

Rosemount 2011 Traveling Baseball Handbook



Revised March, 2011

[RAAA Website](http://www.rosemount-aaa.org)

www.rosemount-aaa.org

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INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the Rosemount Area Athletic Association (RAAA) Traveling Baseball Board, we welcome all new and returning players and parents to the 2011 season. As always, we look forward to another enjoyable and successful summer of baseball.

In 2010, we saw continued strong participation in the Traveling Baseball Program. We realize the boys and families have many choices of activities throughout the spring and summer. But with those vast choices, the participation level in traveling baseball has remained strong. In 2010 we fielded 4 teams at the 9/10 year old level, 3 teams at each of the 11-13 year old levels and 2 teams each at the 14 and 15 year old level.

A total of 200 players participated in RAAA traveling baseball in 2010. All teams, at all levels, were very successful both on and off the field. Thanks to all participants, coaches and parents for another great season!

As we prepare for the 2011 season, the Traveling Baseball Board is looking forward to providing a rich and rewarding experience to all players, coaches and parents. Our plan will be to maintain the current number of teams at each level - provided participation numbers remain the same.

Once again, tryouts will be held indoors at the Rosemount Irish Sports Dome. We are fortunate to have access to such an outstanding facility for our off season training and the tryout process.

Tryouts for 2011 will take place on Friday, April 8th, 2011 (9 and 10s and 14s and 15s) Saturday, April 9th, 2011 for (Ages 11, 12 and 13 year olds), these age groups will have 2 sessions on Saturday).

The 9,10,14,15's will return for 1 session on Saturday. Tryout summary and scoring sheets are posted to the RAAA Traveling Baseball Program website.

2012 Tryouts: Mark your calendar! Tryouts will be at the end of SPRING BREAK – Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31st

The Rosemount Traveling Baseball programs goal is to develop players with quality baseball and communication skills, capable of participating at the high school level. We strive to produce players of sound character and principles. We want our players to be proud representatives of our Rosemount community. We will insist on good sportsmanship and proper behavior both on and off the field. We will grow athletes with baseball skills and knowledge, grounded in the spirit of teamwork. Our desire is for everyone to have fun and enjoy the season -- from the players to the coaches to the parents and the fans. We want our opponents, their fans, and the umpires to enjoy the experience of participating in Rosemount baseball. It is our ultimate goal to produce a program that will be recognized as a standard of excellence by other communities. And we want you to be a part of the experience.

This handbook will assist you in gaining a better understanding of our program and hopefully answer any questions you may have. Please take the time to read it in its entirety. Be sure to also review the RAAA Traveling Baseball Try-Out Summary which can also be found on the Traveling Baseball Website.

Thank you for being part of RAAA Traveling Baseball in 2011.

Dallen Schnichels
Traveling Baseball Program Director

MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

Our mission is to assist athletes in developing advanced baseball skills and provide the opportunity to compete with other players of similar abilities.

Our objectives are to provide an organized program for the youth of the community that will:

- promote physical fitness, stamina, and agility;
- develop self-confidence;
- develop respect for others, teamwork, pride in team and community;
- teach the fundamentals of baseball;
- incorporate the spirit of good sportsmanship in victory or defeat;
- allow every player to have an opportunity to participate and develop;
- play in a safe and healthy environment;
- build character and set priorities in our lives;
- allow everyone to have fun and enjoy life.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Commitment

Traveling baseball requires a significant time commitment from both players and parents, from April through July, and possibly into early August. Every player's presence is important and he/she is expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. **Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of playing time. (Out of season sports activities is not an excused absence.)** Unexcused absences will result in a minimum of 1 game suspension. *This will ultimately be the decision of the head coach and the entire team should understand the head coaches expectations PRIOR to the start of the season.*

Commitment from our parents is "Very Important"! In order for our association to be a success and for our children to maximize their joy of playing traveling baseball, your participation is "**Mandatory**" and we will collect a **\$100** deposit at the beginning of the season for working our various tournaments. It is up to the family of the player to figure out which parent will be responsible for covering the hours needed to support the assigned Tournament.

Tryout Fees **\$80**

This fee is used to cover facilities, hire outside evaluators, provide the necessary equipment and supplies, and for any other miscellaneous costs specifically relating to the tryout and evaluations process. **This fee is non-refundable**, and has nothing to do with the actual participation fees relating to the regular season whether a player is selected or cut. However, players not selected will still be eligible to participate in the In-House program where they will be required to pay normal participation fees normal late fees would be waived in these cases.

Additional Fees

In addition to the tryout/registration fee, those players who are selected for a traveling team will pay an estimated fee of **\$250**. This covers the team's expenses for participation in league games, umpires, equipment, uniforms, field usage, field maintenance and improvement, association administration and support.

The costs for entering tournaments will be equally distributed among all players and will be approximately **\$35** per player, per tournament. Additional money may be required as determined by the coaches and parents of each individual team.

No player will receive his/her uniform until all fees are collected and paid.

These fees are paid to the team manager and are estimated at about **\$105-\$130 per player**.

Total Fee Costs for a typical Traveling Baseball Season our estimated at about \$455 (Tryout \$80, basic League related fees \$250, and Tournaments average about \$125). Any additional tournaments, including State Tournaments are decided on a team-by-team basis and would be collected and paid by Team Coaches or Managers accordingly and based on the majority of each team's participants.

Once a player has been placed on a team, there will be no refunds except for players who suffer a long-term injury or illness. Any refund requests of this nature will be taken under consideration by the Board, and if approved prorated based on costs incurred up to that point in time.

Try-Out Preparations

It is the responsibility of each player to come prepared to the try-out process. Tryouts will focus on hitting mechanics, hitting results, infield and outfield mechanics and results. Arm Strength will also be evaluated on both infield and outfield drills. Scoring system will be on a 1-10 grading system...10 being the highest. Please see the document listed on the website entitled "RAAA Traveling Baseball Tryout Summary" for more details on the try-out process.

Parents' Meetings

Mandatory parents meetings will be held in April to present details on the upcoming traveling season, and also highlight information and updates included within the Traveling Baseball Handbook. Team meetings will be set up immediately after team selections. This will provide you as parents an opportunity to meet your coaches and ask questions. Additional Fees for upcoming tournaments and seasonal Deposits (Uniform & Volunteer) are also collected at this time. All parents **must** attend this meeting. The meeting date and time is posted below.

Date: Thursday, April 7th, 2011

Time: 7:00—9:00 pm

Place: Rosemount Community Center Auditorium

Tryout Dates

Tryout dates are typically scheduled in late March or early April each year (depending on Spring Break timing). **Tryout dates for 2011 will be as follows:**

Friday, April 8th 5:00-10:00pm

Saturday, April 9th 8am-8pm

Location: Irish Sports Dome

***Check back to the website for specific age group try-out times**

Planning Ahead? 2012 Tryout Dates will be on March 30 and 31st. This is the last weekend of 2012 Spring Break

Games and Practices

Weather permitting practices will begin shortly after teams are formed. League play begins in May and continues through July, with approximately 16-20 weekday league games, plus 3 to 5 regular season tournaments played on weekends. Post season tournament play (state and national events) is by invitation and depends upon success in qualifying tournaments throughout the season.

Coach Evaluation Forms (Online via the RAAA website)

Parents and players are asked to complete an evaluation at the end of each season on their experience with the traveling baseball program and their coaches. This is your most significant opportunity to express your opinions and to help us make improvements. Contents of evaluations are confidential and are only viewed by the Traveling Baseball Program Director and select members of the Board. The input from these evaluations carries a lot of weight and we pay close attention to what these evaluations tell us. Please take advantage of this opportunity. You will find the forms on RAAA website under Traveling Baseball.

Suggestions

The Traveling Baseball Board, and all of our volunteers, values your opinions. If you have suggestions for improving the program, the best way to communicate them is to include them on the evaluation forms you are asked to complete at the end of the season. Please include as much detail as necessary for us to understand what you would like to see discussed or possibly implemented.

If evaluations are not timely, you may submit suggestions to any Traveling Baseball Board member, but please put them in writing so they receive the attention they deserve. Use of the web site www.rosemount-aaa.org/basetr.html is encouraged. E-mail addresses are available on the site.

Suggestions specific to your child's team are also appreciated. Feel free to discuss your comments and concerns with the team's coach after a game or practice, but also make sure discretion is utilized to handle these in a proper manner. Sometimes another location or mutually agreeable time is the best alternative. He/she will greatly appreciate you avoiding all discussions prior to or during games and practices and will be better able to focus on your request away from the kids and after the event.

Uniforms & Equipment

The traveling baseball program will supply a uniform including team shirts, pants, socks, belt, and cap. If a vest or jersey is utilized a **deposit is required** until that item is returned in good shape upon conclusion of the season. A deposit would typically be **\$75** will be taken for at the beginning of the year and held until the applicable piece has been turned in. Failure to turn in this item will result in your Deposit check being cashed.

The traveling baseball program also supplies:

- new, league approved game baseballs
- practice balls
- Catcher's gear (including helmet, mask, chest protector, glove & shin guards)
- first aid kits & scorebooks

Any damage caused by negligence or intentional abuse will be reimbursed by the player and/or parents. Failure to do so will result in denial from any further sport participation in any RAAA program by the player or any other member of his/her family.

Personal Equipment

Each player must provide his/her own **glove, proper shoes, bat, batting helmet, and personal protective equipment**. Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes.

Most leagues require the wearing of athletic supporters with a hard protective cup. The use is strongly recommended by the Traveling Baseball Board.

Players are encouraged to use cleated baseball shoes with hard rubber or metal cleats according to the rules of the league in which they participate (see "League Specific Information").

Bats

Bats are an item of equipment, which like gloves, need to be fitted to the individual player and also comply with league-sanctioned rules. Parents should consult coaches and/or specific league rules (see "League Specific Information") before purchasing bats. www.mbl.bz

The traveling baseball program does not provide batting helmets or bats as part of the team's equipment bag. It is very difficult to anticipate the combination of bat lengths and weights that any given team would require, and therefore a large and very expensive inventory would need to be maintained, thus resulting in additional costs to the program. At this level of competition, most players prefer their own bat anyway.

Umpires

All umpires are sanctioned by the State of Minnesota and provided to us by certified umpiring associations. While our expectations regarding the quality of umpiring may be high, we must always exercise patience, understanding, good sportsmanship, and respect for their efforts. The character of our players, coaches, fans, and community will be gauged by the message the umpires carry out into the baseball community statewide.

Player Eligibility

A player is eligible to participate in RAAA Traveling Baseball team tryouts subject to the following criteria:

- Must be a registered member of RAAA
- **Players may not be registered for more than one Community Traveling Baseball Program. If a player is determined to be registered for tryouts in another community and registered for tryouts with RAAA Traveling Baseball the player will NOT be allowed to try-out in Rosemount until situation is rectified. Once a player begins an evaluation process in another community they may not attend the tryout process within the RAAA Traveling Baseball Program.**
- Players must currently be attending a Rosemount School and/or be living in a parents (official legal guardian) resident that's primary address aligns them with Rosemount High School.
- Example: A player may be living in a resident that aligns him with Rosemount High School but has chosen to attend a private school. This player is still eligible to play summer traveling baseball in Rosemount.
- Players who live outside of the Rosemount High School attendance area but open enrolls to a Rosemount School and wants to play summer baseball in the community of their primary home address can do so but can only play in under one association. Rosemount Traveling Baseball does not allow and or support players playing in multiple associations.
- If a selected players HOME (primary) residence does not reside in the Rosemount High School attendance area, a waiver must be obtained from the athletic association that serves his/her high school attendance area. For AVHS, the association is VAA; for EHS, EAA; and for EVHS, EVAA. Without this waiver, the player will not be eligible to play in Rosemount Baseball and or AAU sanctioned tournaments.
- Addresses of grandparents, relatives, and friends will not be considered as a primary address unless those persons are legally documented as the legal guardian for the player.
(Proof of legal documentation will be required to support primary address)
- If a fraudulent birthdates and or primary address are uncovered; the player will be band from the program until corrections are made to make the player legal under the approved guidelines. This will be enforced by the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Board and supported by the RAAA board. All fees will be forfeited if player is determined to be not eligible.
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any arrearages from previous RAAA programs.
- Must meet age guidelines specified by the AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) and the MSF (Minnesota Sports Federation).

Waivers

- Per MBL, all waivers involving Rosemount Traveling Baseball MUST be approved by 3 Boards.
 - 1) RAAA Traveling Baseball Board
 - 2) They other Community Program Involved
 - 3) Metro Baseball Board
- Parents must fill out the on-line waiver request form and submit to Director of Traveling Baseball.
- All waivers must be approved with a majority vote by the Rosemount Traveling Board to be eligible for participation.
- All players asking for a waiver out of the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Association must be approved with a majority vote by the Rosemount Traveling Board.

Birth Date Cutoff

Rosemount Traveling baseball requires that all participants play with their current school GRADE. Players CURRENTLY must be in the 3rd grade thru 9th grade. Players will then play at the corresponding AGE level.

- 3rd graders who are 9 years old will play at 10 year old level. (Not all associations allow this)
- 4th graders play at the 10 year old level
- 5th graders play at the 11 year old level
- 6th graders play at the 12 year old level
- 7th graders play at the 13 year old level
- 8th graders play at the 14 year old level
- 9th graders play at the 15 year old level

Playing Up or Down

Rosemount Traveling Baseball does NOT allow a player to “play up”

(i.e. play on a team older than his/her age level, except when **required** by MBL rules.)

It is our philosophy that it is best for the players to play with his grade.

The only potential exception is with the 14 and 15 year olds. Some 14 year olds may be required to play at the 14/15 A level, and some 14 year olds may be asked to play at the 15 year old AA level. This will vary from year to year depending on the number of players. Some 15 year olds may also be asked to join a team from a neighboring community. This will only be done on years where we are short on players to field another full team.

A player cannot “play down”

(i.e. play on a team younger than his/her age level) for any reason, per AAU and MSF rules.

The birth date cutoff is **May 1st**. The team (age level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player's age on that date. *A copy of the child's birth certificate must be supplied to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.*

Players Transferred to In-house Baseball

Those players not making one of the traveling teams can automatically be registered for the RAAA In-House Baseball program. Tryout fees are non-refundable if your player participates in any part of the tryout process. Traveling Baseball Board will communicate with the RAAA In-House program to be sure enough spots are available for these players.

Try-Outs Participation

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions unless a medically excused absence is granted prior to tryouts. All requests must be presented to the Program Director prior to tryouts. Vacations or other sporting activities are not an excused absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each tryout session. Players absent without being excused may be disqualified. Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but are not guaranteed an excused absence. The board will do everything possible to accommodate school functions but the player is still ultimately responsible for attending the tryout session. A player who does not have an excused absent will NOT be considered for the AAA team. Any player with an unexcused absent will miss the opportunity to move up in level of play. An unexcused player may potentially be placed at the single A level if there are no cuts and there is an opening. Players that attend the tryouts will have priority over an unexcused absent.

**Tryouts for 2012 are on Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31st.
This is the last weekend of SPRING BREAK! Please plan accordingly.**

Injury or Illness Absence

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury or illness may be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session, ***upon delivery of a doctor's note describing the player's limitations*** to the Traveling Baseball Director. A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically unable to participate in the tryout process due to the nature of the injury or illness. A player who misses more than 50% of the scheduled tryout sessions due to illness or injury, and provides a doctor's excuse, will be reviewed and evaluated by an existing panel of Board Members. The Board will review these unique situations, and a decision may be rendered based on a variety of factors and input relating to previous experience or precedence, past or present coach input, or many other potential factors relating to past participation in our program. These situations should be avoided whenever possible, and ultimately will be assessed as the board.

Players with an excused injury or illness who can't participate in any of the two try-out sessions will be placed in the pick zone at the level he played the previous season. The head coach will have the option to use one of his 4 picks for this player. The player will not have the option to move up but could potentially be moved down if the head coach does pick the injured/sick player.

If a player is able to participate in one of the two sessions and is either injured during tryouts, or becomes sick, the scores from the one session he attended will be doubled.

Any player unable to tryout and has not previously participated in the Rosemount Traveling Baseball Program will be placed at the Single "A" level only if there is an opening available.

Player Evaluations

Every player's baseball skills will be evaluated by a team of impartial evaluators provided by the Traveling Baseball Board. The evaluators will be people who are known to possess the knowledge necessary to evaluate a player's skill at a particular level. Evaluators will not be related to any of the tryout participants involved in their assigned age level. The evaluation scores will be the primary basis used to select the players for each traveling team. A board member for each age level will organize and facilitate the tryout sessions, but will not participate in the actual player evaluation scoring process. Board members may assist in facilitating the tryout sessions, but will not participate in the actual player evaluation scoring process.

GENERAL POLICIES

Attendance

Every player's presence is important and expected for the entire season. Unless otherwise exempted by the coach, all players are expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Excused absences will be granted for school and religious events; however, it is expected that the coach will be notified in advance of such events.

Unexcused absences will result in a reduction of playing time. (*Out of season sporting activities is not an excused absence.*) Unexcused absences will result in a minimum of 1 game suspension. This will ultimately be the decision of the head coach and the entire team should understand the head coaches expectations PRIOR to the start of the season.

Suspensions

The Traveling Baseball Board reserves the right to suspend any coach, parent, or player who violates the RAAA Code of Conduct/Ethics provided by the RAAA Board of Directors and or any rules/conduct/ethics described by the RAAA traveling Baseball Board. Suspensions will be documented and distributed to the RAAA Board of Directors.

A coach or umpire may suspend any player, parent, or assistant coach who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, as described in the "Behavior" section. Subsequent violations may result in the player, parent, or assistant coach being removed from the program. All violations must be reported to the Traveling Baseball Board.

Player Removal

Once a team is selected, a coach cannot replace a team member solely because of lack of skills. A player may be released for the following specific reasons:

- Frequent, flagrant disregard of the player's responsibilities.
- Continued play in such a manner as to endanger others and/or self.
- Displaying an uncaring attitude, this resulting in not applying oneself, thus hurting the team's competitive potential.
- Failure to work within a team environment (placing self-interest before the teams).
- Repeated unsportsmanlike behavior.

Before requesting the removal of a player, the coach must discuss the situation with the Age Group Coordinator and the player's parents) and attempt to correct the situation. The discussion should include an objective description of the behavior and of the intended discipline. If this fails to correct the situation, the coach must then notify the appropriate Age Group Coordinator and the Program Director who must approve any further action. The Program Director must, in turn, notify the RAAA Board of Directors of the action taken within 48 hours of its occurrence. Written documentation must be given to the Traveling Baseball Board.

Playing Time

Minimum playing time for 10-13 year olds will be 3 defensive innings per game. The starting lineup will provide an opportunity for every player to have a place in the batting order.

Minimum playing time for 14-15 year olds will be 2 innings defensively.

- * Some game situations (e.g., 10 run rule) may prevent this from happening in a specific game.
- ** State and qualifying tournaments for 13 year olds use a 9 man batting order so an equal number of at bats for each player during tournament play is highly unlikely. During any such tournaments, playing time rules for the 14-15 year olds will apply.

Note: If a player is in the lineup as a designated hitter (DH), he/she may not receive any defensive playing time for that game.

Coach Selection

Anyone who desires to be a head coach must check the box at the time of on-line player registration or contact the Traveling Baseball Board or Program Director before the selection process is completed. Interviews and selection of Provisional Head Coaches will typically be held in March. Only the top three ranked and provisional head coaches that interview AND is deemed qualified to be a head coach by the selection committee will be allowed to attend the tryout process in order to evaluate the players for the coach's player selections. Coaches not deemed qualified for a head coaching position will not be allowed to attend any portion of the tryout process.

Selection as a Provisional Coach in no way guarantees that the coach's child will be selected for a given team. All candidates are informed during their interview that their status as coach (if selected) will be provisional upon their child qualifying for that team via the tryout/evaluation process. If the player qualifies for a different team, or no team, the Provisional Coach will be excused, and a new coach will be selected from the parent/coach applicants of the players who were chosen for the team.

Primary selection criteria include past baseball coaching and playing experience, personal coaching and human development philosophies, organizational skills, strong moral and ethical characteristics, support of traveling baseball and RAAA policies/procedures, and the applicant's commitment to devote several hundred hours to the program during the season. They end in September with equipment check-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

- **All coaches interviewing for a head coaching position must provide (3) references and phone numbers from their most recent baseball coaching experience.**
- **While it is important that a traveling team coach have expertise in the sport, it is just as important for the coach to have the welfare of individual players and the players' character and confidence development foremost in mind.**
- **As a board we are looking for a coaches with integrity, sincerity, and high idealism. Other qualifications: the ability to remain even-tempered under pressure, the ability to discover ways to impart his/her knowledge to each individual player, and the ability to understand children, to relate to them, and to be sensitive to their developmental requirements.**

Coach Removal

Removal of a team coach is a very serious situation, and must be dealt with in a fair and open manner. Coaches may be removed for the following reasons:

- Failure to perform duties.
- Conduct detrimental to the player, the team, the organization, and/or the parents.
- Abusive behavior, whether physical or psychological, towards players, parents, opposing players, another coach, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials.

In order to remove a coach, a written complaint must be submitted to the Program Director. If there is sufficient justification, a hearing before the Traveling Baseball Board will be held. The vote of a simple majority will be sufficient to dismiss the coach. Written documentation must be given to the RAAA Board of Directors.

Behavior

The highest standards of sportsmanship will be expected from the players, parents, coaches, umpires, and spectators.

Conduct that will not be tolerated includes verbal abuse, tantrum-like acts, profanity, physical aggression on or off the field, and acts intended to cheat the spirit of the rules or to intimidate the umpires. Umpires may use their discretion whether to issue a warning or to immediately eject the violator (coach, player, or spectator) from the game. The umpires and/or coaches are responsible for reporting all incidents to the Traveling Baseball Board. Subsequent violations may result in suspension from play and/or attendance.

If a parent or player has a problem with the performance of an umpire, he/she should direct his/her concerns to the team's coach. The coach represents the RAAA Traveling Baseball program and should be the only person communicating with the umpires. One of the objectives of the program is to teach respect for the officials and the proper procedure for dealing with any problems with the umpires.

Unless playing in the field, at bat, on base, on deck, or coaching, all players shall remain on the bench. It is mandatory that each batter, on deck player, runner, player in a coach's box, or non-adult bat/ball assistant on the field wear a batting helmet that meets NOCSAE standards.

Players will treat their coaches, parents, teammates, the umpires, and the opposition with respect. After each game, the participants will line up and shake hands.

Spectators are restricted to the areas that are "out of play" and away from the benches.

Inclement Weather

In case of inclement weather, the coach will determine if there will be a practice.

At games, the home team's coach is responsible for determining whether the game will be started. Once play begins, the umpire is responsible for determining whether play should be halted.

In all cases, unless you receive a call or notification from your team's coach, you should appear at the site of the game or practice as scheduled. Weather conditions can vary widely even over short distances, so our policy is to make the decision at the field site. Games and practices will be suspended when lightning is visible.

If you (parent/guardian) are not able to be present during an event, be sure that your child knows another parent who will be present and with whom he/she can take shelter if bad weather suddenly threatens.

Blood Policy

A player or coach who is bleeding or who has an open wound shall be prohibited from participating in the game until appropriate treatment has been administered. If medical care or treatment cannot be administered in a reasonable amount of time, the individual will have to leave the game. (The length of time considered reasonable shall be in the umpire's judgment.) Once the bleeding has been stopped, the player or coach may reenter the game. If there is a substantial amount of blood on the uniform, it must be changed before that individual may participate.

Drug and Alcohol Policy

RAAA Traveling Baseball mandates that all players/coaches participating in an RAAA youth activity should refrain from the use of alcohol and/or a controlled substance.

It shall be a violation of this policy for a player/coach, while participating in an RAAA youth activity, to use a beverage containing alcohol, or use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any controlled substance.

Once a violation has been brought to the Traveling Baseball Board's attention and a decision has been made, the player/coach will be informed of his/her ineligibility by a written letter from the Program Director.

- a. First Violation: Upon notification by the Board, the player/coach shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive games or two weeks of a sport season in which the player/coach is participating, whichever is greater. No exception is permitted.
- b. Second Violation: The player/coach shall lose eligibility in traveling baseball for that sport season. No exception is permitted.
- c. Accumulative Penalties: Penalties shall be accumulative beginning with and continuing throughout the player's/coach's participation in any and all RAAA activities.

Tobacco Policy

RAAA Traveling Baseball does not condone the use of tobacco by players under the legal tobacco age. It shall be a violation of this policy for a player participating in traveling baseball to use tobacco.

Once a violation has been brought to the Board's attention, the player will be informed of his/her ineligibility. Ineligibility's will be the same as for the drug and alcohol policy.

RAAA Traveling Baseball recommends that coaches and parents refrain from the use of tobacco in any form during a youth sport activity. If a coach or parent must use tobacco during a baseball activity, they must remove themselves at least 100 feet from the playing area, which includes the bench area. This includes the use of any chewing tobacco during any practice, game and or tournaments.

Equipment Abuse

Under no circumstances will the abuse of equipment be tolerated. Umpires and coaches are instructed that each instance of equipment abuse will result in that player sitting on the bench for the remainder of the game. At the umpire's or coach's discretion, one warning may be given. If any of the equipment is abused and results in any damage; the player and parents will be held responsible for reimbursement. Players may be suspended from participation in future RAAA programs until reimbursement is made.

COACHES' RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

The coach is a teacher of baseball skills, a manager of the functions necessary to run a team, and is responsible for the social, psychological, and physical development of all players in his/her care. He/she is accountable to the players, the parents, the Traveling Baseball Board, and the RAAA Board of Directors.

Coaches' Responsibilities include:

- Obey and enforce all RAAA rules.
- Treat all players in an equitable and fair manner.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship, self-control, and proper behavior.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of team players, assistant coaches, parents, and spectators.
- Attend the Coaches' Meeting and the Parents' Pre-Tryout Meeting in March.
- Attend all Metro Baseball League meetings and functions.
- Assure that all players receive playing time that is mandated by the Traveling Baseball Board.
- Teach the players to have fun and enjoy competition.
- Help the players to develop a healthy, competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Assess individual player's strengths and weaknesses to help each player improve.
- Encourage and compliment players; use only constructive criticism.
- Attend a minimum of 90% of their team's practices and games.
- Care for the equipment that is issued to them. If any equipment is lost or damaged, coaches should report the problem to the appropriate Age Group Coordinator.
- Conduct a pre-season parents' meeting. At this meeting, the coach should set the tone and expectations for the season, distribute team schedule, roster, team rules, and collect any additional fees that are due.
- Arrange for team photographs.
- Schedule field time for practices and any make-up (home) games with the other coaches.
- Report any problems with fields to the appropriate Age Group Coordinator.
- Recruit parent volunteers as necessary.
- Attend the post-season meeting in September. At this meeting, they should review their season, return equipment, and provide suggestions for improving the program in future years.
- Arrange to have an alternate attend any required functions (e.g., coaches' meetings, etc.) that they are unable to attend.
- Adhere to the RAAA drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies.

Coaches' Rights include:

- To be treated with respect by players, parents, volunteers, umpires, league, MSF and AAU officials, the Traveling Baseball Board, and the RAAA Board of Directors.
- To be made fully aware of the rules and policies under which they must function.
- To have access to necessary safety equipment and practice fields.
- To expect full cooperation from parents when they are asked to assist.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

Your child's participation in the traveling baseball program will require a significant contribution of your time and effort. Parents can contribute many things to support their child, team, and the program.

Parents' Responsibilities include:

- Let your child know you love him/her, win or lose, whether he/she plays well or not.
- Compliment and encourage. Let the coaches handle coaching and criticism. Coordinate your efforts to help your child's development with the recommendations of the coaches. Support your coaches. Remember that they are responsible for many children in addition to yours.
- Don't compare your child to other players, and be honest with yourself and your child about his/her abilities.
- Regard each player on the team as your own.
- Keep negative comments to yourself. Express concerns only to the coach and in a straightforward, fair, and objective manner.
- Teach your child to have fun and enjoy competition. Don't tell him/her that winning does not count because it does, and he/she knows it. Instead, help him/her to develop a healthy competitive attitude toward winning and losing.
- Follow the "Parents' Code of Conduct" supported and distributed by RAAA Traveling Baseball.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior. Don't criticize officials, coaches, or other parents or players.
- Ensure the good sportsmanship and proper behavior of your child and your guests.
- Get your child to, and pick them up from, practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach in advance whenever your child will miss or be late for a practice or a game.
- Provide a copy of your child's birth certificate at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.
- Volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible.
- Volunteer your time and talents to make your team's tournament a success.
- Cheer, cheer, cheer.

Parents' Rights include:

- Have your child treated fairly and with respect.
- Have your child practice and play in a safe and healthy environment.
- Have your child coached by effective and qualified adult leadership.
- Have your child engage in practice and playing activities that increase his/her skills and enjoyment of the sport.
- To be fully informed by the coaches with respect to schedules, team philosophies, team rules, and your child's strengths and weaknesses.

RAAA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct

As a parent/guardian of a child involved in a Rosemount Area Athletic Association (RAAA) program, I/we agree to abide by and follow the rules and guidelines listed below:

- I/we will respect the property and equipment used at any sports facility, both home and away.
- I/we will encourage good sportsmanship through my/our actions, by demonstrating positive support for all players, coaches, and officials at every game or practice.
- I/we will promote the emotional and physical well-being of the athletes ahead of any personal desire to win.
- I/we will provide support for coaches and officials working with the athletes to provide a positive experience for all.
- I/we will demand a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free environment for my child, and agree to assist by refraining from their use at all RAAA events, home or away.
- I/we will remember the game is for the athletes and not for the parents.
- I/we will demand that my/our child treat other players, coaches, officials, and spectators with respect regardless of race, creed, color, sex, or ability.
- I/we will treat all players, coaches, and officials with dignity and respect in language, attitude, behavior, and mannerisms.
- I/we will inform the coach of any physical disability or ailment that may affect the safety of my child or the safety of others.
- I/we will inform the coach, within a reasonable period of time, of any anticipated absence from a game or practice my child might incur due to sickness, injury, vacation, or any other reason.

Additional parent conduct policies set forth by the Traveling Baseball Board:

- Parent bullying, verbal or physical abuse and any other misconduct to any player, coach, other parent, other team, umpire, or traveling baseball board member will NOT be tolerated. The board will be aggressive in its disciplinary actions. Parents failing to abide by the rules and guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action. This action could include, but is not limited to the following actions listed below.

IMPORTANT:

- Parents will NOT be allowed to contact ANY Board Member for **24 hours** after posting of try-out results. Any communication thereafter must first be done in writing by filling out the complaint form on-line. The complaint will be addressed by a committee of 3 board members of a different age level. **Anyone NOT following this 24 hour rule will receive a verbal AND written warning immediately.**

I/we also agree that if I/we fail to abide by the aforementioned rules and guidelines, I/we may be subject to disciplinary action. This action could include, but is not limited to the following:

- *Verbal Warning*
- *Written Warning*
- *Parental Game Suspension(s)*
- *Parental Season Suspension*
- *Parental Banishment*

These actions may not be necessarily taken in an escalated manner, and RAAA Traveling Baseball Board reserves the right to select and apply any penalty depending upon the situation.

I/we agree to support and promote the philosophy of RAAA sports:

*Teamwork - Effort - Skill Development - Character - Sportsmanship - Safe
Environment - Humble and Thankful in Victory; Gracious and Complimentary in Defeat.*

PLAYERS' RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

Players on a traveling team should take pride in themselves, their team, and in their community. They must follow the directions of the coaches, and must be willing to accept constructive criticism.

Players' Responsibilities include:

- Have pride and confidence in yourself, your teammates, and your coaches.
- Be attentive and work hard in practice and games. Make your best efforts to perform the tasks as directed by the coaches.
- Be a competitor, perform up to your full ability, and contribute to team unity. Compliment teammates and let the coaches handle criticism.
- Show respect toward your coaches, teammates, and parents.
- Show respect toward opposing players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.
- Keep your (personal and team) equipment clean and in good repair.
- Maintain a responsible attitude toward your health. Be aware of, and adhere to, the RAAA policies on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
- Remember that baseball is a game and keep it in perspective with family, school, and/or church activities and responsibilities.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship and proper behavior.
- Remind your parents that you need to be at practices and games on time.
- Inform the coach whenever you will miss or be late for a practice or a game.

Players' Rights include:

- To participate at a level that matches your maturity and ability.
- To play as a child, not as an adult.
- To participate in a safe, healthy environment.
- To be treated fairly, with dignity, and with respect.
- To have fun in sports.
- To have an equal opportunity to develop your abilities and strive for success.
- To have good coaching; to be taught the fundamentals and strong character development.

PROBLEM RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

When a player or parent has a question regarding the general policies or procedures of traveling baseball team, they should address their questions to the coach of their team. Choose a time and place that is convenient for both parties involved (not prior to or during a game or practice) and address your questions in an appropriate manner (keep the conversation polite, private, and out of the earshot of other players or parents). If a question is not answered satisfactorily and a player/parent feels the need to pursue the matter further, they may contact the appropriate Age Group Coordinator, but should do so only after exhausting all efforts with the coach and his/her assistants. When approaching the Age Group Coordinator, the player/parent should follow the same guidelines as those stated above.

When a player/parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or individual player, they should:

- Adhere to the "24 Hour Rule" which requires a player/parent to wait at least 24 hours before approaching a coach on the matter.
- Choose a time and place that is convenient for all parties involved (not prior to, or during a game or practice) and approach the situation in an appropriate manner (keep emotions under control, discussions polite and to the point, and also private and out of the earshot of other players & parents).

If the problem persists or cannot be resolved between the player/parent and the coach within 72 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Age Group Coordinator. At this time, the Coordinator will act as a mediator between the player/parent and coach. All parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution.

If the problem cannot be resolved at that level within 72 hours, it should be brought to the attention of the Traveling Baseball Program Director. Again, all parties involved will meet to discuss the situation and strive for a solution. The Director shall communicate in writing with the RAAA Board any necessary mediation and outcome of that mediation.

If mediation still is unable to resolve the issues and all of the above steps have been followed, the Program Director shall inform both parties in writing within 5 days that the complaint has been referred to the RAAA Board of Directors. The decisions of the RAAA Board of Directors will be final. If the Program Director is the subject of the grievance, a written complaint should be submitted directly to the RAAA Board of Directors.

AGE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

10-11 Year Olds

- "AAA", "AA", and "A" teams will be formed for each age level where possible, and will play in the Metro Baseball League and in weekend tournaments. If registration numbers justify it and resources allow, additional teams may be added wherever possible.
- Bases will be 60 feet apart for 10 year olds and 65 feet apart for 11 year olds.
- The pitcher's mound is 46 feet from home plate.
- Players will pitch to the opposing team, and there will be no adults on the field except for the umpires and coaches in the 1st and 3rd base coaches' boxes.

12-13 Year Olds

- "AAA", "AA", and "A" teams will be formed for each age level where possible, and will play in the Metro Baseball League and in weekend tournaments.
- Bases will be 75-82 feet apart for 12 & 13 year olds.
- The pitcher's mound is 52 – 54 feet from home plate for 12 & 13 year olds.
- 12 & 13 year olds are allowed to lead off and pitchers will pitch from the stretch.
- 13 year olds are first year where metal cleats are allowed.

14-15 Year Olds

- "AAA", "AA" and 14/15 "A" teams will be formed for each age level where possible, and will play in the Metro Baseball League and in weekend tournaments.
- Bases will be 90 feet apart (full size).
- The pitcher's mound is 60½ feet (full size) from home plate.

LEAGUE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Metro Baseball League (10-13 year olds)

- Rule: National Federation of State High School Associations rules, with specific modifications by age.
Spikes: Hard rubber only. Metal spikes are allowed for 13 year olds. Parents of 13 year olds/7th graders should check with Middle School coaches before purchasing.
Bats: Please see bat regulations on Metro Baseball League Website: www.mbl.bz

Metro Baseball League (14-15 year olds)

- Rules: National Federation of State High School Associations rules.
Spikes: Metal spikes are allowed.
Bats: Please see bat regulations on the Metro Baseball League Website: www.mbl.bz

STATE TOURNAMENTS

(Parents: Be aware that the following events normally charge for parking and/or admission. They are not RAAA events. They are fundraisers for the sanctioning organizations; we have no control over them.)

MSF/MBT State "AAA" requires qualification from an MSF/MBT Qualifier Tournament

10-under	**July
11-under	**July
12-under	**July
13-under	**July
14-under	**July
15-under	**July

MSF/MBT State "AA" requires qualification from an MSF/MBT Qualifier Tournament

10-under	**July
11-under	**July
12-under	**July
13-under	**July
14-under	**July
15-under	**July

MSF/MBT State "A" requires qualification from an MSF/MBT Qualifier Tournament

10-under	**July
11-under	**July
12-under	**July
13-under	**July
14-under	**July
15-under	**July

****Dates are published annually, so check with your coach for any dates or sites for your State Tournament**

National Tournament participation is invitational, based on results of AAU (only) State Tournaments. There is no further advancement based on MSF/MBT State Tournament participation.

Cooperstown Tournament

Cooperstown program is separate from Rosemount Traveling Baseball but they utilize our selection process as the basis for the team. Finances are separate and on their own.

RAAA Traveling Baseball Board 2010-2011

Dallen Schnichels (Director)	Son is a 14 year old player	dallen.schnichels@charter.net
Brad Abbott (Secretary and Tournament Director)	Son is a 14 year old player	brad.abbott@target.com
Brian Smith (Treasurer)	Son is a 12 year old player	smithboys070810@comcast.net
Mark Engdahl (Tryout Director)	Son is a 12 year old player Son is a 14 year old player	mark@integrityme.com
Tim Roszak (Travel Prep Coordinator)	Son is a 15 year old player	TRozzak@ORCGuideline.com
Jon Bauer (Uniforms & Boosters)	Son is 14 year old player	jonathan.bauer@goodrich.com bauer4@frontiernet.net
Steve Turner (Equipment)	Son is a 15 year old player	turnersteve47@yahoo.com
Steve Lufkin (Equipment)	Son is a 14 year old player	SLUFKIN@CHARTER.NET LUFKINS@ISD197.k12.mn.us
Morris Valenzuela (Pictures/ Tournament Fields Coordinator)	Son is a 13 year old player	tcbugfl@charter.net
Jeff Rowe (Grants) (Field Scheduler)	Son is a 12 year old player	Jroweboat@hotmail.com
Troy Sprouls (Coaches Development)	Son is a 13 year old player	troy.sprouls@unisys.com sprouls@lightblast.net
Doug Link (Coaches Development)	Sons are both 14 year old players	doug.link@awin.com
Jeff Humble (Player Development)	Son is a 12 year old player	jawshumble@msn.com
Al Reinhardt (Equipment)	Son is a 14 year old player	reinhardts@charter.net
Paul Henderson (Tournament – Co-Coordinator)	Son is 10 year old player	paul.henderson@generalmills.com
Eric Princ (Tournament Co-Coordinator)	Son is a 10 year old player	ejprincl@yahoo.com

2011 AGE LEVEL TOURNAMENT COORDINATORS

All positions are appointed by the Traveling Baseball Board.

9 and 10's	Paul Henderson and Eric Princ
11's	Mark Engdahl
12's	Jeff Rowe
13's	Troy Sprouls
14's	Doug Link
15's	Tim Roszak

References

RAAA Web Site	www.rosemount-aaa.org
Amateur Athletic Union	www.aabaseball.org
Metro Baseball League	www.mbl.bz
Metro Baseball Tournaments	www.mbt.bz

RAAA TRAVELING BASEBALL 2011 CALENDAR

Event	Date	Time	Location/Comments
Coach Interviews	March	TBD	Community Center
Mandatory Parent Meeting	Thursday, April 7th	7:00-9:00pm	RCC Auditorium
Try-outs for 9 & 10's	April 8 April 9	Check Website	Irish Sports Dome
Try-outs for 11's	April 9 April 9	Check Website	Irish Sports Dome
Try-outs for 12's	April 9 April 9	Check Website	Irish Sports Dome
Try-outs for 13's	April 9 April 9	Check Website	Irish Sports Dome
Try-outs for 14's	April 8 April 9	Check Website	Irish Sports Dome
Try-outs for 15's	April 8 April 9	Check Website	Irish Sports Dome
Ages 9 and 10 Single A player coaches evaluations	April 13	6:00-8:00pm	Irish Sports Dome
Uniform Fitting	March 6,7	6:00-9:00pm	RCC Band Room
Metro League Scheduling	Saturday	April 16	Check MBL website for times and location. www.mbl.bz
MBL Mandatory Coaches Meeting	Must attend One!	April 26,27,28	Check MBL website for location www.mbl.bz
League Games Begin 10-14		May 2, 2011	Metro Baseball League
League Games Begin 15		May 16, 2011	Metro Baseball League
Rosemount "A" Tourney	May 6-8, 2011	10A, 11A,	Erickson Fields
Rosemount "A and AA" Tourney	June 5 & 6, 2010	11AA, 12AA, 12A	Shannon Park, Erickson
MBT 10 A State Tournament	July 8-10 2011	10A State	Erickson & Shannon Park Fields
Equipment Return	Aug / Sept	TBD	TBD
Post Season Coaches Mtg	September	TBD	TBD

TBD = To Be Determined