

EMW Baseball & Softball Travel Program Policy

Purpose: The goal of the Elma, Marilla, Wales (EMW) Baseball & Softball Travel Program is to foster player development, leadership skills and teamwork within the youth of our community while promoting sportsmanship in a competitive environment. The travel program will offer a more competitive opportunity for those players who have the ability, desire and dedication to compete at a higher level in preparation scholastic athletic sports.

Travel Rules: Coaches & Players:

- The EMW Board will approve the travel coaches on a yearly basis (new and incumbent coaches).
 - If there're multiple candidates, the board of directors, or a sub-committee appointed by the board will conduct interviews and select the most suitable candidate.
- Coaches and players within the travel program must abide by the EMW Code of Conduct policy as they represent the EMW organization. **Violations may be subject to board review and the Board has the authority to take necessary action to remedy the situation (including suspensions and removal from travel program).**
- Only adults designated by the head coach are allowed in the playing area, or near the player bench.
- Team players must be registered and play for the EMW House League. Modified sports must play house.

Exceptions are:

- JV or Varsity players
- Out of district players – as defined EMW Baseball & Travel Program (see below appendix)
- House attendance: Travel players are required to play in a minimum of 75% of all house games (Example: 12 game house schedule, travel player must participate in at least 9 house games).
- Travel Coaches and players should make every effort to make house ball a priority
- Travel Coaches should attempt to schedule games so that they do not interfere with house ball.

Travel Name and Uniforms:

- The travel teams will be recognized as an affiliate of the EMW Baseball & Softball Program and will be recognized as:
 - Boys Travel: EMW Tribe
 - Girls Travel: EMW Impact
 - Consistent team names will build the EMW brand identity, any exceptions to these names must have EMW Board of Director approval, diverting from the travel team names can result in removal from the program.
 - Travel Teams must prominently identify themselves as “EMW” (Elma, Marilla & Wales). Each travel teams must purchase their own uniforms (Exclusion is EMW Boys 8U Tournament team, which are provided jersey only)
 - The „EMW“ letters must be on the uniform at a minimum this lettering must be present on the front of each player jersey and coach shirt (2”min height)
 - EMW travel teams may also use team „nicknames“ (Tribe or Impact) in conjunction with the EMW lettering

- The Primary colors of the travel program are: White, Red and Navy Blue
- NOTE: Boys 8U tournament team will be supplied player jerseys, all other uniform apparel are at the expense of the boys 8U team (Hats, pants, socks, etc). The coach will be responsible for distributing and collecting the Boys 8U jerseys. All jerseys must be returned by the end of August to the uniform director. Failure to return uniforms may result in removal from travel program.

Travel Coach Responsibilities:

- Injuries: The Head Coach will be responsible for notifying the travel coordinator of any injury that requires medical attention. The travel coordinator will be responsible for interaction with the Board and/or House Head coach to advise of any player injury.
- Travel Meetings: The Head Coach and/or named Assistant Coach are responsible for attending all Travel League Meetings (meetings with EMW or respective travel league).
- Umpires – Head Coach must provide the team schedule to the umpire chief to ensure umpires are assigned travel games.
- Umpire Payments: The Head Coach will be responsible for paying each umpire as defined by the travel league the team participates in (Ex. Pay only home games/split all games).
 - Umpire fees are defined by the travel league the team participates
 - Umpire Fees are the responsibility of the travel team
 - Funds will be paid out of the travel team sub-account or directly from head coach
- Groundskeeper – Head Coach must provide the team schedule to the groundskeeper chief to ensure the home field is prepped for travel games.
 - NOTE: House league will take priority if there are conflicts. In addition, as many games are played on Sunday if the grounds crew can't not make it to the field it will be the responsibility of the head coach to coordinate any necessary field prep.
- Work with Travel Coordinator
 - If a coach for any reason cannot attend a travel game(s) every effort needs to be made to inform the parents of the team.

The head coach should then designate an assistant as acting coach for said game(s)

- In the event that a travel coach needs to voluntarily step down as head coach, the travel coordinator is required to be involved in order for a replacement coach to be named and assume head coaching responsibilities.

Mid-season changes will require the approval of the board of directors

- Game Cancellations – When a game is cancelled the following EMW representatives will need to be notified: Umpires, Groundskeeper Chief, Concessions and Travel Coordinator.
 - Make up games should not interfere with house and all efforts should be made to avoid house/travel game conflicts.
 - It will be the responsibility of the travel coach to work with the coordinator to get the umpires, grounds crew rescheduled (Concessions if desired).

Travel Team Money & Accounts

EMW has a separate EMW Travel account

Each team will be given a sub-account and work with the EMW Treasurer for the tracking of deposits and withdrawals.

➤ **NOTE: The head coach can choose to not use the EMW Checking sub-account to track travel team money. If a coach chooses to do this it should be documented with the league for internal audit purposes and disclosed to player parents.**

Treasurer will accept deposits for the travel team but will not be responsible for any tracking of player deposits or fundraising activity.

Treasurer will make withdrawals or initiate checks on behalf of the travel team with:

- Written documentation to the treasurer (email is acceptable)
- Proper documentation for the expense (receipts)

Treasurer will provide a monthly statement for each team using the EMW travel sub-account.

➤ **NOTE: If a player leaves the EMW travel program after the selection process and participates in fundraising activities the fundraising money is forfeited by the player and is absorbed into the travel team account. Players will not be returned any fundraising funds**

➤ **NOTE: Registration Fees are non refundable. If a player leaves the EMW travel program after the selection and pays the registration fee the registration money is forfeited by the player and is absorbed into the travel team account.**

➤ **NOTE: If the team terminates its commitment during the season, the balance of the account will be transferred into the EMW Baseball & Softball House account.**

Travel Tryout

The travel coach will inform the EMW Board of travel try out dates. These dates will be posted on the EMW Website.

➤ The travel coach may choose to send letter notification to eligible players as an additional means of communication. If a coach chooses to do this the postage can be submitted to the EMW treasurer for reimbursement.

Travel Coach must be present at try outs.

The travel coordinator may attend try out sessions.

Coaches will have a minimum of two try outs for each travel team. The travel coach may mandate that players attend both try outs. If there are not specific instructions to attend both try outs it is the discretion of the player to attend both sessions if they so choose. All efforts should be made to avoid conflicts with early season football should try outs be held in August.

Each tryout participant will be evaluated on the various skills needed to compete. The skills including fielding, throwing and hitting and will serve as the primary basis for the Head Coach in selecting players.

Other considerations include: position(s) needed, ability to make practices, past performance, potential, level of commitment, athleticism, and attitude, knowledge of the game, experience and ability/willingness to learn.

The Head Coach will utilize the information provided from the tryout and the above-mentioned considerations to make the final team player selections.

Coaches can notify players if they make the team by one of the following methods:

- Phone call or website posting

Final roster number of players cannot exceed the maximum roster number for that league.

After the start of the season, the Travel Coordinator must approve any additions.

Game Schedule:

The head coach will be responsible for establishing a team schedule in conjunction with the travel league they are playing in and then provide a copy to the schedule to the Travel Coordinator, Groundskeeper, Umpire Chief and Concession Coordinator.

- Travel Coordinator will pass along to league player agents to ensure no conflicts

Home games: It will be the responsibility of the Head Coach to notify the Groundskeeper of any special requirements for field prep.

Rainouts:

The head coach (at the advisement of the groundskeeper) is responsible to coordinate the cancelation of travel games. Cancelations should be in accordance with EMW Baseball & Softball and/or Travel League policy.

- Any umpire fees associated with cancelations are the responsibility of the travel team.

EMW will provide the following to the Travel Program (Coaches, Players & Parents):

- Environment and support to cultivate a competitive travel team at all levels
- EMW League Contribution of \$100 per travel team
- Field Time: Use of EMW home fields located at Creek Road Park. Fields will be used for travel practice and games in conjunction with the EMW house program. Typically two days a week are dedicated to the travel program:
 - Wednesday: Practice / Games / Make Up Games
 - Sunday: Practice / Games / Make Up Games
- Field Preparation: EMW groundskeeper will make every effort to ensure all fields are in playing condition for travel games.
 - NOTE: It is the travel coaches responsibility to provide the schedule to the travel coordinator and groundskeeper to ensure field prep
- Umpires: Umpires can be supplied via the EMW umpire chief. The travel team is solely responsible for the fees associated travel umpires
 - NOTE: It is the travel coach responsibility to provide the schedule to the umpire chief to ensure umpires are assigned travel games.
 - Boys Umpire Fee - \$30.00 per umpire if using EMW supplied umpires
 - Girls Umpire Fee – Fees dictated by Metro & NFL softball leagues. Umpires are provided by Metro and NFL leagues.

Payment of Metro girls is at each game.

NFL umpires are paid through our league fee.

- Equipment: If requested, EMW will supply the travel teams with the following equipment:
 - Five (5) helmets approved by NOCSAE
 - Catchers Equipment: Helmet approved by NOCSAE, chest protector, shin guards (all standard issued – similar to house league)
 - Six (6) bats
 - One (1) bat bag
 - One (1) equipment bag
 - Fifteen (15) practice balls
 - Twelve (12) Game Balls
- NOTE: It will be the responsibility of the travel team to purchase any additional equipment other than the standard EMW issued equipment.

Travel Cost:

Currently determined by the EMW BOD prior to registration (see below appendix)

Travel Disclaimer:

Travel Baseball & Softball represent a substantial financial commitment by the players and their families. Funding for individual travel teams are primarily driven by fundraising money to off set additional team expenses. Additional expenses can come in the form of but not limited to: the number of tournaments a team enters, winter practices and/or leagues, equipment, team apparel, etc. Fundraising should be used to the greatest extent possible to assist in minimizing the out of pocket expenses to the families participating. Player participation in team fundraising events is mandatory. If a team chooses not to fundraise it will be the responsibility of the coach and player parents to offset travel expenses (I.E. - collect a specific amount of money from each family). No child will be denied the opportunity to play travel ball due to financial hardship. The travel coordinator and head coach will work with any family who may require financial assistance to help mitigate costs. The EMW Board of Directors will make its best efforts to assist as needed.

EMW Travel Policy Appendix

EMW League contribution per team: \$100 PER TEAM

Travel fee for residence: \$100 plus House Registration Fee

Travel fee for Out of District Player: \$250 plus House Registration Fee

Breakdown as follows (\$100 to travel team, \$150 to house program + House Registration Fee)

Out of District Player Participation:

8U Tournament 9U Boys and 10U Boys and Girls – Zero (0)

11U Boys: Zero (0)

12U Boys & Girls: Two (2)

13U Boys – Two (2)

14U Boys – Three (3)

15U Boys- Four (4)

14U Girls – Four (4)

16U Girls – Four (4)

o Out of District player is defined as a player who does not: *Note exceptions and ask for clarifications*

-Live in Elma, Marilla or Wales towns or

-Play in the Elma, Marilla or Wales (EMW) House Baseball or Softball league or

-EMW House Baseball & Softball Program includes the surrounding townships of East Aurora and Holland as we play jointly with their programs in three league divisions.

Does not go to school in the Iroquois Central School District

Amended to include the townships of East Aurora and Holland and not limited to just Iroquois Central School District due to joined league play with East Aurora and Holland

Addendum Effective: Effective: 2011 Travel Girls Softball – 2013 Travel Boys Softball

In District Players: include Players from EMW, East Aurora, and Holland Townships.

Addendum Effective: Effective: 2011 Travel Girls Softball – 2013 Travel Boys Softball

In an effort to work together with EMW, East Aurora, Holland House Programs. These rules are followed by all townships with Travel Programs as not to take away from each other's House Programs for determining Out of Town Rulings. Rulings are determined by a number of factors.

Player whom have been consistently registered within the EMW Program and have been a resident of another township are considered EMW Players. Example: Alden and East Aurora.

Examples:

Case 1:

Player- Does not live in Elma, Marilla or Wales - He lives in the village of EA.

Play in the Elma, Marilla or Wales (EMW) House Baseball- he has played EMW since 2015, but may wish not too.
Does not go to school in the Iroquois Central School District - East Aurora Schools, goes to Out of District School to both EMW, East Aurora and Holland.

*** Player is considered an EMW and must play house ball unless he is a JV Player at the school he attends.

Considered EMW Player- Has been registered for EMW more than 3 years even when he had opportunity to play for the Township where resided.

Case 2

New Tryout Player

Lives in East Aurora,

Does not play or has played for EMW in the past. Does not wish to play house.

Does not go to Iroquois.

The player did play house ball and travel 12u for East Aurora little league last year?

*** This player would be considered an EMW Player and would be required to play house ball, however he needs to play for East Aurora. Unless JV Exempt. We of course cannot make him play for East Aurora. This is based on him playing for East Aurora last year. Even if he did not tell us we have to do the due diligence.

Case 3 scenerio.

If EA has a baseball travel team for 13u. If a player were to try out and make the 13u EMW team, would he have to play house ball for us or could he play house ball for EA and still play for us?

The above case is the same as Case 2. Yes they can play for East Aurora and we encourage them to. They do still have to pay House Registration no matter what.

Case 4

New Tryout player

Lives in West Seneca or Eden

Does not play for EMW house or wish to play house ball.

Does not go to Iroquois.

This player is a true Out of District Player.

Let's change this scenario on Case 4: Let's say this player's 1st year was 11U Travel and he had no choice to play house. Every single criteria is a true out of district player. Then and only then can the 2nd year of Travel Ball can the player opt out and be an out of district player.

Always keeping in mind. Travel Teams are limited in the # of Out of District Players. Girls have a greater allotment than Boys for the mere fact that there is a bigger pool of boys.