

## Warriors Baseball Tournament/Travel Program

SYC Baseball offers a Tournament/Travel Program allowing players to compete in high-level baseball with the most competent, seasoned coaches with significant baseball experience including tournament-level play and/or team management. The Travel Program operates as a separate sub-committee within the SYC Baseball program and is not affiliated with SYC Little League. The Executive Committee of the Travel Program includes the following members of the SYC Baseball board: SYC Baseball Director, SYC Baseball Vice President, Tomahawk Tournament Director. The Program Committee officers will also include the Team Managers from each Team on matters which pertain to individual team decisions.

The primary goal of participation in the Travel Program is to teach high-level baseball and develop players in a TEAM atmosphere. This development will include several real life lessons to help our players grow physically and mentally - both inside and outside of baseball. We expect both our players and their families to model our core values of being a good teammate, a positive role model, and demonstrate good sportsmanship.

The Manager cannot guarantee equal playing time or rotation of positions. The Manager will maintain a continuous batting order in Seeding Games but will have full authority to set the lineup for Elimination Games in the best way possible to win within the particular tournament's rules – this means, there is no guarantee of play time during Elimination Games. Exceptions may be appropriate for seeding games where Consolation brackets are in play.

**TOURNAMENT TEAMS:** Tournament teams may consist of 12U, 11U, 10U, 9U, 8U teams ***to the extent that there are a sufficient number of tournament-level players available to field a team or teams***. The age groups will utilize the Tournament birthdate ranges from May 1, 20xx – April 30, 20xx. Tournament season begins immediately following team announcements in August and will continue through the following July. Tournaments will be year-round (NOTE: there are generally no tournaments during the LL International and Clarence Boyd season from mid-June to late July but may be scheduled depending on team availability). The team may play in approx. 4-8 tournaments in that tournament year with younger teams focusing on fewer tournaments while older teams with more tournaments. The team manager may also arrange scrimmages and other playing experiences for their teams in addition to tournaments.

The program does not plan to have players play on a tournament team outside of their appropriate age group. Exceptions may be made in unique circumstances where players are needed to fill key roles in individual tournament opportunities and demonstrate appropriate ability.

**12U (2023/2024 season includes birthdates 5/1/2011 – 4/30/2012)**

**11U (2023/2024 season includes birthdates 5/1/2012 – 4/30/2013)**

**10U (2023/2024 season includes birthdates 5/1/2013 – 4/30/2014)**

**9U (2023/2024 season includes birthdays 5/1/2014 – 4/30/2015)**

**8U (2023/2024 season includes birthdays 5/1/2015 – 4/30/2017)**

**TRYOUTS:** Tryouts will be held in June/July and will be evaluated by a combination of Travel Program Committee members, team Managers, and experienced coaches. The evaluation team will include individuals whose children are not participating in the tryout for that age group but may also include some individuals whose children are participating in the tryout in another age group. Players must bring their own equipment to the tryout as well as their birth certificate (unless a returning player and birth certificate was previously provided).

Returning travel players are required to attend tryouts for subsequent years in order to be considered for team selection. An exception may be made if a returning player is unable to attend a tryout due to extraordinary circumstances (ex: injury, illness, etc.).

During tryouts, players will be evaluated on the fundamentals of baseball including the following:

- Hitting – balance & athleticism, plate discipline, weight transfer, hitting up the middle, power
- Fielding (including catching & throwing) – technique, follow through, hand positioning
- Pitching – wind up, stride, rotation, power and accuracy
- Base Running & Base Stealing – technique, speed and reading batted balls
- Hustle & Attitude
- Game Instincts

Players selected for a travel team (based on their tryout) will be sent an invitation. Invitations to the teams will typically be sent by August 15th. The season will typically begin with participation in a Labor Day tournament.

**ROSTERS:** A team will have no more than 12 players. Our goal is that at least two-thirds of the roster must be Little League players and that our program will not conflict with a player's ability to continue playing Little League.

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$250 for returning players and \$450 for new players. The difference in price for new or returning players for the 2023/2024 season is to cover the costs of additional uniforms/hats for new players while returning players will utilize their prior year uniforms (and only receive one new uniform for the current season). Registration fees will also cover facility usage/practice fields and insurance. All coaches will receive 2 coach shirts and a coach hat. All tournament costs will be paid solely by participant families of the team and team fundraising. Tournament registration fees and other team-level costs will be allocated evenly amongst the players. Some teams may elect to expand their uniform options to include additional shirts/hats/pants and those will be the responsibility of the participant families. Team equipment may also be purchased by team funds/fundraising as agreed to by the team. Personal player equipment (bats, gloves, catchers gear, etc) and other personal items will be the responsibility of the participant families. Personal travel expenses are generally paid for by each participant family.

Tournaments are generally expected within a maximum 2-hour driving distance from SYC to limit travel costs. 10U Teams and above may elect for destination tournaments and may also elect to use team funds/fundraising for travel expenditures.

No fees are due at tryouts. Registration fees are due within 30 days of receipt of team invitation. All Travel Program players will register with the SYC Youth Club after invitations have been delivered and accepted (for insurance purposes).

**MANAGER:** A Manager will be selected for each team by the Executive Committee. The Manager will have final say in all roster spots of the team and will nominate/select their assistant coaches after tryouts. Managers may seek out tournament opportunities, but all tournaments are subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

Any grievances with the Team or Manager which cannot be resolved after discussion with the Manager should be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee for resolution. However, the Committee will not address issues associated with playing time or positions as those are in the full discretion of the Manager.

Managers will follow safety guidelines approved and disseminated by the Executive Committee. This includes, but is not limited to, pitching guidelines to protect arms.

## **GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND PLAYERS:**

### **PLAYERS:**

**PLAYING TIME** – Playing time is not guaranteed. Players can expect to compete for a position and playing time. The "everyone plays" expectations of recreation baseball does not necessarily apply in competitive baseball. Spots on the roster will depend on the amount of work you put into it both at practice and at home plus their performance.

Being a great teammate is a baseline requirement for participation in the Travel Program. However, playing time will most likely be determined based on a player's level of dedication as well as improvements made throughout the year. Being a great teammate does not automatically guarantee playing time. Players will start to develop and play more in a certain "area" of position, as opposed to playing "everywhere".

A player "may or may not" play in any given game. Many coaches tend to develop players throughout league play, but in tournaments the top 9 will get most of the playing time. A player could spend a significant amount of time sitting while they are learning. Every player must recognize that they have a role even during times when they aren't on the field or in the lineup.

It is within a Manager's discretion to implement disciplinary action for players who do not uphold our fundamental core values of being a good teammate and good sportsmanship. Discipline could include removal from a game, a tournament, or the team depending on the severity of the words or actions of the player.

**PRACTICE TIME** – Players need to be prepared for a much greater time commitment. Practices will be 2-3x per week, based on the team's needs and the coaches' demands. Tournament practice time during the spring Little League seasons will be limited to 1-2x per week.

### **PARENTS:**

It is within a Manager's discretion to implement disciplinary action for parents or spectators who do not uphold our fundamental core values of being a positive role model, supporting the entire roster or players, the opposing team and the umpires. Discipline could include removal from a game, a tournament, or the team depending on the severity of the words or actions of the parent or spectator. Your behavior as a parent and role model for the team could directly impact your player's role and involvement in the team.

TIME COMMITMENT – Practices would begin immediately after team selection. Tournament practice would be lighter during the Little League season (about 1-2x per week) and heavier outside of the Little League seasons (2-3x per week). Note: The Little League spring season is from April thru the first weekend in June. Little League and District 14 Clarence Boyd tournament play would be mid-June through early August.

Plan on 4-8 tournaments being played from Labor Day through July (but not conflicting with the Little League tournament season). Tournaments are generally held on Saturdays and Sundays.

Expect your Manager to request that any vacations not conflict with tournament weekends or the week immediately prior to tournament weekend.

FINANCIAL – Tournament fees are not included in the player registration fee. Prepare to spend approx. \$50 - \$75 per tournament for entrance fees thru the course of the year, depending on how many tournaments your team plays in. Each tournament costs between \$500 - \$750 per team for local tournaments – and more for elite long distance travel tournaments.

Teams may rely on corporate sponsorship and team fundraisers to help cover some of the costs associated with competitive baseball.

FUNDRAISING – The Travel Program requires MANDATORY participation in two primary fundraisers - a main fundraiser and the program hosted tournament. For the 2023/2024 season a tournament bingo event is planned for February 2024 and the Tomahawk Classic hosted tournament is in April 2024. You are expected to provide support for these events when requested to do so and you are expected to do your part in raising monies for your team (spirit nights, concessions, spirit wear, etc) throughout the year as agreed upon by your team.

**AGREEMENT:** All players, parents and coaches will be required to sign an agreement with their commitment to following the Travel Program's rules and regulations. A copy of the agreements are attached to this Program document.

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