

DHYS Tournament Team Policy

Revised April 2009

For committed DHYS players and families, the spring baseball season can be extended into post-season tournament play. In early spring, recreation league managers will select players who best represent their respective league in terms of playing ability and sportsmanship, and these players will form a tournament team. Post-season play can be an exciting, challenging and rewarding time for players, coaches and parents; however, everyone should be aware of the commitment before agreeing to participate. Players and families may need to delay certain vacation or other summer plans until after the tournament season, although working with conflicts may be handled differently on a team-by-team basis.

Below are DHYS guidelines and policy for tournament teams.

1. Tournament Team Manager Selection

Tournament team managers will be selected during a managers' meeting to be held in the first half of April. (Selecting the managers in advance of the players will allow the managers an opportunity to begin planning the team's schedule of practices and games, however this timing is not intended to cause distraction of that individual to any recreation league duties.) The Tournament Director will chair the meetings, with the League Director in attendance.

- a. The choice will be made by majority vote of a league's managers who are present at the meeting in person, by written proxy or absentee vote, subject to approval or rejection by the DHYS Board. Voting can be conducted via e-mail, in which case no manager can be deemed to have been absent, that is, a majority of the full number of managers in the league must be obtained.
- b. The goal of the selection of tournament team managers will be to identify for approval by the DHYS Board the managers of the teams. Candidates can choose to manage a mixed-age or young-age only team with the understanding that the final composition of the teams will be decided at the tournament team player draft (see 3.d.). If there proves to be sufficient interest in a league to support three teams, the third manager will be selected at a later time as determined by the Tournament Director.
- c. There is no requirement for candidates to have managed or coached a team in the respective league or even at DHYS. This enables our organization to identify and select those that are believed to be the best managers available, whether they are currently managing or coaching at DHYS or not, or in the same or a different age group at DHYS. All managers will be required to have a Background Check and ASEP Certification.
- d. Manager candidates are to be identified through a nomination process. Nominations and self-nominations should be made to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director should verify with each candidate their interest in being a candidate prior to the vote of the managers.

e. If there is more than one candidate for a managerial position and the vote is being held in a face-to-face meeting, the vote will be by secret ballot, with each manager being excused as appropriate during the discussion period.

f. The tournament team manager for the older-age group in each league, that is, the “first team” (for example the 10U team in the Mustang league, for which 9-year olds are eligible) should be selected prior to the tournament team manager for the younger-age and/or mixed-age team(s) for that league. Selection of the tournament team manager for the first team in leagues that have more than one division, shall be made by the recreation league managers of the upper division (for examples, the International division of Mustang, and the Kid Pitch division of Pinto). If the two divisions are split according to age, and a younger-age team is expected to be selected, the tournament team manager for the younger-age group team shall be selected by the recreation league managers of the lower division. However, if the divisional split of the league is based more on ability than age, and a significant number (more than one per team) of younger-age players are playing in the upper division, then the selection of that younger-age group tournament team manager shall be made by the recreational league managers of both divisions. If a mixed-age team is expected to be selected from a league (this does not refer to younger age players being selected to the first team), that tournament team manager shall be selected by the recreation league managers of both divisions. In Pinto, where the PONY-sanctioned tournaments do not provide for a younger-age team (the PONY Pinto tournaments are all 8U, rather than 8U and 7U), after selection of the first team manager by the recreation league managers of only the Kid Pitch division, the subsequent tournament team manager(s) should be selected by the recreation league managers of both divisions.

g. Each selected manager should try, through conversations with recreation season managers and coaches and through observation of games, to become personally familiar with the potential candidates for his tournament team, since he will be selecting the last few players to complete the roster.

2. Team Selection

2.0. Schedule

a. Sign up sheets for tournament team players are to be made available on the website at all times. Preparation of the information/signup sheet will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director. Communication will be made to players and their families through an e-mail or other effective means of mass communication directing interested parties to information on the website. Managers and coaches should also communicate with their players and parents of their players.

b. The deadline for returning sign up sheets to the Tournament Director is three days before the start of the Grapefruit Season. As soon thereafter as possible (generally the next day), the Tournament Director will distribute a list of tournament applicants to league manager. Players will be allowed to turn in “late registration” up until one week before the tournament team player draft. However, players registering late cannot be voted on by the league managers, but may be selected by the tournament team manager once the initial nine players are determined. (See 3.c.).

c. Teams will be selected after 60% of the regular season league games have been completed. For this purpose, any grapefruit games will count as league games. A congratulatory note to the players selected should be posted on the website as soon as practical in order to communicate the selections.

2.1. Player Evaluation

a. Prior to the start of the spring season, the Tournament Team Directors will give each manager a list of all players interested in tournament teams. During the course of league play, managers are encouraged to notate the play of tournament team candidates in order to make an informed selection. Managers are also encouraged to watch other league games as necessary for the manager to make an informed vote.

b. After the tournament team managers have been selected, league directors will hold at least one open workout for all interested league players so that coaches may evaluate players for the tournament team. Each league's tournament team manager should work with the respective League Director to plan and conduct these work-out(s). When evaluating players, managers should place more emphasis on how they performed in league games versus how they performed in these workouts.

2.2. Team Selection Process

a. Each team will be selected during the managers' meetings for each respective league to be chaired by the Director of Tournaments.

b. Candidates selected to play on the first tournament team voted on by managers will be from both age groups in the league (see 3.d. below). However, applicants for tournament teams can indicate on their sign-up form if they wish to be considered for a mixed-age or younger-age-only (if available) team. The composition of the second team (mixed-age or younger-age-only) will be decided by a vote of managers. This decision should be based on which team will best serve the interests of the players in these age groups. Strong efforts should be made to field a team from each age group, however if there is insufficient interest in a particular age group, there is no requirement or obligation to field such a team.

c. The managers attending the meeting (or their proxies) will vote on the first nine players to each team. Each manager will vote for twelve players. The nine players receiving the most votes will be on the team. Ties will be decided by a re-vote of only those players. Managers are expected to actively participate in the tournament team selection process.

d. The tournament team for the older-age group in each league, that is, the "first team" (for example the 10U team in Mustang, for which 9-year olds are eligible) should be selected prior to the younger-age and/or mixed-age team(s) for that league. If a younger-age group team is to be formed, that team should be selected next after the first team, that is, it will be the "second team", before selection of a mixed age team. Selection of the first team in leagues that have more than one division shall be made by the recreation league managers of the upper division (for example, the International division of the Mustang league), however all players in the league (both divisions) that are of proper age in accordance with the PONY rules are eligible for that first team (see information regarding age exception at 2.f. below). If the two divisions are split according to age, and a younger-age team is selected, the players for the younger-age group team shall be selected by the recreation league managers of the lower division. However, if the divisional split of the league is based more on ability than age, and a significant number (more than

one per team) of younger-age players are playing in the upper division, then the selection of that younger-age group team shall be made by the recreational league managers of both divisions. If a mixed-age team is selected from a league (this does not refer to younger-age players being selected to the first team), the players shall be selected by the recreation league managers of both divisions. In Pinto, where the PONY sanctioned tournaments do not provide for a younger-age group (7U) team (the PONY Pinto tournaments are all 8U, rather than 8U and 7U), after selection of the first team by the recreation league managers of only the Kid Pitch division, the players for subsequent tournament team(s) should be selected by the recreation league managers of both divisions.

e. After selection of two teams, if there are enough interested players remaining and a coaching staff available, a third team could be selected subject to the approval of the Tournament Director and provided that a suitable manager can be selected. Like the other tournament team managers, selection of the tournament team manager must be approved by the DHYS Board. Interested non-selected players should have first priority for team consideration, followed by soliciting players of the appropriate DHYS league. Subject to approval by the board, the manager of the third team may select all players on the team.

f. As a result of changes in the Pony league at DHYS, in which there is a Scholastic season and a Recreation season and certain players in the Pony league may be younger than league age 13, the following rules apply regarding eligibility for tournament team participation: (i) all players league age 14 and below participating in the Spring Pony Recreation season (subsequent to the Scholastic season) are eligible for selection to the 14U and 13U tournament teams (note that participation in the Scholastic season does not qualify a player for tournament team eligibility); (ii) a Bronco-aged player participating in the Pony Recreation season is not eligible for selection to a Bronco tournament team (except if a third team is put together, in which case such player may be considered for selection to the team, but is still not eligible for PONY-sanctioned tournament play – see 2.2.d. above); (iii) if a player league age 12 or younger is selected to either the 14U or 13U tournament team, under PONY rules that player is still not eligible for PONY-sanctioned tournament play (see 2.2.d. above). The DHYS Board encourages players to play in the appropriate league for their respective league age.

g. Following the player selections by the league managers (in 2.2.b. above), each tournament team manager will then have four hours to complete the roster. Tournament team managers are strongly encouraged to complete their rosters immediately. A roster is deemed to be complete when the tournament team manager informs the Tournament Director of the additional players being chosen. Teams should have neither less than 12 nor more than 13 players. In the case that a tournament team manager were to complete a roster with more than 12 players the manager is still only allowed to make a selection of 3 players. The remaining roster spot will be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes by the league manager. In completing the roster, the manager should take into account all relevant information on the available candidates and, all things otherwise being equal, it is encouraged that the remaining players most highly rated in the vote of the recreational managers would be elected to the team. However, recognizing a tournament team's inherent needs for strong players in each position, a manager's desire for back-ups to certain positions, and a manager's perceived intangible strengths and weaknesses of players, the selection of the remaining players to the team will be in the discretion of the manager.

h. Once a roster has been selected and verified by the Tournament Director, additions to the roster will be governed by paragraph 7 – below.

i. Recreation league managers are encouraged to notify players on their in-park teams that were not selected in the draft and to encourage them to continue to work to further improve their skills. A list of tournament players should be posted on the DHYS Web site.

3. Player Participation

For all tournament games not shortened by rain or “mercy rule”, managers are strongly encouraged to play each player for a minimum of one at-bat and for 3 consecutive outs in the field. Irrespective of this guideline, players are not guaranteed any minimum level of playing time.

4. Uniforms

A common uniform style is recommended for all tournament teams, who will provide uniforms at their own expense.

5. Field Priority

After the last regular season games of the recreation season, the tournament teams will have field and playing time priority on at least one specified day each week. After the last end-of-season tournament game of the recreation season, the tournament teams will have field and playing time priority during the tournament season (generally late May through sometime in July). Given the number and quality of tournaments available over the Memorial Day weekend, it can be quite important to those teams to begin practices during May. To the extent that DHYS conducts a summer recreation league on one or more of its fields, good faith cooperation is expected of both the tournament teams and the summer league to coordinate practice times and games.

6. DHYS Support

DHYS will pay the tournament registration fee for each affiliated (PONY, Dizzy Dean, etc.) tournament the tournament team enters (District, State, etc.) The tournament teams are responsible for paying the “gate fee” of said tournaments. In the event the “gate fee” and tournament entry fees are not explicitly delineated, DHYS will pay _ of the total amount charged. In addition, DHYS provides tournament teams with insurance and the use of fields and lights, which are significant expense for teams not associated with a park. DHYS will also provide use of equipment and two-dozen baseballs for use in tournaments. Otherwise, tournament teams will have to be completely self-supporting, including uniform costs, tournament fees, travel costs, and umpire and other costs associated with hosting games at Medlock, except to the extent that the Board at its discretion may grant stipends to defray some portion of travel costs for teams that win their State tournaments or beyond.

7. Additions to the Tournament Team

Once selected, the tournament teams will be entitled to continue playing under DHYS auspices until the date recreational teams are drafted the following spring. Players may be added to the team at the manager's discretion subject to the following:

- a. Additions to and subtractions from the rosters must be discussed with and approved by the Tournament Director. Players, of course, may voluntarily choose not to continue with the tournament team. However, the managers will not have the discretion to remove a player from the roster unless he can show good cause for the removal, which must be approved by the Tournament Director and the DHYS President.
- b. Consideration should be given to players who signed up for the team in the spring but were not selected to the team.
- c. To be added to the team, the player must be a current participant in an in-park season or must have participated in the most recent spring or fall season, as the case may be.

8. Hosting Tournaments

Teams desiring to host tournaments are encouraged to make a decision to do so as early as possible so they can be scheduled to avoid conflicts. No more than two tournaments should be held at any one time at Medlock. Proposals to host tournaments should be approved by the Board of Directors. If the Board agrees to allow a team to host a tournament, the team will have sole fiscal and administrative responsibility for the tournament, although the Board retains the right to reject any aspect of a tournament proposal that it determines is not in the best interests of DHYS. The responsibilities of the team hosting the tournament will include:

- a. Preparation of entry form
- b. Posting news of the tournament on tournament web sites
- c. Collection of tournament fees
- d. Obtaining satisfactory evidence of insurance from each participating team, and standard releases for the benefit of DHYS
- e. Arranging for umpire crews
- f. Establishing tournament field and rules
- g. Reviewing rosters to determine eligibility
- h. Arranging for sounds systems if needed
- i. Running concessions (unless the contractor is brought in)
- j. Cleaning, preparing and maintaining the fields
- k. Collecting any gate charges
- l. Providing a scoreboard operator and an announcer
- m. Being knowledgeable of, completing required applications for, and abiding by all county regulations.