

QVSB: Baseball Summer Tournament Team Selection Policies and Procedures (Spring 2021)

Quaker Valley Baseball enters teams in summer tournaments usually within driving range of Pittsburgh. One team per age level is assembled toward the end of each spring regular season. Therefore, in a typical summer, there will be a travel team with the following age levels: 7U, 8U, 9U, 10U, 11U, 12U, 13U & 14U. The following sets forth the process to be followed with each age level in managing and selecting teams, coaches, players and tournaments.

Player Selection: Each head coach (HC) and their named primary assistant coach (PAC) from the regular season will participate in a summer tournament selection meeting with their respective age level that will be held no earlier than Monday, May 17th, 2021 and no later than Monday, May 31st, 2021 (exceptions or modifications to these dates may be made by the QVSB Operating Committee in response to requests or unusual circumstances). The tournament selection meetings will be organized and chaired by the respective league Commissioners.

8U Commissioner: Oversees selection of 7U summer team & 8U summer team
10U Commissioner: Oversees selection of 9U summer team & 10U summer team
12U Commissioner: Oversees selection of 11U summer team & 12U summer team
14U Commissioner: Oversees selection of 13U summer team & 14U summer team

Approximately one week prior to the meeting, the Commissioners will request “tournament player recommendations” from each of the head coaches. These are players from the respective HC’s spring season in-house team which the HC believes should be considered for the summer tournament team. The Commissioner will compile a list of all HC “tournament player recommendations” and provide to all the HC’s and named PAC’s approximately 24 hours before the start of the meeting.

Tournament Selection Meeting:

- At the beginning of the meeting, the coaches and Commissioner will review the list of “tournament player recommendations” as compiled by the Commissioner to consider if any player not on the list should be included on the list. If any additional players are recommended, the Commissioner will include these players on the “recommendations list.”
- Each team will present the background and statistics for each of their players on the “recommendations list.” Qualitative factors should include, but is not limited to, baseball skill level, positions played, baseball knowledge and positive sportsmanship behavior. Quantitative factors should be compiled from the statistics maintained by each team’s scorekeeper. Statistics are intended to provide additional support for or against a player. QVSB urges the HC’s and PAC’s to provide statistics which are “black and white” rather than rely on statistics which require varied interpretations. For example, On Base Percentage (OBP) measures the most important thing a batter can do at the plate – not make an out. Suggest a modified OBP calculation to reduce ambiguity with scorekeeping and calculate OBP as: $(\text{Hits} + \text{Walks} + \text{Hit by Pitch} + \text{Reached Base on Error})$ divided by

At-Bats. Whereas a batting average calculation is subject to multiple ambiguities such as the skill level and experience of the scorekeeper and his or her judgment (is an infield hit a single or did the batter reach base because of an error?) Therefore, we suggest coaches present On Base Percentage instead of Batting Average. Likewise, with pitchers, categories such as strikeouts, walks and innings pitched are “black and white” whereas the calculation of a pitchers ERA involves subjective judgment.

- The goal with each roster for all age levels is to create a well-rounded summer tournament team. Achieving roster balance is critical and will likely lead to focusing on specific attributes. If a team lacks depth with a position (1st base, shortstop, catcher, etc.) and two players are on the bubble, consideration should be provided to the player with an aptitude at the position with less depth. Beginning with 9U, additional consideration should be provided to those players with the ability to pitch and catch (since depth at these positions is needed to reduce the average work load for pitchers and catchers in tournament scenarios.)
- To be eligible to participate on a summer tournament team, a player must have participated in at least 60% of their regular season games. The 60% figure is set by QVSB. Spring 2021 regular season games for ages 9U through 12U are defined as participation in the QV / Avonworth in-house League. Spring 2021 regular season games for 13U & 14U are defined as participation in the Moon Pony League. Participation on a spring Sunday travel team is not applicable with this calculation. The participation calculation with each player (provided as needed by the HC’s) is reviewed at the end of the regular season (typically the first week of June) by the Commissioners. The tournament selection process occurs shortly before the end of the regular season. Therefore, a player may be selected for the tournament selection team and have a participation rate at the time of selection below 60%. As long as the player’s participation rate finishes at 60% or greater at the conclusion of the regular season, the player will be permitted to play on the summer tournament team.
- The tournament head coach (THC) will be responsible for communicating with any parent whose child is under the 60% threshold. These players will be listed temporarily on the tournament roster as “placeholders” until the end of the regular season. The placeholder designation will be removed contingent upon the child participating in enough remaining regular season games to meet the 60% requirement. If a child on placeholder status does not meet the 60% threshold after the regular season, the child will not be permitted to play on the summer team unless there are unique circumstances (injury, illness, etc.)
- Any exceptions to the 60% requirement must be requested by the THC and be approved by the Commissioner and the President and Vice President of QVSB.
- Children that received approval to play up in the spring are potentially eligible to participate on the summer travel team corresponding to the age level of actual participation. For example, a 10-year-old received approval to play up from 10U Kid Pitch to 12U for the spring season. A 10-year-old playing up to 12U in the spring forgoes their eligibility to play on the 10U Kid Pitch Summer Tournament team (no exceptions will be granted). The 10-year-old playing up would only be eligible to participate on the 11U Summer Tournament team. This discretion of eligibility is left to the 12U Commissioner and the QVSB Operating Committee.

Tournament Selection Voting Procedures: 7U, 8U, 9U & 10U:

- The ballot for each age group will have 13 slots. When voting, each Head Coach, named Primary Assistant Coach and League Commissioner will cast ballots listing their top 13 players within each age group. A player receives 2 points per ballot if receiving a vote in the top 11 (note that whether a player is voted first, eleventh or somewhere in-between, the player receives 2 points.) A player receives 1 point per ballot if listed as 12th or 13th. The Commissioner will collect the ballots and tally the total points received for each player in each age group.
- The 11 players receiving the highest point totals in each age group are “regulars.” The two players finishing 12th and 13th in point totals are listed as “alternates.” A tie for the 11th spot (last spot for a regular) as well as a tie for the 13th spot (last spot for an alternate) will be broken by a vote of the Head Coaches (the Commissioner will vote as well if there are an even number of Head Coaches).

Tournament Selection Voting Procedures: 11U, 12U, 13U & 14U:

- The ballot for each age group will have 12 slots. When voting, each Head Coach, named Primary Assistant Coach and League Commissioner will cast ballots listing their top 12 players within each age group. A player receives 2 points per ballot if receiving a vote in the top 10 (note that whether a player is voted first, tenth or somewhere in-between, the player receives 2 points). A player receives 1 point per ballot if listed as 11th or 12th. The Commissioner will collect the ballots and tally the total points received for each player in each age group.
- The 10 players receiving the highest point totals in each age group are “regulars.” The two players finishing 11th and 12th in point totals are listed as “alternates.” A tie for the 10th spot (last spot for a regular) as well as a tie for the 12th spot (last spot for an alternate) will be broken by a vote of the Head Coaches (the Commissioner will vote as well if there are an even number of Head Coaches).

Tournament Selection Post Voting Procedures: All Age Groups

- The Commissioners will nominate the Tournament Head Coach (THC) from each age group and submit this choice along with the proposed assistant coaches to the QVSB Operating Committee for approval. The Commissioners will also submit the tournament team voting results and the roster of players to the QVSB President and Vice President for their approval along with providing any comments or concerns. The Commissioners will work to obtain these approvals with the final team roster, THC and assistant coaches on or before Friday, June 4th, 2021.
- Once approved, the THC will contact the families of the selected regular players and confirm their willingness and availability to play, along with their acknowledgment of financial commitment to the self-funding team. The THC should include a copy of the Tournament Team Commitment Letter in their e-mail to the families.
- Roster size is required to be at least one more than the number of players allowed to play in the field for each tournament. With 7U, 8U, 9U and 10U, rosters submitted in advance to each tournament director must have a minimum of 11 players. With 11U, 12U, 13U and 14U, rosters submitted in advance to each tournament director must have a minimum

of 10 players. Therefore, alternates will then be contacted by the THC in order of voting results to determine player availability, as needed, to complete rosters for each tournament. Head coaches are strongly encouraged to provide both alternates the opportunity to participate in tournaments when needed. For example, if a team participates in four summer tournaments and one “regular” player is absent from each of the four tournaments, each alternate should participate in two tournaments. In other words, alternate between the alternates.

- If additional players (beyond the “regulars” and first two alternates) are needed to ensure minimum roster size for a tournament(s), the THC, in conjunction with the Commissioner, may seek out other players who received votes.
- It is recommended that the THC request from each parent detailed availability of their child for each tournament. This is to allow for specific roster planning.
- The THC should be the only person informing players of their Tournament Team selection and such notification should not occur until authorized by the QVSB President and Vice-President.

Coach Selection: Each tournament head coach (THC) will be nominated by their respective Commissioners within 48 hours of the conclusion of the player selection meeting.

- Tournament Head Coaches from each age level must have served in the spring season as either a Head Coach or a named Primary Assistant Coach.
- Nominated THC’s child must be a “regular” tournament team player. If no THC’s are available from the pool of “regular” players, the Commissioner may reach out to potential THC’s from the pool of alternate players. If a THC is selected and their child is an alternate, it does not change the THC’s child designation from alternate to regular.
- The THC will submit his choice of up to three assistant coaches as well as a scorekeeper to the Commissioner. The Commissioner will review and submit to the QVSB Operating Committee for approval.

Funding: All tournament teams are self-funded, therefore sufficient fees must be paid by all parents at each age level prior to the start of the summer tournament season.

- THC’s (and if necessary in consultation with their Commissioner) will review the available tournaments and prepare a budget based on the following: tournament entry fees, Uniforms and Hats, Game balls, and other miscellaneous costs.
- THC’s will review the budget with their Commissioner, Assistant Coaches and the QVSB Treasurer to reach agreement on total costs and cost per player.
- THC’s will notify each player’s family of the total tournament season cost prior to the start of practices.
- QVSB will pay the tournament entry fees up front and will be fully reimbursed from each team.
- All-tournament team players from 7U through 14U must make payment through the Blue Sombrero registration platform. Payment must occur prior to the start of the summer tournament season. Any player having an outstanding balance will not be permitted to participate until payment is made in full.

Tournaments:

- Commissioners (with input from “prospective” THC’s) during the spring may identify the tournaments available to enter and prepare an initial schedule. THC’s will confirm the final tournament schedule in June as well as coordinate commitment and payment for each tournament fee with the QVSB Treasurer. (If needed due to time constraint and/or limited tournament team slots, the Commissioner will make a final commitment and coordinate payment to any concerned tournament).
- Tournaments will generally be within driving range of Pittsburgh.
- QV teams, to ensure competitiveness, will generally enter “B” tournaments. Tournaments labeled “A” attract teams from communities much larger than Quaker Valley. Tournaments labeled “B” and “C” attract teams from smaller communities.