

SHAW PARK BASEBALL ASSOCIATION



2006-2007 Travel Team Policy

Revised and Approved by the Board August 6, 2006

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1. Principles

The Shaw Park Traveling Team Program is intended to provide highly competitive youth baseball teams to represent Shaw Park and Cobb County in Northwest Georgia Baseball Association travel leagues and tournaments. The primary objectives include:

1. Provide an advanced player development program to enhance the working relationships with all SPBA area high school coaches so that the SPBA players will be given an opportunity to demonstrate their talents in hopes of making their respective high school teams.
2. Provide the opportunity for the more serious player to remain at their home park, at a reasonable cost.
3. Further the objectives of the Shaw Park Baseball Association in presenting to the community a wholesome and successful youth baseball program.

2. Governing Committee

The President of Shaw Park Baseball will annually appoint a Traveling Team Committee, to include as a minimum the Traveling Team Coordinator, as chairman, and the Vice President – Player Agent and two other board members. This committee will be responsible for all travel team issues. The current status of the travel team program will be reported to the board at each meeting. It is fully expected that all future boards will review this document, consider its successes, failures and relevance and improve upon it each year.

The travel team committee will annually develop / revise policies, guidelines and local rules specific to the travel team program and present these to the Board of Directors for approval. Future modifications of this document should be completed by November of each year so it can be ratified prior to the Spring/Summer season. Copies of this document will be provided to each board member and each individual selected manager in the travel program. It will also be available on Shaw Park website at: www.shawparkbaseball.com.

In order to properly support the Travel Program, certain actions (advertising for managers, manager selection, for example) must occur prior to August 1st. Despite this, the board members who will be responsible for taking these actions will be the incoming board members who will be responsible for the program during its actual execution. The board on or after August 1st shall ratify actions taken by these board members prior to August 1. The Shaw Park board has ultimate authority over the Travel Program.

3. Leagues

1. SPBA shall support the following teams:

- 9 year old regular season traveling team
- 10 year old regular season traveling team
- 11 year old regular season traveling team
- 12 year old regular season traveling team
- 13 year old regular season traveling team
- 14 year old regular season traveling team

It is not required to actually implement each of these teams. If the Shaw Park Board is not satisfied with the travel team manager applicants or determines there is not sufficient interest, there may not be a team in a particular age group.

2. **Teams will be comprised of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 players at the manager's option.**
3. Player's date of birth must be prior to August 1 for each age grouping.
4. Shaw Park Travel Teams will play in the Northwest Georgia Baseball League unless otherwise approved by the board. All fees to the governing body will be paid through Shaw Park registration.
5. SPB travel teams will exist on an August 1st to July 31st basis. The fall season will be instructional with a limited number of games. Spring/Summer schedules will be reviewed by the Travel Team Committee.
6. **Fall season** shall be from August 1st to November 30th. August 1 is the first day on which the new Shaw Park Board is officially in place. It will be the choice of the selected Travel Team Manager with permission of the Travel team coordinator, whether or not to operate a fall team. The travel team manager may designate a proxy to manage the fall program or may decide to allow all interested players to play recreational baseball in the fall. If there is not sufficient interest, there may not be a team for a particular age group.

Spring/Summer Season will be from October 15th through July 31. October 15th is the earliest player evaluations may occur. Regular season games are expected to begin toward the end of February. If a team must play past July 31st because it has done well in a tournament, they must get approval from the board.

7. **Team Name:** Shaw Park Patriots
8. **Team colors:** Red, White and Blue

“Feeder Team Addendum”

It is the intention of Shaw Park Baseball to provide teams that are targeted towards the guidelines of specific area high schools. (Feeder Teams) These teams will focus on Pony League age players and older.

Each year the Travel Committee will consider the need and feasibility of fielding any Feeder Teams as well as identifying the appropriate managers.

Each team will abide by the Shaw Park Travel Policy except for the following provisions:

1. Each team will consist of no less than 9 players living in the respective high school district. This number can be less but, only with the approval of the Travel Committee and SP Board. The intention is to preserve the goal of preparing players who will indeed be trying out for the respective high school team.
2. The manager will be required to develop and maintain a good report with his respective high school varsity manager. This is paramount to the success of the team and this relationship will be monitored by the Travel Committee and SP Board.
3. The manager will be required to communicate with his respective high school varsity manager about his guidelines for practices & games and then implement them for the Shaw Park team.
4. Coaches and players will be required to attend and participate in any clinic or event that their respective high school provides that is open to and appropriate for their team.

4. Manager / Coach Selection

1. Traveling Team Manager candidates shall apply to the Traveling Team Committee, detailing their experience, capability and desire to manage the traveling team. If there are no applications, the Traveling Team Coordinator with the assistance of the Vice President – Bylaws shall be responsible for finding manager candidates. All applications must be submitted to the travel team coordinator no later than July 1st.
2. Travel team managers will be selected on a yearly basis to serve concurrent with the board that selected them (August 1st to July 31st).
3. The Traveling Team Manager candidate is not limited to SPBA members.
4. The Traveling Team Committee shall select, and the Board approve, the Traveling Team Managers. Refer to ARTICLE IX in the SPBA Bylaws for all other principles involved in the Manager / Coach selections.
5. The Traveling Team Manager must select one (1) Business Manager, one (1) Coach and may select two (2) additional assistant coaches. **The Business Manager and any Coaches the manager selects must be approved by the travel team committee.** The Manager may, at his discretion, delay the naming of assistant coaches and business manager until after player selection is complete.
6. The Travel Team Manager is required to sign a manager’s agreement and return it to the Travel Team Coordinator.

5. Player Selection

1. All eligible SPBA members will register for traveling team consideration by completing the Travel Team Application form. All players trying out for the traveling team will still be required to register through the SPBA registration process. Notification of Travel tryouts will be communicated to all Shaw Park members. This may occur by a mailing, newsletters, phone calls, posting on the website and may be publicized in the local papers as in the Marietta Daily Journal and neighbor newspapers.
2. All players registering for traveling team status shall be skilled and rated during an open tryout conducted by the Traveling Team Coordinator, Vice President – Bylaws and a selection committee of qualified baseball knowledgeable personnel appointed by the Traveling Team Committee. Parents of players participating in the tryouts should not be used as evaluators, unless they are a coach. The attached player evaluation / selection sheet (Appendix 1) should be used by the selection committee as a guide in conducting the tryouts. **ANY EXEMPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE TRYOUT WILL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE TRAVELING TEAM COMMITTEE.**
3. The selection committee and traveling team manager shall agree by consensus on a list of 17 players, from which the manager will make the final selection.
4. The Traveling Team Manager shall present his final list of players for traveling Team Committee approval.
5. The manager will notify each of the player's parents that their child has made the team. At this point, the manager will explain the commitment of time and money necessary to participate in the program and the difference in player participation rules between traveling team and in-park teams. Should any parent withdraw their child, the manager will select a player from the alternate list to add to the roster.
6. After approval of the roster, the manager will name his coaches and business manager and present the names to the Traveling Team Committee for approval.
7. Traveling teams will stay together for the playing season. At the manager's option, he may fill any roster vacancies for the travel season. The method of selection (combined open tryout, combination skill test / tryout, etc.) will be decided by the Traveling Team Committee based on the number of vacancies to be filled.
8. In the event that a player drops from the traveling team during the season or the manager elects to add an additional player, the Manager may select a replacement/additional player at his discretion, subject to the approval of the Travel Team Committee.
9. Shaw Park fully expects that manager will apply all of their knowledge of players and their families to the selection process. The players and families selected will form an extended family for approximately nine month tied together socially, financially and emotionally. The proper selection of that team will determine the level of success that the team enjoys. Success is not defined only by the win-loss record. Obvious issues to be taken into consideration are the player's skill, the support of the families and the compatibility of everyone involved.

6. Parent Communication

Prior to the first practice the manager shall have a parent's meeting to cover, at a minimum:

- Introduction of manager and coaches
- Review of SPBA Traveling Team Guidelines
- Review of projected schedule (# regular season games, # tournament games)
- Present and estimated budget (See Appendix 4)
- Review and discuss the sponsorship, donation and fund raising guidelines
- Shaw Park Baseball Registration Forms & Fees
- Complete a player information sheet on each player (See Appendix 5)
- Additional topics as appropriate (uniforms, etc.)

7. Finances

1. All players on traveling teams will be required to pay a non-reimbursable registration fee to Shaw Park consistent with fees required for in-park teams. At no time should the registration fees be reduced or offset in any manner. This fee will be established prior to each season by the Board of Directors
2. Travel Team registration fees cover the following expenses: League registration fees, baseballs, equipment use, field maintenance and umpires for (#) home games. Traveling team will be responsible for all expenses beyond those covered by the Shaw Park registration fees.
3. Each traveling team must have a Business Manager / Treasurer responsible for the detailed accounting, reporting and record keeping of all traveling team revenues and expenses. The Business Manager will:
 - Maintain a separate account for all traveling team related expenses
 - Prepare a budget at the beginning of the season that estimates all expenses and submit such budget to the Traveling Team Committee
 - Record all money received (amount, source and deposit date)
 - Maintain a detailed accounting for all expenditures (amount, description, vendor and date, with receipts for all expenditures). (See Appendix 5)
4. At least once during each season, and at the conclusion of each season, the Treasurer of Shaw Park Baseball will review with the Traveling Team Committee, the income and expenditures of each traveling team to insure that guidelines are being followed and applied consistently for all traveling teams. The Treasurer will report to the Board and include a summary of the previous season's traveling team expenses in the report to the general membership. In the event there are funds available at the end of the year, the remaining funds will be handled in one of the following ways, at the manager's discretion: A.) Have an end of the year party for the team. B.) Pay the excess into the Shaw Park Baseball operating account. C.) Refund the parents their appropriate share. No money shall be returned to a player who leaves the travel team before the end of the season.

5. It is the intent of Shaw Park Baseball that all traveling team expenditures are for the benefit and welfare of the entire team, **on a pro-rata basis based on each players financial contributions to the team, including fees, fundraisers, and sponsorships.** What is provided for one player is to be provided for all players. Recognized and valid traveling team expenses include, but are not limited to:
 - Full uniform(s)
 - Tournament Fees
 - Sanctioning Fees
 - Player and coach expenses related to overnight travel for out of town tournaments.
 - Pre-season team instructional expenses (camps, clinics, etc.) for the benefit of the entire team.
 - Player registration fees in the event of financial hardship, as approved by the Traveling Team Committee.
 - Additional equipment costs (baseballs, protective/safety equipment beyond what is supplied by Shaw Park, team equipment and instructional devices). Any equipment obtained by the traveling team will remain with the team from year to year, and will revert to Shaw Park in the event the team is dissolved.
6. Traveling teams shall not solicit sponsorship for a specific traveling team as a charitable contribution to the tax-exempt Shaw Park Baseball Association, nor use the Shaw Park Tax ID for the team account.
7. Fund Raising such as car washes, raffles, merchandise sales, etc. to offset traveling team expenses is encouraged so long as the activity does not conflict with similar events conducted by Shaw Park Baseball to benefit the general fund. All fund raising activities require prior approval by the Traveling Team Committee.
8. Donation (monies, goods or services) payable to a specific traveling team will not receive tax-deductible status from Shaw Park Baseball.
9. Any misrepresentation or misuse of any team money could result in the responsible managers/coaches being expelled from Shaw Park Baseball Association.
10. In the event that through the fund raising process a sponsor is found through the efforts of the travel team who prefers not to contribute directly to the travel team, but prefers to contribute to SPBA, then the treasurer will receive these funds and will forward 70% to the travel team and will keep 30% for Shaw Park Baseball.
11. This sponsorship agreement is only between the SPBA Travel Teams and Shaw Park Baseball Association. All other sponsorship from the general membership will go toward the Shaw Park General Fund.
12. No other advertising banners, program ads and newsletter ads can be sold without going through the sponsorship director, if it is to be placed in the park.