



## Angels 13U Spring Team Overview

The Angels 13U Team, part of our Angels Senior Level programs, is in its first year here in MD. The team will carry 13-14 players, and is open to players that do not turn 14 on or before April 30, 2022.

As kids become older, participation in baseball drops. Based on a [2019 Aspen Institute study](#), the average kid participates in baseball for 3.3 years. Most kids that are still playing baseball between the ages of 13-15 are kids that are looking to continue playing in High School. Very few will continue playing for fitness purposes; or for their love of the game. Baseball becomes more difficult on the bigger field. The larger dimensions of the field require a player to demonstrate patience in their physical growth. Balls a player hits on a youth diamond at the age of 12 that easily clear the infield now barely make it to the outfield (if at all) on a senior level field. Players, at the age of 12, can easily throw a ball across the infield from shortstop or third base to first base. Now, at the age of 13, those throws bounce or skip to the first baseman. And, the rules of the game changes. Kids will need to learn a 'new game' of baseball. Baseball, at the age of 13, poses more of a mental challenge for the players than a physical one. We understand these issues and know how to help guide players through them.

One of our goals for the 13U team is to make sure that players love the game more at the end of the season than they did at the beginning. This requires that we get kids to embrace the new struggles they will encounter, both physical and mental. For those that have been in our Youth League, there will be nothing new for them in terms of what we expect of them. For those new to the Angels program, our expectations are simple: work as hard as possible each and every time you are at the field; be a great teammate; and have a passion to learn. THAT'S IT! The skill development will come when kids commit to these expectations.

Our 13U Angels team will participate in a league organized by MABA (Mid-Atlantic Baseball Association). Details are provided in the overview below. But we are truly excited about this new venture and we are looking forward to fielding a team of hard-working, team-first minded players.

Our registration is open on a first come first serve basis, so please do reach out with any questions.

Jason Aquilante  
President, Angels Baseball

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## General Overview

- Eligible Players:** The 13U Program will be open to any player age 13 or younger that does not turn 14 on or before April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We will carry 13-14 players on our roster for this Spring and will be first come first serve. We will NOT offer try-outs. We are open to carrying kids that turn 13 after April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022; but they first must receive permission from me to register. When evaluating 12 year-olds for the program, we will take the following into consideration
  - **Roster size:** Do we need players or can we fill a team w/13s?
  - **Specialty Positions:** Pitchers and Catchers will be strongly considered if a 12-year-old wants to play for the 13U team. These are positions that have fewer players and we would like to have deep rosters at these positions.
  - **Talent:** Players that have excelled on the smaller field will be considered for the 13U team. We want to continually challenge kids; and do not want to put players in a position where they are not being challenged on the smaller field. If players stand out on the smaller field, they can be considered for 13U.

**Rosters size is limited so please understand the commitment involved in joining the team.** We understand kids may miss a game or two; but we want to be sure we are giving roster spots to kids that will make most (if not all) games; and be able to attend most (if not all) practices.
- Registration:** Registration will be available by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Parents of kids that have participated in a previous Angels season (Fall or Spring) will be notified through email. We will also post registration in our Newsletter and on our website.
- Playing for Multiple Teams:** Roster spots will not be given to kids who are also playing for another baseball team in the Spring. We need players to be fully committed to the Angels program, and not be playing for another program in the Spring. We understand kids will miss games due to events, illness, etc; but we need to be sure kids are not missing games due to other baseball games. We also cannot have kids pitching for other teams. We need to make sure we have at least 5-6 kids that can pitch. If any of these kids pitch for another team, our list of available pitchers for a game (which I would like to be 3) is compromised.
- Program Timeline:** The 13U team will be competing in the MABA league. MABA is comprised of local teams from Clarksburg and Damascus; but also teams from as far as Ellicott City. Practices will begin

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March 19<sup>th</sup>. We will have 6-7 practices before our first game in April. Games will be played on Wednesdays and Sundays. We will play Doubleheaders on Sundays. We expect to play between 20-25 games in the MABA league. We will also participate in a local tournament at the end of the season to be held around the end of June. Our goal is to wrap up the season around July 1<sup>st</sup>.

5. **Coaches:** The 13U Program will be led by two coaches during games, while I run practices (and attend games when possible). Coaches will be announced prior to the start of the season. I will be working directly with the coaches to help organize line-ups, set pitching rotations and discuss what needs to be addressed during practices. Coaches will conduct themselves with the same integrity and professionalism that is consistent with the Angels culture.
6. **Tournament:** The Angels 13U team will also be registered for a single weekend tournament in mid to late June. The selected tournament will be in MD; but could require driving of up to 90 minutes to get to the field. Tournaments generally consist of playing two games on a Saturday and 1-3 games on a Sunday. Opponents in the tournament would consist of Travel teams from within, and possibly out of the state of MD. The purpose behind competing in a tournament is to expose kids to better competition and more games.
7. **Practices:** Practices will begin in mid-March. Parents will receive a March practice schedule by February 20<sup>th</sup>. Practice locations will not be solidified until February 15<sup>th</sup> when Montgomery County opens its permitting process. Due to the limited availability of 90 foot fields, we may need to practice on smaller fields; however, we will target practicing on larger fields for our pre-season workouts so that the kids can get acclimated to the bigger diamond. We will practice 1-2 days/week once games begin. Most, if not all practices will be held in conjunction with our 15U Angels team.
8. **Cleats:** Kids can wear metal spikes. Metal spikes provide better traction for the kids, especially in the grass. Kids can still wear rubber spikes; but metal spikes are allowed.
9. **Bats:** Kids can use bats with a barrel size of 2 ¼, 2 ¾ or 2 5/8. Bats cannot have a double wall barrel. The recommendation is for kids to use a 2 5/8 barrel; but one they can handle in length and weight. Unlike for the 15U team, there is no restriction on difference between length and weight.
10. **Positions:** Kids will be placed at positions where we feel they will have the greatest chance of success. They may like to play a certain position, or want to play a position, but they will only play positions where

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we feel they can have success. For example, if a player wants to play shortstop, but they lack the arm strength, we will not be able to put them there in a game. We will work with them to improve their arm strength; and can give them time there once they can show they can get the ball across the diamond on a consistent basis. It's important that kids are in positions that allow them to showcase their abilities and give the team the best chance to succeed.

11. **Batting Line-ups:** We will hit all kids in attendance at the game.
12. **Uniforms:** All kids will receive an Angels Shirt, belt, socks and hat (if needed). Uniforms will be distributed before the first game. Players will be able to select their jersey number. During registration, parents should indicate their child's top 3 number choices. Numbers will be given on a first come first serve basis, so those that register later may not get one of their top 3 choices.

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