



GLEN ELLYN YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Position Paper: TRAVEL BASEBALL

In recent years, Glen Ellyn Youth Baseball Association, as an organization, has observed that interest in travel baseball has grown dramatically in the community. With that growth, questions have been received with respect to Glen Ellyn Youth Baseball's philosophy with respect to travel baseball and the opportunities that the program makes available to members of our organization. This letter is our attempt to clarify for the community our position with respect to both issues.

Philosophically, Glen Ellyn Youth Baseball Association is a "house" program whose primary focus is to provide a quality baseball experience to all of the children in the community. Therefore, our primary focus as an organization is to create a strong house league for children ages five through 18 which provides the children the opportunity to play the game in town in an atmosphere that is competitive yet, at the same time, instructive in nature. However, during the last 5 to 10 years, we have recognized the growth of travel baseball and have attempted to integrate that aspect of the game into our program. This effort has included the institution of both summer part-time travel and full-time travel.

Part-Time Summer Travel

In terms of part-time travel, we have established a summer program for ages 10 through 12. Traditionally, we have conducted tryouts during the house league season, which are used to select the members of two or three teams at each level, which will play during the month of July. These teams will then play in four travel tournaments, including one conducted here in Glen Ellyn. Depending on the team's success at each tournament, this results in the members of the teams being given the opportunity to play 12 to 20 games against travel quality teams from other towns. When viewed in conjunction with the house league season, a child playing on a summer travel team will play between 30 and 45 games during the course of both seasons. As a Board, we believe that this approach blends the best of both worlds. During the house season, players can work on developing new skills while playing with and against their friends and then, if selected through a tryout process, utilize those skills against travel teams from other communities. **Additionally, in order to protect the integrity of our teams and the health of our players, the rules of Glen Ellyn Youth Baseball preclude any member of our program from playing or participating on a non-program sanctioned team.** Given the success of our summer program in recent years, we are strongly considering expanding the summer part-time travel program to our 9-year old players. We anticipate a decision will be made in this regard before the commencement of the 2008 season.

Full-time Travel

As for full-time travel, we have fielded teams at the 13 and 14-year old levels for the past eight years. Both the 13-year old team, which is coached by a group of parents, and the

14-year old team, which is run by a highly experienced group of non-parents, lay in a travel league and participate in tournaments during the months of June and July. These teams average between 50 and 60 games per season. While thought has been given to the formation of a 12-year old full-time team, we have determined that the needs of the children at this age are best served by playing in our in-house Mustang league, which is comprised of the more skilled 11 and 12-year olds, and then participating in the summer travel program. A 12-year old player who makes one of the two summer travel teams then will participate in between 35 and 45 games.

In short, we believe that we have created a program involving both house and travel opportunities, which best serve the children of our community. Hopefully, the above answers any questions anyone may have with respect to the travel baseball opportunities available to Glen Ellyn Youth Baseball Association. More detailed information concerning both the summer travel program and the full-time travel program can be found at our website, www.glenellynbaseball.com. Also, if you have any specific questions, please feel free to contact our travel director, Roland Emanuel, at travel@glenellynbaseball.com, or our program director, Tom Long, at exec@glenellynbaseball.com.

**Committee of Directors,
Glen Ellyn Youth Baseball Association**
www.glenellynbaseball.com