

# **PATRIOTS Summer Travel Baseball Program Guidelines**

## **Mission Statement**

Our goal is to provide a higher level of competition for talented and motivated Mt. Prospect Park District youth baseball players who want to continue playing beyond the house league.

- Improvement of skills in a team-focused environment is stressed.
- Teams will work hard to win games, but winning will never become more important than learning the game, teamwork and good sportsmanship.
- Provide a travel baseball program for the more skilled and competitive players.
- Ultimately, the development of skills and team focused play will be the guideline for our program, which we believe will create better players and better people.

## **Patriots Summer Travel Baseball Program Structure**

<b>Age Requirement:</b>	<p>Patriot teams are organized by age, the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (LSFBL) eligibility is determined by a player's age on May 2<sup>nd</sup> of the current season.</p> <table><tr><th>Age Division</th><th>Birthday NOT before:</th></tr><tr><td>8U</td><td>5/2/2011</td></tr><tr><td>9U</td><td>5/2/2010</td></tr><tr><td>10U</td><td>5/2/2009</td></tr><tr><td>11U</td><td>5/2/2008</td></tr><tr><td>12U</td><td>5/2/2007</td></tr><tr><td>13U</td><td>5/2/2006</td></tr><tr><td>14U</td><td>5/2/2005</td></tr></table>	Age Division	Birthday NOT before:	8U	5/2/2011	9U	5/2/2010	10U	5/2/2009	11U	5/2/2008	12U	5/2/2007	13U	5/2/2006	14U	5/2/2005
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<b>House League Eligibility Requirements:</b>	<p><b>Every player who tries out for a Patriots team must also play in the house league; it is the philosophy of the league to have a strong travel program, but not at the expense of the house league.</b> House league registration will begin late fall, early winter.</p>																
<b>Fees:</b>	<p>There is separate Patriots program registration fee of <b>TBD</b> per player. This covers uniform costs, LSFBL league fees, tournament entry fees, umpires, equipment, etc.</p>																
<b>Summer Travel Season:</b> <i>Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teams will play a 14 to 16 game regular season in the <b>Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League</b> (<a href="http://www.lsfbl.com">www.lsfbl.com</a>) June through July, (on average - 2 games per week + practices).</li><li>• The LSFBL playoffs are a single elimination tournament that runs through the last week of July.</li></ul>																
<b>League Philosophy:</b>	<p><i>The Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League was formed by member communities to work collectively and collaboratively to further the development of their players and <b>community-based travel programs</b>. The members of the non-profit league wanted to create a competitive environment balanced with the desire to keep kids playing community baseball. We want to encourage players to participate in their respective communities programs, which will create a strong base for emerging travel players.</i></p>																

<b>League Minimum Play Rule:</b>	Each player present in uniform at the start of the game must play at least three (3) innings defensively in a regular scheduled game. Each team shall bat its entire line up.
<b>Will the Lake Shore Feeder League conflict with the in-house league?</b>	There will be overlap with the regular MPPD in-house league. However, the league will make every attempt to schedule LSFL games during days where MPPD does not play its regular games. Conflicts may still occur and players should make these known as soon as possible to both their in-house & Patriot travel coaches. When conflicts occur the in-house program games will take priority over any travel team scheduled activities.
<b>When is the LSFL Game schedule formulized?</b>	Schedules are finalized and released in early April. Changes may still occur when dealing with other communities within the league.
<b>When are Tryouts:</b>	Tryouts will be held in July/August for the upcoming year. Specific Dates, Times & Locations for each age group will be determined at a later date.
<b>Time Commitment:</b>	The Patriots travel teams play at a higher level of competition and require a strong commitment from both player and family. Basically, your summer through the end of July will consist of many trips to Mt. Prospect fields and surrounding suburbs... and a lot of baseball (practices and games). The games are fun and exciting. For those looking to continue playing baseball at a higher level beyond house league, then this may be the path for you. <b>Mt. Prospect Park District Travel Baseball players are expected to be committed to baseball.</b>
<b>Questions:</b>	Please contact Jason Hickman, <a href="mailto:jhickman@mppd.org">jhickman@mppd.org</a> or 847-640-1000 x 211

### Developmental Philosophy for Patriots Teams

- 8U All developmental, multiple positions, strategy introduced
- 9U Primarily development, multiple positions, some strategy
- 10U Advanced development, still play several positions, baseball strategy
- 11U Full baseball rules, building baseball IQ, 2-3 positions, advanced baseball strategy
- 12U Strategy nuances, advanced baseball IQ, 1-2 positions, advanced baseball strategy
- 13U Intro to advanced baseball IQ, 1-2 positions
- 14U Advanced baseball IQ, 1-2 positions

The following information clarifies the Mt. Prospect Park District's standards players trying out for a team and coaches participating in the Patriots program in an effort to avoid misunderstandings, misconceptions, and ill-will.

#### **HOW PLAYERS ARE CHOSEN AND CRITERIA USED IN FORMING TEAMS:**

- Players who are 8-14 years of age and who are interested in Patriots program must tryout. Tryout dates, times and locations will be communicated to all MPPD house league players and their parents via emails and placed on the MPPD website. Extenuating circumstances, such as injury or illness during the tryout period, must be communicated to the Mt. Prospect Park District so that a player can be evaluated at some other time, *if possible*.
- **Every player who tries out for the travel team must also be registered to play in the house league; it is the philosophy of the program to have a strong travel program but not at the expense of the house league.**
- Tryouts at each age level will be conducted by evaluators who do not have children trying out for a team.
- Tryouts will test the individual skills of each player in any or all of the following areas: 1) infield and outfield play; 2) arm strength and accuracy in the field; 3) pitching; 4) catching; 5) hitting; 6) foot speed, as well as Baseball IQ. Attitude and effort will also be taken into account during the tryout.
- The evaluations will focus on the following areas:
  - ✓ *FIELDING*: Strength of Arm, Accuracy, Fielding, Range
  - ✓ *HITTING*: Balance, Contact, Power, Hands
  - ✓ *PITCHING*: Velocity, Command
  - ✓ *CATCHING*: Stance, Receiving, Blocking, Arm Strength
  - ✓ *OTHER*: Speed, Hustle, Listening, Baseball IQ
- The number of players chosen for a team and the number of teams at each age level will be predicated on the skill level of those trying out annually.

#### **HOW COACHES ARE CHOSEN AND CRITERIA USED:**

- Anyone interested in coaching a Patriots team should contact the Mt. Prospect Park District prior to the tryout date(s).
- Managers and Assistant Coaches will be chosen *after* the teams are selected.
- All Managers and Coaches must complete the MPPD volunteer application form and are subject to a background check.
- Managers and Coaches are not compensated.
- Managers and Coaches are strongly encouraged to attend coaching clinics.
- Managers and Coaches must be able to demonstrate competency regarding knowledge of baseball and have sufficient time to devote to coaching the Patriots team.
- Managers and Coaches must be able to demonstrate proficiency in their ability to:
  - ✓ teach fundamentals and mechanics of baseball to players; and
  - ✓ have the proper temperament to both teach baseball and serve as a role model for managing issues on the field during games
- Anyone interested in managing/coaching should not assume their child(ren) are guaranteed placement on a Patriot team; child(ren) of coaches must have the ability to be selected for a team independent of whether or not their parent has shown interest in coaching.
- End of season surveys to travel parents are of great utility in determining the effectiveness of a travel coach and whether the coach should be considered as a travel coach for the following year(s).

**OBJECTIVES AND CONCLUSIONS:**

- The philosophy of travel play is to field the most competitive team possible. MPPD has a strong house league and is growing a strong travel program because of our combined house and travel philosophy.
- Travel is not a continuation of house league play. Trying out does not mean that a player is automatically selected for a travel team.
- The Patriots teams will be competing against quality competition from other programs, while developing good sportsmanship and respect for all players, coaches, umpires, and parents for all teams.
- We hope that any questions or concerns are addressed by the above information. Any other questions should be directed to the Mt. Prospect Park District prior to tryouts. Anonymous questions or concerns will not be considered or addressed by the Mt. Prospect Park District.

**Summary of LSFBL rules on next page.**

**Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (LSFBL) Rules** (see [www.lsfbl.com](http://www.lsfbl.com) for complete rules)

Age	Pitching	Bases	Bats	Innings	Leadoffs/Stealing
8U	42'	60'	2 ¼"; -13	6 2 hr. limit	After ball crosses plate *Wall at 3 <sup>rd</sup>
9U	44"	60'	2 ¾"; -12	6	After ball crosses plate *Wall at 3 <sup>rd</sup>
10U	44'	60'	2 ¾"; -12	6	After ball crosses plate *Wall at 3 <sup>rd</sup>
10U-A	46'	65'	2 ¾"; -12	6	Yes
11U & 12U	48'	70'	2 ¾"; -12	7	Yes
13U	54'	80'	2 ¾"; -8	7	Yes
14U B	54'	80'	2 ¾"; -5	7	Yes
14U A	60' 6"	90'	2 ¾"; -5	7	Yes

**BAT RULES FOR 2019:** LSFBL is **NOT** adopting the new USA Baseball Bat Rules for 2019

**14U:** all bats with a maximum barrel of 2 ¾" diameter; a maximum length of 34", a maximum differential of -5 and a stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed. All BBCOR bats meet these standards.

**13U:** all bats with a maximum barrel of 2 ¾" diameter; a maximum length of 34", a maximum differential of -8 and a stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed. All BBCOR bats meet these standards.

**10U – 12U:** all bats with a maximum barrel of 2 ¾" diameter; a maximum length of 33", a maximum differential of -12 and a stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed.

**8U – 9U:** all bats with a maximum barrel of 2 ¼" diameter; a maximum length of 33", a maximum differential of -13 for 8U and -12 for 9U and a stamped BPF of 1.15 will be allowed.

**REGULAR SEASON PITCHING RULES**

Age	Pitch Limits/Day
8U	50
9U-10U	65
11U-12U	75
13U-14U	85

- A player pitching in a double header is available to pitch to the daily pitch limit in two games. Rest required will be based on the day's pitch total.
- There are NO weekly pitching limits. Weekly limits are not necessary, given days rest rule below.
- If a pitcher reaches the pitch limits imposed while facing a batter, the pitcher may continue to pitch until any of the following occurs: 1) the batter is put out; 2) the batter reaches base; 3) the third out is made to complete the half-inning.
- In suspended games resumed on another day, the pitchers of record at the time the game was halted may continue to pitch to the extent of their eligibility for the new day (i.e. without regard for the pitch count from the initial portion of the game), provided the pitcher has observed the required day of rest.
- The pitch count to be recorded for a game is the actual number of pitches thrown.

Pitches Thrown	Calendar Days Rest Required
1 – 20	NONE
21 – 35	ONE
36 – 50	TWO
51 – 65	THREE
66 OR MORE	FOUR