

## **2024-2025 NEW TRIER YOUTH BULLDOGS TRAVEL PROGRAM DETAILS**

Bulldogs is a community-based, not-for-profit program. Residents of Kenilworth, Winnetka, Glencoe and Northfield are eligible to try out for the New Trier Youth Bulldogs Travel Program. Residents of neighboring communities who have played on a Bulldog team the prior season are also eligible. The Travel Committee will have final approval of all players.

This is a full-time travel baseball club and all those who make a team should plan to be at all practices and games unless they have legitimate reasons for why they cannot attend.

### **Age Eligibility**

- 8U - born after April 30, 2016 (2nd grade 2024-2025)
- 9U - born after April 30, 2015 (3rd grade 2024-2025)
- 10U - born after April 30, 2014 (4th grade 2024-2025)
- 11U - born after April 30, 2013 (5th grade 2024-2025)
- 12U - born after April 30, 2012 (6th grade 2024-2025)

### **House League Information**

Players on the following teams will be required to play in either GBA or KWBA House League programs: 8U, 9U, 10U B, 11U B. House league is strongly encouraged but not required for players on all other teams (10A, 11A, 12A/B). Travel players participating in House League will **not** be charged an additional fee to play House. The Spring schedule for teams that have all or most players also playing House League will be built around the House schedule to avoid conflicts. Teams without a significant number of players in House League will have an opportunity to fill their Spring schedule with additional travel-level games and practices.

### **New Trier Youth Bulldogs Travel Program**

The season will start with a Fall League season of approximately 7-8 games, plus playoffs, in either Glenview or Arlington Heights. The season runs from late August - October. We understand that your child may play other sports during the Fall and we are completely understanding of conflicts with other sports during the Fall Season. The purpose of the Fall season is to help build camaraderie with your new team and set the tone for a positive upcoming Spring/Summer season. The Fall season is typically coached by 2-3 parent volunteers who need to apply and be selected by the Board.

Optional “pre” winter workouts will be offered at Illinois Baseball Academy - The Yard - during November and December. There will be additional fee for this program and all instruction will be led by the professional staff at the Illinois Baseball Academy who have high school and/or college baseball playing experience and coaching experience at the youth levels and/or with New Trier Feeder.

Official team winter workouts will begin in January at the Yard and go through March. These workouts are meant to continue to develop fundamentals with fielding, hitting and pitching. We

will also be focusing on situational baseball and helping improve "baseball IQ" for our young players.

Teams will play in at least one Spring opening tournament in April and/or May.

Teams will play in our home tournament, the Bulldog Classic over Memorial Day Weekend.

Teams will play their regular season games as part of the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (LSFBL). The season kicks off after Memorial Day and runs through playoffs, which typically conclude the third week of July. Some teams may start early and play some league games in April and/or May.

Practices will continue prior to and during the season weather and time permitting. Beginning after Memorial Day, players can expect five to six "touches" per week (weather permitting). A touch = Game, A Practice or A Hitting Session.

Each team will be managed by a paid Head Coach and a paid Assistant Coach recruited by the IBA, many of whom have already coached Bulldog teams for one or more seasons.

Teams will have a volunteer parent GM who will be in charge of communication with the coaches and Travel Committee, as well as ensuring all scheduling is up to date. The team will also have a parent liaison to assist the coaches with practices and facilitate communication of any concerns within the team. The GM and parent liaisons have absolutely no input or involvement with choosing rosters or setting batting orders/playing positions.

Full uniforms include two jerseys (home and away), a hat, two pairs of pants, a pullover/hoodie, a practice jersey, one pair of socks & belt. The hat and hoodie are included in the registration fee, the other items are not and cost ~\$275 in total.

**12U Cooperstown** – In addition to above, it is important to note that our 12U teams have the opportunity to go to a tournament in Cooperstown, NY, which is an incredible experience for the players and their families. The player cost of Cooperstown is approximately \$2,300. This cost does not include travel or family lodging. Player room and board is included in the \$2,300 player cost and teams room together in a bunk style cabin/barrack. Fundraising is certainly an option and can be discussed as a team.

### **Tryout Information<sup>1</sup>**

We take the following assessment criteria into consideration when forming teams:

- Current year coach feedback (for current Bulldog players)
- Current year season stats (for current Bulldog players)
- Tryout evaluation

### **Tryout Schedule**

- The initial tryout date will consist of primarily of drills for hitting, fielding and pitching. Players may also partake in simulated game situations.

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<sup>1</sup> 8U Travel Tryout Information for 2025 will be sent in December of 2024. Tryouts are expected to be in early 2025.

- Callback tryouts will primarily consist of scrimmages and simulated game situations. If you are not contacted to return for the second tryout, it only means that the IBA evaluators are confident they have enough information to make an appropriate placement recommendation. It should not be viewed as an indication that you did or did not make a particular team.

### Tryout Registration

- **Players must pre-register for tryouts.** We cannot guarantee your child a tryout without being pre-registered. Please follow the link below to register for tryouts. The fee for tryouts is \$25 which covers the instruction and field rental. Players will be provided a numbered bib to pin on their shirt upon arrival. If attending two sessions, please keep the bib and wear it to both.
  - Registration link: <https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/438908>
- **Players should register for and tryout with their school grade** they will be entering into in the Fall of 2024, regardless of their birthday noted under “Age Eligibility” above (see additional notes below).
- **Returning Bulldog Players** – All Players are required to attend the first tryout date. The date has been selected to ensure there is no conflict with your current Bulldogs schedule. You will be notified the following day if you have been requested to attend the second tryout on July 14, 2024 for further evaluation. 2024 Coach feedback and stats will be considered for 2025 team placement.
- **New players to our program** – All new players are requested to come to both tryout dates.

### **Parents/Players Commitment**

This is a full-time travel baseball program. We certainly understand that emergencies happen and family is more important than baseball. However, anything that can be avoided to ensure players are at games and practices should be avoided. We welcome and encourage athletes that play multiple sports. We are very flexible during indoor training but once outdoor training starts around April 1st, we expect all players to make Bulldogs their number one priority over other sports. This said, and in the interest of being somewhat flexible, please contact the Board if you feel there may be conflict(s) that if understood going into the season can be managed by all parties.

**Roster spots will be offered shortly following the end of the LSFBL season, which concludes on July 21<sup>st</sup>.**

We recognize pulling tryouts forward to July is a significant change from prior years. This is not something we chose to do lightly. We carefully weighed the pros and cons of this timing and firmly believe that this timing is in the best interest of the players, teams, and program.

## **Team Placement and Payments**

The number of teams we have at each age group will be based on the size, talent and competitive nature of the different age groups. Teams are typically between 11-12 players per team.

We strongly encourage all players to try out for and play with their school age group. However, in some circumstances, incumbent players who have played “up” or played “down” relative to their school age group may be given the option to remain with their previous year Bulldog team/age group. In either case, the player must conform to the league-mandated birthdate cutoff.

Each player will have 48 hours to commit to your team from the time you are notified. To ‘accept’ your spot, you will register online and pay 2025 club fees. Financial assistance may be considered by the Travel Committee and KWBA Board on a case-by-case basis.