



PBGYAA BASEBALL TRAVEL POLICY GUIDELINES

Amended and Approved December 2022

These rules shall govern the PBGYAA's Baseball Travel Baseball Program and shall remain in full force and effect until such time as they are modified or amended by the PBGYAA Baseball Board of Directors (hereafter the "Board" or "PBG Baseball") and shall not be modified or amended except upon approval of the Board.

The Travel Baseball Program will be governed and managed by PBG Baseball, under rules and policies established by the Board. The Travel Baseball Program exists as an extension of and complement to the recreational baseball program. As such, PBG Baseball must schedule travel activities to co-exist with the recreational baseball program, which is its first priority. The sole purpose of the Travel Baseball Program is to provide the Community's youth the opportunity to compete on a statewide and national level after the all-star season has ended.

FOR ALL AGE DIVISIONS:

Rules and regulations instituted by the PBGYAA Baseball, as stated herein, and the rules and regulations of any other organizations or under which the Travel Baseball Program may be sanctioned (e.g., AAU, USSSA, etc.) will govern all Sponsored Travel Teams.

NATIONAL BASEBALL CONGRESS:

In the event a particular subject or issue is not covered in the Babe Ruth Rules or Pony or Little League Rules, or otherwise in the league, division, or fall rules, then reference will be made to the National Baseball Congress Rules.

PBGYAA TRAVEL RULES

1. GENERAL POLICY

An objective of PBGYAA Baseball is to develop good citizens as well as good athletes. Although the Travel Baseball Program is a more competitive program, with an increased emphasis on winning, the emphasis shall not be on "win at all cost". Managers, coaches, players, & parents that demonstrate "win at all cost" behavior are not wanted in the PBGYAA Baseball Program, including the Travel Program. The Code of Conduct adopted for our Rec Program also applies to travel. Travel Managers and coaches shall report to the Board any violation of the Code of Conduct, PBGYAA By-Laws or General Regulations by a manager, coach, player, or anyone officially connected with PBG Baseball Travel Program. The

violation of these rules and guidelines may result in ejection, suspension, or such other penalty as the Board in its discretion may prescribe.

The PBGYAA Baseball Board shall develop and maintain policies, regarding the operation and administration of its Travel Baseball Program. These policies, and any subsequent revisions, shall be governed by the overall PBGYAA Baseball policy and shall be submitted to the Board for approval.

All Sponsored Travel Teams can individually determine which of the following team names they will be known as: Thunder, Lightning, or Storm. No Sponsored Travel Team can be identified as any other name. If there is a third party affiliation with another Travel Baseball Organization, the team may indicate the affiliation with the third party logo on the sleeve of their jersey. All Sponsored Teams will be advertised, entered into, and referred to as Palm Beach Gardens Thunder, Palm Beach Gardens Lightning, or Palm Beach Gardens Storm when registering for tournaments, travel leagues, or any event in which the team may participate.

2. NON-BURDENING OF PBGYAA BASEBALL RECREATIONAL PROGRAM

Every player, coach, manager, and team registered with the Travel Baseball Program shall give priority to the recreational program during the Spring Season. While every effort will be made by the Travel Director and PBG Baseball to coordinate the Recreational & Travel Programs, there will undoubtedly be instances where it is difficult, if not impossible, to do so. In such instances, priority will be given to the Recreation Program, but all reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the Travel Program as well.

3. TRAVEL DIRECTOR

The Travel Director, who shall be appointed by the President of the PBG Baseball Board, shall have responsibility for coordinating with the Scheduling Director, Director of Umpires, Field Director, and Director of Concessions for administering the participation in any inter-league or local travel leagues or tournaments.

4. TRAVEL TEAM SELECTION

Travel team managers will be selected by the PBGYAA Baseball Board. Prior to the start of the travel season, the Travel Managers selected by the Board will conduct tryouts for the creation of travel teams in any such age divisions as it may determine appropriate. Any tryouts for travel teams must be open to all eligible players in the applicable age division. The following general guidelines shall apply.

- a) All players in each division shall be evaluated by the approved Manager of the Travel team. Once the tryout has been completed, the travel team manager shall select the players that, in his discretion, enable PBG Baseball to field the most competitive travel team reasonably possible. While the presumption will be that the highest scores and rankings will determine the makeup of the travel team in each age division, such presumption shall be dispensed with if, in the discretion of the manager, such departure is necessary to field the most competitive and well-rounded team, which includes pitching, catching, running, hitting, and middle infielders.
- b) Players not selected for the travel team may play outside of the Gardens Travel Program. If a travel team is not organized for a specific age division, interested players

are allowed to play travel outside the Gardens program for that year. If a team is organized the following year, the player is expected to try out for the newly organized team.

- c) The Board may decide to field a second travel team in the division if they feel there are enough interested and talented players remaining and an approvable manager can be determined to lead the team.

5. ELIGIBILITY FOR TRAVEL TEAM PARTICIPATION

All Sponsored PBG Travel Baseball teams must have a minimum of 80% of their rostered players registered in the upcoming Spring Recreational baseball program. Each eligible player must live within the current PBG Baseball boundaries & register on-time for the upcoming Spring Rec Baseball Season. If a Sponsored Travel Team fails to meet this requirement by the registration deadline, the team will immediately lose their sponsored status and the benefits afforded by such sponsorship. In addition, all players selected to a Sponsored Travel team are highly encouraged to register for participation in the Palm Beach Gardens Baseball All Star Program that begins at the conclusion of the Spring Rec regular season. Rostered PBG Baseball Travel team players may not participate with any other travel baseball organization during the Travel & All-Star Seasons. Participation on a travel team NOT sponsored by PBG Baseball during these seasons will result in the player being ineligible for participation on a future PBG Baseball sponsored travel team unless the PBG Baseball Board is petitioned by the player's family and approved for an exception waiver.

For a new team to be considered for "Sponsored" status after the Spring Rec season has concluded, the same roster requirements stated above will be enforced. Any new teams must have 80% of the roster made up of players who had participated in the Spring Recreational season during the same calendar year. If the new roster does not meet this requirement, a team will not be granted sponsored status.

6. TRAVEL/RECREATIONAL LEAGUE INTERACTION

Spring recreation league activities, including practices, games, and team activities shall take priority over Travel. Out of town travel tournaments will not interfere with and will not conflict with the spring recreational baseball season or All Stars. During the fall recreational league, travel teams should compromise as much as possible to balance travel activities and rec league activities as well as other team sports that may be played in the fall by its players. Fall rec teams shall not penalize participating travel players for missing events assuming the travel players make a good faith effort to keep the rec league manager aware and apprised of travel league activities. Fall Travel Players will be treated no different than players in other sports having conflicts with the fall rec league.

When PBG Travel Baseball hosts a tournament, the Travel teams provide the volunteer workers to ensure a successful administration of all facets of the tournament and these tournaments can be used as fundraising opportunities for the travel teams.

7. PLAYING UP IN AGE

Players may be permitted to play up in age, if in the sole discretion of the PBG Baseball Board of Directors such playing up is justified based on the size, skill, or experience of such

player and is not prohibited by any organizations under which the travel program may be sanctioned.

8. LATE REGISTRANTS

Late registrants can be evaluated by the Travel Managers. Managers may pick up additional players after the team has been selected but may **NOT** cut players already on the roster to make room for the late registrant.

9. REGISTRATION FEES

Each rostered player of a PBG Travel Baseball team will be required to submit a registration fee each season (Fall and Spring). Such registration fees shall be set to an amount necessary to defray any costs and expenses associated with administering the Travel Baseball Program. The philosophy of PBG Baseball shall be that its travel program shall not burden the rec program. The fee structure is \$100 per travel season (Fall and Spring) with team managers discretion to ask for additional funds if needed. Monies collected by the team shall NOT be refunded to the parents after each season & will rollover to the following year's team budget as they move up in age. If the team is no longer active, then the balance of the team's account will be transferred to the PBG Baseball General Fund. Each parent/guardian of a rostered player shall be required to sign a statement agreeing to the fees, acknowledging there is NO MUST PAY RULE, and no refund of fees after quitting during the season. The refund of fees due to the removal of a player shall be at the discretion of the Travel Director.

10. TEAM ROSTERS

The maximum roster size for any Travel Team shall be 15 players and the minimum shall be 9 players. The roster form must contain the player's name, uniform #, date of birth, address, phone #, email address, and school currently attending. The team roster must be submitted to the Travel Director along with a completed waiver and release form and a copy of the birth certificate for each player.

11. CHANGES IN ROSTER/PLAYERS DROPPING OUT/CHANGING TEAMS

Each Manager shall notify the Travel Director within 24 hours of the addition or deletion to his or her team's official roster. In the absence of any rules to the contrary as specified by any inter-league, tournament, or other rules that may be applicable, roster changes may be made at any time during the travel season. As to Travel Teams, all roster changes must be approved by the Travel Director of PBG Baseball. Recruiting players away from another PBG Travel Baseball Sponsored Team will not be tolerated.

12. PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION/RELEASE FORMS

All players are required to have their parents execute a Parental Authorization/Release Form granting such player permission to play in the Travel Baseball Program and releasing the PBGYAA from any liability for injuries that may be sustained as a result of such participation. All Travel Teams are required to submit such forms with each player's registration and to keep a copy in the Team Notebook for review prior to the game. All visiting teams are required to maintain similar executed authorization/release forms in the Team Notebook for review by the PBGYAA Baseball prior to any games being played on PBGYAA Baseball facilities.

13. SELECTION OF MANAGERS

Unless otherwise approved by the Board, all Managers or Coaches must be at least 18 years of age or older. Further, all managers or coaches must possess the maturity, responsibility, and good character needed to achieve the mission of the PBGYAA. All managers and coaches are expected to strictly adhere to PBGYAA Baseball Rules and Regulations as well as the PBGYAA Code of Conduct to remain a manager or coach in good standing with PBG Baseball.

- a) The term for a sponsored Travel Manager will be for either the Fall or Spring season. During this tenure, the Manager will facilitate selecting and managing the team during the fall and/or spring travel seasons, which will be created in an open tryout format before each season.
- b) To be eligible for selection as a manager of a Sponsored Travel Team, such manager must apply for the position of manager of such team to the Board no later than the date set by the Board each season. In order to be considered, the applicant must be an active Manager, Coach, Board, or other member of PBG Baseball during the concurrent Spring Rec Season. The Board, based on such applications and an oral interviewing process, shall determine all Managers of the Sponsored Travel Teams. There shall be no presumption that any particular person will be selected and all eligible members of PBG Baseball are encouraged to apply. The Manager appointed by the Board for each particular Sponsored Travel Team must select his or her own coaches from those who are actively coaching in the rec program during the spring season and who are otherwise eligible hereunder. All coaches selected by travel team managers must be submitted to the Board for approval. In addition, such managers and coaches must be certified by Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth, PBG Baseball, and have a current Background Check on file.

14. MANAGER RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of any Travel Team Manager shall include:

- a) Ensuring all players and coaches reflect the ideals of the PBGYAA at all times. This includes maintaining a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship on and off the field.
- b) Maintaining adequate supervision and control of all PBG Baseball Travel Team players while in uniform before, during, and after the game while at any fields.
- c) Immediately advising the Travel Director of PBG Baseball of any issues arising with respect to his or her travel team that may impact PBG Travel Baseball Policy.

15. MUST PLAY RULE

There is no must play rule in effect.

16. PITCHING RESTRICTIONS

The current PBG Baseball pitching rules shall be in effect for all chartered travel teams in each age division with the following exception. Rostered travel players will be under a pitch count for recreation and travel that are set forth by PBG Baseball. **The existing pitch count limits per game are still in effect as well as the minimum rest requirements outlined in the official PBG Baseball Pitching Rules.** Travel managers are required to notify their Rec League by Monday of each week the # of pitches in travel play. **Disciplinary action for failure to adhere to the pitching restrictions in travel baseball will be administered in the same manner the current rec disciplinary measures are administered. Repeated violations of required pitching restrictions by a travel manager could lead to removal of the offending manager.**

17. FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF TRAVEL TEAMS

All financial accounting for Travel Teams shall be handled by PBG Baseball through its Travel Director. The Board must specifically approve all fundraising to ensure there is no detrimental impact on the fundraising activities connected with the rec baseball program, including post-season All-Stars. The Board shall approve additional fundraising or expenditures on a case-by-case basis after reviewing its potential impact on the tax exempt status, the appearance to those donating money to the program, and consistency with its rec baseball program.

Any and all fundraising or other revenue generation for Sponsored Travel Teams shall be in the name of PBG Baseball and all financial accounting for such teams shall be handled through the PBGYAA. All donations, grants, or other payments should be made payable directly to PBGYAA Baseball and any money, check, or other disbursement received by such travel team must be immediately turned in to PBG Baseball or the PBGYAA Accounting Office to protect the tax-exempt status. All payments made to PBGYAA Baseball shall be subject to all applicable IRS guidelines necessary to protect the tax-exempt status. Any money received by PBGYAA Baseball for the benefit of a specific chartered Travel Team will be dispensed by the PBGYAA to pay for appropriate expenses of said team. PBGYAA Baseball funds may be used to pay actual, reasonable and customary expenses associated with the players and coaches travel. **Deficits are the managers responsibility. If your account falls to a negative status, fields will not be assigned and the team will be in a suspended status until the account is brought back to a positive balance.**

Customary expenses may include the following:

1. Tournament Registration Fees
2. Any additional tournament fees assessed to players or coaches (gate admission or balls for example)
3. Motel rooms for players and coaches as specified by the PBGYAA Baseball
4. Miscellaneous expenses (amount to be determined by the PBGYAA Baseball each season) to cover incidentals such as ice, Gatorade and reasonable miscellaneous expenses for the players.
5. Umpire Fees

Expenses that may not be paid for with PBGYAA Baseball funds include:

1. Entertainment and amusement expenses
2. Parent's Meals
3. Parent's Travel
4. Alcoholic Beverages of any kind for anyone.

It shall be the responsibility of the manager for each chartered Travel team to collect and keep track of all registration fees, sponsorship fees, hotel money, and other money turned in for the benefit of each travel team. In addition, the manager shall coordinate with the Travel Director and prepare and submit a budget to PBG Baseball for such team identifying tournaments and planned travel.

All registration and fundraising monies collected by the individual travel teams will be pooled into a dedicated account for each team which will be administered by the PBGYAA Accounting Office. These funds will be allocated to the travel manager for team expenses. A Check Request Form must be submitted for said expenses. The Check Request Form is available in the "Forms and Documents" section on PBGBaseball.com.

18. UNIFORMS

All Sponsored Travel Teams are required to select a uniform package that has been approved by PBG Baseball. The approved uniforms will be released in the spring of each year and teams can purchase from the approved offering throughout the year. Teams will not be allowed to create their own branding and/or deviate from the approved PBG Travel Baseball uniform. All uniforms are required to have numbers and no two players on the same team may have the same number. All teams are required to be in complete uniform during games, which includes socks, shirts, pants, and caps.

19. PRACTICES & PRACTICE SITES

Travel managers must submit field requests for games and practices using the Field Request Form which is an online form. The link will be provided to approved managers and can also be found in the "Travel Baseball" section of PBGBaseball.com. The travel practice schedule will be coordinated with the League's Director of Scheduling.

20. EJECTION FROM GAME

Any travel player, manager or coach who is ejected from a game will have an automatic one game suspension. Abusive actions following the ejection may result in additional suspension. Additionally, any travel manager or coach who is ejected may be called upon to come before the Board to discuss the ejection. The Board reserves the right to expel any travel player, manager or coach for the remainder of the travel season after a 2nd ejection.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ASK ANY MANAGER, COACH, PARENT, PLAYER, FAN, OR SPECTATOR TO LEAVE THE PARK FOR ANY UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT.

Any travel player, manager or coach who desires to appeal an ejection must do so by filing a written request with the Travel Director within 24 hours. Failure to file such a request within 24 hours acts as a waiver of any appeal right. Such filing will toll the suspension for the subsequent game until the Board of the PBGYAA Baseball has had an opportunity to hear the appeal. The denial of any appeal of an ejection may be subject to an additional game suspension (ie: 2 games total) in the event the Board determines the appeal was not made in good faith.

21. DISCIPLINE OF MANAGERS, COACHES, & PARENTS

The Board will consider any complaints regarding Board Members, Managers, Coaches, Parents, Players, Fans or Spectators brought to its attention in writing by the complaining party. The Board will discuss the complaint and if, in its discretion, the complaint warrants additional investigation, it will conduct such investigation. The Board shall have complete discretion in determining any sanction or penalty, if any, of any manager, coach, parent, player, fan or spectator. The full Board shall decide any sanction or penalty arising out of misconduct of a PBG Baseball Board Member.

22. TRAVEL TOURNAMENTS

Any travel tournaments hosted by PBGYAA Sponsored Travel Team shall coordinate with the PBGYAA Baseball Board in how funds will be collected & distributed per event hosted.