

# TYBA Programs Summary

## Winter Programs:

### **Winter Clinic**

TYBA runs a low-cost winter clinic every January through February to sharpen the skills of players ages 5 – 12, broken up into two groups. Both groups meet for 1 hour per week in a circuit-training format, where stations are manned by our volunteer coaches, which focus on building the fundamental skills around:

- Proper throwing technique
- Proper fielding technique
- Proper batting stance
- Proper swing technique
- Agility

This program is perfect for anyone looking to shake the dust off prior to the spring season!

## Spring Programs:

### **T-Ball (ages 4-5)**

Get your young player started with the TYBA T-Ball program. Teams meet once per week, on a Saturday, in a practice / game scenario that is focused on building the foundational skills necessary to move up to the Farm level, and player safety. Volunteer coaches will break down the steps for proper throwing, proper batting mechanics and will lay the foundation for making good fielding decisions while your player learns the rules of the game and has a lot of fun.

Every player will be on the field and every player will bat every inning, as outs are not counted at this level. Game scenarios are meant to be skill-building and fun for everyone, and will help to get your player thinking about baseball situations when fielding and batting.

### **Farm (ages 6-7)**

Building on the foundation laid in T-Ball, the Farm program steps players up into more realistic baseball situations. Teams meet 1 to 2 times per week. All players will learn to hit coach-pitched baseballs. For those that struggle with live pitch, a tee will be close by so that every player gets a chance to hit and run the bases. The players do not pitch at the Farm level. There are no strike-outs. The player will swing until they hit, either a coach-live-pitched ball or off the tee.

All players will play in the field so that they get a chance to experience every position. Although score is kept and outs will count, the focus of the Farm game situation is on building proper techniques and foundational skills that will help at the Minor level. There are no playoffs at the Farm level.

### **Minors (ages 8-9)**

At the Minors level, teams meet for practice once per week and will play 1 or 2 games per week. All games will feature player-pitchers who will be backed-up by coach pitchers. Games will be scored and 3 outs counted, and the game will be called by a trained teen umpire behind the plate. Balls and strikes are called. At this level, players can strike out for the first time. When a player-pitcher struggles (gets to 4 balls), a coach pitcher will stand in and pitch. There are no walks in Minors. They will either hit the ball or strike out. These rules are designed to help move the games along, and to encourage players to swing the bat and hit live pitches. Although all players are encouraged to have fun, these games do get competitive! Scores and standings are kept and there will be a playoff and championship. All teams make the playoffs.

While still focused on foundational skill-building, coaches will introduce more real-life game situations to players to help them make quick fielding and base-running decisions. They will be introduced to stealing bases (although limited) and base coaches. Players may be taught to look for signs from their coaches to cue a steal or a bunt.

### **Majors B (ages 10-11)**

Majors B continues to play on the 40-60 'small' diamond. The Majors B league does not require try-outs and will be focused on the continued building of foundational baseball skills. Major B will likely see more practice-time than in Minors, and up to 2 to 3 games per week. Players pitch and balls and strikes are called by a professional, adult umpire behind the plate. Batters can walk and strike out – there is no coach pitch. At this level, coaches need to manage pitchers by the pitch-count rules. All players will be in the batting lineup, but not all players will play in the field every inning.

At the Major B level, players will be challenged to learn more about the interplay between pitcher and catcher and how to manage a live ball. Stealing is unlimited and they learn quickly that throwing a live ball around the field results in runs! All teams make the playoffs and there is a championship game.

### **Majors A (ages 11-12)**

Majors A steps up to a 50-70 'large' diamond. This is a travel division which will play as part of the Macintosh League. All 12yrs olds who sign up are invited to play in the Majors A division without the need to try out. All of the rules of Majors B apply, but games are generally more competitive.

Due to the increased size of the field, this level of play is not for every 11 and 12yr old, and it will not be available to 10yr olds. 11yr olds who want to play in the Majors A division will be required to try out. 12yr olds who wish not to participate in the Majors A division may opt to play in the Majors B division instead, with board approval.

### **Babe Ruth (ages 13-15)**

Babe Ruth is a travel division where players will compete on the 60-90 diamond. This is the last level of play that TYBA offers prior to players moving on to play at the high school level.

## Summer Programs:

### **Summer League Teams**

The Summer League division is a travel program offered at every age level between 7yrs and 12yrs. Teams can only be formed if we have the volunteer coaches and player interest necessary. These teams will play on a 40-60 'small' diamond field. With enough interest, we will have the following Teams:

- Summer League 7yr olds
- Summer League 8yr olds
- Summer League 9yr olds
- Summer League 10yr olds
- Summer League 11yr olds
- Summer League 12yr olds

League teams are meant to be less-competitive than the summer tournament teams while providing everyone the option to continue playing baseball beyond the spring season. There are no tryouts needed for these teams. Teams will get together for regular practices and they will be entered into tournaments designed around teams with similar skillsets. League teams do not play in the regional or state tournaments.

Rules may vary by age group and by tournament, but generally will follow the same guidelines of the TYBA Spring programs that match the age groups.

### **Summer Tournament Teams**

The Summer Tournament division is a travel program offered at every age level between 8yrs and 12yrs. Teams can only be formed if we have the volunteer coaches and player interest necessary. These teams will play on a 40-60 'small' diamond field but older age-groups (10+) may have the option to play in 50-70 'large' diamond field tournaments. With enough interest, we will have the following teams:

- Summer Tournament 8yr olds
- Summer Tournament 9yr olds
- Summer Tournament 10yr olds
- Summer Tournament 11yr olds
- Summer Tournament 12yr olds

Tournament teams are meant to be competitive. There will be a tryout for each age group to determine rosters. Players who are chosen to play on a tournament team are expected to be available for practices and games and should try to minimize vacations / time away during the season. Tournament teams will be entered into the Regional Cal Ripken tournament with a chance to earn a spot in the Cal Ripken State tournament. Players who do not make a tournament team always have the option to play on a league team.

Rules may vary by age group and by tournament, but generally will follow the same guidelines of the TYBA Spring programs that match the age groups.

## Fall Programs:

### **Fall T-Ball (ages 4-5)**

Our Fall T-Ball program is new, and is only offered if we have enough interest. This program mirrors our Spring T-Ball program and gives young players the opportunity to get more practice in while developing their love for the game.