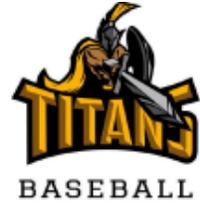




## Sycamore Youth Baseball Travel Team Program

Updated: 6/11/2024



Sycamore Youth Baseball is committed to providing an impartial, objective, and accurate assessment of a player's skills during our evaluations. The outcome of the assessment will be used to determine team place. The Executive Board acknowledges that assessing a player's talent is often subjective, but the board believes that this process provided below provides the best opportunity to get it right.

### **Player Eligibility**

To Play on a Sycamore Youth Baseball travel baseball team, players must meet the following criteria:

1. Any player who is currently on any Sycamore Youth Baseball sanctioned team
2. Any player who lives within the District 427 boundary or attends any private school within Sycamore
3. Pay all past due balances from previous seasons
4. Agree to all required waivers to participate in SYB evaluations.

### **Player Age Determination**

1. Travel teams are designated by age level (14u = 14 year old and under)
2. Age is determined by the player's age on April 30th of the current year
3. Players are strongly encouraged to play at their grade age but must meet all age requirements to play for their age group.

### **Tryouts Locations Dates and Times (Monday, July 22nd Rain Makeup Date)**

Player evaluations for each travel team will be organized by age group and held during the third week of July. Specific dates and times for each age group's evaluation will be determined by the Selection and posted on the SYB website by June 1st.

The tryouts for the travel league teams will be conducted on the following days, weather permitting.

- 8u  
Thursday, July 18th, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm @ Sycamore Park (Fields 5 & 6)
- 9u
  - Tuesday, July 16th, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm @ Sycamore Park (Fields 5 & 6)
- 10u
  - Tuesday July 16th, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm @ Sycamore Park (Fields 2 & 3)



Yellow	Yellow Coach					
Asst. Coach	10u assistant	11u assistant	12u assistant	13u assistant	14u assistant	Ind. Evaluator
Asst. Coach	Ind. Evaluator					

Upon completion of each evaluation session, all evaluation sheets must be immediately submitted to the Selection Committee for score compilation.

### **Evaluated Baseball Skills**

All eligible players participating in the tryouts will be evaluated on the following:

1. Hitting mechanics
2. Hitting contact
3. Infield/Outfield fielding and throwing mechanics
4. Arm strength and accuracy
5. Foot speed
6. Pitching and Catching (10u-14u)

### **Team Selection Process**

After all evaluations are completed, the final scores and rankings will be emailed to the head coach. Head coaches will have 48 hours to finalize and submit their Black and Yellow team rosters to the Selection Committee.

For the 9U-14U travel teams, Titans (Black) is considered the top tier for each age group, while Titans (Yellow) represents the second tier. For the 8U travel team, coaches should provide a list of 22-24 players. Coaches will then distribute these players evenly to ensure competitive balance as they practice and better understand each player's abilities.

If a player not ranked in the top 24 is selected for the roster, the coach must provide a detailed rationale for choosing that player over a higher-ranked one. Once the rosters are approved by the Selection Committee, an offer will be emailed to the selected players' families. Players who accept the offer must register for their respective teams via the Sports Engine link provided and make their initial fee payment within 48 hours of receiving the offer email.

If a player declines the offer to play for the selected team and wishes to join a different SYB team, the parents must email an explanation to the Selection Committee within 24 hours of being notified of the coach's selection for approval. The Selection Committee has 24 hours to communicate its decision to approve or unapprove the request.

Players are strongly encouraged to play at their grade age but must meet all birthday requirements for their age group. A player may request to play on an older age team, but must be offered a spot on that age level's top team. "Play-ups" are not allowed on the second tier team unless deemed necessary for team formation and approved by the Selection Committee.

If there are not enough players to field a competitive Titans (Yellow) team, the Selection Committee will collaborate with Travel Coaches and previous rec league coaches to identify

additional players within the Sycamore School District to fill the remaining spots. The Selection Committee the right to seek players from other communities if needed to form a competitive Yellow team with at least 11 players. Parents will be notified within two weeks of tryouts whether there will be a team for that age level.

### **Player Tryout Attendance**

- Players that want to tryout for a travel league team or travel tournament team must attend the scheduled tryout for his/her age group
- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each tryout session of registered and eligible players
- Players must participate in all scheduled sessions for his/her age group unless an excused absence is approved by the Selection Committee.
  - Injury/Illness
    - Registered and eligible players who cannot participate in the tryout due to an injury or illness will be excused, prior to the start of the appropriate tryout session, upon delivery of a doctor's note to the Selection Committee describing the players limitations.
    - Registered and eligible players who miss more than 50% of the scheduled tryout session due to injury or illness, and provide a doctor's note, may be granted a special evaluation, once he/she provides a doctor's release to participate.
  - Family Situations
    - Registered and eligible player that cannot participate due to a specific family situation must submit in advance a request to the SYB Travel President for a specially scheduled tryout.
    - It is not the Sycamore Youth Baseballs's intent to prohibit players from participating in tryouts due to a short-term injury or illness or a family situation from playing in the Travel Program. All reasonable accommodations will be made to determine an injured player's skill level. These may include, but are not limited to:
      - A modified tryout
      - Special scheduled individual tryout
      - Previous years tryout scores
      - Previous years Coach evaluation
  - All requests for excused absences from the tryouts must be submitted in writing at least 24 hours before the player's scheduled tryout time

- Extenuating and unusual circumstances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis but are not guaranteed of an excused absence
- The Sycamore Youth Baseball will do everything possible to accommodate other functions but the player is ultimately responsible for attending the appropriate tryout session
- Some players will be asked to attend additional tryout sessions as the age group rosters are being finalized

### **Equipment**

- Players must provide their own glove
- Players may bring their own batting helmets and bats.
- Players are not allowed to wear any clothing with their name on it or from a previous year traveling team
- Players should wear shoes appropriate to the tryout location (Tennis shoes if inside, cleats if outside. No metal cleats)
- Players should wear baseball appropriate clothing
- Catchers may use their own catching gear (helmet/mask, chest protector, shin guards, catcher's mitt). Catching gear will be available, if needed.
- Parents responsible for players to attend tryouts with personal protection equipment (protective cup)

### **Evaluation Format**

1. Pitching Skills Evaluation (10u-14U)
2. Catching Skill Evaluation (10u-14U)
3. Skills Evaluation (All Ages) - Hitting, Ground Balls, Fly Balls, Arm Strength, Throwing Accuracy, Speed & Agility
4. Simulated Game - Application of Skills, Movement, Understanding of Game