

# DHYS Tournament Team (TT) Policy aka All-Star Policy

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**Approved February 2018**

The terms “Tournament Team” and “All-Star Team” and their derivatives are used interchangeably.

For committed DHYS players and families, the spring baseball season can be extended into post-season tournament play. In early spring, recreation league managers from each age group select players who best represent their respective age group in terms of playing ability and sportsmanship, and these players will form the “A” All-Star tournament team (Red Devils). DHYS actively encourages the formation of B (Blue Devils) and C (Sun Devils) teams in all age groups. Manager and Team Selection criteria for B and C teams are detailed in this Policy. As members of the Dizzy Dean Baseball Organization, DHYS All-Star teams are expected to participate in the District and State tournaments. Teams are encouraged to play in the Dizzy Dean World Series, but are not required to do so.

Post-season play is an exciting, challenging and rewarding time for players, coaches and parents. The All-Star tournament season typically begins Memorial Day Weekend and continues through the month of June for younger (6U) teams and mid-July for older (12U) teams. Practices begin after the teams are selected, typically sometime in April. 6U teams may practice one or more times a week and play 2 or 3 tournaments. All other DHYS teams will practice at least twice during the week. Younger teams typically play in tournaments every other weekend. Older teams will likely play every weekend. The tournament schedule is completely at the discretion of the TT manager. Examples of age group specific schedules are included at the end of this policy.

Tournament team directors should host an All-Star Program Promotion Day each season to educate families about the program. This is an opportunity to highlight the achievements of the Summer All Star teams as well as develop interest and increase excitement about playing summer baseball at DHYS.

The Tournament Team Committee is comprised of the Tournament Team Upper and Tournament Team Lower Directors.

Below are the DHYS guidelines and policies for tournament teams.

## 1. Player Eligibility

- a. A player is eligible for tournament team selection if:
  - a. The player has registered and played in the current spring season at DHYS, and
  - b. The player has met all the requirements per Dizzy Dean Rules, and
  - c. The player must play in the respective age group for tournament play. Even though DHYS’ recreation leagues have different age players competing together (for example, 9 & 10-year old), in All-Star play, the teams are formed into single age

- groups. For example, 9U and 10U play in the same AAA league at DHYS. Per Dizzy Dean and All-Star play, 9 year olds play together and 10 year olds play together.
- d. Tournament Team Directors can approve a player “playing up” in rare circumstances. However, it is strongly encouraged that players remain with their proper age group.

### **Specific Cooperstown (12U A Team) Eligibility**

To be considered eligible for the 12-year old Cooperstown (12U “A” team), each of the twelve players voted on by the recreational managers (or their proxies) **MUST** have played in a minimum of two of the four eligible Majors League aged seasons. The 4 seasons are: 11U Fall, 11U Spring, 12U Fall and 12U Spring. One of the seasons must be 12U Spring.

For example:

- The player could have played in their 11-year-old Spring Majors and 12-year-old Spring Majors seasons to be eligible, or
- The player could have played in their 12-year-old Fall and Spring Majors seasons.

The 12-year-old Cooperstown team is a special opportunity for those players that have played at DHYS for several seasons, and is in place for those All-Star players that have been dedicated to the DHYS recreation and All-Star program for years.

However, to not penalize a new 12U player that recently relocated to DHYS (i.e. moved to the Atlanta area or transferred to DHYS from another local REC baseball organization), the elected 12U manager may use as many of their three selected player positions for these “new” DHYS players that have participated in only the 12U Spring season. Any such player eligibility exceptions must first be reviewed by the Tournament Team committee and approved by the DHYS Board of Directors.

## **2. Tournament Team Manager Selection**

The **Lower Division Tournament Team Director** will oversee the selection of the 9U and younger TT managers. The **Upper Division Tournament Team Director** will oversee the selection of the 10U and older TT managers, including Senior Leagues (13U & 14U). B (and C, if applicable) team managers will be selected by the TT Committee. All TT managers must be approved by the DHYS Board of Directors.

### 6U, 7U and 8U:

TT Managers will be selected between the start of Spring Rec season and at least 2 weeks prior to the first TT player evaluation. Tournament team managers for the 9U and older age groups will be selected at the beginning of the spring recreation season. 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 distract that individual from any recreation league duties.

The selection of the 6U, 7U and 8U TT Managers will be made by the TT Committee. Input will be solicited from other managers in the age group, LD's, and VP Lower Division. Individuals interested in being considered for TT manager should contact the TT Directors as early in the season as practical.

9U and older:

a. The selection of the 9U and older 'A' TT Managers can occur as soon as the NL managers are identified for the spring season. The NL managers will submit nominations for the All-Star "A" manager and it will be decided by majority vote of the division's National League (NL) managers. Self-nominations are allowed. If a managers' meeting is held, the choice will be made by majority vote of the division's NL managers who are present at the meeting in person, by written proxy or absentee vote. 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. All votes are subject to the approval of the DHYS Board.

b. 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 who 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 and coaches will be required to have a Background Check, Mandatory Reporters Training, and approval of the Board.

c. 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.

d. The tournament team manager for the older-age group in each league, that is, the "first team" (for example the 10U team in the AAA 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.

### 3. Registration

- a. Preparation of the information and registration form will be the responsibility of the Tournament Team Directors. Registration should open after the Grapefruit season is scheduled to end. Communication will be made to players and their families through e-mail or other effective means of mass communication directing interested parties to information on the website. It is critical that Managers and coaches also communicate with their players and the parents/guardians of their players – especially in the younger age groups as parents/guardians are not as likely to be familiar with the All-Star program. Information regarding the tournament teams is to be made available on the website.
- b. The Tournament Team Directors are responsible for setting a deadline for registration. The registration deadline shall be no later than one day prior to the first scheduled tournament team evaluation date.

## 4. Schedule

a. Ideally, teams will be selected after 50% of the regular season league games have been completed. For this purpose, any Grapefruit games will count as league games. In the event weather causes rescheduling of games, teams may still be selected without 50% of games being completed. It is beneficial to hold team selection as early as practicable to allow Managers more time to order uniforms and equipment. A congratulatory note to the players selected should be posted on the website as soon as possible to communicate the selections.

## 5. Player Evaluation

a. During league play, managers are encouraged to observe and record their impressions of the tournament team candidates to make informed selections. Managers are also encouraged to watch as many league games as necessary to make an informed vote. Managers are expected to communicate with other coaches regarding TT player candidates throughout the season leading up to tryouts.

b. After the tournament team managers have been selected, Tournament Team directors will schedule at least one open evaluation for all interested league players so that coaches may evaluate players for the tournament team. The Tournament Team Directors will determine when and where to conduct the workouts. The respective "A" team managers will have complete discretion over how these evaluations are run. When evaluating players, managers should place more emphasis on how players performed in league games versus how they performed in these workouts.

## 6. Team Selection Process

- a. The respective Tournament Team Director will chair the managers meeting for team selection for each age group.
- b. All League managers are required to attend the player selection meetings. If absolutely necessary, a manager may designate another league manager as their proxy. No manager may hold more than two votes total. The managers attending the meeting (or their proxies) will vote for twelve players. All twelve of the players voted on must have played on a DHYS team during the current spring. **The nine players receiving the most votes will be on the team.** Ties will be decided by a re-vote of only those players.
- c. Tournament team managers will 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 will consist of either 12 or 13 players. If the tournament team manager prefers 13 players, the top 10 vote getting players will be on the team and the

tournament team manager will choose the remaining 3 players.

**Manager Picks:**

In completing the roster, the manager should consider all relevant information on the available candidates. All things otherwise being equal, it is encouraged that the remaining players who were most highly rated in the vote by the recreational managers, be selected to the team. However, recognizing a tournament team's inherent needs for strong players in each position, a manager's desire for back-up players in certain positions, and a manager's perceived intangible strengths and weaknesses of individual players, the selection of the remaining players to the team will be at the discretion of the tournament team manager.

- d. After selection of the "A" teams, if there are enough interested players remaining and a coaching staff available, a "B" team will be immediately selected subject to the approval of the Tournament Director. The "C" team follows suit. Like the other tournament team managers, selection of the B and C tournament team managers must be approved by the DHYS Board.
- e. Interested non-selected players should have first priority for team consideration, followed by soliciting players from the appropriate DHYS league. Only players participating in the current Spring Season at DHYS are eligible to participate on All-Star teams. B and C teams will be selected by choosing the players with input from the A team manager and approval from Tournament Team Director. If there are more players interested than there are roster spots, a managers' vote will be held, following the same process as the "A team vote.
- f. 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 will be posted on the DHYS Web site.

## 7. Player Addition or Removal from Team

- 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.
- b. 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 Board. Dizzy Dean rules must also be followed. For instance, a rostered B team player may not also play for the A team in Dizzy Dean District, State or World Series tournaments.
- c. Consideration should be given to players who signed up for the team in the spring but were not selected to the team.
- d. To be added to the team, the player must have participated in the most recent spring season.

## 8. 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.

## 9. Uniforms

To create a consistent image, teams will use the same logos for the front of their jerseys and hats (Red Devils for A, Blue Devils for B, Sun Devils for C). A common uniform style is recommended for all tournament teams, but is not required as long as the appropriate logos are used. Teams pay for uniforms at their own expense.

## 10. 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 as early as April. To the extent that DHYS conducts a summer recreation league on one or more of its fields, good faith cooperation is expected among the tournament teams and the summer league to coordinate practice times and games.

Tournament Team Directors will utilize a prioritization worksheet for field and practice time selection.

Teams will submit practice times and field preferences. The prioritization is as follows:

Majors: Medlock Field 1 (and RBC Field 2 while available)

12U Red Devils

11U Red Devils

12U Blue Devils

11U Blue Devils

AAA & AA: Medlock Field 2 & 4 (RBC Field 3)

10U Red Devils

9U Red Devils

8U Red Devils

7U Red Devils\*

10U Blue Devils

9U Blue Devils

8U Blue Devils

7U Blue Devils\*

Rookie: Medlock Field 7  
7U Red Devils  
6U Red Devils  
7U Blue Devils

Practice time slots are 5-7pm and 7-9pm.

## 11. DHYS Support

DHYS will pay the tournament registration (“entry”) fee for each affiliated organization’s (Dizzy Dean, etc.) tournament that the tournament team enters (District, State, World Series, etc.) The tournament teams are responsible for paying the “team gate fee” or “individual gate fees” of said tournaments. In the event the “gate fee” and tournament entry fees are not explicitly delineated, DHYS will pay 1/2 of the total amount charged. Additionally, DHYS provides tournament teams with insurance and the use of fields and lights, which are a significant expense for teams not associated with a park. DHYS will also provide use of equipment and three dozen baseballs for use in tournaments. Otherwise, tournament teams will have to be completely self-supporting, including uniform costs, tournament fees, travel costs, 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 to play in their State tournaments or beyond.

Each year, DHYS will also contribute to the Cooperstown Dreams Park or Cooperstown All-Star Village registration fees for the 12U Cooperstown team.

## 12. Fall Tournament Team

Once selected, the summer tournament teams will be entitled to continue playing under DHYS auspices until the date recreational teams are drafted the following spring.

It is recommended that all All-Star teams from 9U-11U (rising 10U-12U) play fall travel tournaments at the completion of their summer season. This is a time for continued development and advanced play. The team will play under the DHYS program, however, there is no need to register since the team is a continuation from the summer team.

Rising 8U-9U All-Star teams are encouraged to hold regular workouts and expand beyond A, B and C teams. This age group should focus on expanding the overall player pool. A team coaches should encourage and enlist parents as potential assistant coaches, B team and C team coaches for future years. Intra-squad and neighboring park scrimmages are encouraged and the expense is to be borne by the team members.

B & C Team managers and coaches should encourage players to work out and develop skillsets in the fall. The goal is to improve and develop skills through practice and play to improve the players' chances to make the A team the following spring/summer.

Tournament team players are eligible to play in the Fall Rec program and are encouraged to do so as well.

To participate in a Fall All Star Development Program all players must either,

- a) Be on the Summer All-Star team, or
- b) Be currently registered and playing in the Fall league.

All parents and coaches who are assisting on the field must be approved by the VP of the respective league and must meet the same guidelines as rec and summer baseball coaches and managers.

## 13. 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:

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

Leveraging tournament provider organizations such as Training Legends has been a positive experience and may be the best option for hosting tournaments at DHYS.