



## Frequently Asked Questions 2011

### **1.1 What is the mission of MYBA?**

The mission of the Mansfield Youth Baseball Association is to provide a positive, child-centered learning environment for children who are interested in playing baseball. MYBA is an educational organization committed not only to the development of physical baseball skills, but also to instill the ideals of good sportsmanship, personal integrity, and team cooperation in the children who participate in our program. MYBA is a non-profit organization managed by volunteers. All Board Members, Coaches, players and families' are responsible for achieving MYBA's mission.

### **1.2 Who manages MYBA?**

MYBA elects semi-annually, a Board of Directors that enforce the governing by-laws and set policies and procedures. The Board of Directors positions are non-paid positions. The Director of Umpires and Director of Concessions receive compensation as a contractor, which is derived primarily from player fees, fundraisers and Concession sales receipts.

### **1.3 What is the function of Commissioners?**

Commissioners are the first contact for parents and Coaches regarding any issue or suggestions during season play. Commissioners assist with field maintenance and initial coach conduct issues. Commissioners also play an important part in opening and closing the park, distributing uniforms and trophies.

### **1.4 How do I contact MYBA?**

Visit the Board section on our website at [www.myba.com](http://www.myba.com) for Board Member contacts. Our fax line is (817) 533-4270. You may also write a letter to P.O. Box 876 Mansfield, Texas 76063.

### **1.5 How do I get involved and volunteer?**

There are many volunteer openings each season to help make MYBA a success. Should you be interested in a Board or Commissioner position, contact the person currently serving in that capacity to understand what is involved. Volunteer to help that person in order to be prepared. Read and understand the MYBA Bylaws, Board Member terms and election process. You may also contact The President of MYBA and express your interest in serving.

## Registration

### **2.1. What are the costs?**

The cost varies by league due to the number of games, number of umpires per game and time limits. Registration Fees include a jersey and hat (you will be responsible for all other uniform needs such as pants, socks and belt). Please do not rush out to buy any uniform items until you have spoken to your Coach. Registration Fees are listed at [my.myba.com](http://my.myba.com).

## **2.2. Why must I furnish a birth certificate for my player?**

This process is required so you can rest assured that players are playing in the approved age bracket. Beginning Fall 2010, MYBA implemented a birth certificate data base. Once you have provided a birth certificate after that date, you should no longer need to provide a birth certificate for following seasons unless there are special circumstances.

## **2.3. Why does MYBA have a player protection system versus an open draft system for all leagues?**

An overwhelming majority of coaches and parents prefer a protection system that allows their children to play with their friends and grow as a team. Coaches are allowed to protect ten (10) players in 8U and under "A" Divisions, and nine (9) players in 9U and over "A" Divisions. "AA" and "Open" Division may protect the entire roster. New and veteran players are always placed on teams in the "A" Division should they not already be on a team. MYBA strives to fill every "A" Team rosters. If there are not enough players in the draft to fill every roster in "A" Division, teams may be combined at the discretion of MYBA.

## **2.4. How do I become a coach?**

Simply visit [my.myba.com](http://my.myba.com) to register. All coach's are subject to background checks.

## **2.5. What is the maximum number of players allowed per team?**

For all "A" Level Teams, MYBA *strives* to limit the number of payers on a team to twelve (12) for 9U and up (13 for 8U and below). This allows players to have ample playing time while providing a full roster when other players are not able to attend certain games. Although this is the general rule, there are exceptions as registration levels warrant. "AA" and "Open" Level Teams may protect as many players as they are able to keep satisfied with playing time, and also meet the Playing Time requirements as set by MYBA.

## **2.6 Can I request my player to be placed on a certain team or with a friend?**

The only way to guarantee the team your player is placed on, is to have that player protected by a Coach on his/her Roster. Any unprotected player is placed into the draft, and the player is assigned to a team randomly by the computer during our automated draft. Having your player protected by a coach is something you must arrange as the parent.

## **2.7 Can my player play down an Age Level to play with a friend?**

Under no circumstances my ANY player, play down in Age Level for any reason.

## **2.8 Does MYBA offer financial assistance?**

MYBA is committed to providing a great baseball experience to any of the area's youth that desire to play. Although we are a non-profit organization, we are able to Scholarship a small number of players that are in hardship cases. If you feel that your situation would qualify for such a grant, please email the *MYBA President* to have an application sent to you. We will do our best to approve as many applications as we are able, for those that are truly in hardship situations.

## **2.9 "I've registered my player(s). Now what?"**

If you have not already, you should become familiar with the MYBA "in City Rule Book" posted at [myba.com](http://myba.com). MYBA will complete registration, run the draft, produce schedules and then meet with Coaches approximately 2 weeks after registration ends. At this meeting, Coaches will receive their schedules, rosters and practice field assignments. Coaches are asked to contact each of their players within 48 hours of the meeting. Your Coach will share with you scheduling (games and practices) information, as well as any uniform needs.

## **3.0 "When will the season begin?"**

Games will begin approximately 3-4 weeks after registration ends. Watch [myba.com](http://myba.com) for more information including PROJECTED season end date.

# **Teams**

## **3.1. If I have a complaint to whom do I address the complaint to?**

All initial complaints OR compliments should be directed to your League Commissioner. Your coach should have all League Commissioner contact information (also available at [myba.com](http://myba.com) under "BOARD"). Should the response not be satisfactory you may contact The President of the Board.

### **3.2. Are team practices restricted?**

The T-Ball Leagues may not meet more than three (3) times per week. All other leagues have no practice restrictions. Coaches are encouraged to use good judgment. Practice fields are assigned on a lottery system at the Coaches Meeting, prior to the season starting. MYBA tries (when possible) to provide one school field and one game field to each team for practice.

### **3.3. What is the difference between A, AA and Open Divisions within the same league?**

These divisions were created to accommodate the large number of teams participating each year. The A Division typically represents first-time players or players at an "Average" Skill level for their age, while the AA and is more competitive and older players within the age bracket. The Open Division is for the most elite of teams (select).

### **3.4. How often are team standings updated during the season(s)?**

The standings are updated once per week when possible. MYBA is run by volunteers and sometimes other commitments make it difficult to achieve this each week, but we try our best to achieve or exceed this target.

### **3.5. What awards are given at the end of the season?**

Trophies are awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place of each division within each League. Participation trophies are given to all players in T-Ball and Coach Pitch Leagues.

### **3.6. How do I reserve a team name?**

For "A" Division, team names must be a name of a major or minor league baseball team. A coach who is coaching his 2<sup>nd</sup> season in the same league and division may keep the same team name. However, if that coach chooses to change the name, that team name becomes available. The coach submits a first and second choice of team names on the Coach's Registration Form. Coaches are notified of their team name. MYBA works with each Coach to accommodate the first request when possible. No two "A" teams in the same Age League can have the same team name. The President will decide based on seniority of the coach in MYBA.

### **3.7. Why are team names restricted to Major League Baseball names during the spring season?**

MYBA has negotiated a price with its uniform provider, to keep registration costs down. The uniform provider carries Major and Minor League Team jerseys only. Player names are not printed on jerseys however the team may have a third party print player names at the discretion of parents. No uniform in any league may promote any business or organization. The jersey should include the team name/logo, player number and player name (optional) only. Jerseys will come numbered 1-? Based on the number of jerseys ordered (no special requests please).

### **3.9. How do I obtain team schedules?**

League schedules are posted on the website prior to the start of the season. Your coach may provide a team only schedule as well.

### **3.10. When are my team's games played?**

We try not to schedule games on Sundays or Wednesdays to avoid conflict with church activities, unless rainouts or field availability dictate such. MYBA also schedules around TAKS test week, Easter weekend, Spring Break or on other holiday weekends. Each team will generally have two games per week. Based on the number of teams, available fields and fields with LIGHTS, any team may have both games scheduled Monday through Friday. MYBA tries to schedule one game during the week and one game on Friday or Saturday when possible, but makes no schedule guarantees.

## **Fields**

### **4.1. Who owns and manages the baseball fields?**

The City of Mansfield owns and provides general maintenance. MYBA leases the fields from the city. The VP of Fields, works closely with the Parks Director for watering and general grounds maintenance.

#### **4.2. How do I get a practice field?**

Practice fields are assigned on a lottery system at the Coaches Meeting, prior to the season starting. MYBA tries (when possible) to provide one school field and one game field to each team for practice.

#### **4.3. During the season who works the fields?**

After each game it is the coach's responsibility to get volunteers to rake the field, chalk lines and return scoreboard console, if last game of the day. Special work details are scheduled by the VP of Fields requesting assistance from any MYBA member to spread dirt, repair base post and other maintenance as needed. Remember this is a volunteer non-profit organization and field conditions are the result of dedicated volunteers.

## **Umpires**

#### **5.1. How do I become an MYBA umpire?**

Complete an Umpire Registration Form and discuss your experience/training with the contracted Director of Umpires. Contact info available at myba.com under the "BOARD" tab.

#### **5.2. What are the qualifications and is there any training required?**

MYBA prefers experienced umpires or novices willing to be self trained. Umpiring requires the study of rules, application and technique each year. MYBA publishes specific game day instructions that all umpires are required to follow and administrate.

#### **5.3. What is the compensation?**

The pay scale is based on the game duration. More proven and experienced umpires are scheduled for 11U and up leagues. As a part time job the pay ranges from \$25 per game to \$45.00 per game.

#### **5.4. What does MYBA provide for umpires?**

Each season MYBA provides an official shirt and hat that are required to be worn when you are officiating MYBA games.

#### **5.5. Is MYBA required to report earnings?**

Absolutely. The Internal Revenue Service considers income from officiating as taxable income to reported as income. It is very important that you maintain excellent records of all the payments that you received and all the expenses incurred. If you are paid at least \$600 by an association, school or school district (or university, individual school, etc.), they are required to send you an IRS Form 1099. Even if you do not receive a 1099, you must claim all of your officiating income on a Schedule C. Because you are itemizing on the Schedule C, you are entitled to business-related deductions. For more information, consult your accountant and/or visit the IRS website (<http://www.irs.gov/>).

#### **5.6. How should I dress?**

One of the most important aspects of sports officiating is appearance. Like in your day-to-day business, officials are judged on how they look. The expression, "You never get a second chance to make a good first impression," applies especially to baseball officiating. Your officiating clothes must be neat and pressed, and shoes must be polished. It is a good idea to get started on the right foot. Go to myba.com and click on umpire links to review local stores that carry umpire gear.