

# Spring-Klein Sports Association

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## Blue Book Youth Baseball Program Information



2016 Edition

[www.sksa.com](http://www.sksa.com)

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## **Welcome to Spring-Klein Sports Association**

The Spring-Klein Sports Association (SKSA) is a non-profit organization based in Spring, Texas with facilities at the Rothwood Complex, Klein Park, and Collins Park. The Spring-Klein Youth Baseball program is designed to offer the youth of our community an opportunity to participate in organized team sports regardless of their skill level. SKSA offers both league and tournament opportunities.

The SKSA Sports Board is our governing body and has the ultimate responsibility for overseeing the operations and finances associated with Spring-Klein Baseball. The Spring-Klein Baseball Board manages the day to day operations associated with running our league.

SKSA is a volunteer based organization and our board members are parents and coaches just like you. Our league could not function without our volunteers. Spring-Klein is actively seeking volunteers for board positions, coaches, team parents, scorekeepers, sponsors, etc. We want to encourage you to do your part to serve the youth of our community and take an active role in your child's baseball experience.

### **Mission Statement**

The goal of Spring-Klein Baseball is to provide a healthy environment for the youth of our community to learn fundamental baseball skills while teaching values like honesty, integrity, and respect to help our players be good citizens. This is accomplished when our parents, coaches, and league officials work closely together to train our players on traditional baseball skills (hitting, fielding, and throwing) as well as by teaching them by example with good sportsmanship, by playing by the rules, and being respectful of an official's decision. All coaches, players, and parents have the ultimate responsibility of helping SKSA work towards achieving that goal.

### **The Story of Spring-Klein Baseball**

In the summer of 1955, Cruze Reynolds and Elmer Lemm put together a baseball team from the Spring & Klein communities to play at the Cypress Fairbanks League. At the time, Spring and Klein were mostly made up of farmers and dairymen and the area was sparsely populated. It took boys from Spring and Klein to have enough to field a single team and thus, Spring-Klein Baseball was born.

Many of the names on our early teams are easily recognizable. They were; Vic Bailey, Jack Dean Bartels, Roy Benignus, Caleb Hassler, Glen Huffsfiedt, Charlie Langston, Mike Langston, Gary Lemm, Jack

Reynolds, Buddy Ray Roth, Donald Schindewolf, and Perry Schindewolf.

The next year, four PeeWee league teams were formed with the players from various ages. These games were played behind the Doerre Brothers Store at the corner of Kuykendahl and Spring Cypress. As the league grew, it purchased land on Spring Cypress. They built one field the first year and then added three more fields shortly after. When the fields were completed the league deeded this land to Harris County, which is now Klein Park. Our league has played baseball under many league affiliations over the years from Texas Teenage Baseball to AABC, PONY, USSSA, and most recently Nations Baseball.

By the late 1970's, the fields at Klein Park were outgrown. Some Spring-Klein board members took a big personal risk and purchased land where our Rothwood facility is today so Spring-Klein Baseball could continue to grow. With the help of many volunteers, they built four fields with no grass and in the early years, Rothwood was known as "The Dust Bowl". Thanks to these gentlemen and many who followed, Rothwood now has 13 fields and we are glad to say are all covered with grass.

Spring-Klein Baseball currently has a total of 21 fields (13 at Rothwood, 4 at Klein Park, and 4 at Collins). Over the last 52 years Spring-Klein Baseball registration has grown to well over 3000 players per year. There is an asphalt path making its way around the park to help provide easy access to any field. Our lighting project was completed during the spring of 2004. That plus our field maintenance program clearly makes our Rothwood complex one of the premier baseball parks in our area.

Over the years, Spring-Klein Baseball has become the home of many great World Series and championship teams. We are very proud of our league and all of our successes and we look forward to you and your player adding to those great memories as we continue to move our league forward.

## **General Information**

SKSA maintains this document periodically and it will provide you with general information about our league. For the absolute latest information, always reference our website ([www.sksa.com](http://www.sksa.com)) as you will find the latest contact information and the most accurate communications, game schedules and scores, and tournament information.

If you have issues, please make every attempt to resolve it through your manager and team mom / parent as they are your primary point of contact. If they cannot help you, send your league coordinator an email. Have patience and remember they are volunteers and they will respond to your email as quickly as possible.

Also, anytime you are at one of our baseball complexes, you can notify any board member on field duty. You can easily recognize them by their "SKB" caps.

## **Volunteers**

SKSA is a volunteer based organization. We depend on volunteers like you to fill roles within our league and we want to encourage you to contribute at whatever level you can. There are various volunteer opportunities from helping with field work day, to equipment or uniform hand out, to serving on a baseball committee or board. Our managers and coaches, team parents, scorekeepers, are all volunteering their time. To volunteer today, please contact [vp.volunteers@ksa.com](mailto:vp.volunteers@ksa.com) or notify any board member. This is your league and we encourage you to take an active role in helping us improve your child's baseball experience.

**NOTE:** All team volunteers must register online and complete an annual background check. The background check is executed as part of the online registration which is mandatory.

## **Sponsorship and Fundraisers**

Spring-Klein is a non-profit organization and sponsorship and fundraisers are critical for our success. We have a several fundraiser activities scheduled during our spring season. These are critical for us to reach our financial goals. These fundraiser activities are required.

### **Team Sponsorship**

All Metro and Senior league teams are responsible for recruiting a team sponsor. The team sponsorship fee for the 2010 spring season is \$375 and \$150 for the fall season. All sponsorship fees are tax deductible. If a sponsor has not been identified by the deadline, team parents will be required to pitch in and pay the team sponsorship fee. Team sponsors will receive a plaque with your team's picture to proudly display at their business.

## **Fundraiser**

SKSA will hold a fundraiser during the spring season and all Metro and Senior league players are required to participate. Players may participate in the fundraiser or opt for the buy-out option that is provided. The fundraiser program products and terms may vary from year-to-year as required to provide the best opportunity for sales for the organization. Players that participate in the fundraiser must have their funds submitted to SKSA before their team will be issued uniforms.

## **Spring Team Basket Raffle**

As part of the spring season each team is responsible for building a team basket and turning it in for the basket raffle which will be conducted on Carnival Day. The baskets should be built on a theme and have a minimum value of \$20. The team parent or manager will organize the creation of the basket and turn-in by the posted date. Details will be provided at the manager and team parent meeting. No alcohol or chocolate (or other melting candy) should be included in baskets.

## **Carnival Day**

Every year SKSA hosts Carnival Day for the youth baseball programs. It includes a parade for all teams, bouncy houses, obstacle courses and other fun activities for the whole family, basket raffle, team pictures and a train ride. We have a special game for the Superstars and many vendors on site with various products. It is a great time for the whole family and we encourage everyone to come out and spend the day with us.

## **Team Pictures**

Team pictures are another source of fundraising for our league. We will schedule team and individual pictures during the spring and fall seasons. We ask that all players participate in these events as a portion of the proceeds will go to SKSA to help cover team sponsorship plaques.

## **Baseball Divisions - Levels of Play**

Spring-Klein Baseball hosts recreational and preformed leagues in the fall and spring. Players are classified into divisions based on the player's age and skill level. SKSA is affiliated with the Nations Baseball. All teams are required to be registered and have their player

roster online with Nations Baseball for tracking purposes. Spring-Klein follows their rules and guidelines for competition.

## **Metro Baseball (recreational)**

The Metro division is considered our traditional or recreational class of baseball. This division accommodates players from ages 5 through 14. In order to ensure all players receive fair playing time, league guidelines require managers to bat their entire roster every game and play all of their players in the field a minimum of every other inning. Our fall season for the Metro division is considered instructional and there will be no individual or team awards.

### Registration

- Each player is required to register each season
- Player registration options are online (see link below) or and in person at our Rothwood facility on select days prior to the season start.
- Registration details:  
<http://www.sksa.com/registration-baseball/>
- Spring-Klein hosts a spring, summer and a fall league for this division.

### Age Cutoff

- April 30th is the formal age cutoff. For birth dates May 1 – August 31, players can “play up” one age group so they can play with classmates.
- Exception: For convenience purposes, players will be allowed to “play up” one age group upon request if they have an older sibling playing in the older division. Contact your league coordinator for details.

### Team Formation

- League Formed Teams – Recreational team rosters are formed by the league coordinators by grouping players together based on their school, subdivision, and geographic location. Special requests will be allowed during registration. **NOTE: Not all special requests can or will be honored.**
- Friendship Teams – These are preformed recreational teams in the Metro divisions. The goal of “Friendship Teams” is to provide teams with the ability to maintain a core group of kids at the recreational level so they can improve their skills as a unit and advance to the next level as a team.

### Games & Practices

- Games are typically played Monday through Saturday

- Weekday games are held at 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM for ages 9-14 and 6:00 PM or 7:30 PM for ages 5-8.
- Make up games are scheduled as availability allows.
- Metro teams typically play less than 20 games during the spring season and 10 games during the fall season.
- The spring season concludes with a post season tournament play.
- Practice location and times are determined by the manager.
- Managers are encouraged to limit team activities to no more than four team events per week (e.g. 2 games & 2 practices, etc).

### Uniforms & Equipment

- Spring Uniform – Each player will receive a jersey, cap, belt, and socks.
- Summer & Fall Uniform – Players will receive a shirt and a cap.
- Team Equipment – Spring-Klein furnishes all game balls, batting helmets, catcher's equipment, and batting tees T-ball age groups
- Other Equipment – Players are responsible for furnishing bats, fielding gloves, batting gloves, baseball cleats, personal batting helmet, etc.



## Select Baseball

The Select division provides a more competitive level of baseball for players of ages between 7 and 14. The key difference in the Metro and Select leagues is all of the Select teams are preformed teams and they usually play both league and tournament games. There is also a noticeable increase in the level of competition and commitment required to participate in this division. Select includes three divisions of increasing level of play which are Select, Elite and Premier. Some Select Leagues will be designated as "Open" which allows for any division to participate.

### Registration

- The Select League team registration is done at the Nations baseball website: [www.nations-baseball.com](http://www.nations-baseball.com)
- Teams must be registered with Nations Baseball and all rosters are submitted and tracked on the Nations Baseball website.
- Deposits are accepted to hold a spot in the league until the deadline
- Spring-Klein hosts a spring and a fall league for this program

### Team Formation

- Select is a preformed league and managers form their rosters independently of Spring-Klein
- Parents and managers enter into independent agreements together
- Managers may hold player tryouts and openly recruit players
- SKSA will host a player showcase (tryout) before the season

### Uniforms & Equipment

- Select teams are responsible for furnishing their full uniforms
- Select teams are responsible for furnishing their own equipment
- SKSA will furnish baseballs for league play.

## Seniors Baseball

This division accommodates players ranging from 15 to 18 who are interested in advancing their baseball skills and those who have the goal of playing for their high school team. This division is governed by The Official High School Baseball Rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

### Registration

- Player registration is offered on our website or at our Rothwood Baseball Complex during "In Person" registration.
- Spring-Klein hosts a spring and a fall league for this division.

- Spring Season – Players are not eligible for the spring season if they are active on a high school roster

### Team Formation

- Spring Season
  - Preformed teams are allowed
  - SKSA will host a player tryout if there is enough registration for at least three teams. If only 2 league formed teams will participate the league will define the teams by location, school or requests where possible.
  - Managers from previous season are allowed to freeze 6 core players (includes manager's and assistant coaches' child)
    - Remaining roster spots are selected via a draft or assigned by league.
    - Teams freezing core players only draft in even rounds until roster count from other teams align
- Fall Season
  - Preformed teams allowed
  - Teams may include high school baseball team players
  - There will also be league formed teams which are allocated by the coordinators

### Games & Practices

- Spring - Teams play 12 games & an end of season tournament
- Fall - Teams play 10 games with no end of season tournament
- Practice location and times are determined by the manager.

## **Superstars Program**

The SKSA Superstars program is a very special program for our players with disabilities. It is open to all individuals of all ages and any disability. The Superstars league is only open during our spring season. This program provides these players with an opportunity to experience a fun and non-competitive environment to enjoy the great game of baseball. Spring-Klein recruits teams from our older age groups to help assist the Superstars during their games.

This is truly a wonderful program. These players are inspiring to watch and we encourage everyone to come out and cheer these players along. Keep checking the Superstars webpage for more details on game times and dates.

<http://www.sksa.com/baseball/registration/>

## Spring-Klein Executive Baseball Board

Position	Name	Email Address
Baseball President	Ken Bahr	<a href="mailto:baseball@sksa.com">baseball@sksa.com</a>
Operations Director	John Carroll	<a href="mailto:vp.administration@sksa.com">vp.administration@sksa.com</a>
VP – Select Baseball	John Carrol	<a href="mailto:vp.select@sksa.com">vp.select@sksa.com</a>
VP – 9-14 Metro	Patrick Cook	<a href="mailto:vp.914@sksa.com">vp.914@sksa.com</a>
VP – 5-8 Metro	Chris Drath	<a href="mailto:vp.58@sksa.com">vp.58@sksa.com</a>
VP – Fundraisers	OPEN	<a href="mailto:vp.fundraising@sksa.com">vp.fundraising@sksa.com</a>
VP – Communications	OPEN	<a href="mailto:vp.communications@sksa.com">vp.communications@sksa.com</a>
VP – Registration	OPEN	<a href="mailto:vp.registration@sksa.com">vp.registration@sksa.com</a>
VP – Volunteers	OPEN	<a href="mailto:vp.volunteers@sksa.com">vp.volunteers@sksa.com</a>

## General League Information

### Game Rescheduling Policy

Weather and approved school activities are the ONLY reasons a game will be rescheduled. Makeup games will be rescheduled for the earliest reasonable date. Fridays evenings and Sunday afternoons will be used for rescheduling games.

### Weather

Rain out information will be posted to the website. Teams are expected to arrive at game time or risk forfeiture unless a cancellation notice is has been posted on the website.

### Game Stoppage

Managers must notify their league coordinator immediately if there is a game stoppage due to weather or otherwise. The league coordinator will determine if and when the game conclusion will be held.

### School Activities

For a school activity to qualify, it must; 1) be an academic related activity, and 2) prevent the team from fielding the minimum 8 players. For consideration, the team manager must submit a written request to the league coordinator at least seven day prior to the event.

## Team Manager Information

The primary responsibility of the manager is to serve as the team leader on and off the field and for teaching the great game of baseball while helping players learn strong character qualities like honesty,

integrity, fair play, and sportsmanship. Managers are expected to lead by example. They are held responsible for their actions as well as those of their players, coaches, and parents.

All Metro manager applicants will be closely screened and required to pass a background check. The Spring-Klein Baseball Board reserves the right to reject any applicant. Qualified candidates will be approved and assigned teams based on their volunteer record with Spring-Klein. Volunteer history and seniority will be used to settle assignment conflicts.

Managers can only manage one pitching age team per season. They are responsible for scheduling and conducting team practices and for registering their team roster online with Nations Baseball. The manager must participate in all managers meetings during the season.

Failure to comply with any of these obligations may result in a candidate being denied a team in the future.

## **Refund Policy**

Please use these guidelines for seeking a refund. Not following this process or providing incomplete information will delay our ability to process of your refund.

Please use the refund request form found on the SKSA website at <http://www.sksa.com/youth-baseball/registration/refund-policy> or submit an email using the following instructions.

1. Place the word 'Refund', the player's name, and their age division in the subject of an e-mail
  - Example => "Subject: Refund / Johnny Smith /10U-A"
2. Place the following information in the body of the email:
  - Player's First & Last Name
  - Player's Age Division
  - Reason for Refund
  - Registration Fee, Discounts, Fundraiser Fees Owed, etc.
  - Parent or Guardian Name Requesting Refund
  - Mailing Address Receiving Refund
3. Send a refund request via email to the League Coordinator and team manager
4. League Coordinator analyzes the refund information and approves or denies the refund
  - Refunds will be denied after the managers meeting for the current season.
5. League Coordinator determines the appropriate refund amount after applying an administration fee

- Outstanding fundraiser money will deducted from the refund
  - A \$25 administration fee will be applied to all refunds
6. League Coordinator notifies parent and President of Baseball
  7. President of Baseball authorizes payment
  8. Refund will be in the form of a check or credit to the card used. No cash refunds will be provided.
  9. A league credit can also be indicated for which there will be no administrative fee deducted.
  10. Please allow 2-4 weeks for the refund to be processed.

### **Disputes**

The SKSA Vice President of Finance will resolve all disputes with regard to refunds in conjunction with the Spring-Klein Baseball Board.