



To: South Lyon Thunder and Lightning Coaching Staff and Parents

From: Lance Shipman, SLJL Travel Trustee

Date: October, 2019

As the South Lyon Thunder Travel Baseball Program, we will continue to utilize our established four pillars: Sportsmanship, Development, Health, and Community. The Thunder program is designed for high school bound athletes that have the talents necessary to develop as part of an elite community baseball program. We want to develop these players in a healthy and supportive environment. As an enhancement to our travel program, we are once again using a unified logo and game uniform for all teams in order to promote identification/branding as one program instead of a group of individual teams that are based out of the same town.

Per our Bylaws, at the beginning of each new season (time of tryouts), there are no established player rosters. We hold tryouts each year to identify athletes to fill these rosters. Playing for a program in a prior season while beneficial, is no guarantee of selection in the next season. In order to be considered for placement on a team within the Thunder program, an athlete must attend at least one of two designated tryouts. We schedule two different tryouts on different days/times to accommodate different family schedules. However, under certain extenuating circumstances, attendance at either one of these tryouts may not be possible. In these rare instances, an athlete will be required to obtain a waiver from the Travel Trustee in order to still be considered for team selection.

Each Board-approved age level has a Red team, which is intended to be our highest level of competition and comprised of the top skilled players in our community. At many age levels within our program, we will also have an additional blue team, which is also comprised of highly talented players that merit development within our travel program. In support of the program, Blue team players are developed so that they can have an opportunity to pursue placement on a Red team in following years should they so choose.

Red teams are required to run the annual tryouts. Blue team coaches shall also attend tryouts and evaluate talent as well. Blue coaching staff may also help facilitate the tryout as the Red team coaching staff sees fit. Red teams will have the first option in player selection, and can make offers accordingly. However, parents always reserve the right to decline this offer if the Red team does not align with their goals for the athlete. Declining an offer on a Red team or pursuing placement on any Thunder program team should be made without fear of negative repercussions from any coach or team. Coaches that do not support the best placement opportunity for the athlete will be asked to leave the program. In the end, parents have the right to choose which program is right for their child once an invitation is extended. Once the Red team's offers have been extended or roster is filled, and if the skill level of

uncommitted players merits, then the Blue team roster will be filled. This determination, as to whether a Blue team should proceed, will be made by the Travel Trustee and the SLJL Board with input from coaches attending the tryouts. There is no guarantee that a Blue team will proceed in the coming season. It is inappropriate for Blue team coaches to offer spots on their team for a given season prior to completion of Red team making offers, or filling their roster. Blue team coaches engaging in this behavior will be disciplined, which could include removal from the program coaching staff. Discouraging players from trying out or not supporting their placement on a program team that aligns with their goals does not support our Thunder programs goals.

In the interest of promoting player development and program health, the Travel Trustee, with approval from the SLJL Board reserves the right to designate the Red teams at the beginning of each season based on the merits of the Board-approved coaching staff, team performance, and program health.

Please note that the "Lightning" brand has being retired from the South Lyon travel baseball program...all future teams will be designated as "Thunder" only (Example: Thunder – Red and Thunder – Blue). Existing "Lightning" teams are grandfathered in and can keep the "Lightning" name at head coach's discretion. All concepts and rules discussed above apply to grandfathered "Lightning" teams as well.

2020 Team designations

Red:

8u Thunder - Andrew Baker
9u Thunder – Bobby Coppola
10u Thunder – Josh Wells
11u Thunder – Jason Fox
12u Thunder – Andy Slankster
13u Thunder – Lance Shipman
14u Lightning – Rob Brothers
15u Thunder – Dean Phillips

Blue:

8u Thunder – Leon Kashawlic
9u Thunder – Jeff Mack
10u Thunder – Mike Burke
11u Thunder – Pat Noonan
12u Thunder – Jo Jurkiewicz

Looking forward to the 2020 Season!!