



2022 Angels Youth Spring Season

The Angels program has grown considerably since our first Spring in 2018; but we believe the culture has remained the same. I had always been concerned with growth. I remember having conversations with several people about not sacrificing the culture for the sake of growth. But, as we have expanded, as we have brought in more leaders to help carry the Angels flag; I have felt more comfortable with adding teams and growing the family.

It's important for everyone that joins the Angels family to know what we are about. And more importantly, what we are not about. We take our responsibilities seriously. You work hard for your money and we want you to feel you are getting value for your hard work. Your son will be taught from the time he arrives to the time he leaves. The least talented player will receive as much attention as the most talented player.

Every family won't always have the same motivation for registering. Some are looking to remain active. Some are looking to have their son use the game as a means to be socially active with others. Some are looking to play the game for as long as possible, and at the highest levels. Regardless of why you are registering, myself and the Angels coaches will challenge your child to give their best effort every time they show up for a practice or game. We expect your child will bring an abundance of energy. We expect your child will be a good student of the game and a great teammate. If they do these things, they will find success. They will improve, they will have fun. And they will have a positive impact on everyone around them.

Parents, I want you to enjoy watching your child play this Spring. Encourage them, support them and watch them grow. You may not always agree with what we are doing, but know we are doing what we believe is best for them. But most importantly, remember that it's a game. We want them to compete. We want them to get better in all areas of the game. But, we want them to have fun. We want them to leave the field wanting to come back. We want them to come home from school on the day of a practice or a game and be excited about going to the field. We want them to enjoy their time with Angels Baseball.

One of our goals is to keep kids playing the game as long as possible. We believe baseball is a great way to learn valuable life lessons. The game is a great way for the kids to make friends and to stay socially and physically active. And some kids develop a passion for the game later than others. If they quit too early, they will never realize that passion. We would be honored to have your family in our program this Spring. Please never hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns. No matter how big we become, we are never too big to take the time to speak with our families.

Jason Aquilante
President, Angels Baseball

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General Overview

1. **Registration:** Registration is available through the Angels website. There are NO try-outs and spots will be granted on a first come first serve basis. Registration will remain open until March 1st.
2. **Ages:** Kids between the ages of 9 (players must turn 9 on or before April 30, 2021) and 12 (players cannot turn 13 on or before April 30, 2021) will be eligible for the Youth Spring League. Parents are welcome to contact me to discuss the age ranges if needed.
3. **Playing for Multiple Leagues/Programs:** We discourage kids from playing for multiple teams or for multiple organizations. We discourage this for a few reasons. First, rosters will have no more than 12 kids. We understand that some kids will miss practices and games due to illness, vacation, family conflicts, etc. But, we do not want to get into a situation where a team does not have enough players because one or more players are playing for another team. Second, anyone who has been around youth baseball knows the importance of pitching. If we find that a player is pitching for another team, we cannot have them pitch for their team in the Angels League. We do not want to put a child at risk for injury at such a young age. Unfortunately, we see teams/programs abuse the arms of young kids simply because they can pitch. We will request that parents disclose whether their child will be playing for another team/league so that we can try to build a roster for that team that has enough pitchers where kids do not play for other teams/leagues.
4. **Season Schedule:** The Angels Youth Spring League will begin the week of March 21st and end on Saturday June 11th.
 - **Pre-Season Practices (3/21-4/3):** All kids will participate in two weeks of pre-season workouts. These practices, unlike from past years, will be team-specific. Kids will be broken up into their teams by March 1st, and will begin practices on/around 3/21.
 - **Regular Season Games (4/5-6/2):** Games will begin on April 5th. Teams will mostly play 2 games each week for a total of 14 regular season games. Teams will play one game during the week and one game on Saturdays. During this time, teams will also practice one day each week. Practices will likely be a joint practice with one other team.
 - **Playoffs (6/4-6/11):** Each team will make the playoffs. The top two teams will receive a bye in round one. The 3rd place team will play the 6th place team and 4th place will play 5th place. The 1st place team will play the lowest seeded team in the semi-finals while the 2nd place team will play the winner of the other game. The Championship game will be played on Saturday June 11th.

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5. **Coaching:** The Angels Program has been growing each year; and 2022 will be no different. Outside of the Angels Youth Spring League, we will also field a 13U team and a 15U team. As we continue to grow, we will look to bring on an additional coach or coaches to assist with the Youth Spring League. My primary focus with Angels Baseball will continue to be on the Youth Spring League; but like last year, I will miss some games in favor of taking teams through practices. However, I will be in communication with the coach that manages any games that I miss to be sure I am constantly aware of what happened during the game; and any skills that need to be addressed during practices.
6. **Location of Practices/Games:** All pre-season workouts, in-season practices, and games, will be held at outdoor fields in Montgomery County. The County does not open the permitting process until mid-February. Parents will be informed by mid-late February the exact locations of all practices and games.
7. **Team Rosters:** Players will be broken out into teams by March 1st. The goal for rostering will be to create a competitive balance within the league to ensure competitive games. The goal is to have at least 4 pitchers on each team that are able to throw at least 30% strikes. We also will look to have at least 2 catchers on each team. We will honor requests to have players paired with others as long as we can maintain a balance of talent.
8. **Equipment:** Players are responsible for having their own bat, helmet and glove. Angels Baseball will supply catchers with Catching gear (if needed). Please reach out if you have any questions regarding equipment or if you are in need of equipment.
 - **Bats:** There are no restrictions on bats. Players can use any barrel size and does not have to be a USA certified bat.
 - **Gloves:** We strongly encourage bigger gloves for the younger players. But we also understand that their hands need to be able to handle the glove. The bigger the glove, the easier time they will have with catching the ball. As kids get older, they will want to get a glove size that's more appropriate for their position.
9. **Practice/Game Attire**
 - **Practices:** Players are expected to wear athletic attire to practices. Pants are recommended for outdoor practices as we will encourage sliding and diving. Kids may be reluctant to slide or dive if they are wearing shorts. Shirts **MUST** be tucked in at all times; and hats are never to be worn backwards. Cleats are preferred; but sneakers are 'ok' to wear; but please understand that sneakers could limit a player's ability in the field. **Protective cups should also be worn at all times; regardless of the position played.**

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- **Games:** Each player will be issued a Shirt, Socks, Belt, and Hat (if needed) that should be worn at all games. Parents are responsible for getting their child grey pants. Pants can have a single pipe down the side of the leg. A recommended brand is the Easton Rival pant and can be purchased online at Epic Sports. During the cold months, players may wear sleeves; but sleeves should be worn under the game shirt. Jackets and sweatshirts cannot be worn during the game (but can be worn on the bench). All players are encouraged to wear cleats as they help prevent slipping that usually occurs when kids wear sneakers. **Protective cups must be worn for all games, regardless of the position your child plays.**
10. **Update Attendance:** You will be able to access your son's schedule on/around March 1st. We respectfully request that you keep current with updating your child's availability for games and practices online. We plan every practice agenda and lineups for games based off the attendance tracker we see online. Please expect an email/text if you haven't taken action on your child's attendance for an upcoming practice/game. Our preference is not to chase people down; but we will need to do so in order to effectively plan practices and line-ups.
 11. **Length of Games:** Games will operate on a 2-hour time limit. However, games will be called prior to two hours if the losing team completes their 6 innings of batting. In the event of rain, a game will be official if the losing team completes 4 offensive innings.
 12. **Line-ups:** Prior to each game, offensive and defensive line-ups will be posted in each team's dugout. It is the responsibility of each player to know where they are playing each inning; and when it is their turn to bat. All players in attendance for the game for each team will hit in the line-up. The batting line-up will be structured in a way that gives the team the best chance of winning the game. If your child is not happy with where they are hitting in the line-up, we will be more than happy to speak with them about it.
 13. **Playing Time:** No player will sit more than two innings in a game. And, not all players will sit out at least one inning. If a player is not happy with their playing time, we would strongly encourage them to speak with us.
 14. **Positions:** We understand that kids have a favorite position. But teams will field a defensive line-up that has players at positions that we feel would give that team the best possible chance of winning. We will be moving players around, playing them at multiple positions; but we also don't want kids playing too many positions. We feel that if they play too many positions, then they will have a hard time truly learning one position. We will put players in the position we feel best suits their current ability. If that position is not one they prefer to play, we will communicate why we have them at that position; while working with them to understand what they need to do to play the position they wish to play.
 15. **Umpires:** We will have umpires for each game. In previous seasons we had High School kids handle the umpiring duties. We are still looking for individuals to fill these positions; so please reach out to us if you know of anyone

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that would be interested in umpiring our games. We do pay our umpires.

We do not tolerate verbal abuse towards umpires. If we feel that a player or parent or coach is being abusive towards the umpire, we will warn the player or parent. If the abuse continues, we will remove the player from the game. If a parent or coach continues to verbally abuse the umpire, we will ask they leave the field and sit in their car for the remainder of the game. We do not believe anyone is in any position to complain about balls and strikes. Unless someone is standing directly behind the backstop, no one is in a position to determine (outside the umpire, pitcher and catcher) if a pitch is a ball or strike. **There is absolutely no need for verbal abuse of an umpire. These are games being played by children and we will not tolerate abuse of an umpire. The game is for the kids; NOT the Parents! We cannot tell our kids that they must respect the umpire if we cannot lead by example.**

16. **Pitching Limits:** We will be implementing the recommended pitch counts offered by renowned Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr James Andrews. We will be tracking pitch counts each game and kids will be limited to a certain number of pitches based on their age.
 - Ages 9-10: Maximum of 50 pitches/game (75 pitches/week)
 - Age 11-12: Maximum of 75 pitches/game (100 pitches/week)
17. **Player Re-Entry:** Players are permitted to leave and re-enter a game as often as needed.
18. **While on the Bench:** Players are not permitted to sit with parents during a practice or game. Most fields will have parents sitting close to player benches. Players can get water or snacks from their parents during a game; but must return to the bench to drink or eat.
19. **Rainouts:** Unfortunately, we have no control over the rain. If Montgomery County closes a field b/c of inclement weather, we will need to cancel the game. We will make every effort to reschedule games; but, we need to take into consideration whether teams have enough pitching to accommodate possible dates for make-up games. We understand that a rescheduled game may not fit your schedule; but we do feel it's important to get in as many games as possible.
20. **Volunteers:** Every Sunday (starting March 20th), an email will be distributed to parents that offered to volunteer during the season. The email will list opportunities for the week. If able to help, parents should respond with the day they can help. There is no obligation for any parent to volunteer during the season; or to volunteer for a certain number of practices or games. Our process was designed to allow for flexibility so that those interested in volunteering can pick and choose when they volunteer. Volunteer opportunities consist of tracking pitcher pitch counts; keeping score; coaching bases; and assisting at practices.
21. **End of Season Awards:** We will again distribute awards following the end of the season.
 - Trophies will be awarded to all players on the **Championship Team**.

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- **Pitcher of the Year:** Will be awarded to the pitcher that has the highest strike to ball ratio (throwing a minimum of 150 pitches). Throwing strikes is critical for kids this age. Velocity doesn't matter if a pitcher cannot throw strikes. The more strikes a pitcher throws generally means the less pitches they will throw; while also improving the chance for a quicker game.
- **Offensive Player of the Year:** Will be awarded to the player that has the highest On Base Percentage (with a minimum of 24 at-bats). Judging hits at this level is difficult so we feel that we cannot accurately award this to the player that has the highest batting average. A player that gets on base often (regardless of whether it is from a walk, an error or a hit) is someone that is giving his team the best opportunity to score runs.
- **Golden Glove:** We will award five golden gloves this Spring. Coaches and Volunteers will vote on the best defensive player at the following positions: Catcher, First Base, Second Base, Shortstop and Third Base.
- **Jordan Michael Aquilante MVP:** Coaches and Volunteers will vote on an MVP of the league. This award is not solely based on a player's statistical performance; but a player's leadership skills and how they act towards their teammates and opponents will also be taken into consideration.

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