

2018 NYO SPRING BASEBALL UPDATES

We're almost through a very successful fall baseball season and just about set to open up registration for spring 2018. We wanted to provide you with some helpful information and the latest developments in the program as registration approaches.

Open sign ups will run November 4-17 for returning players and November 11-17 for new players. Note that new players in the 4U Small Ball league and the 13U-14U Pony League may sign up during the returning player period as well. Our wait list will start in all leagues on November 18. Registration fees for 2018 are as follows: Pony league (league ages 13-14): \$405; Baseball (league ages 7-12): \$380; Baseball (league ages 5-6): \$305; Small Ball (league age 4): \$265.

Note: As long as a returning or new player signs up during the initial registration windows above, they will be accepted into the program. However, we cannot guaranty a spot to a returning player who does not sign up by November 17. We are expecting to hit our capacity numbers in certain age groups during these sign up windows, so please be sure to get signed up on time.

Note: Participants who played with us in the spring 2017 season or the fall 2017 season are considered returning players.

Note: Players ages are determined as of their age on 4/30/18. When signing up, be sure to select the correct option for your child based on that age. Please read below on playing up or down a level as you may have to take additional actions if you want to play up or down from either of the Baseball 5U-6U leagues.

1. **CALENDAR.** A full tentative calendar with an overview of the 2018 season is attached and will be located on our web site. This calendar will provide you with additional important dates throughout the season, including dates for player evaluations, the starting dates for practices, opening day and game schedules over spring break. The actual game schedules and in season practice schedules will be posted to our website or circulated through coaches in late February. Practice schedules during the pre-season will be circulated through coaches as we complete drafts and teams are selected in early to mid-February, depending on the league. .

NOTE: The private schools have pushed their breaks back by a week. We will likely play some games over the weekend of Sat-Sun March 3-4 (the weekend prior to the break). We will also likely see some leagues play games on the second Sunday of the private school break (March 18) as well as the second Sunday of the public school break (April 8). Note that this year Easter weekend and Passover line up with the first weekend of the public school break. However, in the event of really inclement weather during the early part of the season, we may play make-ups on Sat March 17, March 31 or April 7. Our goal is to get this info out as early as possible so conflicts can be minimized.

2. **LEAGUE STRUCTURE AND AGE DETERMINATIONS.** Check out our web site for additional info on the structure of each of our leagues. Please remember that league ages are calculated as of your child's age on April 30, 2018, so that everyone slides up one age group from the 2017 season to the 2018

season. So, for example, kids who played Small Ball during spring 2017 will now move into the baseball league for ages 5-6, and those who played as 12U players in Majors or Bronco will move to one of our Pony leagues.

NOTE: We are only able to entertain requests to be with a certain coach or another player in the Small Ball (4U) and Shetland Blue (5U) leagues. All other players are drafted by coaches in their particular leagues. Players moving up from spring 2017 Small Ball into the 5U Shetland Blue will generally stay with their teams for 2018 spring to the extent coaches are returning.

3. FIRST TIME 2017 FALL BALL PLAYERS. Any players who joined our program for the first time in the fall of 2016 are considered “returning” players for purposes of spring 2018 signups. Should you fall in this category, you will be able to sign up during the returning player sign up running from November 4-17. As long as you sign up during this window, you will be absolutely guaranteed a spot in our spring 2018 program.

4. COACHES. Our league directors will be in touch with coaches from prior years about their intentions on coaching in 2018. However, both returning and new potential coaches should be sure to check the Head Coach box (or Assistant Coach box if applicable) when registering so we have a record of volunteers in our database.

5. ADDITIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR BRONCO LEAGUE. For players selected to play in our Bronco league (ages 11 and 12), there is a mandatory additional registration fee of \$25 per player (over and above the normal \$375 registration fee for Baseball ages 7-12) to cover the additional costs of field maintenance, uniforms, umpires and other related costs for this league. You will be asked to make this payment upon notification that your child has been selected for the Bronco league, if applicable.

6. UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION. Please be certain to continually update your address, phone number and, most importantly, your e-mail address on the parent information section of the registration page on the web site. We will use e-mail as a primary means of communication this year, so please be sure to keep us up to date with any changes. Also, you may want to be sure to include both parents of a child on the registration page (if applicable) as this is how your name(s) will appear in the parent list next to your child’s name in our online directory when published.

Also, in the event you have moved or need to update your family’s information, be certain to update your current account as opposed to entering either your family or any of your kids as new participants. **DO NOT delete your child from the database.** Our software tracks player participation from years past based on the current entries in our database. If you either delete those existing entries or enter your kids as new players, they will not be considered returning players and we lose their history which is critical to our planning every year. If you have any issues with this, please send us an e-mail at baseball@nyosports.com.

If you are not getting our master blast emails, be sure to white-list the nyosports.com email domain.

7. PLAYING “UP” OR “DOWN”. As you run the registration process, you will come to a selection where you are prompted as to whether you would like to see your child play Up a League, at Normal League or Down A League. 98% of our players should be at Normal League (which applies to any player naturally moving up an age group such as a rising 7 moving into the Rookie league or a rising 5 who played Small Ball last year moving up to Shetland Blue). You should always select Normal League unless: (a) your child has played up or down a level in years past (as approved by the NYO Baseball Committee) and you wish for him/her to continue to play up or down, as the case may be; (b) you desire that your child skip a level for the first time or hold back a level for the first time; such requests are generally strongly discouraged, but will be considered on a case by case basis (depending on such factors as playing ability, coach recommendation, grade in school and physical development).

For those with a rising 10 year old who you would like to be considered for Majors, or a rising 11 year old who you would like to be considered for Bronco, it is not necessary that you make this election at this point. We will send a separate memo in January after registration to all parents of rising 10, 11 and 12 year olds regarding league selection asking for specific requests for players looking to be considered to play up a league. NYO makes all final decisions regarding the placement of 10 year olds in Majors and 11 year olds in Bronco. The same applies for rising 13's who wish to be considered for the Pony American league - a separate memo will follow in January.

Please realize that checking a box to play up or down is simply a request; you will be notified of the results of your request within a few weeks after we complete registration. If you think you have been placed at the wrong level, please let us know. Finally, please note that NYO reserves the right to move a player down a level under certain circumstances.

For the second year, you will now see a 4th spring sign up option which can be selected for the spring baseball season as we have split up the Baseball 5-6 age group from the Baseball 7-12 age group. Should you have (a) a league age 4u player who wants to play up in the 5u Shetland Blue league, (b) a 5u player who wants to play down in the 4u Small Ball league, (c) a 6u player who wants to play up in the 7u Rookie league or (d) a 7u player who wants to play down in the 6u Shetland Red league, please contact in advance at baseball@nyosports.com so we can make an adjustment on our end to get you signed up in the correct league (this is necessary due to the different registration fees between Small Ball, Baseball Ages 5-6 and Baseball Ages 7-12). For all other players who want to move up or down a league, you can just register as usual and check the box to play up or down a league and we can make the adjustment on our end as the registration fees would not change.

8. BATS. There have been some major developments this past summer and fall regarding bat certifications for the 2018 season. NYO will allow both the new USABats as well as the USSSA 1.15 bats (which was our standard for the past 5 seasons) so that families will not be required to purchase a new bat for the 2018 spring season (i.e. if your bat was legal in spring 2017 season, it will continue to be legal for the 2018 season). See the link below for all the details on the NYO bat standards for the 2018 season and much more information on this topic:

<http://nyosports.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/NYO-New-2018-Bat-Standards.pdf>