



SCREAMING EAGLES



TRAVEL BASEBALL & SOFTBALL PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

*Approved by the Dover Diamond Sports Executive Board – 10/01/25
Last Update- 10/24/25*



DDS SCREAMING EAGLES- TRAVEL BASEBALL & SOFTBALL PROGRAM

DDS Screaming Eagles- Travel Baseball & Softball Program Guidelines

SECTION A: PROGRAM OVERVIEW 3

A.1- ABOUT THE PROGRAM	3
A.2- ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM	3
A.3- COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS AND COACHES	4
A.4 - SCHOOL IS PRIORITY	4
A.5- TEAM DISCIPLINE.....	4
A.5.1 – PLAYER, PARENT, OR COACH EJECTIONS (“THREE STRIKE RULE”).	5
A.6- DOVER DIAMOND SPORTS CODE OF CONDUCT	6
A.7- SCREAMING EAGLES PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT.....	7
A.7.1 – CODE OF CONDUCT OR BYLAWS VIOLATION: COACHES AND PARENTS	8
A.8- SELECTION OF MANAGERS AND COACHES- TEAM POSITIONS	9
A.9- NUMBER OF TEAMS IN PROGRAM	10

SECTION B: PLAYER SELECTION PROCESS..... 11

B.1- TRYOUTS.....	11
B.2- CRITERIA FOR SELECTION	11
B.3- ROSTER SIZE AND REQUIREMENTS	11
B.4- PLAYING TIME	11
B.5- PLAYER REPLACEMENT	12
B.6 – GUEST PLAYER POLICY	13

SECTION C: TEAM ACTIVITIES 14

C.1- PRACTICES	14
C.2- REGULAR SEASON PLAY	14
C.3- TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION	14
C.4- TENTATIVE TEAM SCHEDULE - CALENDAR OF EVENTS.....	15
C.5- PLAYER SAFETY.....	15

SECTION D: TEAM BUDGET AND FUNDRAISING 16

D.1- ESTIMATED BUDGET	16
D.2- DDS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TEAMS	16
D.3- UNIFORMS	17
D.4- FUNDRAISER PAYMENTS BACK TO DDS	17
D.5- USE OF TRAVEL FUNDS AND APPROVED EXPENDITURES	17
D.6- FUNDRAISING & SPONSORSHIPS.....	17
D.7- FUNDS MANAGEMENT.....	18
D.8- EXCESS FUNDS	18
D.9- EOY PARTY	18
D.10- TEAM ESCROW.....	18



Section A: Program Overview

A.1- About the Program

Mission:

To create a competitive baseball program that will be utilized as a feeder system to Dover High School Baseball and Softball. The focus will be on good sportsmanship, hustle, effort, and the fundamentals of the game we love. Though teams will strive to win games, winning will be secondary to development.

Purpose:

The purpose of this program is to provide our Dover Baseball and Softball Players an outlet to a more competitive level of baseball. Especially in recent years, the number of players that started their baseball careers in DDS have since left for other local Travel Teams. Although based on speculation, the belief is that these players are leaving DDS due to a lack of competitive Travel Teams, or a team designed for more competitive play.

This program would be separate from any other Dover Diamond Sports Leagues.

A.2- Administration of the Program

Dover Diamond Sports Board:

The Dover Diamond Sports Board (DDS Board) would oversee everything involved with this travel program. Although daily activities would be managed by the team Manager and team GM, the DDS Board would have final say on all aspects of these teams. The DDS Board will appoint the Tournament Director Position to oversee all operations at the Travel Ball level. This appointed member will relate back to the board during meetings with updates and important information.

Travel Organization Board Development:

The Tournament Director will be voted into this position by the existing DDS Board members and will serve a 1-year term. As this program continues to grow, the DDS Board will assign more members to serve as the Travel Program Board of Directors. This Board would consist of each Teams Head Coach, GM, and Team Treasurer.

2025-2026 DDS Tournament Director- Matthew Hammock:

Coaching Qualifications & Background:

Matt has been involved in baseball for over 30 years. He played 4 years of high school varsity baseball as a catcher and received 2 all county honors along with playing 4 years of state travel baseball for the Harford Sox in Maryland. He has coached baseball at the youth level for past 8 years and coached 4 years of travel baseball for Chris Hoiles Elite, American Arsenal, and Back Yard University Gamers at all levels. Matt also served on the board of directors of MTAA Youth Baseball program as 10U GM and Assistant Baseball Commissioner for 2 years, Vice President of Back Yard University Non-Profit for 2 years, and currently serves as coaching director for Dover Diamond Sports. During his time on the board, Matt oversaw designing, coordinating, and creating off season work out plans, practice plans and coaching outlines for all levels. He also set up and ran the tryouts for our Legion and Jr. Legion program as well as player assessments for our younger baseball programs.



A.3- Communication with Parents and Coaches

Parent Meeting:

At the conclusion of try outs and when the team is formed, a parent meeting will be held. This is the information to be shared with parents and players:

Teams will play in a league as well as 2-10 tournaments. This can be discussed amongst each team. The focus will be to get together to discuss team budget, number of tournaments, length of travel, and fundraising. Fundraising is non-negotiable and something the team will do together. It is our goal to keep costs no more than \$500 per player per year. The rest of the team budget will be fundraised. Discuss 12U weeklong tournament and start planning fundraising events to cover expenses. ***See section C for Tentative Calendar of Events***

Coach Meeting and Training:

Plans will include many coaches' meetings to discuss all things team, player, & coaching related topics. The purpose is to provide input, set schedules, and discuss any team related matters. Ultimately, the staff must be on the same page with development and strategies. Coaches will be making final decisions, but also know that other input, different opinions, and options are best listened to and digested before moving forward on what would be best for the team. Positioning, lineups, playing time, and discipline are all up for discussion amongst the coaches.

A.4 - School is Priority

As much as the travel program wants to develop our players for competitive baseball now and for the future, school will remain the #1 focus for our players. The Head Coach and GM will have a program in place to coordinate with parents to check in on grades, classroom progress, and overall behavior. If a player is falling behind in school or could use more time for school related activities, the player would be excused from the team until improvements are made. Any school related discipline, whether academic or behavioral, could result in suspension from the team or reduced playing time.

The expectation of our players is to be leaders both on the field and off the field. Players need to handle their school responsibilities and continue that as their priority. That stands true in the classroom academically, along with their behavior in school, and behavior outside of school. Any type of discipline will be discussed with the players' parents along with the Head Coach and GM. At the end of the day, school is the #1 priority.

A.5- Team Discipline

The team (both parents and players) will follow the DDS Code of Conduct (in detail in the following section). This will be reviewed at the first practice and signed by each parent and player. Our overall philosophy on discipline will be "common sense" based. Things like hustle, coachability, being a good teammate, and sportsmanship will be at the core of this approach. An example of common sense will not include punishing a player because he is late, as that is up to his parents versus the player. If an issue of that nature became habitual, the Head Coach would look to address it with the parents (how can perhaps other parents assist, etc.). Parents/Legal Guardians all have outside jobs and commitments, so this team needs to support one another and assist those who may need it. If the issue continued, common sense would be used as it could then become unfair to players and families who honor their commitment to the team. There will be times when players cannot make practices or games due to illness, school, or family / vacation commitments. The team's position will be to ensure these absences are communicated to the coaching staff in a timely manner for transparency. Any sort of consequence, such as limited playtime or benching, would be explained to both the player and parents by the head coach.



A.5.1 – Player, Parent, or Coach Ejections (“Three Strike Rule”).

In the event that a player, parent/guardian, or coach is ejected from a game or team activity, the following procedures and disciplinary actions shall apply:

1. Mandatory Reporting

All ejections must be reported to the Screaming Eagles (SE) Director immediately following the incident. The report shall include a factual account of the circumstances surrounding the ejection.

2. Required Apologies

The individual subject to ejection shall:

- Deliver a verbal apology to the team.
- Submit a written apology to the officiating umpire(s) involved in the incident.

Ejection – First Offense

- The individual shall be suspended from participating in the next scheduled game and practice.

Ejection – Second Offense

- The individual shall be suspended for a period of seven (7) calendar days from all practices and games.
- The individual shall be required to attend a meeting with the SE Board to discuss the incident and review the Code of Conduct.
- The individual shall be formally advised that any subsequent ejection will result in permanent removal from the team (“Three Strikes Rule”).

Ejection – Third Offense

- The individual shall be permanently removed from the team.
- This termination shall be final and not subject to appeal.



A.6- Dover Diamond Sports Code of Conduct

This program will adopt and follow the DDS Code of Conduct. Any modifications to the DDS Code of Conduct will apply to this entire program. **All players and Parents/Guardians must sign off on the DDS Code of Conduct, Screaming Eagles Parents Code of Conduct and our School Policy Initiative.**

The Dover Diamond Sports (DDS) Board of Directors has mandated the following Code of Conduct for all parents, volunteers, including Board members, officers, managers, coaches, and parent helpers. The manner in which DDS families and volunteers conduct themselves on and off the field is a direct reflection of DDS as a whole. It is imperative and expected that all DDS families and volunteers will hold themselves to the highest level of integrity, sportsmanship by agreeing to these rules:

1. I will not physically attack any board member, official, umpire, manager, coach, player or spectator.
2. I will respect the decisions of all officials. I will not react in an unsportsman-like way to an official's decision.
3. I will not use rough tactics in the play of a game against the body of an opposing player, coach, or official.
4. I will refrain from using alcohol, tobacco, vaping devices, e-cigarettes, or drugs prior to or during any game, practice, or other sanctioned DDS events.
5. I will not use profane, obscene, or vulgar language in any manner at any time.
6. I will not gamble upon any play or outcome of any game with anyone at any time.
7. I will not speak disrespectfully to any manager, coach, official, players or representative of the league.
8. I will not tamper or manipulate any league rosters, schedules, draft positions or selections, official score books, rankings, financial records, or procedures.
9. I will not challenge an umpire's authority. The umpires shall have the authority and discretion during a game to penalize the offender according to the infraction up to and including expulsion from the game.
10. I will not make any criticizing, disparaging or threatening remarks verbally or through social media outlets about the organization, coaches, players, and DDS Management.
11. Benches and immediate area around are for players, managers, coaches, and score keepers with clearances only.
12. **All members of the team (Coaches, Players, Parents, other family members) agree to refrain from any negativity towards other players, coaches, parents or other family members on social media or public facing documents.**

Any parents or volunteers guilty of improper conduct at any game or practice will be asked to leave the sports facility and be suspended from the following game. Repeat violations may cause a multiple game suspension, or the season forfeiture of the privilege of attending all games, practices or other sanctioned DDS events.

The Board of Directors will review all infractions of the Code of Conduct. Depending on the seriousness or frequency, the board may assess additional disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from DDS.

I have read the DDS Code of Conduct and the School Policy Initiative and promise to adhere to its rules and regulations.

_____	_____	_____
Player Name	Parent Name	Parent Name
_____	_____	_____
Signature	Signature	Signature
_____	_____	_____
Date	Date	Date



A.7- Screaming Eagles Parents Code of Conduct

As parents it's our job to support our players on the field. As fans it will be our job to cheer and root for our team. Coaching will be left to the coaches. Sideline coaching will not be tolerated by the coaching staff. Our young athletes need to hear one consistent voice and message during games. If your player is receiving private lessons or has key terminology that they respond well to please communicate this to the coaching staff so they can adopt. Keep in mind players, umpires, and coaches will make mistakes. Coaches will not yell or chastise players due to poor play or mistakes on the field. Parents, friends and family will respect their feelings and know the player already feels bad for letting the team down. The team philosophy will be to focus on "What's Important Next" or W.I.N. Coaches will focus and preach to compete every pitch, every play, every out, every at bat. The goal will be to build players up when mistakes are made to support this mindset. Chastising any player for not making a play during a game will not be tolerated. Players will only be addressed sternly by coaches if they are not hustling, have a poor attitude, providing little effort, and/or make mental errors. All Screaming Eagles Parents agree to the following:

1. Players will always remain in the dugout during games. There are exceptions to this rule and will need coach's approval (Bathroom, Medical, etc). Coaches, Score Keeper, and Team Mom will be permitted in the dugout area only. This rule is to keep the players always engaged in the game.
2. Camaraderie as parents is just as important as the players. The more fun we have as a group the more success we will have on the field.
3. 24 Hour Rule-If you have any question or concern about playing time, positions being played, position in the lineup etc. please allow 24 hours before approaching the coach. Do not address the coaching staff with these questions or concerns during any game/tournament. Confrontation between coaches and parents will not be tolerated and can lead to but not limited to possible suspension or removal from the team. We are adults and need to set the example for our youth. This includes our competition.
4. Coaches will be held to the same standard as parents. Coaching concerns can be addressed with the tournament director. Please keep in mind that decisions pertaining to any on the field activities will be in sole discretion of the coaching staff and the tournament director will not address any of these concerns.
5. Parents will not argue with umpires. Ejections from games will lead to but not limited to suspension from team activities. Umpires are not perfect and will make many mistakes. Any issues with rules of the game will be addressed by the coaching staff. Judgement calls cannot and will not be challenged. If you get heated due to a bad call, please take the high road, and walk away from the situation. As adults our competitive nature can take over at times and is understandable. Keep in mind that our youth is watching.
6. All members of the team (Coaches, Players, Parents, other family members) agree to refrain from any negativity towards other players, coaches, parents or other family members on social media or public facing documents.

BE PROUD! Our players will go through a lot of ups and downs throughout the season. Make sure they know you are always proud of them, especially when they have a bad game or tournament. We represent the Screaming Eagles Travel organization, and we are constantly recruiting while we are at tournaments. We want other families, players, and coaches to look at us and say, "They look like they are having fun and we want that for our kid".

Your signature confirms that you understand agree to do your best to abide by these codes both on and off the field.

_____	_____	_____
Player Name	Parent Name	Parent Name
_____	_____	_____
Signature	Signature	Signature
_____	_____	_____
Date	Date	Date



A.7.1 – Code of Conduct or Bylaws Violation: Coaches and Parents

In the event of a violation of the Code of Conduct or organizational Bylaws by a coach or parent/guardian, the following disciplinary actions shall apply:

First Offense

Upon the first confirmed violation:

- The individual shall be subject to a suspension, the duration of which shall be determined at the discretion of the team coach, not to exceed seven (7) calendar days.
- Any suspension exceeding seven (7) calendar days must be approved in writing by the Screaming Eagles (SE) Director.
- The suspension shall include exclusion from all team-related activities, including but not limited to practices, games, meetings, and events.
- Players associated with the suspended parent/guardian shall remain eligible to participate in all team activities.

Second Offense

Upon the second confirmed violation:

- The individual may be subject to an additional suspension, not to exceed fourteen (14) calendar days, based on the nature and severity of the violation.
- Any suspension exceeding fourteen (14) calendar days must be approved in writing by the SE Director.
- The suspension shall include exclusion from all team-related activities, including but not limited to practices, games, meetings, and events.
- Players associated with the suspended parent/guardian shall remain eligible to participate in all team activities.

Third Offense

Upon the third confirmed violation:

- The parent/guardian shall be suspended from all team-related activities for the remainder of the current season.
- This suspension shall be enforced without exception and shall not require further approval.



A.8- Selection of Managers and Coaches- Team Positions

Selection Process for Coaches:

Any volunteers that are interested in a coaching position should provide a resume of relative experience and submit this to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director and DDS Board will vote on applicants to determine coaching positions. It is in the best interest of DDS to select the head coach position based on experience, feedback from surveys, and an interview process (if necessary). This person should have prior coaching experience.

Team Administration and Positions:

The following positions would be necessary for each team:

Head Coach	Controls Practices, practice plans, team signs and growth of players.
General Manager (GM)	Manages Team, sends out communications and works with HC on baseball activities
Treasurer	Team Accounting, Controls Balance Sheet, Deposits Money, Works with league Treasurer and secures payments for all team costs
Team Mom	In Control of Fundraising, Team Budget, Uniform Orders and Helmet Orders
Assistant Coach #1	This coach is involved during games and practices
Assistant Coach #2	This coach is involved during games and practices

The following positions are not mandatory, but would greatly benefit team operations:

Additional Coaches (no limit)	Assisting at practices, and available for games if needed. **Must have clearances**
Fundraiser Coordinator	Works with Team Mom to help coordinate team fundraisers
Field Prep	1 or 2 volunteers to help with field prep for practices and/or games. Includes Dragging of the fields, lining the fields, and any other daily maintenance. Larger field maintenance items will be address to the DDS Director of Field Maintenance.
IT/Gamechanger	Will be in charge of the live stream and/or keeping the score book
Social Media	Volunteer to help contribute pictures, game recaps and sponsorship shout outs via the Screaming Eagles Facebook Page

Teams may have more than 2 Assistant Coaches. If tournaments have a restriction on the number of coaches in the dugout, the first 2 assistant coaches would be used. Having more than 3 available coaches, as well as parents, is the key to successful & effective practices. All coaches and team volunteers must have all current background checks required by DDS completed and on file. Screaming Eagles coaches do not qualify for the DDS Coach Incentive Program.



A.9- Number of Teams in Program

2025-2026 Season

Each team is responsible for its own budget, fundraising, and team activities. Each will operate as separate teams but report back to the DDS Treasurer and DDS Board.

Baseball:

All teams will utilize the cutoff date of 4/30/26.

Appropriate ages for all players must be prior to May 1, 2026.

Team 1- 10U – August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

This team will play in 10U tournaments and 10U League Play

Team 2- 11U - August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

This team will play in 11U tournaments and 12U League Play

Team 3- 12U - August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

This team will play in 12U tournaments and 12U League Play

Softball:

All softball teams will utilize the cutoff date of 12/31/26.

Appropriate ages for all players must be prior to December 31, 2026.

Team 1- 14U- August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

Team will be playing in tournaments, round robins and scheduled scrimmages.

Team 2- 16U- August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026

Team will be playing in tournaments, round robins and scheduled scrimmages.

Expansion of the Program

All team expansion considerations will come down to a vote by the DDS Executive Board that will follow these guidelines:

- Interested Coaches must submit a request to the Tournament Director **in March or April**.
- The Tournament Director will review the request and determine if the team can be created. This would be based on overall player pool numbers, player interest, evaluations, and coaches.
- If the Tournament Director determines the need for such team, it will be presented to the DDS Executive Board. At that time, the board will make a formal announcement on the team creation to allow for volunteers to apply for positions or get involved. All interested coaches would then be interviewed and follow the coach selection guidelines (Section A.7).
- At the conclusion of all events, the DDS Board will conduct a final board vote on the expansion team and start date. If the team is created, it will follow the same schedule as existing teams.

Teams Per Age Group:

At this time and for the foreseeable future, only 1 travel team will be offered per age group unless the following occurs:

1. A large turnout at tryouts (over 24 players)
2. The talent level and evaluation scores at tryouts are sufficient with the expectations at this level

If this criterion is met, the Tournament Director and DDS Executive Board will determine if multiple teams can be created. It will also be determined how they will be formed and if they will have a different level of play (For Example, A and B Teams).



Section B: Player Selection Process

B.1- Tryouts

Tryouts will be held annually at the end of July. Tryouts will consist of 1-2 Days that will evaluate players and determine their status on the team. Ultimately, it is the coach's decision on who makes the team. Once your athlete has been offered a roster spot, families will have 72 hours to accept the offer. Once the offer has been accepted, a \$50 non-refundable deposit will be required for roster commitment along with player and parent signed acceptance letter. This money will be used towards the player's registration fees.

B.2- Criteria for Selection

Hustle, Attitude, Effort and Talent will be the basis of the team selection process. The evaluation process could be a multiple day process which will include assessments on speed, defensive fundamentals, offensive fundamentals, arm strength, pitching, and catching. Athletes will be challenged through various drills to assess the players' ability, their hustle, and effort. Tryouts will be open to all Dover Diamond Sports participants as well as surrounding area athletes. DDS encourages all interested players to try out. Tryouts will occur every year and players must try out to be offered a spot. Returning players will still need to tryout.

B.3- Roster Size and Requirements

There is no set limit on the numbers of players per roster. It is suggested that teams have no less than 11 and no more than 16 players. It is the overall goal of this program to keep the Dover players in our organization and allow them to develop cohesively to the High School level. It is our policy that for any **new 12U** and younger-Baseball or Softball teams the roster must consist of a **minimum of 75% Dover Residents**. For any new team 13U and older the following provision will apply. Due to the current nature and competitive environment of local travel and tournament teams we will open the roster to have a minimum of **4 players** that reside in Dover. This effort will entice players that have left our program to possibly build a competitive team within Dover.

B.4- Playing Time

These subjects are typically at the forefront of potential team dissention. The goal is to take the following approach with each area, as well as maintain an open dialogue with the parents through meetings and constant transparency.

Playing time IS ALWAYS THE COACHES DISCRETION

For League Play Recommendations:

Each player will bat in a continuous lineup. If we have 12 players on the roster, we will use a fair rotation of time on the bench, as only 9 players can be in the field each inning. The easiest way to do this is that 6 players will be on the bench for 2 innings each game and 6 players will be on the bench for 1 inning each game. Those players who sat 2 innings will rotate and only sit 1 inning the following game. This is based on a 6-inning game. Most tournaments and YCL games only go for 6 innings vs 7. Ideally, no player will sit more than 1 inning in a row defensively. The only exception to that would be for a pitching substitution or injury. Each week, the coaches will review playing time to ensure we are consistent. League play is about development and will be looked upon as practice for the team. This is how we will learn to compete and ultimately win games.

Tournaments:

Playing time is earned for tournament play. Coaches will do their best to make sure all players get opportunities as we put our best foot forward to compete and win on the weekends. Coaches will go with players who show exceptional performance as well as those who exhibit the most effort and hustle during the week of practices and games. Pool play



on Saturdays varies based on the number of teams in any particular tournament. Strategies will be used to get the team in the best possible position to succeed on elimination days.

Positions:

The coaches will determine which positions are most likely suited for the players and team. Coaches also consider which positions players would like to play. Ideally, at least one infield and outfield position for each player. When you factor in pitchers and catchers, there are many opportunities to develop at positions – and that is the key. No player will be asked to play a position without proper coaching unless the coach feels that player can handle the responsibility, or an injury has occurred to another teammate. YCL, scrimmages, practices, and tournament pool play are best suited for playing new positions or making improvements is needed. Lastly, it's the goal for all players to pitch at some level.

Batting order:

The coaches will determine the batting order based on what makes the most sense for the team to score runs. Statistics, as well as the “eye” test will be utilized. The 1 through 12 order is not an indication of the best to last players. The main goal is again to score runs, so utilizing each player's tendencies and capabilities will be considered when constructing a lineup. The batting order will also not be set in stone in March and will likely be fluid throughout the year. The belief is moving kids to different spots in order to jump start confidence and do not want to trap a player unnecessarily at the bottom of the order. Disciplinary issues could result in removal from the lineup entirely via the commonsense discipline approach.

B.5- Player Replacement

Injuries to and relocation of full-time players is to be expected. When a player's spot is open on a travel team due to serious injury, relocation, or if a player becomes permanently unavailable to play, the following will apply for filling that spot:

DDS Screaming Eagles will look to replace players internally. If that is not possible, the team will move on to recruiting a player from outside the league. This will only occur as a last resort unless a new player has moved into the area and is looking to join a team. In this case, a team meeting and parent buy in will need to occur before moving forward. Obviously, this would be a very rare occurrence. In-season invites may occur for weeklong tournaments to add additional pitching to preserve arms and prevent possible injury. The additional player must buy in and contribute financially to play in that specific tournament.

It is preferable not to take a player off an existing DDS travel team, as offering players from other DDS teams can have a dramatic impact on the overall team chemistry and player make-up of the team losing the player. However, higher level travel teams have the right to offer players the opportunity to play up in the Spring that were not selected in the Fall if the team was unable to fill open roster spots which arose over the winter. This will be in effect if we have A and B teams at the same age group. Team managers should openly communicate any changes in a timely manner with one another and with the Travel Baseball Director as these circumstances arise.

Recruitment of players on current Screaming Eagles rosters is in violation of the spirit and growth of this program and will not be allowed. If players want a different experience they must consult with their current coach and/or tournament director. Parties will meet and agree on what is best for the player. The tournament director will make the final call based on discussions with all parties involved. There should not be any conversation with other Screaming Eagles Teams about player movement without final approval from the tournament director.



B.6 – Guest Player Policy

SE teams may utilize guest players for tournament participation under the following conditions and procedures:

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

1. Internal Replacement Priority

Teams must first seek guest player replacements from within the DDS organization, prioritizing:

- Players from younger age divisions.
- Players from lower-level teams within the organization.

2. Coach-to-Coach Communication

Prior to confirming a guest player, the requesting coach must:

- Communicate directly with the coach of the prospective guest player.
- Obtain approval for the player's participation.
- Ensure that the guest player's involvement does not present a safety risk or conflict with their primary team obligations.

3. External Guest Players

If no suitable internal replacement is available, teams may seek guest players from outside the DDS organization.

In such cases:

- The same communication and safety protocols outlined above must be followed.
- External guest players must meet the same eligibility and conduct standards as DDS players.

Permissible Circumstances for Guest Players

Guest players may be used only under the following conditions:

- **Player Injury:** A rostered player is medically unable to participate.
- **Player Vacation:** A rostered player is unavailable due to a pre-scheduled vacation.

Note: Guest players are not permitted for tournaments that are scheduled late or added to the calendar without prior notice. If a tournament is scheduled spontaneously (e.g., a coach decides to enter a tournament on short notice), and the team cannot field a complete roster from its existing players, the team shall not be permitted to participate in that tournament.



Section C: Team Activities

C.1- Practices

Practice Expectations:

Players that are selected for this team are expected to be at all practices. The goal is to have ample time to have a practice schedule to avoid scheduling conflicts. Coaches understand that things come up last minute, and if a player needs to miss practice, this must be communicated with the coach. Although a formal rule is not in place on the number of practices a player may miss, if it becomes an issue, the Coach has authority to limit play time, suspend, or ultimately dismiss the player from the team. Practice is extremely important for the development of each player and for the overall team. This is a huge component to the dedication and commitment to this team.

Indoor Practice:

Ideally, this would start at the end of January or early February. The team would schedule indoor practices on a once-a-week basis until mid-March. For budgeting purposes, \$2500 cost per team for indoor practices. Teams can adjust budgets higher or lower based on team funds.

Outdoor Practice:

Once outdoors, teams would practice at least 3 times per week until games begin. The philosophy of the program in regard to practice time-the more the better but also keeping a mindful eye on not burning any of the players out during the grind of the season. It is the Coaches' discretion if practices need to be cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled.

C.2- Regular Season Play

For regular season play, the plan will be to play in the York County League. Divisions and level of play will be determined by the Head coach and tournament director. YCL consists of a pre-season tournament, likely April 21/22 or April 28/29 and 2 games per week starting mid-May through end of June, with playoffs ending by mid-July. **Note these dates are tentative.**

Coaches will look to avoid any Monday play dates after a tournament weekend. The overall goal but not limited to; is to play a 20-50 game schedule, pending on age of teams, during the Fall/Spring/Summer season. This includes tournaments.

C.3- Tournament Participation

The team budget and season expectation are 5-10 tournaments throughout the entire season (Fall/Spring/Summer).

Ideally, we would structure tournaments to minimize the impact of YCL play and playoffs as follows:

- 2-3 tournaments in April and May
- 2-3 mid-June and July.
- 2-3-in August-October.
- Long term goal- A potential overnight tournament. Options include but not limited to playing at Ocean City, MD; Myrtle Beach; Pigeon Forge; Virginia Beach; or even Florida. This would come down to team budget and team participation and, although not required, each team can plan a destination tournament.



C.4- Tentative Team Schedule - Calendar of Events

Please note, this is a tentative schedule and subject to change. This is simply to illustrate a general idea:

- June-July-Tryouts for fall and Spring Season
- August – Team Practice, Fall Season, Outline offseason expectations, discuss team game plan and layout team expectations.
- Sept-October-Fall Season and practices, \$200 Payments Due (Minus \$100 commitment Fee).
- November- Launch initial Fundraiser (ex. 1st Bingo Event)
- December – team meeting to focus on indoor training/practices, Uniform Orders, Bag Orders and Helmet Orders
- January/February-Winter Workouts Begin- potential for a once-a-week practice at indoor facilities
- March – Launch additional fundraiser (ex. Sub sales, Bingo, Baked Goods, Raffles, etc.)
- March- Outdoor Practice begins 2-3 times per week until games begin. (Practice Schedule will adjust after game schedules are released)
- March-July- Season underway with Practices, Regular Season Games and Weekend Tournaments
- June – Coaches in season meeting, start advertising team tryouts
- July- We would like to have the season wrap up by the 3rd weekend of July, allowing everyone to plan vacations accordingly.
- July- Coaches Meeting Discuss tryouts and review team needs/expectations for upcoming season

C.5- Player Safety

Pitcher Protocol:

The organization has determined it will follow the USA Baseball Guidelines on Pitch Count and Days Rest. Coaches are expected to follow these guidelines, regardless of rules set forth by individual tournaments. The safety and wellbeing of our players is top priority.

Each team will need to set workload limits for their pitchers to limit the likelihood of pitching fatigue. Research has shown that pitch counts are the most accurate and effective means of doing so. See the required rest recommendations:

Age	Daily Max (Pitches in Game)	0 Days Rest	1 Days Rest	2 Days Rest	3 Days Rest	4 Days Rest	5 Days Rest
7-8	50	1-20	21-35	36-50	N/A	N/A	N/A
9-10	75	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
11-12	85	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
13-14	95	1-20	21-35	36-50	51-65	66+	N/A
15-16	95	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-75	76+	N/A
17-18	105	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81+	N/A
19-22	120	1-30	31-45	46-60	61-80	81-105	106+

Team Safety:

Coaches will be equipped with a first aid kit and ice packs. It is the coach's responsibility to maintain safety equipment and ensure it is readily available at all practices and games. Additional safety equipment can be obtained or replenished at all times by contacting the Tournament Director. Safety Courses are highly encouraged and some basic first aid classes will be required.



Section D: Team Budget and Fundraising

D.1- Estimated Budget

This is a **SAMPLE** budget. Teams would be required to put together a starting budget

9u DDS Travel Program Budget				
Items Needed	Cost	Fundraised Costs	12U Ripken & Myrtle Beach Week Long	
Practice Balls-2 Buckets	\$300.00		Tournament Fees	\$11,000.00
Bow Net	\$250.00		Lodging	\$10,000.00
Uniforms	\$900.00			
Indoor Work Out Facility-10 Weeks		\$2,500.00	Fundraise Per YR	\$7,000
York County League Fees Spring & Fall	\$360.00			
Tournament costs-4 Local Tourneys		\$3,200.00		
Tee	\$75.00		Fundraisers	2-Bingos Per Year
Heavy Balls-TCB 12 Pack	\$74.00		1 Lottery or Gun Raffle	Per Year
Junior Attack Baseball Pitching Machine				
Field Rentals			Estimated Profit	\$14,000 Per Yr
Umpire Fees	\$540.00			
Game Balls-2 Dozen	\$180.00		2%-Back to DDS for Ins.	Estimated \$280.00
Game Changer Membership	\$80.00			
Helmets				
Team Lessons-TBD				
Arm Bands	\$35.00			
Leg Bands	\$10.00			
Slam Balls	\$50.00			
Wiffles	\$50.00			
Optional Paid Coach				
Total Costs	\$2,904.00	\$5,700.00		
Player cost-Based on 12 Player Roster	\$242.00	\$475.00		
Total Season Costs Per Team		\$8,604.00		
Cost Per Family	\$250.00			
Team Fundraisers Per Family	\$475.00			
Buy-Out Option Per YR	\$725.00			

D.2- DDS Financial Assistance for Teams

Dover Diamond Sports will provide some financial assistance to 1st Year Screaming Eagles Teams. **The following expenses will be covered by DDS (1st Year Teams Only):**

- York County League Regular Season Fees for the Fall and Spring Season
- Umpire Fees for Regulars Season Games for the Fall and Spring Season
- All teams will be provided with equipment bag, practice baseballs, and game balls
- Screaming Eagles teams are permitted to use DDS Owned gear, equipment and field maintenance supplies
- Screaming Eagles **Softball**- Team budgets will be modified. **12U Softball Players** will continue to register on the DDS registration system and pay the appropriate registration fee. Softball will participate in DDS league wide fundraisers and will continue to operate as done previously. League Fees, Umpires, Field maintenance and DDS Practice/Game Equipment will be supplied. This team specifically is responsible for costs associated with additional tournaments, additional team equipment and anything outside the scope of what DDS normally provides for a team. It is the responsibility of the players/parents of this team to fully fund additional purchases or utilize fundraising efforts to offset costs.

Following the completion of year 1, for Screaming Eagles teams going into their 2nd season and beyond, there will be **no financial assistance** from DDS. It is the responsibility of each team to properly budget for future expenses.



D.3- Uniforms

All teams must follow protocol on Screaming Eagles Uniforms:

- Each team will be responsible for utilizing team budgets for uniform purchases. It is to the discretion of each team to determine final player counts and total coach uniforms.
- Baseball and Softball will have primary designs that each team must use.
- All uniform purchases will be ordered through the same vendor
- Teams must collect sizes and work with the tournament director to finalize orders with vendor
- Uniforms are ordered on an annual basis, meaning they will be used for the Fall, Spring and Summer of that league year.
- Although coach uniforms are not required, it is beneficial to order Coach Gear at the time of ordering uniforms.
- What to consider in a Uniform Order per team:
 - Player Hat x2
 - Player Uniform 1 (ex. Black Shirt)
 - Player Uniform 2 (ex. Red Shirt)
 - Coach Hat (x1 each Coach)
 - Coach Cage Jacket (x1 each Coach)

D.4- Fundraiser Payments Back to DDS

Each Screaming Eagles **Baseball** and **Softball** Teams are responsible for budgeting a “kickback” payment to DDS.

- Year 1 Teams- 10% of all Fundraised money with a maximum of \$500 is due to DDS by July 31st
- Year 2 and beyond- \$100 per rostered player is due to DDS by July 31st

*****This Fundraiser Kickback does NOT apply to 12U Softball Teams- Softball will continue to participate in the DDS League Wide Fundraisers if they continue to register and buy into the DDS league outlined under section D.2. If a 12U softball team elects to not participate under the D.2 guidelines they will then follow the same guidelines as baseball*****

D.5- Use of Travel Funds and Approved Expenditures

All travel funds will be used for the annual team expenditure. Any money left over at the end of the year will remain with the team and be used for future years. If the team dissolves all excess money minus out-of-pocket registration fees for the last playing year will be allocated to Dover Diamond Sports and used for future league expenditures.

D.6- Fundraising & Sponsorships

ALL FUNDRAISERS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE DDS BOARD

Teams will be allowed to use DDS's Small Games of Chance and Bingo licenses to team fundraise. Fundraising will need to be coordinated with the DDS Fundraising Coordinator. Bingos have the potential to bring in \$7,000 in team profit per event, but teams are not limited to doing Bingos. All new fundraisers must be approved by the DDS Board of Directors to ensure all local and state laws are in compliance. All team moms, treasurers, and managers will need to be listed and reported to the county treasurer to ensure state compliance in operating Small Games of Chance. Loss of licensure for small violations can occur and will cost not only the team, but the entire DDS organization. An active member of the DDS Board of Directors will need to be at your first event to ensure the team manages the standards set forth by the DDS Fundraising Coordinator. This is to make sure your event runs smoothly and maximizes team profitability. Individual players can seek sponsorship. Sponsorship money will be accounted for the individual player's registration fee, and the remaining balance will be used as team funds. Sponsorship letters and levels of sponsorship are available upon request.



D.7- Funds Management

Team funds will need to be managed by the team treasurer and team manager in accordance with the DDS League Treasurer. The team treasurer will need to balance team funds, deposit fundraising money, complete P&L statements from fundraising activities, and track expenses using a spreadsheet or preferably QuickBooks or like software agreed upon by the DDS League Treasurer. Reconciliation will need to occur on a quarterly basis to ensure team funds and expenditures are allocated properly. All team expenses must have receipts of payment and documented (scanned) for audit and annual tax purposes. All deposits of team fundraising money must be deposited within 3 business days from the event into the team account. Deposit ticket validation must be obtained from the bank to ensure accurate distribution of team funds. Any shortage of team funds is the direct responsibility of the team and not the liability of Dover Diamond Sports. Please understand that mistakes do occur, and the guidelines set forth will assist in reconciling any possible errors or disputes to protect all of those involved.

D.8- Excess Funds

In the event that a team raises more funds than needed to meet their budget, two options will exist. Ideally, teams will carry over funds to pay for future weeklong tournaments or end of season parties.

- Excess funds can be rolled over into the next year and be used to offset expenses. As in previous years, the funds will be subject to roster adjustments as players move around teams within an age group. For instance, a player from the B team moves to the A team, or vice versa, a proportionate share of excess funds will follow them to the new team. In the event a player leaves the organization all together, funds will remain with the team. Again, all funds are property of DDS Screaming Eagles Travel Team Non-Profit and no individual.
- Funds can be returned to the families engaged in fundraising in equal shares up to what was paid out of pocket per family (the total amount of money due at registration for the season). A team consensus will be required to do this. It is anticipated that this would only be the case for funds remaining after all payments have been made.

D.9- EOY Party

End of year parties will be held at the discretion of each individual team. Use of team funds for the event must be approved by the majority of the team.

D.10- Team Escrow

Teams that select to fundraise may escrow money year over year for future weeklong tournament. This money can be used for team travel, player lodging and team entry fees. This is a great opportunity for 12U teams to have a big once in a lifetime experience before moving onto the 90' diamond. Screaming Eagles recommend Ripken, Cooperstown, Big Show or any other out of state tournament.

