

***Southwestern Youth Association  
Travel Baseball***



***2024  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES***

***Effective August 1, 2024***

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# **SYA Travel Baseball**

## **Overview**

### ***I. Mission***

SYA Travel Baseball (SYATB) provides a positive environment to further develop both baseball and life skills through advanced training and increased competition. While available to all families residing within the SYA Little League (12 and under) or SYA Babe Ruth (13 and over) Baseball boundaries with exception as noted for 13u and above, participation in SYATB is limited to select players and coaches that demonstrate advanced skill and dedication through a competitive selection process.

### ***II. Governance***

SYATB is an organization within SYA that is overseen by the SYATB Board of Directors (BOD), which consists of seven members:

- SYA Diamond Sports Commissioner
- SYA Babe Ruth BOD President,
- SYA Little League BOD Vice President East
- SYA Little League BOD Vice President West
- SYA Little League BOD Travel Baseball Coordinator
- Two other positions are selected yearly (Travel Year) by the other directors:
  - A current SYATB manager
  - A local high school coach.

SYATB operates under the SYA By-Laws and this Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Because SYATB requires close coordination with SYA House Baseball to ensure player health and safety, all SYATB Manager selections and changes to SYATB SOP shall be reviewed by the SYA House BOD. If there is no Mets 13u team or higher, the SYA Babe Ruth BOD President becomes an optional member.

### **Section 1: Travel Coordinator**

SYATB Coordinator will be appointed by SYA Diamond Sports Commissioner, typically the elected SYA Little League Travel Baseball Coordinator.

### **Section 2: Committees**

The SYATB Coordinator or SYA House Board of Directors may define committees to help support SYATB.

### **Section 3: SYA Travel Calendar**

The SYA Travel year runs from August 1 through July 31 of the following year.

#### **Section 4: SYATB Coordinator and Board of Director Authorities**

- A. All acts of misconduct reported to or witnessed by SYATB coaches, officials, parents, players, or fans shall be referred to the SYATB Coordinator in writing within 24 hours of the action. The SYATB Coordinator will make a recommendation to the SYATB BOD in writing as to the course of action to those involved in the misconduct, unless the misconduct reported is against the SYATB Coordinator in which case the SYA Diamond Sports Commissioner will review and make a recommendation to the board members. If appropriate, the SYATB BOD may refer the matter to the SYA House BOD for their consideration and response.
- B. SYATB BOD has the authority to reprimand or suspend any individual(s) whose conduct is considered detrimental to the best interest of SYATB. Any adverse action taken will be applicable only to SYATB. If any adverse action is taken, the SYATB Coordinator is responsible for informing the SYA House BOD for any further actions against the individual(s).
- C. The SYATB BOD has the authority to grant waivers to all policies and procedures detailed here. Waiver request must be submitted to the SYATB Coordinator for review and consideration by the board. The Board will vote and notify the requestor of the decision.

#### **Section 5: SYATB Coordinator Duties**

- A. Shall enforce observances of these operating procedures and any other powers delegated by the SYATB BOD.
- B. Shall maintain custody of this SOP.
- C. Shall maintain a calendar of all SYATB games, practices, and field allocations.
- D. Shall be responsible for reporting any SYATB issues of interest (e.g., field allocation conflicts, House Baseball - Travel Baseball pitching questions) to the SYA House BOD at regularly schedule SYA House BOD meetings or if urgent, via email communications to expedite resolution.
- E. Shall be responsible for providing guidance and reference material pertaining to team management to ensure consistency with SYATB program and details included in this SOP.

### ***III. Local Rules and Guidelines***

Program details are included in this Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). Instructions on the conduct of the game for each level of play are provided herein. Additional local rules have been adopted to maximize player participation and the learning experience.

#### ***IV. Terms and Definitions***

Southwestern Youth Association Sports (SYA) – Overall parent organization of all SYA sports, and the Board of Directors that oversee the operations of all SYA sports.

SYA House Baseball – Consists of SYA Little League for 12 year olds and younger and SYA Babe Ruth for 13 year olds and older. Also referred to as SYA Baseball.

SYA Boundaries – For 12U and under, the boundaries used are those for SYA Little League. For 13U and older, the boundaries used are those for SYA Babe Ruth.

SYA House Board of Directors – Shall refer to the SYA Little League Board of Directors and or the SYA Babe Ruth Board of Directors, as appropriate.

SYA Diamond Sports – Overall SYA organization that oversees all SYA diamond sports: Little League Baseball, Little League Softball, Babe Ruth Baseball, Mets Travel Baseball, and Xplosion Travel Softball.

#### ***V. Amendments***

This SOP may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part by a majority vote by the SYATB BOD, with input provided by the SYA House BOD and the SYA Board.

#### ***VI. Teams and Players***

- A. SYATB will support 8U – 12U age levels with the goal of one team per level, pending coach and player interest and talent – A “B” level team (second team) will follow different guidelines from the “A” team. Teams at the 13U and 14U age levels may be added as SYATB deems there is a sufficient player pool and coaches available to field such teams and may be coordinated with the SYA Babe Ruth program. See Section 3, Team Formation and Management below for further details.
- B. The travel baseball year starts with the fall season and completes following the spring season - August 1 to July 31. A player’s baseball age for both the fall and spring is detailed later in this document.
- C. While SYATB is offered to all families residing within the SYA boundaries, ultimate inclusion in SYATB is limited to select players and coaches that demonstrate advanced skill and dedication through a competitive selection process. Unlike the SYA House Baseball, no player has an automatic right to SYATB participation. Any player within SYA boundaries may try out for SYATB. SYATB will select, in accordance with the player selection process set forth herein, a limited number of players for the teams established for each age level.
- D. For 13U and older teams only: As an exception to living within the SYA boundaries, SYATB may decide to allow up to 4 players per team from outside the SYA Babe

Ruth boundaries. A yearly decision will be made prior to fall tryouts and approved by the SYATB BOD.

## ***VII. Financial Policy***

### **Section 1: Fees**

- A. All selected players are required to pay their allocated share of expenses as it relates to the ongoing management of the team. These expenses include, but are not limited to, uniforms, league fees, tournament fees, winter workout programs, facility rental, umpires, game balls, first aid kits, insurance, etc. There are no league or county scholarships available.
- B. Managers are required to prepare and submit their team budgets to the SYATB Coordinator prior to the start of tryouts for the upcoming season. Budgets for the upcoming season will be based on the prior season's expenses and account for any new league fees, tournaments, equipment, or uniform expenses anticipated for the upcoming season.
- C. These above SYATB expenses are above and beyond SYATB registration fees and SYA registration fees, set by the SYATB BOD.
- D. Once budgets are set, all team fees will be collected through the registration process. Any additional fees collections will be determined at that time when it is needed and coordinated with SYATB.

### **Section 2: Insurance**

SYA Sports provides insurance for the entire program. SYATB teams no longer have to acquire insurance from other organizations. Teams should work with the SYATB Coordinator to get the proper proof of insurance from SYA Sports, as needed. Insurance fees will be allocated to the player registration process.

### **Section 3: Funds, Fundraising, and Audits**

- A. Each team shall be financially self-sufficient and may engage in fundraising to offset some or all of these prior mentioned fees.
- B. All monies collected by the team Manager directly from team families shall be available only to offset the costs associated with travel baseball team expenses. Managers are responsible for accounting for all funds collected, and all funds expended in the management of the team, in conjunction with the SYA Little League Treasurer (acting as the SYATB Treasurer). The team Manager will be responsible for submitting a report to the SYATB Coordinator that details the execution of the team budget by the end of the season or upon request.

- C. All monies collected by an individual or team via fundraising shall be deposited with SYATB through the SYA Little League Treasurer. The SYA Little League Treasurer shall disburse such funds only to the extent that an allowable SYATB expense is supported by receipt(s).
- D. Each team is subject to periodic financial audits conducted at the request of the SYATB Coordinator, SYA Little League Treasurer, SYA Diamond Sports, or SYA Sports.

#### **Section 4: Compensation**

For teams 12u and under, no manager, coach, player or other volunteer in the SYATB Program shall receive, directly or indirectly any salary, compensation, or payment for services rendered (or goods purchased) in fulfillment of duties as Board Member, Travel Coordinator, Manager, Coach, Player, or Volunteer. The SYATB BOD may elect to compensate any Manager or Coach for a 13U team and above for the playing year.

However, nothing in these rules shall prevent a person affiliated with the SYATB Program in any of these capacities from receiving reimbursement from the SYATB Program for reasonable expenses incurred in providing services to SYATB or for professional services rendered. Expenses associated with the management of the travel baseball team will be submitted to the SYATB Coordinator for approval prior to the execution of funds.

Services must be fully disclosed in writing (e.g., winter workout program and/or facility rental) and bid each year to ensure the program is reasonably priced and transparent to SYATB BOD and those participating in the program.

## **Standard Operating Procedures**

### ***1. Managers***

Any person interested in managing or coaching a travel team shall send an email to the SYATB Coordinator expressing their interest in managing a team, typically around May 1 for the upcoming season, and will provide the following information:

- Full Name
- Age group that you are applying for (in order of preference if multiple)
- Email Address
- Phone Number
- Summary of coaching experience (Resumes are preferred)

Manager candidates will be required to complete an interview. The SYATB Coordinator will utilize the SYATB BOD as the primary manager candidate evaluation and selection panel. The SYATB Coordinator may solicit participation in the manager evaluation and selection of other SYA House Baseball members.

To be eligible to manage, the applicant must be a member/volunteer of SYA House Baseball and be in good standing as determined by the SYA House BOD.

Managers will be selected from the applicants based on the strength of their application and the results of the interview process and background check. Evaluation criteria will include, but not limited to:

1. Demonstration of good sportsmanship and the ability to teach players the same;
2. Prior managerial or coaching experience teaching kids with advanced skills;
3. Prior positive managerial or coaching experiences with the group of kids that the manager will likely be managing at this level;
4. Feedback given to the SYATB Coordinator either from manager/coach surveys, the SYA House BOD, or from some other documented source;
5. Documented baseball disciplinary action(s), documented positive experiences, or documented negative experiences (note that these experiences may be documented by the interview panel if they are explored during the managerial interview);
6. Knowledge of baseball rules and strategy;
7. Demonstration of the ability to organize effective practices;
8. Availability to attend and manage practices and games;
9. Projected coaching-staff and/or delegation of baseball instruction responsibilities;
10. Interpersonal skills that foster a positive relationship with players, parents, umpires, and opposing teams;
11. Playing experience at high school, college, or professional level as it relates to knowledge of the game; and
12. Development of baseball coaching skills through clinics, seminars, books, video or other training offerings.

In consultation with the SYATB BOD, to include input from the SYA Baseball BOD, the SYATB Coordinator will inform the SYA Baseball BOD of the selections made. The SYATB BOD will have sole authority on the approval and selection of SYATB Managers. Managers will be selected prior to June 1 of each year and prior to tryouts for the fall team. A Manager's tenure begins August 1 and lasts for one year until 31 July of the following year. Following the Fall season, each Manager will be evaluated by the SYATB BOD, which will determine their continued participation as the Manager for the Winter/Spring season.

For the Fall season, "A" team managers shall only manage in SYATB and no other program, including SYA Fall "house" Baseball. This is the main season for travel players at 12u and younger and it is important that these managers dedicate their full time to their teams. If a manager would like to manage another team to fill a need for SYA Diamond Sports, the manager may do so with the written approval from the SYATB BOD and any provisions set forth in the written approval (e.g., that the Travel Baseball team would hold priority over the other position).



Should the SYATB Coordinator wish to manage a SYATB team, the SYATB Coordinator will be required to proceed through the same Manager selection process as defined in the aforementioned with the exception that the role of the SYATB Coordinator will be filled by an individual nominated by the SYA Baseball BOD.

If the SYATB BOD determines that there is a sufficient number of players to support the formation of a second travel baseball team within a single age-group, the SYATB BOD will conduct the review, interview, and manager selection process in the same manner as outlined above.

Once Managers are selected, they are responsible for naming coaches to assist with the management of the team and must communicate coaching selection(s) to the SYATB Coordinator for approval prior to the start of any team activities. Any changes to the staff after the season begins must be approved by the SYATB Coordinator. All coaches must submit a volunteer registration application as a prerequisite to being selected by the team Manager and complete the same background check process as managers before they are approved as staff by the SYATB Coordinator. The staff must also be in good standing as determined by the SYATB BOD.

All SYATB Managers and Coaches are required to attend Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA) training at least once per calendar year. Proof of annual attendance at another PCA event may also be accepted by the SYATB Coordinator.

All Managers and all on field Coaches will be subject to an annual background check conducted by SYA Diamond Sports.

## ***2. Players***

### **A. Eligibility**

Players of 8U through 12U travel teams are eligible for the SYATB Spring Season once registered and participating in the SYA Little League “House” Baseball season. Players on 13U and above teams are not required to play “House” Baseball, in this case SYA Babe Ruth. A player is not required to register for SYA House Baseball in the Fall Season to participate in the SYATB Fall Season, except players on a “B” team.

The player must meet the established age guidelines for the 2022 Fall and 2023 Spring Season as noted – Find player’s month of birth, then year of birth to find their travel baseball age:

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	AGE
2018	2018	2018	2018	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	8
2017	2017	2017	2017	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	9
2016	2016	2016	2016	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	2015	10
2015	2015	2015	2015	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	11
2014	2014	2014	2014	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	12

2013	2013	2013	2013	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	13
2012	2012	2012	2012	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	14

## **B. Player Tryouts**

Player selection for each team is dependent upon player tryouts, observation of player performance in prior SYA House Baseball and/or travel baseball seasons, and recommendations from league coaches. Open tryouts for all eligible players will take place twice a year: once in preparation of the SYATB Fall Season and once in preparation of the SYATB Winter/Spring Season. There will be at least two tryout sessions for each level for each season. All players, current and prospective, must tryout as a prior selection on an SYATB team is no guarantee of selection in the future. If a player is unable to attend the tryouts, they must communicate this situation to the SYATB Coordinator prior to the last tryout session for the player's age group. A "tryout" is an assessment of a player's ability to compete effectively within Travel Baseball at the "elite" divisions – Metro or AAA - of the Northern Virginia Travel Baseball League (NVTBL).

SYATB will make all efforts to give reasonable advance notice to all SYA House Baseball registrants from current and past registration years as to the time and place of tryouts.

To this end, at least 2-4 weeks prior to the end of the SYA Spring and Fall House Seasons, a notification will be posted to the SYATB Baseball web site that communicates the availability of tryouts for the upcoming SYATB season. Players seeking consideration for inclusion in SYATB must register for tryouts through the SYATB website.

Dates, times, and locations of tryouts will be procured and managed by the SYATB Coordinator. Once determined, this information will be communicated back to all prospective players, managers, and coaches.

## **C. Player Selection Process**

The primary responsibility for evaluation and selection of players will be with the SYATB manager for each respective age-group. The SYATB Coordinator will be responsible for identifying independent observers of tryouts and will coordinate with the SYATB BOD to offer an independent assessment of the players selected for each age-group team to ensure each player participant is given a fair opportunity to be evaluated.

If a player is needed to fill a roster spot for regular season or tournament game(s) during the travel baseball season, the manager shall seek approval of the named player from the SYATB Coordinator at least one week prior to the scheduled competition. The player must be a candidate who participated in tryouts and approved by the SYATB

Coordinator. This player shall also pay their fair share of expenses encountered during that time they participate with the team.

#### **D. Miscellaneous Statements Regarding Players**

No monies will be collected until team selections are complete.

#### **E. Player Registration**

Following a player's selection, they will be required to register in the travel baseball program. Player registration will be available via the SYATB website. Each SYATB player is responsible for the fees as noted below. The fees below do not include any uniform related expenses that may be required.

- Players registered for play in the respective Spring/Fall House Baseball seasons will be required to pay an additional field maintenance and insurance fee (\$20) and a Fairfax County fee (\$10) in addition to the standard SYA House Baseball registration fees.
- Players not registered for play in the House Baseball season will be required to pay an SYA fee (\$40.00), SYA Field of Dreams fee (\$40.00), Registration fee (\$5.00), Fairfax County fee (\$10), field maintenance and insurance fee (\$20), for a total of \$115.00.
- A late fee of \$25 will be added if player is not registered by the start of the season (January 1 for winter/spring, August 1 for fall).
- Players' share of team fees as determined by the team manager.

Additionally, any player that resides outside of Fairfax County will be charged a \$50 out-of-county fee imposed by Fairfax County.

Field maintenance fees will be transferred to the appropriate House Baseball program to cover use of that program's equipment.

#### **F. Player Late Registration**

Late registrants will be approved by the SYATB Coordinator, in consultation with the SYATB BOD. If a late registration is accepted the player must complete the special tryout process as determined by the Manager and the SYATB Coordinator. Late registrants will not be accepted for consideration for regular roster spots once season rosters have been established. Managers may select additional players after the team has been selected due to injury or bench strength for tournaments, however it must first be offered to a travel player from the same age group level team (if any), second to a travel candidate who participated in tryouts (and approved by the SYATB Coordinator) that was not selected for a travel team, and third to a travel player from a lower age group level (and approved by the SYATB Coordinator). If no players could be selected from these options, then the manager shall consult with the SYATB Coordinator on how to proceed. A player already named to the roster shall not be removed without approval of

the SYATB BOD. Any late registrant will pay the applicable SYATB late registration fee.

### **G. Statement Regarding Participating in Age-Appropriate Division**

SYATB encourages and prefers players to participate in their age-appropriate division, but will allow players to try-out for a team at an older age group so long as the SYATB BOD approves. The SYATB Coordinator is responsible for fully disclosing to the Manager and the parent(s) the differences and the impact playing at a different age levels (e.g., base distances, pitching rubber distance, pitch speed).

## ***3. Team Formation and Management***

### **A. Team Formation**

SYATB will support a minimum of one team at 8U-12U, per age group level provided there is interest by players meeting minimum skill evaluations. The number of teams actually supported for any given season for a particular age group will be dependent upon the number of players registered, talent level, the number of coaches that volunteer and the availability of fields offered by the county and SYA Diamond Sports. Every effort will be made to sponsor at least one team per age group. The ultimate number of teams supported each season will be determined by the SYATB BOD. In some cases, this determination may be made prior to player evaluation and selection process, and other cases will follow the selection process if it is determined there is sufficient player and volunteer interest.

If it is determined that there is a sufficient number of players, coaches, volunteers and baseball related resources, consideration will be given to fielding an additional team, a “B” team for respective age group levels.

These guidelines are in place for all “B” teams in the 8u to 12u range:

- Players will also have to play the fall house season. Decision, by the SYATB BOD, to be made on winter/spring season will follow the completion of the fall season.
- The “B” team will be allocated Friday nights (only in Fall) a team practice, along with Sundays
- Sunday games are to be limited to a single game, except one DH per month during the house season for games. Additional DHs request can be submitted to the SYATB BOD for approval, which will review the team’s performance to that point in making a decision. Similarly, any tournament that the team wishes to participate in must have SYATB BOD approval.
- Coaches must attend a SYA Diamond Sports training program

Teams are formed and active for a single season. The fall season starts August 1 and ends by November 15, unless approved by the SYATB BOD. Managers that would like to

play in games following this date will request approval from the SYATB BOD prior to registration for those games. The Spring season starts January 1 and will end by 15 June, or the start of the House Baseball All-Star season, whichever comes first.

## **B. Team Size**

The recommended roster size for all SYATB teams is a minimum of 12. The SYATB BOD may approve roster sizes of less than 12 if the manager makes a roster size exception request. The exception request must be submitted to the SYATB BOD after tryouts and prior to team selection.

If there are 24 or more players registered for a single age-group that show potential travel talent, the SYATB Coordinator may make a recommendation to the SYATB BOD to allow for a second team to be formed and a search for a second manager for the age-group in accordance with the procedures outlined in Section 1. The expectation is that the second team will play at some level below the “elite” division level of the NVTBL, or similar organization, and be considered the “B” team for SYATB. In such cases, roster size requirements will be determined by the remaining number of players registered and interested in participating and will follow the same guidelines as above.

Should the talent pool exceed one team, but not nearly enough for a second team, the Manager might consider larger roster options should the talent pool not be enough for a second team. (For example, a roster size of 18 with 3 teams of 6 players which would rotate through game (16 players with 4 groups of 4 is another option).

## **C. Team Names**

Team names shall be SYA Mets. All teams shall register with organizations, tournaments, and leagues as SYA Mets. “SYA” shall appear on all uniform jerseys.

## **D. Team Uniforms**

A standardized set of uniform criteria must be met with all new team uniform purchases, regardless of team. This standardization will ensure the SYATB program is consistent across the board as we move forward.

Game Uniform Shirt:

- T-shirt, 2-button, or full button down is acceptable
- Must have the words “SYA” and “Mets” on the shirt. It can be "SYA Mets", "Mets" across the chest and "SYA" above/below that, or on sleeve. Both words must be very noticeable.
- Color: Red (not maroon, not some color one can argue is red)
- Ancillary strips, white based, on shirt may be used
- Number on back may be highlighted. A second number elsewhere on shirt should be smaller or same size but not be larger than "SYA"

- Player's last name is allowed on the back of jersey
- Any sponsor logo can only be on the sleeves, not the front or back of shirt
- Any reasonable font can be used
- See acceptable shirt below:



#### Game Hat:

- Combination of Black hat/Red bill is acceptable as is an all Red hat. Same restriction on the color Red as noted above.
- "M" or "Mets" or "SYA" must be used on front of hat
- Player's Number and/or initials may be on back of hat
- Any sponsor logo may only be on the sides of the hat
- See acceptable hat below:



Other items, game pants, sweatshirts, practice shirts. etc.: No specific requirements other than they need to represent SYA in some fashion.

***Costs should be kept low as we want to provide an affordable option for our families.***

This doesn't mean we have to be thrifty, but recognize that cost should be a factor.

Sponsors help offset fees and help keep them affordable.

## **E. House Baseball vs. SYATB**

House Baseball refers to the SYA Spring and Fall Little League/Babe Ruth seasons as overseen by SYA Diamond Sports. The House Baseball season is said to begin with the first official regular season practice held by teams from House Baseball and ends with either the last House Baseball playoff game or House Baseball post season tournament team selection, whichever comes last. House Baseball has priority over SYATB during the Spring seasons; this includes House Baseball practices, regular season games, playoff games, championship games and any post-season tournaments. For the Fall House Baseball season, the player may choose which league will take priority, and those players families are encouraged to discuss their participation level with their SYATB manager. SYATB recommends that all players in the Fall play only travel baseball, and not House.

The only exception may be a Spring preseason (before SYA House Baseball games begin) tournament game that conflicts with a scheduled House Baseball practice. In such cases, the SYATB manager is required to notify the SYA House Baseball managers who have players participating.

Once House Baseball post season tournaments end for a given age group, then and only then can an SYATB team re-commence practice and play for the remainder of that season with approval from the SYATB Coordinator.

## **F. Winter Workouts**

To prepare for the Spring season, teams and individuals shall participate in the winter workout programs offered through SYATB beginning after team selections have been made for the spring season. Details and costs of this program will be made available no later than the finalization of player selections and roster announcements.

## **G. Player Participation**

While travel baseball typically has no playing requirements, SYATB requires all managers to play all their players who are in attendance at the start of a game in every game. The minimum playing requirement per game is one at-bat **and** 2 complete innings in the field. An exception will be made for the Championship or Semi-Final games of a tournament. In this situation, the minimum requirement is one at-bat **or** 2 innings in the field. Any game shortened by weather, curfew, or a slaughter rule will not require this minimum to be met.

## **H. House and Travel Pitching**

If a House Baseball Manager should request that the SYATB Manager not pitch a particular player, the player may not pitch unless approved by the SYATB Coordinator.

All SYATB Managers must submit SYA Baseball game reports within 24 hours of game completion.

## I. Pitch Counts

Pitch count guidance stated in this SOP takes precedence over other local playing rules or tournament rules/guidance. SYATB managers should work with the SYATB Coordinator on any/all questions on these guidelines as it relates to tournament and/or local play.

SYA Travel Pitch Count guidelines:

- a. A pitcher may pitch up to 30 pitches (may finish batter but may not reach next threshold of 35) on the first day, and may pitch the next day up to 50 pitches (may finish batter). This scenario will require two days rest following the second day. This rule also applies as if the first day was a house (LL or BR) game. For example, throws 25 pitches on Saturday in a LL game, may only throw up to 50 pitches on Sunday in a travel game. Less than 21 on first day, a pitcher is fully eligible on the second day. Pitcher may finish a batter, but total pitch count will count.
- b. For all other games through the Spring and Fall season, the maximum total pitch counts in a single day are, based on player's baseball age:
  - a. 13 and older – 95
  - b. 11&12 yr olds – 85
  - c. 9 & 10 yr olds – 75
  - d. 8 yr olds and younger - 50
  - e. For each of the above thresholds, the pitcher may finish pitching to the batter as long as the first pitch to that batter starts on or below the listed threshold
- c. Pitchers may pitch in two games in a single day as long as:
  - The pitcher pitches less than 21 pitches (no finishing batters) in the first game, or
  - The pitcher is the last pitcher of record for the first game (i.e., the closer), and finishes with more than 20 pitches, he/she may start the second game, so long as the second game starts within 30 minutes or less from the end of the first game.
  - Maximum daily pitch limits per age group still apply to total pitches thrown in both games
- d. A pitcher shall not pitch in more than two games in one day.
- e. A pitcher shall not pitch on three consecutive days if pitch count exceeded 20 (may finish batter) on either of the two previous days.
- f. Rest required for all other situations is as noted:
  - 21-35 - one day rest
  - 36-50 - two days rest
  - 51-65 - three days rest
  - 66+ - four days rest

All pitch counts will be recorded on the SYATB website in a game report within 24 hours of completion of the last game played on the day of the game, doubleheader, or tournament. All pitch counts will be monitored by the SYATB Coordinator. Any



manager that failed to follow the pitching rules outlined above will be subject to the following penalties:

- a. First Offense- Manager will be counseled by the SYATB Coordinator and may be restricted to the dugout for the next game following the identification of the rule violation.
- b. Second Offense – Manager may be suspended up to 1 week.
- c. Third Offense – Manager is subject to removal from their position with the SYA Mets.
- d. All offenses are cumulative. Should an incident occur in the last game of the season, any decision by the SYATB will carry over to the following season.
- e. All decisions may carry over to any of the SYA Diamond Sports.

Consistent misuse or wide variances of these rules will be reviewed by the SYATB Coordinator and SYATB BOD and may be subject to penalty of the manager/coach.

#### ***4. Team Management***

It is within the SYATB's Manager's sole discretion as to the team's practice, game, and tournament schedule so long as it is alignment with the following:

- Tournament plans are defined as soon as possible and included in budgets.
- During SYA Baseball Spring House season, only Sundays will be allocated for SYATB team practice and/or play. Managers may schedule one practice per week (two if there are no weekend games – one of the two days must be a Sunday then), but players are expected to attend their house team practice or game if there is a conflict.
- Any "B" team follows the guidelines noted under Team Formation.

Exceptions for Spring:

- There are no 8u-12u practices except Sundays, once house practices have begun.
- Any weekend dates preceding the start of the House Baseball season (which begins with practices typically in mid-March), Memorial Day Weekend, Labor Day Weekend, or any other holiday week or weekend (as approved by the Travel Coordinator). On such dates, the SYATB Manager may schedule practices and/or games provided there is no conflict with SYA House Baseball – typically SYA House Baseball will not operate on such dates unless weather has forced makeup games (exception is preseason tournament games).
- For weekend dates within the House season, the allowable time frame for the scheduling of practices and/or games begins after the last House Baseball game is played before the beginning of these holiday weekends, and ends before the next House Baseball practice is planned after these holiday weekends.

SYATB activity will cease upon announcement of House Baseball Spring post-season tournament rosters, typically no later than June 1. It is the sole discretion of the House post-season managers to approve players to play in Travel post-season games after this date.

For the fall season, managers of “A” teams may schedule up to three practices per week (provided that one of the practices is a non-throwing session), four practices if there are no weekend games (provided one of the practices is a non-throwing session).

Any additional exceptions to scheduling must be presented to the SYATB Coordinator for approval. The SYATB Coordinator reserves the right to audit any team’s schedule and require any changes that the SYATB Coordinator believes is not in the best interests of SYA Baseball and/or the welfare of the travel players.

## ***5. Field Allocations***

The SYATB Coordinator will coordinate with the various SYATB Managers to publish field usage requests for fields allocated to and maintained by SYA Baseball.

Should two teams make similar field requests, the SYATB will make every effort to secure fields in a fair and equitable fashion. The SYATB Coordinator will endeavor to meet all needs and requests of all SYATB teams and any disputes will be adjudicated by the SYATB Coordinator.

All 8u-12u levels will be provided Patriot Park North for games on Sundays as the two smaller fields support both 46/60 and 50/70. Practice allocations will have to be balanced against all SYA Diamond Sports requirements at all fields. 13u and older teams will be provided practice allocations based on the 90’ allocations SYA receives from the county, as fields are available.