



Sharpsburg Youth Baseball
League Handbook

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League Handbook Info

SECTION I GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Ground Rules

1. Local park rules are not to be confused with ground rules of a particular field of play. Any ground rules will be discussed at the beginning of each ball game with the two opposing managers and all umpires involved.

B. Definitions

1. Membership: Any person in a position of parent or guardian of a child playing in the League, League officers, managers, assistant coaches, scorekeepers, team moms, and umpires is considered a member of the Sharpsburg Youth Baseball League.
 - To be eligible to serve in the position of an officer, official, Divisional Director, manager, or first assistant coach in the League any person must be at least 21 years old.
 - To be eligible to assist a manager or a first assistant coach or be a scorekeeper in the League any person must be at least 18 years old.
 - To be eligible to serve in the position of a Home Plate umpire in the League any person must be at least 18 years old.
 - To be eligible to serve in the position of a Field umpire in the League any person must be at least 15 years old.
2. Ballpark: The Ballpark is considered all of the area inside the entrance gate off of Andrew Bailey Road, to include fields, dugouts, spectator areas, concession stands, parking lots, etc.
3. Sharpsburg Youth Baseball League Board: The elected volunteers who serve the members of the Sharpsburg Youth Baseball League members.



C. *Leadership, Training, and Code of Ethics*

1. All league members are considered role models and are therefore expected to set an outstanding example of good behavior and leadership for all players in every age group and parents whenever directly associated with the league program or participating in league activities. During ball games or practices, there will be no usage, consumption, visible possession of or influence of nicotine, alcohol, or other drugs while in the ballpark by any league member. Detection of alcohol on the breath or in possession of a person while in the ballpark shall be considered usage.
2. The league shall provide Select recognized training programs for purposes of improving the quality of coaching and league play.
 - A youth coaches training program (certification) shall be held prior to the beginning of regular season play. Each manager and first assistant coach shall obtain league approved training or proof of league approved lifetime certification to be able to manage or coach for any given spring season.
 - Responsibility of payment of any required certification shall be the responsibility of the person seeking such certification. Additional training may be held as determined by the league.
3. All league members will be given or have available to them a printed copy of the league's ***Code of Conduct***
4. All managers and first assistant coaches must sign a separate form called ***Coaching Policies and Responsibilities*** to be eligible to manage or coach in any given spring or fall season.
5. Any league member violating the standards for the *Drug Free Example* shall be removed from their respective status for the remaining duration of regular season play.



D. Appeals

1. **Within the Local Rules:** There will be no appeals of any situation within the scope of the local rules. All local rules have been reviewed and approved by the league Board.
2. **Outside the Local Rules:** For any situation occurring outside the scope of the local rules, a team manager must present their problem to their Age Group Director for resolution. If unable to resolve the problem, the Age Group Director shall ask the appealing manager to present the appeal before the next league Board meeting for final resolution.



SECTION II REGISTRATION

A. General Information

1. Each year the Board will set registration fees for the spring and fall seasons. Fees must be paid at time of registration. The registration fee covers the cost of uniforms, umpires, field and park maintenance, capital improvements, county user fee, concession labor fee, equipment, supplemental insurance and other necessities. Participants are required to supply their own gloves, cleats, and bats. Catcher's gear will be furnished to each team.
2. Once tryouts have been held, a child has been drafted onto a team, and uniforms ordered there will be no refunds issued without Board approval.

B. Proof of Age

1. A copy of the player's birth certificate may be required at registration as proof of age.

C. Player Registration

*NOTE: (A Players Age for any division of baseball is based on their age on or before May 1st of the **current** calendar year in which they are registering for Spring OR; on or before May 1st of the **NEXT** calendar year in which they are registering for Fall. Players will play in the division in the Fall that they will be participating in during the next spring season.*

Example: Tommy is 6 years old and won't turn 7 until January 10, 2022. During the Fall 2021 season Tommy (although only 6 years of age currently) will register and play in the 8U division. During the Spring of 2022 registration Tommy will be 7 years of age and will once again play in the 8U division.

1. **4U T-Ball:** This age group shall consist of boys and girls who are 3 or 4 years old on or before May 1st of the calendar year next (Fall Ball) in which they are registered to play.
2. **6UT-Ball:** This age group shall consist of boys and girls who are 5 or 6 years old on or before May 1st of the calendar year in which they are registered to play.



3. **Other Age Groups:** players must meet the age requirement for that age group on or before May 1st of the calendar year in which they are registered to play.
4. Players may play up one age group with the written consent of the parents. If a player moving up is a freeze, the consent letter must accompany all registration information required by the manager at the early registration submittal date.
5. A player may only play down in an age group if they meet the requirements as noted in Section XII



SECTION III DRAFT AND TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

A. Player Freezes

In each instance a participating child of a Registered Manager, Coach, or Assistant will consume a freeze for that team's roster in any age division.

1. For 4U-T-Ball, any team will be allowed seven (7) freezes. The maximum number of players per team will be ten (10).
2. For 6U American League, any team will be allowed seven (7) freezes. The maximum number of players per team will be twelve (12).
3. *For 6U National League, a team must freeze between nine (9) and eleven (11) players. The maximum number of players per team will be twelve (12).
4. For 8U American League, any team will be allowed five (5) freezes. The maximum number of players per team will be eleven (11).
5. *For 8U National League, a team must freeze between nine (9) and eleven (11) players. The maximum number of players per team will be eleven (11).
6. For 10U American League, any team will be allowed five (5) freezes. The maximum number of players per team will be eleven (11).
7. *For 10U National League, a team must freeze between nine (9) and eleven (11) players. The maximum number of players per team will be eleven (11).
8. For 12U American League, any team may freeze up to Five (5) players. The maximum number of players per team will be eleven (11).
9. *For 12U National League, a team must freeze between nine (9) and eleven (11) players. The maximum number of players per team will be eleven (11).
10. For 14U & 18U, any team may freeze between nine (9) and twelve (12) players. The maximum numbers of players per team will be thirteen (13).

*For any team not meeting the designated "minimum" freeze requirement by the date _____ specified in the Season Event calendar, that team will reduce their number of frozen players _____



(if exceeded) to meet the American League maximum number of allowed freezes and compete in the American League for that season.

B. Player Tryouts

1. All players signing up through the regular registration process and all players not frozen on a team will be required to attend tryouts. All players attending tryouts will be placed in an open draft. All players attending tryouts will be given a number. The assigned number will be used to identify each player during tryouts.
2. 4UTBall and 6U TBall AL players will not have tryouts. They will be placed in an open draft with their names and ages listed.
3. Any player who does not attend tryouts will be placed into a blind draft. Any player who has not been frozen but wishes to play in the National League must participate in tryouts. If a player, for whatever reason, does not participate in tryouts they cannot be drafted or added to a National (Select) League team. They must play in the American League. Only players that have signed up for the National League at registration are eligible to be drafted by a National League team. Once the National League rosters have been filled, the remaining players will be available for the American League draft.
4. All late registrations will be placed on American League teams providing the team is carrying less than the required maximum.



C. General Draft Rules

1. Player draft shall be held no less than 2 days and no more than 7 days after the tryouts.
2. New players to the league and any players moving up an age group may be frozen.
3. Younger siblings may be placed on an older sibling's team in that age group at the request of the parents, however the younger sibling will be considered a freeze. If this option is not requested, the younger child will be placed in the draft. Parents may also request that both children go into the draft and be placed on the same team. Each child will be considered a draft pick.
4. In a few cases, there may be players assigned to be drafted with other players for reasons approved by the Director of Registration. If a manager chooses one of these players in a draft round, they must also take the second player and take a bye in the next round. This would also apply for twins or siblings. If a manager declines to take both players selected, they may choose another player immediately without penalty. If in the final round of the draft, a manager chooses two players, which go together, and exceeds his maximum number of players, they must drop the previous draft selection.
5. All managers must be designated and assigned a team name prior to draft.
6. There will be no more than twelve (12) players assigned to any one team. However, in 4UT-Ball, 6UT-Ball, and 8U additional players may be added if there are not enough players in that age group to form another team, or not enough managers to coach another team. The maximum number allowed is 13 players per team for the previously mentioned age groups and the 14U & 18U age group may choose to carry eleven (11) players.
7. We cannot honor a ride share request made after evaluations have been completed. We will do our best to make some accommodations, but once teams have been rostered, all late registrations are placed on teams that have available slots based on draft order.



D. Open Draft

1. Prior to the start of the draft, each manager will receive two rosters to be filled out in duplicate; one for the league and one for his own personal use. Each manager will receive a list of player names and their tryout number, used to choose his draft selections, which correlate to the number given to each child at tryouts. In 4UTBall and 6UTBall, where there are no tryouts, each manager will receive a list with the players' names and ages to be used to make his draft selections.
2. Prior to the start of the draft, all managers will have a previously randomly selected number assigned to them that determines his team's team draft position relative to the other teams. This number does not mean that the number 1 team will pick first in the draft. The order of the draft is determined by the following factors:
 - The number of frozen or returning players already assigned to the team.
 - The number assigned prior to draft.
 - The direction of the draft round.
3. The first round of the draft will start from the top to the bottom; round two will go from the bottom to the top; round three will go from top to the bottom; and round four will start at the bottom and go to the top; etc. However, a manager will not pick in a round until the other managers with fewer players have equaled him in the number of players assigned to his team. A manager will receive a *bye* in all rounds until all other teams have the same number of players. After equality has been reached, the drawn draft order and the direction of the draft round shall govern the remaining selections.
4. A manager will select a player by his name and assigned number. When a player is selected the Age Group Director will provide the manager with the player's individual registration form that has the player's name and phone number. After all players who attended tryouts have been chosen in the open draft, the Age Group Director will start with the blind draft.



E. Blind Draft

All the players who did not attend tryouts will be placed in a blind draft. Each player will be assigned a number as in the open draft. Based on draft order at the end of the open draft, managers will draw a number in a hat from the blind draft. The Age Group Director will give the manager the selected player's name and phone number. The blind draft will continue until all players have been selected.

F. Post Draft

1. Managers must finalize a trade at the draft, which can only be done with the consent of both managers involved, and the age group divisional director. Both managers are responsible to notify the director of registration of their trade.
2. Each manager will notify each player of their team and will schedule a meeting and/or a practice within one week of the draft. If a manager is unable to contact a player for any reason, he must notify the Age Group Director.
3. A manager must make every effort to keep all assigned players on his team. No player shall be dropped from a team roster without the age group Divisional Director's approval. A manager shall notify the Age Group Director whenever a player resigns.
4. In the case of additional players signing up after the draft, the director of registration will assign the additional players to the teams in the same order that was used in the draft. Managers cannot pick up players after the draft to be assigned to his team.

G. RIDE SHARES

1. The purpose of ride share is to assist parents or neighbors that have multiple children playing at SYB. This is not intended to get friends on the same team; that is what the "Player Freezes" are for.
2. We cannot honor ride share request that contain more than 2 requests and all sibling requests will get priority.
3. Both parties must name each other as ride-shares in their respective registrations.
4. We will not accommodate ride-share request where one party is frozen on a team and the other is not. Both ride-shares must either attend evaluations (if applicable) or not, but it cannot be where one attends and the other does not.
5. Both players must be in the same age division.



SECTION IV

GAME SCHEDULING AND RESCHEDULING

1. A schedule of all games shall be furnished to each team manager at least one week prior to opening day. Home teams will be designated on the schedules.
2. Due to the rescheduling of umpires, concessions, and overall inconvenience the rescheduling of games will not be permitted except in cases determined by the **President** to be necessary.
3. The swapping of games will be permitted but must be approved in advance by the **President**. All swapping of games will be the full responsibility and duty of the requesting manager. Game swapping will be done only with the consent of the participating managers within the affected age group, the notification of the Age Group Director, and Age group Scheduler and approval of the league **President**. Requests for game swaps must be submitted to the Age Group Director and **President** at least ten (10) days prior to the scheduled games involved in the swap.
4. Regularly scheduled games, which are postponed and/or suspended for any reason, shall be rescheduled at the next available open date and time by the **President** and the Age Group Scheduler. Every effort will be made to prevent the playing by any team of more than three games in one week, or three days in succession.
5. Managers are responsible to ensure that they have obtained any rescheduled date(s) from the **Age Group Divisional Director**. As soon as possible after a postponed game, the manager should contact their Age Group Director to see when the game will be rescheduled. All rescheduled games will also be posted on the league's website. Failure to show up for a rescheduled game will result in a forfeit.
6. The decision to postpone games before the game commences will be made by the Umpire in Charge, director of fields, or the league President. In the event none of these board members are present, any attending board member will make the decision. If the decision has been made to postpone a game, then a message will be left on the ballpark's answering machine. After commencement of the games, the decision will be made by the umpires. Appropriate time must be allowed from the time the game is stopped before the game is finally terminated.
7. If the first scheduled game of a weekday (Monday thru Friday) is cancelled, then the second game will be cancelled as well. However, this does not apply to weekend games unless specifically stated on the answering machine. As a general rule, weekend games will be cancelled on a game by game basis.



8. In the event of a rain delay during the first game of the day, that game will be completed, if possible, and, if necessary, the second game will be rescheduled.
9. In the event of a rain out, in addition to the message on the answering machine, a sign will be posted on the front gate to the ballpark. Anytime, the rain out sign is posted, practices will not be allowed on the fields. Failure to comply may result in practice privileges being revoked.



SECTION V MANAGERS AND COACHES

A. Coaching Criteria

- All perspective coaches must file an application with the league.
- All perspective coaches must meet minimum league standards for coaches.
- All perspective coaches must read, sign, turn in, agree, and abide by league issued form ***Coaching Policies and Responsibilities***.
- All perspective coaches must have returned equipment from the previous season.
- All perspective coaches must have turned in their sponsorship ledger from the previous season.
- All perspective coaches must be certified by the league approved coaching clinic.
- All perspective coaches must have been positively evaluated from previous season.
- All perspective coaches must submit to a criminal background check.
- All new coaches must be approved by a two thirds majority vote of the league Board.

B. Coaching Seniority

The following criteria will be used to prioritize which coaches shall fill the available slots in each age group each season:

- National League Returning manager.
- American League Returning manager.
- National League Advancing manager.
- American League Advancing manager.
- National League returning first assistant coach.
- American League returning first assistant coach.
- National League advancing first assistant coach.
- American League advancing first assistant coach.
- Determined by discretion of the league's board.



SECTION VI FIELD COACHING AND SCOREKEEPING

- 1. Coaching is only permitted in designated coaching areas defined as the playing field, dugout, coaches' box, and bullpen.***
- 2.** Coaches must keep at least one foot in the coaches' box at all times when the ball is in play.
- 3.** Coaches physically assisting base runners while the ball is in play may be ejected from the game. The runner(s) shall be called out whenever the umpire observes such action.
- 4.** In 6UT-ball, all defensive coaches must verbally coach and remain in the grass outfield area. Failure to do so will result in the awarding of an extra base to all runners and no outs will be recorded as a result of infield coaching.
- 5.** For 6UT-ball and 8U, if the pitching coach is accidentally hit by a live batted ball, in the opinion of the umpire, it shall be considered a foul ball. If, in the opinion of the umpire, the pitching coach intentionally makes contact with a live batted ball the batter will be called out and the coach will be given a warning. Subsequent occurrences of intentionally making contact with a batted ball will result in ejection from the game.
- 6.** The pitching coach cannot coach the base runners.
- 7.** The home team scorekeeper is the official scorekeeper of the game.
- 8.** Umpires are required to keep track and record innings pitched by all pitchers.
- 9.** The home team manager is responsible for notifying the Age Group Director of the game results.



Score Books and Pitching Charts

It is the responsibilities of the Manager and Coaches to maintain a score book for their team ages 6U and above. At the completion of each game the manager, coach or team representative will be required to sign the pitching charts if applicable to verify score and pitchers used. Additionally, the umpire will place the score card in the concession stand at the completion of the game. This card, signed by both teams, will be the official score of the game.

Score Cards

1. Scores card will be used to record game information for all games except 4UTball.
2. Pitchers will be recorded for all ages beginning with 8UNL.
3. Umpire will record game date, start and end time, team name and score.
4. Umpire will be responsible for recording the player #, pitcher name obtained from coach, inning pitched and total number of pitches.
5. Umpire 1 and 2 will sign the score card.
6. One Manger, coach or team representative from each team will also sign the card.

Note: 6UT-ball, 8U and 11-12 cards will be returned to back concession by the umpire.

- 10U and 14U will be returned to the front concession by the umpire.



SECTION VII FIELD AND EQUIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All managers will be assigned, by the league, sufficient equipment to properly and effectively equip their team. This equipment is on loan to the manager for the duration of the baseball season. It is the full responsibility of the manager to properly take care of the equipment and to return the equipment in a timely fashion, after the season, to the Director of Equipment.
2. Managers are responsible to provide volunteer assistance on scheduled workdays at their age group's field. Workdays will be scheduled by the field's director. The Age Group Director will inform each manager of the scheduled workdays. Preferred practice times will be given based on the amount of each team's volunteer assistance.
3. Prior to the first game of the day, if the County has not lined the fields, the home team manager is responsible for setting up the score box and for lining the field.
4. After the final game of the day, the home team manager is responsible for the following:
 - Shutting off all electrical devices (lights and score boxes).
 - Returning all field maintenance equipment to the storage buildings.
 - Reporting any damage to the Age Group Divisional Director.
5. It shall be the responsibility of both teams to repair the field, pick up the trash and garbage in the dugout and around the field at the end of each game. Teams with the final game of the evening have ultimate responsibility for the condition of their side of the field to include trash and garbage around the field, in the dugouts, and around the bleachers.



SECTION VIII

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

1. All batters must wear a safety helmet while in the batter's box. All runners must wear a safety helmet while on the bases. Safety helmets with face cages are available upon request.
2. Players will be called out if their helmet is removed at any time unless, first, time is called to allow for any adjustments to be made. Players exiting the field should keep their helmets on until they are in the dugout.
3. Players who, in the opinion of the umpire, intentionally throw off their helmet while running shall be called out.
4. A bat boy/girl must wear a safety helmet while on the playing field.
5. Catchers must wear a catcher's mask, helmet, chest protector, and shin guards. A catcher's glove shall be used for all age groups, except 4UT-ball, 6UT-ball, and 8U games.
6. For ages 8U and older, all catchers must wear a protective athletic cup. Female catchers must wear some sort of female protective device, either a maxi pad or a soft rubber protective cup.
7. For 8U National League Batters are required to wear a Full or half shield face guard
8. The league shall determine the use of safety balls or standard baseballs for each age group prior to the league draft.
9. For any age group that is determined to require a safety ball, the league shall select an approved safety baseball officially recommended by the manufacturer to be used in that age group.
10. The degree of safety provided by safety balls that the league selects shall be distributed between the age groups such that the greatest degree of safety provided is applied to the 4UT-ball age group. Whenever possible, a determination of the degree of safety provided shall be based upon a scale of measurement regardless of construction used in the manufacture of the balls.



SECTION IX CONDUCT

A. Umpires

1. Umpires shall have full charge of the ball game in its entirety.
2. Two or more members of the league's Board or an Executive board member may eject an umpire from a game for profanity or gross unprofessional conduct. The board members must immediately inform the President within 24 hours of the ejection.
3. The President must contact the UIC within 24 hours to advise of the umpire ejection with full details of the incident.

B. Managers and Coaches

1. All managers and first assistant coaches will be required to read, sign, turn in, agree, and abide by the league's Coaching ***Policies and Responsibilities*** form prior to managing or coaching any league or tournament games.
2. Any manager or coach, who is ejected from a game, will be reported by the participating umpire to the Umpire in Charge. The ejected manager or coach will receive a letter of acknowledgment from the Executive Board.
3. There will be an automatic one game suspension for any manager or coach that is ejected from a game. There will be an automatic two game suspension for a second ejection during a season. There is not an appeals process for suspensions due to an ejection. Coaches will not be allowed in the park for any reason during these suspensions. Failure to comply will result in additional suspensions to be determined by the Board. A third ejection will result in an immediate season suspension pending an appearance before the Board to speak on one's behalf.
4. The team manager (or first assistant coach in the manager's absence) is responsible for the team's actions on the field and for their spectators in the stands and will represent the team in communication with the umpire and the opposing team. Only the team manager may register a protest or discuss calls with an umpire. There shall be no arguing with umpires. Arguing with an umpire is grounds for ejection.
5. Managers are expected to resolve any problems with coaches, players, parents, or anyone else associated with their team immediately. Failure to attend to these concerns may lead to game forfeiture and possible loss of coaching privileges.



6. Managers and assistant coaching positions are not automatic from year to year.

C. Parents and Spectators

Any umpire or board member shall eject any person from the ballpark for audible or visual profanity, un-sportsmanlike conduct, fighting, threatening physical violence or other actions which may interfere with the normal play of the game. Such parent or spectator who is ejected must leave as per the instructions of the umpire or board member. The ejected parent or spectator is prohibited from attending the team's next game. **Any parent or spectator that is ejected a second time in the same season shall be required to come before the Executive Board, to determine the status of future participation prior to admittance back in to the ballpark. Any parent or spectator that is ejected from the ballpark a third time will be banned from Sharpsburg Baseball until such time as determined by the Board.**

D. Players

1. Just as with the coaches, players are responsible for their conduct on the field. Un-sportsmanlike conduct or use of profane language, as determined by the umpire, on part of any player may result in an ejection from the game. An ejected player must leave the vicinity of the playing field to avoid forfeiting a game. Any player ejected is also suspended for the next scheduled game. The player may not enter the ballpark while serving his/her suspension.
2. Any player receiving two (2) ejections during a season shall be required to come before the Board, along with their parents and manager, to determine the status of the player's participation. Following the first ejection, the participating umpire shall notify the Umpire in Charge and a letter will be sent to the parents informing them of required meeting.
3. Any player who, in the opinion of the umpire, intentionally throws a bat or a helmet shall be ejected from the game.



E. In General

1. No loud music or any other activities shall be permitted at the ballpark which, in the opinion of the umpire or Board member, may interfere with player or spectator participation in the game.
2. During post season play, any manager, coach, player, team, or parent that incurs a fine due to inappropriate or irresponsible behavior, will be responsible for paying said fine. This fine must be paid before the manager, coach, player, team, or parent will be permitted any further participation in the Sharpsburg Youth Baseball League.



SECTION X

ACCIDENT, INJURY, AND LIABILITY

1. Any accident involving injury, or possible injury, must be verbally reported by the team manager to the Age Group Director immediately provided that doing so will not jeopardize the safety of the injured player(s).
2. The Age Group Director shall request the manager file a written report with the league President for all injuries considered serious and/or requiring a doctor's office or hospital visit.
3. Re-instatement may be denied, if in the opinion of the league, the injury may not have fully recovered and may become aggravated by playing prior to full recovery. A doctor's participation release will accompany the player's request for reinstatement.
4. The league may impose any playing limitations it considers appropriate upon any player reinstated after a disabling injury acquired during the regular season it feels necessary in the best interest of the player.
5. Neither Coweta County, nor its officials, officers, or employees; neither the League, nor its officers, directors, members, or employees shall be responsible for accidents or injury to players, coaches, or spectators, and neither shall be responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property during League activities at the ballpark.



SECTION XII ***CONCESSIONS***

The concession stand is operated by private entity for the league under a Board approved contract that is annually reviewed. A \$4.00 fee is charged as part of the registration fee to pay for labor to run the concession stand. Teams will not be required to provide volunteer assistance during the season.



SECTION XII SPONSORSHIPS

1. The league is a not-for-profit entity that raises funds through three primary means: sponsorships, registration fees, and concessions revenues. The league actively pursues corporate sponsors throughout the community to help finance the baseball program. The league does not take for granted the generosity and support that the sponsors provide, and we encourage our participants to actively support the League sponsors.
2. Any team may solicit sponsors for their team. Coaches interested in obtaining sponsorship for the current season should use the official sponsorship form found on the league Website.
3. All sponsorship signs will be purchased by the league to ensure conformity.

NOTE: Sponsors may only claim the amount equal to the amount donated to Sharpsburg Baseball as a tax deduction. Any money given to a team above the donation to Sharpsburg Baseball may not be claimed as a donation to Sharpsburg Baseball.



Article XII

Sharpsburg Youth Baseball Age Group Exemption Policy

Policy Statement: Sharpsburg Youth Baseball is committed to providing a safe and fair playing environment for all participants. Players are generally required to play within their age-specific division as determined by League rules and age cut-off dates. This policy outlines the strict conditions under which a player may be considered for an exemption to play down in a younger age group.

1. **Eligibility for Age Group Exemption:** A player may be considered for an exemption to play down in a younger age group only under the following circumstances:
 - There must be a documented, severe, and ongoing medical illness or condition that, as certified by a licensed medical doctor, directly prohibits the player from safely or effectively participating in their age-specific division.
 - The medical documentation must clearly state the nature of the illness/condition, its impact on the player's ability to participate in their age-appropriate division, and a professional medical opinion that playing in a younger age group is necessary for the player's health, safety, or continued participation in baseball.
2. **Required Documentation:** To apply for an age group exemption, the player's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must submit the following to the Sharpsburg Youth Baseball Board of Directors:
 - A formal written request detailing the reason for the exemption.
 - A comprehensive letter or report from a licensed medical doctor (M.D. or D.O.) on official letterhead. This documentation must include:
 - The diagnosis of the illness or condition.
 - A clear explanation of how this illness or condition impairs the player's ability to participate in their age-appropriate division.
 - A specific recommendation for the player to participate in a younger age group, along with the medical rationale for such a recommendation.
 - The doctor's signature, date, and contact information.



3. Executive Board Approval: All requests for age group exemptions, along with the accompanying medical documentation, must be submitted to and receive explicit approval from the Sharpsburg Youth Baseball Executive Board. The Executive Board reserves the sole right to grant or deny any exemption request, and their decision shall be final. The Executive Board may consult with medical professionals or other experts as deemed necessary to evaluate the request. Approval of an exemption is not guaranteed and will be considered on a case-by-case basis, prioritizing the safety and well-being of the player and the competitive balance of the League.
4. Examples of Possible Medical Situations (Illustrative, Not Exhaustive): The following are examples of severe medical situations that *might* warrant consideration for an age group exemption, provided they are thoroughly documented by a medical professional as per Section 1 and 2:
 - Chronic Neurological Conditions: Such as severe epilepsy with frequent, unpredictable seizures that are exacerbated by high-impact activities, or other conditions significantly impacting motor skills or cognitive processing required for safe play at their age level.
 - Significant Cardiac Conditions: Documented heart conditions that severely limit exertion and require reduced physical demands, making participation in a higher-intensity age group unsafe.
 - Severe Orthopedic Impairments: Conditions like severe congenital limb differences, progressive muscular dystrophy, or significant, long-term recovery from major surgery (e.g., spinal fusion) that profoundly affect mobility, strength, and coordination necessary for their age group.
 - Developmental Delays (Medically Diagnosed): In cases where a medical diagnosis confirms a significant developmental delay that impacts physical coordination, reaction time, or understanding of complex play, making it unsafe or impractical for the player to compete with their chronological age group.
 - Immunocompromised States: Severe, chronic conditions requiring extensive medical treatment (e.g., chemotherapy, organ transplant recovery) that result in extreme fatigue, weakness, or a highly compromised immune system, making the physical demands and potential exposure of their age group prohibitive.



Note: This policy is designed to address exceptional medical circumstances. It is not intended for minor injuries, temporary illnesses, or general developmental differences that are not medically diagnosed as prohibiting participation in the player's age-specific division. The League understands and empathizes with all requests for age group adjustments, even those that do not meet the strict medical criteria outlined in this policy.