



# STMA Baseball News

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2011-2012

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## Board Update by Scott Morris

Welcome to a new season with St. Michael Albertville Youth Baseball. We are very excited to get the season going and hope our fairly tame Winter rolls right into Spring.

As we begin our plans for the upcoming season, we review ways we can improve our baseball program. A few areas we are reviewing include: adding travel teams in a new "A" level program, website and registration improvements, evaluation review, improving our method of coach selection, and making sure our umpires are paid on a bi-weekly basis.

**"A" Travel Baseball:** We have been working with our League Coordinators at developing a third tier of travel baseball that would allow us to add more teams into the travel program. We are hoping that the area interest will cover our 10 through 14 year old level of play. The structure would be similar to our other travel teams and would provide an additional opportunity for some of the players that have historically participated in our American League levels of play. We would be forced to eliminate the American and National League split at the PeeWee Reese level (11/12 year olds) due to a lower number of teams but we should be able to keep the split at the Willie Mays level (9/10 year olds).

### New "A" Level Traveling Baseball

**Website:** We are moving to a whole new website. It should look familiar to a lot of people in our soccer, hockey, or basketball programs as they all use the NGIN platform. This will provide our members with a much better look, but will also allow for a much smoother registration process. Visit our new website at [www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org).

**Player Evaluations:** We are always interested in finding new and innovative ways to make our evaluation process as accurate and credible as possible. We are in the process of interviewing external evaluators for a more professional group of trainers to handle the scoring. We want to continue to ensure balance in our in-house team selection process. And finally we want to focus more of our attention on picking the best available coaches as we continue to see the importance of coaching on the young players' success, enjoyment and longevity within the game of baseball.

**Umpire payments:** Finally, we want to make sure we are taking care of the people that are taking care of us. We are implementing a plan that requires umpire payments to be made every two weeks.

We have a lot of work to do to prepare for the upcoming season

and plan to continue to keep our program one of the strongest in the area.

### On-Line Registration Opens February 1

Check out the calendar inside and make sure you have all of the important dates captured for the season. Register on February 1st and join us for our Spring Training Clinics with both Buzz Hannahan and our annual Winter Clinic.

THANK YOU!!!



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# Player Registration

Registration is coming soon: **February 1st** is the official opening for on-line registration for youth baseball for the upcoming season. There will be NO walk up registrations this year, but you can still find mail-in forms on our website at [www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org) under the FORMS page. (On-line Registration information below).

Each player receives a game jersey and a STMA youth baseball hat. Players 9 years and older also receive a pair of baseball pants. The fees also include equipment for the season including baseballs, bats, helmets, in-house playoffs, league fees, and umpire fees for relevant ages. It does NOT cover the cost for weekend tournaments that the teams may participate in. Tournament costs are collected from the parents by the coaches of the teams that participate.

Early registration allows us to properly prepare for the season. We need to prepare for evaluations, order uniforms and equipment, determine number of teams and begin scheduling for the season. Because of the

complexity of planning for the season, we encourage everyone to register on the scheduled dates.

**Additional NOTES:**

- ★ Baseball AGES determined by players age on **May 1st** of the year.
- ★ Multiple player discounts provided (3rd player half price - 4th player free).
- ★ Non-refundable **Traveling Tryout Fee** of \$20 for players trying out for a traveling team.
- ★ **Late fees of \$25** will be assessed if registering after March 1st.
- ★ Players are allowed to “Play Up” one age level but must score in the top 50% of the players during the evaluations. (usually an option used when younger students want to play with their class-

## 2012 Player Fees:

Level of Play	Ages	Fee
Minors	5 & 6	\$ 75
Majors	7 & 8	\$ 75
Willie Mays	9 & 10	\$ 100
PeeWee Reese	11 & 12	\$ 115
Sandy Koufax	13 & 14	\$ 125
Mickey Mantle	15 & 16	\$ 135
Connie Mack	17 - 19	\$ 135

**Traveling Tryout Fee: \$ 20**

mates—but they must stay at that level for future seasons as well – allowed once player turns 10 years of age).

- ★ Evaluation is required for ALL players 9 thru 16 years old. Evaluation dates can be found on page 3 (Dates to Remember) and evaluation times will be posted on our website by age and last name.



## On-Line Registration Process

[www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)

Along with introducing our new website, we will also be introducing a whole new registration process. This process should be much more user friendly and will allow you to register for both the 2012 baseball season as well as our Baseball Clinics.

Simply go to our website, click on the Registration tab at the top of our home page, and follow the on-line instructions.

If you have questions, please contact our Registration Director, Steve Rice, at (763) 515-7665 ext. 11.

## New “A” Travel Baseball Program

We are working with Gopher State Baseball to implement an “A” level of baseball beginning in 2012. This will allow STMA Youth Baseball to add more teams to our travel program. This, of course, means more players will have the opportunity to participate in our travel program. Currently we are looking at one additional team for each of our 10 through 14 year old age levels (5 new teams), but this will all depend on whether

the nearby communities will also have enough players to add teams at these age levels.

We currently have teams at each age level from 10 through 15 years old for “AAA” and “AA” levels. Plus one team at the 9 year old level.

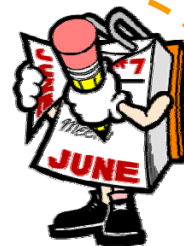
The decision to add these teams will be dependant upon the creation of the “A”

league which will not be know until the end of March. We are moving forward with the assumption the “A” league will exist for the upcoming season and it will be reflected in our evaluation and team selections.





# 2012 Dates to Remember



**On-Line Registration ONLY** Opens FEBRUARY 1st See Page 2 for Details  
 \*\* (Late Fees applied after March 1st) \*\*

<b><u>Baseball Camps:</u></b>	Buzz Hannahan Camp	February 18 - 20	Registration on page 6	Middle School EAST Gyms
	\$10 Winter Clinic	March 3 (8 - 9 yrs old)	9:00am - 11:00am	Middle School WEST Gyms
	\$10 Winter Clinic	March 3 (10 - 11 yrs old)	11:30am - 1:30pm	Middle School WEST Gyms
	\$10 Winter Clinic	March 3 (12 - 14 yrs old)	2:00pm - 4:00pm	Middle School WEST Gyms
<b><u>Open Gym:</u></b>	9 & 10 years old	March 1, 6, 8, 20, 22, 27, 29	6:30pm - 7:45pm	Middle School WEST Gyms
	11 & 12 years old	March 1, 6, 8, 20, 22, 27, 29	7:45pm - 9:00pm	Middle School WEST Gyms
	13 & 14 years old	April 3, 9, 12	6:30pm - 7:45pm	Middle School WEST Gyms
	15 & 16 years old	April 3, 9, 12	7:45pm - 9:00pm	Middle School WEST Gyms
<b><u>Player Evaluations:</u></b>	9 and 10 <b>All Players</b>	Saturday, March 31		Middle School WEST Gyms
(see page 4 for Details)				
	11 thru 12 <b>In-house</b>	Saturday, March 31		Middle School WEST Gyms
	11 thru 12 <b>Traveling</b>	Saturday, March 24		Middle School WEST Gyms
	11 thru 12 <b>Callbacks</b>	Sunday, March 25		Middle School WEST Gyms
	13 thru 16 <b>In-house</b>	Saturday, April 14		Recreation Center (outside)
	13 thru 16 <b>Traveling</b>	Saturday, April 14		Recreation Center (outside)
	13 thru 16 <b>Callbacks</b>	Sunday, April 15		Recreation Center (outside)
<b><u>Picture Day:</u></b>	Saturday, May 19	Picture times communicated by coaches		Mid. Sch. West (Fields 1 & 2)

Specific Evaluation times to be posted  
 on our Home Page at  
[www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)  
**AND**  
 in the February Newsletter

For a complete Youth Baseball Calendar, visit our website at  
[www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)

# 2012 Player Evaluations



The most difficult thing we do as an organization is developing a method of evaluating our players that is fair, accurate and credible. We have done a great deal of research and had discussions with people who study the sport to get ideas on how we can improve our process. People from other organizations, from other sports, and even from baseball professionals who spend their time training ball players today. One thing that is consistent between anyone who has spent time on this issue is it's not easy and will never be a perfect process.

Given this reality, we introduced the **callback process** to provide the players with a more in-depth evaluation by 'calling back' the players finishing in the top percent during the initial evaluations. But we continue to be challenged with over 400 kids being evaluated in a single day. Realizing that some kids are not interested in trying out for a traveling team, we will continue to split the evaluations between the players interested in trying out for a traveling teams and players interested in our recreational (in-house) league. Splitting the kids in this fashion allows the evaluators to see the kids of like interests grouped together in smaller groups for easier comparisons.

## Recreational / In-house:

We will continue to provide all players with an independent evaluation process but will keep the recreational evalua-

tions the same as we have done in the past.

The reason we continue to evaluate the in-house players is to ensure that we have balance in our teams which provides all players with a better overall experience.

## Split between traveling team try-outs and in-house players

The evaluation will give each player 5 ground balls, 5 fly balls, and 5 swings off of the pitching machine. Using our standard evaluation sheets (example to the right) we will accumulate the scores and use them to divide the teams evenly.

## Traveling Tryouts:

We are charging an additional non-refundable fee of \$20 to support the incremental costs

associated with our more in-depth traveling evaluations.

We will give the traveling players additional swings and grounders in the first round of the evaluations. Utilizing the same evaluation sheets for our first pass on the evaluations to gather an initial score, we will then be 'calling back' the top performers the following day to take a closer look and determine our "AAA" and our "AA" traveling teams.

Players not making the traveling teams will be added to the rosters for our in-house program and we will use their initial scores to determine whether they will be in the American or National Leagues when relevant.

We do understand that an evaluation

process can be stressful on the players. Although we expect the players to demonstrate their skills and abilities in front of strangers, we will continue to do our best to provide a proper atmosphere for the evaluation. We also continue to expand our traveling program as we have added additional traveling teams over the last few years to

The form is titled 'STMA Youth Baseball Live Hitting Tryout Form'. It contains a header with the STMA logo and some instructions. The main body of the form consists of a grid of 12 rows, each representing a tryout. Each row has four columns: 'STANCE', 'SWING', 'CONTACT', and 'Batting Average'. Under 'STANCE' and 'SWING', there are two rows of 10 circles each, representing ground balls and fly balls respectively. Under 'CONTACT', there are two rows of 10 circles each, representing swings. The 'Batting Average' column contains a numerical score for each tryout, ranging from 1.2345 to 1.2346. The circles are filled in to represent successful hits or swings.

give more opportunities to the ball players interested in raising their game to the next level.

If you have any additional questions regarding the evaluation process you can contact the Vice-President Travel Director, John Kelly at (763) 515-7665 ext. 13 or Scott Morris at (763) 515-7665 ext. 10.

## Traveling Team Commitment

Some people are surprised by the level of commitment required when they first get involved with a traveling sports team. Our recreational teams may only have 2 scheduled events per week while our traveling teams can average 3 to 5 days a week. A list of what you can expect would include:

- ★ 16 league games
- ★ 3 to 4 weekend tournaments
- ★ League playoffs and a year-end tournament
- ★ Additional practices
- ★ Additional expenses (players are responsible for tournament fees)

There is a much larger commitment for the traveling players and their parents and we expect them to treat baseball as their top priority over other sporting activities. But it will provide your child with an exciting and active summer activity.

- GO KNIGHTS!!

# New Bat Standards (Traveling ONLY)

## 2012 MYAS/Gopher State/USSSA NEW Bat Standards

Over the past few years USSSA, the national governing body for the majority of MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs, has developed baseball bat performance standards. The new standards implemented for 2012 will encompass the regulation of big barrel (larger than 2 1/4" in diameter) and small barrel (2 1/4" or less) bats. These new standards must be used in all MYAS/Gopher State baseball programs beginning January 1, 2012. All bats must be manufactured by an approved USSSA bat licensee and have the new USSSA mark on its taper, be a qualified BBCOR bat or a wood bat.

The new USSSA finger print of 1.15 BPF is based on fundamental laws of physics that measure the relative performance of bats to be used in USSSA play. A qualified BBCOR bat stands for "Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution" and it focuses on how much of a trampoline effect the barrel of a bat has on a ball. Bat manufacturers will have to in effect "deaden" the trampoline bounce that pitched balls experience when a batter makes contact. Basically, aluminum bats will theoretically be the same as wooden bats.

The following describes the legality of bats for all MYAS/Gopher State/MN USSSA programs in 2012:

### 9-14 year old teams:

Big Barrel Bats (larger than 2 1/4 inches in diameter) - only the following big barrel bats made by approved USSSA licensed manufacturers will be allowed in USSSA play:

- 1) is made with the NEW USSSA mark (see image); or
- 2) is a qualified BBCOR bat; or
- 3) is wooden



Small Barrel Bats (2 1/4 inches in diameter) - only the following small barrel bats made by approved USSSA licensed manufacturers will be allowed in USSSA play:

- 1) is made with the NEW USSSA mark (see image); or
- 2) is made with the old USSSA mark; or
- 3) is wooden



### 15-19 year old teams:

All 15u-17-19u programs will follow the bat standards adopted by the *National Federation of State High School Associations* for the 2012 season.

## Sponsorship

Money from our business partners in the community help to keep our player costs down. As our communities grow, so does our Association and our needs. Last year alone, we had more than 80 team and expect to grow once again this season. This brings an increasing demand for current and new sponsors. Team sponsorships are currently being accepted at a very reasonable rate. There is also an option to advertise on our website which is a main source of information for the association and will consequently see a lot of traffic.

If you would like more information please contact the Sponsorship Director, Kevin Hardesty at (763) 515-7665 ext. 18.

**Thanks for the continued support!**



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or email: [sandyg@stma.k12.mn.us](mailto:sandyg@stma.k12.mn.us)

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# St. Michael Albertville Youth Baseball

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[www.stmayouthbaseball.org](http://www.stmayouthbaseball.org)



## Buzz Hannahan Baseball Camp

### PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND — 3 Day Baseball Warm-up (February 18 - 20)

Register for our 8th Annual Buzz Hannahan Winter Baseball Camp. The perfect pre-season warm-up with a focus on baseball fundamentals.

Buzz is a former Minor League Player with the Philadelphia Phillies and previously an Assistant Coach with the 2009 Division III National Champions, St. Thomas University.



Returning for a second year: **Jake Mauer** - Former Twins minor league player, current Twins Minor League Coach and is probably best known for being Joe Mauer's big brother.



Sign up On-line Beginning February 1st **OR**  
Return form below with an \$95 check payable to:

STMA Youth Baseball  
P.O. Box 217  
Albertville, MN 55301

- ★ Session: - 9 thru 11 - or - 12 & Up - (Circle One)
- ★ Adult T-Shirt Size: -S- -M- -L- -XL- (Circle One)

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

### Camp Calendar

Session I	Session II
<i>AGES: 9 thru 11</i>	<i>AGES: 12 &amp; Up</i>
9:30am - 12:00 noon	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

**\*\* LIMITED # OF PLAYERS PER SESSION \*\***