

# 2011 EVAA



## Traveling Baseball Handbook

Revision 0 February 1, 2011

“Every day is a new opportunity. You can build on yesterday’s success or put its failures behind and start over again. That’s the way life is, with a new game every day, and that’s the way baseball is.”

- Bob Feller

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Mission & Program Objectives .....	2
General Information.....	2
Commitment.....	2
Registration Fees .....	2
Additional Fees.....	2
Volunteer Fee .....	2
Pre-Season Development Clinic .....	3
Parents’ Pre-Tryout Meetings.....	3
Tryout Dates .....	3
Games and Practices.....	3
Neighborhood Parks .....	3
Evaluation Forms/Suggestions .....	3
Uniforms.....	4
Equipment .....	4
Bats.....	4
Umpires .....	4
Other.....	4
Tryout Policies.....	5
Eligibility.....	5
Birthdate Cutoff.....	5
Participation .....	5
Bats.....	5
Injury or Illness Absence.....	5
Player Identification .....	5
Player Evaluation.....	6
Player Selection.....	6
General Policies .....	6
Attendance.....	6
Suspensions .....	7
Player Removal .....	7
Playing Time .....	7
Coach Selection.....	7
Coach Removal .....	8
Behavior .....	8
Inclement Weather.....	8
Blood Policy .....	9
Drug and Alcohol Policy .....	9
Tobacco Policy .....	9
Equipment Abuse .....	9
Coaches’ Responsibilities and Rights.....	10
Responsibilities .....	10
Rights .....	10
Parents’ Responsibilities and Rights.....	10
Responsibilities .....	10
Rights .....	11
Code of Conduct.....	11
Players’ Responsibilities and Rights.....	12
Responsibilities .....	12
Rights .....	12
EVAA Risk Management Policies.....	12
EVAA Risk Management Policies .....	12
EVAA Participation/EVAA Volunteer Protection Guidelines.....	13
Duties of the Risk Manager .....	14

Problem Resolution Guidelines ..... 15

Age Specific Information..... 16

    10-11 year olds ..... 16

    12-13 year olds ..... 16

    14-15 year olds ..... 16

League Specific Information..... 16

    Metro Baseball League (10-13 year olds)..... 16

    Metro Baseball League (14-15 year olds)..... 16

State Tournaments ..... 16

2011 Traveling Baseball Board..... 17

    References ..... 17

2011 Calendar..... 18

“Baseball was made for kids, and grown-ups only screw it up.”  
- Bob Lemon

Contents of this handbook up-to-date as of Revision date of 2/1/11

## **INTRODUCTION**

On behalf of the Eastview Athletic Association (EVAA) Traveling Baseball Board, I 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. This allowed us to again field five teams at the 10 year old level and four teams at the 11 year old level. We were also able to maintain three teams at the 12-14 year old age groups and two teams at the 15 year old age group. A total of 252 kids participated in EVAA 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. The A level at all age groups continues to see strong growth and development through the commitment of the Metro Baseball League – this is expected to continue to expand in 2011. We will also continue to grow and develop the A level within our program to provide an opportunity for more participants to play competitive baseball, especially with the cessation of middle school baseball. Another area of growth of our program is the teaming with Eastview Thunder and the Cooperstown Group to offer a significant pre-season baseball technique and coaching development clinic for both participants and coaches at the Rosemount Dome. Strong clinic participation in 2011 will continue to foster increased development and competitiveness of our teams.

The Traveling Baseball Board is committed to locating and retaining the most qualified coaches to help develop our players and our program at each level. The coach selection committee for the Board will continue to look for paid coaches for the following levels: 15AAA, 15AA, 14AAA and 14AA, however, it will not preclude a parent from acting as a coach at any of these levels, if he/she is the most qualified applicant for that position.

Once again, tryouts will be held indoors at the St. Olaf College complex in Northfield. We are fortunate to have access to such an outstanding facility for the tryout process. The tryouts will take place on Saturday, March 26, 2011 (10s, 11s, 12s, and 14s) and Sunday, March 27, 2011 (13s, and 15s). Similar to last year, the tryouts will once again be a one-day tryout for each age group. Tryout Summary and scoring sheets are posted to the EVAA Traveling Baseball Program website.

Eastview has again been selected to host the MBT State Tournament at multiple age groups. The tournament will take place over the weekend of July 8 - 10 and will utilize the entire Johnny Cake Ridge East & West complex as well as additional fields in Apple Valley (AVHS and the new Quarry Park fields). Additionally, we have been selected to host the August Classic for multiple age groups from August 3 through August 7. These busy and exciting weekends take an army of volunteers to pull off, so put those dates on your calendar – it will be an opportunity for everyone to fulfill their volunteer commitment for 2011. We look forward to coordinating the efforts of players, coaches, Traveling Baseball Board members and our great parent volunteers to host fun weekends for all participants. It is a compliment to our association and community to be awarded the honor of being a State Tournament and August Classic host. Many of you put in countless hours to bring this monumental task to fruition. We thank you all for your efforts.

Dean Stockwell  
EVAA Traveling Baseball Program Director

**“Baseball, it is said, is only a game. True. And the Grand Canyon is only a hole in Arizona.”**

**- George F. Will, *Men at Work: The Craft of Baseball*, 1990**

## **MISSION & PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

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 and 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 the game.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Commitment**

Traveling baseball requires a significant time commitment from players, coaches and parents, from April through July, and, for some, possibly into early August. Every player's presence is important and he/she is expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games with limited exceptions (see "General Policies" – Attendance). Unexcused absences may result in a reduction of playing time.

We expect baseball to be the sport of season. Absences due to participation in other sports will be considered unexcused and result in reduction of playing time. Ultimately, decisions regarding reduction in playing time are made by the coaches of each particular team.

Commitment from our parents is as important as that from the players. In order for our association to be a success and for our children to maximize their joy of playing traveling baseball, we need your help in running events. Volunteering your time to our tournaments is part of your commitment to traveling baseball.

### **Registration Fees**

Registration Fee: \$100

Early Registration Discount: If you register and pay prior to March 18, 2011, the registration fee is \$75

Non-refundable Tryout Fee \$25

The registration fee covers the team's expenses for participation in league games, umpires, equipment, field usage, field maintenance and improvement, and association administration and support. The tryout fee is used to hire outside evaluators and for other costs specifically related to the evaluations. The tryout fee is non-refundable and will be collected at the time of registration.

### **Additional Fees**

In addition to the registration fee, those players who are selected for a traveling team will pay approximately \$160 for uniform costs (see page 4 "Uniforms"). Uniform fees are due at the uniform fitting/logo wear sale on April 6 and 7, 2011, tentatively scheduled from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Falcon Ridge Middle School. The uniform fitting/logo wear sale times will be finalized in the upcoming months and communicated at the mandatory Parent's Pre-Tryout Meeting tentatively scheduled on March 17, 2011.

The costs for entering tournaments will be equally distributed among all players and will be approximately \$25 per player per tournament. Additional money may be required as determined by the coaches and parents. After the selection of the team, there will be a parents' meeting conducted by the head coach. All tournament fees are due at that time. Also, 14 and 15 AA and AAA teams will pay an additional \$600, split equally among each team member on the respective rosters, for the paid coaching position. The additional \$600 fee is discussed further in the Coach Selection section.

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. All refund requests will be prorated by the number of games played and must be approved by the Traveling Baseball Program Director.

### **Volunteer Fee**

A volunteer fee of \$100 per child, or \$150 per family, will be charged again this year. The family of each child is required to work a minimum of six hours/child or nine hours/family at our EVAA hosted tournaments. All families, including those with coaches or Traveling Baseball Board Members, must work their required hours. All volunteers must be at least 14 years old. If someone is unable to work their scheduled shift, it is their responsibility to find a

replacement.

The volunteer fee will be collected along with the uniform fees and must be a separate check (one check per family is fine). Checks will be returned through your child's coach to all families who work the required number of hours at our tournaments – please be sure to check in at your respective check-in location. All other checks will be cashed and used to offset expenses.

### **Pre-Season Development Clinic**

For the 2011 season, we are excited to again offer a pre-season development clinic for players and coaches at the Rosemount Dome. The Cooperstown Group (2010 11 year old teams) partnered with EVAA Traveling Baseball and Eastview Thunder to provide winter-long hands-on training; focusing on hitting, bunting, pitching, catching, base running, infield and outfield play for ages 8 thru 15 at the Rosemount Dome. Over 150 future Eastview Baseball stars are currently participating. The clinic also affords us an opportunity to development our coaches and introduce uniform coaching techniques.

### **Parents' Pre-Tryout Meetings**

**A Mandatory informational meeting will be held March 17, 2011** to present details on the tryout/evaluation process. Tryout times will be confirmed at the meeting. Evaluations do vary somewhat by age, so the meetings are scheduled as follows:

<b>Parents of 10 year olds:</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
<b>Parents of 11-12 year olds:</b>	<b>6:45 PM</b>
<b>Parents of 13-15 year olds:</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>

### **Tryout Dates & Times**

10 -12 and 14 year olds: Saturday March 26, 2011

- 12 year olds: Check-in at 7:45 am; tryouts from 8:30 - 11:00 am
- 11 year olds: Check-in at 10:15 am; tryouts from 11:00 - 1:30 pm
- 10 year olds Group A: Check-in at 12:45 pm; tryouts from 1:30 - 4:00 pm
- 10 year olds Group B: Check-in at 3:15 pm; tryouts from 4:00 - 6:30 pm
- 14 year olds: Check-in at 5:45 pm; tryouts from 6:30 - 9:00 pm

13-15 year olds: Sunday March 27, 2011

- 15 year olds: Check-in at 7:15 am; tryouts from 8:00 – 10:30 am
- 13 year olds: Check-in at 9:45 am; tryouts from 10:30 – 1:00 pm

Tryouts will be held indoors at St. Olaf College at the Tostrud Center. Parents will be responsible for providing transportation to and from St. Olaf College.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Team rosters will be posted to the EVAA Traveling Baseball Website as soon as possible after team selection (tentatively scheduled for March 30th). Prior to posting to the website, the Traveling Baseball Board will attempt to contact all non-selected players to notify them of their status via telephone/voice message. As such, it will be imperative to leave a contact number where you can be reached following evaluations. It is hoped that this process will provide the appropriate level of sensitivity yet meet timely and accessible notification for the selected players and coaches.

### **Games and Practices**

Weather permitting and release of fields by the City of Apple Valley; practices will begin shortly after the team is chosen. League play begins in May (see "2011 Calendar") and continues through July, with approximately 16-20 weekday league games, plus 3 to 5 regular season tournaments played on weekends. The number of tournaments, and whether or not one is played out of town, is at the discretion of the coach. Post season tournament play (state and national events) is by invitation/qualification and depends upon success in qualifying tournaments during the season.

### **Neighborhood Parks**

The Apple Valley and Eagan Parks & Recreation Departments have asked us to remind you to please be considerate of the residents living adjacent to playing fields. Park your vehicle appropriately, drive safely, use sidewalks, pick up your trash, and keep your children off of other people's property.

### **Evaluation Forms/Suggestions**

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 Traveling Baseball Board members. Please take advantage of this opportunity. If you do not receive your evaluation form, please contact the appropriate Age Group Coordinator listed on page 17. Program, coach, and player evaluation forms will be discussed at the parents' pre-tryout meetings on March 17th.

### **Uniforms**

The Traveling Baseball Program will supply uniforms for purchase as listed below. Players participating in the Traveling Baseball Program for the first time will be required to purchase all items listed below. Returning players do not need to purchase the items listed below if the items listed below from the previous season fit, match the current year's style and are in good condition. All items below can be purchased at the uniform fitting on April 5th and 7th, 2011.

- White Jersey Vest
- Royal Blue Jersey
- Royal Blue T-shirt
- Baseball Pants
- Baseball Socks (suggest 2 pair)
- Fitted Baseball Hat
- Royal Blue Belt
- Batting Helmet (helmet will be provided the first year in the program)

### **Equipment**

Each player must provide his/her own bat, glove, baseball cleats, and personal protective equipment (except catcher's equipment). Parents are responsible for providing any additional safety equipment that they choose to use. Most leagues require, and we encourage, the wearing of a hard protective cup. Properly fitted, correctly sized equipment is very important to a player's success, especially in terms of gloves and shoes. 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").

The Traveling Baseball Program also supplies all catcher's gear, practice and game balls, and other equipment necessary for games and practices. Any damage caused by negligence or intentional abuse will be reimbursed by the player, coach and/or parents. Failure to do so may result in denial of any further sport participation in any EVAA program by the player, coach or any other member of his/her family.

### **Bats**

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

The EVAA Traveling Baseball Program does not provide bats for players as part of the team's equipment bag. It is very difficult to anticipate the combination of lengths and weights that any given team would need, so a large and very expensive inventory would have to be maintained. This would result in additional costs for the program. At this level of competition, most players prefer their own bat anyway.

### **Umpires**

While our expectations of 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.

### **Other**

Those players not making one of the traveling teams are automatically registered for the EVAA In-House Baseball Program. The Traveling Baseball Program tryout fee is not refunded and the registration fee is automatically transferred to the In-House Baseball Program. The registration fee will be refunded if the player elects not to play in the EVAA In-House Program. The Traveling Baseball Program strongly recommends that any player cut from the traveling program should continue to play baseball in the EVAA In-House Program.

**"England and America should scrap cricket and baseball and come up with a new game that they both can play. Like baseball for example.**

**-Robert Benchly**

## **TRYOUT POLICIES**

### **Eligibility**

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

- Must be a registered member of EVAA.
- In accordance with EVAA Board of Directors policy, players must reside in the Eastview High School (EVHS) attendance area or live within the City of Apple Valley.
- Must have paid all applicable fees and any arrearages from previous EVAA programs.
- Must meet age guidelines specified by the Metro Baseball League.
- If a prospective player does not reside in the EVHS attendance area or live within the City of Apple Valley, he/she will not be allowed to tryout for EVAA Traveling Baseball unless the following conditions are met **PRIOR** to tryouts: (1) a waiver must be applied for and obtained from the athletic association that serves his/her high school attendance area; (2) a waiver must be applied for and obtained from the Metro Baseball League; and, (3) a waiver must be applied for and obtained from the EVAA Board of Directors. The EVAA Traveling Baseball Board may request proof of compliance with the residency requirements and issuance of the waivers.
- Exceptions to this policy must be requested in writing to the EVAA Board of Directors at a regular EVAA monthly meeting **PRIOR** to tryouts.

### **Birthdate Cutoff**

The birthdate cutoff is **April 30, 2011**. The team (age level) for which a player is eligible is the same as the player's age on that date, provided, however 9 year olds are eligible for the 10 year old team if the player is of the age of 9 on April 30, 2011. However, the Traveling Baseball Program highly recommends that all participants play with their grade level if possible. For example, a sixth grader is 11 years old on April 30, 2011 and has a birthday of June 1. While the player would be eligible to play on the 11 year old team (primarily fifth graders), the Traveling Baseball Program recommends that the player play at the 12 year old level with other sixth graders. Players in this position will have a one-time choice as to whether or not to play with his/her grade or age. Once the decision is made, the player will not be able to switch in subsequent years. A player cannot "play down" (i.e., play on a team younger than his/her age level) for any reason, per the Metro Baseball League. A copy of the child's birth certificate should be supplied to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.

### **Participation**

A player must participate in all scheduled tryout sessions unless an excused absence is granted prior to the start of that session by the Traveling Baseball Program Director. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each tryout session. A player who is absent without being excused, may be disqualified. Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

### **Bats**

All bats used for the tryouts must adhere to the regulations as outlined in "League Specific Information".

### **Injury or Illness Absence**

A player who has registered for tryouts and cannot participate due to an injury or illness will be excused, prior to the start of the tryout session provided a doctor's note describing the player's limitations is delivered to the Traveling Baseball Program Director prior to Tryouts. An injured player may be asked to attend the tryout session if able to complete a partial tryout, or even if unable to participate, as there is value in being part of the process. Evaluation scores for injured and/or ill players will be based on the formula established for such occasions by the Traveling Baseball Board. The formula is based on the previous year's tryout score, adjusted for the average tryout score's (age specific) increase or decrease. The formula is such that an injured player cannot 'improve their position' from the previous year but does allow a player's position to drop if other players increase their scores. In the event a player is medically unfit to participate in tryouts for two or more years in succession, the medically adjusted score from the previous year will be used to calculate the current year's tryout score. If a registered participant that is medically unable to participate in tryouts and does not have a tryout score from the preceding year, the Traveling Baseball Board will determine placement on a case-by-case basis. A player excused due to injury or illness must present a signed doctor's release indicating that the player is medically fit before he/she will be allowed to participate in any EVAA activity.

### **Player Identification**

Each player will be identified by a number assigned at the tryout sessions. **A player must not wear clothing from a prior year's traveling team, use any paraphernalia identifying him/her as a previous traveling player, or wear any article of clothing with his/her name imprinted on it.**

## **Player Evaluation**

Every player's baseball skills will be evaluated by a team of impartial evaluators selected 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. Outside evaluators will not be related to any of the tryout participants involved in their assigned age level. The Provisional Coaches for the "AAA" and first "AA" team for each age group will also participate in the evaluation process. The Provisional Coaches are selected by a Coach Selection Committee consisting of three or more Traveling Baseball Board Members. Scoring breakdown will be covered at the Mandatory Parents' Meeting.

In the event an outside evaluator does not show up for an assigned tryout session, his role will be filled by the Traveling Baseball Program Director or someone designated by the Traveling Baseball Program Director (however, the evaluator will not be related to anyone trying out for that age group).

## **Player Selection**

The players' respective evaluation scores will be the primary basis used to select the players for each traveling team. No player will be placed on a team over a more deserving candidate because he/she has previously played on a traveling team. Please note that the following criteria are in addition to all requirements detailed in the "Eligibility" section.

Each 10-15 year old team will, in general, consist of 12 players. The highest ranked 9 players (10-12 year old teams) or 8 players (13-15 year old teams), based on the evaluators' scores, will automatically qualify for the "AAA" team. If the Provisional Coach's child does not make the team, the coach must either relinquish his/her job or else continue to coach the team without his/her child. The Provisional Coach, or in the absence of a Provisional Coach, the Team Selection Committee consisting of three or more Traveling Baseball Board Members then has the discretion to fill out the roster from the top 18 ranked players provided there is a "sound baseball logic" (e.g., based upon a player's merits (skills, athletic ability, hustle, enthusiasm, and coachability), or the team needs a pitcher or catcher, etc...). The Provisional Coach will provide the "sound baseball logic" to the Traveling Baseball Team Selection Committee for approval.

After the selection of the "AAA" team has been completed, the next 9 (10-12 year old teams) or 8 (13-15 year old teams) highest ranked players will automatically qualify for the "AA" team. The Provisional Coach or the Team Selection Committee in the absence of a Provisional Coach, then has the discretion to fill out the roster from the top 30 (ranked players), again with approval by the Traveling Baseball Team Selection Committee based on "sound baseball logic".

After the selection of the "AA" team has been completed, the next 9 (10-12 year old teams) or 8 (13-15 year old teams) highest ranked players will automatically qualify for the "A" team or any subsequent teams. The Team Selection Committee then has the discretion to fill out the roster from the top 42 ranked players, based on "sound baseball logic".

**PLEASE NOTE:** Team rosters will be posted to the EVAA Traveling Baseball Website as soon as possible after team selection. Prior to posting to the website, the Traveling Baseball Board will attempt to contact all non-selected players to notify them of their status via telephone/voice message. As such, it will be imperative to leave a contact number where you can be reached following evaluations. It is hoped that this process will provide the appropriate level of sensitivity yet meet timely and accessible notification for the selected players and coaches.

**In the event of more than three teams at a given age group, the Team Selection Committee and Provisional Coaches will determine what level ("AAA", "AA", or "A") each team will play at based on player score distribution. Teams will be placed at the level where they will be challenged, while remaining competitive and successful.**

*"One of the beautiful things about baseball is that every once in a while you come into a situation where you want to, and where you have to, reach down and prove something."*

*- Nolan Ryan*

## **GENERAL POLICIES**

### **Attendance**

Every player's presence is important and is expected. Unless otherwise excused by the coach, all players are expected to attend all practices, league games, and tournament games. Excused absences will be granted for school, religious and important family events (e.g. funeral or wedding); however, it is expected that the coach will be notified in advance of such events. Unexcused absences, including participation in another sporting event will result in a reduction of playing time as determined by the coach.

## **Suspensions**

The Traveling Baseball Board reserves the right to suspend any coach, parent, or player who violates the EVAA Code of Ethics provided by the EVAA Board of Directors. Suspensions will be documented and distributed to the EVAA Board of Directors. Suspension of a coach may lead to progressive discipline. See "Coach Removal" section.

A coach or umpire may suspend any player, parent, or coach who acts in an unsportsmanlike manner, as described in the "Behavior" section. Subsequent violations may result in the player, parent, or 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 release 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 which results 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 parent(s) 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 Traveling Baseball Program Director who must approve any further action. The Traveling Baseball Program Director must, in turn, notify the EVAA 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 10-11 year olds will be 3 defensive innings per game with at least one inning at an infield position other than pitcher or catcher and one inning in the outfield (however, a coach may substitute an inning in the outfield for catching duties, but all coaches are encouraged to give all players an opportunity to play an outfield position during the season, including catchers)\*. All 10-11 year old coaches are encouraged to give all players an opportunity to pitch. Minimum playing time for 12-13 year olds will be 3 defensive innings per game\*. The 10-13 year old starting lineups 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) or player discipline may prevent this from happening in a specific game.

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.

All coaches at all age groups are encouraged to develop a pitching regimen to prevent over-pitching players.

## **Coach Selection**

Anyone who desires to be a head coach must fill out an application online and sign up for an interview. All applications must be received no later than January 1, 2011. A Coach Selection Committee consisting of three or more Traveling Baseball Board Members will interview all applicants. Interviews and selection of Provisional Coaches will be held in January.

Selection as a Provisional Coach in no way guarantees that the coach's child will be selected for a given team. All coaching 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 qualified/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 the Traveling Baseball Program and EVAA policies/procedures, and the applicant's commitment to devote several hundred hours to the program during the season. Provisional Coaches' responsibilities begin in January with tournament selection and entry, league meetings, and organization of tryouts. They end in October with equipment check-in, season reviews, recommendations/feedback, and performance evaluations.

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 the individual players and the players' character and confidence development foremost in

mind. Even a person of integrity, sincerity, and high idealism needs other qualifications (e.g., 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). If chosen as a coach, a background check will be conducted.

In order to try and improve baseball skills and better prepare participants for higher level baseball, the EVAA Traveling Baseball Board seeks to select the highest qualified coaches for the 14 and 15 year old AA and AAA teams. A significant level of effort is put forth to solicit highly qualified candidates. The EVAA Traveling Baseball Board has determined that paying these coaches a \$1,500 stipend (plus \$600 contributed from participants on these teams) is necessary to attract the highest qualified coaches. In some cases, a parent coach is deemed the highest qualified candidate. In the event that a provisional or selected coach declines to accept the stipend, the money is retained by the Traveling Baseball Board program (the \$600 portion contributed from participants is returned to the participants, if collected). Provisional coaches that are also a parent of a participant MUST declare whether they will accept or decline the stipend prior to tryouts. If the provisional coach accepts the stipend, they are free to use the stipend in whatever manner they deem appropriate or beneficial to the team. If the provisional coach declines the stipend and the money is returned to the program, the coach may apply to the Traveling Baseball Board for the amount of the stipend if they desire to use the funds to improve the technical baseball skills of the team. For example, the coach may apply and use the funds to hire assistant coaches or purchase technical development time at a baseball training facility. The Traveling Baseball Board shall approve all instances where a coach declines the stipend and applies for use of the stipend funds for technical improvement.

### **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, coaches, spectators, umpires, volunteers, or league officials.

Any coach removed from league or tournament games will automatically receive a two game suspension. A suspension means that a coach cannot attend the game either as a coach or a spectator. If a coach is removed a second time during the season, he will receive a minimum two game suspension AND will meet before a review committee consisting of the Traveling Baseball Program Director and the Age Group Coordinator. The review committee will decide on the coach's future involvement in the program.

### **Behavior**

The highest standards of sportsmanship will be expected from the players, parents, coaches, umpires, and spectators. All participants in the Traveling Baseball Program are reminded that we represent the Eastview Community in addition to the EVAA Traveling Baseball Program.

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 EVAA Traveling Baseball Program and shall 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 in the bench area out of the field of play.

It is mandatory that each batter, on deck player, runner, player in a coach's box, or person 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. The home team is also responsible for notifying the umpire crew chief if any game is cancelled.

In all cases, unless you receive a call 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**

EVAA Traveling Baseball mandates that all players/coaches/parents participating in an EVAA youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game) 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 EVAA 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 Traveling Baseball Program Director.

- a. First Violation: Upon notification by the Traveling Baseball 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 the Traveling Baseball Program 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 EVAA activities.

### **Tobacco Policy**

EVAA Traveling Baseball does not permit the use of tobacco by players under the legal tobacco age.

It shall be a violation of this policy for a player participating in the Traveling Baseball Program to use tobacco.

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

EVAA Traveling Baseball mandates that coaches refrain from the use of tobacco in any form during a youth sport activity (practice/scrimmage/game). Reminder, no tobacco is allowed on any District 196 property.

### **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 the abuse of the equipment results in any damage to the equipment that player and/or his/her parents will be held responsible for reimbursing the cost of replacement. Players may be suspended from participation in future EVAA programs until reimbursement is made.

**"No matter how good you are, you're going to lose one-third of your games. No matter how bad you are you're going to win one-third of your games. It's the other third that makes the difference."  
-Tommy Lasorda**

## **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 EVAA Board of Directors.

### **Coaches' Responsibilities include:**

- Comply with and enforce all EVAA rules and Traveling Baseball Program policies and rules.
- Know all and comply with all league and tournament rules.
- Adhere to the EVAA drug, alcohol, and tobacco policies.
- 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.
- Attend all Metro Baseball League meetings and functions.
- Arrange to have an alternate attend any required functions (e.g., coaches' meetings, etc.) that they are unable to attend.
- Assure that all players receive playing time that is as 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 and create a developmental plan to help each player improve in the areas of concern.
- 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.
- Attend any coaches' clinic arranged by the Traveling Baseball Board.
- 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.
- Conduct a mid-season player meeting, including evaluations of each player.
- 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, team manager, communication coordinator, and social director as necessary.
- Attend the post-season Exit Interview. At this meeting, they will review their season and provide suggestions for improving the program in future years.
- Complete Player Profiles and return to the Traveling Baseball Program Director.
- Return all issued equipment in good, clean condition.

### **Coaches' Rights include:**

- To be treated with respect by players, parents, volunteers, umpires, league, MSF and AAU officials, the Traveling Baseball Board, and the EVAA 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.
- 14 and 15 year old AA and AAA coaches may accept or decline the coaching stipend as explained in the Coach Selection section. If the stipend is accepted, the coach may use the stipend as they see fit. If the stipend is declined, the coach may apply to the Traveling Baseball Board for use of the stipend for technical development of the team as approved by the Traveling Baseball Board.

"I don't want to play golf. When I hit a ball, I want someone else to go chase it."  
- Rogers Hornsby

## **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. 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 EVAA 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 to the head coach at the first parent/coach pre-season meeting.
- Volunteer to coach (ages 9-15, excluding 14 and 15 AAA and AA teams) and/or volunteer to assist the coach whenever possible. Provide names of qualified candidates for the paid 14 and 15 AAA and AA paid coaching positions (or other interested volunteer candidates) if you are knowledgeable of suitable candidates.
- Volunteer your time and talents to ensure your team's practices, games and tournaments are successful.
- Complete the Post Season Parent Survey. Feedback is important for the continual improvement of the program.

**Parents' Rights include:**

- Have yourself and your child be 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.
- Have access to timely/appropriate information and/or mediation through the age-group coordinator (see Problem Resolution Guidelines on page 16 and age-group coordinators on page 17).

**EVAA Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct**

As a parent/guardian of a child involved in an EVAA 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 EVAA 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.
- 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*
  - *Parental Season Suspension*
  - *Parental Banishment*

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

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

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

**"During my 18 years I came to bat almost 10,000 times. I struck out about 1,700 times and walked maybe 1,800 times. You figure a ballplayer will average about 500 at bats a season. That means I played seven years without ever hitting the ball."**

- Mickey Mantle

## **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 EVAA 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.
- Remember to bring all your equipment and water bottle to all games and practices.
- Pick up your trash and dispose of it in trash containers after each game or practice.

### **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.

## **EVAA RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

EVAA has a great deal of concern about the safety of and preventing the abuse of children. As people who are interested in the well being of children, EVAA believes you are entitled to know how our organization is addressing these critical issues. It is important to know the defensive measures we will be employing to protect children in our care, as well as the EVAA volunteers from these serious problems.

EVAA will not tolerate the abuse of any child. We make an active and, we believe, effective effort to prevent child abuse in our programs. We screen our volunteers by requiring that each volunteer complete a volunteer disclosure statement, which is processed through the BCA (Bureau of Criminal Apprehension) or other appropriate 'background check' agency. We will take any allegations of abuse made by children and others very seriously, and refer all allegations to local child protection authorities for investigation. We will fully cooperate in those investigations.

A nonprofit youth athletic association has the right, by statute, to request its workers, including volunteers, to submit to a criminal background check performed by the State's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension or other appropriate 'background check' agency. Minnesota Statutes Section 299C.61-299C.62 establishes a procedure for a "children's service provider" to have a background check performed by the BCA or other appropriate 'background check' agency.

The Act does provide that the applicant shall not be required to pay the cost of the background checks. In other words, it is an expense that the organization will have to absorb.

### **EVAA Risk Management Policies**

The EVAA adopts the following risk management policies:

For purposes of these policies, the following terms have the following meanings:

**"EVAA Volunteer"** - This term includes all people in their roles as an EVAA Board Member, Program Director, Traveling Baseball Board Member, Coach, Assistant Coach, or who work with, or around "EVAA Participants".

**"EVAA Participant"** - This term includes all persons who are members of or participate on an EVAA sponsored team.

- The EVAA Board of Directors shall distribute to all EVAA Program Directors and EVAA Volunteers copies of the EVAA Participant/EVAA Protection Guidelines.
- EVAA adopts and shall use the Disclosure Statement to do all background checks.
- The EVAA Board of Directors shall appoint a Risk Manager annually. The Risk Manager will distribute and collect the Disclosure Statements and perform the necessary background checks. Prior to being appointed, the Risk Manager candidate shall complete and sign a Disclosure Statement which will be used for a background check as described below.
- All candidates for positions as Board Directors, Programs Directors, Coaches, and Assistant Coaches shall return a completed, signed Disclosure Statement to the appointed Risk Manager prior to beginning their work with the EVAA Participants. The Risk Manager shall also have Disclosure Statements completed and signed by any other EVAA Volunteer he/she deems necessary due to the EVAA Volunteer's access to the EVAA Participants. If a candidate or current EVAA Volunteer refuses to complete and sign a Disclosure Statement, the person's candidacy shall be rejected or he/she shall be dismissed from any position he/she then holds with EVAA.
- At signups for any EVAA Program, if a person checks the box for Coach or Assistant Coach, the Disclosure Statement must be filled out and signed. Failure to do so will cause the person to not be considered for a coaching or assistant coaching position.
- The Risk Manager will perform background checks, based on information provided on the Disclosure Statements, through the BCA or other appropriate 'background check' agency on all candidates for positions as Board Directors, Program Directors, Coaches and Assistant Coaches at least once every two years. Updated Disclosure Statements will be required every two years. The EVAA President will perform a background check on the Risk Manager.
- By law, the background checks are paid for by the Association requiring the checks. EVAA will pay for every Head Coach and one Assistant Coach for each team in the Association. If additional Assistant Coaches are required, it is the duty and responsibility of the individual program to pay for additional background checks. Under no circumstances can a team practice, play, or meet without a Coach or Assistant Coach who has not had a background check.
- If the background check reveals a person has been convicted of a crime or crimes of violence, the sale of illegal substances, or any of the crimes listed on the Disclosure Statement during the fifteen (15) years immediately preceding the date of the Disclosure Statement, the person's candidacy shall be rejected or he/she shall be dismissed from any position he/she then holds in the EVAA. Any such convictions preceding the date of the Disclosure Statement by more than fifteen (15) years may be considered by the Risk Manager in determining the applicant's/incumbent's suitability for an EVAA position.
- In the event an EVAA Volunteer receives a complaint of physical or sexual abuse of an EVAA Participant, the EVAA Volunteer shall report the complaint to the Risk Manager who shall report the complaint to the EVAA President, the local child protection authorities, and to the EVAA Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- After a physical or sexual abuse complaint concerning an EVAA Volunteer has been formally lodged with the local child protection authorities, the Risk Manager shall inform the alleged offender in writing that he/she is suspended immediately from all activities within the organization until the complaint is dismissed/withdrawn.
- Persons found to have violated the EVAA Participant/EVAA Volunteer Protection Guidelines are subject to discipline including, but not limited to, warnings, sanctions, suspensions, or terminations of their EVAA participation/volunteering.
- If any complaint is made regarding a violation of the EVAA Participant/EVAA Volunteer Protection Guidelines, other than physical or sexual abuse, the Risk Manager shall speak to all parties involved, make a written report of the complaint, and report his/her findings to the Risk Management Committee (the Executive Committee of the EVAA Board of Directors). This includes the President, Vice President, and Treasurer. The Risk Manager and Risk Management Committee shall meet with complainant and the accused. The Risk Manager and Risk Management Committee shall make any decision regarding discipline. Decisions by the Risk Management Committee are final.

### **EVAA Participation/EVAA Volunteer Protection Guidelines**

#### **Definitions**

For purposes of these guidelines, the following terms have the following meanings:

**"EVAA Volunteer"** - This term includes all persons in their roles as EVAA Board Director, Program Director, Coach, Assistant Coach, or volunteer who work with, for, or around "EVAA Participants."

**"EVAA Participant"** - This term includes all persons who are members of or participate on an EVAA sponsored team.

It is possible for an EVAA Volunteer to also be an EVAA Participant. For example, the 16 year old coach of an under 12 team may also play on an under 17 team. When coaching his/her under 12 team, the person is subject to the guidelines applicable to an EVAA Volunteer. As a team member, he/she shall be subject to the guidelines applicable to an EVAA Participant.

These guidelines are adopted based on the philosophy that the lines of authority and separation between volunteers and participants must be respected. In general, EVAA Participants are children. As children, EVAA Participants are deserving of special protection. The following guidelines will provide the protection for EVAA Participants while giving EVAA Volunteers an outline of the conduct that is applicable:

- Sexual contact of any kind or type between EVAA Volunteers and EVAA Participants is prohibited, regardless of whether or not such contact is consensual.
- EVAA Volunteers should not socialize or spend time alone with EVAA Participants except at games, practices, or team functions.
- EVAA Volunteers must be aware that any physical contact with players can be misinterpreted. Physical contact should be limited to that necessary and appropriate to teach skill, treat injury, or console/congratulate a player.
- Offensive and vulgar language by EVAA Volunteers or EVAA Participants is unacceptable. EVAA Volunteers should model good communications. Language that is denigrating in nature, content, or tone, or that refers to one's gender, race, national origin, disability, or religion is unacceptable.
- An EVAA Volunteer being in a one-to-one situation with an EVAA Participant is generally inappropriate. EVAA Volunteers should avoid such situations, such as driving alone with an EVAA Participant. In some circumstances, however, such as when an EVAA Participant remains on a field waiting for his/her parent to arrive, the EVAA Volunteer should wait with the EVAA Participant on the field until the EVAA Participant's parent arrives.
- A non-parent/non-custodian EVAA Volunteer sharing a bedroom with an EVAA Participant is unacceptable.
- EVAA Volunteers should respect the privacy of EVAA Participants. Separate shower facilities or changing rooms for EVAA Participants and EVAA Volunteers, or scheduling times for use of such facilities, so that EVAA Participants and EVAA Volunteers have separate use if necessary.
- EVAA Volunteers are responsible for seeing that field conditions are safe for the EVAA Participants and that equipment is in good, safe condition prior to commencing play.
- When transporting EVAA Participants, EVAA Volunteers must model good driving and require EVAA Participants and other vehicle occupants to wear safety belts at all times.
- If an EVAA Participant reports physical sexual abuse to an EVAA Volunteer, the EVAA Volunteer must report this information immediately to the Risk Manager.
- Violations of these guidelines by EVAA Volunteers or EVAA Participants will subject them to discipline, including, but not limited to, warnings, sanctions, suspensions, or release by the organization.
- Anyone witnessing a violation of these guidelines should report the violation to the Risk Manager.

#### **Duties of the Risk Manager**

Distribute, collect, and review Disclosure Statements completed by applicants for EVAA Volunteer positions.

Perform background checks on persons designated by the EVAA Risk Management Policies.

Report to the EVAA President any and all convictions for crime(s) against persons, crime(s) of violence, the sale of illegal substances, or any of the crime(s) listed on the Disclosure Statement, within the last fifteen (15) years by applicants for EVAA Volunteer positions.

Notify each applicant or existing EVAA Volunteer in writing of his/her rejection or expulsion as a result of conviction(s) for crime(s) against persons, crime(s) of violence, the sale of illegal substances, or any of the crime(s) listed on the Disclosure Statement. Notify the EVAA President of the unacceptability of an applicant or member.

Receive all complaints of physical or sexual abuse of an EVAA Participant by an EVAA Volunteer. All such complaints shall be reported immediately to the EVAA President, local child protection authorities, and the EVAA Participant's parent(s)/guardian(s).

Receive and investigate complaints of non-abusive violations of the EVAA Participant/EVAA Volunteer Protection Guidelines.

Compile a written report of each non-abusive violation investigated, including steps taken, persons spoken to, and findings regarding allegations. Provide such written report of findings to the Risk Management Committee, the complainant, and the accused.

Notify the complainant and the accused of a meeting with the Risk Management Committee to review the findings and to determine sanctions, if any.

Maintain confidential files for storage of complaints, investigations, and disciplinary actions taken.

Advise the EVAA Board of Directors on modification and enforcement of Risk Management Policies and EVAA Participant/EVAA Volunteer Protection Guidelines.

Attend training on Risk Management issues.

Publish and distribute the Risk Management Policies and EVAA Participants/EVAA Volunteer Protection Guidelines and serve as a resource for EVAA members with questions regarding those policies and guidelines.

Share information, publications, materials, ideas, and forms with the EVAA Board of Directors.

## **PROBLEM RESOLUTION GUIDELINES**

When a player or parent has a question regarding the **general policies or procedures** of the Traveling Baseball Program, 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 or parent has a major concern about the handling of the team or an 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 the emotions under control, keep the discussions polite and to the point, and keep the discussions private and out of the earshot of other players or 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 the 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 EVAA Board of Directors any necessary mediation and the outcome of that mediation.

If mediation still is unable to resolve the issues and all of the above steps have been followed, the Traveling Baseball Program Director shall inform both parties in writing within five days that the complaint has been referred to the EVAA Board of Directors. The decisions of the EVAA Board of Directors will be final.

If the Traveling Baseball Program Director is the subject of the grievance, a written complaint should be submitted directly to the EVAA Board of Directors.

**"I think about baseball when I wake up in the morning. I think about it all day and I dream about it at night. The only time I don't think about it is when I'm playing it."  
- Carl Yastrzemski**

## **AGE SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

### **10-11 Year Olds**

- An "AAA" and an "AA" team will be formed for each age level 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.
- 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**

- An "AAA" and an "AA" team will be formed for each age level 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.
- Bases will be 75 feet apart for 12 year olds and 75-82 feet apart (home fields are 80 feet apart) for 13 year olds.
- The pitcher's mound is 52 feet from home plate for 12 years olds and 54 feet from home plate for 13 year olds.
- Runners are allowed to lead off and pitchers will pitch from the stretch.

### **14-15 Year Olds**

- An "AAA" and an "AA" team will be formed for each age level 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.
- 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)**

- Rules: 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 if playing Middle School baseball.
- Bats: 2 1/4" bats are allowed with unlimited weight differential (difference between the length and weight of the bat) for 9-13 year olds. 2 1/2", 2 5/8" and 2 3/4" bats with a maximum weight differential of -10 are allowed for 11-13 year olds. The length in inches cannot exceed the weight in ounces by more than 10. For example, a 30 inch bat cannot weigh less than 20 ounces. All bat regulations are determined by the Metro Baseball League and are subject to change.

### **Metro Baseball League (14-15 year olds)**

- Rules: National Federation of State High School Associations rules.
- Spikes: Metal spikes are allowed.
- Bats: 2 3/4" bats with a maximum weight differential of -5 are allowed for 14 year olds. For example, a 32 inch bat cannot weigh less than 27 ounces. Only 2 5/8" bats with a maximum weight differential of -3 are allowed for 15 year olds.

For more information, please see the MBL website at [www.mbl.bz](http://www.mbl.bz).

## **STATE TOURNAMENTS**

Parents: Be aware that events following the regular season may charge for parking and/or admission. They are not EVAA events. They are fundraisers for the sanctioning organizations; we have no control over them. State tournaments require qualification in a qualifying tournament and are usually held in mid-July. Dates determined by the Minnesota Baseball Tournaments (MBT) and Minnesota Youth Athletic Services (MYAS) Gopher State Baseball Tournament.

For more information, please see the MBT website at [www.mbt.bz](http://www.mbt.bz) and also the MYAS website [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org).

## **2010-2011 TRAVELING BASEBALL BOARD**

The Traveling Baseball Board meets at 6:30 pm on the second Monday of each month September through May at the Apple Valley Community Center. Meetings are open to the public.

Traveling Baseball Program Director:	Dean Stockwell	(952) 322-2259
Assistant Program Director:	Jeff Boraas	(952) 891-3341
10-11 year old Age Group Coordinator:	Eric Wilson	(651) 686-2860
12-13 year old Age Group Coordinator:	Chris Selchow	(952) 431-7526
14-15 year old Age Group Coordinator:	Chris Hovde	(952) 891-4305
Treasurer:	Sherrie Engst	
General Members:	Jan Birkenholz	
	Mike Casey	
	Amy Conway	
	John Hartig	
	Chad Lindstrom	
	Vince Terlizzi	
	Tim Brunner	
	Jill Peterson	
	Tom Strey	
	Chris Tollefson	
	David Yung	
	Lori Zurich	

All positions are elected to the Traveling Baseball Board. Board member openings are typically posted on the EVAA Traveling Baseball website in August following each baseball season and elections typically occur at the second annual board meeting in October of each year.

### **References**

Eastview Athletic Association	(952) 985-3830 #3 - Traveling Baseball
	<a href="http://www.evaasports.org">www.evaasports.org</a>
Amateur Athletic Union	<a href="http://www.aabaseball.org">www.aabaseball.org</a>
Metro Baseball League	<a href="http://www.mbl.bz">www.mbl.bz</a>
Minnesota Baseball Tournaments	<a href="http://www.mbt.bz">www.mbt.bz</a>
Metro Sports Federation	<a href="http://www.msf1.org">www.msf1.org</a>
Minnesota Youth Athletic Services	<a href="http://www.myas.org">www.myas.org</a>

## 2011 EVAA TRAVELING BASEBALL CALENDAR

Event	Date	Time	Location/Comments
Coach Interviews **	Jan 11-13, 17	6:00-9:30 pm	Website sign-up and/or individually arranged interviews: Apple Valley Community Center
Provisional Coaches Meeting **	Feb 2	6:30-8:30 pm	Apple Valley Community Center
Walk-In Registrations	TBD	TBD	TBD
Online Registrations	Jan 1 - March 18	Anytime	<a href="http://www.evaasports.org">www.evaasports.org</a>
Mandatory Parents' Pre-Tryout Meetings	March 17	9-10's 7:30 11-12's 6:45 13-15's 6:00	TBD
9-12 & 14 yr old Tryouts	Mar 26	On website	St. Olaf College
13 & 15 yr old Tryouts	Mar 27		
MBL Regional Alignment Meeting**	April 4	6 pm	Apple Valley American Legion
Coaches Meeting **	April 5	6:30-8:30 pm	AVCC
Uniform Fitting/Logo Wear Sales	April 6 & 7	6:00-8:00 pm	Falcon Ridge Middle School Cafeteria
Coaches' Clinic **	TBD	TBD	TBD
MBL Scheduling **	April 16	8:00 am-2:00 pm	EVHS
EVAA Youth Night	TBD	TBD	Legion Field
MBL Coaches Meeting**	April 26, 27, & 28	6:00 pm	AV Legion
MBL Fee Payment Due	March 15		
MBL Night	TBD	TBD	Metrodome
Games Begin: 10-14's 15's	May 2 May 16	TBD	Metro Baseball League
EVAA Night at the Dome	TBD	TBD	Metrodome
MBT State Seeding Meeting**	June 28	All AAA, 10-12 A & 14AA	AV Legion
MBT State	July 8-10	All AAA, 10-12 A & 14AA	Requires parent volunteer commitment – JCRPE/W, AVHS, Quarry Park
MBT State Seeding Meeting**	July 5	10-13AA, 15 AA, 13A & 14/15 A	AV Legion
MBT State	July 15-17	10-13AA, 15 AA, 13A & 14/15 A	TBD
Metro Playoffs AAA AA A	Begins July 11 Begins July 18 Begins July 18	TBD	TBD
August Classic	August 3-7	TBD	Requires parent volunteer commitment – JCRPW, AVHS, Quarry Park
Equipment Return **	TBD	TBD	TBD
Exit Interviews**	TBD	TBD	TBD

\*\* For coaches only

TBD (To Be Determined)