

To: SYB 7 and 8 Year Old Parents/Players  
From: Matt Gattuso, "A" Coordinator  
Dave Thrun, "AA" Coordinator  
Marji Warfield, Summer Ball Coordinator  
Date: May 20, 2009  
Re: Summer Baseball Opportunities and Selection Process for 7-8 year olds

Although the spring season just got into full swing, the summer baseball season will soon be upon us! Similar to last year, Southboro Youth Baseball will offer multiple summer ball opportunities for 7 and 8 year old players. Please note that 7 and 8 year old players were represented in both "A" and "AA" Minor Leagues this season.

#### **Teams:**

- The "**Southborough 8 Americans**", will be comprised exclusively of 8 year old players (8 as of April 30, 2009). There will be up to 12-14 players on the team, which will compete in the Ashland Sparkler Tournament. This tournament runs from late June to the end of July.
- The "**Southborough 8 Nationals**", will be comprised of a blend of 7 and 8 year old players (7 or 8 as of April 30, 2009) and will compete in the Lunenberg Tournament. There will be 12 to 14 players on this team. This playing season will run from late June through the beginning of August. This is a great tournament that Southborough has participated in for the last five summers. Trophies and T-shirts are given to every player.
- The "**Southborough 8 Federals**", will be comprised of a blend of 7 and 8 year old players (7 or 8 as of April 30, 2009) and will compete in the Lunenberg Tournament. There will be 12 to 14 players on this team. This playing season will run from late June through the beginning of August. Again, trophies and T-shirts are given to every player.

Note: The Southborough 8 Nationals and 8 Federals will be 'balanced' in terms of baseball ability to provide each team with an equal chance of success in the Lunenberg tournament.

#### **Team Selection:**

Team selection will be based on coach evaluations and on-field evaluations conducted during tryout sessions. **The evaluators for the tryouts will be selected from an experienced group of SYB coaches and league officials who do not have a child in that age group participating in the evaluations.** We intend to select 12-14 players per team.

- Given the number of players who are expected to be evaluated for summer ball, 'cuts' are highly likely. Please consider your child's ability to handle the emotion of not being selected for a team when making the decision to be considered for a summer baseball team.
- Further, please recognize that the summer baseball tournaments, while focused on fun and learning, are competitive. Thus, please consider your child's interest and maturity in competing in that type of environment.
- Finally, players who are invited to join (\*\*) a summer ball team are eligible for "play up" consideration the following spring in accordance with the league's player placement policy.

(\*\*) "Invited to join" – The summer team evaluations represent SYB's once-a-year on-field evaluation. As such, the league uses this for two primary purposes – (1) to choose its summer team rosters and (2) help inform player placement decisions for the following spring season. Consistent with recent years, players invited to play summer baseball will have a greater opportunity to "play up" to a higher competitive level in the following spring. Please note that it is NOT necessary for a player to agree to join a summer team in order to try out or to earn an invitation. Players who plan to be away for the summer are welcome to

participate in the summer team evaluations, as this will enable them to be considered for “play up” in the spring of 2010.

**Evaluations will be conducted on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Mooney Complex (Major League Diamond) from 12-2pm and 2-4pm. Players should attend just one of these sessions.**

**Selection Criteria:**

Players will be evaluated on the following baseball skills (in no particular order of importance)

- Running – Ability to run with speed and agility on the baseball field
- Arm Strength and Accuracy
- Pitching – Ability to throw strikes with consistency and poise
- Fielding – Ability to consistently field ground balls and fly balls with proper baseball technique
- Hitting – Ability to consistently hit the ball for contact and into the outfield
- Game Knowledge – Demonstrated ability to execute the correct play both offensively and defensively in common baseball situations
- Catching – Ability to catch live pitching and to demonstrate basic catching skills with consistency
- Sportsmanship and Attitude– Consistent exhibition of sportsmanship and team attitude during the regular season

**Coach Selection:**

Coaches will be selected based on their interest in coaching summer baseball, experience, coaching effectiveness, sportsmanship, and overall level of contribution to SYB. Summer ball coaches will be selected from the current pool of head coaches, assistant coaches, and league officials.

**Commitment:**

Summer ball entails a strong commitment on the part of all players, parents, and coaches. Summer season practices are likely to begin mid to late June. The season will run through the end of July for the Ashland team and into August for the Lunenberg teams. Each team will likely play 10-12 games or more during this time period. In total, the commitment is likely to be as much as 4-5 days per week (including most weekends) for a 4-5 week time period.

It is expected that a player’s summer ball team will be a top priority for the player during the summer season. Parents should consider their summer vacation plans, summer camp, and other sports commitments before choosing to play summer baseball. Coaches will expect 80% or better attendance at practices and games during the summer season.

**Cost:**

Summer ball teams are ‘self-funding’ to cover tournament fees, uniforms, and equipment costs. It is estimated that summer ball costs will be \$75-110 per player.

**Summer Sandlot**

Players who are not able to make the required summer ball commitment or are not selected for one of the three teams described above will be able to participate in Summer Sandlot ball. This will be the 4th year for our sandlot program which provides players the opportunity to play baseball ‘just for fun’ and to continue to develop their skills. This program has been met with great success the last three years and provides a great baseball opportunity for the kids. It is expected that this program will be offered two times per week including one weekend day. This program does not entail nearly the level of commitment required of the other summer teams and may be appropriate for players who cannot meet the attendance requirements of the other summer teams.

Note: Summer Sandlot will be open to players at the Minor League A, AA, and AAA levels.

### **Questions**

Please direct any questions about 7 and 8 year old summer ball and the on field evaluation process to Matt Gattuso at [matt.gattuso@covidien.com](mailto:matt.gattuso@covidien.com) or Dave Thrun at [david.thrun@fmr.com](mailto:david.thrun@fmr.com) . General administrative questions regarding summer ball may also be directed to Marji Warfield at [marji\\_mail@yahoo.com](mailto:marji_mail@yahoo.com) . Also, please check our website for updates and additional information @ [www.southboroughbaseball.net](http://www.southboroughbaseball.net).

Please direct any questions about Sandlot to Jim McCarthy at [jrmjcm@gmail.com](mailto:jrmjcm@gmail.com).