

To: SYB 9 and 10 Year Old Parents/Players
From: Howie Rosenstein, AAA League Coordinator
Alan Osetek, Major League Coordinator
Marji Warfield, SYB Summer Ball Coordinator
Date: May 20, 2009
Re: Summer Baseball Opportunities and Selection Process

Although the spring season just got into full swing, the summer baseball season will soon be upon us! Consistent with the last couple of summers, Southborough Youth Baseball plans to offer multiple summer ball opportunities for our 9 and 10 year old players who have participated in either AAA or Major leagues this spring.

Teams:

- The “Southborough 10 Americans”, will be comprised exclusively of ten year old players (10 as of April 30, 2009). There will be up to 12 players on the team which will compete in the District and Milford tournaments.
- The “Southborough 9 Americans”, will be comprised exclusively of nine year old players (9 as of April 30, 2009). There will be up to 12 players on the team which will compete in the District, Shrewsbury, and Northborough tournaments.
- The “Southborough Nationals”, will be comprised of a blend of nine and ten year old players and will compete in the Hopkinton Sizzler. There will be 12 to 14 players on this team.
- The “Southborough Federals”, will be comprised of a blend of nine and ten year old players and will compete in the Hopkinton Sizzler. There will be 12 to 14 players on this team.

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

Team Selection:

Team selection will be based on both coach evaluations from spring ball play and on field evaluations conducted during one-day tryout sessions. **The evaluators at 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.**

- Depending on the number of players who choose to be evaluated for summer ball, ‘cuts’ may be required to maintain planned roster sizes. Please consider your child’s ability to handle the emotion of not being selected for a team when making the decision to tryout for summer baseball as this is can be a difficult experience for some children.
- Further, please recognize that the summer baseball tournaments 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 for the following spring in accordance with the league’s player placement policy.

Summer ball evaluations will be conducted on the following dates & times @ the Major League Diamond at Finn.

9 Year olds – Saturday June 6th 8-10am
10 Year olds – Saturday June 6th 10-12pm

Every effort should be made to attend a summer ball evaluation session. Players who cannot attend the designated session for their age group should attend an alternate session during the weekend to

give themselves the best opportunity to earn a spot on a summer team. (**) “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) choose its summer team rosters and (2) help inform league 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.

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

Catching – Ability to catch a pitched ball from a live pitcher with proficiency. Ability to throw the ball to prevent steals or base advancements with accuracy and velocity

Game Knowledge – Demonstrated ability to execute the correct play both offensively and defensively in common baseball situations

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 expected to begin mid to late June and the season will generally run from late June through late July or early August. 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 4-6 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 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 two years and provides a great baseball opportunity for the kids. It is expected that Sandlot ball will be held two days per week including

one weekend day. This program does not entail nearly the level of commitment required of other summer teams and may be appropriate for players who cannot meet the attendance requirements of the other summer teams.

Note: The Summer Sandlot program will be open to players at the A, AA, and AAA levels. Also, there is no cost for this program.

Questions

Please direct any questions about 9 and 10 year old summer ball to Howie Rosenstein @howshan@charter.net or Alan Osetek at alanosetek@hotmail.com General administrative questions regarding summer ball may also be directed to Marji Warfield @marji_mail@yahoo.com. Also, please check our website for updates and additional information @ [www. Southboroughbaseball.net](http://www.Southboroughbaseball.net).

Questions about summer sandlot should be directed to Jim McCarthy @ jrmjcm@gmail.com.