2027 Mustang Summer Travel

Parent Meeting – October 29, 2026

Introduction

Commissioner - Mike Endre

- Board Member since 2020
- Manage Roemer with Morgan Family
- Previously ran Summer/Fall House League
- Family
  - Three kids
  - Two former WBA travel players (Gray, Blue & Green & feeder experiences)
  - Coached House for last 7 years
- Coached WBA Travel for multiple seasons in college
  - Subsequently umpired multiple seasons
- Played 4 years at New Trier

Welcome to Mustang Travel

We heard your feedback!!!

- Unique coaching dynamics
- Lack of consistency from the Winter Workouts through Summer
- Coaches need a better support system - practice structures, in-game strategy, grade level milestones, communication, etc
- Structural Changes - Looking forward to a great 2027 Season

Teams & Selection Process

- Teams were selected earlier this year (tryouts in late Aug vs early Oct)
  - Reduce conflicts with other sports
  - Eliminate requirement to keep playing just for tryouts (Long baseball season Jan - Oct)
  - Successful In-house Skills Clinics (4 days vs 4 weeks)
- All available information: travel performance & coach feedback (including multiple years of data for those with data available) and the evaluations at tryouts
- Tryouts were competitive - multiple cuts, movement between teams & most importantly an influx of new talented travel players
- Three solid teams in 2027
- Players that made a team should be proud of their accomplishment while supporting those that did not make a team or moved to a different team
- Cutting players or moving players is the least favorite part of volunteering for WBA

Program Highlights & Updates

Leading & Cost-Efficient Program

- Robust multi-season program will ensure player development
- Fall team selections and team-based winter workouts, with flexibility in the event of schedule conflicts
- Spring house league still required
- Spring Travel Team Practices on Saturdays
- Two week summer weekday travel baseball camp after school year ends
- IBA hired to help identify and develop coaches
- Coaches are evaluated based on parent feedback as well as WBA Board and IBA observations
- Attendance will be monitored in 2027 at all travel events & shared with commissioner

Program updates for 2027

- Fall Tryout Schedule
- Winter Workout Blocks
- Director of Player Development Position
- Player Development Roadmap
- Parent Team Liaison

Director of Player Development

Overview

- Each grade is being assigned a Director who is responsibility for providing expert instruction, leadership, continuity and accountability for the WBA players and coaches
- 10U Bobby Garrick
- Consistency – we want to make sure that players across teams have similar experiences and training and that coaches are better supported
- Continuity from Winter to Summer
  - DoPD to Run Winter Workouts & Spring Team Practices
  - Coach Onboarding & Development
- Consistent Execution of a Player Roadmap
  - Purpose: Create a consistent 8U–12U development pathway of core baseball skills and concepts and when and how they should be introduced and taught. Skills remain in the curriculum and progress toward independent execution while allowing for individual progress rates.
- Parent Resource

Parent Liaison

Overview - Stronger Connection Point from Parents to WBA

- THIS IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ABOUT BASEBALL KNOWLEDGE & COACHING EXPERIENCE!!!!
  - Supportive position absolutely requiring the right temperament and understanding of the role
  - For the record, I would NEVER qualify for this position
- Background of this position
  - My Experience
  - Multiple previous forms - assistant coach, team parent (team events, emails etc), game changer
- Goals / Purposes
  - Communication - Conduit for parents to Coaches and WBA
  - Extra Body
    - Provide DoPD an extra set of hands during WW & Spring Practices (while waiting for coaches/intern). Please note that this responsibility is flexible and will be shared with Commissioner.
    - Potential for role in travel games (game changer, coaching 1B if needed etc)
    - Allows for better financial allocation of coaching funds
  - Transparency / Accountability - Monitor structural changes & coordinate with Commissioner
- Interest - Email me by Friday, Nov 13th
  - Know the right person for the job? Nominate someone. Email or call me.

Commitment & Expectations

Player and parent commitment required to make the season successful

- Player attendance and positive attitude are critical
  - Focus on team commitment and notify coach of absences
  - Attendance should not be treated as optional in the Spring and Summer
  - Players to always help teammates with positive encouragement
  - Playing time & future team placement impacted by absences or behavioral issues

- Parent commitment
  - Support your player and coaching staff
    - Always stay positive with the boys. Positive reinforcements are a true gift.
    - Let coaches coach. Do not overload player with your tips or instructions in game. Save your advice for at home or in your personal workouts.
    - Be a fan…ONLY. Stay out of dugout. Do not criticize coaches/umpires
    - When all else fails…go in the outfield
  - Channel feedback to parent liaison, Commissioner or Trey in real time. Don't wait.
  -
  - Coach spring house league teams
- WBA is a non-profit and its board is 100% volunteer based

What's Included & Payment Dates

Quality multi-season travel program…

- Winter workouts run by DoPD
- Saturday travel practices in April & May run by DoPD
- Two week weekday summer camps run by DoPD
- 5-6 days of baseball activities per week
- LSFBL regular season & playoffs
- 2 local tournaments per team-Memorial Day weekend and in July
- Uniforms & team gear
- Coaches – two full time, plus one intern per team

Payments for 2027 Travel Season

- Initial deposit of $1,250 due 11/15/25
- Balance of $1,250 is due on 1/31/26
- Please include emails and/or cell numbers for all people that want to receive WBA communications with your registration.

Other

- Mustang spring house league is required – separate registration and fees
- Fall skills clinics and fall house league are optional – separate registration and fees

Bronco Travel Coach Expectations

Commissioner and DoPD will work with all of our travel coaches prior to and during the season to ensure excellence in the following areas:

- Attendance & punctuality
- Preparedness - Clear practice plans
- Attire
- Behavior - Respectful treatment to all involved
- Practices - 1.5 hour practices most non-game days (5-6 total per week)
- Games - 2-3 games per week
- Communication - Weekly emails

2027 Travel Baseball Calendar

Travel Tryouts – August 29th & 30th, 2026

Rest Arms – Late October through December

Winter Workouts – January through Mid March

Spring House League – March through early June (separate registration required)

Saturday Spring Team Practices – April and May

Summer Travel Camp – weekdays the weeks of June 7th and June 14th

Summer Travel Season – June and July - LSFBL playoffs end on July 18th, 2025. Hold July 19th in the event championship games rained out.

Fall Skills Clinics – expected to be Late August (separate registration required).

Winter Workouts

Designed for serious players to prepare for the spring and summer seasons

- Goals
  - Protect players arms by slowly building up arm strength in controlled environment
  - Dust off rust and prepare them for spring season
  - Progressive instruction designed to introduce new skills
  - Blueprint for additional mastery and growth through at home drills
- Limitations - Full Transparency
  - Two hours of instruction/activities per week will not “level up” your ballplayer over 10 weeks
  - If you are seeking significant growth, real outside work is necessary
  - IBA provides the blueprint and materials for at home work but can’t do the work for your player
- Flexible schedule for multi-sport athletes
- DoPD plus senior IBA personnel to run workouts along with Parent Liaison/Commissioner

Schedules - Hitting and Defensive sessions combined into a two hour block

- The Yard (Northbrook) – First day - Monday, January 4; Last day – Saturday, March 13
  - 10 Green – Wednesdays 430pm - 630pm
  - 10 Blue – Saturdays 12pm - 2pm
  - 10 Gray – Saturdays 8am - 10am (***Note: Feb. 6 is from 4:30-6:30pm***)

If the schedule above does not work for your player on certain weeks or throughout the winter, they can attend one of the other time slot workouts. Please make arrangements with me and IBA ahead of time.

Spring House League

Why house league?

- Roemer Park is amazing
- Play with buddies from school to create lifetime memories
- Time to get into playing condition for summer travel
- No super teams - guaranteed. Draft allows for parity with limit of travel players per team
- Opportunity for parents to coach – not that many chances left……please volunteer!!!

Schedule

- Evaluations – February 28th (11am - 12pm, Time Slots TBD) at The Yard in Northbrook.
- Two indoor practices per House team at The Yard in March/April (coaches to draft dates/times)
- Games played all days of week except Saturday.
- Season expected to start April 2nd and will conclude with the Mustang World Series the week after Memorial Day
- All Star Games will be on Memorial Day

Spring house league is required for all travel players – registration will open in November

Encourage non-travel players to register

Saturday Spring Team Practices

Travel teams work with DoPD outdoors to prepare as a team for the travel season

- Individual skills of hitting, fielding, throwing, and baseball IQ
- Team oriented training - DO NOT SWITCH TIMES FOR THESE PRACTICES
- Coaches participate if/when available
- Teams practice ninety minutes for 8 consecutive Saturdays leading up to the travel season
- Hitting first 30 minutes, individual defense next 30, and team defense the last 30
- Opportunities for scrimmages

Schedule

- Saturdays April 3,10, 17, 24; May 1, 8, 15, 22
  - 10 Green – Hibbard North – 1:30pm to 3pm
  - 10 Blue – Hibbard North – 3pm to 4:30pm
  - 10 Gray – Hibbard North – 4:30pm to 6:00pm

Summer Travel Camp

Travel teams work with DoPD in an intensive two-week camp

- Individual skill development including hitting, fielding, and baseball IQ
- Situational baseball - Cut-offs, bunt defense and baserunning
- Teams practice two hours each day for 10 consecutive weekdays
- Camp is generally IN ADDITION to regular practice/game schedule
- Best outcome is team building camaraderie
- Included in travel fees

Schedule

- Every weekday the weeks of June 7th and 14th
  - 10 Green – Hibbard North from 9 - 11am
  - 10 Blue – Hibbard North from 11am - 1pm
  - 10 Gray – Hibbard North from 1 - 3pm

Summer Travel Season

All teams play in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League

- Visit lsfbl.com for rules, bat regulations, field locations, and updates
- WBA has one vote on the LSFBL board – parent feedback welcome

Schedule

- ~ 18 game regular season will start late May or early June - 2-3 games a week plus practices
- WBA board members work with reps from the other towns to schedule games
- We do our best to start games after house season and not have too many games in a row
- Local Tournaments for all 10U Teams
  - KWBA Bulldog Tournament – Memorial Day weekend - Winnetka
  - Jim Christ Memorial – July TBD - Glenview
  - If a team prefers an alternative or additional tournament, WBA is open to it pending approval before the end of December.
- LSFBL's single elimination playoffs end on 7/18 (hold 7/19 for rain outs)

House League Coaches – We Have Open Slots

Please reach out to me tonight or over the next couple of weeks if you want to coach or manage in House League. The rules are as follows…

1. Maximum of 2 Green travel payers on any one team.
2. 4 coaches can coach together. 4 is the limit going into the draft.
3. Teams may not violate these rules and may be split up if there is a competitive disadvantage.
4. Reach out to me sooner rather than later with your group - last year, multiple coaching staffs were left in the cold and unable to coach their kids.