



Varsity Baseball Staff/Jackson Baseball Association  
13/14 Year Old Travel Program Guidelines



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&  
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13 & 14 Year Old  
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## I. Introduction

The goal of this program is to provide the Varsity Baseball Program (VBP) with a higher level of trained baseball players. The VBP in conjunction with the Jackson Baseball Association (JBA) and the Jackson Diamond Club (JDC) shall oversee the development and administration of a new 13 and 14 year old travel baseball program (the "Program"). This Program will develop baseball players to compete at an advanced level of play under the direction of Varsity Baseball Staff (VBS).

## II. Team Structure

- a. The Program shall consist of teams at the 13 year old and 14 year old age levels. The primary team(s) shall be considered the main travel team(s) and any additional teams shall be considered development team(s).
- b. The teams shall consist of 11 or 12 players on each team with the distribution of players on the teams being determined by the VBS and the Player Selection Panel.

## III. Independent Panels

- a. There shall be two (2) Independent Panels.
  - i. The Player Selection Panel shall attend the player evaluations and be involved in the player selection process.
  - ii. The Coach Selection Panel shall interview and select the managers and coaches for the teams.
- b. Both Independent Panels shall be chosen by the Varsity Baseball Staff and may consist of, for example, VBS Coaches, college coaches or players, high school coaches or players, baseball instructors, members of the JDC, etc.
- c. The Varsity Baseball Staff will assemble the Independent Panels with one or more members of the Staff sitting on each panel. The Varsity Baseball Staff shall have oversight to the process and determine the fairness of the process.
- d. The Player Selection Panel and the Coach Selection Panel will meet and finalize any decisions with the VBS, who will be present during both processes.

## IV. Player Eligibility

- a. Players for the Program must reside in Jackson Township and be eligible to attend Jackson Local School district. All other players shall be deemed ineligible.
- b. In accordance with the JBA policy regarding travel baseball, players must participate for at least one (1) year in the JBA or some other comparable kid-pitch Recreational League to be eligible to participate in the Program.
- c. Age requirements
  - i. Players who are 13 years of age or younger on April 30<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for the 13 year old teams.
  - ii. Players who are 14 years of age or younger on April 30<sup>th</sup> will be eligible for the 14 year old teams.
- d. The Player Selection Panel shall make all determinations and approve any player desiring to play up in age. A player may only play up one age level. These teams shall not be constructed by grade but by age. That is, if a 15 year old is in 8<sup>th</sup> grade he would not be eligible for the Program.



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- e. Any player who makes one of the primary teams is not permitted to play on any other baseball team or league during the season without written permission from the VBS. Violations shall be immediate dismissal from the Program.
- f. A player may miss two (2) games for approved reasons by the manager. After two games, for every game missed a player will be benched for one game. (Emergency situations shall be at the discretion of the manager. Sickness, and injuries do not apply).

## V. Coaching

- a. The Coach Selection Panel shall interview managers and coaches and assign the manager and one coach for each team.
- b. Each team shall have one (1) manager and two (2) coaches. The managers and one (1) coach of these teams shall be picked by the Coach Selection Panel with final approval from the Varsity Baseball Staff. A manager shall have the discretion to pick one additional coach. The Varsity Baseball Staff will validate the final appointment of all managers and coaches.
- c. The coaching finalists or named coaches may attend the tryouts to observe the players.
- d. Approved managers must attend an approved baseball clinic or seminar and are encouraged to attend high school practice sessions.
- e. The managers of each team may if necessary and within reason receive expense reimbursement by the team for their out-of-pocket expenses. The recommended amount shall be no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) and may at the election of the manager be donated back or used for the team's purpose. The feasibility shall be discussed at a later date. The JBA shall treat this as an independent contractor and issue a 1099 at end year.
- f. After the 2008 season, any parent whose child leaves the JBA for any non-JBA travel team will not be eligible to manager or coach in the Program.

## VI. Player Selection

- a. Each year the tryouts shall take place in August for eligibility for the next year. A fee may be assessed by the JBA/VBS for participating in the tryouts. The fee will be credited to the player's team and deducted from any fundraising responsibilities for that player. The fee is refundable to those players who do not make any of the Program teams. The fee is nonrefundable to those players who make a Program team but decide not to participate in the Program.
- b. The Player Selection Panel will conduct the tryouts each year. The players for the 13U teams shall be evaluated through an open tryout as determined by the VBS.
- c. The players for the 14U teams will be chosen through an evaluation and coaches' report from their previous year's JBA team and a tryout. The length of the 14U tryouts shall be at the discretion of the VBS. No parent shall be present or have any intervention, including coaching the players from the sidelines or stands, during the tryouts.
- d. Make up dates may be scheduled at the discretion of the VBS and JBA Board. The makeup sessions shall consist only of a one day skills evaluation.
- e. The Player Selection Panel will select a pool of twenty-eight (28) players from each age group to make up a Player Pool for the primary teams.



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- f. The Player Selection Panel will meet with the managers to select the teams from Player Pool based on the tryouts and other information. The top sixteen (16) players from the Player Pool (as rated by the Player Selection Panel) must be selected for one of the primary teams. The remainder of the primary teams' rosters may be chosen by the managers from the players remaining in the Player Pool, with final approval being required by the Player Selection Panel.
- g. If the Player Selection Panel determines that a developmental team should be formed, the Player Selection Panel will form the developmental team(s) from remaining players from the tryouts.
- h. The Player Selection Panel shall determine the methods, fairness and balance of each team. At times through the permission of the Head Varsity Coach and the VBS, an all-star team (1 team at each age group) shall be chosen by the coaching staffs of the respective age groups, the Head Varsity Coach and a JBA representative to play in a state or national tournament to represent the Program. The management of such all-star team shall be determined by the JBA Managers/Coaches Committee and the Head Varsity Coach. The all-star teams must fund any activities separately.

#### **VII. Program Administration**

- a. The JBA with the assistance of the VBS and JDC shall have oversight and administration of the program, i.e., manage fund raising activities, statistics recording, game and tournament scheduling, parent communications, and manager oversight.
- b. The JBA shall consider appointing a Trustee/Representative as Director of the 13/14 Travel Program. This shall be separate from the JBA Travel Committee and report to the Varsity Baseball Staff.
- c. These teams shall have a separate operating budget.
- d. Other travel teams may exist at the 13U and 14U age groups upon approval by the JBA.
- e. The current JBA sponsored travel baseball teams shall continue as constructed and implemented by the JBA through the age of 12.

#### **VIII. Team Administration**

- a. All fund raising activities for the most part shall be separate from the JBA recreational league. These teams may participate in the general raffle of the JBA with all monies to be separately accounted for.
- b. The teams shall play a complete season starting April 1 and ending no later than the end of July. Tournament dates and manager election shall dictate the exact dates.
- c. The 13 year old teams shall play no more than 55 games and 14 year old teams shall play no more than 60 games. This includes regular league season games and tournaments.
- d. There shall be no structured activities organized by the coaching staff from November 1st through January 1<sup>st</sup>.



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**IX. VBS/JBA Alliance**

- a. The Varsity Baseball Staff has agreed to publicly endorse only this Program and all of the JBA travel teams. The Varsity Baseball Staff shall continue to support the JBA recreational program by continuing to conduct its coaching clinics and having an active role in the JBA Board.
- b. All JBA travel team managers only will have access to observe training and practices of the Varsity Baseball program. (These are closed to the public).
- c. The Varsity Baseball Staff shall provide specialized training for all JBA Travel managers and access to the Varsity Baseball Staff for assistance and mentoring.
- d. The Varsity Baseball Staff will see the players developing and have access to their statistics. They will attend games in support and observation of the teams.
- e. Varsity Baseball program will participate in the JBA Opening Day Classic.