

SAN MARCOS YOUTH BASEBALL

STALLION DIVISION GUIDELINES

Updated July, 2017

Purpose

The Stallion Division was created to give players of advanced skill an opportunity to play baseball at a more competitive level than what is offered by recreational baseball. Twice a year (fall and spring), teams are created at the various ages to represent San Marcos Youth Baseball (SMYB) at local tournaments and tournaments throughout Southern California.

The Stallion Division is not travel baseball in the traditional sense. While the teams may compete in tournaments populated by established travel baseball programs (USSSA, Triple Crown, Xtreme Diamond, AAU, etc.), the Stallion Division is designed to be a competitive supplement to recreational baseball. While most travel baseball programs have paid coaches, elite players selected from a broad geographical region, and an intense schedule, the Stallion teams are managed by volunteers and open only to qualified players who are registered to play in SMYB.

Player Eligibility

Prior to the start of every season, the SMYB Board will estimate the number of Stallion teams for each division based on the available talent pool at that age group. The Stallion division is open to 7U-14U ages – typically, one team per age group with a team being defined as 11-13 players. The Board may also approve additional managers contingent upon having sufficient players attending the tryout. Or, if tryouts draw more eligible players beyond the original estimated attendance, the Board may approve additional managers.

The Stallion Program requires a player to participate on a SMYB recreation baseball team during the spring season in order for the player to be eligible for a Stallion team within the same spring season. During the fall season, a player can choose to play on both a recreation baseball team as well as Stallion team or just be full time on a Stallion team. All players who are deemed eligible to play in SMYB are eligible to play on an SMYB Stallion team.

Because the Stallion teams do not play in PONY Baseball sanctioned events, teams are not required to abide by PONY Baseball's designated birth date cutoffs. PONY defines birth date ranges as September 1 - August 31. Stallion teams may be comprised of

players based on the birth date cutoffs established by travel baseball programs (USSSA, Triple Crown, Xtreme Diamond, AAU, etc.). These organizations define birth date ranges as May 1 - April 30. A player may *choose* to play on the Stallion team that aligns with his/her PONY designated league age if he/she chooses. **All players must play rec (and all stars if applicable) based on PONY Baseball's designated birth date cutoffs.** Players on Stallion teams **may not** play down to a lower rec division during the Spring or Fall seasons. If a player has a specific question about his/her eligibility that player should consult the SMYB Stallion Director.

In short, players with birthdates between May 1 and August 31 have two Stallion team options. They may choose to try out for the PONY aligned age group and/or travel baseball aligned age group.

Manager & Coach Eligibility

Stallion manager is a volunteer position. Perspective managers must be in good standing with the league in order to be considered. Perspective managers must attend a Board interview and must submit a seasonal outline at that time. The plan should include budget plan and possible costs, game and tournament schedule, fundraising plans, size and members of coaching staff, etc. This outline also needs to be presented to the perspective players' parents at or before the tryouts to be considered as part of their decision to join the team.

The manager must submit a list of all coaches that will participate in practices and games. A manager should have a staff of at least three coaches including him/her to properly run practices and coach games. All on field personnel are required to submit an application and submit to a background check as per the SMYB By-Laws. The coaches will also be volunteer and may or may not have children on the team. A team may choose to hire a coach and or individual instructor as long as said coach/instructor has had a background check under the as per the SMYB By-Laws and receives approval from the Board.

Tryouts

Tryouts will be held approximately one week after spring rec evaluations and one week before fall rec evaluations.

Each Stallion team will run one or more tryouts in order to evaluate all interested players. These tryouts are mandatory. No player will be eligible for placement on a Stallion team without attending at least one tryout and may be asked to attend more than one tryout. When an age group has potential for more than one team it is required that that a single tryout be conducted so all players can be evaluated together. It is the responsibility of all managers to promote and encourage all age eligible players to attend

tryouts. In no way should a player be encouraged to skip tryouts with the intent of being picked up later.

Managers are required to compile a detailed sign in sheet with contact information for all participants which must be submitted to the Board if requested.

Team Selection

A Stallion team must carry at least 11 players but no more than 13 players. If a particular age group has enough talent for two or more teams, the A manager selects his/her team first, B team selects his/her team, etc. The A team manager has right of first refusal for all eligible players. Players selected on the A team may choose to play on the B team, but encouraging players to reject an invitation to play on a particular team will be considered tampering and any managers or coaches involved will be subject to disciplinary action.

The Stallion managers for each age group are collectively responsible for **personally contacting by phone** each player's parent within 24 hours of the last tryout to notify each player if **they did or did not** make the team.

Length of Season and Scheduling

Spring season starts in January after teams are selected and runs through Memorial Day. All Stallion activity must be concluded before the start of the All Star season and may not resume until the start of the fall season. Stallion teams practice and play games on Sundays during spring season with few practices beyond rec ball. During breaks in the spring season, Stallion teams may play weekend tournaments. **No player can miss any rec practices or games because of a Stallion team event.** Fall season starts mid-August and ends December 1. A mandatory break is required during December until the start of the spring season. In fall, practices are held during the week with games and tournaments played on the weekend.

Fees

Players participating on Stallion teams will be required to pay an additional registration fee. Part of the additional fee goes to cover costs such as insurance, lights, and field maintenance. Most of the money goes back to the team to cover other expenses such as uniforms and tournaments. The actual Stallion fee may vary from season to season and must be paid to SMYB within two weeks of accepting an invitation to a Stallion team. The Board will determine the appropriate fee which will be communicated to Stallion managers. All parents of potential players must be notified of the fee before try outs.

Because they are required to play on a rec team in spring, players must register online and pay the rec ball fee either on-line or by check. After being selected for a

Stallion team, players will be required to pay an additional Stallion fee either on-line or by check.

In fall, it is recommended that players do not register before the Stallion evaluation. After being selected to a Stallion team, they will then go online and register and pay the Board approved Stallion fee. Payment can be made either online or by check. If a player does not make a Stallion team they can then go online and register for the fall rec league if they choose. If a player had previously registered for a rec team and chooses to only play Stallion, that player's fees will be transferred to cover his/her Stallion fee. Players who choose to play both rec and Stallion during the fall season will be required to pay both the rec league fee and Stallion fee.

Only league Stallion fees, umpire fees, tournament fees, batting cages and uniform fees are allowed to be passed on to Stallion families. Any other costs associated with the Stallion team cannot be passed onto players which may include but are not limited to outside coaching fees, training equipment, and baseballs. Stallion teams may not operate as "pay for play" teams. Players may not be charged monthly fees.

Budgets and Fundraising

Team budgets and finances, including both purchases and current balances, shall be maintained by the Stallion manager or designated Business Manager. All financial information should be made available to the Board or any parent at any time if requested. Complete transparency to all financial transactions is required and must be documented.

In spring, little or no fundraising should be required. For fall, some fundraising may be required depending on the number of tournaments a team participates. Any potential sponsors may not detract from SMYB League sponsorships all sponsors for must be approved by Board.

If any outside coaching fees are expected, they should be addressed prior to the season and presented to the player/family prior to offering the player an invitation to join the team. These additional costs cannot be mandatory to the players nor can a player be excluded from this additional instruction based on monetary participation.

Conduct & Discipline

The managers, coaches, players, and families represent SMYB so appropriate conduct is mandatory. Teams are representing SMYB outside of the league and San Marcos so it is important that the League is represented in an exemplary fashion. Behavior of parents, families and players is the sole responsibility of the manager. In addition, teams must include the SMYB league logo on their uniforms and are to identify themselves as SMYB teams when registering for tournament play or scheduling games versus any outside opponents.

Failure to adhere to SMYB's Code of Conduct, any behavior unbecoming of a manager or coach, a Stallion guideline or League rule being broken could result in disciplinary action by the Board. Good judgment and common sense should prevail throughout the season. Disciplinary action can occur for any areas not listed within these guidelines.

Disciplinary actions taken by the Board may include warnings, suspension, and termination and can affect eligibility for any future positions within SMYB.