



2024 SHAKOPEE YOUTH BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

SEASON KICKOFF MEETING &
PARENT INFORMATION



2024 SYBA BOARD

- PRESIDENT: Brad Menden
- VICE PRESIDENT: Shane Hofmann
- TREASURER & COMMUNITY LEAGUE COORDINATOR : Allen Larson
- SECRETARY: Mike Hanson
- TRAVELING DIRECTORS: Aaron Olson and Sean LaCoste
- IN-HOUSE DIRECTORS: Brian Heil & Jim Malone
- EQUIPMENT: Eric Schroeder
- COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR: Chad Stensrud
- VARSITY COACH: Eric Schmitz
- UMPIRE/FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR: Brent Vannier
- TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Rob Deuth
- AST. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR : Dan Woodall
- UNIFORM COORDINATOR: Ryan Schmitz
- SR. LEGION COACH & LEGION DIRECTOR : Dave Johnson
- FIELD SCHEDULER (non board position): Tyler Menden



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to assist athletes in developing advanced baseball skills and provide the opportunity to compete with other players of similar abilities. Our objectives are to provide an organized program for the youth of the community that will:

- Promote physical fitness, stamina, and agility
- Develop self-confidence
- Develop respect for others, teamwork, pride in team and community
- Teach the fundamentals of baseball
- Incorporate the spirit of good sportsmanship in victory and defeat
- Allow every player the opportunity to participate and develop
- Play in a safe and healthy environment
- Build character and set priorities in our lives
- Allow everyone to have fun and enjoy life



COACH-PARENT-PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

There is a code of conduct that all of you will automatically “sign” when you register. Please familiarize yourself with the code prior to continuing on with the registration.

We expect everyone associated with the program to be a good role model for our kids and represent our community in a positive behavior. If we hear otherwise, expect to be contacted by your coach, coordinator or a SYBA board member.

**Please remember, YOU represent all of us with
your behavior at all contests!**

COACH-PARENT-PLAYER CODE OF CONDUCT

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- Reminders:
 - These are kids not professional athletes
 - Coaches are VOLUNTEERS
 - Bad calls WILL happen; Exercise Self-Control and Respect the Umps
 - Be a role model: don't make negative comments about the coaches, the umps, other players or the other team
 - Observe a 24-hour cool down rule
 - It's a game, BE POSITIVE and remember this ain't pro-ball

Please remember, YOU represent all of us with
your behavior at all contests!



IMPORTANT DATES

- Registration:
 - Opens: February 4th
 - Travel Registration Closes: February 18th
- Traveling Tryouts: March 23rd -24th
- Traveling Team Equipment Pickup – Potentially Tuesday, March 26th depending on weather.
- Traveling Coaches Meeting – Tuesday, March 26th (6:30pm @ American Legion or The Bowl)
- Traveling Coaches Scheduling Calls: Wednesday, April 3rd



IMPORTANT DATES

- Potential Start of League Games: Monday, April 15th
- Shakopee Tournament : June 21st – 23rd
- MBL Playoffs begin: Sun, July 7th
- Playoff Championship games (AAA-AA-A): July 23rd -25th
- August Classic: July 31st – August 4th



TRAVEL LEAGUES (Age Clarifications)

- Travel teams are available for ages 9-15
 - All will participate in tryouts.
 - Players play at the age they are on May 1st
 - If young for grade, may play with grade level (may not play down if older), so if age 9 in 4th grade may play with 10's to stay with classmates.
 - However, if age 10 in 3rd grade, you must play with the 10's. No choice in this case due to league restrictions.
 - The levels are AAA, AA, A. How many teams and at which level of play for each age level will depend on the number of registrations, tryout results, and previous year's results.



16-18 yr. olds

Teams are determined based on spring performance through Shakopee's high school teams. Options may be:

- Sr. Legion
- Jr. Legion
- 15AA & 14/15A

Look for emails from Coach Schmitz and Coach Johnson for additional details.



TYPICAL PRACTICE SCHEDULE (TRAVEL TEAMS)

Practices are scheduled and communicated by the coach – there may be some April practices set up by SYBA. Stay off city fields until given the okay by the city.

- Ages 9-14's usually practice 2-3 times per week/weekend in April; less during the season – use pre-home game times as much as possible to free up some summer nights for other family activities. Use batting cages throughout town as well.
- 15's have spring school ball; spring/summer coaches work together/communicate – do not double up on practices for players' safety/health.

TYPICAL GAME SCHEDULE (TRAVEL TEAMS)

- Regular Season games consist of 14 weeknight games in the metro area (1/2 at home). 15 yr. olds have a 12-game schedule. League games begin in mid April or early May and continue up to the end of June. Head coaches are responsible for creating the schedule for their team.
- All teams will play 4 weekend tourneys (3 for age 15's) in May and June
 - Travel tournaments have already been scheduled for each team by the travel directors.
- 1-4 weeknight playoff games in July (single elimination). Be aware of these, as they may be scheduled by MBL only a few days before. You may have to travel further as these extend to all regions!
- If you qualify for a state tournament by finishing 1st or 2nd (or 3rd or 4th sometimes) in a weekend tourney, your team may elect to go up to 3 state tournament options in mid to late July (most teams will go to 1 or 2).
 - Each team would be responsible for their entry in any state tournament; typically, around \$50 per state tourney per family. Locations and dates for all ages are listed.



9-10 YR OLD TRAVEL TEAMS

- Shakopee will have one 9AAA and one 9AA team based on registrations.
 - Baseball players at age 9 as of May 1, 2024, or in 3rd grade during the 2023-2024 school year only.
 - Eight-year-olds may try out for and will be able to register for the nine-year-old travel teams but they will NOT take a roster spot of a 9-year-old unless it is determined by tryout evaluations that it is unsafe for the 9-year-old to currently play 9U travel.
 - Metro Baseball League does not have a 9A option to participate in.
- We will have one 10AAA and one 10A team based on registrations
 - Baseball players at age 10 as of May 1, 2024, or in 4th grade during the 2023-2024 school year only.
 - Based on feedback from parents last season, the board has made the decision to move our 9AA team last year to 10A. This will create a better experience for the kids and to allow them to development at a level that is right for them.



11 YR OLD TRAVEL TEAMS

- Shakopee will have one 11AAA and one 11A team based on registration numbers.
 - Baseball players at age 11 as of May 1, 2024, or in 5th grade during the 2023-2024 school year only.
 - Based on feedback from parents last season, the board has made the decision to move our 10AA team last year to 11A.
 - This decision was not an easy one, but we do feel that it will create a better experience for the kids and to allow them to development at a level that is right for them.



SYBA OPEN GYMS

- The SYBA has secured gym space to allow our ball players to get some winter baseball training in prior to the season starting.
 - The gym fees for these open gyms have been paid for with SYBA funds, meaning all players can attend any of the sessions for free with no registration necessary.
 - Parents these sessions are not just a drop off. Please ensure a coach/board member/parent is there to work with your child. If not, you are responsible to stay there and work with your player.
 - Open gyms started January 13th, here is the [link](#) to the remaining open gyms.
- Open gyms are led by coaches/parents/SYBA board members who are volunteering their time to work with the kids during these gym times.
- Any parent planning on coaching this year are encouraged to attend all sessions for their player(s) age groups.
- We understand that with winter sports it will be hard for kids to make them all, but please try to get to as many as possible to prepare for the 2024 season.



SYBA and P2P Winter Development



- P2P instructors and the SYBA have partnered to have 4 clinics in March to get players ready for the season and tryouts.
 - P2P will be providing skilled coaches to work along side with some of our Shakopee High School players to train our youth players.
 - These training sessions will include the following: hitting, fielding, throwing, pitching, baserunning, and speed/agility. Each session will be for 1.5 hours as kids will move from station to station working on baseball skills.
- **This opportunity is for ALL SYBA players, no matter what level or league your son(s) played in prior years.**
- The cost per player is \$100. Normally the cost would be \$175 but SYBA will be covering \$75 for any player who registered!!

Saturday March 2nd
(Shakopee HS Field House)

9U-10U : 12:00pm-1:30pm

11U-12U: 1:30pm-3:00pm

13-14U: 3:00pm-4:30pm

Saturday March 9th (West
Middle School)

9U-10U : 12:00pm-1:30pm

11U-12U: 1:30pm-3:00pm

13-14U: 3:00pm-4:30pm

Saturday March 16th (West
Middle School)

9U-10U : 12:00pm-1:30pm

11U-12U: 1:30pm-3:00pm

13-14U: 3:00pm-4:30pm

Friday March 22nd (West
Middle School) ****This**
session focused on tryouts

9U-10U : TBD

11U-12U: TBD

13-14U: TBD



PRE-TRYOUT PRACTICES

- Some indoor practice sessions (TBD in March) will be offered for ages 9-14 before the regular tryouts. These are optional – make whenever you can. These will be communicated once set up and based on registration numbers.
- These sessions will be used to work on the skills that will be evaluated during tryouts and make players as successful as possible on the tryout dates.
- Interested Coaches are asked to attend their age specific sessions to help work with players and learn about the players they may have an opportunity to choose to complete their rosters. (If selected to be a Head Coach)



9-14 TRYOUTS

March 23rd -24th – WMS & SHS Fieldhouse

- Required for all 9-14's
- High School Coaches will be used as evaluators.
 - High School baseball players will be assisting these coaches during the tryouts, but they will not have the ability to score the kids trying out.
- Evaluated on hitting, throwing, fielding (infield and outfield), arm strength, and foot speed. Pitchers and catchers are evaluated separately.
- Pre-tryout sessions in March will be used to look at players as well.
- Teams will be comprised of 10 -12 players in most cases.
- Results and team placements will be posted on the SYBA website as soon as Shortly after tryouts are completed.



TRYOUTS

- Please keep in perspective . . . the big picture:
- The main goal of evaluations/tryouts is to place kids at a competitive level for this summer. This will not impact a player's baseball status in Shakopee for life! Rosters change every year.
 - It does not matter in high school where you played or how well you played in youth baseball. It will only matter how you perform in school and on the baseball field when you are in high school!
 - There are too many examples of how kids change over the years to predict high school success; there are examples (good and bad) EVERY YEAR.
 - It's often a better situation to be a top player on a lower team than a bottom player on a top team . . .
- Improve each day, play hard, have fun – just be glad you're on a team and that you have the opportunity to play the great game of baseball this summer! That's the big picture.



TRYOUTS

- **No full refunds after traveling tryouts have started**
- If a player tries out for a traveling team and does not make it, he will be placed on an In-House/Community League team equal to the age level that he tried out for. Any fee differences will be refunded. **A \$40 tryout fee will not be refunded.**
- Everyone will be given the opportunity to play baseball, and no one will be cut from Shakopee Youth Baseball.
- Evaluation scores for each player will be sent to parents shortly after tryouts. This gives parents an understanding of a player's strengths and things to work on.



PLAYING TIME

- Playing time expectations are available on the www.shakopeeyouthbaseball website.
- Please understand that traveling baseball is competitive and that equal playing time (batting order and positions) are not guaranteed.
- Younger levels will have more rotations and opportunities in games than older levels. League games often provide more opportunities for rotations than tournaments.



2024 TRAVELING UNIFORMS





TRAVELING UNIFORMS

- © **9-15 yr. old Traveling Teams** – Two different color jerseys as part of their registration. Will include the player's last name and number on the back. This jersey is yours to keep. When you register, you will be asked what size of jersey you would like. The cost of both jerseys is included in your registration fee.
 - Pant color (white and gray) for travel will be a team decision after teams are determined.
- © **16-18 yr. olds** – Jerseys will be loaned; wear caps from spring; players provide their pants (order from website), red belt, and red socks.



TRAVELING UNIFORMS

- Red Batting Helmets must be purchased for all in-house and traveling ages.
- Everyone gets a hat. Cost has been included in the registration fee. Hats are flex-fit and you will be asked to select a hat size during registration.
 - You may order an extra hat for your player as part of the registration for an additional charge.
- Rest of uniform – white or gray pants, black socks, black belt. Can be purchased at Innovative Graphics online store or anywhere you would like.
- Saber Baseball Merchandise can also be purchased at Innovative Graphics online store. Samples were available outside.
 - Starting tonight and running through February 14th will be the only time to order Saber Baseball fan apparel for the summer of 2024.
 - <https://shakopee-youth-baseball-association-2024.itemorder.com/shop/home/>
 - All orders will be available to pick up at travel evaluations on 03/23/24.
 - Items are custom made and there will be no returns or exchanges.



BATS

- Players will need to provide their own bat.
- Bats are complicated – make sure you buy the correct one
- Some bats/equipment will be available for free at the swap meet the day of travel tryouts.

| Level | Maximum diameter at the thickest part of the bat | Weight Differential (length minus weight) | Stamp |
|------------------|--|---|---------------------|
| TRAVELING | | | |
| 9-13s | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less | -11 | USSSA or USA |
| 14s | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less | -5 | USSSA or USA |
| 14s | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less | -3 | BBCOR Omaha Tourney |
| 15-18s | 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " or less | -3 | BBCOR |



CATCHER'S EQUIPMENT

- SYBA will provide one set of catcher's gear for each travel team, in house team, as well as all the community league teams.
- You can purchase your own catcher's equipment if you prefer.
- SYBA recommends the catcher's equipment has the NOCSAE certification



COACHES



Coaches are a vital part of our program.

- We usually have 3-4 coaches per team. (1) Head Coach, (2-3) Assistant Coaches, (1) Team Manager
- Coaches will receive a coach's cage jacket and hat for the 2024 season.
- For traveling, you will need to:
 - Have a strong knowledge of baseball skills and game management.
 - Have a desire to improve the baseball skills of every player on the team.
 - Ability to provide a fun atmosphere throughout the entire season.
 - Good communicator with players and parents.
 - Attend coaches' meetings and league scheduling meeting.
 - Be a strong role model for both players and parents.



COACHES

- If interested, please complete the coaches' application online during registration of your son. You will select if interested in Head Coaching, Assistant Coaching, or both.
 - All coaches must complete the Trusted Coaches training and background check.
 - Once Head Coaches are selected, they will select their staff of assistant coaches.
- Head coaching applicants may be interviewed by a panel of Board members, as needed (especially if new to program)
- Head coaches will be selected by the Board, based on:
 - Prior coaching experience and parent surveys
 - Interviews
 - Application answers
 - The level their player automatically qualified for



RULES TO KNOW

- Age 13 and up may wear metal spikes
- Age 12 and under must wear plastic spikes
- Rules (bat size, stealing, innings pitched, ETS) for traveling teams can be found at www.mbl.bz
- Rules for In-House/Community Leagues can be found at www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com



FIELD MAINTENANCE

- After games and practices, players are expected to help coaches with field maintenance.
- The players should not leave until the team is finished cleaning up the field area and dugouts – leave the field better than when you arrived
- This is part of being on the team, especially once players begin on fields with more maintenance (clay mounds, tarps, dugouts, etc.).



TENTATIVE METRO BASEBALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

| Level | May 3-5 | May 10-12 | May 17-19 | Mem Wknd | May 31-2 | June 7-9 | June 14-16 | June 21-23 | June 28-30 |
|--------|---------|--------------|-----------|----------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| 9AA | | Mankato | Glen Lake | | Prior Lake | | | Shakopee | |
| 9AAA | | Mankato | | | Woodbury | | Bloomington | Shakopee | |
| 10A | | Rosemount | Mankato | | Eden Prairie | | | Shakopee | |
| 10AAA | | Rosemount | | | Woodbury | | Mankato | Shakopee | |
| 11A | | Apple Valley | | | Eden Prairie | Mankato | | Shakopee | |
| 11AAA | | Eden Prairie | Eagan | | Mankato | | | Shakopee | |
| 12A | | Apple Valley | | | Eden Prairie | Mankato | | Shakopee | |
| 12AA | | Apple Valley | | | | Willmar | MYAS (BP) | Shakopee | |
| 12AAA | | Eden Prairie | | | Woodbury | Willmar | | Shakopee | |
| 13A | | | Eagan | | Mankato | Edina | Mendota Heights | | |
| 13AA | | Apple Valley | | | Mankato | Bloomington | | Edina | |
| 13AAA | | Bloomington | Edina | | | Mankato | | | Spring Lake Park |
| 14/15A | | | | | Wayzata | Minnetonka | | | Bloomington |
| 14/15A | | | | | | Burnsville | Edina | | Bloomington |
| 14AAA | | Edina | | | Woodbury | Burnsville | Omaha | | |
| 15AA | | | | | Eden Prairie | Burnsville | Woodbury | | 30 |



State Tournament Dates

| | MBT | GSTC | MSF |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 9AA | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 | TBD |
| 9AAA | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 | TBD |
| | | | |
| 10A | July 12 - 14 | July 26 - 28 | TBD |
| 10AA | July 19 - 21 | July 12 -14 | July 26 - 28 |
| 10AAA | July 12 - 14 | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 |
| | | | |
| 11A | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 | TBD |
| 11AA | July 19 - 21 | July 12 -14 | July 26 - 28 |
| 11AAA | July 12 - 14 | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 |
| | | | |
| 12A | July 12 - 14 | July 26 - 28 | TBD |
| 12AA | July 19 - 21 | July 12 -14 | July 26 - 28 |
| 12AAA | July 12 - 14 | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 |
| | | | |
| 13A | July 12 - 14 | July 26 - 28 | TBD |
| 13AA | July 19 - 21 | July 12 -14 | July 26 - 28 |
| 13AAA | July 12 - 14 | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 |
| | | | |
| 14AA | July 12 - 14 | July 26 - 28 | July 26 - 28 |
| 14AAA | July 12 - 14 | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 |
| | | | |
| 14/15A | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 | TBD |
| | | | |
| 15AA | July 19 - 21 | July 12 -14 | July 26 - 28 |
| 15AAA | July 12 - 14 | July 19 - 21 | July 26 - 28 |



UMPIRING

- ◎ Open to Shakopee baseball players 13-18 years of age
- ◎ Requirements:
 - Attend umpire training
 - Participate in umpiring pre-season scrimmages
- Compensation
 - Little League: \$40 per game
 - Minor League: \$63 per game
 - Valley, Sr. Valley League & HS Community League: \$70 per game
 - 9s & 10s Traveling: \$63 per game
 - Other traveling games will also be available: \$63-\$70 per game
- Indicate interest when registering online
- Umpire Training Meeting: TBA
- Umpire Coordinator: Brent Vannier (brentavannier@gmail.com)



SPONSORSHIPS

- SYBA has a sponsorship program that gets your company's logo on the SYBA website

- Current Sponsors:
 - Shakopee Bowl
 - Innovative Graphics
 - REMAX
 - Affinity Plumbing
 - American Legion
 - Scheels
 - Everlight Solar



INNOVATIVE
GRAPHICS



- See www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com for details



Traveling REGISTRATION FEES

| Level | Register by Feb 18th |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9s Traveling | \$475 |
| 10s Traveling | \$475 |
| 11s Traveling | \$475 |
| 12s Traveling | \$475 |
| 13s Traveling | \$520 |
| 14s Traveling | \$520 |
| 15s Traveling | \$425 |
| 16s – 18s Traveling | \$400 |

For Traveling Teams, there will be a \$25 discount if your registration is completed by Feb 18th. Fees listed above are reflective of this discount.



REGISTRATION PAYMENT OPTION

Two Payment Options

1. Pay in FULL at registration
-- OR --
2. Pay about 1/3 at Registration and about 1/3 on April 1 and about 1/3 on May 1. Second and Third Payment will be automatically charged to the credit/debit card originally used at registration
3. A registration assistance program is available if your son(s) would like to play, and assistance would be helpful from the SYBA.



REGISTRATION MONEY BUYS

- Hat
- Jersey
- Game fees including city fee, league fees, tournaments, umpires
- Tryout fee – Traveling only, non-refundable
- Insurance
- Baseballs and catcher's equipment
- Comprehensive online background check for all coaches



MVP GOLD CARD

- Everyone gets one (1) MVP Gold card with each registration
- 80% of the proceeds go Shakopee Youth Baseball for field improvements.
- E-coupon option available
- Additional cards can be purchased for \$25
- If you do not wish to use the card, you can re-sell it and keep the money
- www.dineanddicountsminnesota.com



VOLUNTEERING

- Shakopee will host Traveling Tournament: June 23rd - 25th
In-House Tournament: TBD
- Proceeds are re-invested back into the Baseball Association-Field Improvements, Equipment, etc.
- Need lots of help to run this many tournaments – 6 volunteer hours per player's family (12-hour family maximum)
- Will collect \$500 volunteer check **AT PARENT MEETING** during tryouts. No check, no tryout!
- Your check will not be cashed if all volunteer hours are worked – no partial work shifts are allowed – must work full 6 hours
- Email will be sent out to signup for volunteer shifts on www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com



VOLUNTEERING

- Volunteer credit will be given for the following:
 - Head Coach and 3 Others (Assistant Coaches, Team Manager, Grounds Crew)
- Head coach selects Assistants, Team Manager and Grounds Crew and has final say if they did their job.
- Job description for Team Manager and Grounds Crew are available on the website.

QUESTIONS???

This presentation will be posted on the SYBA
website

Refer to Website “FAQ”

www.shakopeeyouthbaseball.com

for Details

Have A Great Season!