

SAN MARCOS YOUTH BASEBALL

TRAVEL/STALLION DIVISION GUIDELINES

Updated May 2026 (effective May, 2026)

To provide the advanced SMYB baseball players an opportunity to receive quality instruction, practice and play higher level competitive baseball for an entire season with the purpose of retaining players in SMYB and preparing skilled players for high school baseball.

Player Eligibility

Eligible players are defined as all players within the SMYB league geographic area. In accordance with PONY baseball Southwest Region requirements, players must reside in San Diego County. SMYB has chosen to further define its geographic area to include the following:

All schools in the San Marcos Unified School District (SMUSD).
Areas that were covered by SMYB's historical boundaries, such as parts of

Escondido and Carlsbad that may or may not be included as part of SMUSD.
Players from areas that do not have PONY baseball leagues (for example, Oceanside and Vista).

Because Travel and Stallion teams do not play in PONY Baseball sanctioned events, teams are not required to abide by PONY Baseball's designated birthdate cutoffs. PONY defines birth date ranges as May 1st - April 30. Travel and Stallion teams may be composed of players based on the birth date cutoffs established by travel baseball programs (USSSA, Triple Crown, Xtreme Diamond, AAU, etc.). These organizations define birth date ranges as May 1 - April 30. A player may *choose* to play on the Travel team that aligns with his/her PONY designated league age if he/she chooses.

Stallion level players are required to play for the recreational league in the spring. This will allow them to be All Star Eligible.

Tryouts, Number of Teams, Team Selection & Length of Season

Each of the following age groups shall have the opportunity to provide for Travel or Stallion baseball team(s) through SMYB: 6U, 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U. 6U will field one team designated STALLION and players must participate in Spring Rec ball at SMYB to be part of the 6U Stallion team. 7U, 8U, and 9U will field one team each and be designated TRAVEL in which players cannot participate in rec ball. Travel teams have the option to participate in All Stars as a Select team made up of the Travel team. No substitutes allowed without Board approval. 10U and up will be designated TRAVEL and field two teams as long as existing teams (as of Spring 2026) continue. Travel players will not participate in rec ball. Travel teams have the option to participate in All Stars as a Select team made up of the Travel team. No substitutes allowed without Board approval. As current two team divisions age up, that prior division will become one team only.

Initial tryouts for all age groups will be at the Stallion Directors discretion. Tryout date may be chosen by the Board to meet time frames and field restrictions. Travel teams will be formed for the

year (Fall and Spring). Elected manager will have the option to hold a tryout between Fall and Spring with approval of Stallion Director. Stallion team is for Fall and Spring independently. Manager election and tryouts will occur before fall season and before spring season.

A team roster must have 11 players but may not exceed 13 players. All players should be invited to all practices, games & tournaments if they are available to play. No guest players are allowed unless approved by the board. The team is to be selected by the manager. "A" team will draft their team first from players who try out, "B" team will draft from remaining players. In divisions with two teams, any player who refuses to play for the team that selected them is ineligible to play for the other team in that division.

The Stallion Seasons will run January - April and August - December. The Travel season will run August through July. This is to allow older age groups to more easily align at grade level. Travel teams and Managers are approved for one year. A mandatory eight-week break is required (does not need to be consecutive) and shall be published in the schedule.

11U, 12U, 13U and 14U Age Groups

An SMYB Travel team may choose to pick a player outside the area for the following reasons:

- No more than (2) players not in the SMYB geographic area. If there are not enough players that try out for a potential team then additional players from outside the SMYB area may be added to the roster with a written request for approval to the Executive Board and Stallion/Travel Director.

13U and 14U Age Groups

An SMYB Travel team may choose to pick a player outside the area for the following reasons:

- Not enough players try out for the potential team
- No more than (6) players not in SMYB geographic area
- A player may play up in an age group with a request in writing which must be submitted to the Board for approval in advance of the evaluation.

Manager & Coach Eligibility

The manager position is a volunteer position and must have a son/daughter on the team. Managers shall not receive any financial compensation for their time. The manager shall have an active role in running the team, including scheduling, practices and game play. A manager may not participate in more than one SMYB Travel or Stallion team at a time and The manager will come from SMYB territory, unless otherwise approved by the board. The manager will interview with the Board before the start of each season/year and must present a business plan to the Board detailing the following:

- A list of all assistant coaches that will participate in practices and games and submit a coach's application and background check, or a plan with a firm date as to when these individuals will be chosen and backgrounds completed.

- A maximum of 2 Assistant coaches (3 for 8U and below) will be allowed and all must pass background checks. Assistant coaches will be volunteer coaches & shall not receive financial compensation for their time. They should have related kids on the team (Ex: father/ mother/ grandfather)

● A budget outlining the amount of money needing to be collected from the Parents. This budget must state what the money will be used for. The Manager of the team is responsible for the finances of the team and is not authorized to ask for more money outside of the agreed upon registration fees collected by the team. The registration fees will be different for each team based on the budget. The league will automatically add the administration costs to the registration fee. Current administration costs are not to exceed \$150 per player and may only change with board vote.

- A team can choose to periodically (should not exceed ~1-2x per month) hire a supplemental specialized coach and/or individual instructor for hitting, pitching and/or catching instruction. The specialized instructor/ coach will not be a volunteer assistant of the team. The specialized coach/ instructor needs a board approved application and background check if they will be doing instruction on SMYB fields. The fees associated with this specialized coaching will be included in the budget. The board can revoke this activity being conducted at MSP if it is deemed to be excessive and/or abused.
- Draft schedule shall include game and tournament schedule with the goal of playing approximately 15-40 games.
- Schedule shall include mandatory scheduled breaks as required.
- Any significant changes to the schedule need to be submitted to the Board and approved

14U Age Group

It is recommended that the 14U team be composed primarily of 8th graders. The team should follow NFHS guidelines for field size, equipment and should follow NFHS rules of play.

Fees & Fundraising

After being selected to a Travel or Stallion team, players are **required** to register on-line via the SMYB Website within 2 weeks of the tryout. The fee will vary by team and will be agreed upon by the Manager and the Board. Part of this fee goes to the League to cover costs such as insurance, lights, city use costs, and field maintenance. Most of the fee goes back to the team to cover other expenses such as additional uniforms and tournaments. SMYB Travel and Stallion teams are not intended to operate as "Pay for Play" entities with players being asked to contribute regular monthly fees. Teams should make every effort to ensure that their operating expenses are covered by the players' registration fees. In the event that a team's operating budget is greater than player fees provide for, players should NOT be asked to contribute additional funds. Teams should be encouraged to fundraise or find sponsorship if unable to meet financial requirements. Team accounting shall be done in conjunction with the SMYB Board. The SMYB Executive Board shall have access to all team financial records.

Corporate sponsorships must be approved by the Sponsorship Director.

Uniforms

All Travel and Stallion teams are required to have the SMYB patch on a sleeve. The cost of the uniforms must come from the original registration, or from sponsorship donations. Families **MUST** not be asked for more money to cover uniforms.

Expectations of Manager and Team

As these teams are members of SMYB, the Managers and Teams are required to adhere to ALL SMYB Bylaws. Each team will have the expectation of participating in the SMYB tournaments. Participating includes maintaining fields, providing volunteers to help run the tournament when requested, and recruiting teams to play in the events. Managers are responsible for driving awareness around SMYB events.

It is mandatory that all managers, coaches, players, and families representing SMYB display appropriate conduct at all times. Teams are representing SMYB outside of both the league and San Marcos so it is important that SMYB is represented in an exemplary fashion. Behavior of parents, families and players is the sole responsibility of the Manager. In addition, teams must include the SMYB league logo on their uniforms and are to identify themselves as SMYB teams when registering for tournament play or scheduling games versus any outside opponents.

Failure to adhere to SMYB's Code of Conduct, any behavior unbecoming of a manager or coach, a Travel/ Stallion guideline or League rule being broken could result in disciplinary action by the Board. Good judgment and common sense should prevail throughout the season. Disciplinary action can occur for any areas not listed within these guidelines.

Disciplinary actions taken by the Board may include warnings, suspension, and termination and can affect eligibility for any future positions within SMYB.