

OKEEHHEELER BASEBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.
TRAVEL POLICY GUIDELINES

These rules shall govern the Okeeheelee Baseball Association, Inc.'s (the "Association") Travel Baseball Program and shall remain in full force and effect until such time as they are modified or amended by the Board of Directors (the "Board") of the Association, and shall not be modified or amended except upon approval of a majority of the members of the Board.

The Association's Travel Baseball Program will be governed and managed by the Association's Board, under rules and policies established by the Board. The Association's Travel Baseball Program shall be operated by volunteers, and no one associated with the travel program—including Board Members, Managers and Assistant Coaches—shall be paid.

The Association's Travel Baseball Program exists as an extension of and to complement the Association's recreational baseball program. As such, the Association must schedule travel activities to co-exist with the Association's recreational baseball program, which is its first priority. The purpose of the Association's Travel Baseball Program is to provide the community's youth in the area the opportunity to compete on a statewide and national level and to provide talented young athletes the opportunity to develop their athletic skills and sportsmanship-like attitudes in a more competitive atmosphere.

CREED

All managers, coaches and officials of Okeeheelee Baseball Association, Inc. will help all players to develop strong, healthy bodies and minds; the highest type of sportsmanship; understanding and respect for the rules; courage in defeat, modesty in victory; themselves into becoming good citizens.

The following rules shall govern the Association's Travel Baseball Program:

- **FOR ALL AGE DIVISIONS:** Rules and regulations instituted by the Association, as stated herein, and the rules and regulations of any other organizations or association's under which the Association's Travel Baseball Program may be sanctioned (e.g., AAU, USSSA, etc.).
- **NATIONAL BASEBALL CONGRESS:** In the event a particular subject or issue is not covered in the Cal Ripken or Babe Ruth Rules, or otherwise in the Association's League, Division, or Fall Rules, then reference will be made to the National Baseball Congress Rules.

TRAVEL RULES:

1. General Policy

An objective of the Association is to develop good citizens as well as good athletes. Although the Travel Baseball Program is a more competitive program, with an increased emphasis on winning, the emphasis shall not be on “win at all cost.” Managers, coaches, players and parents that demonstrate “win at all cost” behavior are not wanted in the Association, even in the Travel Baseball Program.

The code of behavior adopted for our Recreational Program also applies to travel. Travel managers and coaches shall report to the Association’s Board any violation of the Creed or General Regulations by a manager, coach, player, or anyone officially connected with the Association. The violation of these rules and guidelines may result in ejection, suspension, or such other penalty as the Board in its discretion may prescribe.

The Executive Board of the Association shall develop and maintain policies regarding the operation and administration of the Travel Baseball Program. These policies, and any subsequent revisions, shall be governed by the overall Association policy and shall be submitted to the Association’s Full Board for approval.

2. Non-Burdening of Association Recreational Program

Every player, coach, manager, and team registered with the Association’s Travel Baseball Program shall give priority to the Association’s recreational program during the Spring Season. While every effort will be made by the Travel Director and the Association to coordinate the Association’s recreational and travel baseball programs, there will undoubtedly be instances where it is difficult, if not impossible, to do so. In such instances, priority will be given to the recreational program, but all reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate the travel program as well.

3. Travel Director

The Association’s Travel Director, who shall be appointed by the President of the Association, shall have responsibility for coordinating with the Association’s Scheduling Director, Director of Umpires, Field Director, and Director of Concessions for administering the Association’s participation in any inter-league or local travel leagues or tournaments.

4. Selection of Managers

Unless otherwise approved by the Board, all Managers or Coaches must be at least eighteen (18) years of age or older. Further, such managers or coaches must possess the maturity, responsibility, character, and adherence to Association rules and regulations required to remain a manager or coach in good standing with the Association and must complete a mandatory back ground check and the Heads Up concussion test.

a) Sponsored Travel Teams

The term for Sponsored Travel Manager's will be one year beginning Aug 1 of the calendar year and ending July 31 of the following year. During this tenure, the Manager will facilitate selecting and managing during the Fall and Spring travel seasons, which will be created in an open tryout format before each Fall season. Without any cause, Manager or Coaches may continue in the capacity the following years.

In order to be eligible for selection as a manager of a Sponsored Travel Team, such manager must apply in writing for the position of manager of such team to the Board no later than the date set by the Director each Spring and be an active Manager, Coach, Board or other member of the Association during the Association's Spring recreational baseball season. The Board, based on the recommendation of the Travel Director will approve such applications, and determine all Managers of the Sponsored Travel Teams. There shall be no presumption that any particular person will be selected and all eligible members of the Association are encouraged to apply. The Manager appointed by the Board for each particular Sponsored Travel Team must select his or her own coaches from those who are actively coaching in the Association's recreational program during the Spring season and who are otherwise eligible hereunder. All coaches selected by travel team managers must be submitted to the Board for approval. In addition, such managers and coaches must be certified by the NYSCA or the Association.

5. Manager Responsibilities

The responsibilities of any Travel Team Manager shall include:

- a) Ensuring players and coaches reflect the ideals of the Association at all times. This includes maintaining a spirit of fair play and sportsmanship on and off the field.
- b) Maintaining adequate supervision and control of all Association Travel Team players while in uniform before, during, and after the game while at the field.
- c) Immediately advising the Travel Director for the Association of any issues arising with respect to his or her travel team that may impact Association travel policy.

- d) Insuring all coaches and parents that have any contact with players has completed a background check and the concussion test.

6. Team Selection

The Association's Travel Baseball Program shall consist of Sponsored types of travel teams:

- 1) Okeeheelee-Sponsored Travel Teams that are officially created and sponsored by the Association as a travel team are representing the Association's youth baseball program.

i. Sponsored Travel Teams

Okeeheelee Sponsored Travel teams will be selected and administered by the league and will receive prioritized benefits with their registration fee, such as;

- * Team Insurance through the Association
- * Permanent weekly lighted practice fields and batting cages
- * Groomed and lined Fields for all Home games. (Teams are responsible to line their own fields)
- * Fundraising opportunities at the park for individual teams, with board approval.
- * Cooperstown Dreams Park reservations (12U team only)

Prior to the start of the travel season, each Team will conduct tryouts for the creation of Sponsored travel teams in any such age divisions as it may determine appropriate. Any tryouts for Sponsored travel teams must be open to all eligible players in the applicable age division and shall be advertised beforehand within the proper media available. The following general guidelines shall apply:

- a) All players in each division shall be evaluated by the approved manager of the travel team. Once the tryout has been completed, the travel team manager shall select the players that, in his discretion, enable the Association to field the most competitive travel team reasonably possible. 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, in the discretion of the manager, such departure is necessary to field the most competitive and well-rounded team, which includes pitching, catching, middle infielders and hitting.

As a minimum, each team (8u – 12u) must adhere to the 80/20 rule which specifies that no more than 20 percent of a team can be from outside the Association's boundary, as defined by the Association. 13u and above must adhere to 50/50. This boundary is for purposes of

ensuring that a minimum number of players participate that would be eligible to play in the Association’s recreational program. The Association’s Executive Board must approve any exceptions to this policy. For purposes of calculating 80-20, the number shall be rounded to the nearest whole number.

For Cal Ripken Divisions (ages 7-12)

Total Players on Team	Outside Players Permitted
8-12	2
13-15	3

For Babe Ruth Divisions (ages 13-15)

Total Players on Team	Outside Players Permitted
8-12	3
13-15	4

- b) Players not selected for the travel team may come before the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors to appeal the evaluators’ decision, but the decision of the travel team manager will carry the most weight. The Executive Board may decide to field a second travel team in the division if they feel there are enough interested talented players remaining and an approvable manager can be determined to lead the team.
- c) Players may be cut during the season due to behavioral issues or other issues, which must be brought to the attention of the board. If the board deems the need to have the player released from the team it will be up to the board to decide and not the sole discretion of the manager.

7. Eligibility for Travel Team Participation

- a) All eligible players who are selected to play on a Sponsored Travel Team must be registered in the Association's Spring Recreational baseball program. It is encourage that all players on a Sponsored Travel team make themselves eligible for participation in the leagues All Star program which begins at the conclusion of the Spring Rec season's regular season.
- b) All players must pay a registration fee based on the boards decision per season to cover fees of lights, field permits, player insurance, etc. & etc.

8. Travel / recreational league interaction

Spring recreation league activities, including practices, games, and team activities shall take priority over any Travel participation event. Out of town travel tournaments will not interfere with Okeeheelee tournaments and will not conflict with the spring recreational baseball season or All Stars if that player has chosen to participate.

- e) If any player, coach or manager misses a Recreational program activity due to a Travel program activity, the player, coach or manager will be subject to an immediate 1 game suspension and if the absence results in a forfeiture of a game, the player, coach or manager will be responsible to pay restitution to the league the costs associated with the forfeiting game (i.e. umpire costs, field preparation, scorekeepers, etc.). The player, coach or manager may also be subject to removal from All-Star participation and multiple violations of the rule can result in expulsion from the Recreational and Travel programs.

During the Fall recreational league, travel teams should compromise as much as possible to balance travel activities and recreational league activities as well as other team sports that may be played in the Fall by its players. Fall recreational teams shall not penalize participating travel players for missing events assuming the travel players make a good faith effort to keep the recreational league manager aware and apprised of travel league activities. Fall travel players will be treated no different than players in other sports having conflicts with the Fall recreational league.

When Okeeheelee Baseball hosts a tournament, the Travel teams provide the volunteer workers to ensure a successful administration of all facets of the tournament and these tournaments can be used as fundraising opportunities for the travel teams.

9. Playing Up in Age

Players may be permitted to play up in age, if in the sole discretion of the Director of Travel with the Boards' approval. Team Managers will make the request. Players playing up will be

justified based on the size, skill, or experience of such player and is not prohibited by any organizations under which the Association's travel program may be sanctioned. Parents of the player playing up will provide in writing, releasing and waiving the Director and the Board of any from any and all liability.

10. Late Registrants/PLAYERS REMOVAL

Late registrants can be evaluated by the Travel Managers. Managers may pick up additional players after the team has been selected but may not cut players already on the roster without justified reason due to discipline of player or parents. No player shall be cut by the team to make room for a more talented player. Players leaving/quitting a team will not be reimbursed for any fees after the team selections are finalized. (See Section 11 for additional information.)

11. Registration Fees

Besides the League registration fees, the Team Manager shall establish registration fee each season by establishing a working budget for the team to cover the teams individual expenses, such as uniforms, umpires, tournaments, etc. The fee will be paid by the Team to the Treasurer at the beginning of each season. The philosophy of the Association shall be that its travel program shall not be called upon to pay for its recreational program and the travel program shall not burden the recreational program.

12. Team Rosters

The maximum roster size for any Travel Team shall be twenty (20) players. The roster form must contain the player's name, uniform number, date of birth, address, phone number, email address, and school currently attending. A team book shall be maintained by each team with a completed waiver and release form, team roster, and copy of each player's birth certificate.

13. Changes in Roster/Players Dropping Out/Changing Teams

Each Manager shall notify the Travel Director within twenty-four (24) hours of the addition or deletion to his or her team's official roster. In the absence of any rules to the contrary as specified by any inter-league, tournament, or other rules that may be applicable, roster changes may be made at any time during the travel season. As to Sponsored Travel Teams, all roster changes must be approved by the Travel Director. No player rostered on any Sponsored Travel Team may change teams to another Sponsored team in such division after the start of the season; provided, however, under exceptional circumstances the Board shall permit and effectuate such changes as it deems necessary and in the best interests of the Association. In the absence of any rules to the contrary as specified by any inter-league, tournament, or other rules that may be applicable, Sponsored Travel Teams shall be permitted to have guest players

participate with such teams on an interim basis during the season.

14. Parental Authorization/Release Forms

All players are required to have their parents execute a Parental Authorization/Release Form granting such player permission to play in the Association's Travel Baseball Program and releasing the Association from any liability for injuries that may be sustained as a result of such participation. All Travel Teams are required to submit such forms with each player's registration and to keep a copy in the Team Notebook for review prior to the game. All visiting teams are required to maintain similar executed authorization/release forms in the Team Notebook for review by the Association prior to any games being played on Association facilities.

15. No Must Play Rule

In the absence of any rules to the contrary as specified by any inter-league, tournament, or other rules that may be applicable, there is no must play rule in effect for any division of the Association's Travel Baseball Program. However, it is recommended that travel teams play everyone both offensively and defensively. This guideline should not be construed to mean that all players must receive equal playing time or that everyone must play in every game.

16. Pitching Restrictions

One of the primary considerations in coordinating the Association's recreational program with its travel program is protecting the health, safety and welfare of all the participants in its program. It is up to the TEAM MANAGER to protect and ensure the safety of their pitchers. The manager shall use their best judgment and follow any pitching restrictions that are placed upon the division and league the team is playing in. Remember that in the 12u/13u/14u/15u divisions, which a lot of the boys play middle school or jv-baseball and this should be taken into account when pitching a player.

17. Financial Responsibility of Travel Teams

i. Sponsored Travel Teams

All financial accounting for Sponsored Travel Teams shall be handled by the team's Manager through its Travel Director and the League Treasurer.

The Executive Board of the Association must specifically approve all fundraising to ensure there

is no detrimental impact on the fundraising activities connected with the Association's recreational baseball program, including post-season All-Stars. The Executive Board shall approve additional fundraising or expenditures on a case-by-case base after reviewing its potential impact on the Association's tax exempt status, the appearance to those donating money to the program, and consistency with its recreational baseball program.

Okeeheelee Baseball Association to obtain the tax break, funds will then be transferred back to the team. Any and all fundraising or other revenue generation for Sponsored Travel Teams shall be in the name of the Association and all financial accounting for such teams shall be handled through the Association. All donations, grants, or other payments should be made payable directly to the Association and any money, check, or other disbursement received by such travel team must be immediately turned into the Association to protect the Association's tax-exempt status. All payments made to the Association shall be subject to all applicable IRS guidelines necessary to protect the Association's tax-exempt status. Any money received by the Association for the benefit of a specific Sponsored Travel Team will be dispensed by the Association to pay for appropriate expenses of such team. As a general rule, Association funds may be used to pay actual reasonable and customary expenses associated with the players' and coaches' travel. Customary expenses include the following:

- f) Tournament Registration Fees
- g) Any additional tournament fees assessed to players or coaches (gate admission or balls for example)
- h) Motel rooms for players and coaches as specified by the Association
- i) Miscellaneous Expenses (amount to be determined by the Association each season) to cover incidentals such as ice, Gatorade and reasonable miscellaneous expenses for the players.

Expenses that may not be paid for with Association funds include:

- j) Entertainment and amusement expenses
- k) Parent's Meals
- l) Parent's Travel
- m) Alcoholic Beverages of any kind for anyone

It shall be the responsibility of the manager for each Sponsored Travel team to collect and keep track of all registration fees, sponsorship fees, hotel money, and other money turned in for the benefit of such travel team. In addition, the manager shall coordinate with the Travel Director and prepare and submit a budget to the Association for such team identifying tournaments and planned travel.

All registration and fundraising monies collected by the individual travel teams will be pooled into a dedicated account for each team which will be administered by the Travel Director. These funds will be allocated to the travel manager for team expenses as they are requested. Initially, the Association will use these funds to supplement incurred league expenses such as Babe Ruth fees, insurance, and County fees. The league will also purchase high quality team uniforms and then dispense monies to the travel manager for individual team fees in the order they are requested such as travel league fees, tournament entries, and umpire payments. Monies will be dispensed as long as the team's dedicated account has available funds. Monies remaining in the team's dedicated account at the end of one season will automatically follow the team to the next season.

18. Uniforms

All Sponsored Travel Teams shall provide their own matching uniforms to rostered players and coaches and each uniform shall contain the Association Sleeve Patch. Each team can design their own uniform and select their own nickname as long as the Okeeheelee name is prominent on the uniform. All uniforms are required to have numbers and no two players on the same team may have the same number. All teams are required to be in complete uniform during games, which includes socks, shirts, pants, and caps.

19. Practices & Practice Sites

The following guidelines shall apply:

All teams must take at least one day off per week from practice, games, or travel.

No practices before 9:00am on Sundays.

The Travel Director, in conjunction with Scheduling Director, shall be responsible for coordinating field usage between the Association's Recreational and Travel programs and shall assist in finding sites to conduct team practices.

All Sponsored Travel Teams will be assigned a permanent practice field for a minimum of one night per week under lights and once per weekend in the Fall and at least once a week during the Spring seasons if schedule of rec league allows.

20. Ejection from Game

Any travel player, manager or coach who is ejected from a game will have an automatic additional one (1) game suspension. Abusive actions following the ejection may result in additional suspension. Additionally, any travel manager or coach who is ejected may be called upon to come before the Board to discuss the ejection. The Board reserves the right to expel any travel player, manager or coach for the remainder of the travel season after a second ejection.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ASK ANY MANAGER, COACH, PARENT,

PLAYER, FAN OR SPECTATOR TO LEAVE THE PARK FOR ANY UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT.

Any travel player, manager or coach who desires to appeal an ejection must do so by filing a written request with the Travel Director within 24 hours. ***Failure to file such a request within 24 hours acts as a waiver of any appeal right.*** Such filing will toll the suspension for the subsequent game until the Executive Board of the Association has had an opportunity to hear the appeal. The denial of any appeal of an ejection may be subject to an additional game suspension (i.e., two games total) in the event the Board determines the appeal was not made in good faith.

Any appeals of ejections as to non-Okeeheelee players, managers, or coaches must be directed to the sponsoring organizations of such teams or individuals.

21. Discipline of Managers, Coaches, & Parents

The Executive Board will consider any complaints regarding Board Members, Managers, Coaches, parents, players, fans or spectators brought to its attention in writing by the complaining party. The Executive Board will discuss the complaint and if, in its discretion, the complaint warrants additional investigation, it will conduct same. The Executive Board shall have complete discretion in determining any sanction or penalty, if any, of any manager, coach, parent, player, fan or spectator. The full Board shall decide any sanction or penalty arising out of misconduct of a Board Member.

