



Travel Bi-Laws

MISSION STATEMENT

Lancaster-Depew Baseball (LDB) is a nonprofit organization and is associated with Babe Ruth Baseball. Our mission is to provide the youth of our community with a fair, competitive and structured environment in which to learn, play, and enjoy the game of baseball by promoting little league baseball, teaching the game, and developing players. We welcome all eligible boys/girls in the established boundaries to join our organization. Our purpose is to be successful in local, district, state tournaments and create an environment for players to learn improve skills, gain confidence, and promote teamwork.

TC= Travel Coordinator / TTC= Travel Tournament Committee (President, VP, TC, Advisor)

Manager / Team Selection:

1. The Travel Coordinator (TC) will set the time frame for travel teams tryouts to occur (typically August of each year). Applications will be solicited from all travel and house coaches in the league. LDB will start with one team in each age group with that team being designated as the “lead manager”. All assistant coaches must also submit coaching applications and be approved by the LD Board.
2. The TC will select a “lead manager(s)” for each age bracket prior to tryouts based on expertise, experience, and seniority. If there are more than one candidate for the lead manager position, candidates may be interviewed by the TC and the TTC. The TC will recommend and submit all managers/coaches names to LDB Board for approval for formal approval.
3. Tryouts will be run by the designated “lead manager” in each age bracket. Tryouts will be run on two separate dates, with at least a weeks advance notice available to all players. One weekday and one weekend tryout is strongly encouraged. All tryouts must be completed on or about the third Sunday in August. The lead manager should recruit the assistant coaches within that age bracket with the additional impartial expertise if possible. The “lead manager” for each team is in charge of selecting their rosters after input from other travel coaches is received. The TC will send out a tryout itinerary with corresponding forms to all lead managers.
4. Lead Manager will be given rating sheets before tryouts and asked to rate each player based on the past seasons performance as: A player, B player, A/B player- unknown (if the coach does not know this player or if the player is new to travel or the league), non travel player. Tryouts should give more repetitions to players which have been initially rated as A/B or unknown players.
5. LDB will attempt to field at least two teams in each age group, with a third team being formed if the numbers, talent and coaches are available. If the TC feels there is enough quality talent to field additional teams and develop players all efforts will be made to accomplish this. The process described above selecting the lead manager will be followed for any subsequent teams. All coaches interested in being selected as the head coach of a 2nd or 3rd team or an assistant coach at any level are strongly encouraged to assist in tryouts.
6. LDB baseball strongly encourages travel coaches to develop and maintain the nucleus of their team from year to year. It is understood there will be a turnover of a few players on each team each year for a multitude of reasons. The maximum number of players per travel roster is 15.
7. All players will be required to play at their designated age level for L/D Travel Baseball except for players that have been grandfathered from the previous year. Any players wishing to play up must receive approval from the TTC committee and LDB Board. Players that are allowed to play up must remain at that level and not allowed to change age levels each year.
8. Upon the completion of the final or individual tryout, all players will be notified of final rosters within 72 hours.
9. If there are players unable to make the designated tryout dates, additional dates may be set if deemed necessary. All potential managers and the TC will be made aware of those dates and will have the opportunity to select the additional players subject to the selection and progression order.
10. Managers will be encouraged to run a tournament for their age bracket w/ the proceeds to benefit their team/their age bracket (if it is a joint effort).



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Pitching Machine Tournament Teams:

1. Pitching Machine (PM) tryouts will be held in early June of each season.
2. Players will be selected with the same protocol as for the older players with each PM coach recommending up to three players for tryouts. The top 26 players will be selected and divided evenly via draft after the coaches are selected. **The goal is to create two PM teams of similar abilities.** If there are enough players and coaches available to form a third "C" team, the league will support and encourage this. These teams will be "reshuffled" at 9U tryouts to form "A" and "B" teams with seven year olds being eligible to play pitching machine again the following year.
3. 8U travel rule. 8U players who are approved to play up at 9U cannot try out for the 8U team the following year.
4. In the selection of the two PM teams, preference will be give to 8 year olds of similar ability.
5. If there is a parent of a seven year old that is interested in coaching a PM team the following year, that position may be appointed early so that coach may begin practicing with some PM players before June of the following year.

General Information:

1. Players and their families are responsible for adherence to league obligations and team rules. They will be required to pay all associated fees, complete volunteer hours, and participate in league/team fundraisers (if applicable).
2. The league will register, insure, and oversee each LD Baseball travel team. The league will purchase uniforms from an approved vendor on behalf of players and collect monies for uniform upfront. Selection of the uniform is open to bids and at the discretion of the TC and approval of the league's Board. Note: Travel uniforms (caps/jersey) are prohibited from being worn during house games (exception: 13U, 14U and 15U travel teams).
3. In addition, the league will allow use of league fields subject to availability.
4. It is the intention that the LD Travel program to support the house organization. Every effort should be made for the travel players to play house ball as per LBD board requirements. Travel players must adhere to the following rules for the 8-12 year old age brackets:
 - a. House games take precedent over Travel practice.
 - b. Travel practice takes precedent over house practice.
 - c. House playoff takes precedent over Travel (includes tournaments)
5. For travel age groups 8 to 12U: players must play house and participate in 50% of their house games. If a player misses more than the above described games they will be subject to suspension from the travel team unless the absences are documented and due to TT conflicts or other circumstances. The TC and Disciplinary Committee will make the final decision on suspensions for above violations.
6. A player may be suspended or cut from their travel team due to conduct detrimental to the team / league, violation of specific team rules or league rules. Suspended players will not be allowed to play for another LD travel manager or team during this period. In the case of a cut for the above reason the player is not eligible to play until the following season. If a player is cut from their travel team for performance reasons they may play for another LD Travel team in the same age group. This must be approved by the TC.

MANAGERIAL RULES:

1. LD travel managers AND coaches must complete the Cal Ripken/Babe Ruth online coaching program prior to the start of the season. Reimbursement will be provided by the TC or Board of Directors .
2. LD travel managers are governed by the league's code of conduct agreement and can be removed from their position for violations of the code of conduct, on/off-field performance, or any of the conditions stated in the Travel Bi-Laws.
3. In the event of a suspension the TT manager's bench coaches will handle the managerial responsibilities.
4. Managers must turn in roster and game schedules to TC who will turn them into the league scheduler. All managers need to secure arrange umpires with the Umpire Coordinator for all home travel games.

SENIOR LEAGUE – Babe Ruth Travel League



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1. The 13U, 14U and 15U travel teams will be placed in a separate division in the Senior House League Division provided the league has applied for a waiver from BR.
2. The players on these teams will register under the normal registration process. This will allow the team to retain its affiliation with the Lancaster-Depew Baseball League.
3. These teams will schedule their own games and will need to coordinate with the Senior League President(s) to avoid any field conflicts.
4. The 13U, 14U, and 15U travel teams will play other “house” travel teams from other leagues to fulfill their obligations under the Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken guidelines.
5. In addition to the games played as part of the “house” schedule, these three teams can still compete in other travel leagues as well (i.e. Clarence Travel).

FUNDRAISING

1. Each travel team will be allocated \$300 as approved by the Lancaster-Depew Baseball League.
2. Each team is responsible for establishing its own budget. Budgets should include costs for uniforms, off-season training facilities, tournaments and umpires.
3. Travel teams can do their own fundraising to offset their costs. Ideas for fundraisers should be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.
4. TBD - Any monies generated from these fundraisers or collected from players should be given to the Treasurer for deposit in a Lancaster-Depew Baseball League account. LDB will setup an account for each travel team with the Treasurer or an Officer of the organization to be on the account as an authorized user. Any funds deposited will be used only for that specific team and not any other team.
5. Travel teams will be required to participate in league sponsored fundraisers. These fundraisers will be determined each year by the Board of Directors or the TTC. The goals and requirements for each team will be given to all of the travel team managers. Failure to participate may lead to a reduction in that team’s initial \$300 allocation from the league.

TRAVEL LEAGUES, TOURNAMENTS, DISTRICTS

1. Each travel team is responsible for their league and tournament entry fees.
2. Each age group is encouraged to send a qualified team to districts (if applicable).
 - a. TBD - Process to govern tryouts and manager selection. For example, the lead and/or the other travel managers within each age group will coordinate and offer tryouts to existing travel and non-travel players of the league.
 - b. TBD – Steps to create District Folder

GAME DAY OR TOURNAMENT PLAYER SHORTAGES

1. In the event that a team is short players for a league game or tournament they must adhere to the following rules:
 - a. Contact other travel managers within the same age group for availability of a loaner player. In no case should the borrowing of a player put the loaning team in a position that affects the outcome of a game or tournament that team is participating in.
 - b. Contact manager at the lower level within the league for player availability.

AMENDMENTS TO THE BI-LAWS

Not every possible situation or circumstance cannot be covered in this document and if a situation arises that is not covered, it will be reviewed by the TTC. Any amendments to this document will be reviewed jointly by the TC and the TTC by May 1st of each year and presented to the LDB Board for approval.