

## 2020 NYO SPRING BASEBALL UPDATES (new info highlighted in yellow)

We're almost through a very successful fall baseball season and just about set to open up registration for spring 2020. 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 2-15** for both returning and new players for ALL LEAGUES. So long as you sign up in this window, you are in and fully registered for our spring league. Our wait list will start in all leagues on November 16. Registration fees for 2020 are as follows: Chastain Local League (league ages 13-14): \$415; Baseball (league ages 10-12): \$395; AA League (league age 9): \$385; A League (league age 8) and Rookie League (league age 7): \$375; Shetland Red League (league age 6): \$365; Shetland Blue League (league age 5): \$325; Small Ball League (league age 4): \$295.

Note: As long as a returning or new player signs up during the initial registration window 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 15. 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: Players ages are determined as of their age on April 30, 2020. 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.

Note: With our transition over the new Blue Sombrero registration platform, you will be signing up for a specific league based on your child's age as of April 30, 2020 (and you will only see a single league option based on age). The exception here is for those players who are league age 10-12. You will select the Baseball (league ages 10-12) option when signing up. Players in these age groups will play in either the International league (ages 10 or 11), Majors league (ages 10, 11 or 12) or Bronco league (ages 11 or 12). Once your child is drafted into one of these leagues, you will receive an email confirming the designation of your child to that specific league (see item 6 below for more details on these age groups as well as info on selecting a play up or down option when signing up).

Note: Unfortunately, in the move over to the new registration system, our spring league and team rosters will not import. For registration for this spring only, you will see a question asking whether you are a returning NYO player or not. If you are a new player, you will see a question about what park your child may have played at in the past (or you will simply type NA if your child is brand new to baseball). If you have a returning player, you will be asked to fill in the league and team your child played in during spring 2019 (you will see drop down boxes to assist). This will help us out immensely as we prepare for the new season. To help in this cause (as we know many of you have multiple kids and/or multiple sports), we will send a link prior to sign ups opening up that will direct you to our 2019 team rosters so you can confirm your prior league and team before signing up.

Note: Unlike past years, you will get a confirmation indicating what league you have signed up for, as opposed to a tryout number. We will assign tryout numbers just before tryout weekend and you will receive an email with that info (also posted online). You will not need to refer back to your initial confirmation email for your tryout number.

1. **CALENDAR.** A full tentative calendar with an overview of the 2020 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 breaks. 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.

2. **LEAGUE STRUCTURE AND AGE DETERMINATIONS.** Check out our web site for more info on the structure of each of our leagues. Remember that league ages are calculated as of your child's age on April 30, 2020, so that everyone slides up one age group from the spring 2019 season to the spring 2020 season. So, for example, kids who played Small Ball during spring 2019 will now move into the Shetland Blue league (league age 5), and those who played as 12U players in Majors or Bronco will move to the 13u/14u Chastain Local league. If you simply to move to the next age group with your group from last spring, simply select the play at NORMAL LEVEL option. If you select the play up option, you would skip a level and if you select play down you would play at the same level as last spring.

**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 (note: for those signing up in these leagues, you will see a link in the confirmation email you receive back after you have signed up directing you to a google doc link where you can make coach or player requests). Players moving up from spring 2019 Small Ball into the 2020 5U Shetland Blue league will generally stay with their teams for 2020 spring to the extent coaches are returning. All other players are drafted by coaches in their particular leagues. We draft players and do not honor player or coach requests beginning in the Shetland Red (6U) league.

3. **COACHES.** Our league directors will be in touch with coaches from prior years about their intentions on coaching in 2020. 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.

4. **ADDITIONAL FEE 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 \$395 registration fee) 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.

5. **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 be presented to your coaches.

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 or start a new family account if you already have one.** 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](mailto:baseball@nyosports.com).

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

**6. 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 who played Shetland Red last spring 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 early 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.

Note that our newly formed Chastain Local league is one overall league for players league age 13 and 14.

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.

**7. BATS.** For spring 2020, we will be continuing with the same bat standards we adopted for the spring 2018 season and carried over for spring 2019. NYO will continue to allow both the new big and small barrel USABats as well as the small barrel 2 ¼” USSSA 1.15 bats (except for the Bronco and Chastain Local league where big barrel USSSA 1.15 bats are allowed). See the link below for all the details on the NYO bat standards for the 2019 season and much more information on this topic:

<https://nyosports.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/NYO-new-2018-bat-standards-v2.pdf>