



Anoka Ramsey Baseball

Traveling Baseball Tryout Information

- All boys at every age level are encouraged to attend both tryout dates.
- Player tryouts will last approximately 1 hour per session.
- Non refundable tryout fee of \$20.00. Absolutely no refunds will be permitted.
- All Tryouts will be at the **Anoka High School**.
- Players to arrive 20 minutes early for sign in and warm-up.
- No parents allowed at anytime on the tryout floor.

Tryout Dates & Times for 2010

Age	Date	Time
8-10 Year Olds	Feb 28 th & Mar 7 th	8:30 AM
11 Year Olds	Feb 28 th & Mar 7 th	9:45 AM
12 Year Olds	Feb 28 th & Mar 7 th	11:00 AM
13 Year Olds	Feb 28 th & Mar 7 th	1:00 PM
14 Year Olds	Feb 28 th & Mar 7 th	2:15 PM
15 Year Olds	Feb 28 th & Mar 7 th	3:30 PM
16 Year Olds	Feb 28 th & Mar 7 th	4:45 PM

Birthyear Guide

(Please see Question #9)

	2010
8-10 Year Olds	05/01/99 to 04/30/02
11 Year Olds	05/01/98 to 04/30/99
12 Year Olds	05/01/97 to 04/30/98
13 Year Olds	05/01/96 to 04/30/97
14 Year Olds	05/01/95 to 04/30/96
15 Year Olds	05/01/94 to 04/30/95
16 Year Olds	05/01/93 to 04/30/94

Traveling Baseball: (All ages)

This level is the most competitive and requires a high level of commitment from each player and parent. Requires 3–4 practice/game days/week plus 2-4 weekend tournaments. Players and Parents should review A/R Baseball playtime policy.

Question & Answer

1. What is the purpose and objective of Tryouts?

Purpose:

To create the most competitive team possible for each level of play.

Objective:

The objective of tryouts is to place the player at the most appropriate playing level for their ability, giving them the greatest opportunity for success, improvement, and enjoyment. This is a difficult task, for several reasons:

- No evaluation system is perfect
- Anoka Ramsey Baseball are bound by roster sizes, and sometimes have more players than spots at a given playing level
- Players want to play with friends
- Players don't want to change teams

2. What teams use this process?

All Anoka-Ramsey Baseball traveling teams

3. Can anyone attend Tryouts?

Anoka-Ramsey Baseball holds open Tryouts. Anyone can participate in player Tryouts that are interested in playing baseball for Anoka-Ramsey Traveling Baseball. **Absolutely** no roster spots are held or guaranteed for team members from the previous baseball year.

4. Who decides how tryouts and team formations are executed?

The Anoka-Ramsey Baseball Organization has responsibility for creating, modifying, and communicating the *processes* and *policies* that govern tryouts and team formation. The Tryout Committee, along with many other volunteers, is responsible for executing these processes.

5. Who will be assessing the players?

We have teamed with the Anoka High School Baseball Program who will be performing the assessments of each age category and is dedicated in accurately assessing each player. The High School Baseball Program is completely independent from the Anoka-Ramsey Baseball Organization and will be used in the technique/form portion of the tryouts only. Anoka-Ramsey Baseball Organization will use knowledgeable volunteers to score the performance portion of the tryouts.

6. How is tryout policies communicated?

This document will be published on the Anoka-Ramsey Baseball website and distributed to coaches. This document will also be available for all parents and guardians to review at tryouts and all registrations.

7. What happens if a player misses Tryouts?

If a player misses Tryouts due to:

A major injury (e.g. broken bone); major illness; death in family:

The player may be placed on a team at the discretion of the Team Selection Committee. This action will count as a Coach's Pick (see #18 below). The player **must** have contacted the Tryout Committee or other Anoka Ramsey Baseball board member(s) about their injury or illness in advance of tryout day. The player will still be required to register for tryouts and pay the \$20.00 tryout fee.

A minor illness (e.g. cold, allergy)

The player may be placed on the lowest level team, room permitting. A Coach's Pick may be used for the player (see #18 below).

Other reasons (forgot, vacations, conflicts)

The player may be placed on the lowest level team, room permitting. A Coach's Pick may be used for the player (see #18 below).

8. What happens if a player arrives late or leaves early, or can only attend one portion of the tryouts?

It is strongly advised that the individual to participate in all aspects and stations in the tryout process. There are three instances that may occur:

*Player is able to attend and **complete** all stations in the tryout process.*

In this case, Anoka-Ramsey baseball will take the highest cumulative score between the two days. This will be the individual's score.

*Player is able to attend only a portion of one session and **complete** one session.*

This individual's score will be based on the cumulative score of the session he/she completes only.

Player is able to attend a portion of each session and not complete any session in its entirety.

This player will not achieve any ranking and a coach's pick may only be used for the player (see #18 below).

9. Can a player tryout for an older age group “playing up”?

Anoka Ramsey Baseball **strongly encourages** for each player to play within his/her age group as described below. However, there are a few exceptions to this rule.

Examples of such exceptions include:

- Blending two ages because of insufficient numbers at each age group to create a “B” team.
- A player playing with their school grade (i.e. a U13 who is in 8th grade).
 - **If a player chooses to try out for his/her grade level as opposed to his/her age level, and who does not make any level of a traveling team at this grade level, he/she will not be allowed to drop to his/her age level and play on any traveling team at that age level.**

Youth baseball at a national level (Little League, AAU, etc.) have all changed the eligibility ages as described below and was implemented in the 2006 baseball season.

	2010
8-10 Year Olds	05/01/99 to 04/30/02
11 Year Olds	05/01/98 to 04/30/99
12 Year Olds	05/01/97 to 04/30/98
13 Year Olds	05/01/96 to 04/30/97
14 Year Olds	05/01/95 to 04/30/96
15 Year Olds	05/01/94 to 04/30/95
16 Year Olds	05/01/93 to 04/30/94

10. What will I need when I check in for tryouts?

During baseball registration and after the player pays the fee of \$20.00, they will automatically be put on the tryout list. **Players should not wear a previous traveling jersey.** Players must bring their glove, bat, gym shoes, or any other equipment you deem necessary. ** If you have registered for in-house and decide to play traveling, you must notify a tryout committee member and pay the tryout fee and program fee difference prior to the tryout date.

11. What types of evaluations are covered in tryouts?

Evaluations are based upon a combination of Technique/Form “Subjective” (60%) and Performance “Objective” (40%). Please see number 12 and 13 for more details.

12. What is involved with Technique/Form “Subjective” skills?

Four drills have been selected by the company hired to oversee our tryouts. Drills will cover such things as fielding, throwing, pitching, batting, and running ability.

Drill layouts are measured and set up in advance. All drills consist of technique/form measurement (i.e., fielding technique, batting stance) rather than a performance evaluation.

Scoring

For each drill, a relative ranking of player scores will be calculated. The player’s average rank over all drills generates an overall Skill Drill score, which constitutes 60% of their overall ranking.

13. What is involved with Performance “Objective” ratings?

This will measure players more on the ability, athleticism, and attitude (i.e., ability to hit the ball, performance of fielding) rather than the subjective (technique/form) aspect.

14. What are the Evaluators looking for?

Evaluation is subjective. All evaluators during the tryout process are completely independent and qualified. Evaluators will watch and independently score each of the five stations. Anoka-Ramsey Baseball volunteers will participate to handle such logistics as check-in, station setup, player rotation, and so forth. Anoka-Ramsey coaches may attend, and may take notes privately, but may not provide instructions or feedback during the tryout process. If this is observed by any Tryout Committee member or Anoka Ramsey Baseball board member, this coach will be asked to leave immediately.

Players will be rotated through stations using a pre-defined rotation system.

What are evaluators looking for?

Technical skills

Fielding stance, batting stance, grip, swing, throwing technique, release of ball, follow through, decision making, etc...

Tactical ability

Movement to the ball, arm strength, throwing accuracy, hitting ability, foot work, etc...

Athleticism

Speed, quickness, aggressiveness, “heart”, etc...

Attitude

Sportsmanship, respect for others and the game, etc...

Scoring

Players will be scored in 5 categories with the maximum points for each being 15.

- Batting Skills
- Fielding Skills
- Throwing Skills
- Pitching Skills
- Running

Is a players name known throughout the tryout process?

All players will be given a random tryout number to insure there will be no bias among players who have or have not made a previous traveling team.

My child was measured and fitted during the tryout process. Does he automatically make a traveling team?

No. Anoka-Ramsey Baseball has added this station during the tryout process to increase speed and insure the proper fit of the uniform for the player.

15. What happens to the assessment score data?

After tryouts, the independent evaluators tally all scores and generate a report for our club. Again, no player's names are known and the scores will be entered and identified by the individual's tryout number. This information will be confidential and will not be shared until the team selection process begins. Anoka-Ramsey Baseball reserves the right to not publish raw data.

16. How are coaches chosen?

Coach candidates will be selected through an application process along with an interview from the Coach Selection Committee members prior to tryouts. The Coach Selection Committee consists of committee members and up to three independent resources. All those that are interested in coaching must have their application forms in by the final registration date. All coach candidates will be allowed to attend tryouts. The head coach will be named the week following tryouts. A majority vote of the Coach Selection Committee is required. All assistant coaches must be approved by the board. This Coach Selection Committee will consider several factors when selecting coaches:

- Coaching experience
- Input obtained from parents and players throughout the year
- Information from application form and interview process
- The results of tryouts, if the coach is a parent at the age group
- Attendance and/or participation in activities related to Anoka/Ramsey Baseball

This committee will select the coach that best represents Anoka-Ramsey baseball and the values it portrays. Each position will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Coaching a particular team or level one year does not guarantee that a coach will be asked to coach the team in following years. It also does not guarantee that the coach's child will automatically make the team.

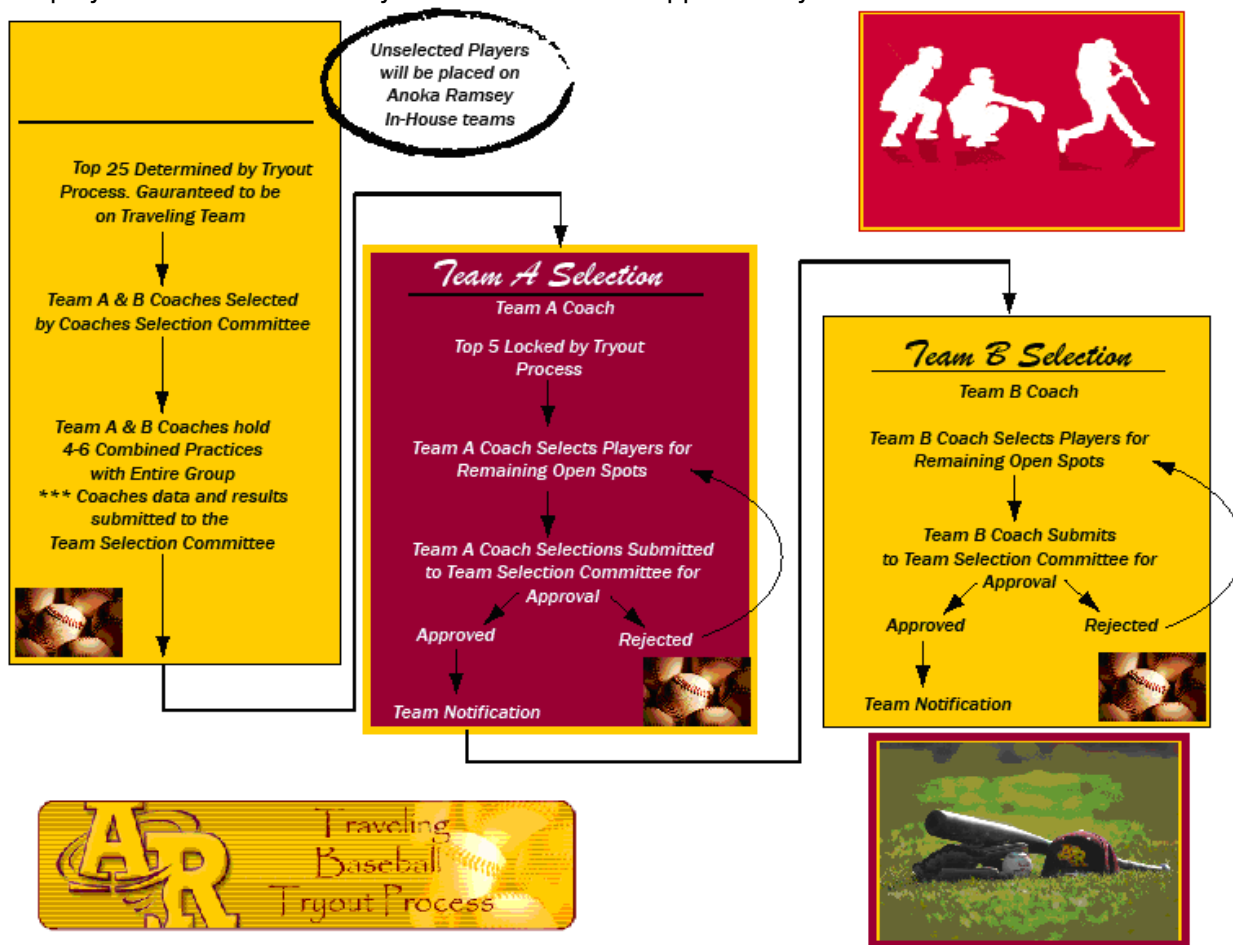
17. How teams are formed from the tryout results? SEE FLOW CHART.

Team Formation for traveling players (25 or greater traveling prospects.)

- Anoka-Ramsey baseball will determine how many of each age group has completed the tryout process and the overall ability to competitively field traveling teams at each level.
- Top 25 qualified players will automatically make a traveling team.
- The **top 5 players** based on their overall accumulated score during the tryout process will automatically make the “A” team.
- The “A” and “B” coach will hold 2-6 outdoor practices based on a pre-determined practice format established by the Tryout Committee.
- The “A” coach may then pick 7-8 players; depending on how many he chooses to carry from the group of true age players. These individuals chosen for the “A” team will be based on documented performance criteria from the outdoor practices. Maximum roster size is 14. These decisions will be based on tryout scores, overall observation during the outdoor practices, and the coach’s knowledge of the individual’s ability.
- All players that are chosen by the coach must be approved by the Team Selection Committee.
- Under discretion of the board, players not chosen may be put on In-House teams or a traveling “B” team may be formed.

Team Formation for “B” traveling players (25 or greater traveling prospects.)

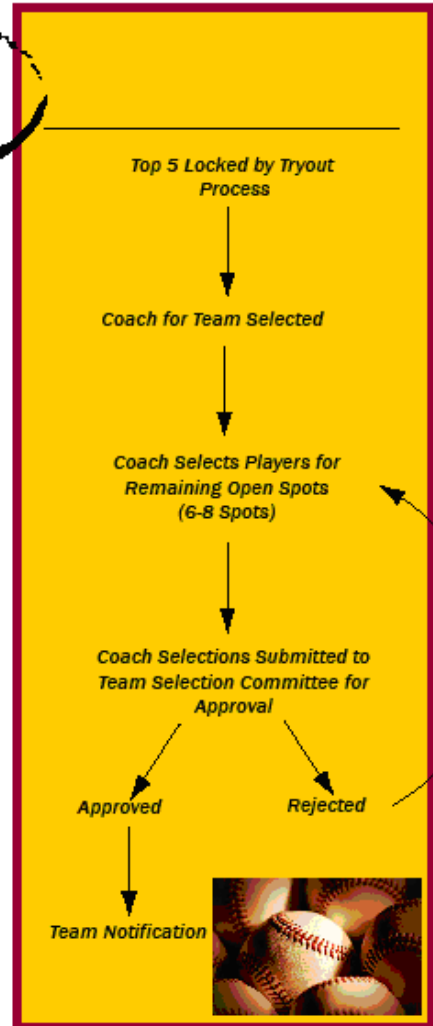
- The remaining individuals not chosen by the “A” coach will participate on the “B” team. All players that are chosen by the coach must be approved by the Team Selection Committee.



Team Formation for traveling players (<25 traveling prospects)

- The **top 5 players** based on their overall accumulated score during the tryout process will automatically make the “A” team.
- The “A” coach may then pick 7-8 players; depending on how many he chooses to carry from the group of true age players. These individuals chosen for the “A” team will be based on documented performance criteria from the tryout process. Maximum roster size is 14. These decisions will be based on tryout scores, overall observation during the tryouts, and the coach’s knowledge of the individual’s ability.
- All players that are chosen by the coach must be approved by the team selection committee.

Unselected Players
will be placed on
Anoka Ramsey
In-House teams



18. What are Coach's Picks, and how do they work?

A Coach's Pick is a change that a coach is allowed to make to the tryout-produced roster. Coach's Picks are not required; they are optional for coaches.

Coach's Picks are intended to be used to:

- Use the coach's knowledge of the players, including attributes such as cooperation, attendance, hustle, and so forth. Available for all coaches
- Allow the coach to select a player who simply had a bad day during tryouts and/or was injured prior or during the tryout process and could not participate. In this case, a doctor's release form must be presented to a member of the Team Selection Committee or Anoka Ramsey Baseball board member(s) prior to the start of tryouts. Available for all coaches.

Can a Coach's Pick be used on the coach's child?

Yes, on occasion. Coach selection is made at the discretion of the Coach Selection Committee. If the Coach Selection Committee decides that a particular coach would be the most appropriate selection for a particular team, then the coach may use a Coach's Pick on their own child if necessary. The player **must have** participated in tryouts.

Can Coach's Picks be used on players from different age groups?

No. Coach's Picks may only be used for players at the age group of the team; except as described in #9.

Can the coach replace players who leave the team after it's formed?

If a player decides to leave the team (and is released by the team selection committee) after the team is formed:

- If that player was a Coach's Pick, then the coach "recovers" the pick and may use it again on a different player
- The player can be replaced by the next player in the ranking from the assessments, subject to the discretion of the Team Selection Committee (this depends on when the player leaves; the Team Selection Committee needs to ensure the viability of the lower team). The player may be replaced by a Coach's Pick.

19. When will I be notified of my team placement?

It is our desire to notify players of their status as quickly as possible. Teams will be published on the Anoka-Ramsey Baseball website; www.anokaramseysports.org, when the entire age group is completed (not just one team). Individual scores are not published, and player listings will be by their tryout numbers (not rank order from tryouts). Under no circumstances are Ranking and Coach's Picks revealed.

20. What should I do if I think my child should have been placed on a higher-level Team?

First, recognize that the tryout process is not perfect. However, parents and players must recognize that every effort has been made to remove bias from the process. Anoka Ramsey Baseball has many examples of players who were placed on a lower level team for a year, then re-made the top team in subsequent years. While this can be distressing to players and parents in the short-term, sometimes players in this circumstance have their most enjoyable years, as they play significant innings and assume leadership roles. Players at all levels should receive the same curriculum of youth baseball training.

It is often easy (and natural) for parents to view their own child in an overly optimistic light. In the long run, it is much better for a player to play at a level commensurate with their ability than to be elevated beyond their current skills.

21. We had fun this year. Couldn't we just keep the team together for next year?

While we're glad that your current season was enjoyable, we are committed to our philosophy of open tryouts. Players develop at different rates, and movement between teams from year-to-year is common. Anoka Ramsey Baseball also has new players in the community every year. Hopefully, as players play with different teams from year to year, they will develop even more friends and acquaintances.

22. If I volunteer for the board, or other Anoka-Ramsey Baseball positions, will my child be shown any preference?

No. As much as Anoka Ramsey Baseball appreciates you to volunteer, it doesn't change your child's evaluation or team placement. No preference is given to children of committee members or other Anoka-Ramsey Baseball volunteers. Committee members' children are currently playing at all levels within the club.

Please Note: Anoka-Ramsey Baseball continues to grow and face tremendous challenges in keeping up with other baseball organizations in the Metro area. Anoka Ramsey Baseball has implemented this process because we feel it is in the best interest of all players in the Anoka-Ramsey Baseball organization. This document is a work in progress. Anoka-Ramsey Baseball organization reserves the right to revise this document at any time without notice.