

BLAZE/BLAST TRAVEL By-Laws (Approved February 2024-Amended June 2025)

1. Section 1: Definition of a MBSA Travel Team

- a. Travel teams (full-time travel teams) and part-time travel teams (sometimes called Sunday teams or part-time travel) will be allowed as interest demands.
- b. Full-time travel teams and part-time travel teams are under the direction of the boys and girls Travel coordinators.
- c. Players selected for Blaze/Blast full-time teams **cannot** participate on an in-house team with the exception of the Fall season.
- d. Players selected for Blast/ Blaze part-time teams must be registered with the MBSA in-house league and be an active participant in the in-house league.
 - i. If there is no team in that division, a player may try out for a part-time travel team in any division in which they qualify based upon age requirements for that team's league.
 - ii. Blast/Blaze practices or games will not interfere with regular season games or in-house league playoff games
 - iii. In-house games take precedence over Blast/Blaze games and practices.
 - iv. Open tryouts will be held for the purpose of evaluating the talents of each child. All players currently registered with MBSA must be notified of any and all tryouts they are eligible for, and the date and time of such tryouts must be published.
- e. Each level can have 2 teams total either part time or full time. If a 3rd team is requested by a manager, the board must approve this request.
- f. The Blaze/Blast logos that are provided cannot be deviated from in terms of uniforms; the Blast and Blaze uniform colors are black, red, white and gray. Any deviations must be submitted to the Travel Coordinator and approved.

2. Section 2: Team Selection

- a. Managers for Travel teams, including Blast/Blaze will have complete autonomy over their rosters and team selection.
- b. All Blaze and Blast players must register on the mbsa.org website.
- c. All Blaze and Blast team managers and assistant coaches must register and complete background checks on the mbsa.org website.

3. Section 3. Team Practices/Games & Field Availability

- a. Blast/ Blaze teams will receive the 2 days per week for practices/games as their respective in-house teams.
- b. After the master schedule has been completed and approved, all Travel teams may request additional practice and game dates, and the Travel Coordinator will grant those requests if field availability allows.

4. Section 4. Team Financial Records

- a. Registrations costs - a team wanting to charge anything over \$2,000 for their registration would need Travel Committee approval
- b. A Travel manager shall produce the team(s) budget/financial projections in December to the Travel Coordinator. The Travel Coordinator will submit the team budgets to the Treasurer of MBSA for review. The Treasurer will provide a summary to the MBSA Board at the January board meeting. If a player or parent requests an audit then the MBSA Treasurer will reference the travel teams budget sheet to review the audit request.
- c. All team funds need to be processed through the local assigned bank. The MBSA board has full discretion over which bank will be assigned.
- d. Each Blaze and Blast team will pay a base fee, to be determined each year by the travel committee, to the Travel Coordinator for special projects and/or upgrades.

- e. All equipment purchased with team money is the property of the team and shall remain with the team. If a team dissolves, the equipment will then become the property of The Blast/Blaze to be distributed if the value is over \$500.
- f. A final team budget must be submitted to the Travel Coordinator and MBSA Treasurer to review. Team managers need to keep receipts and if discrepancies come up in the budget they have to be able to provide said receipts. Any excess funds at the end of the season will be reviewed by the travel coordinator.
- g. Any solicitation of a team sponsor must be approved by the travel coordinator.
- h. All Mokena Park District invoices must be paid within 30 days of receipt. Any failure to pay these invoices may result in loss of field use.

5. Section 5. Team Rosters

- a. Rosters – All Blast/ Blaze Team Rosters must have a minimum of 10 players within 45 days of the final group tryout.
- b. All players on the Team Rosters must have competed in a Travel Tryout.
- c. To reinforce manager accountability seven (7) days after the Team Roster is determined, ALL players who completed the Division tryout must be informed as to their status on the Team Roster.
- d. If for some reason a player leaves the Team prior to the start of the season, the manager will fill the open position as he deems appropriate, including holding a tryout if so desired.
- e. All travel team rosters must be submitted to Mokena Park District by April 15th.

6. Section 6: Blaze & Blast Fundraising Tournament(s)

1. If a Blaze/Blast team would like to host a fundraising tournament, a written plan of what the tournament is for, which teams are to host the tournament and an outline of fees, expenses and payouts will be submitted to the travel committee (this includes the annual Blaze Father's Day Tournament).

2. The travel committee will either provide requests for an adjustment to the plan, approve the plan or deny the plan.

3. No team may host a fundraising tournament without approval. If the travel committee approves the plan, they will also provide guidance on next steps and directions on how to fulfill MBSA requirements.

4. Any fundraising tournament will have its own bank account -the appropriate Travel Coordinator, Treasurer and President will have control. The Travel Coordinator will collect the fees and then pay out the proceeds from that account to cover the costs of the tournament.

5. Any team hosting a fundraising tournament cannot, under any circumstances, represent any other Travel Program for their next season and each hosting team will attest to in writing.

6. Any team that becomes disbanded will be disqualified from receiving any profits from the fundraising tournament.

7. Profits from the Fundraising Tournament will be paid out according to the approved plan.

8. Any discrepancies will be reviewed by the travel committee. The Executive board has final say over any discrepancies in these rules.

9. For any tournament(s)/round robin on Mokena Park District fields, the team manager must complete all park district forms/requirements needed. The travel team manager is responsible to pay any/all fees to the Mokena Park District.

c. Blaze Father's Day Tournament

1. To qualify for an equal share of the earnings, teams must have been either part time or full time for both their 9u and 10u seasons.

2. The teams that host the tournament must commit to being a 12U Blaze team for the full 12U season.

3. If any items in Section 6, B, # 1 or 2 is not followed, that team will not receive any proceeds of the tournament, and the Travel Committee will determine next steps.

4. If the payout for Blaze Father's Day tournament exceeds the cost of the most expensive 12U tournament they plan to attend, then the travel committee will review and have final say on how the excess funds will be spent.

5. The remaining funds from the Father's Day tournament will be disbursed to the head coach when their most expensive tournament fee is due for their 12U season.

7. Section 7. Disciplinary Guidelines

- a. All Travel Team Managers and Coaches are subject to the Disciplinary Guidelines established by MBSA.
- b. If a grievance is filed against a team manager a freeze will be placed by the MBSA Treasurer on the travel team's bank account until the grievance is resolved.

8. Section 8. Dissolution of Teams

- a. Any time a manager leaves a team, or a team breaks apart the manager cannot take or disperse any funds at their discretion.
- b. The MBSA Executive Board and the Travel Coordinator needs to be notified and a decision will be made as to what will happen to any funds remaining in the travel account.
- c. An account freeze will be enacted and an account audit will be performed by MBSA Treasurer and Travel Coordinator. The executive board has final say if mediation is needed.

9. Section 9: Additional Cost(s)

- a. Out of Mokena Park District players will be charged a \$15 fee (subject to change)
- b. Travel player is expected to register on the MBSA site
- c. Insurance fee: each player will be charged a \$10 fee (subject to change) to cover MBSA insurance costs.
- d. Field usage: travel team practices do not have a fee. Every travel game will cost \$50 (subject to change) payable by the travel team manager.
- e. Light field fee: a \$25 per hour fee will be charged when the lights are on regardless of practice or game. Payable by the travel team manager.