

## **2012 Shoreview Area Youth Baseball (SAYB)** Big League 13-15 Year-old Tryout and League Information

### **General:**

Tryouts are held to determine team formation for the Big League Program. The Big League is made up of traveling "A" & "B" teams (National League) as well as a "C" Tournament Team and in-house teams (American League). ***It is requested that all players participate in the tryout process whether or not they plan to participate in the National League program.*** This will assist us in team formation to ensure each team is as balanced as possible.

The SAYB program, in cooperation with the Hamline University Baseball program, has scheduled the 2012 tryouts to take place on **Saturday, March 10th**. The tryout session will take place at the Hamline University Field house. There is no additional fee required to participate. It is included in your registration fee.

The Hamline University Baseball program is recognized as one of the top baseball programs in the state and is a major supporter of youth baseball. They have years of experience in conducting coach and player clinics and are excited to be working with our organization. Their head coach Jason Verdugo, not only coaches Hamline University but also is the St. Paul Saints pitching coach. As a player, he attended Arizona State and played in the San Francisco Giants Baseball organization for seven years.

Hamline University Baseball will conduct a combined clinic along with our tryouts/player evaluations. This 1½ hour event is designed to provide the player with input on their skills and assist in developing fundamentals related to all aspects of the game. Our experience has been that by combining a clinic with the tryout process it is less stressful and assist in gaining a better and impartial overall understanding of a player's ability.

The experience will consist of multiple stations throughout the field house. The stations will include infield, outfield, hitting, running, pitching, catching and throwing. Members of the Hamline coaching staff or their players will evaluate each player at different stations. In addition, there may be one SAYB evaluator at each station who has no child in the program at that age group. The stations will be a combination of teaching skills and evaluating the players. This will allow the player to relax, learn, excel and have fun without unnecessary pressure and anxiety. Based on feedback from other baseball associations and our experience from prior years, we anticipate that this process should provide the players with a better opportunity to demonstrate their skills.

### **Preparing for Tryouts:**

It is recommended that players visit batting cages, gyms, or--if the weather allows--go outside for throwing and additional conditioning.

### **Tryouts/Clinic at Hamline Field House**

#### **Saturday, March 10th**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Time</u>
All 15 yr-olds	9:30 am to 11:00 am
All 14 yr olds	11:15 am to 1:15 pm
All 13 yr-olds	2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
All ages who could not attend earlier session*	4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

**\*=The evaluators for this session may be different than the ones who evaluated the players of similar age earlier in the day. Please be aware that each evaluator does score differently. By participating in this session each player/family need to understand the possibility of a variance in scores from earlier in the day.**

**Important:** We have put a great deal of effort into organizing this event to maximize its effectiveness, so please try to adjust your schedule to meet your child's designated clinic/tryout time. We recognize that conflicts can occur, if a child is unable to make their scheduled clinic/time please attempt to attend the evening session. **If the assigned time or the evening session is not an option, please attend any of the other listed sessions. You do not need to call to make an adjustment for a tryout/clinic outside of your assigned time.**

**Directions: Hamline University Field house** is located at 1536 Hewitt Avenue, St Paul, (One block east of Snelling Avenue). It is just south of the Hamline football stadium. Enter at the door for the racquetball courts.

### **Tryout details:**

- **Please arrive 20 minutes early for each session** to allow time for warm-up, sign in, and orientation. SAYB will provide the tryout number and materials to attach it to the player.
- **Attire:**
  - Players should wear a plain preferably cotton t-shirt or sweatshirt and a cap. Although this process should ensure no evaluator knows a player, please do not wear prior season uniforms that could designate last year team placement.
  - Players should wear tennis shoes (No spikes) and a protective cup. Bring your glove and if you prefer, your own bat (A limited quantity of bats will be available). Batting gloves are recommended to avoid blisters.
- **Bat Sizes.** All bats can be Big Barrel for 13-14-15 yr old groups. When discussing bats, they are defined in terms of a "minus" amount. The "minus" number is the difference between the length and weight of the bat. As an example, a 32" long bat that weighs 23oz is defined as a -9.
  - **There have been significant a change in the bat rules this season; please check the SAYB.org main webpage for more information.**
  - If you plan to use your own bat, present it at check in, as we will be verifying proper weight for the appropriate age group. Bats not clearly marked, Little League bats or any bat not meeting regulations outlined above, will not be allowed.

### **Team Formation/Next Steps**

Results from the March 10th tryout/clinic will be listed by **March 20th via** the SAYB web site. Results will be categorized into three pools.

- 1.) A/B (An estimated 18 players)
- 2.) B/C Tournament Team (An estimated 24 Players)
- 3.) In-house

Players qualifying for an A/B Team and the B/C tournament team will be asked to participate in an additional tryout session that will occur outdoors. Dates will be provided in the March 20<sup>th</sup> posting. This 2<sup>nd</sup> process will be facilitated by the coach at each level along with SAYB observers who do not have a child in this age group.

If a player qualifies for the A/B it is expected that they will participate at the highest level they qualify for based on their tryout. Once the first round tryouts are completed and a player attains the A/B pool they can't opt out of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of tryouts to automatically play at the B level. If players do not wish to participate at the highest level of play from their pool it is assumed that they are interested lower competitive experience and they will be placed on a North Star/C team.

**Please try to keep the tryout process in perspective. Ultimately the goal of a tryout/evaluation process is to place players on teams where they will have the best chance for success and overall skill development.**

### **Non-Attendance at the March 10<sup>th</sup> tryout session**

Players must attend the tryout session on March 10<sup>th</sup> in order to qualify to participate on an A/B traveling team. The executive committee will make exceptions based on medical injuries or other rare circumstances provided documentation is given to justify the absence. Players unable to participate due to planned vacations should plan on participation at the North Star/C level.

### **Team Commitment:**

The A/B League is a more intense level of baseball that requires a greater degree of commitment. Teams will participate in practices or games 3 – 4 days during the weekdays and will play approximately 4 – 6 weekend tournaments in the months of May, June and July. Teams qualifying for State Tournaments will continue to play through the first week of August. Players and parents should agree ahead of time to that level of commitment so that the team can count on your presence. If you do not wish for this level of commitment, please do not occupy the place of a player who is willing to do so. It is suggested that family vacations or participation in camps for other sports, take place after the first week in August.

### **National League Fees:**

Players making a National League or Tournament team should expect additional fees of about \$200 per player above the initial registration that will be collected **at the start of the season.** This fee covers tournament entry fees and the cost of upgraded uniforms. **In addition,** should a team qualify; SAYB will pay for one state tournament, not including gate fees. Gate fees and team entry fees for additional state tournaments, will be the responsibility of the respective team. (Generally \$350 entry fee and \$150 gate fee per team.)

Should you have questions or comments about this process, please feel free to contact Carey Charboneau VP of Big League via the web site.

**Have a great Season!**