

MILLCREEK RIPTIDE
Travel Division Baseball



With the intention of continued growth and for providing opportunities that reflect today's youth baseball landscape, MYAA is excited to once again offer Millcreek Riptide Travel Division Baseball for 2021!

Millcreek Riptide Travel Division is for players age 8-12 as of **April 30th, 2021**. Teams at 13U and above may be formed based on specific requests and/or level of interest.

Riptide is a division of MYAA baseball designed to allow players seeking a higher level of competition to experience tournament baseball while also having the opportunity to play with their friends and classmates in the traditional community setting of MYAA Rec. League.

Millcreek Riptide intends to form teams at each age, from 8U thru 12U. The number of teams at each age will depend on interest, coaching availability and registration numbers. All teams (8U thru 12U) will play on the standard Little League 46'/60' diamonds. 13U teams, if formed, will play on a mix of 50'/70' and 60'-6" /90' diamonds while 14U & 15U teams will play strictly on 60'-6" /90' diamonds.

All Travel players 12 and under now have the **OPTION** to also play on an MYAA Rec. League team (e.g. Bantam, Rookie, Minor or Major) or with the Rec. League where they reside. Games for Millcreek Riptide are designed to avoid schedule conflicts with regular season Rec. League games. Moreover, players and coaches are expected to coordinate with, and generally give priority to the regular season teams as well as to abide by MYAA league pitching rules. There will be approximately 5-8 scheduled tournaments for each Travel team (4-6 for 8U and 9U teams). Exact scheduling will be determined by the coach and manager of each team with input from participating families.

Tryouts for Riptide Baseball will be held at the end of August. Depending on the number of players registered, there will be one or two try-out sessions and players must attend at least ONE of those sessions. Players will be selected for teams by coaches and league officials after tryouts have taken place. Commitment to the team and to the League is essential. Each player will have a short decision period to join the team, and if they do not register and make payment, the League will move on to other players. Rosters are expected to have 11 or 12 players. Weight is given to tryout performance, coachability, commitment and sportsmanship as well as positional needs on each team.

Millcreek Riptide players will enjoy several indoor practices during the winter months. Players will receive a high-quality uniform including jersey (with a choice of number), pants, embroidered hat, and socks.

It is MYAA's goal to affordably offer kids the opportunity to experience the Recreational and Travel Baseball environments under one structured umbrella and in selective combination that suits each player's individual preference and level of commitment.

Try-outs for the 2021 season will be held in August at the David Long Complex at Walnut Creek Middle School (for 8U thru 12U). There is no cost to try out for a team, however all interested players must register on-line at: www.MYAASports.com to reserve a spot.

Individuals wishing to coach a travel team are also asked to register on-line to be considered for a position.

<u>Age</u>	<u>Tryout</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Tryout</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Tryout</u>	<u>Riptide</u> <u>Fee</u>	<u>Rec. Lg.</u> <u>Fee</u>
• 8U:	-TBD-	• 9U:	-TBD-			\$525	\$50
• 10U:	-TBD-	• 11U:	-TBD-	• 12U:	-TBD-	\$525	\$50
• 13U & above:	-TBD-					\$550	\$50

➤ **Payment Schedule:**

\$75 pmnt due on: Sept. 30th, Oct. 31st, Nov. 30th, Jan. 31st, Feb. 28th & Mar. 31st / Balance Due – April 30th

★ **Note:** Players will have the opportunity to solicit sponsors to help defray the cost of individual registration fees. Fundraising events may also be offered at each team's discretion to further offset fees.

Why did MYAA establish a Travel Division?

Some players and parents look for a more advanced experience in youth baseball. This provides that opportunity in tandem with Rec. baseball and the familiar structures of MYAA programs. In addition, Millcreek Riptide is recognized by the Millcreek Township School District as a "Tier-1 Feeder Program" for McDowell Baseball, and is an important component of the structured path of player development and progression from T-ball to Recreational baseball to Travel baseball to American Legion baseball to McDowell High School baseball.

Why should we choose Millcreek Riptide Travel Baseball over other programs?

MYAA is offering a player the "best of both worlds". Playing traditional community-based baseball on our first-class fields, with and against classmates and neighborhood friends affords travel players the opportunity to play additional games at home during the week where they can enjoy the opportunity of playing other positions, while also playing competitive baseball in tournaments and against teams from other leagues in the tri-state area. This is all offered at a more reasonable rate than other programs.

Do I have to live in Millcreek to play Travel Division and Rec. League Baseball with MYAA?

No. Players from outside of the Millcreek boundary are welcome to tryout and participate in MYAA Rec. League while opportunities are available in the Riptide program on a limited basis.

Is Millcreek Riptide Travel Baseball required of all players in MYAA?

No. This is specifically for competitive baseball players looking to play in select tournaments within a reasonable distance of home. MYAA, like thousands of other youth leagues around the globe, will always have traditional, community-based leagues. There will continue to be evaluations in the spring for many of these traditional leagues as always, to help determine placement.

Are Riptide Travel Division players also required to play in an MYAA Rec. League?

No! Whereas the Riptide program required Rec. League participation in the past so that our Little League All-Star teams were rostering the best players in Millcreek, we've now made it optional to better fit the Lifestyles and time commitments of all participating families. We still highly encourage ALL Riptide players to experience the benefits of our Recreational by being leaders of the program, but it is no longer required.

How much traveling is involved?

Most tournaments will be scheduled within a 150 mile radius of Erie (Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Buffalo areas). The younger age groups will tend to participate in tournaments closer to home while the older age groups gradually travel to further tournaments. If agreed upon as a team, attending one tournament that provides a unique experience but requires a further distance of travel (within reason) may also be an option.

Where will Millcreek Riptide Travel Division teams practice during the season?

MYAA has exclusive access to over a dozen Little League size baseball and softball diamonds (46' / 60') throughout the township in addition to an Intermediate size field (50' / 70') and two regulation size diamonds (60'6" / 90'). This advantage keeps kids close to home throughout their MYAA baseball experience. A league scheduler coordinates field use to quickly and conveniently aid coaches and parents of all MYAA teams and help avoid conflicts.

Will there be game conflicts with the Rec. teams?

The schedule will be designed to avoid conflicts. Clearly, rainouts are a factor. But Riptide Travel Division and the MYAA Rec. League president / scheduler will work together to keep those conflicts to a minimum. Rec. League games always have a priority over Riptide events.

How much playing time should my child expect?

Riptide Travel Division is subject to the same mandatory play rules as Regular Season play. These minimums are routinely exceeded by managers at all levels of play. The philosophy of Little League is to promote the betterment of play for all players, and this would include Riptide Travel Division. Managers are encouraged to not only win ball games, but to win as a team.

Why are the try-outs in the Fall if the games aren't until the Spring?

Teams will be practicing over the winter, indoors. An outdoor try-out in the fall will better gauge a player's abilities and allow the team to be formed.

Will all players who attend Riptide Travel Division try-outs make a team?

No. The League will select players to the teams being formed. This will occur shortly after try-outs take place. Once selected, the players not making the team will be informed, and are still welcome and encouraged to register in the spring for the regular Rec. season.

Can I play on a Riptide team up or down in age?

Yes and no. Players will be allowed to play up in age if they are selected to an older-age team. But they won't be able to play down in age to ensure that the team meets all tournament age requirements.

If selected, and we register, what if we change our mind?

The player will need to register for both Riptide Travel and Rec. season baseball. The fee for the Riptide Travel team is non-refundable. Should you also choose not to play in the regular Rec. season, that fee can be refunded, as per MYAA's standard policy.

Can we also play in another baseball program (outside of MYAA's Travel Division)?

The question is whether you should. That is a lot of baseball for young players; and conflicts with practices and games would practically be guaranteed and a detriment to your teams.

Can I expect to see any hidden or additional fees above and beyond the individual registration fee?

Not for Rec. or Riptide Baseball. However, you will be expected to participate in additional team fundraising efforts that may be organized to help offset additional costs they may incur.

Will I have opportunities to lower the cost of registration?

Yes! Players will have the opportunity to solicit sponsors to help defray the cost of individual registration fees. Fundraising events may also be offered at each team's discretion to further offset those fees.

