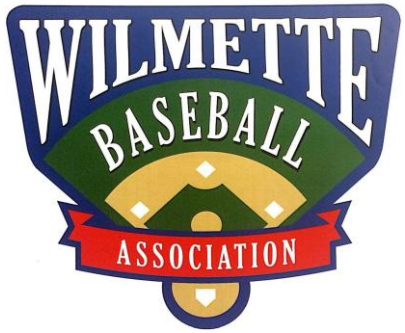
2027 Bronco Summer Travel

Parent Meeting – October 29, 2026



Program Highlights & Updates

We Heard Your Feedback

- Clarity regarding the try-out/evaluation process
- Lack of consistency, on a team-to-team basis from the Winter Workouts through Summer
- Coaches need a better support system – practice structures, in-game strategy, grade level milestones, communication, etc.

Updates for 2027

- Adjusted tryout timing to avoid more fall conflicts
- Director of Player Development at each grade level
- Winter Workout blocks
- Player Roadmaps
- Parent Liaison

Commitment & Expectations

Player and parent commitment required to make the season successful

- Congratulations for being selected to one of the WBA Travel teams
- Player attendance and attitude are critical
  - Understanding there may be conflicts with Winter Workouts – ask that players do their best to attend
  - Show up with a mindset to get better and have fun
  - Attendance should not be treated as optional in the Spring and Summer
  - Conflicts need to be discussed with Coaches. Multiple conflicts should proactively be discussed with Bronco Commissioners.
  - Playing time and future team placement may be impacted
- Parents
  - Let us hear feedback – don't wait until the end of the season
  - Coach Spring House league teams
  - Provide positivity. Refrain from criticizing coaches or umpires. Try to limit the sideline coaching.
  - Help organize the Cooperstown trip, and coordinate travel season logistics
  - Parent Liaison – a stronger connection point from the parents to WBA leadership, extra set of hands in the preseason
- WBA is a non-profit and its Board is 100% volunteer based

Bronco Travel Coach Expectations

WBA Board and IBA will work with all coaches to help ensure excellence in the following areas:

- Attendance & punctuality
- Preparedness
- Attire
- Behavior
- Practices
- Games
- Communication

Director of Player Development

Overview

- Each grade is being assigned a Director who is responsibility for providing leadership, continuity and accountability for the WBA players and coach development
    - 11U TJ Jackson
    - 12U Drew Thomas
- Consistency – we want to make sure that players across teams have similar experiences and that coaches are better supported
- Coach Onboarding
- Consistent Execution of a Player Roadmap
- Ongoing Coach Development
- Continuity through the Season
- Parent Resource

What's Included & Payment Dates

Multiple season travel program…

- Winter Workouts
- Sunday practices post-Spring Break
- Two-week summer camp
- LSFBL regular season & playoffs
- 2 local tournaments per team, plus Cooperstown Dreams Park tournament for all 12U teams
- Uniforms
- Coaches – Head Coach, Assistant and one Intern per team
- Additional fees for Cooperstown trip include tournament fees, player lodging, player meals, coaches, umpires, trading pins, personalized pin towels, team banners, and uniforms (except pants)

Registration & Payments for 2027 Travel Season

- Initial deposit of $1,250 due 11/15/26 (plus $1,075 for 12U Cooperstown)
- Balance of $1,250 is due on 1/31/27 (plus $1,075 for 12U Cooperstown)
- Please include emails and/or cell numbers for all people that want to receive WBA communications with your registration

Other

- Bronco Spring House League is required – separate registration and fee

2027 Travel Baseball Calendar

2027 Season at a Glance

Activity	When
Travel Tryouts	August 29 & 30, 2026 – Roemer Park
Rest Arms	November through December
Winter Workouts	January through March
Spring House League	February through May (separate registration required)
Sunday Practices in Spring	April and May
Summer Travel Camp	Weekdays the weeks of June 7th and June 14th
Summer Travel Season	June and July – LSFBL playoffs end July 18th, 2027

Winter Workouts

Designed for players to prepare for the spring and summer seasons

- Team based practices
- Director of Player Development is expected to manage

Schedule — The Yard (Northbrook)

- 10 weeks long
- Monday, January 4 thru Thursday, March 18

Team	Turf & Cage
11 Green	Wednesdays 5:30 – 7:30
11 Blue	Thursdays 5:30 – 7:30
11 Gray	Sundays 8:00 – 10:00
12 Green	Thursdays 4:30 – 6:30
12 Blue	Thursdays 6:30 – 8:30
12 Gray	Saturdays 3:30 – 5:30

- If the schedule does not work for your player on certain weeks, they are welcome to join a workout at one of the other time slots
- Parent support is requested to talk to players about expectations both prior and during the sessions

Sunday Practices in Spring

Team Based Work

- *Players should only attend their team practice*
- Regular coaches lead, once available
- Teams practice two hours on Sundays leading up to the travel season

Schedule — Sundays April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9, 16, 23

Team	Field	Time
11 Green	Elam Field	2:30pm – 4:30pm
11 Blue	Elam Field	4:30pm – 6:30pm
11 Gray	Pomona Field	4:30pm – 6:30pm
12 Green	Pony Field	9:00am – 11:00am
12 Blue	Pony Field	3:00pm – 5:00pm
12 Gray	Pomona Field	2:30pm – 4:30pm

Spring House League

Why House league?

- Bronco House is awesome, with separate A and B leagues to keep games challenging for all players
- Combined 11U and 12U teams – great relationships developed that will help kids beyond baseball
- Play with classmates to create lifetime memories
- Opportunity for parents to coach

Schedule

- Evaluations – February 27, at The Yard in Northbrook
- Two indoor practices per team at The Yard in March/April (coaches to select dates and times)
- Games played all days, except Sunday for House A - travel practices
- Season starts after Spring Break
- Broco A season will end a week prior to Memorial Day weekend
- Bronco B season will end around Memorial Day or later
- All Star Games will be on Memorial Day, right after the KWBA Bulldog Tournament

Spring house league is required for all travel players

- Encourage non-travel players to register
- Coaching – limiting to two/three 5th grade parents

Summer Travel Camp

Travel teams & coaches work with IBA in an intensive two-week camp

- Individual skills of hitting, fielding, throwing, and baseball IQ
- Team oriented skills
- Teams practice two hours each day for 10 consecutive weekdays

Schedule — every weekday the weeks of June 7th and 14th

Team	Field	Time
12 Green	Roemer	9 am – 11 am
12 Blue	Roemer	11 am – 1 pm
12 Gray	Roemer	1 pm – 3 pm
11 Green	Elam	9 am – 11am
11 Blue	Elam	11 am – 1 pm
11 Gray	Elam	1 pm – 3 pm

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

- ~16-18 game regular season will start late May or early June
- WBA works with reps from the other communities to schedule games
- We do our best to start games after house season and not have too many games in a row
- LSFBL's single elimination playoffs end on 7/18/27 (hold 7/19/27 if championship games rained out)

Tournaments

- Local tournaments for all 11U & 12U teams
  - KWBA Bulldog Tournament – Memorial Day weekend – Winnetka
  - Jim Christ Memorial – ~July 8 – Glenview
- Work with Bronco Commissioners around additional or different tournaments
- Cooperstown trip – all 12U teams (Green, Blue, and Gray)
  - Cooperstown Dreams Park – **6/26/27 through 7/2/27**
  - Start booking accommodations now

Parent Volunteers – Looking for at least 2 per team

Team	Tournament	Volunteers
12U Green	Dreams Park	**Open**
12U Blue	Dreams Park	**Open**
12U Gray	Dreams Park	**Open**

- WBA orders trading pins, towels, and banners, as well as hire umpires for Cooperstown
- Need parents from all 12U teams to handle the team-by-team tasks.
  - Team and Player Registration
  - Coordinate with Coaches
  - Plan team activities (Social Chair)
- Parents that helped organize last year: **Alicia Brown, Laura Keslosky, Katie McCarthy, Krista Mayer & Jenna Pahnke**
- Order your player's **original** birth certificate now — a copy is not accepted at Dreams Park.

Cooperstown Next Steps

Milestone	Timing
WBA Parent Meeting #1	October 29th
Volunteers identified and they reach out to their teams	November
Parents start to make accommodation arrangements	November
WBA orders/pays for pins and towels	November
WBA orders/pays for umpires	November
WBA Parent Meeting #2	March/April
WBA orders team banners	March/April
Parents purchase baseball pants	May
Coordinate with coaches regarding shared item needs	June
Binder complete – birth certificates, health forms, etc.	June
Distribute pins/towels	Week before the trip