



Greenfield Minor League Baseball Tournament Team Information

GMLB has a long-standing tradition of fielding Tournament Teams to compete in tournaments throughout Massachusetts and New England to provide additional opportunities for selected GMLB players beyond the regular GMLB season.

Goal: Travel baseball allows players to experience a higher caliber of competition and to participate in additional practices and games during (usually) the late spring and summer months. Travel baseball is more demanding than the regular season; teams practice and play more often, and the play is more competitive. That said, the primary goal of GMLB and its tournament coaches is to provide a fun, rewarding experience for every player. GMLB travel teams value sportsmanship and skill building. While it may be more result-driven in terms of wins/losses, player development is a major focus.

Expectations: As members of GMLB travel teams, players and their families represent the league and the town at games and practices. When you put on your travel jersey and hat, you are part of the “face” of GMLB and the Town of Greenfield. In other words, tournament teams are expected to play with pride, demonstrate good sportsmanship, and exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. As is true during the regular season, all players, coaches and spectators are expected to abide by these values.

Tournament Age Levels: GMLB offers five age levels in its tournament program – 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, and 12U. Babe Ruth/Cal Ripken baseball utilizes these designations to ensure that no player over that age level competes in a younger division. Age levels are based on a player’s age as of April 30th of that year. This corresponds to the same age levels offered by most other neighboring leagues throughout Massachusetts and New England. GMLB does reserve the right to reduce the number of teams offered each year for various reasons, including a lack of interest, low numbers of players trying out, lack of volunteer coach for the team, or lack of ability to field a competitive team.

Costs to Play Tournament Ball: There are some additional expenses to participate in tournament baseball, including registration fees and uniforms. The team



Greenfield Minor League Baseball Tournament Team Information

registration fee charged to the player will usually cover the uniform costs and some other costs. GMLB typically covers entry tournament fees for up to three tournaments (typically the Swanzey tournament and district/state tournament on the "Cal Ripken Tournament Trail").

Your team's manager may also gauge interest from families regarding indoor practices, extra team apparel, or additional games which may result in further expenses. These costs will be the responsibility of the team and families, but may be offset by either GMLB fundraising, team fundraising or sponsors (either individual team or GMLB overall). Please note that all travel fees for any tournament such as hotel costs are the responsibility of the families (unless offset by the previous list of potential team money sources). That said, GMLB tournament ball is a very inexpensive endeavor in comparison to other travel team opportunities in the area.

Coaching Spots: The manager for each team is decided by the GMLB Board of Directors. Application instructions for coaches interested in becoming a manager for a team will be posted at least one week prior to the Board Meeting deciding managers. Managers will then select the assistant coaches they would like to use, who must be approved by the GMLB Board. On field coaching will be guided by Cal Ripken or tournament-specific rules for number of coaches, etc. All coaches must also be approved by Cal Ripken in SportsEngine including background checks.

Playing Time: Because tournament ball is more competitive in nature than the regular season, not every player will play their favorite position(s) or enjoy equal playing time. However, many tournaments employ playing time rules that coaches must adhere to. For example, some invitational tournaments require teams to bat its entire roster each game or play every player at least three innings in the field. The Cal Ripken districts, states and regional tournaments all follow the Official Babe Ruth Playing Rules which includes specific guidelines regarding substitutions. Playing time, therefore, may be more limited during the Cal Ripken tournaments. That being said, when competing in tournaments that do not mandate playing



Greenfield Minor League Baseball Tournament Team Information

time, GMLB still strongly encourages its coaches to get every player into every game in some capacity (either as a hitter, fielder or baserunner), but this is not guaranteed.

Player Tryouts: Players must attend tryouts for consideration of a spot on a tournament team, unless they have contacted GMLB or the manager ahead of time and the reason for missing or trying out later is approved. Spots are not guaranteed for any player, including for those who played on a tournament team the previous year. Players unable to attend tryouts due to injury may be granted a waiver from the team manager or Board of Directors; however, it is strongly encouraged that all players attend tryouts whenever possible. All players trying out for GMLB tournament teams must be a rostered player in GMLB regular season. *Please note that if the player is from a town other than Greenfield, and that town does Cal Ripken and tournament play in their age group, they may need a waiver from the other town in order to play tournament ball for GMLB.* All players will be required to submit a Birth Certificate.

Tryout Dates: Tryout dates for the 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U and 12U teams will be posted at least one week before the tryout date. Notification will usually come by email, but will also be posted on our Facebook page and website. Once the tryouts are completed, the team manager will reach out to those players they select (this could take up to a week or more) with further information and the registration fee for that season. Please note that the holding of a tryout for any team does not necessarily guarantee that GMLB will move forward with the team for that season for the reasons detailed above.

League Age Requirements: Tournament teams are required to adhere to the same Cal Ripken age requirements as during the spring rec season. What does a player's "League Age" mean? A player's League Age is determined by his/her age on April 30th of the current year. For example, a player who turns 9 years old on April 29th of this year would try out for the 9U Travel Team. Conversely, a player who turns 9 years old on May 2nd of the current year would try out for the 8U Travel Team. This is because he/she is still 8 years old on April 30th. The only exception to the age



Greenfield Minor League Baseball Tournament Team Information

guidelines is at our youngest age level, the 8U team. Since there are no age levels below 8U offered, it would be appropriate for younger players to try out for the 8U team (for example, League Age 7-year-olds). It's not uncommon for a few 7-year-olds (or younger) to make the 8U team each summer.

FAQ: My child seems to be better than many of his peers - should he/she try out for an older team? GMLB has a longstanding philosophy that players should play with their own age groups. While GMLB understands the natural inclination for players/parents to want to play "up" with an older age group, the benefits to playing with players their own age is far greater. We will allow a player to tryout for an older age group, but it is usually best for the player and the league as a whole for long-term success in the tournament programs because they build from the bottom up and develop strong teams in every age group (i.e. 9-year-olds staying with 9-year-old, 10's with 10's, etc).