

SOUTH CHARLESTON YOUTH ASSOCIATION (SCYA)

2025 RULES & REGULATIONS

February 2, 2025

1. GAMES, FIELD EQUIPMENT, FIELD CONDITIONS, WEATHER CONDITIONS

- A. Prior to the start of a game, only the Baseball Program Director (for baseball games), the Softball Program Director (for softball games), or their designee shall have the authority to cancel the game. For age groups that use an umpire(s), at the scheduled game time and throughout the game, the authority to stop play because of darkness, inclement weather or other playing conditions rests with the umpire(s). For age groups that do not use an umpire(s), the authority to stop play because of darkness, inclement weather, or other playing conditions rests with the home team Head Coach. Games will be rescheduled with approval by the appropriate Program Director and the umpire assigner for age groups that require an umpire. Games will not be rescheduled on Sundays before 1:00pm.
- B. The home team coaches shall be responsible to install the bases, all chalk lines for foul lines, batters boxes, and pitching circles, and if necessary the non-permanent pitching rubber at the required distances prior to start of the game and remove and secure them appropriately in the designated storage shed at the completion of the game.
- C. Base distances, pitching distances, and ball sizes and types will be as assigned by the Clark County League or the League that the SCYA is participating in.
- D. If the paid umpire does not appear for a game, the Head Coaches may search for and agree to an acceptable volunteer. The volunteer will make calls at the bases, call balls/strikes, and foul/fair balls and may position themselves either behind home plate or behind the pitcher. If no acceptable volunteer can be found or agreed upon, the game will not be played and will be rescheduled.
- E. Extreme Heat and Air Quality – Cancellation of games due to extreme heat or air quality will be determined only by the Baseball and Softball Program Directors. Cancellation of practices will be determined by a team's Head Coach and reported to the appropriate Program Director.

2. PLAYERS/REGISTRATION/ROSTERS

- A. **Registration** – All players must register with the SCYA in order to be eligible to be placed on a roster and to play. Registration will typically take place between February 1 and March 1 of each calendar year, although the SCYA Board may decide to vary this duration. Late registrations will be accepted as long as roster space is available, although the SCYA may decide to reject any/all registrations after the established deadline. Registration fees will be as established by the SCYA Board.

- B. Registration fee refunds** – Although it's expected every registered child to play that has registered, it's understood that some unforeseen circumstances do arise that might cause a player to withdraw. In order to request and receive a refund, a parent/guardian must send an e-mail to scyassc@gmail.com (with the word REFUND in the subject line) – reporting the player's name, age group, date and reason for withdrawal. If the withdrawal is reported by:
- The first Monday in April, a full refund will be given.
 - The first Monday in May, \$25 will be retained and the balance refunded.
 - May 15, there shall be no refund.
- C. Family plan fees** – Fees will be calculated from highest to lowest registration fee. First player will be at the full fee. A second player will be at a \$25 discount. The amount for each player beyond two (2) shall be \$25.
- D. Registration fee grants** – It is the policy of the SCYA to encourage participation by all boys and girls and to not keep any of them from playing due to a family's financial situation. With this in mind, the Board has established a grant program. To be considered for a grant, the parent/guardian of the player shall send an e-mail to scyassc@gmail.com (with the word GRANT in the subject line), or contact the SCYA Treasurer prior to submitting the registration for the player. The final decision for award of a grant will be determined by the Board or the Executive Committee of the Board.
- E. Players outside of the Southeastern Local School District** – Players that are registered and attend Southeastern Local Schools, have a parent/guardian that live within the school district, or have a parent/guardian that work within the school district will be given priority to be assigned to a roster. Players from outside of the Southeastern Local School District may register but will be placed on a roster if space is available and if approved by the Clark County League (excluding T-Ball). The SCYA Board reserves the right to not place players on a roster that do not meet the above criteria.
- F. Requests to play with a friend, family member, or Head Coach** - In order to be put on a team with one friend or a family member, **both players must request each other on their registration forms.** The Board will not honor requests for more than one person who lists the same friend and will not allow "chaining", where one player lists one friend who lists another friend and so on. Lastly, **requests must be made by the regular registration deadline.** Although a player may request a specific coach, **the Board cannot assure that a player will be assigned to a specific Head Coach.**
- G. Player's Playing Age** - A player's "playing age" is the player's age on May 1 for T-Ball and baseball age groups and January 1 for softball age groups. This is based on the Clark County League rules. The SCYA urges parents/guardians to consider that their children play in age group based upon these dates.

Typical age groups are:

T-Ball – Co-Ed, 5 and 6 year olds
 8U boys' baseball/girls' softball
 10U boys' baseball/girls' softball
 12U boys' baseball/girls' softball
 15U boys' baseball/girls' softball

Other age groups may be established based upon player availability/response, field availability, and Clark County League and SCYA Board approval.

Girls may play baseball if parents/guardians approve and sign a waiver provided by the SCYA. Boys cannot play softball.

- H. Playing up to the next age group** – Since skills develop faster for some, the SCYA provides a way for players to “play-up”. To do so, **parents/guardians must complete a Play-Up Application with their registration and pay the appropriate fees for that age level. Players must also attend a mandatory play-up assessment. The play-up assessment will be scheduled by the Board and will be held prior to the assignment of players to rosters.**

Players may play-up one age year, not one age group, unless approved by the Board. For example, a six (6) year old may request to play 8U instead of T-Ball, but a five (5) year old cannot, unless approved by the Board. SCYA staff must agree that the player is able to safely and competitively play at the requested level. A fee refund will not be given if the player does not pass the play-up assessment or meet the skill requirements.

Players will be considered in the chronological order in which their registration is received, and space must be open after regular registration ends.

If a player does not meet the above criteria, the parents/guardian will be contacted and given the option of playing at the normal age level, if space is available.

If parents/guardians are NOT completely confident of their player’s ability to play-up, the SCYA recommends not applying to play-up.

The SCYA reserves the right to evaluate a play-up participant at any time, before or during the season, and take appropriate action to ensure the safety of all participants.

“Play-down” requests to a younger level cannot be honored, unless approved by the Board and the Clark County League.

T-Ball – Players shall be 5 or 6 years old as of May 1. 4-year-olds as of May 1 may be considered and must be approved by the Board before being assigned to a team. Players under the age of 4 years old as of May 1 will not be considered for placement on a team.

I. Player Draft/Roster Procedure (per the Clark County League)

1. Head Coaches may keep only their child and one assistant coach’s child.
2. Brothers/Sisters are assigned to the same team unless otherwise requested by their parents. This will be counted as two (2) draft picks.
3. All new registrants will be placed in the draft. They will not be placed on a specific team at their parent’s request.
4. All players who move up into the age group higher than the age group they would play in based upon their birth date must be entered into the draft, unless they are the son/daughter of the Head Coach or one assistant coach of a team.
5. All players who remain in the same age division will be assigned to their former team. A Head Coach will be assigned to that team by the Board.

6. If a player wishes to play on a different team, the player and his/her parents must request in writing to the Board valid reasons prior to the draft. The Board may or may not approve the request.
7. The selection order shall be determined by a coin toss or a number draw. If a new/additional team will be created based upon player numbers, that team shall pick first.
8. Once the selection order is set, each Head Coach will make their selections in the following manner:
 - a. Each Head Coach receives a first-round draft pick.
 - b. The team with the least number of players selects until that team has an equal number of players as other teams.
 - c. Selection then continues in the determined order until all available players have been drafted and placed on a team roster.
9. All Head Coaches are to contact their players within one (1) week of the draft.

J. Late Sign-Ups (per the Clark County League)

1. A late sign-up (anyone who signs up after the draft has been completed), will be accepted only with approval by the Board.
2. Late sign-ups that are accepted will only be assigned to a team if roster slots are available and considered not to be an over burden to the Head Coach.
3. Late sign-ups that are accepted will be assigned using the following procedure:
 - a. Returning players will not be guaranteed their team from the previous season.
 - b. Late sign-ups cannot begin practice with any team until assigned by the Board.
 - c. Late sign-ups will be assigned by a blind draw by the Head Coaches that have roster openings.
 - d. An age group with only one (1) late sign-up will have that player assigned to a team by the Board.
 - e. Late sign-ups will not be considered to playing up to the next age group.

- K. Player concussion rule** – Any player who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) must be immediately removed from the game, practice, or scrimmage by the player's coaches, the umpire, or by SCYA officials and shall not return to play that day. Further, the player shall not return to play until cleared with written authorization by a licensed physician which needs to be provided to the appropriate Program Director. When a player is removed from a game, practice, or scrimmage due to signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion, his/her team's Head Coach, or Assistant Coach acting as the Head Coach, will notify the appropriate Program Director on the date of the occurrence.

- L. **Team Uniform** - Each player will be given a team shirt and team hat for baseball and team visor or head band for softball, which the player may keep, prior to the first scheduled game. Each player must provide, at their own expense, team uniform baseball/softball pants and a fielder's glove. No additions, subtractions or changes may be made in team hats/visors/head bands or shirts without the express written permission of the appropriate Program Director (or his/her designee). If such alteration is approved, all coaches and players of the team must wear shirts that are altered as was approved. Exception: Taping or tying sleeves is not considered an alteration, but cutting sleeves off is not allowed.

3. HEAD and ASSISTANT COACHES

- A. **Approval of Head and Assistant Coaches** - All Head and Assistant Coaches must be approved by a majority vote of the SCYA Board.
- B. **Minimum Age to be a Head Coach** - The minimum age to be a Head Coach is 21 years old, unless approved by a majority vote of the SCYA Board.
- C. **Communication with Program Directors** - Head Coaches will be required to communicate directly with the appropriate Program Director via e-mail and text messages (i.e., required to have an e-mail address and a cellphone that receives and transmits text messages).
- D. **Player Registration Discount for Head Coach** - A \$10 discount for one (1) player will be given for a Head Coach's biological child or grandchild, or stepchild or step grandchild.
- E. **Concussion and Sudden Cardiac Arrest Training** - All Head Coaches must obtain video training through the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) for concussion training and sudden cardiac arrest training (Lindsay's Law). Head Coaches will be required to provide the appropriate Program Director with a certificate of completion for each video training session prior to performing any coaching duties. Certifications for concussion training will be valid for three (3) years. Certification for sudden cardiac arrest training will be valid for one (1) year.
- F. **Team Equipment** - Each team Head Coach shall be issued an equipment bag with team equipment prior to the start of the season. These must be returned to the Purchasing/Equipment Director within fourteen (14) days of the team's last game, or by a date specified by the Board as the return date. The Head Coach will be held financially responsible for the value of the equipment if not returned.
- G. **Coaches Uniforms** - Adult coaches are not required to wear the uniform of his/her team at the team's games or while acting in any coaching capacity at any time during the game (for example, as a base coach), but is strongly encouraged to wear the uniform.
- H. **Score Reporting** - It will be the responsibility of the Head Coach to report the score of their game using the required reporting mechanism by the Clark County League or League that the SCYA is playing in (i.e., email, phone). Report the pertinent information (league, winning team, losing team, date, field and score).
- I. **Background Checks** - A background check will be performed on each Head Coach by an appropriate company contracted with the SCYA. The cost to perform the background check will be paid for by the SCYA.
- J. **Head Coaches Pledge** - All Head Coaches will be required to sign the SCYA Head Coaches pledge, acknowledging the expectations and behavior of a Head Coach.

- K. Removal of a Head or Assistant Coach from coaching duties/responsibilities** – The SCYA Board may remove a coach from their coaching duties for the violation of the Head Coaching Pledge, violation of the Conduct Rule, being overly competitive, or any other conduct not becoming of a coach or leader of young boys and girls. If a coach is removed of his/her coaching position by the Board, that person shall not complete the current season and shall not be allowed to coach the following season. After this one season suspension, if that person would like to again coach an SCYA team, they shall submit in writing to the Board their desire to do so and what they will do to correct the reasons for their dismissal.
- L. Cannot field minimum number of players to play a game** – It is a part of good sportsmanship that a Head Coach notify the appropriate Program Director and the opposing Head Coach as soon as he/she knows that it will be absolutely impossible for his/her team to appear with the required minimum of players for a scheduled game or make-up game. As a courtesy and in order to save umpire charges, it is expected this notification be made as soon as possible – even if it is done days or weeks in advance.
- M. Field clean up after games and practices** – It shall be the responsibility of the home team Head Coach to assure that after a game the playing field is raked, batter box and pitching mound/area holes are filled, all bases and field equipment are placed in the appropriated storage shed and in the appropriate locations in the storage shed, the shed secured/locked, and that all litter/trash is removed from both dugouts. It shall be the responsibility of the Head Coach that is the last team to use the field for practices during a day to perform all the above duties.
- N. Selection of Head Coaches**
Purpose: To establish a fair and transparent process for selecting head coaches when the number of volunteers exceeds the number of teams.
Procedures:
1. **Initial withdrawal opportunity** – All volunteers will be given the opportunity to withdraw their candidacy for the head coach position.
 2. **Priority Selection** – If not volunteers withdraw, the selection will proceed based on the following priority criteria:
 - a. Head coaches from the prior year within the same division.
 - b. Head coaches from the prior year moving up from the immediate lower division.
 - c. Official assistant coaches from the prior year within the same division.
 - d. Head coaches from the prior year from other divisions.
 - e. Official assistant coaches from the prior year moving up from the immediate lower division.
 - f. Official assistant coaches from the prior year from other divisions.
 - g. New volunteers who have not previously served as head or assistant coaches.
 3. **Tie-Breaking** - The tiebreaker will be determined by the Board based on the following factors, including but not limited to:
 - a. Number of years of volunteer experience with SCYA.
 - b. Feedback from other volunteers, parents of players within that division, and parents of players who were coached by the prospective coaches in prior years.
 - c. If there is still a tie after consideration of the factors noted above, the selection will be determined by a random draw.
 4. **Removal from Priority List** - The board reserves the right to remove any coach from consideration in the priority list as it deems appropriate.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT RULES – Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated. Team coaches are responsible for their conduct and the conduct of their players. Team coaches shall also be responsible, to the best of their ability, for the conduct of their team’s parents and fans. A coach, player, or fan can be ejected from a game and/or removed from the playing field area by order of an umpire, a Program Director, or an officer of the SCYA (President, Secretary, Treasurer) if they violate a rule of conduct, as described below:

- A. In a game, no coach may utilize any player(s) not currently assigned to his/her team roster by the SCYA. Violation of this rule will result in automatic permanent suspension of the coach(es) involved.
- B. No coach, player or fan shall ever engage in a physical altercation with any player, umpire, coach or fan.
- C. No coach, player or fan shall intentionally violate or refuse to follow any Clark County League, Miami Valley Youth Softball League, or SCYA rules or game rules.
- D. No coach, player, umpire or fan shall come to the playing field under the influence of alcohol or an illegal drug; and no coach, player or umpire shall use tobacco products at the playing field during a game or practice.
- E. No coach, player or fan shall engage in grossly unsportsmanlike conduct, including but not limited to, throwing equipment, use of profanity, arguing with an umpire over a call or directing remarks to a player, umpire, coach or fan which are of a degrading or distracting in nature.
- G. After each game, in the spirit and practice of good sportsmanship, all coaches and players shall form two opposing lines and proceed through a traditional, orderly "handshake line". No coach or player shall avoid participation in this line or exhibit unsportsmanlike conduct in the line.
- H. No coach, player, parent/guardian, or fan, shall at any time, verbally abuse or disrespect, threaten, intimidate, attempt to intimidate, physically harm or attempt to harm, any umpire, player, coach, fan, or SCYA, Clark County League, or Miami Valley Youth Softball League official. Any person who violates this rule will immediately be banned from all SCYA sites and activities for a period of time to be determined by the Board up to and including a permanent ban. This rule shall be applied regardless of where and when the offending conduct takes place.

If a coach, player or fan is ejected from a game and/or removed from the playing field area for conduct as described above (or in the case of G. above, does not participate as described), the person shall provide a written statement describing his/her version of the events and/or other explanation to the Program Director within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident, and may not attend or participate in any practice or game until doing so. The Program Director shall review the statement and gather any other information from other parties that they deem necessary to determine if a further penalty should be assessed. Such further penalty, if any, shall be assessed by the Board before the team's next scheduled game.

Any coach who violates the above guidelines may be immediately removed from his/her position by the Board. Any player who violates the above guidelines may be immediately suspended from participating in games, practices, or other SCYA events. Any fan who violates the above guidelines may be immediately suspended and/or banned from attending games, practices, or

other SCYA events. In the event of such an occurrence, each coach, parent/guardian, or fan will be provided with the opportunity to appear before the Board at its next scheduled meeting in order to describe for the Board his/her version of the events and for consideration for reinstating the coach, parent/guardian, or fan.

Automatic Penalties: In order to clarify and standardize penalties for violations, the following automatic penalties shall apply:

- A. If a coach or player is ejected from a game because of a violation of the Conduct Rule, or malicious contact or similar acts, that coach or player shall be suspended for (and shall not attend) the next game the coach or player would attend, including the first game of the subsequent season.
- B. If a coach, player or fan is ejected from a game or removed from the playing field area for violation of Conduct Rule before, during or after a game, that coach, player or fan shall be suspended for (and shall not attend) the next game the coach, player, fan would attend, including the first game of the next subsequent season.
- C. If a coach, player or fan is ejected or removed as described above, and fails to comply with this policy, the applicable game shall be forfeited by the offending team.
- D. It shall be the offending team's responsibility to enforce this policy.
- E. All other provisions of the Conduct Rule, including provisions regarding additional penalties and the procedures described therein, shall be in full effect and shall be followed by all coaches, players and fans.
- F. A second (2nd) violation by the same coach, player or fan shall result in further penalty – which may include suspension for the season and/or an extended period of time, which will be determined by the SCYA Board.