

# **Spring and Fall Seasons – Frequently Asked Questions:**

## **What uniform items and equipment are parents required to provide?**

**Uniform:** White pants, royal blue socks, royal blue belt and cleats (any color).

**Equipment:** Bat, helmet and glove. Sharing of equipment is frowned upon for sanitary reason.

## **What uniform items does SGBA provide?**

**Tee Ball, 8UB & 8UC** – SGBA will supply all players with hats and shirts for all players.

**8UA – 16U** - SGBA will supply all players with a hat and uniform shirt for anyone who opted for a new shirt and hat during registration. All other players are expected to reuse their shirt and hat from the previous season.

**Legion Teams** – SGBA will supply all players with hats and shirts for all players.

## **Some additional uniform rules for York County Baseball (the league that SGBA is a part of)**

- All Players are required to wear a uniform without contrast to their teammates. A hat is considered part of the uniform. Batters must wear a NOCSAE approved batting helmet in all live ball areas.
- Catchers must wear protective cups and a 1-piece helmet/mask during both games and practices. It is highly recommended for all players to wear a protective cup during games and practices but it is not required.
- No jewelry is permitted to be worn during practices or games.

## **Information regarding SGBA partnership with Dick's Sporting Goods**

SGBA is partnering with Dick's Sporting Goods for a weekend sales event for our players. Anyone signed up with SGBA will receive 20% off anything in the store (certain exceptions apply like firearms or custom orders) at the Hanover location on the weekend of March 8 - 10, 2024. Coupon coming in a future email.

Additionally, SGBA has created a facebook group called "Spring Grove PA Baseball Gear Swap". This facebook group is intended to be a place for Spring Grove and surrounding areas to swap baseball gear. Check it out!

## **Why do we hold evaluations if all kids are placed on teams?**

In each age group, there are 3 groups based on skill level. This is determined at evaluations by our Player Development Director, team and coaches. For example:

1. 8U-A = All kid pitch and umpires at every game announcing balls & strikes. Normally includes the older kids in this age group that are the most advanced in their baseball skills.
2. 8U-B = Every other inning is kid pitch and coach pitch. The coaches are the umpires for this level calling balls and strikes when the kids are pitching. This is the group that has average level baseball skills for their age group.
3. 8U-C = All coach pitch for all innings. During coach pitch, each batter gets 7 pitches. If they do not get a hit after the 7th pitch, then they are out. There are no walks at this level. This is the group with the least amount of experience and skill to help them transition from tee-ball.

SGBA is part of the York County Baseball League and the full set of rules for each age level is found on their website under Forms->Handouts->2022 12U Rules for All Age Groups. The group 12U on this website includes all levels from tee-ball up to 12U. [York County 12U Baseball - \(Brogue, PA\) - powered by LeagueLineup.com](https://www.yorkcountybaseball.com/)

Note: There are no evaluations for the fall season.

## What are the rules regarding playing time?

Coaches are required to put each player in to the game for 3 defensive innings as a minimum. After this rule is satisfied, all other playing time is up to the coach's discretion. All tee ball to 12U players will be included in the batting lineup.

## When will evaluations for 13+ be held?

Evals for 13+ will be held sometime in March or April. A separate email will be sent out announcing the date, time and location.

## What are some details to share about the tee ball or the 8U program?

We try to keep it pretty simple for tee ball. Both games and practices take place on Sundays only. The only teams we play against are other tee ball teams from Spring Grove Baseball Association so all games will take place in Spring Grove. You will not have to travel.

For 8U, we coordinate an intermural style season for 8UB and 8UC. These teams will play against each other on SG fields, no travel outside of Spring Grove. 1 or 2 teams will be chosen for 8UA to play in York County baseball where travel will be required.

## How are the age groups divided and what are the bat requirements in each age group?

### SPRING SEASON

Division	Bat Requirements
Tee Ball	No limitations "swing what you bring"
8U	No limitations "swing what you bring"
10U	No limitations "swing what you bring"
12U	No limitations "swing what you bring"
14U	See Below
16U	See Below
Senior Legion	See Below

[How to Buy a Baseball Bat \(dickssportinggoods.com\)](http://dickssportinggoods.com)

*\*Age as of May 1<sup>st</sup> will determine level of play*

### FALL SEASON

Division	Bat Requirements
Tee Ball	No limitations "swing what you bring"
7U	No limitations "swing what you bring"
9U	No limitations "swing what you bring"
11U	No limitations "swing what you bring"
13U	No limitations "swing what you bring"
15U	See Below
Senior Legion	See Below

*\*Age as of May 1<sup>st</sup> will determine level of play*

## Here are the bat rules for 13-16u

- The upper divisions (16UA,16UB,16UC and 14UA) will follow the PIAA within 3 rule. Maximum barrel diameter is 2 5/8" and length 36"
- The lower divisions (14UB and 14UC) will not follow the PIAA within 3 bat rule but no 13 or 14 year old may use any bat lower than a drop 5 playing in 14UA.
- Any 13-year-old playing in a higher division than 14UA may use a drop 5.
- Any 14-year-old playing in a higher division must use a drop 3. Maximum barrel diameter is 2 5/8" and length 36".

*Drop 5 means if the bat is 32", the drop between length and weight is 5, or 27 oz.*

## **What is the discipline policy or rules for the organization that I should know about?**

The Discipline Policy, By-Laws and Code of Conduct for all Coaches, Parents and players are available on the website. Below is a highlight from the Discipline policy and the By-Laws pertaining to unsportsmanlike conduct:

If any member conducts themselves in such a way that does not support the SGBA principal objectives in Article II and/or violates the rules and regulations set forth by the leagues listed in Article I, then the member will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined below, up to and including termination of membership.

1. The Board of Directors will follow a 3-step plan for most disciplinary situations – Written warning, suspension and termination of membership.
  - a. The Board can decide to skip steps if for a safety, excessive absenteeism or harassment/bullying violation

Below is a highlight from the York County Baseball League rules pertaining to unsportsmanlike conduct:

If player, coach or parent is ejected from a game, they cannot attend the next game. If ejected a second time, they are not welcome in the league.

All players, parents, spectators, coaches, etc. are required to act in a professional and positive manner. When situations arise where other teams and/or coaches are not acting in a professional and positive manner, please remain calm and supportive to our players to show them the correct behavior in tough situations. Also remember that decisions made by the umpire are final and should not be argued. If there is an issue, let the coach handle it. These situations should never be handled by a parent or spectator.

## **What should I do if I witness/experience unsportsmanlike conduct by anyone in our organization?**

If you witness/experience unsportsmanlike conduct by anyone in our organization, please follow these steps in this order:

1. We have a 24 hour cool down rule. This means that if you have a complaint/issue with games, practices, etc. please wait 24 hours prior to approaching the coach regarding your complaint. This allows for cool heads and attitudes to prevail.
2. Try to resolve the issue with the coach first. Coaches are required to report all issues to the SGBA board who will step in if the issue is not resolved.
3. If the issue is not resolved after reporting it to the coach, report the issue to a Board Member or through the Communications email ([communications@springgrovebaseball.com](mailto:communications@springgrovebaseball.com)). The Board will plan to meet with all parties involved to try to find a resolution.
4. Please remember that if you do not report it to us, we will not know that an issue exists and will not be able to address it.

## **When will we know when practices and games will be held? Where will we be practicing and playing games? Who will our coach be?**

After evaluations, teams are formed and coaches are assigned. Coaches will reach out to everyone on their team via email and/or text with all details around the practice and game schedules. Please note that game schedules are usually not available until 2 weeks or less from the first game of the season. Practices will be scheduled as fields are available. There are times in the Spring that fields are unusable due to weather.

- Spring Season – practices and games are held throughout the week.
- Fall Season – practices are held throughout the week with games on weekends.

## How can I help make this season successful?

Volunteer!!! Our entire organization is based on the volunteer efforts of the board, coaches and parents. There are so many opportunities to help out. Throughout the season, we will be communicating to our baseball family opportunities to help such as working concessions, fundraising, helping at special events, field cleanup and maintenance, donations toward concessions and more! The only way we can stay successful is if we have cooperation from all of you to help out.

## What is required of me if I want to help coach or keep score?

Anyone who is volunteering to coach or be involved on the field, in the dugout or have any type of interaction with the kids will be required to submit a PA state background clearance and a PA child abuse history clearance. The links to both types of clearances can be found on our website under [OUR CLUB](#) and then choose [VOLUNTEER CLEARANCES](#).

Our website: [www.springgrovebaseball.com](http://www.springgrovebaseball.com)

Once you obtain both clearances, please email them to [clearances@springgrovebaseball.com](mailto:clearances@springgrovebaseball.com).

## Other dates to note!

- Spirit Wear store is open now through March 10<sup>th</sup> <https://sgea2024.itemorder.com/>
- First Aid and CPR classes available for all Coaches on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- Coach's Clinic schedules for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Tech Center from 2-4pm
- Opening Day is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> at Jefferson field. More details to come!
- The Spring Season opens on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Golf Outing July 27<sup>th</sup> at 8am at Hickory Heights. More details to come!
- New field this year... On College Avenue in Spring Grove across from River Rock!
- Workouts with Trainer Mike at Fleming Athletics are still available every Monday night through March 25 for ages 9 and up.
- Winter Workouts will continue on Saturdays at the Tech Center through March 16.
  - Except for 2/17 and 2/24 – evaluations are taking place
- Registration for teeball and 14U+ is extended through March 15 because their season starts later in the Spring.
- Come join us for Board meetings! January-October meetings are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month. Meetings in November and December are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month due to the holidays. Please check the calendar on our website for times and locations of each board meeting.