

# **Wheaton Park District Youth Baseball**

## **Travel Team Guidelines**

### **WPD Baseball Program Overview:**

The Wheaton Warriors Baseball Program offers competitive and serious players (ages 8U – 14U) 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 minimum roster of eleven (11) players and up to twelve (12) players maximum (except 14U Level) which may carry a maximum of Thirteen (13) players. ALL TEAMS 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 (except 14U -which may carry up to four (4) players from outside the Park District boundaries to ensure a full and competitive roster. The number of games each individual team plays will vary between (35-50 games – or more) 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 registration at [www.wheatonparkdistrict.com](http://www.wheatonparkdistrict.com). Travel team candidates may also register at the site of the tryouts.

### **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 all other registration related documents and fees to the Wheaton Park District.

## **INITIAL REGISTRATION FEES: \$ 350.00 - Resident \$ 438.00 -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 responsibility of all Wheaton Warrior travel team participants.

Wheaton Warriors travel baseball teams can potentially play approximately 35 to 50 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 entry into the program's Annual Red, White and Blue Classic Tournament. In the event that there are not enough teams to host a Tournament at any one particular level, the Wheaton Park District will pay the entry fee for an alternate tournament.

## **Coach and Player Retention:**

The WPDYBS Board of Control supports and provides for the retention of coaches and players in the Wheaton Park District travel programs. The purpose of such a policy is to provide continuity year to year to cultivate, develop, and train our coaches and park district travel players. During a travel season each program may choose to retain coaches and select travel players prior to tryouts. Coaches shall be chosen by the Manager Selection Committee and notified by each program's Travel VP. If the selected Coach accepts the managerial position for the following season, he or she may select and retain up to six (6) players, which includes the Coach's child and any Assistant Coaches children. Players retained for the next season will be required to commit to the program by registering per the park district registration policy and paying the appropriate travel fees prior to tryouts. Each Travel VP and program shall be required to maintain and supplement its lists of coaches and retained players and regularly update the Commissioner of the WPDYBS, President of the League, the Athletic Director and Park District Representative.

## **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 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 confirm interest to the Travel VP by a designated due date and prior to the player evaluation and team selection process.

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.**

Preference may be given to managers or coaches from the Wheaton Park District Baseball program due to their familiarity with the program's 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.

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

### **Player Selection:**

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. Warrior travel team selection will be determined by a tryout process on dates established by the WPD Board of Control. Selection is based upon several 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.

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, W PD 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. Due to updated local travel league rules, an age eligible High School student IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO PLAY IF HE HAS BEEN ROSTERED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL HE ATTENDS.

**An age eligible High School student is allowed to play only if he HAS NOT BEEN ROSTERED BY THE HIGH SCHOOL HE ATTENDS. A player rostered to a high school team after tryouts have been concluded or after winter workouts have begun, IS NO LONGER ELIGIBLE TO PLAY.**

In-house/tournament Travel Players must try out 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 try out 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 who 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](http://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 Athletic 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:

8u:	10 innings
9u-10u:	14 innings
11u-12u:	14 innings
13u-14u:	16 innings

## **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 Callup 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 V P 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 5 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 EXPEDITURES:**

Tournament entry fees should be handled by the WPD Athletic Department. For auditing purposes, the WPD policy requires that all purchase fees and services 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.

The WPD District Business Office has the capability of issuing checks on a weekly basis. To request a check, you must submit the necessary requisition form with your team's 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 program's policy guidelines.

Umpires will be selected and scheduled by the Umpire Contractor. 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 Contractor. 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:** June 2025