

How do you Join Shalom League?

Depending on the time of the year, there are a number of ways to join Shalom League. First, we are always welcoming of new players to Shalom League. Second, we are a Brotherhood-minded draft League. That means, if you want to play cut-throat, kegger-smash-mouth softball...we may not be the place for you.

Shalom League is a well-established, draft softball league which delivers a friendly and competitive Brotherhood softball experience.

First, a little history. Shalom League started 33 years ago with a handful of Temple Shalom Brotherhood members who wanted to have fun playing softball. We are currently 208 players each with a player rating, drafted onto one of sixteen teams by veteran players who act as team Captains. We have a mix of talent on every team. Many of our players do not belong to Temple Shalom and there is no such requirement. Our home softball fields are the Heritage Yards Softball Complex in Plano, Texas.

Our season starts in March and lasts eleven Sunday morning double-headers. This season acts as a seeding for a major league-like playoff schedule concluding with a Shalom League Championship team. We also have an All-Star game consisting of players who were voted as having the most out-standing season and an Old-Timers game that shows its respect for the older guys.

So, how do you join Shalom League? If it's off-season or during the Playoffs, you'll need to wait until January of the new year and complete a Player Application. At anytime throughout the year, you can email the Shalom League Commissioner (see the top of this page) and email him a note indicating your interest, age, playing experience and mailing address and phone number. Once the new year arrives complete, sign and mail your Player Application with payment as early in January as possible. Every season the League experiences an attrition of a couple of dozen players. But we always seem to find a couple dozen new guys and have another dozen or so players from previous seasons return to play. New players are more likely, but not guaranteed, to make the cut if their application AND your payment are received in January, the earlier the better. Please read the New Player FAQ and the Commissioner's Letter as well as browse the web site for more information.

All new players will need to attend one of the two (preferably the first) Sunday tryout's scheduled in early February. A tryout consists of fielding grounders at shortstop, fielding fly balls in the outfield, throwing to a cut-off man and hitting. Again, every player at the beginning of their Shalom League career attends a tryout in order to be rated and therefore be eligible for the draft.

But how do you join Shalom League during the season? Once the season starts, the team Captains are focused on managing their drafted teams and playing their scheduled games. However, we always need additional players for our Sub List. If it's after March 1st but before the end of the regular season (roughly June 30th), please email the Commissioner if you have interest in playing. Indicate your playing experience, age, address and how you became aware of the League. You should receive a reply that welcomes you to the league and asks you come out to the fields early one Sunday morning and tryout. A tryout consists of demonstrating your playing ability by fielding at shortstop, fielding fly balls in the outfield, throwing to a cut off man and hitting.

Once you complete a tryout, the Captains will give you a rating and you'll be placed on the Sub list. Now hopefully two things will happen. First, you'll hopefully get called to play as a sub on a as-needed basis or two, when you sign up for next season, you'll have priority over any completely new player and have a much better chance of assuring yourself a place in the draft.

Again, welcome to Shalom League. Please read the New Player FAQ and the Commissioner's Letter linked to the front page of the League website (www.shalomleague.org) for more information on how to join and participate in Shalom League.