



NORTH SUBURBAN YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

2003 PONY LEAGUE FALL BASEBALL

Once again, the North Suburban Youth Baseball Association (NSYBA) is sponsoring a season of Pony League Fall Baseball. We started Fall Ball in 1999 with three teams. By 2003, Fall Ball had grown to 23 teams from six different leagues. In 2004 we're anticipating teams from Skokie Indians, Skokie Youth, Portage Park, Glenview, Glencoe, Evanston, Edgebrook-Sauganash, Golf-Maine, Kenilworth-Winnetka and Wilmette.

The season runs from the first Saturday after Labor Day until the Sunday before Halloween. We'll play nearly all the games on weekends. Because of fall sports and other conflicts, some teams will play only on Saturdays, some only on Sundays and some on either day. One popular feature is optionally playing at Laramie West under the lights on a week-night.

Players between 12 and 14 years of age are eligible to play Pony League Fall Baseball. This especially includes 12-year-old players who are starting seventh grade. It also includes most players who are starting their freshman year of high school. Those who are league age 15 or older are excluded. The Association birthdate cutoff is August 1st, unless your league defines its league age cutoff differently, in which case the Association defers to your league's practice.

Emphasis is on instruction, improving skills, recreation, and preparing for next year's pony-age baseball experience. Fall Ball is especially valuable for the 12-year-olds: they get used to the larger diamond and playing under the rules of "real" baseball. Each community will set its own registration fee and provide uniforms, umpires, and other game requirements, just as in the spring season.

In order to play, each team must be sponsored by an NSYBA member program and a team manager or head coach must submit a complete detailed roster and signed waivers (signed by both parents and players) in the form used for the NSYBA regular season. You can find the Waiver and Team Roster forms on this website by clicking on "NSYBA and League Forms." These complete and signed forms, along with birth certificates for those players who did not submit a birth certificate during the 2003 regular season, and a check in the amount of \$50.00 for each team, which is the NSYBA Fall Ball team registration fee, must be submitted no later than Friday, August 27, 2004, to Joe Hasman at 2434 Elm Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201, or to Tom Kendall.

As a convenience for this registration process, please send a blank copy of your community's player registration form to Tom Kendall for inclusion on the NSYBA website. We've also put a "general" registration form on the website. Should any players register this way, we will assign the player to an appropriate team.

The season schedule and other particulars will be posted on the NSYBA website in the first week of September, before the season starts. As we did in 2003, we will schedule the first three weeks of the season up front and then take a look at the results. Then we'll schedule the last part of the season, taking care to match up teams with as equal opponents as possible. This ensures lots of see-saw, one-run games.

Play will be governed by the Major League Baseball Official Rules, Sporting News Edition, 2004, and the NSYBA Fall Ball Local Rules of Play for the 2003 Season, to be revised shortly. Please take some time to review the Fall Ball Local Rules of Play and note that the pitching limits are set to require the development of 12-year-old pitchers.

Teams may roster as many players as they wish, keeping in mind that each player who shows up before game time in a uniform is entitled to play four innings in the field. Roster batting will be a rule. Teams are encouraged to roster sufficient players so that as players have conflicts from time to time, their teams may nonetheless play the games.

If a team is short players for a game, it may call up a player on a game-by-game bases. No call-up may be more than league age 14, and the call-up must come from the regular season house league (including the NSYBA program). Call-ups may play any position but pitcher. If a call-up plays two games in Fall Ball, he or she may not play in any other game unless and until he or she is officially rostered, all administrative requirements are met, and the roster change is accepted by the Commissioner or his designate.

Home teams shall arrange for, provide and pay for the umpires. There must be at least one adult, experienced umpire for each game, but teams and their sponsoring communities are strongly encouraged to provide a second and even a third umpire to work the bases in order to train those umpires and supplement the umpiring programs of their various sponsor communities. The NSYBA will provide game balls to the managers of the teams before the season begins, but not until the administrative requirements, the paperwork and the registration checks have been turned in.

Please use the NSYBA website, and particularly its discussion board "Talk Baseball." for further questions or comments or contact Joe Hasman or Tom Kendall.

Joe Hasman
Commissioner, NSYBA