



# Travel Baseball Decision Checklist

Should we commit to travel baseball now? (Check the boxes, read the recommended actions, and use the score guide at the bottom.)

## 1. What's the Goal?

Why do we want travel baseball?

- **Action:** Check the box(es) below that apply.  College exposure  Better coaching  More games  Social reasons
  - If "college" is a primary reason, write down realistic timelines. Remember that junior and senior years of high school matter most for recruiting.
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## 2. Does Your Child Want This?

Is your child genuinely excited about the time commitment and competition level of travel baseball?

- **Action:** If your child isn't enthusiastic, take a step back. Passion and intrinsic motivation are more important than pressure.
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## 3. Age & Readiness

Is the player at least 10–12 years old or showing advanced skills and commitment?

- **Action:** If they are under 10, consider waiting and letting them play local little league and other sports to prevent burnout and foster a love for the game.
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## 4. Multi-Sport Participation

Does the player participate in other sports or activities?

- **Action:** Encourage playing multiple sports. This promotes overall athleticism, prevents repetitive-use injuries, and helps avoid early specialization.
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## 5. Time Commitment

- Can your family handle the time commitment of weekend tournaments, practices, and travel?
    - **Action:** List the number of travel nights and tournaments per month and cross-reference them with your family's calendar to ensure the schedule is manageable.
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## 6. Financial Cost

- Do you know the full cost, including team fees, travel, hotels, food, private lessons, and equipment?
    - **Action:** Get a full annual cost estimate and compare it to alternatives, such as a local team combined with private lessons or camps.
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## 7. Coaching & Development Plan

- Are the coaches focused on player development (e.g., skill-building, strength and conditioning, proper mechanics) rather than just winning games?
    - **Action:** Ask the coaches about their credentials, their plan for the season, and their overall coaching philosophy.
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## 8. Tournament Selection

- Does the team have a plan that prioritizes quality over quantity when it comes to tournaments?
    - **Action:** Look for a schedule that limits travel and targets a few meaningful, well-run showcases or events instead of overbooking national tournaments.
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## 9. Family Impact

- Will the travel schedule disrupt your family's routine, work schedules, or siblings' activities?
    - **Action:** Have an open discussion as a family to decide what everyone is willing to sacrifice. Ensure this is a collective decision.
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## 10. Health & Workload Management

- Does the team have clear protocols for managing pitch counts, ensuring proper rest, and preventing injuries?
    - **Action:** Confirm that the team follows pitch limits, provides adequate offseason rest, and has a plan for player health and athletic development.
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## 11. Trial Period & Exit Plan

- Is there an option to try a single season or limited travel before committing long-term?
    - **Action:** Ask the team about their policies regarding refunds, credits, or the process for stepping back if the commitment isn't working out for your family.
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## Quick Score Guide

- **8–11 Checks:** Travel baseball could be a **good fit** for your family at this time.
- **5–7 Checks:** Consider a **hybrid plan**, like playing on a local team with targeted private lessons and specialized camps.
- **0–4 Checks:** It might be best to **wait** or focus on individual skill development rather than committing to a travel team right now.