

Marshalltown Baseball Club

Travel Expectations and Contract

Welcome to the 2026 Travel Ball season! Marshalltown Baseball Club is a positive, hard-working environment where players learn about baseball, sportsmanship, teamwork, discipline, and responsibility. This is a Contract for Participation and was developed to clarify Marshalltown Baseball Club player, parent, and team expectations. **Please read the contract carefully.** It is your responsibility to ask for clarification so you understand the rules and policies completely. All players and parents of Marshalltown Baseball Club will be held accountable to these rules and policies. If you have any questions, please contact Travel Director:

Allen Mann - amann@marshalltown.k12.ia.us

or

Anthony Everman - anthonyeverman@yahoo.com

Checklist for players/parents:

Review and sign the club expectations contract - return to your coach.

Payment options listed on website registration:

- ☐ www.mtownlittleleague.org
- ☐ Notify the coach of any tournament date conflicts.
- ☐ Player Fee: **Refer to attachment depending on age division**
- ☐ **\$125 Deposit due by October 15th.** (Non - Refundable can NOT be applied to other programs, will refund if a team is not formed)
- ☐ **Monthly payments required unless paid in FULL**
- ☐ Pay Full amount player fees **NO LATER THAN January 15th** - Directly to Marshalltown Little League
- ☐ We will be launching an app and will provide more details at a later date

(continue below for Contract)

PLAYER EXPECTATIONS:

- **Each travel team will be responsible for maintaining conditions on a select field**
 - **Weekly dragging / raking a field after each practice and game**
 - **Weekly Trimming fence lines on select field**
- Display sportsmanship and respect towards teammates, competitors, parents, coaches, and officials at ALL times.
- Keep a positive attitude and be supportive of teammates and coaches. This includes behavior on and off the field, in person, or on social media.
- All players are expected to help with setup and teardown on fields & batting cages equipment at practice.
- All players are expected to participate in umpiring at games (older groups). **Teams will need to be sure that at least 2 players/parents know how to score keep.**
- In addition, clean-up of our home baseball complex is a team effort. **All players will stay at the tournament until the entire team is done for the day.**
- If a player will miss a practice, leave early or be late, it is their responsibility to **contact the coach before practice**. If a player will miss a tournament, a one-week notice is required to the coach with a confirmation reply from the coach.
- All players must read and agree to these expectations.
- Any concerns a player or parent has will be first discussed between the player and their coach. The player is expected to arrange a time agreed upon with the Coach.
Follow the process below to resolve any type of conflict or concerns:
 1. The athlete should speak with the coach about the matter outside of practice and tournament times.
 2. If the issue is not resolved, the parent should then speak with the coach outside of practice and tournament times by scheduled appointment.
 3. If the issue is still not resolved, the parent may then speak with the Club Director and request a meeting with the coach and Director.

PARENT EXPECTATIONS: Appropriate parental support and involvement is vital to the success of a team. Parents are encouraged to volunteer to be part of the team, fulfilling one of the many tasks associated with Travel Baseball. Some parents may be asked to help facilitate practice but will be contacted by the coach or director as needed. **A buyout fee of \$50 will be available if you choose not to volunteer your time.**

- **Each travel team will be responsible for maintaining conditions on a select field**
 - **Weekly dragging / raking field**
 - **Trimming fence line**
- **All parents-guardians will be required to assist with home tournaments as needed. Marshalltown Baseball Club will try to ensure parents aren't working when their children are playing.**

- Parents-Guardians must ensure their child is registered with USSSA Baseball - **this MUST be completed prior to the first tournament.** Please ask if you need help with this.
- Parents-Guardians are expected to pay Marshalltown Little League fees by the stated deadlines.
- Parents-Guardians will display sportsmanship and respect toward teammates, competitors, parents, coaches, and officials at ALL times. Please allow the coaching staff to handle any concerns over an official's ruling.
- Focus on their child's development of skills and strategies rather than competitive success. The nature of sports competition creates its own pressure to succeed.
- Communicate their true concerns with the coach. A positive working relationship is based upon clearly communicated mutual goals among parents, coaches, and athletes.
- Parents-Guardians are fully bound by the terms and conditions of this handbook-contract.

Playing Time

Playing time must be earned. Equal playing time is never guaranteed on any team or at any event. **Playing time is NOT an issue to be brought to the coach's attention by the parent.** If an athlete has questions about his playing time, he may address this with the coaches at an agreed upon time apart from practices or tournaments.

The following factors influence playing time, in no particular order of importance:

- *Attendance at practices
- *Baseball skill and ability as evaluated by the coach/club director
- *Effort and attitude in practice and game situations
- *Individual position and role on the team
- *Adherence to the coach's rules & to the club's rules

****Formation of teams:** To promote cohesive play and development, the club director will assign players from the same school district to the same team. In cases where a district lacks sufficient players, additional members from other areas may be included to complete the roster.

Athletes are not guaranteed to play the same position that they do during their REC / school baseball season. Coaches take into consideration many factors in selecting athletes to fill out their rosters, and may feel that the athlete and team would benefit by developing an athlete to play a different role than he or she has previously performed.

Grievances

Knowing when and how to communicate with your athlete's coach is a concern for almost every parent at some time during the season. Marshalltown Baseball Club will not tolerate a hostile or aggressive confrontation between a parent or athlete and any official, coach, other parents, or other athletes, whether or not the coach, other athletes, or other parent is a member of

Marshalltown Baseball Club. Violation of this policy may result in the athlete being dismissed from the Club.

It is inappropriate for any athlete or parent to approach other Marshalltown Baseball Club members or their parents about a problem the athlete or parents have with a Marshalltown Baseball Club coach, objections to coaching decisions, or a disagreement with an administrative decision. Asking other people to take sides in an issue is unfair to the third party and to the Club. Competitive team athletics creates situations where not everyone may be happy all the time. For the health of the team and the Club as a whole, grievances need to be handled by only the parties involved and the decision-makers in the situation.

Marshalltown Baseball Club encourages any athlete to talk to the coach when she has questions about her playing time or if she is unclear about what the coach's expectations are either in practice or in competition. An appropriate attitude may be for the athlete to ask the coach what he needs to do in order to get more opportunities to play in matches. This discussion should take place away from tournament play or practices.

The coaches and/or Club Director will not discuss "coaching decisions."

"Coaching decisions" include, among other things, specific game decisions such as who played when, who was subbed out and when, or in what position an athlete was played. The amount of time any athlete is given on the field is a result of a complex determination, in that coach's opinion, of the athlete's ability, the athlete's potential, the athlete's position, the team's needs at the moment, and the team's needs in the future. **The coach will NOT be required to defend his/her thought processes or conclusions in these determinations, and it is improper for a parent to make that request.** Coaches will not discuss any athlete other than the parent's own or the actions of any other Marshalltown Baseball Club coach. If you, as a parent, have legitimate concerns about your athlete's coach, another Marshalltown Baseball Club coach, or with an athlete other than your own, you need to address this with the Club Director.

With any discipline problems with an athlete, the coach will take the following steps of communication: *The coach will speak to the athlete.

*If the issue is not resolved, the coach will then speak with the athlete's parents.

*If the issue is still not resolved, the coach will then speak with the Club Director.

Other items

If a player is not feeling well, please keep them home from practice and/or tournaments and notify the coach. With many illnesses going around, it is imperative we are keeping all players and coaches safe from illness.

All tournament sites may have different guidelines and protocols. Please follow the expectations - those should be released when the schedule is sent.

PLEASE SIGN ON THE NEXT PAGE IF BOTH THE PARENT AND PLAYER AGREE TO THESE EXPECTATIONS.

We have received and read through the baseball expectations for the 2026 season. We agree to and will adhere to these expectations. (Each parent that is listed on the registration form must sign this contract.)

Parent Signature

Date

Parent printed name

Parent Signature

Date

Parent printed name

Player Signature

Date

Player printed name

Please return **this sheet ONLY** to your coach or Director no later than January 15, 2026