

2026 DVAA Travel Baseball **Player/Parent Information**

Tryouts for all DVAA travel baseball teams are free of charge.

Levels offered for tryouts: 8u, 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u, 14u. Players may not turn one year above age level before May 1 of 2025. For example, a 12u player must not turn 13 before 5/1/26.

Pre-registration for tryouts is mandatory and walk-ins will not be accepted. Registration may be done by visiting the DVAA website by clicking on the 'Registration' tab at the top of the homepage. <https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/default.aspx?portalid=13631>

Should your player be offered a roster spot, **a non-refundable \$150 deposit is due to hold their spot on the team at the time of the offering. Roster spots for 2026 teams will be awarded by the end of October 2025. The deposit will be used toward uniform costs and team insurance.**

Example Travel Baseball Player Cost Breakdown

Pre-fundraising costs per player for a typical travel team in 2026 based on 12 players on the roster:

Uniforms (two jerseys, hat): \$150 per player
Spring USABL League 8-12 games: \$140 per player
Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth District/State Tournaments: \$65 per player
Summer Tournament Fees (4 tournaments @ \$600/team on average): \$200 per player
DVAA field use- \$10.00 per player

Total cost breakdown based on 12 player roster for above travel season: \$565 per player

****A number of fundraising opportunities are planned to offset player costs. It is very possible to keep player costs at \$150 with fundraising participation!****

2026 DVAA Travel Baseball Regulations

Travel Program Overview

The basis of the travel program is to provide a competitive playing experience for the advanced and more serious players in the league. Each team shall consist of a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 14. Players will be selected through a tryout and team selection process described below. DVAA will annually attempt to field one team at age groups 8u, 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u, and 14u.

Travel teams will play in tournaments or leagues primarily in central/north New Jersey and northeast Pennsylvania. DVAA has joined with Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth Baseball. DVAA shall plan for travel teams to enter the district tournament for Cal Ripken and state tournament for Babe Ruth. Tournaments may be played beyond the local area based on team manager's discretion and with approval through DVAA board.

Season Expectations

Travel baseball season is defined as the time period from the beginning of spring, through rec season and ending July 31st of that year. While travel baseball may take place during the rec season, the rec season will take priority and all travel practices, games, or tournaments are to be limited to times when rec is not playing (from beginning of spring through the end of rec season). Travel team play is a large commitment. Players should expect 1-2 practices/games per week from spring through the conclusion of the rec season and players should expect 2-4 practices/games per week during the summer travel baseball season. **It is expected that the travel baseball team is the players priority and no other sport commitments are to conflict during the summer travel season. It is strongly advised that any vacation or travel plans be made after the travel baseball season. Should your family already have or potentially have travel planned during the travel baseball season, you must notify the coaches before or at tryouts. Travel plans during the season may affect selection on a team.**

Travel players are not to play in any other baseball program (independent teams, AAU, etc.) during the DVAA travel baseball season. Participation in any school baseball team is exempted from this policy.

Registration

DVAA will ask for volunteers at all levels to coach a travel team. It is desired to have a coach at all levels of play, however, should a coach not be available, DVAA may open registration to combine levels. Example: If a coach is not available at the 11u level but one has volunteered at the 12u level, players that would normally register at the 11u level may register and tryout for the 12u team

All coaches must possess the DVAA required coaching certifications and pass a background check. No practice or team activities may commence and a team roster and team insurance will not be provided until coaches possess the coaching certificates and pass a background check.

Players may not turn one year older than age level before May 1st of the travel season. Example: a 10u player may not turn 11 prior to May 1st of that travel season.

DVAA requires that all players be registered on a DVAA spring rec team to be eligible to register on any DVAA summer travel baseball team.

Player registration will be done using the league website.

DVAA welcomes players from outside of the organization to try out for a team.

Players will be accepted on a case by case basis and will need to try out on the tryout dates. Any registered player from an outside town not registered with DVAA rec baseball will be charged a fee to cover insurance, field use, and Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth charter.

Tryouts and Team Selection Process

Teams will roster a minimum of 10 players and a maximum of 14. Registering for travel baseball does not guarantee a roster spot. Tryouts are free to attend, however players must pre-register.

Tryouts will consist of evaluations of players ability to hit, throw, catch, field, and generally understand the game. Results will be produced from each discipline and averaged to create an overall skills score for each player.

Player evaluations will be conducted by independent individuals typically composed of DVAA board members and coaches.

A travel baseball committee composed of DVAA board members and coaches (5-7 individuals) is responsible for determining which players will be invited to participate on travel teams. The following criteria will be used:

1. Player evaluation results
2. Past performance in rec and travel teams
3. Team balance (ability to play multiple positions to ensure maximum team competitiveness)
4. Overall player attitude toward baseball and exemplary sportsmanship

Once the committee determines the roster for a particular team, it will be presented to the DVAA board for final vote approval.

Players will be notified of their being selected for a travel baseball team by their coach.

Tryouts - 2026 Teams

Tryouts will be held on October 4th at Alexandria Park. The Rain Date will be October 11th.

8u, 9u, 10u will tryout from 8:15-9:30am

11u, 12u, 13u and 14u will tryout from 9:15-10:30am

Team Costs/Accounting

All travel teams will be given a DVAA team travel account and the DVAA treasurer will handle all deposits and payments out of the team account.

Team coaches may assess an additional registration fee to each player to cover costs of uniforms, tournament fees, training facility rental and any additional equipment needed. The coach must show a breakdown to all player families of the uniform, tournament, and equipment costs along with an equal payment requested from each family to cover these costs.

Teams may fundraise and acquire individual and business sponsorships to help offset the costs of uniforms, equipment and tournament fees.

- Any team fundraising projects are to be submitted to the DVAA board for approval prior to commencing. Hosting a tournament is considered fundraising and must also have DVAA board approval.

- Upon completion of a fundraising event, all monies are to be given to the DVAA treasurer to be deposited among travel team accounts. An income and expense sheet will be provided to you prior to your fundraising event.

- Any individual or business sponsorship monies shall be submitted to the DVAA treasurer to be deposited into your team account.

Fundraising will be split among all teams that participate in that fundraising event. Each event will have specific requirements for a team to benefit from the event.

Any fundraising and sponsorship monies are to be directly given to the DVAA treasurer to be deposited into the team account. A coach may not directly pay for any tournaments, uniforms, or equipment with monies received from additional player registration fees, fundraising or sponsorships.

When paying for uniforms, tournament fees, or equipment, a coach is to submit to the DVAA treasurer an invoice to be paid directly to that company/organization or proof of payment made personally to be reimbursed through their DVAA travel team account. Again, coaches may not directly use any monies acquired from additional registration fees, fundraisers, or sponsorships...they must be deposited into the team account first.

At the end of the travel baseball season, any remaining funds will be left in the account and made available to the next level team the following season or for winter/spring training/practice for that team. Example: An 11u team has an ending balance at the conclusion of the travel baseball season of \$125. They will begin with a starting balance the following travel baseball season as a 12u team of \$125.

When a team ages out of the program, any remaining funds left in their travel baseball account will be divided equally among existing travel teams in the program.

Uniform Policy

All uniform designs shall be approved by the DVAA board. All teams shall be named "Del Val All-Stars" plus the respective age designation (example: Del Val 10u). Any uniform fees are to be collected from the team member families or through fundraising and sponsorships.

Equipment

Teams will have access to any DVAA owned equipment to use for their team. The DVAA equipment manager will provide catchers gear, gear bag, batting helmets, and catchers mitt upon request. Any baseballs or other equipment fees are to be collected from the team member families or through fundraising and sponsorships.

Any borrowed equipment must be returned to the DVAA equipment manager at the conclusion of the travel baseball season.

Any equipment purchased through the team account will become the property of DVAA at the conclusion of the travel baseball season, but available for future season use by the travel baseball team that purchased it.

Team Practice and Field Use

During the summer travel season, teams have the flexibility to schedule any team activities during the week.

Field reservations for practices will be made through the DVAA field coordinator. Coaches must receive confirmation of field usage through the coordinator to prevent any conflicts from occurring. No team activities may be held at any fields without first receiving confirmation from the field coordinator.

Team activities are to be held on DVAA approved fields only. Should a coach decide to rent out a training facility for their team, it will be at the cost of that team and must have DVAA board approval.

Travel teams may hold practice and enter tournaments during the spring rec season, however, due to field usage and rec league play, all practices and tournaments must be held on Sunday or days when no rec is scheduled. If a rec game gets rained out or postponed and must be rescheduled for a Sunday or off-day, the travel team is required to accommodate and adjust their schedule. During the rec season, rec will always have priority.

Travel Tournaments and Leagues

It is the responsibility of the head coach to register for any tournaments and/or leagues. An insurance certificate will be furnished to the head coach when registering for any tournament. Any tournament registration fees are to be collected from the team member families or through fundraising and sponsorships. The head coach shall provide the DVAA board a listing of all tournaments and/or leagues they intend to participate in along with a cost breakdown for each one prior to the start of the travel baseball season.

Playing Time

As these travel teams are competitive and the desire is to be successful, there is not a requirement to have equal playing time. Every player shall be given a fair opportunity to play and showcase what they can do.

DVAA travel baseball teams must bat all players in tournaments that allow all rostered players to bat. All players shall have a minimum of 2 innings planned in the field (requirement of fielding may be determined at times by a mercy run rule. In this case, minimum fielding time may not be met).

In older divisions or tournaments that allow only 9 players in the lineup, every player must have at least 1 inning in the field or 1 at bat.

The above are minimums as per DVAA travel baseball policy. Each coach shall strive to get all players as much playing time as possible, targeting a minimum of 50%.

If a team is not able to roster a team for a scheduled tournament, a coach may use an available player from the level below to 'play up' and fill a roster spot as long as that player does not have a conflict with their team on that date. It will be agreed upon by coaches at both levels as to what player will fill the needed roster spot.

Any practices or tournaments held during the spring season or fall/winter training, should a coach decide to provide this option, shall be optional for all players on that travel team. There shall be no playing time consequences for missed activities during these times and players are not prohibited from participating in other sports during the non-summer travel season. Any fall, winter, or spring activities, should a coach provide them, require approval by the DVAA board.