



Angels 15U Spring Team Overview

The Angels 15U Team, part of our Angels Senior Level programs, is in its second year here in MD. We will likely carry 13-14 kids; and players cannot turn 16 on or before April 30, 2022. Since we carry a limited roster, please be sure you are only registering if you can make most (if not all) games and practices.

Most, if not all kids that want to register for our 15U program will do so in hopes of improving upon their skills so they can play at the high school level. Many kids stop playing baseball at the age of 10.5 (based on a 2019 Aspen Institute study) and many more stop playing as they get older. Those that usually remain are those that intend on playing through High School. But, we want all kids to feel comfortable registering for our program. Angels Baseball is not simply an outlet for kids looking to play at the High School level or beyond. Yes, the Angels program has seen numerous kids play collegiately, and some professionally; but, we also encourage ANYONE to register who may be interested in improving their fitness; looking to make a friend; improve social skills; build leadership skills; or simply those that love the game but have no desire to play high school baseball or beyond. But, regardless of why you may be registering your son, our expectations will always be the same. And, the attention we give your son will always be the same.

Our expectation for anyone that registers is simple. We ask that each and every player comes to the field with an intent to learn, a willingness to be a great teammate, and nothing less than 100% of their effort. When players meet these expectations, great things can happen. We want each and every player to have a positive experience while playing this Spring. We want players to have fun. We want players to enjoy their teammates. We want players to improve their skill sets. And we want to win. We believe that if we focus on the first three, the winning will take care of itself.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions about the 15U Program. We are excited to build upon what we started last year, and to make it better. We look forward to a fun Spring.

Jason Aquilante
President, Angels Baseball

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General Overview

1. **Eligible Players:** The 15U Program will be open to any player age 15 or younger that does not turn 16 on or before April 30, 2022. We will carry 14 players on our roster for this Spring and will be first come first serve. We will NOT offer try-outs.
2. **Registration:** Registration will be available by January 1st. 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.
3. **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.
4. **Program Timeline:** We will again compete in the local RBBA Spring league. The Angels team finished 4th (out of 8 teams) in 2021 and hope to improve upon that record this year. Practices will begin in mid-March and the RBBA league schedule will begin on or around April 10th, and end around mid-June. We will also compete in a local tournament; and will look to do so in June so that we can finish the season by July 1st.
5. **Coaches:** The 15U 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. **League Play:** As mentioned earlier, we will play in the RBBA Spring league, which is based out of Rockville, MD. We anticipate playing 1-2 games each week. We will release details of the game schedule as soon as we receive details from RBBA. We should not expect the schedule to be released until April 1st.

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7. **Tournament:** The Angels 15U team will also be registered for a single weekend tournament in mid to late June. Once we see the RBBA schedule, we will register for a tournament. 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.
8. **Practices:** Practices will begin in mid-March. Parents will receive a March practice schedule by February 20th. We will target 6 practices in March before heading into April. Practice locations will not be solidified until February 15th 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 13U Angels team. Both teams are playing on 90-foot fields so it makes sense to combine practice sessions.
9. **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.
10. **Bats:** Kids will need to use a -3 BBCOR bat (the difference between the length and weight is 3. Example: 30 inch bat will weigh 27 ounces). These bats can be expensive; so my advice is that you take them to Dicks to try out some bats before making a purchase. And you may find a better price online.
11. **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 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.
12. **Batting Line-ups:** We will hit all kids in attendance at the game. This is an RBBA rule and one that must be followed.

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13. **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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