



SFYAL Baseball/Softball Tournament Team Guidelines

1. Description
 - a. Spring-Ford Youth Athletic League (SFYAL) is a chartered league with Cal Ripken Baseball and Babe Ruth Softball, as part of that charter our organization is granted the opportunity to participate in the World Series Trail Tournaments each year.
 - b. The summer travel season starts on Memorial Day weekend and ends July 31. The Fall season will start Sept 1 and end October 31, during this time, a team may participate in a max of 12 games/scrimmages.
2. Player Eligibility
 - a. Players age (league age, not actual age) will determine division and team for tryouts
 - b. Players must have participated in a minimum of 60% of all Spring Season activities. (Practices and Games)
 - i. Injury Exceptions will be reviewed by SFYAL Board of Directors on a case by case basis.
 - c. Players must live inside of the Cal Ripken boundaries given to SFYAL
3. Coaches Eligibility
 - a. Interested Head Coaches must apply in writing to the SFYAL Board of Directors by the close of tryouts for the upcoming season.
 - i. All Coaches must reapply every season
 - ii. If multiple persons apply to coach a single team, the applicants will be interviewed and the SFYAL Board of Directors will award the position.
 - iii. If no coaches apply the board will continue to seek a candidate.
 - b. Coaches must hold a coaching position during the Regular Spring Season.
 - c. All Tournament Coaches are required to attend all league General Meetings during the season of play. (February thru July)
 - d. Tournament Coaches (head and assistant coaches) must have a completed Cal Ripken Coaching Certificate.
 - e. All Coaches (head and assistant coaches) must have a valid background check.
 - f. All members of the coaching staff must follow and enforce the SFYAL code of conduct.
4. Tryouts
 - a. Tryout dates will be selected by the board of directors and communicated to the league by Opening Day of the current Spring Season.
 - b. All players age eligible will be allowed to attend tryouts
 - c. Appointed Coach will execute tryouts.
 - d. Tryout duration will be determined by the number of athletes trying out. (1 or 2 days)
 - e. All players with intention to play on a travel team with SFYAL must attend tryouts.
5. Team Selection

- a. Blue teams shall consist of a minimum of 12 players, and a maximum of 15 players
 - b. Coaches will notify qualifying players within 48 hours of the completion of tryouts. Once notified, players will have 48 hours to commit. If no commitment is received the roster spot will be offered to the next eligible player. Coaches must call everyone who tried out and let them know of the outcome. It is suggested that you talk to the players first, and then the parents when you call.
 - c. Once players have accepted, the Coach shall submit their final roster for board approval.
 - i. Assistant Coaches must be board approved as well.
6. Player Commitment
- a. Players are required to attend all team activities (Practices and Games). If an absence is unavoidable written notification must be given the coach with as much notice as possible.
 - b. Upon accepting a position on a tournament team, payment for the season must be received prior to uniform ordering. If payment cannot be made, a payment arrangement must be made prior to uniform ordering.
 - c. Players must adhere to the SFYAL code of conduct at all times.
7. Tournaments
- a. Coaches will select tournaments for the team to play in prior to tryouts. Coach must submit the tournament schedule to the Board of Directors for approval.
 - b. Each Team will receive a tournament fee allotment from the league. *This does not include Cal Ripken Trail tournament fees. This money can only be used for tournament entry fees.
 - c.

8u Blue	9u Blue	10U Blue	11U Blue	12U Blue
\$1500	\$1800	\$2000	\$2000	\$2000
\$175 ea	\$225 ea	\$250 ea	\$250 ea	\$250 ea

- d. If the seasons' tournament costs exceed the allotment from the league the team will be responsible for the difference but must be approved by the Board prior to registering.
 - e. Each team is allowed to register for up to 5 non Cal Ripken Trail Tournaments. This includes its SFYAL hosted tournament.
 - f. Any leftover money will be returned to the SFYAL general fund unless it is to be applied to the Cooperstown Fund.
 - g. If a team elects to travel to Cooperstown during their 12U season, the team roster of the 11U season will be the players to attend the tournament.
8. Team Fundraising
- a. Teams are permitted to have (2) fundraising options per calendar year to help offset tournament costs. A fundraiser is defined as ANY attempt to collect money for the team. Fundraisers must be reviewed and approved by the board of directors. Fundraising efforts cannot compete with league sponsorships. (i.e. Business Sponsorships are not permitted for individual teams)
 - b. When submitting for board approval a detailed description of fundraiser, a profit goal, and purpose for fundraiser must be provided. The money must be used by the calendar year end it is collected, unless special permission is granted by the Board of Directors.
 - c. All funds collected must be turned into the SFYAL treasurer to be placed in the SFYAL general account, labeled w/ the team and purpose of fundraiser.
 - d. A Cooperstown specific fundraiser may be held in addition to the allotted (2) fundraisers per calendar year, as 12 year olds, if additional funds are needed and not raised in previous years.

- e. Fundraising Funds Clarifications
 - i. Any donation received that is requesting tax deduction verification, must be presented to the SFYAL Treasurer. The Treasurer will receive and document the donation and supply the necessary information to the contributor.
 - ii. Additionally if the SFYAL nonprofit status is being used to solicit and receive donations, said donation will be shared with the League. 80% is allotted to the team, and 20% to the League.
 - iii. Teams are NOT permitted to advertise the League's 501 (C) (3) on any marketing material.
9. Playing Time
- a. Tournament teams are built for competition not participation. Playing time will be earned, not every athlete will play equal time.
 - i. Trail Tournaments (District, State, Regional, World Series)
 - 1. Each player must play either one inning or one at bat.
 - ii. Non-Trail Tournaments (Invitational Tournaments)
 - 1. Each player shall play a minimum of 2 innings in the field and receive a minimum of one at bat per game.
 - a. In the case a game is ended early due to time limits or mercy score ruling, if a players minimum playing times have not been reached that player shall be in the starting lineup for the next game.
 - 2. Failure to attend a team function (practice or game) could result in a playing time penalty at the coach's discretion.
 - 3. Pitch count suggested limits should be followed regardless of the tournament rules.
10. Tournament Hosting
- a. As part of the Tournament team representing SFYAL all participants will be required to assist in hosting tournaments at the SFYAL Complex. Failure to volunteer during SFYAL hosted tournaments will result in removal from the team for the remainder of the season.
 - b. Duties to include but not limited to:
 - i. Field Prep before and after all tournament games
 - ii. Trash removal at the end of each day's events
 - iii. Opening/Operating/Closing of the snack bar
 - iv. Coordinating Tournament results with Tournament Director
11. Parent Requirements
- a. Parents will be given the description and guidelines of the SFYAL travel experience PRIOR to tryouts at a parent's meeting for all interested players.
 - b. Parents will follow and enforce SFYAL code of conduct at all times.
 - c. Parents will be asked to complete a travel team experience survey at the conclusion of the summer season. These responses will be reviewed only by the Board of Directors. A summary will be provided to the coaches.

Failure to follow the travel team guidelines will result in the following - 1st offense – warning. 2nd offense – Tournament Suspension, 3rd Offense – Removal from coaching staff and/or team.

Revised 2019

Gold Team Guidelines

In the event, SFYAL has enough players to form a second travel team at an age group. A GOLD team will be formed. This will not be known until AFTER tryouts and BLUE team roster is confirmed. Once enough players are interested, anyone interested in coaching, can submit their interest to the Board.

All rules and guidelines addressed in this document apply to the GOLD travel teams as well. The budgets will be adjusted to include the additional funds allotted to trail tournaments. Gold teams may register for a total of (7) tournaments for the Spring season.

8U	9U	10U	11U	12U
\$2300	\$2300	\$2500	\$2500	\$2500