

Playing on other teams

“Rec” team

- This IS allowed (most of my kids play on rec teams). You may even miss Elite practices, or Elite games to play with your local rec team throughout the year (although if you decide to do that, please don't complain to me about the difference in coaching - you made that choice :) ***Something to consider about this (important) - please be aware of your son's pitching with his rec team. Obviously, most of the kids playing travel ball are standout players in their local rec leagues, and therefore they are asked to pitch a lot for their local rec teams. If you show up with a hurt arm to an Elite tournament, because your son is throwing 85 pitches every time your rec team plays you have jeopardized your spot on that team. It's not fair to me, nor your son's teammates to show up and tell me your son can only play 1st base that weekend, because you didn't have the initiative to monitor your son's pitching, and his arm health during the week with his rec coach. A player whose main asset is his throwing arm showing up with a sore arm is the same as my centerfielder showing up telling me he can't run. If this happens there is a good chance he will not play - not because I am punishing him (that's not the case at all), but simply because his injury has now negatively impacted his value to his team that weekend.***

Travel team

- This IS allowed IF:
 - your son is not yet skilled enough to play on an Elite team, and therefore the opportunity to play with Elite on the weekends is not available to him
 - your age group is not playing that weekend (if you are a 12u player, and a 12u Elite team is playing that weekend (even if it is not your specific team), you may not play with another team.

Basically, I am avoiding a situation where one of my players plays against his own age group (I don't think it's fair for me to coach a player to go out and beat his own teammates). The obvious exceptions are if your son is not yet able to play with Elite due to his current skill level (I certainly don't want him to miss out on an opportunity to play with someone else if he can't play with me). The other exceptions are if your son's age group is not playing that weekend (by all means you may pick up extra tournaments with other teams when your age group is not playing). This may include the possibility that you may play against Elite (if your son elects to play “up” with another team he may, in fact, play against the older Elite team). I am okay with that, because reality is if this is the case we will probably beat you, and therefore I don't feel that I have compromised my commitment to the team I'm coaching by allowing you to play against them (it is similar to a player not skilled enough playing against us).

The bottom line, is if you've been asked to play with someone else, and are unsure about how it will work with Elite simply ask me!