

Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball

Travel Team Guidelines

WPD Baseball Program Overview:

The Wheaton Warriors Baseball Program offers competitive and serious players (ages 9U – 15U) the opportunity to participate in full time travel baseball. The Wheaton Warrior program is a community based baseball program which offers players the opportunity to play with other competitive individuals from the Wheaton Schools & Park District area.

There are **NO RESTRICTIONS** for players regarding other sports other than having a serious commitment to the team should you be selected. Players, parents, and Coaches should discuss all potential conflicts before tryouts or committing a player to a team. All teams will carry a roster of twelve (12) players and will participate in one of two area travel leagues. Teams may have up to a maximum of three (3) players from outside the Park District boundaries in order to ensure a full and competitive roster. The number of games each individual team plays will vary depending upon their success and number of tournaments each team chooses to enter.

The philosophy of the Wheaton Park District (“WPD”) Travel program, like its in-house program, is to have fun, improve your child’s knowledge of the game and continue to develop their baseball skills. It is paramount to the program’s success that the coaches, players and parents exhibit good sportsmanship at all times. Failure to carry out this responsibility may result in game forfeiture, and/or disciplinary action, including removal from the baseball program.

WPD Registration and Fees

Tryout Registration

Registration for tryouts for the Wheaton Warrior Travel Baseball program are open to all residents and non-residents who love the game of baseball and are willing to be committed to a team if selected.

OUT OF DISTRICT PLAYERS SELECTED TO BE ON A TRAVEL TEAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY OUT OF DISTRICT FEES. All travel team candidates and Travel team players are required to register through the Wheaton Park District registration procedures. *Tryout registration at www.wheatonparkdistrict.com* Travel team candidates may also register at the site of the tryouts. Samples of the WPD Tryout Invitation and Commitment letters are attached to these Travel Guidelines.

Selected to Team/Player Registration

All players selected for a Wheaton Warriors or in-house/tournament travel team will be required to complete a registration form, waiver and pay all required fees prior to beginning practice. The Wheaton Park District will provide registration information to all parents/guardians upon a player’s selection to a team when the non-refundable registration fee shall be collected. The

Coaches will be informed of the registration process and be responsible for collecting and submitting any and all other registration related documents and fees to the Wheaton Park District.

INITIAL REGISTRATION FEES: \$ XXX.XX - Resident
 \$ XXX.XX – NON-Resident

Warrior travel baseball teams shall be obligated to purchase their own team uniforms through a WPD approved vendor. The anticipated cost of the necessary travel uniform and incidentals is approximately \$200 - \$300 and is due at the time of uniform fittings. A player who makes the same team the following year may use his uniform from the prior season, and will not be obligated to purchase a new uniform. These additional uniform expenses will be the sole responsible of all Wheaton Warrior travel team participants.

Wheaton Warriors travel baseball teams can potentially play approximately 45 to 65 games.— The total number of games will vary due to managerial commitments, weather, tournament availability and success. The Wheaton Park District shall provide 1 umpire for 15 home games for each travel team. Teams will be responsible for any umpire fees above those provided above.

Wheaton Warriors travel baseball teams shall receive \$885 **plus** entry into the program’s Annual Red, White and Blue Classic Tournament. If a team does not use its allotted funding, the balance will NOT be refunded to the team or its participants. In the event that there is not enough teams to host a Tournament at any one particular level, the Wheaton Park District will not pay the entry fee for an alternate tournament.

FUNDRAISING

In accordance with amended Article VI of the WPD Bylaws entitled “Financial Policy” all travel baseball teams shall be allowed to independently raise funds through sponsorships and/or other fundraising efforts and activities in order to finance and otherwise offset the costs and expenses associated with their respective travel teams. Every effort should be made by these travel teams to NOT solicit or otherwise fundraise from existing and/or long standing Wheaton Park District in-house baseball and softball sponsors. A permitted exception will be if a sponsor’s child moves from an in-house to a travel program. Amended and Approved by the WPDYBS Board on December 14, 2006.

Team managers are responsible for keeping proper records of all team funds and expenses!

MANAGER SELECTION

All Warrior travel team managers shall be selected by a committee consisting of the following WPD Board Members: the Commissioner, League President, Travel VP, League VP for the respective age group and the WPD Representative or appointed member. All Warrior travel team manager selections shall be submitted to the WPD Board of Control for final approval. Manager candidates for the Pure and in-house travel teams need to submit an application to the Travel VP by a designated due date and prior to the player evaluation and team selection process. Travel V.P. must submit the head coach’s applications to the Wheaton Park District Representative

Members of the above committee will interview and select all head coaches. Candidates with the best combination of coaching and/or playing experience, good judgment and commitment to the

travel program along with strong organization, motivation and communication skills will be given highest consideration. The Manager is responsible for selecting (2 to 3) assistant coaches to help with the team.

All managers and coaches of Wheaton Warriors travel teams shall be required to have a background check. This check will be done through the Illinois State Police Bureau of Identification, and is mandatory to be a coach in the WPD travel team program.

All managers must be ASEP certified.

The American Sport Effectiveness Program (ASEP) has been adopted for use by Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball/Softball Board of Control (“Board of Control”). The Wheaton Park District will fund ASEP and will advise all managers of their certification upon successful completion of the course. All managers are required to complete the certification by April 1st of the upcoming playing season. ASEP managers will be given first priority in team assignments.

Preference may be given to managers or coaches from the Wheaton Park District Baseball program due to their familiarity with the programs rules and regulations, and known managerial skills and prior experience in the WPD program.

After team selection the manager will hold a mandatory team meeting with parents. The Travel VP and/or another designated Board Member may also attend. Managers will discuss team goals and project additional costs for tournaments, training, uniforms and travel expenses (hotel and food), if required. Coaches must obtain the prior consent of the Travel VP to participate in a fall league, and when they will begin off season workouts. In any case, no team or player shall participate in any practice or game without a current registration and waiver on file with the Wheaton Park District.

At the conclusion of the season, all managers shall be required to fill out a detailed evaluation form for each player on his team and submit the same to the Travel VP and Baseball Administrator. All managers may also be required to complete a WPD evaluation form for all team participants.

All managers shall be required to go through the selection process each year.

PLAYER SELECTION

Warrior travel team selection will be determined by a tryout process on dates established by the WPD Board of Control. Selection is based upon a number of factors in addition to the tryout itself, including but not limited to prior travel experience, coaches’ evaluations and prior commitment to the WPD baseball in-house and travel programs.

As previously stated, there are **NO RESTRICTIONS** for players regarding other sports other than having a serious commitment to the team should you be selected. Players, parents, and Coaches should discuss all potential conflicts before tryouts or committing a player to a team. Unless the Travel VP or Selection Committee approves otherwise, all teams will carry a roster of twelve (12) players and will participate in one of two area travel leagues. Teams may have up to a maximum of three (3) players from outside the Park District boundaries in order to ensure a full and competitive roster.

Tryouts shall be conducted by the Warrior Team Player Selection Committee for each league, and the committee may consist of the following Board Members: the Travel VP, respective League President, respective League VP, WPD Administrator or designated representative, and Manager, if selected. Additional Board of Control Members may be present to act as evaluators and assist as needed. In the event a Committee representative or Board of Controls child is trying out for a team, the members of the Selection Committee, excluding the Manager, will appoint a substitute for that representative or Board of Control member.

Travel Players may ONLY tryout for ONE age group. A player's age eligibility is determined as of April 30th of the year of play. *An age eligible High School student is eligible to play if he does NOT play for a High School baseball team. If he does play for a High School baseball team, he is not eligible to play until after his season ends (approximately June 1st).*

In-house/tournament Travel Players must tryout for the team representing the League they are registered in, or eligible to play due to their age. For example, a player may be registered for an in-house league that is appropriate for his grade at school, but too old to play travel. In that case, the player may tryout for the team at which he is age eligible.

Players wishing to be considered for a Warrior travel team but who are unable to attend any of the tryout dates must notify the Travel VP in advance of tryouts to be considered for the team. The Travel VP will submit that player's name for consideration to the selection committee, taking into consideration any factors known to the Travel VP to be pertinent to the situation, including the player's abilities and prior participation at the travel level, if applicable.

The Selection Committee will have an appropriate level of baseball knowledge and experience. All players will be assessed on basic baseball skills: fielding, throwing, hitting, and running. Players will also be evaluated on their aptitude for the various skilled positions such as outfield, infield, pitching and catching. A 5 point scoring system will be applied to each evaluated skill for the purpose of generating a total score. This total score shall be used for comparison purposes ONLY.

Wheaton Warrior travel teams will be selected based upon the results of this evaluation process along with how the talents of each player best contribute to the overall chemistry of the team. Coaches evaluations from the previous season will also be used in the selection process. While the presumption will be that the highest scores and rankings will determine the makeup of the travel team in each age division, such presumption shall be dispensed with if, at the discretion of the Selection Committee, such departure is necessary to field the most competitive and well-rounded team, which includes pitching, catching, middle infielders and hitting.

Regardless of the number of tryout participants, the Selection Committee, at its sole discretion, may hold supplemental tryouts with proper notice to address the needs of any given team at any age group. These Supplemental Tryouts must be posted on the WPD website. If time permits and the Selection Committee deem it necessary, the WPD may send an email notification to those age eligible registrants whom had previously registered for a WPD baseball program. Players that participated in the initial tryout do NOT need to attend any Supplemental Tryout. Every effort shall be made to have the same Selection Committee members for both the initial and Supplemental tryout.

Notwithstanding anything herein, the number of teams in the travel baseball program will be determined at the discretion of the Selection Committee, and shall be based upon the overall talent and qualified managers available.

The selection committee shall use its best efforts to complete the selection process within one week from the completion of the tryout. Team selections will be posted on the WPD website: www.wheatonparkdistrict.com/ . A list of the players selected to the travel team(s) and coaches' names will also be placed on file with the WPD Recreation Department and the league administrator after the selection process is completed.

PLAYING RULES

Playing Time: All players will play a minimum of two (2) innings per game and have at least one (1) at bat. Exceptions to this rule will be games cancelled due to weather, darkness or "mercy" rule. Playing a specialty position allowed by a tournament such as Designated Hitter, Extra Hitter, or DEFO (Defensive Player) for a game also satisfies the playing time rule.

If this rule is not followed, the team manager may be subject to disciplinary action by the WPD Board of Control.

Warriors - Pitching Guidelines: All Warriors travel team managers shall use their reasonable judgment in establishing pitching limits for his players. Any pitcher who pitches 7 or more innings on any given day shall not pitch at all the next day. Managers should limit innings pitched if higher pitch counts are reached during games. The suggested weekly pitching limits are as follows:

A:	6-8 innings per week
AA:	10 innings per week
AAA:	14 innings per week
Majors:	14 innings per week
Pony:	16 innings per week

PLAYER DISCIPLINE

Players may be benched only for disciplinary reasons (un-sportsmanlike conduct). Legitimate school conflicts, advance notice of family conflicts, illness or family emergencies are not grounds for disciplinary action.

Disciplinary problems concerning missed practices/games should be discussed with players and parents and if not resolved, the Travel VP or League President should be consulted. Policy has been set that should a child miss any combination of three (3) practices or games due to an unexcused absence that the child may be subject to a two (2) game suspension. Any more than three (3) unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the team.

Disciplinary problems concerning inappropriate behavior by a player or a player's family member should be discussed with players and parents and if not resolved, the Travel VP or League President should be consulted. If the behavior persists, in spite of attempts to resolve the problem or behavior, the WPD Board of Control has the authority to remove the player from the team. Inappropriate behavior is defined to be a behavior that does not conform to the Wheaton Park District Sport League Ethics Code or the Character Counts program.

ALTERNATE CALL UP POLICY

There will be no alternates for either Warriors travel or in-house travel teams. When 10 or less rostered players are available for a game or tournament, a player or players may be called up with the consent of the Travel VP from the in-house program or from another Wheaton Park District travel team provided there is no conflict with the called up player's in-house or travel team to raise the roster to 11. A call-up player may not play more innings than a rostered player and must bat at the bottom of the order. A call-up player cannot pitch on a travel team without the prior consent of the Travel VP or his assistant.

If a player from a Warriors travel team drops off that roster prior to the in-house draft, the selection committee shall select the substitute player from a list of those players who appeared or registered for the tryouts. Once the in-house draft is concluded the pure travel team rosters are set for the year. Any player who drops off a Warriors travel team prior to the in-house draft shall be eligible for the in-house player draft. Players wishing to drop after the in-house draft may be eligible to get on a waiting list for the next available in-house team.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES & INCIDENTAL EXPENDITURES

Tournament entry fees should be handled by the WPD Recreation Department. For auditing purposes, the WPD policy requires that all purchases, fees and services are to be made by WPD personnel. Managers will be issued WPD Travel Check Request forms to request checks for tournament entry fees or incidental expenses relating to the team.

When a team has exceeded its allowance (\$885 for pure travel) a check may not be issued until additional fees are received by the WPD Recreation Department. The WPD reserves the right at its sole discretion to advance such tournament or incidental expenses requested by the team's manager, and then submit an invoice for timely payment to the team manager.

The WPD District Business Office has the capability of issuing checks on a bi-monthly basis. In order to request a check, you must submit the necessary requisition form with your team name, age group, manager information and supporting tournament or incidental information with the cost clearly stated before any such check will be issued. Information sheets are acceptable, and necessary for us to process the check. If you have any questions, please call 630-668-3371. Please understand that the above is a WPD policy and must be followed.

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE

The WPD Risk Management Agency issues an updated certificate of insurance each year. All requested certificates will be forwarded to the manager and tournament contact person. Please allow five (5) business days for certificates to be issued.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball Board of Control has adopted the "Character Counts!" program and all managers, coaches, players and their parents will be required to sign program acceptance agreements. Samples are attached to these Travel Guidelines.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The Wheaton Youth Baseball Policies and Procedures and By-Laws apply to all travel teams, both pure and in-house/tournament.

MISCELLANEOUS

Schedules shall be published as far in advance as possible, with the intent that players and parents shall be given sufficient notices as to changes in the schedule to avoid conflicts with other family events.

While school is in session travel teams are discouraged from playing doubleheaders on a school night. Travel times and away game start times shall also be taken into consideration when scheduling games during the school week.

All Park District issued travel team equipment and uniforms must be returned to the park district in a timely manner as per the programs policy guidelines.

Umpires will be selected and scheduled by the Umpire Coordinator/Scheduler. The manager must decide if field and weather conditions permit a game to be started. If the manager and umpire-in-charge cannot agree, the umpire-in-charge or league official shall make that judgment. The managers should report a postponement immediately to the League Vice President and Umpire Coordinator. The league will reschedule games as necessary in the best interests of the program.

Field availability and times will be scheduled by the respective League VP. Travel games scheduled on Wheaton Park District fields should be entered into the baseball scheduling database (i.e. Quickscores) along with any schedule changes due to rainout, etc.

NOTE: In the interest of improving the Wheaton Warriors Travel Baseball Program, the Board of Control may update these rules as deemed necessary.

Revised and Accepted: February 2017



Wheaton Warriors Travel Baseball

WPD Head Coach/Assistant Coach Code of Conduct

The Head Coach (Managers) and Assistant Coach(s) must recognize that they are representing the Wheaton Park District and its Youth Baseball program (WPDYB) at all times. Statements made and the conduct of our Head Coach(s) and Assistant Coach(s) determine the reputation of our baseball program in the eyes of parents, players, spectators and visitors. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each Head Coach and Assistant Coach(s) to maintain the best interests of WPDYB at all times.

All Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches, as a condition to their selection and continued service as Head Coach and Assistant Coach, are expected to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

Expectations:

1. Be open and understanding, show patience and have the capacity and willingness to work with young players. The Head Coach and Assistant Coach(s) must help their players understand that winning is secondary and giving their best effort is primary. When a Head Coach/Assistant Coach(s) is focusing on the effort a player puts forth, it will make the player more confident with their abilities. Be reasonable in your demands on the players and remember that the game is for them and that above all, they should have fun.
2. The Head Coach (or one Assistant Coach in the Head Coach's absence) is the only individual allowed to discuss an umpire's rule interpretation. If a Head Coach wishes to discuss the interpretation of a rule (not balls and strikes, safe or out) or needs to discuss a situation with the umpire, he/she must first ask for time out and, if granted, then shall discuss or question the call/situation in a courteous and calm manner.
3. Complaints and concerns about the management of the program and WPDYB should only be addressed in private with the Head Coach's/Assistant Coach(s)'s appropriate League Vice President.
4. Once the game begins, the Head Coach and Assistant Coach(s) must remain in the dugout at all times except when coaching a base, warming up a pitcher, batter or

catcher or when time out is requested and granted for a conference with a pitcher, umpire or for an injury. Where allowed by League rules, Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are allowed to be outside the dugout during the game to coach fielders.

5. Each Head Coach and Assistant Coach is expected to know the rules for his/her Age Group, including but not limited to pitching limitations, playing time, batting order, safety and position play.
6. In order to keep the baseball experience positive for the players, ideally each team during a game should have at least one Coach coordinating activities for the team.
7. Any violation of a Code of Conduct needs to be reported to the appropriate League Vice President.
8. If a Head Coach or Assistant Coach(s) chooses to consume any alcoholic beverage before an organized event, he/she should excuse themselves from the event to show your support for this Code of Conduct.
9. Any criticism of a player is to be “teaching oriented” and is to be directed towards the improvement of the player.
10. While baseball “chatter” is sometimes used during a game, loud obnoxious noises or screaming with the intent to rattle the opposing pitcher is prohibited. Intentional distractions, such as banging or rattling dugout fences will not be tolerated.
11. Any major disciplinary action needs to be reported to the appropriate League Vice President.
12. Do not leave players unattended after practices, games or scheduled events.
13. Be sure players adequately warm-up and warm down at every practice and game.
14. The Head Coach is responsible for WPDYB provided first aid kits and medical release forms to be present for all practices, games and other workout events. In the unlikely event the Head Coach is not available; he/she is responsible to ensure this is delegated to an Assistant Coach(s).
15. All items of conflict or concern, if not resolved through your efforts, should be reported to the appropriate League Vice President. It is recommended that use a 24 hour rule before contacting league officials.
16. Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are expected to set realistic start and end times for practice.

Conduct

17. Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches are to recognize that they hold positions of trust and responsibility, and are ultimately role models for the players. Head

Coaches and Assistant Coaches set examples for the players and must conduct themselves accordingly.

Some basic examples of acceptable conduct are:

- Show good sportsmanship.
- No abusive language and/or swearing.
- No ridicule or harassment of umpires.
- No throwing of equipment and/or kicking of equipment or other items.

18. The following points will lead to an evaluation by the WPDYB Board for possible disciplinary action:

- No verbal abuse, ridicule or intimidation of a player on any team, of fans, or of other Coaches.
- No threats of physical abuse such as, but certainly not limited to, pushing, shoving or grabbing of shoulders or similar acts of discipline.
- No use of alcohol at, before or during any games, practices or trips to workout facilities.
- No use of tobacco products in the dug out or near the playing field.

19. The Head Coach is ultimately responsible to ensure the players, players' parents/guardians and Assistant Coach(s) adhere to the Code of Conduct.

20. In the event a player should require more than minor disciplinary action, such action should be taken in private with the player.

I have read and understand this Code of Conduct and fully, unequivocally support it, its intent and its essence. If it is determined by the Board of WPDYB that my conduct violated either the letter or the spirit of this Code of Conduct or the WPD Supplemental Baseball rules to which this Code is a part of, I understand that I may be relieved from participating in WPDYB programs.

Signature

Date

Print Name



Wheaton Warriors Travel Baseball

Parents Code of Conduct

We ask all parents to adhere to the following code of conduct:

1. I will let the players play: Cheer them on when they do well, encourage them when they don't. Don't expect more than they can deliver, and most importantly, be a fan of everyone on the team, not just your own child.
2. I will communicate responsibly. If a problem needs to be discussed, I will wait 24 hours to request a meeting with the Manager to calmly discuss the issue. Any safety or health related item should be identified immediately. If a meeting with the Manager cannot be arranged in a timely manner, contact the Travel Vice-President to schedule a meeting. The Travel VP can also be included at the meeting with the Manager.
3. I will let the coaches' coach. Your child's coach deserves your cooperation and respect even if you disagree with how the team is managed. If you don't agree with the way the coach manages any aspect of a game or practice, discuss it personally with the coach. Waiting 24 hours to address your concern will facilitate a calm conversation on the issue. If a problem persists, bring it to the attention of the Travel VP and then the Wheaton Baseball/Softball Board of Control the Travel VP fails to correct the problem.
4. I will let the umpires umpire. I will accept the calls made by the umpire and understand that the Warriors Manager is the sole individual responsible for reviewing plays and rules with the umpire.
5. I will encourage my child to take ownership and be responsible for his baseball experience.
6. I will encourage my child to follow the Player Code of Conduct.
7. I will display good sportsmanship.
8. I will respect the facilities that we play in and I will assist in keeping them clean and safe.
9. I will positively encourage the players on the field. While baseball "chatter" is sometimes used during a game, loud obnoxious noises or screaming with the intent to rattle the

opposing pitcher is prohibited. Intentional distractions, such as banging or rattling dugout fences will not be tolerated.

10. I will not bring or consume alcohol in any park facilities where any Warriors team is present.
11. I will not smoke or use any tobacco products in or around the playing field or Wheaton Park District property.
12. I will otherwise follow the WPD Youth Baseball Travel Guidelines.

I have read and understand the above Code of Conduct.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name

Revision Date: 7/31/2006



Wheaton Warriors Travel Baseball

Player Code of Conduct

We ask all players to follow the *Wheaton Warriors* Travel Baseball Code of Conduct.

1. I will learn the rules of the game and follow them.
2. I will be respectful of my teammates, all coaches, opponents, umpires and fans.
3. I will not challenge, dispute or criticize any call made by an umpire.
4. I will bring problems to the attention of the coach in private.
5. I will not criticize the players on either team or the fans supporting the team.
6. I will not use unsportsmanlike conduct during a practice or game.
7. I will not start a fight with another player, including teammates.
8. I will not use foul language at any time while representing the *Wheaton Warriors* Travel Baseball Organization.
9. Once the game begins, I will remain in the dugout unless I obtain permission from the coach to leave.
10. I will not eat in the dugout during the game unless I get permission from the coach.
11. I will notify my coach if I am unable to make a practice or game.
12. I will make sure I clean the dugout, gather all team equipment and collect my personal belongings at the end of each practice or game.
13. I will not talk when the coach is speaking and I will watch the coach during player instruction.

14. I will handle equipment with care to ensure the personal safety of me, my teammates, coaches, fans and other players on the field.
15. I will congratulate the opposing players, umpires and coaches at the end of each game win or lose.
16. I will wear my uniform with pride, wear a hat at all times, keep my jersey tucked in and keep my equipment in good clean condition.
17. I will play hard and work towards using the methods taught by the coaches.
18. I will remember that the goals of the game are to have fun, improve skills, develop discipline and learn how to play the game as a part of a team.
19. I will come prepared to all team activities and am responsible for getting to practice on time. This is my responsibility, not my parents' responsibility.
20. I will otherwise follow the WPD Youth Baseball Travel Guidelines.

We have read, discussed, understand this Code of Conduct and fully support it.

Player Signature

Date

Print name

Parents / Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name

Parents / Guardian Signature

Date

Print Name

Revision Date: 7/31/2006