

# **MAB Summer Team Selection Guidelines**

(Revised January 2022)

## **Overview**

MAB will sponsor summer teams at the A & B level that will play in tournaments and summer leagues. These may include Cal Ripken tournaments (Districts, States, Regionals), the Suburban Youth Baseball League (SYBL), the 50/70 league, the South River League and various summer tournaments, including Cooperstown Dreams Park & Cooperstown All Star Village. The goal of the MAB Summer Travel Program is to provide opportunities for children to play competitive baseball outside of the traditional spring in-town league. These Summer Teams may be structured at various levels from ultra-competitive to developmental. MAB will sponsor as many teams as possible where there is player interest, available coaches, and field availability for both practices and games. Parents are asked to respect the final decision on team selections.

## **Rules**

Each team will comply with the rules of the league or tournament in which they are entered. It is the expectation that, unless otherwise conflicted, the coaches of these Travel Teams will comply with all MAB rules that are applicable. These include playing time requirements as well as player safety rules such as pitching limits, avoidance of contact, USA baseball bats etc.

## **Selection Criteria**

Player and Team Assignments will be guided by the following:

- Eligibility
- Availability
- Ability

### **A) Eligibility**

- All players will play at their appropriate league age as set forth by Cal Ripken Baseball
- Participation in 60 percent of the regular season in an age-appropriate division is required.
- MAB Board Approval is needed for players who do not fulfill the 60 percent requirement (due to illness or injury, for example).

## **B) Availability**

It is understood that other family events occur during the summer months (vacation, camp, commitments to other sports), however, to be fair to those players who make a commitment to play Summer A Baseball, Milton American is requiring that for consideration to play on a Summer A team, the player and parents must make a commitment that they avoid unexcused absences. Please keep in mind that this policy is designed to allow for prior commitments, like family vacations, as well as any unavoidable circumstances. Since this is a tryout/selection team, the expected commitment level is high.

## **C) Ability**

All candidates for the summer teams will be considered for selection based upon the following factors:

- performance in the current Spring Season (based upon evaluations provided by that age group's Spring Season coaches, including their own);
- performance in the previous Summer Season (based upon evaluations provided by the prior summer's coach);
- skills demonstrated during tryouts (based upon evaluations provided by impartial evaluators);
- attitude and coachability of the player; and
- ensuring each team has an appropriate balance of players, who can pitch, play the catcher position and hit.

## **Signups**

MAB will post signups for tryouts on the website as soon as possible and at a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the tryout.

## **Summer Team Advisory Committee**

The MAB Board of Directors will assign an impartial three person Summer Team Advisory Committee at each age group. This committee will be responsible for aggregating all data on player ability including prior and current coach evaluations, tryout evaluations and peer

recommendations. Committee members may not have a family member playing at the age-group assigned.

## **Tryouts**

The tryouts will be organized and run by the impartial Summer Team Advisory Committee at each age group. Independent evaluators will be assigned for each team tryout. Independent in this sense means that the evaluator does not have a child that is trying out for that particular team. During these structured tryouts, the evaluators will document their objective observations on evaluation forms, documenting performance in basic categories such as hitting, fielding, running, throwing, game & situational awareness, and sportsmanship. Depending on the number of children that sign up for a tryout as well as the number of roster spots that are available, at least one tryout will be held. Multiple tryouts may be used to narrow down a large number of players to smaller groups.

## **Head Coach Selection**

The Advisory Committee will undertake a thoughtful review of coach assignments each year to ensure MAB has the right staff in place at each A & B level and/or if there is a good candidate for addition to a staff. Both prior and potential coaches will be given the opportunity to apply for coaching assignments. The Advisory Committees at each age group will obtain any and all feedback from players and parents, including but not limited to experiences with coaches. They will present these findings during discussions as coaches are considered. Upon review of all player ability data, consideration will be given to the parents of players ranked higher over coaches whose player may be considered on a team's bubble. The MAB Board of Directors reserves the right to take a board vote on the head coach at any particular age group.

## **Selection Process and Team Formation**

Upon selection of the head coach, a four (4) person **Selection Committee** will then be established. Each Selection Committee will be comprised of the following members:

- The impartial three member Summer Team Advisory Committee as assigned by a vote of the MAB Board of Directors.
- The Head Coach of the Team as determined by the Advisory Committee.

## **Team Formation**

The Selection Committee will be responsible for recommending a team roster. It is important that parents know that the main goal is to recommend the best possible *team*, which may not always be composed of the best available players. For example, a team is not well-served

having nine (9) great second basemen but no one that pitches or catches. The head coach will have the ability to round out the roster that he/she believes forms the best team. The Advisory Committee may ask questions of the Head Coach about the team construction including, but not limited to, the last few kids that were not selected for the team to understand why they were not selected over the last few kids that were selected for the team.

In addition:

- The evaluation sheets are not for publication or distribution and are only to be used by coaches, evaluators and the Advisory Committee.
- The Selection Committee will use evaluations from the tryouts, their own previous experience watching that child play (if available), as well as the input from prior and current coaches of that player. This is to ensure that each player is thoroughly evaluated in both game situations as well as our tryout format.
- The Selection Committee will document each team decision but these will not be for publication.
- If a parent questions a decision about child placement, the Selection Committee will review the documentation to ensure a fair process was followed and can discuss the outcome.
- Summer team rosters will target a roster of 12 players. The size of the team will be determined after tryouts.
- All summer team rosters will expire at the end of each season.

## **Assistant Coaches**

Upon completion of the A team roster, the Head Coach will recommend names to complete the coaching staff. The advisory committee, after conducting a review of each assistant coach, will approve of the coaching staff. All coaching staffs will be reviewed and voted on by the MAB Board of Directors.

## **Summer 'B' Teams and/or 'Third' Teams**

The MAB Board of Directors will utilize the same committees to assist in the head coach selection and formation of each age brackets respective 'B' teams. In the event any age bracket has enough interested and qualified players, and field space remains available, MAB will sponsor a third summer team in that age bracket. The MAB Selection Committee will make a recommendation as to the formation of these teams. As a guideline MAB will:

- Attempt to create two equal teams at the 9 & 10 year-old level with the belief that these players are still developing and equal distribution of talent after the 'A' team is formed best serves the continued development of all players.

- At the 11 & 12 year-old level the selection committee may make a recommendation to either split the teams evenly or continue the process whereby the 'B' team is comprised of the next best set of available players. The recommendation may result in teams playing in different leagues, allowing for multiple District teams and perhaps playing at varying distances. Each class is unique and the committee will make the recommendation that best serves the competitive opportunities for MAB as well as the continued development of our players.

**The goal will be to announce the teams in early June.**