



Road Trip! Baseball tournaments are heating up across the country

By Kevin Newell

Forget March Madness. When it comes to action-packed and thrilling events, you can't beat a regional or national amateur baseball tournament.

The experience is memorable and rewarding. Players from 8U to 18U have a chance to compete on a grand stage against outstanding competition. While baseball is the main attraction, many tournament sites provide first-class playing fields, lodging and festivities that make you feel like a big leaguer on a road trip.

Following is Junior Baseball's 2013 Tournament Guide, a collection of some of the top tournaments scheduled this summer and fall. From Florida to California to Texas and New York, chances are there's a destination that will have you packing a suitcase and your gear quicker than a Justin Verlander fastball. Catch one!

DISNEY BASEBALL EVENTS

What's great about this tournament? These select tournaments are about as close to playing in the Majors as you can get. All of the games are played on the same diamonds where the Atlanta Braves hold spring training at the famous Walt Disney World Resort. All tournaments include roundtrip bus transportation, hotel accommodations on the Disney property, and admission to one or more of the following theme parks for each day of the Ticket: Magic Kingdom® Park, Epcot®, Disney's Hollywood Studios™, Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park, plus much more.

Type: National

Contact: Kyle Cantrell (407) 938-3802

Online registration: www.disneybaseball.com

Tournament: Rawlings® International Salute to Baseball Festival

Dates: 6/30 - 7/13 (your choice of two weeks of baseball competition: 6/30 - 7/6 or 7/7 - 7/13)

Location: Walt Disney World® Resort, Orlando, FL

Ages: June 30-July 6: 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U & 18U ; July 7-13: 8U, 9U, 11U, 13U & 16U

Fee: \$475, five-game guarantee. Seven night hotel accommodations.

Tournament: Disney's Turn Back the Clock Weekend Presented by Rawlings®

Date: 8/30 - 9/2

Location: Walt Disney World® Resort, Orlando, FL

Ages: 8-U, 10-U, 11-U, 12-U, 13-U, 14-U, 16-U & 18-U

Fee: \$460 for registration; \$315 per person for four night accommodations and a 2-Day Magic Your Way Theme Park Ticket with Park Hopper®. Four-game guarantee.

Tournament: Disney New Year's Baseball Classic

Date: 12/29 - 1/1/14

Location: Walt Disney World® Resort, Orlando, FL

Ages: 8-U, 10-U, 11-U, 12-U, 14-U, 16-U & 18-U

Fee: \$550 prior to 7/31; \$650, from 8/1 to 11/22.

Four-game minimum, two umpires per game, public address announcers and scorekeepers for each game, and athletic trainers on-site, etc.

on a hitter's natural ability. Good hitters excel, average hitters struggle. Defense and pitching win games.

Type: Regional

Contact: Dan Clouser, (610) 927-4306

Online registration: www.berkshirebaseball.com

Tournament: Akadema July 4th Shootout

Date: 7/4 - 7/7

Location: Reading/Berks Co., PA

Ages: 10-U to 19-U

Fee: \$800, 10-U; \$950, 12-U; \$1000, 13-U; \$1000, 14-U; \$1050, 16-U; \$1100, 19-U

Tournament: Coca-Cola Summer Heat Wave

Date: 7/12 - 7/14

Location: Reading/Berks Co., PA

Ages: 10-U to 16-U

Fee: \$350, 10-U; \$600, 12-U; \$750, 13-U to 16-U

Tournament: Hooters Wood Bat Classic

Date: 8/9 - 8/11

Location: Reading/Berks Co., PA

Ages: 12-U to 18-U

Fee: \$600, 12-U; \$750, 13-U to 16-U; \$875, 18-U

Tournament: Bartush Signs Summer Finale

Date: 8/23 - 8/25

Location: Reading/Berks Co., PA

Ages: 11-U to 18-U

Fee: \$600, 11-U & 12-U; \$750, 13-U to 16-U; \$875, 18-U

Tournament: Beverly Hills Tavern Pagoda Classic

Date: 8/30 - 9/2

Location: Reading/Berks Co., PA

Ages: 10-U to 18-U

Fee: \$425, 10-U; \$600, 11-U & 12-U; \$750, 13-U to 16-U; \$825, 18-U

Tournament: Mad Dog Wood Bat Fall Classic

Date: 9/13 - 9/15

Location: Reading/Berks Co., PA

Ages: 10-U to 18-U

Fee: \$350, 10-U; \$600, 11-U & 12-U; \$750, 13-U, 14-U & 16-U; \$825, 18-U

COOPERSTOWN ALL-STAR VILLAGE

What's great about this tournament?

Billing itself as "America's Only Family Baseball Resort," Cooperstown All-Star Village is the new home of Youth Travel Baseball for children 12 and under, located in baseball country on the outskirts of Cooperstown, NY, near the Baseball Hall of Fame. Amenities include state-of-the-art tournament fields with lights and batting cages, an arcade, in-ground baseball glove-shaped swimming pool, and air-conditioned bunkhouses.

Type: National

Contact: Jim Rudloff, (800) 327-6790 ext: 337

Online registration: <http://cooperstownallstarvillage.com>

Tournament: Cooperstown All-Star Village Package

Date: Weekly sessions from 6/8 - 6/14 through 8/24 - 8/30

Location: Cooperstown, NY

Number of teams: N/A (team requirement of 11 players/two coaches)

Ages: 10-U & 12-U (guarantee of seven tournament games)

Fee: \$850 (includes three meals a day, air-conditioned bunkhouse, tickets to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, and induction into the Cooperstown Youth Baseball Hall of Fame, secondary team insurance, plus CASV cap, two jerseys, two pairs of socks, and warm-up jacket, etc.)

COOPERSTOWN BASEBALL WORLD

What's great about this tournament?

The National Youth Tournament Facility that offers weeklong and weekend tournaments for the 11-U through 16-U age divisions. Founded in 1999, it is the only youth tournament owned and operated by a Major League baseball owner (Eddie Einhorn, Chicago White Sox). At Cooperstown Baseball World you will experience competition against teams from throughout the U.S., as well as internationally. Weekly tournament packages include eight games guaranteed, six nights

lodging, and all meals.

Tournament: Cooperstown Baseball World Weekend Tournaments

Dates: Weekly 6/29 - 7/5 through 8/3 - 8/9

Location: SUNY-Oneonta, NY

Type: National

Number of teams: 6 teams minimum/12 teams maximum

Ages: 12-U to 16-U

Contact: (888) 229-8750 or cbw@cooperstownbaseballworld.com

Online registration: www.cooperstownbaseballworld.com

Fee: \$815 per player/coach; CBW approved umpire required; No umpire fee: \$800/team. Three-meals per day provided by CBW. Six nights lodging at SUNY-Oneonta dormitory with two players per room, two coaches per team (minimum) as monitors. Passes to the National Baseball Hall of Fame, CBW Hall of Fame ring, CBW gift apparel, CBW trading pin and water bottle, New Era customized team cap. Eight-game guarantee (weather permitting).

ALL WORLD BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

Tournament: Tall Timber

Date: 7/13 - 7/14

Location: North Lake Tahoe, CA

Type: Regional

Ages: 10-U to 14-U, 16-U, 18-U

Contact person: Jay Zetz, (916) 686-8772 or info@playallworld.com

Online registration: www.allworldsports.info

Fee: \$585, four-game guarantee

Tournament: The Golden Woody

Date: 7/28 - 7/29

Location: Sacramento, CA

Type: National

Ages: 8-U to 13-U

Fee: \$495, four-game guarantee

BERKSHIRE TOURNAMENT BASEBALL

What's great about this tournament?

The Berkshire Optimist Baseball Club has been organizing quality youth baseball tournaments since 1989. The pool-play tournaments strive to bring the highest quality of baseball in its purest form with wooden bats. Regardless of age, the tournament strongly believes that wooden bat baseball puts a true emphasis





WEEK-LONG SUMMER NATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENTS

JUNE 16-21	BEACH BLAST
JUNE 23-28	VERO BEACH INVITATIONAL
JUNE 30- JULY 5	INDEPENDENCE DAY CLASSIC
JULY 7-12	SUMMER SHOOTOUT

FORMERLY DODGERTOWN, SPRING TRAINING HOME OF THE DODGERS



VERO BEACH SPORTS VILLAGE
3901 26TH STREET
VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960

VBSPORTSVILLAGE.COM

(772) 257-8557
(866) 656-4900
INFO@VBSPORTSVILLAGE.COM



VERO BEACH SPORTS VILLAGE

What's great about this tournament? Experience baseball's most historic spring training complex, formerly Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Fla., where some of the game's immortal players once trained such as Jackie Robinson, Duke Snider, Gil Hodges, Roy Campanella and Sandy Koufax. Vero Beach Sports Village host's weeklong summer national invitational tournaments for ages 9U to 16U. The all-inclusive, affordable tournament packages include: accommodations, all meals, six game guarantee, team and individual awards, team cookout, and player skills competition. For more information, call 772-257-8541, email info@vbsportsvillage.com or visit www.vbsportsvillage.com.

Tournament: Independence Day Classic
Date: 6/30 - 7/5
Location: Vero Beach, FL
Type: National
Number of teams: Open
Ages: 9-U to 18-U
Fee: \$750

Tournament: Summer Shootout
Date: 7/7 - 7/12
Location: Vero Beach, FL
Type: National
Number of teams: Open
Ages: 9-U to 16-U
Fee: \$750

Tournament: Labor Day Beach Blast
Date: 8/31 - 9/2
Location: Vero Beach, FL
Type: National
Number of teams: Open
Ages: 9-U to 18-U
Fee: \$495

NATIONS BASEBALL

What's great about this tournament? The majority of the events are located near major metropolitan markets, making the experience an enjoyable one with amenities such as quality hotels, great shopping, and various local attractions. Plus, trusted members of the organization have personally inspected all of the playing fields to ensure unsurpassed safety and performance.
Type: National
Online registration: www.nations-baseball.com.

Tournament: East Coast World Series
Date: 7/19 - 7/21
Location: Rocky Mount, NC
Ages: 8 thru 14 Select
Fee: \$495, pool play, four-game guarantee
Contact person: Don Mason, don.mason@nations-baseball.com, (704) 824-1445
Tournament: Gulf Coast Select World Series
Date: 7/18 - 7/23
Location: Bradenton, FL
Ages: 9 to 14
Contact: Chuck White, chuck.



Ripken Tournaments can be found in Aberdeen, Md. and Myrtle Beach, S.C.

white@nations-baseball.com
Tournament: Great Lakes Select World Series
Date: 7/20 - 7/25
Location: North Ridgeville, OH
Ages: 8 thru to 14
Contact person: Harry Oschip, hoschip@glbl.org

RIPKEN YOUTH BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS

What's great about this tournament? Having lived their entire lives around baseball, both Hall of Famer Cal Ripken and brother Billy are paying tribute to the game by hosting outstanding tournament locations: first in their hometown of Aberdeen, MD and in one of the country's most desirable destinations, Myrtle Beach, SC. The Ripken Experience - Myrtle Beach is a world-class facility that features three regulation-sized diamonds, and five youth diamonds. The fields are designed after storied parks from baseball history, such as the Polo Grounds, Griffith Stadium, and the most recent addition, Ebbets Field. Each field features a synthetic playing surface used by many professional and collegiate teams. It allows for a more consistent playing surface, while also reducing the risk of injuries and lessening the chance of rainouts. Many tournaments sell out early, so register online soon at www.ripkentournaments.com. Or

call (800) 486-0850. Prices are for all-inclusive packages, including lodging, entertainment and tournament baseball!

Tournament: Stars & Stripes Week-Long Experience
Date: 6/30 - 7/5
Location: Aberdeen, MD
Type: National
Ages: 11-U & 14-U
Fee: \$675

Tournament: Blue Crab Weeklong Experience
Date: 7/14 - 7/19
Location: Aberdeen, Md.
Type: National
Ages: 10-U, 12-U and 13-U
Fee: \$675

Tournament: 9U National Pastime Tournament
Date: 8/5 - 8/10
Location: Aberdeen, Md.
Type: National
Ages: 9-U
Fee: \$1,095

Tournament: Sunset Classic Tournament
Date: 8/11 - 8/16
Location: Myrtle Beach, SC
Type: National
Ages: 11-U, 13-U, and 17/18-U
Fee: \$570

SPORTS AT THE BEACH

What's great about this tournament? Sports at the Beach, a 95-acre baseball facility located near Rehoboth Beach, Del., offers youth baseball tournaments from March through October, but specializes in weeklong summer tournaments known as Summer Classics. Tournaments are pool play leading to the championship round. C.A.B.A. affiliated.
Type: Regional/National
Contact: (800) 969-9008
Online registration: www.sportsatthebeach.com

Tournament: Moe's Southwest Grill Firecracker Blast
Date: 7/4 - 7/7
Location: Rehoboth Beach, Del.
Ages: 9-16
Fee: \$1,075

Tournament: Seahorse Showdown
Date: 7/26 - 7/28
Location: Rehoboth Beach, Del.
Ages: 10-19
Fee: \$1,075

Tournament: Lighthouse Launch
Date: 8/2 - 8/4
Location: Rehoboth Beach, Del.
Ages: 10-16
Fee: \$1,075

Tournament: Tater Time Open
Date: 9/7 - 9/8
Location: Rehoboth Beach, Del.
Ages: 10-16
Fee: \$800

Tournament: Buffalo Wild Wings Columbus Day Classic
Date: 10/12 - 10/14
Location: Rehoboth Beach, Del.
Ages: 10-16
Fee: \$1,000

UNITED STATES AMATEUR BASEBALL FEDERATION (USABF)

What's great about this tournament? The USABF is a provider of quality tournaments since 1994, routinely attracting top-flight travel baseball teams from around the nation. The USABF features a mixture of wood and aluminum bat tournaments directed at age groups from 14-U to 18-U. With its strong lineup of summer and fall events, the

USABF has attracted professional scouts and college recruiters on all levels. For more information on any tournament, contact Tim Halbig at (619) 934-2551. Register online at www.usabf.com.

Tournament: Fourth of July Classic
Date: 6/29 - 7/3
Location: San Diego, CA
Type: National
Ages: 14-U to 16-U, 18-U
Fee: \$795 (five-game guarantee)

Tournament: USABF World Series Challenge
Date: 7/18 - 7/21
Location: San Diego, CA
Type: National, double elimination
Ages: 15-U, 16-U, 18-U
Fee: \$500. Winners receive a free berth in USABF World Series.

Tournament: USABF World Series
Date: 7/27 - 8/3
Location: San Diego, CA
Type: National
Number of teams: Open
Ages: 15-U, 16-U, 18-U
Fee: \$1,075 (six-game guarantee)

Tournament: USABF Aluminum Bat World Series
Date: 7/27 - 8/2
Location: San Diego, CA
Type: National
Number of teams: Open
Ages: 10-U to 14-U
Fee: \$650 (five-game guarantee)

XTREME DIAMOND SPORTS

What's great about this tournament? This is a highly competitive and well-attended event that annually draws well over 150 teams from the western half of the United States, Mexico, Hawaii, Hanoi, and Vietnam and was the largest single week World Series event in the country for the past couple of years. For more information on the 2013 schedule, contact Rick Melendrez at (951) 538-2111. Register online at www.xtremediamondsports.com.

Tournament: XDS Xtreme World Series
Date: 7/22 - 7/28
Location: San Diego, CA
Type: National/International
Ages: 8-U to 18-U
Fee: \$995, 8-U and 9-U; \$1,095,

ELITE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT BASEBALL AT VIRGINIA SPORTS COMPLEX

Type: National
Contact: (804) 448-1520

Tournament: 2nd Annual VSC Hardball Sizzler
Date: 7/13 - 7/14
Location: Ruther Glen, Va.
Number of teams: 8-team limit
Ages: 9-U to 16-U
Fee: \$425-\$525; three-game guarantee

Tournament: 2nd Annual VSC Labor Day Blowout
Date: 8/31 - 9/1
Location: Ruther Glen, Va.
Number of teams: 8-team limit
Ages: 9-U to 16-U
Fee: \$450 - \$550; three-game guarantee

Tournament: 2nd Annual VSC September Slam
Date: 9/21 - 9/22
Location: Ruther Glen, Va.
Number of teams: 8-team limit
Ages: 10-U to 16-U
Fee: \$400 - \$500; three-game guarantee

FREE Sam Bat with Registration

SAM BAT FALL LEAGUE



A Development Wood Bat League

- Open to Players 12-18 years old
- Individuals or Teams Can Sign Up
- Short Season Format - September to October
- Includes Games & Instructional Clinics

Programs Run By College Coaches & Former Pro Players

www.SamBatFallLeague.com