

# **Schnecksville Playground Association COMPETITIVE GUIDELINES**

## **SCOPE:**

These Guidelines pertain to all players, parents, coaches, Members of the Board, appointees and other individuals/groups, involved directly with Schnecksville Playground Association's activities.

All activities, by all teams affiliated with the Association, are covered by these Guidelines.

## **Association Objectives:**

1. Provide opportunities for youths to participate in team sports in a safe, well-supervised environment.
  - a) No coach or coaches will be named to a team whether that team is in a travel program or non-competitive program until a PATCH background check form has been submitted to the respective sports coordinator. Failure to comply will result in said coach being removed from that sport until they submit a "cleared status" PATCH background check form. No coach or coaches will be permitted to participate in the event the background check does not come back with a "cleared status". It is good for one calendar year and can be used for multiple sports as long as those sports fall within the same calendar year.
  - b) At least one coach must remain at the playing site until the last player has left, or is accompanied by a parent or authorized person.
  - c) Players and coaches shall conduct themselves at games and practices in such a way that players are not exposed to any risks greater than those normally expected in the course of a game conducted consistent with both the spirit and the letter of the sport's rules of play.
  - d) Legal plays that are considered dangerous for youth players shall be avoided, or shall be taught with extreme caution based upon the skill levels of individual players and coaches. Other applicable league rules will be followed.
2. Promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork and "healthy" competition. Players shall not be instructed on "how to break game rules without getting caught." Tactics such as verbal abuse of opponents shall not be allowed or to intentionally cause another player injury, even in retaliation. Players do however have the right to protect themselves at all times.
3. Operate with the following priorities for competitiveness:
  - a) Provide the opportunity for everyone on a team to play. No player shall play less than 1/3 of any individual game or scrimmage attended, unless for injury or disciplinary reasons. For all levels of baseball and softball, each player must bat at least once per game. League and tournament rules and guidelines shall take precedence.
  - b) Always promote having fun and learning ahead of winning.
  - c) Strive to develop the confidence and self-esteem of each individual participant. Positive reinforcement is encouraged, negative reinforcement is discouraged.
  - d) Maintain a strong non-competitive program for all beginning and less-skilled players.
  - e) Provide opportunities for higher level competition for players whose skills can benefit from such competition. This can included tournament participation, Travel Team play or "playing up" an age group.

- f) Try to avoid situations where players are competing against opponents of overwhelming superiority such that the playing experience becomes negative. This imbalance can frequently occur in tournament situations. When this is expected, players and parents shall be made aware of this risk.
- g) No player deemed injured (unable to participate) at any point of season whether it be try-outs, practice or games no matter it be travel or non-competitive program can participate in full again until proper medical clearance from a physician has been provided to the Sports Coordinator.

### **Selection of Coaches:**

The sport's Coordinator has the authority to recruit/select coaches. The primary criteria for recruiting & selection shall be:

1. Ability to work with children in a positive manner.
2. Ability to devote sufficient time for practices and games.
3. Knowledge of the game.
4. Coaching experience and /or training (especially youth team sports).
5. Support/involvement with overall Association activities.

Head Coaches have the authority to recruit/select Assistant Coaches. The sport's Coordinator will, upon request, help the Head Coach recruit Assistant Coaches.

### **Recruiting Players:**

No one shall initiate, or ask someone else to initiate, recruiting activities directly toward players who were registered for another association during the last season of the same sport. If players are needed to provide enough players for a team, the leadership of the other association shall be contacted to propose movement of individuals to a Schnecksville team.

Players may be recruited if their association is not fielding a team in their age bracket, and their association leadership has confirmed directly to the coordinator or the President that this is true.

All League guidelines/restrictions will be adhered to per their intent as well as "the letter of law".

No individuals approaching the Association with a request to participate will be turned away for geographic reasons, unless specifically required by League regulations.

### **Travel Program Requirement:**

Any member that is placed on a competitive SPA travel team and is playing a competitive sport elsewhere such as Tournament Baseball, Lacrosse, Softball, Soccer or AAU Basketball and is not adhering to the commitment of the SPA competitive team the Sports Coordinator along with the coach can take action against said member including removal from the travel program.

A member can double roster on a non-competitive league roster for the sport they play competitive ( only if it is allowed by the travel and non-competitive programs) or any other sport SPA offers that runs concurrent with the same competitive season and is an SPA sponsored team. With the requirement being the travel program is primary. The Sports Coordinators will notify each other on members who are playing another sport recreationally and that Sports Coordinator will notify his coaches that this double rostered member first

commitment is the travel program (i.e. practice, games). Failure to comply by said member can result in disciplinary actions including immediate removal from a travel program. Any member that is placed within a travel program that plays for another organization recreationally can be subject to disciplinary actions including immediate removal from a travel program.

### **Additional Player:**

No member will be placed on a competitive team that did not adhere to the try-out requirement. SPA will not reserve alternates to any travel team. All sports will adhere to their leagues policy on roster additions. If league does not define a clear policy regarding roster additions, the Sports Coordinator will have the discretion to take further action if necessary. Any player put on a roster that did not try-out for that team, will be removed immediately. The Sports Coordinator will and must report this too the board and further action if necessary will be taken against all parties involved.

### **Drafting Teams:**

No drafting shall take place without a neutral party being present. The neutral party shall be the sport Coordinator, the President, or someone selected by one of them. Drafts conducted without this neutral party shall be declared void and shall be repeated.

The Coordinator shall suggest a method of conducting the draft. The coaches participating in the draft can suggest an alternate method. The neutral party present for the draft can allow the alternate method only if:

1. It is consistent with the Association Objectives stated in Article II of the By-Laws.
2. Every coach participating in the draft willingly agrees to the alternate method. If even one coach is reluctant, the method proposed by the Coordinator shall be used.

### **Try-outs:**

Try-outs are suggested to enable coaches drafting intramural teams to evaluate players. SPA traveling sports teams will hold required yearly try-outs for the defined different age levels of our sports. It is required that all sports must hold a minimum of 3 try-outs, the Sports Coordinator reserves the right to increase the amount of try-out dates but cannot force a participating member to be present for more than two try-outs. The Sports Coordinator will determine the amount of minimum try-outs participating member must attend to qualify for said team. It is recommended to any SPA member trying out for a travel program to attend as many try-outs as possible. The try-outs will span over a defined amount of time set by the Sports Coordinator deemed necessary to evaluate all participating members in a fair and timely manner.

All individuals shall have an equal opportunity to try-out for a traveling team in their age bracket each year. Every spot on a traveling team roster is open every year.

No try-outs shall take place without a neutral party(s) being present and actively participating in the selection process. The neutral party(s) shall be the sport coordinator, the President, or someone approved by one of them. Try-outs conducted without this neutral party(s) shall be declared void and shall be repeated.

The coach of the travel team shall work directly with the Coordinator to define a procedure and schedule for conducting the try-outs.

The neutral party present for the try-out is responsible for assuring that each individual has a fair chance of making the team. The neutral party need not agree with every player selection decision, but needs to judge whether or not a sincere effort has been made to select the most qualified players. The Coordinator and the President will resolve any concerns. If deemed necessary, try-outs will be repeated or player selections will be revised. No decisions on player selections will be disclosed until the Coordinator and the President has authorized disclosure.

### **Injury & Vacation:**

Any member injured (unable to participate) during the defined time of try-outs set by the Sports Coordinator and cannot participate till after roster submittal to the league has taken place, will have to present a letter in writing along with proper medical clearance from a physician to the Sports Coordinator, a board vote will be held and 2/3 vote approval is required for said member to be placed in a travel program. If an injured member can be present for one try-out before try-out completion providing proper medical clearance has been presented said member will then be qualified to be named to a travel program. If member cannot be medically cleared until after 50 percent of the season would elapse they cannot participate in a travel program for said season. They can be placed on a non-competitive roster but cannot participate till proper medical clearance is provided.

A member deemed on vacation during a stated try-out time frame who does not meet the minimum requirement to qualify for said team will have to present a letter in writing to the Sports Coordinator, a board vote will be held and 2/3 vote approval is required for said member to be placed on the travel team. Any member on vacation for a portion of try-outs but has met the minimum requirement set forth by the Sports Coordinator will be deemed qualified.

### **Inclement Weather:**

If a try-out date is canceled due to inclement weather, the Sports Coordinator must reschedule the canceled tryout within 7 days and notify SPA members within 48 hours of the new date via the webmaster or personal e-mail. If re-scheduled date is also canceled due to weather and the sport has held at least ONE try-out at each level and the Sports Coordinator is in a time constraint with league deadlines, the Sports Coordinator can waive the minimum try-out requirement he or she set forth and move forward with the naming of team due to this time constraint. If no try-out has taken place due to inclement weather the Sports Coordinator reserves the right to move forward how he or she sees fit only if they are in conflict with league deadlines. If there is no conflict and no try-out has taken place due to inclement weather the Sports Coordinator will establish a new schedule for try-outs for said team.

### **State and Federal Holidays:**

No sport can hold a try-out for a competitive team during the time of a state or federal holiday including holiday weekends.

## **Selection of League Affiliations:**

The Coordinators for the various sports will assign teams to the leagues in which the Association is currently participating. The priorities shall be:

1. Provide a place for everyone to play.
2. Provide a less competitive environment for appropriate skill levels.
3. Provide a higher level of competition for players who are able to compete at a higher level.

Any deviations from current league affiliations must be reviewed and approved in advance by the Board of Directors.

## **Participation in League Activities:**

Executive Board members and Coaches shall actively cooperate in the full participation by all teams and players in all League sponsored activities such as All-Star games and Select Teams regardless of personal opinions on such activities.

## **Coaches' Responsibility/Authority:**

See Article VIII of the By-Laws.

## **Participation in Association Activities:**

Executive Board members and Coaches shall actively cooperate in the full participation by all teams and players in all Association sponsored activities such as fundraisers, team pictures, All-Star games and Select Teams regardless of personal opinions on such activities.

## **Selection of Players for All-Star Games:**

Players will be selected as defined by the League involved if such designation has been made.

If no designation has been made, the Head Coach will decide on the way to make selections. This may be:

1. Selection by the Head Coach.
2. Selection by all Coaches for the team.
3. Vote by players on the team, etc.

Selection will be reviewed and approved by the Sport's Coordinator and/or the President before being announced.

## **Tournaments/Tours:**

No Coach shall create undue pressure upon any parents to decide whether or not they want their child on a team.

All costs for the participation on the team will be the responsibility of that family. The cost will vary from the "normal" season cost. It may include the cost of tournament registration, uniforms, travel, etc. There will be no paid coaches. Any costs associated with the

tournament team, for example; hotels, food, travel will be the responsibility of the member in addition to the registration fee.

The number of tournaments entered shall be decided by the SPA Coordinator/SPA Coach/SPA Board. There may be an opportunity to try-out for this team and only attend some of the tournaments. If this is approved by the SPA Coordinator or President, that child may play with the understanding that the cost is still the same and the family is responsible for the full amount.

There will be no refunds to a member if they cannot attend a tournament due to sickness or any other untold event. If needed, a member family can come before the Board and request consideration for a refund. All requests will be openly and fairly discussed and considered.

### **Coaches' Priorities:**

1. Provide Opportunities for youths to participate in team sports in a safe, well-supervised environment.
2. Promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, fair play, teamwork and "healthy" competition.
3. Operate with priorities in the following order:
  - a) Provide the opportunity for everyone to play.
  - b) Always promote having fun and learning ahead of winning.
  - c) Strive to develop the confidence and self-esteem of each individual participant.
  - d) Provide situations where players are competing within an appropriate skill level.
4. All Coaches shall adhere to both the letter and the intent of these Rules/Guidelines and all By-Laws in effect.

### **Fund Raising:**

All activities must be approved in advance per the By-Laws.

Fund Raising must be in compliance with Article VIII, Section B of the By-Laws.

Activities for which fund raising is generally acceptable:

1. Tournament participation.
2. Attending a sporting event.
3. Fees for sport clinics, or camps attended as a team based function.

Types of fund raising activities generally acceptable:

1. Contributions by parents covering their proportionate costs.
2. Direct sale of items to the public if items are significantly different from items sold by the Association and sale doesn't occur at either the time or place of Association fundraisers.

Examples:

- Pepsi wagon never allowed
- Selling anything in front of the WEIS is never allowed
- Candy sale never allowed
- No other fundraisers allowed during Association fund raising periods.

3. Solicitation of funds from any business or outside organization must obtain prior approval by both the President and the Treasurer. A list of all potential contributors must be submitted for pre-approval to the President or Treasurer.

Accountability of Funds:

Outside financial activity reports must be submitted to the Board of Directors at the first regular meeting following the close of the calendar quarter (Jan, April, July & Oct.). The accounting will include all receipts and disbursements made during the previous quarter on forms acceptable to the Board.

Updated 01/15/15 - To obtain a copy of this document; visit our web site at [www.schnecksvillesports.com](http://www.schnecksvillesports.com)