

Halfmoon Baseball League
Travel & All-Star Team Selection Guidelines



TravelTeamandAll-StarTeamTryoutPolicy

1.0 Introduction

Selection of Travel & All-Star teams shall be a continuous process, meaning that players who played on the team during the previous season must try out for the current season. The selection of Travel and All-Star teams consists of input from independent evaluators, the team manager and coaching staff as necessary (if selected in advance of the tryout) and the Division Coordinator or Board of Directors representative who serves as the Selection Facilitator. The various parties involved will provide a series of checks and balances in the team selection process.

2.0 Selection Guideline Goals

The goal of our selection process is to get the right team on the field considering tryout results as determined by independent evaluators and player history as documented by the manager.

Our process will provide a fair opportunity for all players and safeguard against special circumstances such as:

- A player with a proven on field performance history that doesn't perform well in tryouts or had a bad day. An un-proven player or one with a questionable on field performance history may not necessarily make a team due to a good tryout performance.
- A manager who desires to hand pick a team.

3.0 Priority of Documents

Where conflicts existing between this Travel and All-Star Team Tryout Policy and the League Bylaws, Article XI League Operations, the League Bylaws shall govern.

4.0 Tryout Scheduling

The Selection Facilitator in conjunction with the Board of Directors will schedule the number of tryout sessions including dates/times and advertise them within the League at least three weeks in advance of the tryout date. The Board of Directors will make every effort to schedule all tryouts at the beginning of the year and coordinate the times with team schedules in order to minimize conflicts.

The format and scheduling of these tryouts may differ between seasons, but two opportunities will be scheduled. Tryouts for the Fall season will occur in August. Tryouts for the Spring season will occur in September or October and tryouts for the Summer season will occur in June.

There will be a primary and makeup tryout for each team on different days and players should only attend one of these tryouts. The makeup tryout is intended to accommodate players that miss the primary tryout due to vacation, sickness or other approved reasons. The makeup tryout date will also serve as the rain date for the primary tryout if necessary. Additional re-scheduling of tryouts due to rain will be handled on a case by case basis.

In extenuating circumstances, if a player is unable to make the tryout date for an "approved" reason, the Selection Facilitator along with at least one of the evaluators from the original session will conduct a separate tryout. Makeup tryouts will only be granted on a case by case basis when requested by a parent no later than seven days in advance of the scheduled tryout and the Selection Facilitator reserves the right to deny such a request.

5.0 Teams Spanning Multiple Seasons

The Spring Travel 12U and 14U team(s) are selected in the Spring Travel Tryouts held in September or October and the rosters do not change through the spring and summer seasons. There will not be a separate tryout for Summer All-Star Teams at these levels unless a player is unable to continue in which case there will be a tryout for the open roster spot only.

6.0 Tryout Proceedings

For each tryout, a minimum of two independent evaluators that have no ties to that specific Travel/All-Star team will evaluate players through multiple drills under the supervision of the Selection Facilitator or another member

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of the League Board of Director's. Evaluators typically have Travel/All-Star coaching experience or a proven history of baseball knowledge.

All evaluators shall use the League Tryout Evaluation Form which scores players from 1-5 with 5 being the highest score in multiple categories including:

- Infield fielding, arm strength and accuracy
- Outfield ball tracking, catching and overall throwing
- Hitting contact, form and power
- Pitching accuracy, velocity and second pitch when age appropriate
- Catching form and throw to second when age appropriate

The Division Coordinator or manager will be responsible for assigning appropriate parent volunteers to assist with running each drill. Parent or volunteer coaching during the tryout is not allowed but player encouragement by the volunteers is appropriate and desired.

All players will be assigned a number when they sign in at the tryout and the sign in sheet with name/number cross reference information will be kept by the Selection Facilitator or their designee throughout the tryout and selection process. All evaluation forms will contain the player number only for identification purposes.

7.0 Team Selection

At the conclusion of the tryout the evaluators will meet one on one or with the Selection Facilitator to discuss the results and their notes on specific players. Through this discussion the evaluators will select those players whom they have complete agreement should be placed on the team and considered locks. This is typically 8 to 10 players depending on the age of the team and thus the amount of on-field history available and the spread in the tryout ratings. The evaluators will then identify two or more "bubble players" who are deemed eligible for the final roster spots. The number of bubble players identified is dependent on several factors including how many players are at the tryout, how many open roster spots remain after identifying the top 8 to 10 players and the drop-off in player ratings after the 12th rated player.

The evaluators and Selection Facilitator will then discuss the locks and bubble players identified with the manager (and coaching staff if he/she chooses) to decide on the rest of the roster. Through this process the manager and evaluators can discuss specific player talents and on-field history; any known deviations between a player's tryout and on-field performance history; player position strengths/weaknesses versus team needs considering the balance of the roster; other items pertinent to team chemistry and player potential. The Selection Facilitator and manager will also utilize the Recreation season ratings provided by each player's Recreation season manager. These ratings mirror the same evaluation criteria used in the one day tryouts and take into consideration each player's performance during the Recreation season.

Final team selection is the responsibility of the Selection Facilitator. If the above discussions between the evaluators and the manager do not arrive at a consensus, the Selection Facilitator will consult with other members of the Board of Directors for direction and a vote if necessary.

The League will attempt to publish rosters within one week of the tryout on the League's website unless otherwise announced by the League when forming multiple teams per age group.

8.0 Special Conditions

The child of the manager (if selected in advance of the tryout) shall be the only protected roster spot for any given team. No protected roster spots for desired assistant coaches are allowed.

A player who is limited by injury shall declare their condition in advance of the tryout and participate in whatever drills they can safely complete. Injured players that complete some or none of the drills will be evaluated by comparing their on-field performance history with that of the player who otherwise would be the lowest rated player selected for the team. Restrictions on player eligibility for certain Travel and All-Star teams, the priority for players who previously played in the League and participation in the spring recreational division are contained within the League Bylaws.

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9.0 Multiple Teams

The Board of Directors or Selection Facilitator will determine if multiple Travel/All-Star teams are possible for a given age group. The number of teams will be determined for each age group, each year based on a number of factors, including:

- A. Player/parent interest
- B. Number of qualified coaches
- C. The ability to field multiple competitive teams

Where possible, the Board of Directors or Selection Facilitator will announce the intent to form multiple teams in advance of the tryout.

When selecting multiple teams per age group, the first team shall consist of the highest rated players and be designated the Blue Team. Once the Blue Team roster is finalized, the Grey Team selection shall commence following the same procedures outlined above to rank the remaining players from the tryout.

When conditions warrant, the Board of Directors or Selection Facilitator may choose to form separate single age teams at the 12U and 14U levels thus forming separate 11 and 12 year old or 13 and 14 year old teams.

Team Seasons and Ages Matrix

Team – Baseball Age (1)	Spring Travel	Summer All-Stars	Fall Travel
7 Year Old	NO	Y	NO
8 Year Old	Y	Y	Y
9 Year Old	Y	Y	Y
10 Year Old	Y	Y	Y
12U	Y	Y	Y
14U	Y	Y	Y

1 - Players are eligible for Spring Travel and Summer All-Star Teams for their age on April 30th of that year. An 8 year old who turns 9 on May 5th is eligible to tryout for and play on the 8 year old Spring Travel & All-Star Teams. They would then be eligible to tryout for and play on the Fall 9 year old team as Fall teams are based on the players age the following year.

10.0 Closing

The Board of Directors established these guidelines to provide a team selection process that is fair to all League participants including players, parents and coaching staffs while providing flexibility to adapt to unique situations. By following these guidelines, we will do what is right for the players.