

Diamond Dogs 2026-2027 Season

PARENT INFORMATION REGARDING EXPECTATIONS

Team Selection & Rosters

- Diamond Dogs teams typically carry 11–12 players, though final roster sizes are determined by the head coach. No player is guaranteed a roster spot from year to year, and all positions are evaluated annually through the tryout process.
- While skill and ability are major factors in roster decisions, team needs and roster balance may also be considered. For example, coaches may prioritize players who fill specific positional needs.
- At the 7U–14U levels, all rostered players will be included in the batting order unless unavailable due to injury or disciplinary reasons.

Estimated Player Costs & Financial Commitment

- **Commitment Fee:**
Players ages 8U–14U are required to pay a **\$550 commitment fee**. 7U players are required to pay a \$400 commitment fee. Players ages 15U–17U are required to pay a **\$850 commitment fee** due to increased coaching, training, and tournament expenses. Families with multiple players in the organization receive a **\$100 discount** for each additional sibling living in the same household. Commitment fees are non-refundable and due upon team acceptance. Payment plans and need-based scholarships may be available with Board approval.
- **Fundraising/Sponsorship Requirements:**
Each player (7U-14U) is required to sell (or purchase) **20 raffle tickets at \$10 each**. In addition, every team (7U-17U) is assigned a sponsorship goal. If the team goal is not met, the remaining balance will be divided equally among rostered players. All players are expected to participate in organization-wide and team fundraising efforts, as well as community service projects.
- **Additional Estimated Costs:**
 - Uniform Package: Approximately \$200-250. Final cost may vary based on pricing, duplicate items purchased, or additional team apparel selected by the coach.
 - Bat Bag: Approximately \$80–\$100 (new players only).
 - Helmet: Team-issued helmet required; approximately \$50–\$60 (new players only).
 - Travel Expenses: Vary by team schedule and age level. Most teams will have 2–4 travel weekends requiring hotel accommodations, with older teams often traveling farther and participating in out-of-state events. No overnight travel is planned for 7U teams.

All fees and costs are subject to change for future seasons.

Time Commitment & Expectations

- **Player Commitment**
Diamond Dogs is a competitive travel baseball organization. **Our commitment is to provide equal development opportunities for all players (outside of games), not equal playing time.** Playing time is not guaranteed and will vary based on factors such as attendance, effort, development, team needs, and game situation.

Players may participate in other activities; however, Diamond Dogs commitments—including practices, games, fundraisers, and community service projects—take priority. **Any school sport that may impact in-season availability should be discussed with the head coach before accepting a roster spot.**

- **Games**
Teams can expect to play approximately 50+ games throughout the season, including league play, doubleheaders, and tournaments, weather permitting. Additional games may be added throughout the year.

Players should plan to arrive approximately 60 minutes before game time unless otherwise directed by their coach. Some tournaments may require overnight travel at the family's expense. While schedules are built with player age and school commitments in mind, games may occasionally occur on school nights.

Practices

Practices are mandatory unless otherwise excused by the coaching staff. Indoor team practices begin during the winter months, with preseason practices typically occurring 2–4 times per week (7U practices once per week during the winter). Players are expected to arrive on time and be picked up promptly after practice. Unexcused absences may result in reduced playing time.

Equipment & Uniform Requirements

- Players are required to purchase standard game uniforms, including jerseys, pants, socks, belt, helmet, and bat bag. Teams are expected to have at least two game jerseys (typically orange and blue), and additional jerseys may be required at the coach's discretion. Players may purchase extra uniform items if desired.
- All players must have an athletic supporter with a protective cup and baseball cleats. We highly encourage the use of chest protectors during practices and games. Soccer and football cleats are not permitted. Players ages 13U and older may wear metal or interchangeable cleats, although some tournaments may require molded rubber cleats.

Registration Requirements

Prior to participation, players must provide proof of health and accident insurance and submit all required registration documents.

- Signed liability waiver
- Copy of birth certificate
- Copy of insurance card

Players are responsible for maintaining their own health and accident insurance coverage throughout the season.

The Board of Directors has provided a guide for head coaches to use when creating their team's schedule:

Age Group	Suggested Limit of Games (counting each tournament's minimum guarantee)	Approximate Number of Local Non-Tournament Games (includes league)	Total Overnight Tournaments	Approximate Number of Tournaments (overnight and local)
7U	25-30	10-12	0	3-4
8U	35-50	16-24	1-2	7+
9U	40-50	16-24	2-3	8+
10U	40-50	16-24	2-3	8+
11U	40-55	12-20	2-3	9+
12U	45-55	12-20	2-3	9+
13U	45-55	12-20	3-4	9+
14U	45-55	12-20	3-4	9+
15U	30+		2-4	6+
16U	30+		2-4	6+
17U	30+		2-4	6+

*Please note, the above table is a guideline for our coaches. These guidelines may change depending on a team's skill level and/or budget.

TRY-OUT REGISTRATION: www.mahometdiamonddogs.com/try-outs