

# **SAN MARCOS YOUTH BASEBALL TRAVEL DIVISION**

## **GUIDELINES**

Updated February 2021 (effective February, 2021)

To provide the advanced SMYB baseball players an opportunity to receive quality instruction, practice and play higher level competitive baseball for an entire season with the purpose of retaining players in SMYB and preparing skilled players for high school baseball.

### **Player Eligibility**

Eligible players are defined as all players within the SMYB league geographic area. In accordance with PONY baseball Southwest Region requirements, players must reside in San Diego County. SMYB has chosen to further define its geographic area to include the following:

All schools in the San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD).  
Areas that were covered by SMYB's historical boundaries, such as parts of

Escondido and Carlsbad that may or may not be included as part of SMUSD.  
Players from areas that do not have PONY baseball leagues (for example, Oceanside and Vista).

Because Travel teams do not play in PONY Baseball sanctioned events, teams are not required to abide by PONY Baseball's designated birth date cutoffs. PONY defines birth date ranges as September 1 - August 31. Travel teams may be comprised of players based on the birth date cutoffs established by travel baseball programs (USSSA, Triple Crown, Xtreme Diamond, AAU, etc.). These organizations define birth date ranges as May 1 - April 30. A player may *choose* to play on the Travel team that aligns with his/her PONY designated league age if he/she chooses.

### **Tryouts, Team Selection & Length of Season**

Each of the following age groups shall have the opportunity to provide for Travel baseball team(s) through SMYB: 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U. In the event of an excess of eligible players, the Board may consider approving more than one team at any age group. The number of teams at any age group will not exceed two.

Initial tryouts for all age groups will be in August. Additional tryouts most likely will be required.

A team roster must have 11 players but may not exceed 13 players. All players should be invited to all practices, games & tournaments if they are available to play. No guest players are allowed unless approved by the board. The team is to be selected by the manager.

The Travel season will be August through July. This is to allow older age groups to more easily align at grade level. Teams are approved for one year. A mandatory eight-week break is required (does not need to be consecutive) and shall be published in the schedule.

### **11U, 12U, 13U and 14U Age Groups**

An SMYB Travel team may choose to pick a player outside the area for the following reasons:

- No more than (2) players not in the SMYB geographic area. If there are not enough players that try out for a potential team then additional players from outside the SMYB area may be added to the roster with written request for approval to Executive Board.

### **13U and 14U Age Groups**

An SMYB Travel team may choose to pick a player outside the area for the following reasons:

- Not enough players try out for the potential team
- No more than (6) players not in SMYB geographic area
- A player may play up in an age group with a request in writing which must be submitted to the Board for approval in advance of the evaluation.

### **Manager & Coach Eligibility**

The manager position is a volunteer position and must have a son/daughter on the team. Managers shall not receive any financial compensation for their time. The manager shall have an active role in running the team, including scheduling, practices and game play. A manager may not head coach more than one SMYB travel team at a time. A manager will be allowed to be an assistant coach on another team if desired. The manager must present a business plan to the Board detailing the following:

- A list of all assistant coaches that will participate in practices and games and submit a coach's application and background check.
- A maximum of 2 Assistant coaches will be allowed and all must pass background checks. Assistant coaches will be volunteer coaches & shall not receive financial compensation for their time. They should have related kids on the team (Ex: father/ mother/ grandfather)
- A team can choose to periodically (should not exceed ~1-2x per month) hire a supplemental specialized coach and/or individual instructor for hitting, pitching and/or catching instruction. The specialized instructor/ coach will not be a volunteer assistant of the team. The specialized coach/ instructor needs a board approved application and background check if they will be doing instruction on SMYB fields. Parents on the team must be notified in advance of any additional fees related to a team bringing in a paid instructor. These fees must be voluntary and not required. The board can revoke this activity being conducted at MSP if it is deemed to be excessive and/or abused.

Draft schedule shall include game and tournament schedule with the goal of playing approximately 40-50 games.

- Schedule shall include mandatory scheduled breaks as required.
- Any significant changes to the schedule need to be submitted to the Board and approved
- A clear plan detailing how the team will be funded for a full year.

## 14U Age Group

It is recommended that the 14U team be comprised primarily of 8th graders. The team should follow NFHS guidelines for field size, equipment and should follow NFHS rules of play.

## Fees & Fundraising

After being selected to a Travel team, players are **required** to register on-line via the SMYB Website. Payment can be made either on-line or by check. The fee will be around \$400 annually but actual cost will be determined by the Board. Part of this fee (approximately \$100 per player annually) goes to the League to cover costs such as insurance, lights, umpires and field maintenance. Most of the fee goes back to the team to cover other expenses such as uniforms and tournaments. SMYB Travel teams are not intended to operate as "Pay for Play" entities with players being asked to contribute regular monthly fees. Teams should make every effort to ensure that their operating expenses are covered by the players' annual fees. In the event that a team's operating budget is greater than player fees provide for, players may be asked to contribute additional funds. Players should be encouraged to fundraise or find sponsorship if unable to meet financial requirements. Team accounting shall be done in conjunction with the SMYB Treasurer. The SMYB Executive Board shall have access to all team financial records.

Corporate sponsorships must be approved by the Board.

## Conduct & Discipline

It is mandatory that all managers, coaches, players, and families representing SMYB display appropriate conduct at all times. Travel teams are representing SMYB outside of both the league and San Marcos so it is important that SMYB is represented in an exemplary fashion. Behavior of parents, families and players is the sole responsibility of the manager. In addition, teams must include the SMYB league logo on their uniforms and are to identify themselves as SMYB teams when registering for tournament play or scheduling games versus any outside opponents.

Failure to adhere to SMYB's Code of Conduct, any behavior unbecoming of a manager or coach, a Travel/ Stallion guideline or League rule being broken could result in disciplinary action by the Board. Good judgment and common sense should prevail throughout the season. Disciplinary action can occur for any areas not listed within these guidelines.

Disciplinary actions taken by the Board may include warnings, suspension, and termination and can affect eligibility for any future positions within SMYB.