

6-7U DEVELOPMENTAL SELECT LEAGUE

This is a new program aimed at keeping the game fun and promoting complete player development as our top priority. We are starting with the youngest age group and will grow the program each year. The coaches will be involved in the continued development of the program and hold each other accountable to assure it's success. Club teams and programs are good but unfortunately can come with problems such as players getting limited opportunities at multiple positions, high participation cost, burnout, etc. We all need to work hard to make sure kids keep loving the game as they grow and remain just as excited to play when they get to high school baseball as they were the day they got their first bat and glove. We hope to help change the culture and balance out some of the problems we are seeing in our area and across the country. After several years of discussion and recent conversations with current 6U-7U coaches, we are making changes on how teams are formed, player movement, keeping the cost down, coaches training, etc.

We agreed there is a need to limit the number of select teams from Amarillo & Canyon and will cap at 8 teams max in each of the 6U-7U age groups. If an out of town team wants to get involved, we will limit to 1 team per town and age group if there is room. This will be in effect for the current 6U and 7U division and will develop as we move forward. We are making some changes in the other divisions, but won't restrict the numbers of any teams who have already been playing. We have seen a steady increase in the number of "select" teams in each age group with most having 12-15 teams and as many as 18-22 in some ages. With so many teams in each age group, the parity of the league games has gotten bad in many cases. Every season many teams fold or find themselves looking for several players just to field a team. Often kids are being picked up and put in a situation they aren't ready for just to give a team enough players. If a kid has a bad experience, many times they end up leaving the game. As we develop this program, we are going to work hard to develop a strong developmental hybrid draft program with opportunities for postseason all-star baseball. As a kid's talent and confidence level grows, they can choose to participate in annual evaluations for select teams looking to pick up players. Of course kids that are struggling in the select league will have a great option to participate in one of our hybrid draft programs to build confidence and allow for their continued development.

This first season we have 6U and 7U teams but after this season we will not add another 6U division and just start at 7U going forward. This will allow new coaches time to get to know kids through kindergarten and other activities as well as let kids play tee-ball and 2 years of coach pitch. We will have an open evaluation in August for any kid going into 1st or 2nd grade for the 7U or 8U teams needing players. We have 8 Amarillo/Canyon teams in the 7U division so it is full. We have room for a few more 6U teams since we already allowed teams to form this first year. We will have to visit with the coach before allowing the team to participate and make sure they're on the same page. If you know someone interested in this program and think they'd make a good coach please have them email Westtexasyouthbaseball@gmail.com or call Rob @ 806-670-3164. No new 6U team or current 6U/7U team for spring 2021 season can pick up any kid who played on one of the other 6U/7U teams without getting permission from the prior coach and league director. With the Covid-19 situation, we weren't able to do an area wide evaluation in August, so as long as the move is made with permission from the coach we will allow this one season. Once the spring season is over, any parent who would like to find another team for their kid can do so as long as they follow the league rules listed below. They must be in good standing with the team as well as not have any disciplinary restrictions from the league. They must notify both the head coach and league director through email and give reasons for wanting to remove their kid from the roster. At that point, they will be eligible to go through the area wide select evaluations in August and any coach looking to add roster spots will be able to pick the player up on a set draft procedure. A kid absolutely cannot just be added to another roster.

DEVELOPMENTAL SELECT LEAGUE GUIDELINES

- Maximum of 8 teams per age from the Amarillo & Canyon Area
- 1 team per town and age group from outside Amarillo and Canyon (If there is room)
- New teams can form on their own and participate in open evaluations to complete roster if needed
- Once a coach puts the roster together, they are committed to coach the players and work to develop them for the entire season. In a situation where a coach or parent feels they need to remove a player from the roster, the league will mediate and try to resolve the problem. As long as the coach, parent, and player are following the league's code of conduct there really shouldn't be any reason why a player should need to be removed from a team's roster during the season.
- Once the season is complete, either the coach or parent can choose to remove a player from the roster but must do so following the league procedure. Whoever is requesting the removal from the roster must send an email to the league within 5 days of the team's last game. Include team name, player name, and detailed reasons for removing the player from the roster. The league will contact both coach and parent to discuss. Once that is done, both parties will be emailed with final details on moving forward.

Here are the options for players leaving a team's roster.

1. If the coach requested the player removal: (We will monitor these closely)

- The player will be placed on a free agent list and any of the other teams can contact them to pick the player up. Since the parent didn't request the removal, they can look for another team ahead of the open evaluations if they know of a team needing a player.

Note: This is the only situation that a coach can pick up a player from a free agent list. Starting this season for these age groups, we won't have a free agent list once the season gets started and you will have to pick up players through the open draft.

- The player can participate in open evaluations in August for any team looking to add player(s). The draft is done in a snake draft format so there is no guarantee that a certain team will be able to pick the player up.
- The player can sign up for one of our 2 hybrid draft programs.

2. If the parent requested the player removal: (We will monitor these closely)

- The player can participate in open evaluations in August and see if any other team has room to pick the player up. This is done in a snake draft format with reverse order of the standings from the previous season and there is no guarantee that a certain team will be able to pick a player up.
- The player can sign up for one of our 2 hybrid draft programs

A parent can never take their kid off a team and just automatically add them to another team's roster in this program. They must support the team and follow the code of conduct which prohibits talking to other teams about picking their kid up during the season or attempting to start their own team. Just as important, any coach caught breaking the code of conduct and talking to a parent of another team's player will be suspended and could be banned from coaching in the future. It is very important for a player to participate at their level and keep loving the game as they develop but coaches need to coach and not try recruiting other teams players. We have to protect the integrity of the program and what we're trying to accomplish and these things have been a problem for a long time and are only getting worse.