DHYS Tournament Team (TT) Policy

Revised December 2022

For committed DHYS players and families, the spring baseball season can be extended into post-season tournament play. In early spring, recreation league managers will select players who best represent their respective league in terms of playing ability and sportsmanship, and these players will form an A All-Star tournament team (Red Devils). DHYS actively encourages the formation of one or more B (Blue Devils) teams in all age groups. Manager and Team Selection criteria for Tournament teams are detailed in this Policy. As members of Dizzy Dean Baseball Organization, DHYS All-Star teams are encouraged to participate in the District and State tournaments, especially in younger age groups.

Post-season play is an exciting, challenging and rewarding time for players, coaches and parents. The All-Star season begins in mid-May and may continue through the month of June and possibly into early July. 6U teams typically practice one or more times a week and play 2 or 3 tournaments. All other DHYS teams will practice at least 2 times 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.

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

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

Below are DHYS guidelines and policy for tournament teams.

1. Player Eligibility -- 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 has NOT missed **<u>any</u>** DHYS Spring recreation season (grapefruit and regular) games due to playing <u>baseball</u> for a team at another organization (recreation or travel). For sake of clarity, Middle School games are omitted from this requirement.
    d. The player must play in the respective age group (Dizzy Dean Age Chart) 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. 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
    e. 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 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 team managers will be selected by the TT Committee. All TT managers must be approved by the DHYS Board of Directors.

<u>6U, 7U and 8U:</u>
TT Managers will be selected between the start of Spring Rec season and at least 2 weeks prior to the first TT player evaluation. 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, League Directors, and VP Lower Division. Individuals interested in being considered for TT manager should contact the TT Directors as early in the season as practical.

<u>9U and older:</u>

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. <u>All votes are subject to the approval of the DHYS Board.</u>

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.
c. To ensure fair and complete evaluation of an age group, players are strongly encouraged to register for evaluations and attend at least one session even if they're not certain of their availability for Summer.

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.
b. 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.
c. Tournament teams shall not participate in any summer tournaments before the end of the spring recreation season.

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/workout 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 they 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 National League managers are required to attend the player selection meetings. If absolutely necessary, a manager may designate the team's Coach or another league Manager as their proxy. No manager may hold more than two votes total.
c. The managers attending the meeting (or their proxies) will vote for twelve players. **The nine players receiving the most votes will be on the team.** Ties will be decided by a re-vote of only those players. Remaining spots will be filled via TT Manager Picks*.
d. 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.

***TT 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 of 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.

e. 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. A 2nd (or more) B Team (if reasonable) follows suit. Like the other tournament team managers, selection of the B tournament team manager(s) must be approved by the DHYS Board.

f. 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 team(s) 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.

g. 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

a. 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,). 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.
b. DHYS will provide a stipend of $100 to each team to help offset Coaches' clothing (e.g. Devils polos, shirts, etc).

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 mid-May through sometime in July). 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 other non-Medlock fields used by Majors)

12U Red Devils
11U Red Devils
12U Blue Devils
11U Blue Devils

AAA & AA: Medlock Field 2 & 4 (and other non-Medlock fields used by AAA & AA)

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 3 & 7

7U Red Devils
6U Red Devils
7U Blue Devils
6U Blue Devils

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

11. Financial Obligation and DHYS Support

a. DHYS will pay the tournament registration ("entry") fee for each affiliated organization's (e.g. Dizzy Dean) 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.
b. 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.
c. DHYS will reimburse each team for outside/supplemental coaching. The outside coaching stipend and associated guidelines will be communicated annually by the TT Directors
d. Each year, DHYS will also contribute to the Cooperstown Dreams Park or Cooperstown All-Star Village registration fees for the 12U Cooperstown team.
e. 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.

11. 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.

a. 9U-11U (rising 10U-12U)
    i. It is recommended and expected that all Red Devils teams from 9U-11U (rising 10U-12U) continue to play Fall travel tournaments at the completion of their summer season. Red Devils will continue practicing as a team and are not expected to play in Fall Rec season.
    ii. It is recommended and expected that all Blue Devils teams from 9U-11U (rising 10U-12U) continue to play Fall travel tournaments around the DHYS Fall Rec schedule. Blue Devils may continue practicing as a team and are encouraged to play in Fall Rec season.
    iii. 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.

b. Rising 7U-9U All-Star teams are encouraged to hold regular workouts and expand player participation. 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(s) coaches for future years. Intra-squad and neighboring park scrimmages are encouraged and the expense is to be borne by the team members.

c. 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.

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

1. Be on the Summer All-Star team, or
2. Be currently registered and playing in the Fall league.

12. Hosting Tournaments

Leveraging tournament provider organizations such as Training Legends or 17 Baseball has been a positive experience and may be the best option for hosting tournaments at DHYS.