

SLJL TRAVEL TEAM BYLAWS

January 2020 Update

TEAMS

Thunder: 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, and 18U

Stealth: 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U (maximum of 2 teams per age group)

Additional travel teams may be approved by the SLJL Board. The “Lightning” team brand has been retired from the South Lyon travel baseball program. All future teams will be designated as “Thunder” (Red, Blue). All travel softball teams will be designated as “Stealth”.

TRUSTEES

The SLJL Board shall elect a Thunder travel trustee and a Stealth travel trustee by July 1 of each year. Each trustee will serve a 13-month term.

TRAVEL TREASURER

The SLJL Board shall elect a Thunder travel treasurer and a Stealth travel treasurer. Where a conflict of interest may arise with a specific team, the appropriate travel trustee or Executive Director shall review respective team’s finances on a monthly basis.

PLAYERS/ROSTERS

Thunder: Based on age of player as of May 1 of the playing season year.

Stealth: Based on age of player as of January 1 of the playing season year.

Additional player restrictions for all travel teams:

- A. Full time player rosters must meet membership requirements of the South Lyon Junior League Article V.A 4
- B. Teams may use a “substitute” or “replacement” player from within the Junior League travel program at any time, and is preferred.
- C. Use of a non-members requires notification to and approval from the appropriate travel trustee with explanation. Maximum of 2 tournaments or 10 games per season for each out of program substitute/replacement player.
- D. Maximum number of full-time players per team for 8U-13U is 15 players.
- E. Maximum number of full-time players per team for 14U-18U is 19 players.
- F. A full time player is defined as a player that has paid the SLJL registration fee and full dues to that specific team. A rostered non full-time player must meet the membership requirements of

the South Lyon Junior League Article V.A 4., but does not count toward 75% residency requirement.

G. For 8U-13U teams the host travel league minimum roster requirements must be met by December 31 with full time players to be considered a viable South Lyon Junior League team (see bullet above for definition of full-time player).

H. A coach may not release a player for any reason other than a player quitting after initial player deposit is received without prior approval of the Trustee and SLJL Board. A Team/Player Separation form must be submitted to the League. In the case where a team and player separate during the season, all monies collected are NON_REFUNDABLE.

I. The roster submitted to the SLJL must match the roster provided to the host travel league or appropriate sanctioning body at all times.

J. Rosters must maintain 75% South Lyon residency compliance at all times.

K. Team Funds are not accessible until final roster approval by the appropriate travel trustee and submission of all required registration/documentation items.

L. 'Game Changer' (or similar app) access must be provided to appropriate travel trustee and SLJL President.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Thunder/Stealth

A. All players and parents registered to play on a South Lyon Thunder travel baseball team or Stealth softball team are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of others and reflects positively on the South Lyon Thunder and Stealth programs and the South Lyon community. The Thunder and Stealth programs feel strongly about promoting the appropriate behavior in its players and their families. For this reason, all players, coaches, and families are required to read, sign, and adhere to the code of conduct.

B. Addendum B contains South Lyon Thunder travel baseball and Stealth softball code of conduct. Trustees are responsible for managing and updating their program code of conduct as necessary.

COACHES

A. The appropriate travel trustee shall be responsible for reviewing head coach applications and recommending a slate of head coaches to the entire SLJL Board for an up or down vote on that slate. Any significant conflict of interest (i.e., relative) must be disclosed prior to SLJL Board vote.

B. Coaches must apply each year to be part of the program coaching staff and are not guaranteed positions. Coaches shall complete an application form/process and meet requirements approved by the appropriate travel trustee and SLJL Board.

C. Head coaches/assistants shall complete and pass the approved SLJL background check policy prior to participating in any team activities.

D. A coach may be suspended by the travel trustee and removed from his/her position by the SLJL Board for any reason. This may include, but is not limited to, unlawful activity, player abuse, financial abuse, non-compliance with any SLJL policy (Travel or General), host league or sanctioning body recommendation, peer review, poor evaluation, parent issues, violation of South Lyon School rules, code of conduct violation, etc.

E. Head coaches are required to attend a minimum of 5 SLJL Board or SLJL travel-program related meetings annually. Failure to comply will keep them from coaching the following year. Minimum of 2 SLJL Board Meetings (1. First meeting in August, 2. Trustee discretion) and remaining 3 meetings at head coach's discretion.

F. Ejection from a game will result in the offending coach being required to sit out the next game. 3 ejections in a season will result in a coach not retaining his/her position for the following year. In the event of an ejection, coach must notify appropriate Trustee.

G. Any coach submitting and/or signing a false roster will result in immediate removal of the team and coach from the SLJL and may result in the forfeiture of team monies.

H. At 18U baseball or softball level, appropriate trustee or the SLJL Executive Board can waive the 75% residency requirement with the understanding that no South Lyon facilities can be utilized.

I. Trustees will manage program coaching staff (set expectations/requirements, coach's code of conduct, program goals, mentoring, dismissal, etc.). Coaches will be evaluated at the end of each season by Trustee, seeking feedback from all stakeholders. Coaches with poor evaluations will not be asked to return as a coach for future seasons. Trustees are responsible for developing and managing this evaluation process.

TRYOUTS

Tryout dates and process will be set each year by the appropriate travel trustee, with SLJL Board approval, and can commence any time after the completion of the SLJL Spring season.

A. Thunder: 75% residency requirement – All Teams. The Thunder program is designed for high school bound athletes that have the skills necessary to develop as part of an elite baseball program. As a feeder program for our South Lyon High School baseball programs, the Thunder baseball program strongly encourages 100% South Lyon residency for all teams.

B. Stealth: 75% residency requirement – All Teams

REGISTRATION FEE & COSTS

Thunder and Stealth: Dues can range from \$350 to \$1000 per player and are at the coach's discretion. Teams may petition the SLJL Board for amounts above the maximum amount per player. A registration fee shall be paid by each Stealth and Thunder player, as set forth by the SLJL Board. Dues do not include fundraising dollars. Teams are allowed to conduct fundraisers or obtain sponsorships to collect money in addition to player dues. Fundraising

requirements (excluding sponsorships) above the base dues must be fully disclosed at time of team selection to each family. The maximum financial commitment per family (registration fees and fundraising requirement excluding sponsorships) cannot exceed \$1,500. A financial commitment beyond \$1,500 requires appropriate travel trustee and SLJL Board approval. Due Dates: An initial deposit of \$200.00 is due upon selection and acceptance of offer by the player. The remaining balance and timing of final payment will be specified by the team's head coach. Team funds (registration fees, dues, fundraising, etc.) are not accessible until the final roster has been approved by the travel trustee and all registration/documentation items have been submitted.

THUNDER LEAGUE PLAY

All Thunder travel teams are required to participate in the KVBSA travel league unless they have declared to be tournament only. Playing in another league is not permitted without trustee and SLJL Board approval.

COOPERSTOWN (Thunder)

The 12U Thunder Red team is required to attend the Cooperstown tournament, as long as they are allowed to raise funds by running the SLJL All-Star weekend concessions as an 11u team. The 11U Red team has first option to run the SLJL All-Star weekend concessions in preparation for Cooperstown tournament as a 12u team, but may decline by 1/31 of their 11U season.

ALL FUNDS RAISED AT THE ALL STAR EVENT ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE SOUTH LYON JUNIOR LEAGUE AND WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ONLY BY BOARD APPROVAL.

The 11U Thunder Red team has the option, but is not required, to offer a two-year commitment to players (running 11U to 12U).

COMMON BRANDING (i.e., UNIFORMS, LOGO, SPIRITWEAR, etc.)

Uniform colors for SLJL travel teams are Red, White, and Navy Blue

Thunder: As part of our effort to create a common program brand/uniform within the Thunder program, all teams are required to follow common program brand/uniform guidelines. Any team-related items must comply with common branding (logo, colors, etc.). Use of common uniforms, logos and branding are mandatory for all travel teams. Common branding (uniforms, logo, etc.) will be approved and managed program-wide by the baseball travel trustee. Committees can be created by travel trustee to assist with recommendations to trustee.

Attachment "A" outlines Thunder program common branding and uniforms. All aspects of common branding / uniforms will be determined by travel trustee and approved by the SLJL Board in order maintain program-wide consistency and adherence. Changes to common logo (as outlined in Addendum A, but allowing for color variations of red, navy, and white) requires trustee and SLJL Executive Board approval.

Stealth:

Managed by Stealth travel trustee.

SEASON

A. Travel teams may practice year-round.

B. Playing season generally runs from April to July, at the head coach's discretion.

TRAVEL MONIES

A. Each head coach is responsible for collecting team travel monies and turning all money collected to the Thunder or Stealth travel treasurer. Additionally, the head coach must exercise reasonable discretion in spending monies for team endeavors, and provide receipts for all expenditures to the respective travel treasurer. Travel treasurer cannot reimburse coaches for expenses incurred and paid without a valid detailed receipt.

B. The expectation is that money collected (registration fees, fundraising, sponsorship dollars, etc.) is to be used by the team for current season (with some exceptions allowed by trustee's and/or SLJL Board). Any monies remaining at the end of the year (which should be small balances) shall carry over to the team moving up in an age bracket, e.g., 10U money moves to next year's 11U team. For teams not moving up the following year, any remaining monies shall remain with the team in the given age bracket, e.g., remaining money for 16U team stays with next year's 16U team.

C. The travel treasurer shall maintain the travel bank account, maintain an accounting summary for each travel team, approve receipts and write checks for team expenses.

D. Each travel team may obtain team sponsors only in accordance with League Sponsor Rules, and each travel team may fundraise to obtain additional team funds.

E. All monies (program fees, fundraising, donations, sponsorship monies, etc.) must be processed through the Travel Treasurer prior to the team accessing those funds. All cash collected for the team for any reason must be processed through the Travel Treasurer prior to the team accessing those funds. All money in and out of the program must flow through the Travel Treasurer...no exceptions.

F. Each head coach will designate a non-spouse financial representative that at a minimum will be copied on team financial reports and communications sent by the appropriate travel treasurer to head coaches. Head coach will disclose to all families the team budget at the beginning of the season and how funds were used at the conclusion of the season.

G. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we must insist on full compliance with the financial controls put in place by the SLJL Board and/or Travel Trustee as a condition of continued participation as part of the coaching staff. Random periodic reviews of travel accounts should be the expectation (minimum of 2 reviews each year for Thunder and Stealth programs).

H. Any financial impropriety, mismanagement, or fraud by the coaching staff will be grounds for immediate removal from coaching position by appropriate Travel Trustee or Executive Board.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

All authority not specifically outlined within these bylaws is retained by the appropriate travel trustee in order to administer/manage the program.

INSURANCE

Each team shall obtain and pay for its annual insurance.

Addendum B (South Lyon Thunder and Stealth Code of Conduct)

All players and parents registered to play on a South Lyon Thunder travel baseball team and Stealth travel softball team are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of others and reflects positively on the South Lyon Thunder and Stealth programs and the South Lyon community. The Thunder and Stealth programs feel strongly about promoting the appropriate behavior in its players and their families. This player/ parent code of conduct is not intended to be an all-inclusive list of rules, but rather a guide for player/ parent behavior intended to create an environment in which our athletes are able to thrive and learn life-lessons that they will carry into adulthood. For this reason, we ask all players and families to read and sign this code of conduct.

Sportsmanship (the strength to adhere to the correct principles of athletic competition at all times): All players and parents must learn and display a sense of fair play. Be humble in victory, gracious in defeat. Players and parents must represent your team, the South Lyon Thunder and Stealth programs, and South Lyon Community by showing good sportsmanship at all times, win or lose.

Respect, Integrity and Pursuit of Excellence (the strength to be consistent between your values and your actions.): All players and parents must treat all others as you expect to be treated. Strive to perform each aspect of the game to the highest level of your ability and with the highest level of integrity and fair play. Support your team and teammates at all times. Respect all opponents' players and parents at all times. Strive to excellence.

Player Conduct: Each player will agree to the following:

1. Respect Coaches, Teammates, Parents, Opponents, Spectators, and Umpires.
2. Never argue with an umpire's call or decision.
3. Accept the responsibility of representing your team, family and the program by displaying positive behavior at all times, win or lose.
4. Teamwork is not a preference, it is a requirement- Encourage one another. Praise others rather than drawing attention to yourself.
5. Lead by example and do not violate team standards or rules.
6. Attend every practice and every game, and agree to notify your coach if you cannot be there.
7. Be responsible, help clean up the field and dugout after all practices and games.
8. No defaming of coaches, teammates, opponents or umpires in any way, including any electronic or social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) text messages, etc.
9. Always give your best effort in practices and games. Never be afraid to fail.
10. HAVE FUN...

Parent/Guardian (Family) Responsibility: Each parent/family will agree to the following:

1. Respect your athlete's Coaches, Teammates, Parents, Opponents, Spectators, and Umpires.
2. Realize, accept, and practice the principle that a team's reputation is built not only on its playing ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship of its fans.
3. Be respectful of coaching decisions. Remember that we are an all-volunteer league and they are putting in the extra time and effort.
4. Please remember that this is youth baseball and that development is one of our primary objectives (process over outcome)
5. Remember that children are playing for their enjoyment, not yours.
6. Encourage your child to be gracious in victory, and to see defeat as a learning experience by working towards improvement.
7. No coaching of your child or other players during games and practices, unless you are one of the official coaches of the team (unless the coaching staff asks for your assistance). From 10U forward, we

strongly encourage closed practices to ensure that players can focus and learn to receive instruction from coaching staff.

8. Encourage your child to play by the rules.

9. Do not embarrass the team by yelling at players, coaches, umpires or spectators. By showing a positive attitude toward the game and all of its participants, your athlete will benefit. Remember that children learn best by example, be supportive of both teams when good plays are made.

10. Ensure your athlete is at practices and games on time. If there are circumstances that will prevent this I will communicate this to the coach in a timely manner.

11. Use positive encouragement to your player, his teammates, and coaches. All people perform at their best when they feel they are supported.

12. No defaming of coaches, players, opponents, parents or umpires in any way, including any electronic or social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) text messages, etc.

13. Allow for a 24 hour "COOL DOWN" period before you discuss any serious concerns you have with a coach, and then communicate with that coach in a constructive and respectful manner.

Anti-Harassment Policy: Each player/parent will agree to the following: No player or parent shall engage in behavior or verbal conduct toward another player or parent when the conduct:

- Creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive team environment.
- Substantially or reasonably interferes with a player's team participation.
- Adversely affects a player's team opportunities.

Any player or parent found to have engaged in such prohibited conduct shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including immediate dismissal and/ or a formal apology to the offended individual.

Discipline Policy/Consequences: Each player and parent is advised of the following discipline policy and consequences for any and all inappropriate conduct.

■ The appropriate South Lyon Junior League Travel Trustee and/or South Lyon Junior League Board shall enforce this code and determine disciplinary action if necessary.

■ Any and All actions may include but are not limited to the following repercussions:

1. Verbal warning
2. Suspension from one game
3. Suspension for season

Reporting issues: We promote an 'open door' policy in which instances of code of conduct violations can be reported without fear of retaliation. We encourage that suspected violations of this code of conduct be first reported to the head coach. However, if reporting of issues outside the team structure is appropriate or head coach is not responsive, you can always contact the appropriate Travel Trustee: [Thunder Trustee - Lance Shipman, at sljltravel-boys@sljl.org or Stealth Trustee – Jerry Shippe, at sljltravel-girls@sljl.org]. Credible suspected violations of this code of conduct will be investigated.

We the parent(s)/Guardian and the South Lyon Thunder or Stealth player, understand and agree to the Code of Conduct and the terms of the South Lyon Thunder travel baseball program and Stealth travel softball program. By signing this document, I acknowledge that it has been read, understood and that all rules will be abided by throughout the entire season.

Player Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Family

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Family

Signature: _____ Date: _____