

# Colts Neck Travel Baseball Guidelines

(Effective as of October 5, 2015)

The mission of Colts Neck Travel Baseball (CNTB) is to provide all participants with a positive and competitive youth sports experience. In furtherance of such mission, the CNTB seeks to create an environment in which all participants will learn valuable life lessons through good sportsmanship, teamwork, competition, character building, respect, and adherence to rules. It is also the CNTB's goal to develop and improve each child's skills so that they can be successful in competition, to promote and support competitive teams, and to help educate parents and coaches of their respective roles.

The following sets forth some of the policies and procedures of the CNTB.

## A) Tryouts

- 1) Tryouts for spring teams are held each fall preceding the spring season. Teams will be formed based on each child's baseball appropriate age, which is the age of the child as of each April 30<sup>th</sup>. For example, to play on the 8u team, your child must not turn 9 before April 30, 2016. The baseball age chart can be found at the USABL website ([www.usabl.com](http://www.usabl.com)). All Colts Neck Sports Foundation ("CNSF") members are invited to tryout for his/her appropriate age group. Non-CNSF children are also invited to tryout for his/her appropriate age group subject to these guidelines. Depending on the number of children who tryout, and the number of children who show the skills necessary to play travel baseball, the CNTB seeks to field two teams, an "A" team and a "B" team, at each of the following age groups: 7u, 8u, 9u, 10u, 11u, 12u, 13u, 14u and 15u. These are subject to change year to year based on the number of children and volunteer coaches, but the CNTB's objective is to field two teams at each age group in order to maximize the opportunity to play travel baseball for as many children as possible.
- 2) The Baseball Committee (the "Committee"), which is currently a group of 9 individuals (6 of whom have voting rights), selected by the commissioner, is responsible for conducting the tryouts using the criteria set forth below (the composition of the Committee may change from time to time and as a result, there can be more or less voting and non-voting members). Reasonable advance notice of the date, time and place of each age group's tryout will be sent to all members of the CNSF. Tryouts are not "open" tryouts. Each child seeking to participate must pre-register on-line prior to the commencement of the tryout. Independent evaluators (meaning other CNTB travel coaches (head and assistant), Committee members and/or CNSF board members having no child in the age group that is the subject of the tryout) will evaluate the children based on the criteria set forth below:
  - a) A skills tryout each fall (infield and outfield fielding), throwing, hitting, pitching and catching);
  - b) Head coaches overall evaluations based on the previous travel baseball season (skills, sportsmanship and commitment). Recreation coaches may also be asked to provide evaluations of all children other than their own children, including evaluations of children on other recreation teams.
  - c) The extent to which a child exhibits good sportsmanlike behavior (respect for teammates,

coaches, umpires and opponents) and adherence to the CNSF player code of conduct during the tryout as well as during prior seasons;

- d) The requirements of the team. Whether or not the team requires pitchers, catchers, base stealers, power hitters, etc.;
  - e) The parents adherence to the CNSF parent code of conduct;
  - f) Commitment to the CNTB and CNSF recreation baseball program and the extent of participation; and
  - g) Knowledge of the game.
- 3) As set forth above, it is important for all children and their parents to understand that the skills try out is only one factor among many which is considered when assembling the team. A good try out does not necessarily ensure a spot on the roster, nor does a bad try out necessarily preclude a participant from earning a spot on the roster. The children's performance throughout the prior travel and recreation baseball seasons are also considered, as well as the other criteria listed above, in its entirety.

4) *Teams (7u, 8u, 9u, 10u and 11u)*

- a) The rosters will be limited to twelve (12) children, but a coach can opt to add a thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) child at his or her option, provided that the child ranked appropriately in the tryout and/or has demonstrated (through prior recreation and travel baseball seasons) the skills needed to compete in travel baseball.
- b) All children must be Colts Neck residents unless there are insufficient children from Colts Neck to field a team. If insufficient Colts Neck children, then non-Colts Neck children will be allowed to participate.
- c) If a child is ranked very low at the tryout, it is the discretion of the Committee to determine whether or not he or she should play travel baseball for his or her own protection.
- d) The children who score in the top eight (8) of the fall tryout (Colts Neck children only) shall automatically make the applicable team.
- e) The Head Coach for the specific team in conjunction with the Committee shall choose the final four (4) or five (5) children for the applicable team.
- f) Parents will know who will be evaluating their children and who will be conducting the tryout at least three (3) days prior to the tryout.

5) *Teams (12u, 13u, 14u and 15u)*

- a) The rosters will be limited to twelve (12) children, but a coach can opt to add a thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) child at his or her option, provided that the child ranked appropriately in the tryout and/or has demonstrated (through prior recreation and travel baseball seasons) the skills needed to compete in travel baseball.
  - b) The children who score in the top eight (8) of the fall tryout (Colts Neck children only) shall automatically make the applicable team.
  - c) The Head Coach for the specific team in conjunction with the Committee shall choose the final four (4) or five (5) children selected for the applicable team. The remaining four (4) or five (5) spots can consist of non-Colts Neck children if they outrank the remaining Colts Neck children at the tryout.
  - d) If a child is ranked very low at the tryout, it is the discretion of the Committee to determine whether or not he or she should play travel baseball for his or her own protection.
  - e) Parents will know who will be evaluating their children and who will be conducting the tryout at least three (3) days prior to the tryout.
- 6) All coach selections shall be made by the Committee. It is the Committee's intention to make all coach selections prior to the tryouts. However, there may be instances where a coach is not chosen until after the tryouts. A coach may only be selected by Committee approval. With respect to any age groups with more than one team, the above selection of rosters will still apply. The team with the first ranked eight (8) children will be able to pick four (4) or (5) children from the remaining list in conjunction with the Committee. The remaining children will be placed on the second team.
  - 7) All CNTB children are required to participate in the CNSF recreation baseball program. All CNTB children must be present at 50% or more of practices and games during the spring recreation season. If not, such children will be unable to participate in travel baseball. However, concerning the 13u, 14u and 15u teams, this requirement will be waived if there are insufficient children to form a recreation league.

## **B) Selection of Coaches**

- 1) In order to assure the children receive a positive developmental experience, the Committee will carefully review a coaching candidate's qualifications and background prior to assigning head coaches.
- 2) Each year all coaches (including returning coaches) must apply and interview with the commissioner and the Committee.
- 3) The candidates must meet certain minimum criteria, such as obtaining a Rutgers Safety Certification, satisfactory background checks, prior coaching and/or playing experience, compliance with the CNSF parent and coach code of conduct, satisfactory survey results from prior CNSF coaching positions (if any) and attending at least one Positive Coaching Seminar per year (if offered by the CNSF).

- 4) As set forth above, it is the intention of the Committee to select head coaches prior to the tryout, but no child shall be placed on a roster due solely to the fact that his or her parent has volunteered or been selected to coach.
- 5) Coaches' children, if trying out, must legitimately make the team based on the criteria set forth above.
- 6) Head coaches may select their assistant coaches, but only after the team has been selected. Assistant coaches must meet certain minimum criteria, such as obtaining a Rutgers Safety Certification, satisfactory background checks, prior coaching and/or playing experience, compliance with the CNSF parent and coach code of conduct, satisfactory survey results from prior CNSF coaching positions (if any) and attending at least one Positive Coaching Seminar per year (if offered by the CNSF). Assistant coaches selected by the head coach must be approved by the Committee.
- 7) No team shall have more than three (3) assistant coaches in the dugout or on the field for games except the 7u and 8u teams, who shall have no more than five (5) assistant coaches in the dugout or on the field for games. Teams may use as many assistant coaches as they desire for practices. No child may be selected for a team solely by virtue of his/her parent expressing an interest to be an assistant coach.

### **C) Playing Time**

- 1) Each CNTB child shall play at least three (3) innings per game in a defensive position, and all children on the team roster shall bat (i.e., a team of 12 shall bat all 12 children in a game, as permitted by the USABL rules) in each game.
- 2) For games consisting of less than six (6) innings (i.e., due to the "mercy" rule, inclement weather or time restriction), coaches shall make every effort to give each child adequate playing time prior to the game ending (i.e., if it is apparent the game will end early for any reason, the coach shall insert into the game any child who has not yet played).
- 3) Each child is expected to put forth his or her best effort and to comply with the CNSF player code of conduct. If a coach determines, in his or her good faith reasonable judgment, that a child is not putting forth a good effort and/or is not complying with the CNSF player code of conduct, then the coach may take appropriate disciplinary action, including benching the child for that game, and, with the Committee's approval, benching the child for more than one game, suspension or expulsion from the team.
- 4) It is the responsibility of each coach to try to motivate each child to try his or her best, develop the skills of each child and prepare each child and the team, as a whole, for competition and success.

### **D) Playing Up**

- 1) The CNTB teams are formed based on each child's baseball appropriate age, in accordance with the USABL rules, which can be found at the USABL website ([www.usabl.com](http://www.usabl.com)).
- 2) Any request to "play up" will be subject to the approval of the Committee. In evaluating any such request, the Committee will consider the talent level of the child in question (i.e., he or she must clearly dominate his or her age group) and the needs of the two teams in question (i.e., if the older team is in need of more children in order to field a team, and the age appropriate team has a surplus of children).
- 3) If a child age 6 plays on the 7u team, that child must play on the 7u team for two years. However, prior to the second year, a request can be made to the Committee to "play up" subject to these rules.

#### **E) Summer and Fall Ball**

- 1) All spring travel teams shall participate in the USABL travel league.
- 2) If a spring team coach elects to play summer and/or fall ball, then every child on his or her spring team roster shall be invited to play summer and/or fall ball with the team, but no child from a spring team shall feel obligated or committed to play in the summer and/or fall, nor shall any spring team coach feel obligated or committed to coach in the summer and/or fall.
- 3) Summer and/or fall ball teams shall participate in the USABL travel league.
- 4) Nothing herein forbids any travel team from playing in any tournaments so long as the tournaments do not conflict with their USABL travel schedule.

#### **F) Grievance**

- 1) In the event any member of CNSF believes that an issue exists concerning any of the above guidelines, such member may follow the grievance procedure of the CNSF, which is on the CNSF website.

#### **The Baseball Committee**

DJ Ten Hoeve, CNSF Board Member and Incoming Commissioner  
Scott Schauer, Outgoing CNSF Board Member and Outgoing Commissioner  
AJ Garrito, CNSF Board Member and Outgoing Travel Director  
Jeffrey M. Sponder, CNSF President and Committee Member  
Anthony Sciarrillo, CNSF Board Member and Committee Member  
Maria Thompson, CNSF Board Member and Committee Member  
Jessica Killick, Non-Voting Member  
Jose Henriquez, Non-Voting Member