

Smyrna Baseball League – Parent Handbook

Statement of Purpose

The purpose, for which the league is organized, is to develop and operate a baseball program. It shall be governed by, and shall comply with the principles, rules and regulations decreed by the Constitution and the By-Laws. The objectives of the league are to teach the fundamentals of baseball through a supervised, instructional baseball program and to demonstrate to the youth of the community ideals of fair play, honesty, loyalty, courage and reverence, so they may be finer, stronger, and happier youths who will grow to be good, clean healthy adults.

Volunteer Run Organization

The Smyrna Baseball League is a volunteer-run organization, and your involvement is crucial to its success. The board, coaches, umpires, staff, and parents contribute to the league’s operation. We encourage you to participate—there are always volunteer opportunities beyond coaching or serving on the board.

Our league is financially self-sustaining through our volunteer-run concession stand, fees, sponsorships, fundraising, and tournaments. Your support has allowed us to grow and provide an exciting program for our youth and community.

2024 – 2025 SBL Executive Board

President	Mario Davidson
Vice President – Todd Lane	Adam Crocker
Vice President – Cedar Stone	John Floyd
Treasurer	Gregory Creasey
Secretary	Rachel Harris
Auditor	Cole Wise

2024 – 2025 SBL Elected Board

3u & 4u Commissioner	Colin Calhoun
5u & 6u Commissioner	Jonah Hendricks
7u & 8u Commissioner	Jason Whelan
9u & 10u Commissioner	Kyle Hagan
11/12 Division Commissioner	Jerry Greer
13/14 Commissioner	Isaac Siddiqui
15/18 Commissioner	Ken Verville
Uniform Director	Rachel Harris
Community Engagement Coordinator/Scheduler	Jordan Merryman
Sponsorship Coordinator	Eric Jordan
Equipment Manager	Mark Hardy
Tournament Director	Vikki Wekerle
Webmasters	Jeremy McClanahan and Cody Cooper
Team Parent Coordinator	Kristy Fouraker
Photography Coordinator	Lisa Cordoza
Player's Agent	Cody Cooper
Member-at-Large	LeMeco Miller
Member-at-Large	Michael Pring
Member-at-Large	Celeste Davis
Member-at-Large	Tyler Scott

For e-mail addresses and most current board member roster, visit www.smyrnabaseballleague.org.

Elected Officials

The executive board will be nominated and elected during the month of June.

Regular meetings of the board are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month. Board members are volunteers and must be committed to working an entire year, providing leadership, and making Smyrna Baseball business a priority. Each member of the board has specific duties as well as overlapping responsibilities with other board members and appointees. Select positions are as follows:

The **President** and **Vice-Presidents** are entrusted with running the league's operations and overseeing the delegation of day-to-day tasks. The President and Vice-Presidents represent our league's interest with the Town of Smyrna and other community groups.

The **Secretary** maintains all records.

The **Treasurer** is accountable for league funds, operating expense reports, budget maintenance, league insurance, and league registration.

The **Auditor** is responsible for monitoring league funds and financial activities.

A **Commissioner** for each age division coordinates their respective division's coaches, organizes meetings of the coaches, distributes any information and provides mediation when needed.

The **Player Agent** is responsible for conducting league registration and distributing necessary information to team Moms/Dads prior to and during the season. They will aid in getting game information to the public.

The **Uniform Manager** is responsible ordering and distributing uniforms.

A more detailed description of the positions may be found on our website under our [Constitution and By-Laws](#).

Appointed Officials

The Executive Board appoints volunteers needed to help carry out the operation of the league. The Board Member on duty at each park oversees the daily operations of the concession stand. Concession Managers train volunteer workers, maintain stock, and insure cleanliness. The Head Umpire schedules and trains umpires.

Coaches Certification

All volunteers interested in head or assistant coaching must:

- fill out a coach's application and be approved by the executive board.
- be certified through the NAYS Program and a concussion training program.
- pass a national background check.
- provide proof of certification and a completed background check upon request. Coaches who are uncertified or disqualified will not be permitted on the field.

Chain of Command

Smyrna Baseball League is a structured organization with open communication. While all league board members try to be available, there are necessary steps to follow if a complaint or problem should occur. Any problem can be resolved quickly and fairly if the correct steps are followed.

If a situation occurs on the practice or playing field and involves a complaint with a league coach, please discuss it with that coach away from others. If the problem is not solved, email the commissioner of the division detailing the problem, and the commissioner will mediate the issue. If the commissioner is unable to promptly resolve the issue, they will escalate it to the Vice President, President, and/or Executive Board. The matter will be addressed and resolved through a majority vote, and all board decisions will be considered final.

Rules of Conduct

All SBL community are expected to follow the [Codes of Conduct](#).

Parents/guardians, players, and spectators are prohibited from displaying unsportsmanlike conduct or making derogatory comments toward any child, coach, parent/guardian, umpire, board member, or player.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their actions, any children's or guest's actions that may come to watch a child play before, during, or after every game. The league, without warning, may revoke membership if individuals display unsportsmanlike conduct found to be harmful to SBL, Smyrna Parks & Recreation Department, or the Town of Smyrna.

There will be a ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY regarding verbal arguing, physical threatening, harassing, or fighting (hitting or pushing). Ejected fans are required to leave the park immediately. Failure to do so may result in season-ending player suspension. If deemed necessary, the Smyrna Police may be called to have the person removed from the park. Multiple ejections require

an appearance before the board, or a presidential appointed committee. Anyone under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs may have their membership revoked permanently.

Profanity is disallowed by everyone and may result in the revocation of SBL membership and reporting to the Smyrna Parks & Recreation. In addition, your child's team could be forced to forfeit a game (or games) for a violation of the above rules.

Dissemination of League Information

Pertinent information is distributed through our [website](#), [Facebook](#), email, commissioner, and/or coaches. Fundraising activities, league standings, notice of meetings, and many other types of information will be posted. The league operates under a [Constitution and By-Laws](#).

Board Approval of Activities

Smyrna Baseball League has the right to approve or deny any activity planned by its participating teams including fundraising activities. All Town of Smyrna Athletic leagues are responsible for managing our activities. Many types of fundraising require permits from the city, and failure to follow necessary guidelines can result in suspension of these activities by the city.

League Finances

Smyrna Baseball funds the yearly operating expenses in several different ways, which require league officers, coaches and parent/guardians taking an active role. Our primary funding comes from concession stand revenue and sponsors. Parents/guardian are encouraged to volunteer and assist.

Registration Fees

Smyrna Baseball League attempts to keep the registration fee affordable for all. Fees cover expenses like uniforms, insurance, team drinks, equipment, umpires, field maintenance, and awards. Hats will be embroidered with a name or number as part of a hat fee. Refunds are subject to the [policy](#).

Team parties, purchases, and events are not covered by the league without explicit consent. Player names on uniform shirts will be printed as part of the registration fee. Registration cost and fees may be found on our [website](#).

League Insurance

The league covers insurance for all players, coaches, board members, and volunteers. Our league provides medical and liability insurance and a required rider for the use of recreation facilities.

Activities include participation in scheduled league and tournament games and practice sessions on Smyrna Baseball League approved fields. Benefits will be paid for eligible expenses left unpaid by other insurance or health plans minus a deductible. Claims must be submitted promptly for consideration. Contact the board member on duty, secretary, or commissioner for the proper forms and instructions when an injury occurs.

Housekeeping

SBL works hard to keep our parks clean. It is the responsibility of everyone to help keep the dugouts and stands clean. Please respect all teams by cleaning up after yours.

Uniforms

Players' uniforms consist of a jersey, baseball pants, belt and a hat which the league furnishes. Players should wear their official uniform with the number visible at each league game, with the following exceptions: 1) Due to inclement weather, the jersey may be worn under outerwear. 2) To contain an accident, due to the blood rule, a jersey may be taped or a different shirt may be worn. 3) Due to prior incident involving damage to uniform or sizing issues at the beginning of a season, the SBL can allow a temporary alternative while the issue is being corrected.

Uniform jerseys are to be tucked into pants and hats are to have the bill facing forward during game play. There may be no manipulation to the uniform (e.g., sleeve alterations). The player's jersey and/or hat may only have the player's legal name. Your player is not required to have anything printed on the jersey or hat. This is an optional team decision.

Equipment

Coaches may borrow equipment from the league by leaving a deposit and completing a form. Deposits will be returned after the equipment is returned.

Protective catcher's gear and batting helmets are required in all league games, tournament games, and practices. Athletic cups and pitcher helmets are

strongly recommended. Coaches are responsible for the return of all issued equipment to the equipment manager at the end of the season.

League Structure

Smyrna Baseball League is divided into the following age divisions:

3/4, 5u, 6u, 7u, 8u, 9u, 10u, 11/12, 13/14, and 15/18.

Smyrna Parks & Recreation

The Town of Smyrna owns Smyrna Parks and Recreation. It is administered and maintained by the Smyrna Parks and Recreation Department. SBL has a User's Agreement with the Department to use the playing fields and to operate the concession stands. The Smyrna Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for maintaining the facilities; paying the utilities; preparing the playing fields; setting guidelines by which the league must operate; assisting the leagues in staging tournaments; determining if the fields are playable following inclement weather; doing safety inspections, etc.

Practice Times/Locations

All practice sessions will be held on SBL approved fields. Practice times should be no later than 8:30pm preceding a school day. It is commonplace to have two practice sessions per week. Additional practices should be considered optional.

Conclusion

We thank you for this opportunity to interact with you and your children through baseball. We continually evaluate the league to make players' experience better and more rewarding.

Further details may be found in our [Constitution and By-Laws](#) and www.smyrnabaseballleague.org. If you have any questions, please [contact the appropriate board member](#) or through email at smyrnayouthbaseball@gmail.com.