

LZBSA Competitive Baseball Offerings

LZBSA offers a Boys Full Time Travel program for baseball players that desire to participate in a highly competitive baseball league beyond the structure and nature of the LZBSA in-house program for the 10 through 14 year old age groups, LZBSA **Minor, Major and Pony Leagues**.

The LZBSA in-house program for 9 and 10 year olds offers league play of 14 games, with a post season tournament to determine a league championship. Post Season Travel Teams are chosen for each age group. Post Season Travel Teams can play between and additional 9 to 20 games, dependant upon success in tournament play.

The LZBSA in-house program for 11 and 12 year olds offers participants highly competitive play in the **Red Major Division**, approximately 15 – 18 regular and post-season games. Those players that want to extend the playing experience can try out for the LZBSA Post Season Travel Teams. Post Season Travel Teams will play in 3 to 4 local tournaments against teams from the Chicago and Suburban Chicago communities. Post Season Travel Teams can play between an additional 9 to 20 games, dependant upon success in tournament play.

The LZBSA Pony League offers highly competitive baseball for the 13 and 14 year old age group. Generally, Pony League teams will play between 16 and 19 games through regular season and playoffs. Players that want to extend the playing experience can try out for the LZBSA Post Season Travel Teams. Post Season Travel Teams will play in 3 to 4 local tournaments against teams from the Chicago and Suburban Chicago communities. Post Season Travel Teams can play between an additional 9 to 20 games, dependant upon team success in tournament play.

In general, LZBSA Major and Pony League teams will practice and play regular season and playoff games between the months of April and the 1st week of July. Post Season Travel Teams will play in 3 to 4 tournaments in July, ending with the LZBSA Bear Claw Tournament.

Baseball Players choosing to participate in the LZBSA Major or Pony League and who qualify for participation on a post season travel team will play between 25 and 36 games between the months of May and July.

LZBSA Full Time Boys Travel program offers baseball players the opportunity to enhance the baseball playing experience through participation in highly competitive Full Time Travel Baseball Leagues. The LZBSA Full Time Boys Travel program is an extension of the LZBSA In-House program and is available to participants from the defined LZBSA “Resident” service area.

The Full Time Boys Travel program supports teams at the U10, U11, U12, U13 and U14 age level as determined by the accepted age level requirements of several national organizations.

LZBSA Full Time Boys Travel participants begin indoor practices in January; begin play in April, while completing play by the end of July or early August. Practice for Full Time Boys Travel participants focuses on improving fundamental fielding, hitting and pitching skills. Full Time Boys Travel participants will play between 45 and 60 games per year divided between league play and 4 to 5 tournaments. Tournament play for Full Time Travel Participants will be a combination of local "Travel" tournaments and may include travel to Michigan, Nebraska, Ohio, and Tennessee, Wisconsin or other distant locations.

In general, the Full Time Boys Travel program is intended to support those players that want to take their baseball playing experience to the next level by participation in leagues and tournaments with teams comprised of like minded players. Participation in the Full Time Boys Travel program requires a significant commitment from the player and the players' family to fully realize the benefits of participation.

POLICY FOR COMPETITIVE

FULL TIME TRAVEL TEAMS

Full Time Boys Travel Policy and Procedures

1. Full Time Travel teams will be allowed to form and/or operate beginning at the 10 year old level. No 8 or 9 year old travel teams will be allowed without the approval of the LZBSA Board of Directors.
2. The LZBSA Boys Travel teams will be known as the Lake Zurich Cougars.
3. Boys Travel teams historically have registered in a minimum of one of three leagues: Mid-Suburban League, McHenry Travel League or Mike's Memorial League, or another league as approved by the Travel President and Boys Vice-Commissioner. The Travel League President and each team manager will review travel league availability and team talent level to determine appropriate placement in a travel league. Boys Full Time Travel is focusing on providing a single team for each represented age group, however, for the 2009 year a second U14 team will be supported by LZBSA. The two U14 teams will play in separate primary leagues as determined by the Travel President and team manager with the assistance of the Boys Vice-Commissioner. Boys Travel teams will be affiliated with a national organization based upon the affiliation of the league joined by a specific team. The Boys Travel President will annually review travel league availability for teams sponsored by LZBSA.
4. All teams must be approved on an annual basis by the LZBSA Board of Directors with approval of the Travel League President and the Executive Committee. There will be a designated "A" and "B" team in those years when two teams are approved for a single age group.
5. All team managers must be approved by the LZBSA Board and selected by Travel League President (assistance from Executive Committee may be solicited). Candidates for team manager must submit a letter requesting the position to the Travel League President before August 1. Team managers will be required to participate in all player evaluations during team tryouts. Team managers will be required to sign a Manager Agreement as developed by the LZBSA Board of Directors.
 - Should a manager candidate for a Full Time Travel team at any age also be the LZBSA Boys Travel President, then, the LZBSA Executive committee will be responsible for candidate interviews and manage selection for the position in which the LZBSA Boys Travel President is a candidate.
6. Tryouts will be held on an annual basis, prior to the upcoming season and they must be approved by the League President and Vice Commissioner or the Executive Committee. All eligible players will be offered the opportunity to tryout for the team.

Players must try out each year to be eligible for participation in the program. Selection for participation in any one year is not a guarantee of selection for subsequent years.

7. Full Time Boys Travel Teams can have up to 15 players on the roster. The minimum roster shall have at least 12 players unless specifically approved by the LZBSA Board of Directors.

8. Player borrowing. LZBSA recognizes that events during a playing schedule, injuries, illness, etc. can leave a team understaffed for short periods of time. Full Time Travel Teams are authorized to borrow players for limited participation in Full Time Travel games as defined below:

- Players may be borrowed from another LZBSA Full Time Travel Team with players playing up no more than 1 year. That is, the 14 Year Old Team can borrow from the 13 Year Old Team, the 13 Year Old Team can borrow from the 12 Year Old Team, and the 12 Year Old Team can borrow from the 11 Year Old Team. In all situations, the borrowed player must attend to his original team's games before being made available to the borrowing team. Under no circumstances can a player choose to miss his team's game to play up. An individual player is limited to playing no more than 3 games up in one year or one tournament. Each Full Time Travel Manager will need to verify that borrowing as described above is within the rules of the Travel League in which the team plays.
- Alternately, each Full Time Travel Manager can choose to solicit up to three Part Time players from their respective in-house leagues. Part Time players will only participate in a Full Season Travel game or tournament if the Full Time Travel Roster falls below 10 players due to injury, illness, etc. Part Time players must be an active participant in either the Major or Pony League's of LZBSA. Part Time players' first obligation is to practice and play with his In-House team. Part Time players that choose to miss an In-House game to play in a travel game will be dismissed from his In-House team without a refund of player registration fees. Full Time Travel Managers that choose to use a Part Time player that has an In-House game commitment will be suspended at least 1 week and must appear before the LZBSA disciplinary committee before rejoining the team. Part Time players will be limited to no more than 3 Full Time Travel Season games or one tournament. Players that are borrowed under these guidelines will maintain their eligibility for LZBSA sponsored Post Season Travel Teams.

9. Full Time Travel players can not participate in a non-LZBSA sponsored Travel Team as a Full Time or Part Time player during the spring and summer season of a given year in which they are a registered member of a LZBSA Travel Team. Full Time Travel players that participate on non-LZBSA sponsored Travel Teams as either a Full Time or Part Time player during the spring and summer season of a given year will be removed from the LZBSA Full Time Travel roster without registration refund.

10. Each manager and all players must be registered and be in good standing with LZBSA before practice can begin.
11. Each player/family must sign an LZBSA approved travel/competitive letter of commitment before they will be accepted to participate in the travel program.
12. Each team's uniform must include the Lake Zurich name or Lake Zurich logo and must be approved by the Executive Committee.
13. Registration fees will be determined by the LZBSA Board of Directors on an annual basis. These fees will cover the cost of insurance, uniforms, some equipment, baseballs, tournaments, umpires, property management and field sets.

13a Travel fee of \$360 applied to each team for field repairs and general maintenance on all fields used by LZBSA travel teams.

14. Boys Travel game and tournament fees included in the registration fee are:
- U10, U11 and U12 teams: (approximately 45 – 55 games per season which includes tournament play)
 1. Travel League Registration Fees
 2. Four tournaments
 3. Up to 14 home games
 - U13 and U14 teams: (approximately 55 – 65 games per season which includes tournament play)
 1. Travel League Team Registration Fees
 2. Five tournaments
 3. Up to 20 home games

15. Additional home games will be allowed contingent on field availability. In-house teams will take preference. Additional home games will be at the discretion of the Full Time Travel and either the Major or Pony League Presidents and will be billed back to the team.

16. Each Full Time Travel team will be encouraged to have a team goal of earning a bid/slot in a National Full Time Travel Baseball Tournament of a recognized national organization, such as, CABA, USSSA, etc. The LZBSA Board of Director's will support team efforts to qualify and fund participation in National Tournaments in which a team has qualified or earned a bid, including some level of funding, if appropriate and required.

17. Any team wanting to participate in a prepaid national tournament, where participation is solely based upon paying a significant entry fee without a requirement of qualify or earning a bid to participate through other qualifying tournaments, such as, Cooperstown or Cal Ripkin, require approval of the Executive Committee. Any team

Manager committing to such a tournament without prior approval is subject to dismissal as team manager.

18. The Boys Full Time Travel playing season will commence on or near April 1st of a given year's with a spring and summer playing season, league games, playoffs and tournaments, to be completed by the end of the first week of August in the playing year. A participating player on a Boys Travel team will not be required to miss school days in order to be a member in good standing on any LZBSA Boys Travel team.

19. For Boys Full Time Travel Only – All members of an authorized team must reside in the defined LZBSA “in-district” or “out-of-district” areas. This rule applies to all Boys Travel teams. There will not be a “Non-resident” team member option.

20. Teams will report to their respective Travel League President or Vice Commissioner.

21. A request for refund should be submitted in writing and will be considered by the Travel League President and the Executive Committee.

22. Boys Full Time Travel Team Fundraising

- Teams will be allowed to have team fund raising events, food sales, garage sales, golf outings, etc. with the funds used to support a team's training, travel or equipment needs. Participation in the Boys Full Time Travel Program will require participation in fund raising events.

23. Budget and reporting practices will be followed by each team for reporting of income received from fund raising, LZBSA disbursements, etc, and expenses paid by the team for equipment, training, travel league and tournament registrations, etc. LZBSA will maintain funds and manage disbursements for team expenses. All fundraising moneys will be deposited with LZBSA and will be earmarked for team use. Requests for disbursements shall be made to the Travel League President, League Admin and Treasurer. Requests for disbursements must be for approved expenses and generally fall in line with submitted budgets and include supporting documentation. A full accounting of income and expenses will be made available to each team monthly by the Treasurer. , At the end of the spring and summer league, an individual team should have a balance of \$00.00 for the playing year. Funds raised in any single year can not be brought forward to a second year by the team manager or treasurer as players must earn their slot on a team roster on a yearly basis so fund raising dollars should be spent during the year in which those dollars were raised by a specific team and its members. Any overage in team accounts will be used by LZBSA for field improvements or field maintenance.

25. Fall Ball - LZ Cougar Full Time Travel Players when registering for LZBSA Sponsored Fall Ball will be required to play up one year or one league as appropriate. An 11 year old player will play Major, a 12 year old player will play Pony, and a 13 year old

will play Pony while a 14 year old will be registered in Pony also. Individual Full Time Travel Team Managers can request approval for registration in a Full Time Travel Fall Ball League. Approval is required from the Travel President.