

Parents,

Registration for 2012 Tryouts are right around the corner. Fees for the upcoming season will be changing, as will the due dates for some of those fees. Following is a summary of the 2012 season, along with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section, which serves to explain why we are making these changes.

<b>2011</b>			
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Tryout Fee (Due at Time of Tryout Registration)</b>	<b>Participation Fee (Due Upon Accepting a Roster Spot)</b>	<b>Total Fees</b>
<b>U10</b>	\$30	\$290	\$320
<b>U11</b>	\$30	\$365	\$395
<b>U12</b>	\$30	\$390	\$420
<b>U13</b>	\$30	\$415	\$445
<b>U14</b>	\$30	\$440	\$470

<b>2012</b>				
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Tryout Fee (Due at Time of Tryout Registration)</b>	<b>Commitment Fee (Due at Time of Tryout Registration)</b>	<b>Participation Fee (Due Upon Accepting a Roster Spot)</b>	<b>Total Fees</b>
<b>U10</b>	\$40	\$100	\$205	\$345
<b>U11</b>	\$40	\$100	\$280	\$420
<b>U12</b>	\$40	\$100	\$305	\$445
<b>U13</b>	\$40	\$100	\$330	\$470
<b>U14</b>	\$40	\$100	\$355	\$495

**FAQ:**

**Q:** The Commitment Fee is new. What is it and how does it work?

**A:** The Commitment Fee is nothing more than the first \$100 of Participation Fees **collected at the time of Tryout Registration**. The Commitment Fee is refundable only if your player is not offered a roster spot, or if you notify the Registrar that your player should be removed from consideration for a spot by February 17. The Commitment Fee is **forfeited** if you decline an offered roster spot, withdraw from the team after registering, or fail to pay (or arrange to pay) the balance of your Participation Fees within 72 hours of accepting a spot.

**Q:** Why are you introducing the Commitment Fee?

**A:** We want to make sure those families who have their players try out are serious about playing for MYBA in 2012. Over the past few years, a lot of families have either declined roster spots or decided not to play even after they've accepted a spot. This has made finalizing rosters and even nailing down the number of teams we will field very difficult.

**Q:** If my player is not offered a roster spot, do I get my Commitment Fee back?

**A:** Absolutely.

**Q:** If our child tries out and then we decide MYBA's not for us, can we get our Commitment Fee back?

**A:** Yes, if you notify the Registrar by February 17. You will get your Commitment Fee back, but not your Tryout Fee. The 17<sup>th</sup> is when we start locking down how many teams we'll have at each Age Group, so if you withdraw on or before then, it has little impact on roster creation. After the 17<sup>th</sup>, we have a count of teams formulated, your child's participation was factored into it, and we expect that your child is committed to play. If you drop out after this, it becomes a problem for us, and you will forfeit your Commitment Fee.

**Q:** Suppose my son wants to play with his friends, or we really believe he deserves to play at a certain level. If he isn't placed on the team we believe is right for him, do we get our Commitment Fee back if we decline the spot?

**A:** No. We believe if you want to play Travel Baseball, it shouldn't be contingent on playing with friends or making a certain team, If your son tries out and keeps his name in consideration through the team selection period, we're assuming he's serious about playing MYBA no matter what, and that's backed up by your \$100 Commitment Fee, which is forfeited if that turns out to not be the case.

**Q:** Are there any situations where I don't have to pay the Commitment Fee up front?

**A:** If you apply for Financial Aid, when you register for Tryouts you only need to pay the Tryout Fee. However, you must then apply for Financial Aid before Tryouts. If you are turned down for aid, or you don't apply, you must bring the \$100 Commitment Fee to Tryouts. Your child **will not try out** if the Commitment Fee is not paid.

**Q:** It now says the balance of Participation Fees is due within 72 hours of accepting a spot. Please explain.

**A:** Please read this part carefully. Once you accept a spot, you have 72 hours to a) pay the remainder of your fees; b) make arrangements with the Treasurer to pay the remainder of your fees; or c) complete a Financial Aid application. If the 72 hours lapse and you haven't done one of these three things, **you forfeit your Commitment Fee AND your Roster Spot**. Your child's roster spot will go to the next highest ranked player on the team below yours, and it will not be restored if you pay these fees after the fact.

**Q:** When will my child be offered a roster spot?

**A:** As early as February 19, as late as March 17.

**Q:** Why are Total Fees for 2012 increasing?

**A:** In 2011 MYBA operated at a slight loss – our expenses were higher than our income – and the increase in fees should balance our books for 2012. While the club remains in very strong financial shape, we cannot repeatedly operate with a negative cash flow. MYBA is a non-profit, and as a non-profit, our annual income needs to match our annual costs. When we say “costs”, keep in mind that MYBA is all-volunteer, with no paid employees, and aside from a small amount we spend on recruiting and website, all of our costs are directly related to operating and sustaining traveling baseball teams (uniforms, umpires, field reservations, tournament registration, etc.).

**Q:** Instead of raising fees, can't we generate income by holding a tournament, fundraising, or collecting donations?

**A:** Because of the small number of quality fields in Minneapolis and the high rental fees we pay the Park Board for them, running a profitable tournament is nearly impossible. Fundraising and private donations did drop off in 2011, and we are actively working to increase them. However, this is being done with a goal towards keeping fees flat in 2013, not 2012.

**Q:** Can you explain why Tryout Fees are increasing again?

**A:** We are always trying to improve our tryout process, and this year in an attempt to improve, we are spending more time in tryouts. Since we pay for field house time and evaluator time, we need to raise Tryout Fees in order to cover these costs.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything related to the above, contact the MYBA Board of Directors at [millersboard@gmail.com](mailto:millersboard@gmail.com). If you have questions about Financial Aid for 2012, or other financial matters, please contact only the MYBA Treasurer, Mark Anderson ([mhander22@yahoo.com](mailto:mhander22@yahoo.com)).

We look forward to seeing you at 2012 Tryouts!

Thanks!

Minneapolis Youth Baseball Association