

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE NYO PONY BASEBALL LEAGUE FALL 2017, SPRING AND SUMMER 2018 SEASONS

Greetings from the NYO Pony League "Pony"! We want to provide information about Pony as we welcome in rising 13U & 14U players from NYO, Buckhead Baseball, Murphey Candler, Sandy Springs and other area programs. For decades, Pony has been an excellent baseball experience for players that love the game and desire to keep playing in a fun and competitive recreation baseball league.

To begin, Pony plays at Chastain Park. The address is 140 West Wieuca Rd NE, Atlanta GA 30342. The Park is very well maintained and is the home to softball, football, cheerleading and basketball programs year round. Pony plays on Garr Field; it is the biggest field at NYO and built to specifications appropriate for this age player. Below is a summary of how each season of the program works.

Fall Season (2017)

The Fall League has one Division, the level of play is competitive and the kids have a lot of fun being at the park on beautiful fall days sharpening their baseball skills. Key details are:

- Registrations are online though the website www.nyosports.com beginning on May 27, 2017. Applications will be accepted through July 28, 2017 or until the league is determined "full".
- 6 or 8 teams of 12 or 13 players. A mix of parent and non-parent's coach the teams. There are no tryouts or drafts; league officials put the teams together.
- Practices will start around August 26. Teams practice on Saturdays throughout the season, perhaps an occasional Friday night.
- Games start on Sunday September 10 and will run for 9 consecutive weekends, with the a tournament held on the last weekend of the season (November 3-5).
- Players with a rising league age of 13 that wish to play in our 12 year-old league may designate that choice when registering. Players selecting this option in the fall are expected to play Pony in the spring.
- Players should have high attendance levels for games, and the more practices they attend the more benefit they will get from the season. With this said your player is encouraged to participate in other activities during the fall and should not think of fall baseball as their only sports activity.
- The cost is \$275.

Spring Season (2018)

The Spring League has two Divisions (National & American). The league anticipates that a vast majority of players will play National the first year (13 YO) and American the second season (14 YO). We feel that keeping the groups largely separated enhances the level of play in both leagues as players of this age are experiencing wide variation in growth and maturity levels. We also recognize that playing and pitching opportunities may be more limited for some players if chosen to play in the American Division. NYO will honor any player/parent request to play in the National Division (whether the player is 13 or 14). However, for 13 year olds, selection to the American Division is based solely on being drafted onto a team. Key details are:

- In 2017 there were 4 teams in the American Division and 5 teams in the National Division. Some years there are more. Each team had 13 players. A mix of parent and non-parents coached the teams.
- **Registration typically ends in mid-January. Be sure to register early, especially if you are unsure if your child is going to make a middle school team. Every year we have players that don't make a middle school team, and then are too late in trying to register for participation in Pony.**
- Player evaluations are the last weekend in January. Practices start in early to mid-February.

- Games begin ~March 12 and run through the second week of May. Playoffs are after the regular season with Championship games the weekend before Memorial Day weekend. All teams typically play 16 regular season games followed by a playoff of at least 2 games per team
- Teams typically have 3 events per week, with 2 games per week once games begin.
- The cost is \$400 per player.

Spring Middle School Sports - A significant number of the 13 and 14 year olds in Pony also play a spring sport for their middle school (mostly baseball, but others as well). This is encouraged by Pony, and our coaches work through these conflicts fully understanding that players will miss Pony events for school sports. Most families find that Pony is an excellent supplement to school sports and once the school teams wrap up in mid-April, a good part of our season and playoffs lie ahead. **So please don't let school ball be an impediment to playing Pony.**

Summer Season 2018 (Travel Teams)

For the 16th consecutive year, the league will field summer “travel,” teams for both age groups. Our typical season features one or two 14 YO teams and one or two 13 YO teams, depending on demand. Key details are:

- The process begins in mid-April by asking every player in the league if they are interested in participating on a Summer Team. For those that respond “yes”, we also ask for the time the player will not be available Memorial Day weekend through late June. **IMPORTANT:** If your player wants to play summer ball, they should keep absences during this period to a minimum (appx. no more than 2 weekend days and 5 weekdays). Also, please be available Memorial Day weekend if possible.
- Next, interested players are chosen based on performance in the spring as voted on by the coaches in their Division.
- The summer teams start practicing after the playoffs finish. In addition to practices, the teams play in tournaments in the metro Atlanta area. These tournaments can have some games on a weeknight, but always play on Saturday and Sunday. Teams will play approximately 20-25 games from Memorial Day weekend through late June. Our teams play a mix of “all star” events as well as events with Grand Slam and Triple Crown. The teams are competitive and the players have a lot of fun!
- Cost can vary depending on some choices of the team, but \$450 is a good planning estimate for the Summer Season.

Thanks for reading! Should you have any questions regarding anything in this memo or need any more info, please contact us any time at baseball@nyosports.com and we will have someone get right back in touch. We hope we see your family at some point during the 2017-18 fall, spring or summer seasons.