

MTBSA Lancaster County Youth Baseball League (LCYBL)

Baseball Fact Sheet, U10, U12, and U14

Important things you “Need to Know”

- Our competitive, travel baseball (Lancaster County Youth Baseball League) is played at a higher level than MTBSA's in-house program. The teams you will play consist of the best players from other school districts in Lancaster, Lebanon and Berks Counties. This level of baseball is appropriate for players that are dedicated to improving their competitive baseball skills, and who are willing to commit to baseball as their primary sport during the spring baseball season. It is very important to remember that baseball is to be their primary spring sport. If the player participates in a second sport in the spring, or if you are not ready for this kind of commitment then the MTBSA in-house program may be a better baseball option for you.
- Tryouts will be held on Saturday, February 6th beginning at 9 a.m. at the Keystone State Academy complex, 662 Ditz Drive, Manheim. The player's attendance at this tryout is expected. It is encouraged for parents to make every effort to have their child attend the main tryout. Your son will be assigned a time to report to the Keystone State complex which will likely be sometime between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Be prepared to be flexible with your schedule on this day as we will not be able to finalize the report time scheduling details until after all kids have registered and we are sure of our tryout numbers.
- These teams have small rosters and each player will need to compete for playing time during practice and live game action. This baseball is not equal-play baseball. All players will play. Some players will play more based on skill and experience. If you are not prepared for this, the MTBSA in-house baseball program may be where your son should be playing. That said, MTBSA's philosophy is to develop all players on every team and team managers understand this premise. Team Managers expect players to attend every practice and every game. Absences could and likely will affect playing time at the discretion of the team's manager.
- Players must commit to finish the entire season with their team. Rosters are not large enough to cover extended absences (vacations) within the season. Please respect your teammates and coaches by making this commitment up front. Again, MTBSA In-house is a good alternative for those that cannot make this commitment.
- The MTBSA Board selects team managers, therefore coach requests or “play with” request for these teams will not be honored.
- Team managers/coaches make decision of playing time and position assignment. The MTBSA Board will not interfere in these field level decisions.
- You will play baseball a minimum of 3-4 times per week during the season. This includes practices and games. Some teams may also be asked to play in one or two weekend tournaments during the season as well, which is up to the discretion of the manager.
- Any 10U player not chosen for a travel team based on their tryout will be reassigned to minors. The difference in the league fees will be refunded.
- Uniforms will consist of a hat and shirt/Jersey. The player may keep these at the end of the season. Players must supply their own baseball pants in a color as directed by the team manager and a matching belt.
- Teams will be formed in early February and may practice in March as weather and field availability permits. Outside practice will start no later than on or around April 1st. The game season will start the second week in April and should end around the dates listed below.

Please keep these dates in mind when it comes to knowing if your son will be available to make an attendance commitment to his team.

LCYBL Season Ending Dates (estimates)

SECTION	DIVISION		
	10U	12U	14U
Section 1	6/28	7/19	7/27
Section 2		7/17	7/17
Section 3		6/26	6/26

****These dates are approximate and subject to change. These dates are at the discretion of the LCYBL and out of our control. These dates include participation in the season-ending tournament.**

MTBSA recognizes the growing interest and participation in club/tournament teams while simultaneously playing on the MT travel baseball teams. The purpose of this position statement is to communicate MTBSA's point of view on this matter so that players, parents, and coaches can have a clear set of ground rules and expectations throughout the season.

MTBSA believes that MT travel baseball and club baseball can co-exist in a healthy manner, providing opportunity for players to play more baseball, develop and enjoy the game. All it takes is good communication. We do not take an "either, or" position. However, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. In principal, weekdays are for MT baseball and MT baseball is expected to take priority. Weekends can be dedicated to club (tournament) teams, although the MT coach reserves the right to hold MT practices on the weekend.
2. At the time of team selections (tryouts are typically in early February):
 - If a player is simultaneously playing on a club team, that information needs to be communicated to each coach.
 - All known and potential conflicts or commitments with the club team during preseason, regular season, and post-season need to be communicated to the coach. Based on the extent of the conflicts, the coach has the right to accept or deny that player's participation on the MT team.
 - Pitching and catching intentions / expectations with the club team also need to be communicated to the MT coach to ensure that the coach has adequate pitchers and catchers staffed for the team.
3. Pitchers are highly encouraged to either pitch for MT baseball or their club team. This is to guard the health of the athlete, guard against the competitive nature of coaches and enable coaches to effectively plan their pitching. If a player is primarily a pitcher by position, this should be a requirement. In all cases, MT coaches are to factor weekend pitching plants (days of rest, # pitches thrown). MT asks the same in return of the weekend club team coach.
4. If during the season, a previously unforeseen conflict arises, the player/parent must notify the MT coach, as soon as the conflict is known..
5. Upon returning to the MT team, after being away with the club team, the MT coach reserves the right to continue to award playing time to those who have not missed games/practices, consistently applying judgement as with any other absence from the team – excused or unexcused. The MT coach also reserves the right to award full playing time to the returning club player if it is determine that player's playing time puts the team in a favorable competitive situation. Ultimately, the MT coach will use best judgment in this situation and will be supported by the MTBSA board, as with any other playing time decisions.

The key to the success of the MT program and success of the individual player is that a clear and constant line of communication is open between parents and coaches.