

# SCAA Sunday Select Baseball Rules and Regulations

*Approved December 2, 2024*

Sunday Select (Select) program is offered by SCAA so that those players wishing to experience a higher competitive level may have an opportunity to do so. This program is a supplemental program to our normally provided Recreational baseball program. These teams are all to be known as “Southern Chesapeake Athletic Association Thunder”, or “SCAA Thunder”.

As of the November 2023 SCAA Board of Directors Meeting, SCAA no longer has a Travel baseball program. All current teams approved as Travel will be grandfathered to continue until that specific team is disbanded. Grandfathered Travel Teams are to follow the last set of rules and regulations governing Travel Teams at SCAA dated January 2017.

## **A. Definition of Select Programs**

- a. PONY Baseball in the East Zone, South Region, Northeast Section (SCAA's Zone/Region/Section) has identified Select program as follows:
  - i. Full Select Program: Is no longer approved as of November 2024.
  - ii. SCAA Select Program: The Select Program is available for teams in the Pinto through Palomino divisions (7U – 18U age groups). Players enrolled in the Select program will participate in the SCAA recreational baseball season as players in the league under 2 different internal SCAA structures:
    1. “Integrated” Select Team- These players will play on their Select team, of which the team is integrated into the Rec program. Players do not play on an additional recreational baseball team. Teams in this program are the 12U age group & below.
    2. “External” Select Teams- These players will play on their Select team in addition to their recreational baseball team. Teams in this program are the 13U age group & up.
  - iii. Select Teams will be eligible to play in Pony All-Star Tournaments.
  - iv. 12U Select Team is designated as the “Cooperstown” Team. If the team does not select to participate in the “Cooperstown Experience”, they are required to qualify and play in the PONY All-Star Tournament. Regardless of participation in the “Cooperstown Experience” or not, the 12U Select Team is still required to assist the 11U Select Team (if one exists) to be PONY All-Star Tournament eligible.

## **B. Eligibility of Players for Select Teams**

- a. PONY further defines eligibility to participate in Select Baseball play as:
  - i. Players must be of legal age as per the PONY Baseball League Age Key.
  - ii. They must current reside within their league's boundaries.
    1. SCAA Baseball boundaries are currently defined by PONY as “the City of Chesapeake or anywhere in the State of North Carolina.”
  - iii. Select team players must have a minimum twelve (12) game schedule against PONY registered Rec teams.
  - iv. All Select team players must have played at least half their team's required games (minimum 6) to qualify for and participate in PONY Tournaments.
- b. Players who participate in High School Baseball may also be members of an SCAA Select Baseball team and must adhere to the following:
  - i. All players must still have participated in at least one-half of their SCAA team's games in the league division represented unless excused because of a scholastic competition by SCAA's PONY Region Director. Upon written request from SCAA, PONY Region Directors may lower this requirement to participation

in one-third of a team's games for a player or players who are engaged in a state high school baseball tournament and are prohibited from PONY Baseball play until scholastic competition is completed. Any players who participate in the USA Baseball Tournament of Stars will have those games count towards this total.

- ii. Player must still register as a Select Team Player once registration is setup by the Registration Manager.
- iii. JV and Middle School Team Players must still participate in the Rec program and play the required minimum amount of games to be eligible for PONY Tournament Play.

### **C. Definitions of New or Returning Select Baseball Teams**

- a. Select Teams will be approved for one (1) calendar year, but may be evaluated prior to each season for conformance to SCAA standards, and may be terminated at any time upon the discretion of the Board of Directors with just cause.
- b. If a team was not a Select Team the previous season, then the team is considered newly formed. The exception shall be that the team may be considered a returning team if it did not participate in the previous fall but did participate the previous spring. Not operating in the previous spring or for one fall/spring year deems the team as new.
- c. If the Team Manager departs and one of the Assistant Coaches does not step up to manage the team, then the team is considered new unless the team retains greater than 50% of its roster and a parent of one of those players becomes the Team Manager.
- d. If a team officially announces to the Baseball Select Coordinator and/or the Vice-President of Baseball that they have chosen to disband, and the later decides to re-form, it will be considered a new team.
- e. If the team decides to forego the fall season with the intent to participate in the following spring season it will not lose its status.

### **D. Definition of Select Team Seasons**

- a. Teams are formed for a full year beginning February 1 ending on November 30 and divided into two (2) seasons.
  - i. February 1 to July 31 for the spring season.
  - ii. September 1 to November 30 for the fall season, and is optional.
- b. Teams formed at any point during the year, end their calendar year on November 30 also.

### **E. Tryout Requirements for Select Baseball Teams**

- a. All Select Baseball teams are required to hold tryouts for the full roster of their team prior to the beginning of the Spring season. Players registered as a participant during the previous season of an existing team must also participate in the tryouts.
- b. All Select Teams must have at least one (1) full tryout per calendar year.
- c. All players trying out for Select Teams must be registered with SCAA prior to participating in any post-tryout team events.
- d. Select Teams may form prior to the Fall Rec Season and must have a full roster tryout prior to forming.

### **F. Registration of Select Players and Select Fees**

- a. Players chosen to be members of an SCAA "integrated" Select Baseball team will register for Spring Season through the same method as recreational players, using the SCAA Registration System. Registration fees will not differ from the set registration fee for the player's current division of baseball play. Registration fees paid through the current SCAA process will constitute the sum of the Select Baseball team fee for the current season.

- i. Registration Fee includes SCAA fields/facility usage, PONY Team Registration Fees, Umpire Fees covered under Section J, and other goods and services as deemed included by the Board of Directors.
    - 1. All other costs and fees associated with a Select Team schedule will be paid for by each Select Team.
  - ii. Select Teams will not receive uniforms (hats/jersey) as provided for Rec teams as that amount will be the player's Select Fee for the season.
  - iii. Current Uniform cost is \$25.
- b. Players chosen to be members of an SCAA "External" Select Baseball Team in Spring Season will register in the SCAA Registration System once the teams are formed and Spring Select Team registration has been setup by the SCAA Registration Manager.
  - i. Each Select player will pay the current price of Rec team's uniforms as their Select Registration Fee for Spring when registering.
    - 1. Current Uniform cost is \$25.
- c. All Select Teams will also be required to pay the All-Star Team fee if participating in the PONY Tournaments.
- d. All Fall Select Team Players will register in the SCAA Registration System once the teams are formed and Fall Select Team registration has been setup by the SCAA Registration Manager.
- e. All Fall Select Teams (Integrated and External) will pay a flat fee per team as set by the Board of Directors and is payable by September 15<sup>th</sup>. If teams fail to pay, they are suspended and may not use the SCAA Complex or City Fields assigned SCAA until the fee is paid. Current fee is \$300.
  - i. Fall Select Team Fee may be partially or fully waived for work done at SCAA for projects and assistance rendered as approved by the Board of Directors.
- f. All Team Managers, Assistant Coaches, and Team Parents must register through the same method as their players.
- g. All Select Teams are PONY affiliated and the PONY team registration fee is paid by SCAA.
- h. Membership in other baseball associations is strictly a separate cost to be paid by the Select players/families and not part of the SCAA registration fees. Any Select team with a league affiliation other than SCAA will not be recognized as a Select team for field usage. These teams must put in a field rental request to the SCAA Board of Directors.
- i. If a player leaves the Select team or otherwise does not complete their commitment after signing the commitment letter they may not join any other SCAA Select Team or All-Star Team for one (1) spring seasons. The Board of Directors must approve deviations from this section. The reason for failure to honor the commitment must be submitted to the VP of Baseball and Rules Committee Chairman in writing and prior to withdrawing from the team.

#### **G. Rostering of Select Baseball Teams**

- a. Select teams shall roster a minimum of ten (10) players and no more than fifteen (15) active players. For 16U and up Select Teams may be allowed up to eighteen (18) players. For PONY Tournament Play a minimum of twelve (12) rostered players are required to participate.
- b. Select Baseball Teams are not required within all age divisions.
- c. There will be no more than two (2) Select teams per division, one in each age group in the division. Teams will follow Pony age guidelines. Example: Mustang would have one 9U & one 10U Select team.
- d. Select Baseball teams (both Integrated and External) from the Pinto (7U-8U) to the Bronco age divisions (11U-12U) must complete their tryout process (if applicable) and provide a roster of selected players to the Baseball Select Coordinator by February 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Select baseball teams that have not provided a roster will not be eligible to practice or play games at any SCAA field or outside field until a roster is provided.

- e. For the Pony (13U-14U), Colt (15U-16U), and Palomino (16+) age divisions, completed rosters are due to the Baseball Select Coordinator by May 15, however, all teams must submit rosters prior to practicing or playing at any SCAA field or outside field.
- f. For all Select Teams for the Fall season, completed rosters are due to the Baseball Select Coordinator by September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- g. Select Teams will not be scheduled for practice times until rosters have been submitted to the Baseball Select Coordinator. Select Teams will not play games until rosters have been submitted to the Baseball Select Coordinator.
- h. Players may only be rostered on one SCAA Select team per season.

#### **H. Selection & Responsibilities of Team Managers & Team Staff**

- a. All Teams can roster three (3) official coaches per team with an additional 4<sup>th</sup> coach for Pinto teams.
  - i. The official positions are Team Manager, Assistant Coach, & Assistant Coach/Business Manager.
  - ii. Pinto teams add an additional Assistant Coach position.
- b. Integrated Select Teams must also appoint a Team Parent in Spring and have them register with the team to be assigned by the Division's Player Agent.
- c. To qualify as a Manager or Coach of a Select Team, the applicant must have Managed or Coached in the previous Spring season at SCAA.
- d. An SCAA Select Baseball Team Manager voted into position by the Board of Directors at the beginning of a calendar year is required to maintain management of the same team until the conclusion of the spring/summer season on July 31st of the same calendar year.
- e. Any Manager voted into position during the fall season is required to maintain management of the same team until the conclusion of the spring/summer season of the following calendar year.
- f. Select Team Managers must apply every year by January 15<sup>th</sup> and be approved by Board of Directors annually. Returning Select Team Managers get priority to keep team.
- g. Team Manager is responsible for entire team operation including finances.
- h. Team Managers and Coaches must remain with their respective team until the team's tournament season play is concluded due to failure to advance to higher-level play even if it passes the July 31 cutoff.
- i. All Team Managers and Coaches must be Background Checked by SCAA. A team cannot conduct a practice or any other event without a background checked Manager or other Coach present.
- j. All Team Managers & Coaches must sign the SCAA Select Team Commitment Letter.
- k. If a Team Manager or Coach prematurely leaves the Select team after signing the commitment letter they may not join any other SCAA Select or All-Star team for two (2) spring seasons. The Board of Directors must approve deviations from this section. The reason for failure to honor the commitment must be submitted to the VP of Baseball and Select Coordinator in writing and prior to withdrawing from the team.
- l. Team Managers are allowed to manage only one (1) Select Team per season.
- m. All Integrated Select team's Team Parents are required to perform the duties associated with a Rec team's Team Parent for the Select Team in the Spring season, including attend a Team Parent Meeting.

#### **I. Scheduling of Games & Practices for Select Teams**

- a. All games and practices to take place at the SCAA complex must be scheduled through the Baseball Select Coordinator.
- b. It is the responsibility of the Baseball Select Coordinator to coordinate with the corresponding age division's Field Director when Integrated Select games scheduled at SCAA by a Select Baseball team are being played against another PONY Baseball Team.

- i. The respective Division Field Director will add these scheduled games into their electronic system to secure umpires for the game(s).
- c. SCAA regularly scheduled recreational and make-up games will take precedent over any scheduled Select function.
- d. Per Subsection C, scheduling of official PONY Baseball regular season games against teams also designated by PONY as "Registered Rec Teams" will be the responsibility of the Select Team Manager.
- e. Integrated Select Teams will be scheduled games against another SCAA Integrated Select Baseball team within the same age division. These games will also count towards the required twelve (12) game season outlined in subsection B.
- f. Integrated Select Teams may be scheduled against SCAA Rec Teams, if Rec Teams are willing to play them, by the division Field Director. These games will be played by SCAA Rec rules currently in force. These games will also count towards the required twelve (12) game season outlined in subsection B but will not count towards the Rec team's record for the End of the Season Tournament standings.
- g. Integrated Select teams in even age groups (8U, 10U, & 12U) with no other Select team in their division may be allowed to play up to 50% of their required games against SCAA Registered Select Teams in the next upper division. They may also play against the next SCAA upper division's Rec teams, with the game not counting towards the Rec team's record for the season. These games will also count towards the required twelve (12) game season outlined in subsection B.
- h. Integrated Select Team Managers may schedule play against other PONY registered teams from other PONY Associations. These teams must be registered as PONY Rec Teams, just as SCAA teams are, to be counted towards the required twelve (12) game season outlined in subsection B.
- i. Scheduling of all games by Select teams that are outside of the required twelve (12) game Pony season will be based on field availability as determined by and approved by the Baseball Select Coordinator.
- j. Select Team Managers are permitted to schedule games either at the SCAA facility or at away locations against non-PONY-sanctioned teams. These games, however, will not count towards the required twelve (12) game season outlined in subsection B. Scheduled games for Integrated Select Teams against non-PONY sanctioned teams should be kept to a minimum.

## **J. Umpires For Select Team Games**

- a. All Select Teams are responsible for the booking and payment of their own umpires.
- b. Select Teams are covered under SCAA's contact with EOA.
- c. Select Teams may also use SCAA's In-House Umpire Crews by contacting the Baseball Umpire Liaison.
- d. Integrated Select Teams that play a Division's Field Director scheduled game during the Rec schedule will have umpire(s) paid for by SCAA.
  - i. This will not exceed six (6) games per season per team.
  - ii. SCAA will provide one field umpire for Pinto Division games; one umpire behind the plate for Mustang Division games; and two umpires for Bronco Division games.
  - iii. If a Full Select Team doesn't have another Full Select Team in its division the team will be refund the cost of umpires for six (games) in their division.
- e. Select Team Umpire Fee
  - i. All Select Baseball teams will be charged in addition to their Select Team Fee a seasonal Umpire Fee as set by the Board of Directors to cover the administration fee for the booking of umpires through EOA. Invoices provided to SCAA at the completion of the season will be reconciled by the SCAA Treasurer and each team will be refunded the amount unused of the paid Umpire Fee.
  - ii. If the fee is determined to be over amount paid to SCAA, SCAA will provide the team with the balance to be paid within thirty (30) days.

- iii. Teams that do not use EVOA will not be required to pay the fee and Team Manager is solely responsible for all payments and fees to umpires.
- iv. The current Umpire Fee is \$200.

#### **K. Select Team Playing Rules**

- a. All Players must play a minimum of two (2) complete innings in any warm up tournament game, scrimmage, or practice game prior to the Official Pony Tournament. Playing time and position for the official Pony tournament is at the Manager's discretion. Managers and Coaches are strongly encouraged to insure all players are utilized in tournament play.
- b. Play time rules for all games other than PONY Tournaments are same as for Warm Up Tournaments
- c. All Select games must follow Official PONY Rules for the team's division no matter the opponent, including use of USA Baseball Approved bats. If a Select Team enters a Tournament where the rules of the Tournament allow for the use other bat standards/certifications, Select Teams may follow those standards.
- d. Team Managers are responsible to keep track of pitch counts using the PONY approved Pitch Count regulations in force. Team Managers must also keep track of any pitch counts occurred by Pitchers during Rec Games and must be accounted for in Select Team play. Recreational League Baseball Pitching is first priority. Any violation of pitch count rules will result in Team Manager's suspension and other disciplinary action as deemed necessary.
- e. Field Maintenance must be performed after the last practice/games/events on Friday nights and Sunday to include: emptying all trashcans from dugouts, dragging the field, and cleaning the restrooms. Failure to do so could result in the loss of field usage or fines.
- f. Select Teams are responsible for complex security and integrity (i.e. locking buildings and gates, turning off field lights, ensuring facility and buildings are not damaged, etc.) and all SCAA Safety and Facility Use Policies are complied with by both their teams and visiting teams.

#### **L. Rules & Requirements of Select Teams & Players**

- a. Once formed, all members of a Select Baseball Team must complete and furnish to the Baseball Select Coordinator an SCAA Letter of Commitment. This includes Managers, Assistant Managers, Business Managers, and players.
- b. Select Team players, coaches and parents are subject to the same rules, codes of conduct and restrictions as defined in PONY Rules and SCAA Rules.
- c. Integrated Select Baseball teams will be required to participate in the same obligations as are required of the recreational baseball teams for each respective age division as deemed by the Board of Directors. This includes, but are not limited to assignment to field maintenance duties, assignment of the concession stand duty, and participation in raffle ticket fundraising.
- d. If any Select team is found in any way bypassing, abusing, or not obeying SCAA rules & guidelines then, at the discretion of the SCAA Board of Directors, that team may be dissolved immediately. In these situations, no reimbursement of SCAA fees or funds will be granted to the Select Team.
- e. All Select Baseball players will be allowed to attend no more than five (5) baseball events per week.
  - i. Events include any gathering of at least four (4) players and a member of the coaching staff at any location for the purpose of playing or practicing baseball.
  - ii. Weekend games scheduled as double-headers (two scheduled games on the same day) will be considered a single event.

- iii. Managers may not schedule multiple events in a single day. This is not intended to include tournament play over the course of several days.
- f. Integrated Baseball teams are provided access to the same pre-season support as are the SCAA recreational teams, as deemed by the Board of Directors. This is to include a supply of new baseballs, access to baseball catcher's gear, appropriate safety gear, scoring books, etc. External Select baseball teams are responsible for providing their own baseballs and relevant equipment for play.
- g. Players may only play on one (1) Select team.
- h. Players who are not on the roster of a Select Team may be invited to play on a Select Team as a Guest Player if the following conditions exist:
  - i. Guest Players must be registered in the Spring Rec season at SCAA.
  - ii. In the Fall season, Guest Players must have played on a team in the Previous Spring Rec Season at SCAA.
  - iii. The Select Team must have less than ten (10) players that will be attending the game.
  - iv. If a Guest player has not been registered with SCAA per above, then the Guest player must sign a waiver of liability prior to playing as a Guest player. This applies to players who are not part of the SCAA organization, but are looking to join; Or in the event that a Select team needs a ninth player to play in a game when no other players are available as described above.

#### **M. Select Team Uniforms**

- a. All Select Team Managers will be responsible for the selection of team hats and uniforms from the standard Thunder uniforms as approved by the Board of Directors. The purchase of these items will be covered from within Select Team budgets, or by individual players at the direction of the Select Team Manager. Teams may not design, purchase, or wear hats or uniforms outside the approved standard ones.
- b. Any deviations, to include special event uniforms, must be approved by the Board of Directors.
- c. All Select Teams uniforms must contain an SCAA logo, identifying the team as an SCAA team.
- d. Players and coaches must wear the full official SCAA uniform and PONY Tournament patches.
- e. All coaches for warm up tournaments and other scheduled events/games as an option may elect not to wear tournament attire however they must be in similar athletic attire (same color athletic shorts and shirts i.e. no blue jeans).