

WEBSTER WOLVES TRAVEL BASEBALL FACT SHEET



1. Who are the Webster Wolves?

Webster Wolves Travel Baseball is the travel division of the Webster Athletic Association (WAA Baseball) youth baseball program, and is currently the largest travel baseball program in Webster. WAA has been providing youth baseball in Webster since 1958. The Wolves program is geared towards kids who have a strong passion for the game of baseball and are committed to in-season and out-of-season baseball training. This program offers the player who wants more baseball the opportunity to play a longer season as well as be challenged by the best competition from other area towns.

2. What is the selection process?

The selection process is an ever-evolving process, one that takes place all year, in both travel and house season. Coaches of the Wolves are also coaches in the WAA house program and are always looking to encourage kids to get better, and tryout for a spot on the Wolves. In August, WAA runs an evaluation process in which coaches run all kids interested in travel baseball through an evaluation process. Each kid will be evaluated on baseball basics, hitting, throwing, catching, and fielding. From there, the number of players will be narrowed down, and a smaller group will be asked to attend a multiple day tryout. These tryouts are run by coaches from every age level and kids will be challenged with more in depth drills, strategies and scrimmages.

We expect that each player will need about 45 minutes to complete the evaluation process, so you do not need to plan on staying the entire time.

3. How many teams will there be at each age level?

Our goal for the Wolves is to have at least 2 teams at each age level between 8U and 18U. However, the true number is going to be dictated by a couple of factors. First the willingness and ability of someone to put in the appropriate time to coach the team. Second, the on-field talent. Travel is geared towards those who want to improve their skill, but there is a baseline that each kid will need to already possess to be selected to a team.

4. How far do we travel?

The Webster Wolves play in a variety of travel leagues that encompass Monroe County. Typically there is not travel beyond Victor, Greece, and Rush-Henrietta, but there may be games beyond that (Wayne county, Brockport, etc.) if teams are created in those towns.

Each team may also choose to participate in weekend tournaments that may take the team outside of the Greater Rochester area (Buffalo, Syracuse, etc.).

5. How much does it cost?

In 2015 the cost for 8U/10U/12U was split between playing house+travel. We are planning on a new model for 2016.

6. What is provided to each player?

Wolves players are provided uniform shirts, a cap, pants, and socks. Extra items: helmet, swag (hoodie or jacket, bags, t-shirts, etc.) are optional and up to the individual/team.

7. Does my child have to play house baseball if he plays travel?

For players league age 8 and under: the current travel season for 8U is shorter than the older ages, so playing house baseball gives the players more opportunity to practice and play, and have fun with their friends, neighbors, and classmates.

For players league age 9-12: WAA is a sanctioned Little League Baseball program. In order for players to be selected to Little League All-Star teams that play in July, they are required to play in a specific number of house baseball games. The tournaments that WAA All-Star teams play in are the exact same tournaments that end up with teams playing in the Little League World Series on ESPN in August!! We have found that the kids (and parents) enjoy playing house baseball as it is a less stressful experience where the kids can play multiple different positions and compete against friends and classmates. House offers the travel players an opportunity to show off their new skills and help teach others.

For players league age 13 and older: there is no requirement to play house in addition to travel.

8. Do the house and travel seasons conflict?

Both seasons run from end of April through the end of June. In July, the travel season takes a 2-3 week break so that the travel players who are also Little League All-Stars can compete in the very prestigious tournament. The travel season will resume after the tournament ends and run until the end of July, culminating with playoffs and a championship game. During this time, Wolves usually play 3 travel games per week.

9. How many days a week will my child be on a field for practices or games?

Being a member of the Wolves often means that kids will do some form of baseball training most of the year. After teams are selected in the early fall, the teams may have some light practices until the fields close at the end of October. Baseball shutdown (aka Wolves hibernation) occurs in November & December with little to no physical baseball activity at all, especially pitching. Starting in January, weekly indoor practices are held to hone skills, stay in shape, and prepare mentally for a competitive season. We also try to schedule specific camps and clinic for pitchers, catchers, and hitting. Once the weather breaks, practices will continue outside (usually mid-April). Games will start late April or early May and run through June. Tournament season and the travel season finish by the end of July. Most teams take a break in August for family vacations and general down time. Tryouts for the following year may occur in mid-August however.

Coaches are aware that kids do play other sports during the baseball off-season and are very understanding of such. In the spring, after the weather breaks, Wolves can expect to be on a field 4-5 days a week if playing house and travel. Each age level in house plays 2 days a week and travel games are 1 day a week. Coaches will often schedule practices as allowed.

10. Are there additional opportunities for my child to play/practice throughout the year?

Yes, there are a number of camps, clinic, open practice sessions, and other opportunities given to both house and travel players, for competition and improvement.