13 & 14U separately.
  - Players are evaluated by a designated group of baseball coaches who do not have players currently in the AYBA travel program. This group has been created by the AYBA Travel Committee and Travel Director.

- How and when are head/assistant coaches selected?
  - All coaches must apply annually for coaching positions. This applies to all coaching applicants regardless of service history with the AYBA. Head coaching applications are due by **September 8, 2024**. A link to the application can be found [here](#).
  - Head coaches are selected by the Travel Committee after evaluations are completed.
  - Head coaches will select assistant coaches for their team – 3 per team max; 4 total dugout staff.
- How are teams selected?
  - The selection committee will create all teams for all age groups.
  - For the U13 and U14 teams, a catcher can be selected over a player with a higher score if no other player is a catcher. Catchers must be evaluated during tryouts to be eligible for this selection and the travel committee will need to approve this selection.
  - Notification will be sent to players/parents who are placed on a team.
  - Players do not have the ability to decline a team selection to move down to a lower level.
  - Teams will consist of 10-12 players.
- How many teams will be in each age group?
  - This may vary by year as it is determined by the number of players available.
- Who is on the traveling committee and what is their role?
  - Travel Director(TBD), Scott Scholl, Tom Miller, Troy Putnam, Scott Dack, Jeff Anderson, Robyn Stepaniak, and Neil Jenzen.
  - The committee's role is to work with the AYBA board and committees to develop, promote and foster a fair and competitive traveling youth baseball program.
- How much does it cost?
  - Registration fees (see above)
  - Additional tournament travel costs (hotel, food, etc.)
- Equipment:
  - League provides hats, jerseys, balls, catcher equipment, scorebooks, and first aid kits.
  - Players are responsible for gloves, helmets, pants, belts, socks, and shoes.
  - League does not provide bats.
  - Bat Standards can be found here - [Bat Standards](#)
- What are the time commitments?
  - This will vary among coaches/teams.
    - Most coaches will have a few practices prior to the season starting and once a week during the season.
    - AYBA schedules indoor preseason practices starting in March. These practices are not mandatory however, they provide the ability for all players to get together and start working together prior to the official start of the season. The AYBA travel committee strongly recommends all players attend as many winter practices as possible.

- 9U, 10U, and 11U players will also be required to play in-house baseball and in-house league games.
  - 3-5 weekend tournaments plus state a tournament, if the team qualifies.
    - 9U, 10U & 11U: 3 tournaments
    - 12U: 4 tournaments
    - 13U & 14U: 5 tournaments
  - Gopher State weekly play – possible additional costs.
    - 12U and up only
- If a player makes the AAA or AA travel team, will they be on that team next season?
  - No, evaluations and team selection will occur each season.
- Why are evaluations being held in the fall vs. the spring?
  - Players are in baseball condition.
  - Many coaches hold team practices beginning in January or February.
  - Travel season starts early in the spring making it difficult for spring evaluations.
- Can my player participate in the in-house league as well?
  - 9U, 10U, and 11U players are required to participate in the house league.
    - There is a 75% minimum game participation requirement.