



***This letter is being sent to the families of all NYO players in the Rookie (7u), A (8u), AA (9u) and International (10-11u) leagues.**

Now that our spring season has gotten underway, we are beginning to plan for NYO Summer Baseball. While some of you have been involved in our Summer program in years past, for many families this may be your first experience. Please review the information below which includes our commitment requirements.

Summer Baseball Overview

Toward the end of your regular spring season, each age group will go through a nomination and selection process to create summer teams of top players based on their regular season performance. These teams will compete against youth programs across Georgia, and in some cases across the Southeast, predominantly in weekend tournaments during May, June and early July.

NYO spends a great deal of time and effort to maintain an equitable selection process across each age group, ensuring our teams can best represent our league on and off the field. Last summer's program featured 2 teams from our 7u and 12u age groups and 3 teams at ages 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Teams will typically start after the regular season playoffs conclude with tournaments scheduled as soon as the following weekend (Memorial Day weekend). Our goal is to customize each team's schedule for challenging but realistic competition. Some teams will play Dizzy Dean rules and tournaments and others will play travel tournament schedules.

Time Commitment

Due to the occasional important family obligation, which inevitably come up at this time of year, NYO allows players to miss part or all of one tournament provided we are aware of the issues or conflicts prior to the announcement of summer teams. Please note, the spirit of this exception is to allow flexibility for players that have an important family commitment that was already planned prior to Summer Ball team formation, this is not meant to apply to "trips to the beach" or to accommodate weekends off to break up the summer season.

We will also allow players to miss practices for these same events provided players are otherwise in attendance the remainder of the summer. Our goal is to avoid excluding players who will miss a few games or practices where they can otherwise fully commit to the team's schedule. There are a few caveats on this. First, coaches will be allowed to adjust playing time for players who miss practices or games. Second, families will be expected to share in the overall cost of a team even if they miss a tournament (i.e there is no proration or discount of team costs).

****If a family commits to a team and then misses part of, or all, a tournament that they did not disclose on the commitment form (distributed to all nominated players in late-April), and that absence is not related to an injury or illness, that player may not be considered for a summer team the following year.**

More about the Summer

Team activities will typically encompass the following:

- Practices for each age group should begin the day after your league's championship games
- Each team will hold daily practices leading up to your tournament schedule.
- Typically, each team will play weekend tournaments for 4-6 weeks depending on the age group.

2017 Schedule

- Coaches will vote on the players in each age group on or before Saturday, May 13th
- Summer baseball teams will be announced on Sunday, May 14th
- Summer teams will start practice on or about Monday, May 22nd
- At this point, we are expecting most of our teams to start playing in tournaments on Memorial Day weekend.
- At this time, we anticipate the following end-dates for each age group
 - 7u – Last possible tournament – 6/18
 - 8u – Last possible tournament – between 7/2-7/5
 - 9u – Last possible tournament – between 6/25-6/27
 - 10u – Last possible tournament – between 6/25-7/5
 - 11u – Last possible tournament – between 6/25-6/27

Note that some of these dates may be shorter and vary where teams are playing in double elimination Dizzy Dean state tournaments and participation depends on teams staying alive. If you are not sure on a possible conflict, let us know and we can help.

The NYO Summer Experience

If you have any questions to what the experience is like for any of these teams or if it is worth the time commitment, do not hesitate to call members of any of last year's teams or any of your coaches.

What to do now

There is no action that you need to take at this time to include or exclude yourself from NYO Summer Baseball. The purpose of this letter is to make all parents aware of our commitment policy for 2017.

If your child's regular season coach elects to nominate your son or daughter for a summer team, they will contact you sometime in April to inquire if you are interested in playing. Being nominated does not guarantee a spot on a summer team so all players who are nominated will need to wait until teams are announced to confirm selection. If you are nominated, you will be asked to fill out a document which confirms your child's commitment to the summer team and specifically details any time that they will need to miss based on a family obligation.

If you have any questions about the time commitment or summer schedule, please email nyosummerbaseball@gmail.com.