



# Texas Rattlers Baseball

## Select Baseball Policy & Procedures

Effective Date: February 2020

### 1. PURPOSE OF FMYSA SANCTIONED SELECT BASEBALL

To offer a quality, competitive, select baseball program to current and future FMYSA registered participants.

### 2. FMYSA SELECT PROGRAM & TEAM ORGANIZATION

The FMYSA Board of Directors is the final authority regarding all baseball matters.

The FMYSA Select Baseball Committee (FMYSA-SBC) is responsible for overseeing the select baseball program. Currently, that committee is comprised of the FMYSA President, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Select Baseball, Vice-President of Recreational Baseball, Rattlers Director, and other Board members as needed. Contact information for those mentioned above is available on the FMYSA website.

FMYSA will only sanction select teams under the Texas Rattlers team name.

FMYSA may authorize official sanctioned select baseball teams for any of the following designated age classifications under the Texas Rattlers name given sufficient interest and talent levels in each classification: 7U thru 18U.

Playing Time and Team Rosters: FMYSA recreational rules requiring minimum playing time requirements are waived. However, all select baseball team coaches are expected to abide by the following sanctioned select baseball minimum participation requirements for defensive innings:

<u>Level</u>	<u>League Schedule</u>	<u>Tournament</u>
AA	50%	50% Pool Play
AAA/Major	50%	2 innings per game Pool Play

For 13U and under, each team shall have a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 12 players. For 14U and above, each team shall have a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 13 players. The VP of Select Baseball must approve rosters carrying below the minimum or above the maximum (prior to offer for maximum).

### 3. COACHES' APPLICATIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES & CONDUCT

There can be only one designated head coach of each team. The head coach may choose one's assistant coaches

## Applications:

Any person interested in a select baseball head coaching position shall submit an application prior to the deadline for the upcoming season - May 31 for the Fall season and October 31 for the Spring season.

Coaches will be selected after the application review and in-person interview are conducted by members of the Select Baseball Committee. The Committee shall nominate a head coach for each sanctioned select team, subject to approval by the FMYSA Board of Directors.

When selecting team head coaches, the Select Baseball Committee and FMYSA Board of Directors shall consider the following criteria:

- Knowledge of the game
- Ability to effectively teach baseball to age-specific players
- Coaching experience and coaching success
- Ability to communicate effectively with parents
- Amount and quality of past support provided to FMYSA
- Ability to complete NYSCA Certification and background check
- Any previous written complaints or commendations from other coaches, parents, umpires, or other league members
- Any other pertinent information regarding the individual's qualifications to serve in this capacity

In addition to coaching their respective sanctioned select teams, head coaches are required to assist the FMYSA Recreational Baseball Leagues during league registration, league coaches meetings, draft evaluations, camps, clinics, tournaments, etc. All select baseball coaches MUST help, or send team representatives to help, with the various coach's clinics, pitching clinics, and the spring recreational league skills evaluation.

## Responsibilities:

Coaches and Assistants are required to maintain certification by the National Youth Coaching Organization, pass a criminal background check, and agree to abide by the FMYSA Select Guidelines. The guidelines are designed to ensure fair playing time, offer an affordable fee structure and open book policy to team finances, develop a select "brand" of teams, and to continue offering the quality facilities and fine coaching for which we have become known.

Coaches will ensure that their team classification is consistent amongst the sanctioned national baseball organizations (USSSA, Triple Crown, Nations, Super Series, etc). For non-sanctioned or independent tournament play, teams MUST participate in a division equivalent to or higher than their USSSA classification.

USSSA	AA	AAA	Major
Triple Crown	Div 3	Div 2	Div 1
Travel Sports	AA	AAA	Open
Pony/ASE	D2	D2/D1	D1
Independent	AA	AAA	Open
Nations	Select	Premier	Elite
Super Series	Minors	Triple-A	Majors

Figure 3-1

All select coaches understand that they will be asked to volunteer their time and expertise at multiple events throughout the Spring and Fall seasons. All coaches are expected to participate.

Conduct:

All head coaches are required to be members in good standing of FMYSA's approved accredited coaching certification program (NYSCA), and pass an annual background check as administered by an approved FMYSA contractor. Assistant coaches will be required to pass annual background checks and pass certification.

All coaches, including assistant coaches, represent FMYSA at all times. They are responsible for the well-being of each team member. All coaches will demonstrate proper demeanor while serving as an FMYSA representative. Failure to do so may result in probation and possible removal from the privilege of being on the field during games.

The FMYSA Board of Directors reserves the right to remove any coach from the team for just cause.

#### 4. PLAYERS, RESIDENCY RULES, PLAYER REMOVAL

Any player, league age 7 or above, may try out for any FMYSA sanctioned select baseball team.

Players may play up one age classification. Interested players should be reminded of the commitment required to participate at this level.

Selected players will make seasonal commitments (Jan-Aug and/or Aug-Nov). Coaches are cautioned from choosing players who, regardless of reason, are unable to commit to participation requirements, as well as a majority of the scheduled events. While a member of a sanctioned team, players shall not participate on any other baseball team without written authorization from the sanctioned team's head coach. Players who are on any age group league-sanctioned select team roster are not eligible to participate as a guest player, or as a roster player, in any FMYSA recreational league game of any age group.

Residency Rules: Teams sanctioned by FMYSA will adhere to the following residency requirements, in addition to any external league residency requirements (e.g., TEBA). Teams MUST carry a minimum number of players who reside within the attendance boundaries of Lewisville, Marcus, or Flower Mound High schools as defined by the Lewisville Independent School District (LISD).

Minimum Resident Roster Requirements									
Class	AA			AAA			Major		
Roster Size	10	11	12+	10	11	12+	10	11	12+
7U	9	10	11	9	10	11	9	10	11
8U	9	10	11	8	9	10	8	9	10
9U	8	9	10	8	9	9	7	8	9
10U	8	9	10	7	8	9	6	7	8
11U	7	8	9	7	8	8	6	7	7
12U	7	8	9	7	7	8	5	6	6
13U	7	8	9	7	7	8	5	6	6
14U	7	8	8	7	7	8	5	6	6
15U/HS	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6

Figure 4-1

\*Residency is determined by participant’s school registration address.

\*Class typically depends on USSSA designation.

\*Exceptions to the above must be approved by the VP of Select Baseball. Ongoing efforts to recruit in-district players expected.

Player Removal: The Head Coach may remove a player from a team for cause with prior approval of the Select Baseball Committee. The head coach must consult with the VP of Select Baseball before initiating removal of a player for cause.

FMYSA does NOT consider the following as causes for removing a player during a spring/summer or fall season:

- Player performance on the field.
- Retooling for tournament season.
- Retooling for a National Championship.

FMYSA COULD consider the following as causes for removing a player during a spring/summer or fall season:

- Player’s family unable to fulfill team time commitments.
- Player’s family unable to fulfill team financial commitments.
- Chronic behavior and/or attitude problems by the player or the player’s parent(s). Such behavior problems should be documented in email to the VP of Select Baseball.

## 5. TRY-OUTS & RECRUITMENT

Sanctioned team’s official try-outs will be coordinated and operated in most cases by the age group representative located on the FMYSA select baseball website.

FMYSA will provide each team with equitable field time to conduct tryouts. Coaches may rent facilities or fields on their own for team tryouts if needed beyond league-issued fields or in case of bad weather.

In these instances it is required that you email the VP of Select Baseball. Coaches will hold try-outs together with all teams with in their age groups in an attempt to give all participants a fair and equal opportunity to make the team. Newly formed sanctioned teams are required to hold an open tryout.

ALL Texas Rattlers coaches of a specific age group will participate together at the same tryout. The top team's coach has first right to make offers to players and it progresses. The top team is allowed 48 hours from the time the player appears at the tryout to make an offer at which time the next team in line has priority.

If multiple teams are at the same classification, offer priority is defined by the following criteria (in order):

- 1) USSSA Classification (Major to AA)
- 2) Record/winning % last 2 seasons (within classification)\*^
- 3) Sanctioned tournament wins (within classification)
- 4) FMYSA Seniority (determined by head coach's start date with team)
- 5) If all equal, a three (3) game series will be played between teams. Series rules TBD by Rattler Director. Final approval needed by FMYSA Board.

\*Traceable tournament history from sanctioned national baseball organizations (e.g., USSSA, Triple Crown, Nations, Super Series). Reference Figure 3-1 for classification guidelines.

^ Example: For 11U Spring tryouts, the team's Fall 11U & Spring 10U records will be used.

Players on teams from previous seasons are not guaranteed positions and may be asked to try out like any other player.

RECRUITMENT PROTOCOL between FMYSA sanctioned teams is as follows:

- AAA/Major coach may initiate contact with AA or Rec Players/Parents
- AA coaches may initiate contact with Rec Players/Parents
- No horizontal recruiting, i.e., AAA recruiting from other FMYSA AAA teams.

Coaches must be in communication with each other throughout the season if there is the intent to recruit a player to team at a higher age group or classification. A coach must be notified no later than 2 weeks prior to the first scheduled open tryout date to ensure there is adequate time to assess roster needs in the event a player moves up.

During the baseball season, head coaches are allowed to add players as needed to the team. If the player being added to a team is on the roster of another FMYSA select or recreation baseball team, the VP of Select Baseball, VP of Recreational Baseball (if player is currently on a rec team) and both head coaches must be in agreement to add the player prior to the player practicing or playing with the new team.

Final rosters shall be announced prior to in-person league registration. This policy allows players not selected for "Sanctioned" teams to be able to participate in recreation baseball. In the event of conflicting schedules, the league will make exception for those wanting to sign up for recreational league.

Coaches should be promoting the higher level team, encouraging their players to advance to the next level, and not intentionally hold them back.

## **6. GUEST PLAYERS**

The spirit of the Guest Player rule is intended to allow short-handed teams the temporary use of other players, normally for league play. It is not intended to exclude regular team members in favor of more highly skilled players. Guest players should only be used when a team is missing players from its beginning of spring or fall season rosters. When the missing player returns, the guest player must relinquish his spot on the team with exception: a guest player may be used for state and national tournaments, even if the missing player returns, if the guest player played in the qualifying tournament.

*Note: incorrect roster moves could jeopardize the guest player's or your team's eligibility for future tournaments.*

## **7. FEES**

A membership fee will be assessed to all select players before each spring and fall season by FMYSA. The membership fee will include expenses such as field usage fees, insurance, team level equipment, background checks, administration cost and web support. The annual membership fees will be determined by the FMYSA Board of Directors before each season.

Players/parents also are responsible for cost of uniforms, league fees, tournament fees, gate fees, registration fees, and field usage fees above and beyond what FMYSA furnishes for practice and games.

## **8. FUNDRAISING, REFUNDS, RECORDS INSPECTION**

Teams are permitted to seek new private sponsorships for select baseball teams and solicit existing FMYSA sponsors. A list of FMYSA sponsors is available on the FMYSA website.

Fundraising efforts that involve the use of the Texas Rattlers or FMYSA brands (logos or likeness) for merchandise sales or other transactions must be approved by the FMYSA Board of Directors prior to use.

In the event a player quits or is dismissed (for cause) from a team, the player or the player's parent(s) are eligible for a pro-rated refund for any parental contribution, less uniform and other spent monies. Typically this applies only if the termination occurs on or before Memorial Day Weekend of the spring season, or October 15 of the fall season. Coaches are expected to "do the right thing" in these situations.

A team's accounts, books, and records shall be open to inspection by team members/parents and FMYSA Board of Directors if requested. Coaches should volunteer such information by request. A parent may further request by making a written petition to FMYSA. Head coaches are solely responsible for all financial aspects of their sanctioned select baseball team.

These fiduciary duties, whether performed by the head coach or a designee, should include: accurate bookkeeping, paying of bills, fund raising, and all other reporting as required. Coaches are required to share any bookkeeping with parents or FMYSA upon request.

## **9. EQUIPMENT, UNIFORMS & TEAM NAMES**

Select teams fund their own uniforms and equipment.

To maintain the consistency and integrity of the Texas Rattlers brand, ALL uniforms MUST be purchased from the contracted vendor which was negotiated by the FMYSA Board of Directors. Any request for use of alternate uniform items must be approved by the VP of Select Baseball. Failure to adhere will result in disciplinary action determined by the VP of Select Baseball in consultation with the Board.

Any equipment or uniforms supplied by FMYSA shall remain the property of FMYSA. Aside from damage incurred from normal wear, parents will assume financial responsibility for all damage or losses suffered while the property/uniforms were issued to them.

FMYSA may require affiliation patches on a required spot on game jerseys. If such uniform patches are required, FMYSA will provide such patches to all sanctioned select teams. NO sponsor names, Player names or logos are allowed on any part of the uniforms unless approved by the FMYSA Board of Directors.

Teams are required, to register in leagues and tournaments using the name Texas Rattlers -“last name of coach” to further brand the quality of baseball played in the community. Major teams may register as “Texas Rattlers – Elite”

No team other than the designated ‘Texas Rattlers’ shall utilize the ‘Texas Rattlers’ name.

## **10. COOPERSTOWN INVITATION (12U)**

At the 12U age group, FMYSA has the opportunity to send one team to experience the Cooperstown Dreams Park Tournament in Cooperstown, NY each summer. Selection of teams will be determined by the following:

- Coaches interested in an invitation will request consideration from Select VP of Baseball by the established deadline (Spring season of year prior to tournament)
- Review process will be conducted by the FMYSA Board of Directors. Factors for selection include volunteerism, team classification, on-field performance, and parent/team support. Majority vote by FMYSA Board of Directors will determine team selection.

## **11. AGREEMENT**

All Coaches must agree to adhere to these policies and procedures. All parents of participants chosen for a sanctioned team shall submit a signed (electronic) FMYSA Registration Form and full membership fee payment prior to the first game of the year. This normally is done through online or in-person registration.

Any player selected to play for FMYSA sanctioned select baseball for a SPRING / SUMMER team shall commit to one full SPRING / SUMMER season with the team and coach. Any player selected to play for a FALL team shall commit to one full FALL season with the team and coach.

## **12. GRIEVANCES**

Management of all questions, concerns and problems will be addressed in the following order:

- 1st - On an individual level with the Head Coach
- 2nd – In writing and / or conversation with the Texas Rattlers Director
- 3rd – In writing and / or conversation with the VP of Select Baseball
- 4th - Via a filed grievance with FMYSA

Any conversation with a player(s) that involves discipline, performance, playing time, etc. must take place with another (assistant) coach present. The output of that conversation must be documented and sent to the parent(s) via email along with the VP Select Baseball and Rattlers Director within 48 hours of the conversation. This will help ensure the understanding of the dialog between coaches, players and parents is consistent.

The Select Baseball Committee encourages the player or player's parent(s) to address issues with the head coach to with full intent of working towards resolution. If resolution cannot be agreed upon then the parent and coach should bring the matter to the Select Director to gain further insight and direction in attempt to resolve the issue at which point the Director may request involvement from the VP of Select Baseball. As a final measure a written grievance may be filed with FMYSA. The FMYSA Board of Directors will try to resolve the issue with all parties' interests in mind.

It is not the intent of the grievance process to manage or address day-to-day handling of teams, practice routine, lineups, playing positions, etc. These types of issues are a coach's decision and must be handled between the coach, player and/or parent(s).

## **13. AMENDMENTS**

These guidelines may be amended by majority vote of the FMYSA Executive Board of Directors at any general membership meeting provided that meeting notice contains the proposal that the sanctioned Select Baseball Guidelines will be amended. These guidelines are subject to the review and approval of the Flower Mound Youth Sports Association Executive Board.



<b>Change Log</b>	
<i>Prior revisions not tracked</i>	
<b>June 2016</b> Select VP: Kevin Martens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Section 2</u>: Modified tournament playing time requirement</li> <li>• <u>Section 3</u>: Clarification of select coaching application process, added Fig 3-1</li> <li>• <u>Section 4</u>: Modification of residency requirements, added Fig 4-1</li> <li>• <u>Section 5</u>: Changed methodology to tryout offer priority</li> <li>• <u>Section 9</u>: Clarified requirement for uniforms to be purchased through contracted vendor</li> <li>• Archived all references and usage of “Texas Sidewinders” brand</li> </ul>
<b>September 2016</b> Select VP: Kevin Martens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Section 8</u>: Clarification of board approval of logo/likeness usage for fundraising</li> <li>• <u>Section 10</u>: New section (Cooperstown invitation selection process)</li> </ul>
<b>January 2017</b> Select VP: Jeff Castellanos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Section 5</u>: Clarification of tryout offer priority. 2) Record/Winning &amp; last 2 seasons</li> </ul>
<b>November 2017</b> Select VP: Jeff Castellanos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Section 2</u>: Modified tournament playing time requirement</li> <li>• <u>Section 3</u>: Removed mandatory team website requirement. Updated Figure 3-1</li> <li>• <u>Section 12</u>: Added communication requirement to coach/player conversations</li> </ul>
<b>February 2020</b> Select VP: Scott Bryson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Section 5</u>: Clarification of try-out &amp; recruitment: 5) If all equal</li> <li>• <u>Section 10</u>: Number of teams sent</li> </ul>