

De Pere Booster Club Travel Team Policy (revised Dec 30, 2008)

Purpose

Effective 2006, Travel Teams for age groups 13, 14 & 15 were aligned to the respective High School programs at De Pere and West De Pere. This means that there are 2 Travel Teams for each of those age groups – one aligned with De Pere High School and one with West De Pere High School. Teams are made up of players from their respective school districts. The intent is to field competitive teams, aiding to develop the high school programs.

The policies outlined below are intended to clarify the role of the De Pere Baseball Booster Club relative to the De Pere Baseball Travel Teams, as well as the policy and guidelines for the De Pere Baseball Travel Team. This policy does not cover West De Pere Travel Teams.

Coach Selection

The Booster Club will be responsible for selecting the Travel Teams' Head Coaches. A Head Coach for each of the teams will be selected by Dec 30, with the Head Coach selecting up to two Assistant Coaches following tryouts in May. Head Coaches may have other 'helpers', but they will not be recognized as Coaches.

The travel team coach selection process will begin November 1. The Booster Club will communicate via the websites, DADS communications and email to request interested coaches/parents/etc. to submit their application. The Booster Club Travel Team Committee will review applications and make their selections by December 30.

Head Coaches from prior seasons are eligible to coach again the next season but must re-apply to the Booster Club Travel Team Committee. Feedback forms will be distributed by the Booster Club Travel Team Committee to all players and parents after players are selected. Feedback forms will be returned to the Committee at the completion of the season. The committee will use this feedback for the coach selection process the following season.

Criteria that will be considered during the selection process:

- ✓ Current Pony & Babe Ruth coaches
- ✓ High School coaches
- ✓ College Students/Players
- ✓ Coaching experience
- ✓ Player/Parent Feedback Form from prior season

**Note: background checks will be done for anyone who submits an application that is not a current coach in a program

**Head Coach
Responsibilities**

Head Coaches are responsible for:

- ✓ Selecting the tournaments
 - ✓ Assisting at the tryouts
 - ✓ Assisting in player selection
 - ✓ Communication to players (practice info, tournament dates/info, hotel info if travel is required, directions, etc.)
 - ✓ Collecting fees from players
 - ✓ Working with Equipment Manager to get equipment
 - ✓ Working with Uniform Manager to get uniforms
 - ✓ Selecting Assistant Coaches (up to 2)
 - ✓ Managing equipment – responsible for the return of all that is issued
 - ✓ Managing uniforms – responsible for the return of all that is issued
 - ✓ Assuring that equipment is only used for Travel Teams (not for DADS or other team play)
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Player Selection **All players that play on De Pere Baseball Travel Teams MUST also play in an organized Summer Baseball League (DADS).**

If more than 15 players sign up for a team (13s, 14s, 15s), then tryouts for those teams will be held. While the ideal team size will be 12-13 players, additional players may be selected in order to fill all positions to a maximum of 18 players at Head Coach's discretion based upon the talent level. Head Coach may employ a platoon system if a larger number of players are selected to participate.

15s:

1. Players must be eligible to participate in High School baseball at DPHS to tryout (full time student at DPHS). To be eligible players must try out for Freshman baseball at DPHS.
2. To field a competitive team with players for all positions, 14s/8th graders may be asked/selected to play with the 15s only if there are limited 15 year old players who try out.
3. Freshman living in the De Pere school district but attending another high school will not be allowed to try out for the De Pere Baseball Travel Team.

13s and 14s

1. Players living in the De Pere school district and attending De Pere Middle School will be given the option to try out.
2. Players living in the De Pere school district and attending other schools (ex. ND Middle School) may try out only if the player is committed to attend DPHS or is undecided. If a player has committed to attend another HS he will not be eligible to participate. Parents will be required to join and become active in the De Pere Baseball Booster Club.

3. Players may be asked to move up to the next age group for reasons of position player need or player development.

Timing

- Jan/Feb/Mar – enter Travel Teams in tournaments, finalize tournaments/dates for each age level & publish
- Early April – information on the sign-up process along with the tournament dates for each age group will be provided to all 13-15 year old baseball players. Players must sign up following the communicated process. Tournament dates will be provided so that players can determine which tournaments they can play in to assist in # of players needed on the team.
- Early May – Players will be notified of tryout dates (if required)
- End of May – Travel Team player selection will be completed.

Player selection will be based on the following:

- ✓ Review # of players signed up. If number signed up is within the limits of the teams, then all players signed up will be on the Travel Team without an actual tryout
- ✓ Prior coaches input. Players signed up for Travel Teams will be evaluated by previous coaches (where possible). A standard evaluation form will be used.
- ✓ Tryout. If needed, a tryout will be held at Redbird Field on a date(s) to be communicated to all players signed up. A minimum of one High School coach will assist in evaluating players and in making player selection for travel teams. The head coaches of all three age groups will assist the High School coach in the evaluation process for all three groups.

Tournament Entry Fees

The Booster Club will sponsor up to 4 tournaments per team (age groups 13, 14 & 15) per year. Tournament entry fees range from \$200-\$350/tournament

Teams may enter additional tournaments, but the entry fees must be paid by the parents/players/coaches.

Equipment

The De Pere Baseball Booster Club will provide the following equipment to each of the three Travel Teams:

- ✓ Catcher’s Gear (helmet/face mask, chest protector and shin guards)
- ✓ Catcher’s Glove (2) – both left and right
- ✓ Bat (1)
- ✓ Batting Helmets (5)
- ✓ Equipment Duffle Bag
- ✓ Practice Balls (2 dozen) & Bag
- ✓ Wiffel Balls (1 dozen) & Bag
- ✓ Scorebook

- ✓ Line-up cards
- ✓ Medical Kit & extra ice packs

Players must provide their own glove, as well as any other accessories not provided by the Booster Club (batting gloves, cleats, etc.)

All equipment purchased/maintained by the Booster Club will be labeled with 'Property of De Pere Baseball Booster Club'.

The equipment will be checked by the Equipment Manager who will determine when equipment may need to be replaced/repared (due to normal use) and bring this to the attention of the Booster Club on a yearly basis.

Travel Teams Head Coaches are responsible for lost or stolen equipment. Equipment damaged due to abuse by players will be the responsibility of the player/parents to replace. Replacement costs are as follows.

- Catcher helmet/face mask - \$70
- Catcher chest protector - \$40
- Catcher shin guards - \$20
- Knee Savers - \$25
- Catcher glove - \$50
- Batting Helmet - \$20
- Equipment Duffle Bag - \$25
- Ball Bag - \$20
- Bat - \$100

Equipment must be checked out at the beginning of the season from the Equipment Manager and returned at the end of the season. All equipment will be inventoried – any missing equipment* will be the responsibility of the Head Coach to replace.

* the only exception is baseballs, as some are likely to be lost

**Player
Uniforms**

Uniforms will be provided to the players by the Booster Club, and includes:

- ✓ Uniform Shirt
- ✓ Belt
- ✓ Socks
- ✓ Hat

The cost of the hat and socks will be included in the Travel Team Player Fee and will be kept by the player.

White baseball pants with belt loops must be purchased by the player. If group discounts are available at specific sports apparel stores, this will be communicated by the coaches to the players.

Uniform shirts or belts that are damaged or lost/not returned are the responsibility of the player/parent to replace, at the following cost:

- Uniform Shirt - \$50
- Belt - \$5

This will be communicated to the players/parents by the Coaches when the uniforms are handed out to the players.

Coaches Shirts & Hats

Coaches will be given the option to purchase Coaches polo shirts for \$10 (Booster Club will pick up the rest of the cost). The shirts will be basic burgundy polo shirts with DE PERE BASEBALL embroidered on the left upper chest area. Coaches must order these prior to the start of the season (one-time order will be done). The shirts are theirs to keep.

Coaches (up to 3 per team) will receive a hat at no cost to them.

Insurance & Waiver Forms

Parents/Players must show proof of private insurance prior to playing in a travel team tournament.

Parents will also be required to sign a waiver form indicating that they will not hold the De Pere Baseball Booster Club responsibly for any injury that may happen while participating in travel team tournament play.

Travel Team Player Fee

Each player playing on a Travel Team will be required to pay a fee, as follows:

- ✓ Player Fee- \$30 (Players keep hat/socks) –helps to cover costs incurred by the Booster Club for team equipment and uniforms
- ✓ Tournament Fee \$10/tournament played in (up to 4 tournaments, but exclude additional tournaments)
- ✓ Fees to cover additional tournaments that a team may play in will be determined and added to the total player fee (this fee will cover the total cost of the tournament). If the season is underway and a team wants to play in another tournament, then the Head Coach would collect the funds.

Additional hats can be purchased for \$15 (based on availability).

Example: If a player plays in the 3 tournaments, the fee would be \$30 + \$30, for a total of \$60. If a player plays in only 1 tournament, the fee would be \$10 + \$30, for a total of \$40.

Player Fees MUST be collected prior to receiving a uniform.

The Head Coach is responsible for collecting all fees and getting this to the Booster Club. Checks should be written to De Pere Baseball Booster Club.

**Parent
Expectations**

Parents of Travel Team players are expected to:

- ✓ Be an active participant in the De Pere Baseball Booster Club
 - ✓ Work at the De Pere DADS Tournaments (concessions, scoreboard)
 - ✓ Show good sportsmanship at all games that our teams play in – remember we are representing De Pere Baseball
 - ✓ Pay player fees on time
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