2027 PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Mt. Prospect Patriots is a travel baseball program run through the Mt. Prospect Park District and is an extension of the Mt. Prospect Park District House Baseball League. If your player is looking to continue playing baseball at an advanced level beyond house league, then this may be the path for you.

WHY CHOOSE THE PATRIOTS?

Our program is one of the most affordable travel baseball programs in the area, for the amount of features each player gets for their fee. Our coaches are volunteers but are required to complete High School level Baseball training. Our teams play against appropriate competition that allows our players to succeed and develop. Become a Patriot today!

"THE PATRIOTS WAY" (MISSION STATEMENT)

We strive to provide the best experience, team culture & development for our players. Patriots players & families are expected to show good sportsmanship & respect towards opponents, officials/umpires and any other involved parties throughout the season. Players should have a positive attitude and be prepared to improve their skills. It is our goal to develop players into the best they can be.

HOW PLAYERS ARE CHOSEN AND CRITERIA USED IN FORMING TEAMS:

- Players between the ages of 8-14 years must attend a tryout in order to be eligible to be selected for the Patriots.
- Tryout dates, times and locations will be communicated to all MPPD house league players and their parents via emails and placed on the Patriots Baseball Team Sideline website. Extenuating circumstances, such as injury or illness during the tryout period, must be communicated to the Mt. Prospect Park District so ***if possible,*** that a player can be evaluated at some other time.
- Trying out does not mean that a player is automatically selected for a travel team. The philosophy of travel play is to field the most competitive team possible.
- Tryouts at each age level will be conducted by third party evaluators, who do not have a child trying out for a team.
- The following areas will be evaluated during tryouts:
    1. Infield abilities (arm strength, range, throwing accuracy)
    2. Outfield abilities (catching, arm strength)
    3. Baserunning (speed, consistency, hustle)
    4. Hitting (form, hand/eye coordination, power/contact)
    5. (optional) Pitching (velocity, command)
    6. Attitude and effort during the tryout.
    7. Commitment to the team (ie - attendance for games & practices) could also be a factor in determining who makes the team.
- The number of players chosen for a team and the number of teams at each age level will be determined on the skill level, positional needs and overall roster balance.

- Players who are trying out should try out for their appropriate age level. In certain circumstances, a player may be invited to participate for the next highest age level team. If this occurs, there is no guarantee to be selected on the same team for the following season.

DEVELOPMENTAL PHILOSOPHY FOR PATRIOTS TEAMS

- 8U/9U - Primarily development, multiple positions, some strategy
- 10U - Advanced development, still play several positions, baseball strategy
- 11U - Full baseball rules, building baseball IQ, 2-3 positions, advanced baseball strategy
- 12U - Strategy nuances, advanced baseball IQ, 1-2 positions, advanced baseball strategy
- 13U - Intro to advanced baseball IQ, 1-2 positions
- 14U - Advanced baseball IQ, 1-2 positions

HOW COACHES ARE CHOSEN AND CRITERIA USED:

- Managers and Assistant Coaches will be determined ***after*** evaluations are completed. Anyone interested in managing/coaching should not assume their child(ren) are guaranteed placement on a Patriot team; child(ren) of coaches must have the ability to be selected for a team independent of whether or not their parent has shown interest in coaching.
- All Managers and Coaches must complete all required MPPD volunteer forms and are subject to a background check to be considered. Anyone interested in coaching a Patriots team should contact the Athletic Manager prior to the tryout date(s).

Questions:

Visit Patriots website or contact MPPD Athletic Staff at 847-640-1000.
Visit the LSFBL website for an overview on the league information & rules.

Patriots Travel Baseball Program Structure

<table>
<tr><td>Age Requirement:</td><td>Patriot teams are organized by age, as determined by a player's age on May 2nd of the current season.
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<tr><th>Age Division</th><th>Birthday NOT before:</th></tr>
<tr><td>9U</td><td>5/2/2016</td></tr>
<tr><td>10U</td><td>5/2/2015</td></tr>
<tr><td>11U</td><td>5/2/2014</td></tr>
<tr><td>12U</td><td>5/2/2013</td></tr>
<tr><td>13U</td><td>5/2/2012</td></tr>
<tr><td>14U</td><td>5/2/2011</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>When are Tryouts:</td><td>Tryouts will be held in July/August for the upcoming year. Specific Dates, Times & Locations for each age group will be determined at a later date. Families will be asked to give a verbal commitment within 48 hours of teams being posted.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Time Commitment:</td><td>The Patriots travel teams play at a "B/C" level of competition (the next level after house league) and require a strong commitment from both player and family. Your spring/summer through the end of July will consist of many trips to Mt. Prospect fields and surrounding suburbs with a lot of baseball (practices and games). Mt. Prospect Park District Patriots Travel Baseball players are expected to be committed to being a Patriot! Attendance for practices and games could be used as a factor in future year's tryouts and consideration. WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE DO NOT SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING APRIL - JULY.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fees:</td><td>The 2027 per player fee will be <u>$925.00</u> per player. A 2 part payment plan will be available with first payment due in August 2025. The fee covers uniform costs, winter training, tournament/league fees, umpires, equipment, and a Patriots promotional item. Uniform includes a hat, 2 jerseys, 2 striped pants, 2 pairs of socks, 2 belts & a practice t-shirt. All players new to the program will receive a batting helmet and helmet decal. There will be a uniform sizing day typically during offseason training.

Purchase of new add-on items (backpacks, new helmets) are an additional fee.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Winter Training (Jan. - Apr.)</td><td>Patriots teams will participate in Winter Training at either the CCC turf field or RecPlex gym, once per week from December - early April. Teams will additionally participate in up to 8 team training sessions with Health Performance Institute (HPI)'s professional baseball coaches.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Regular Season (Apr. - Jul.)</td><td>Teams can expect to meet multiple days per week for practices and/or games and will play in the Lake Shore Feeder Baseball League (LSFBL). Teams can play between 14-20 games per team, depending on the age.
Teams will play in 2 weekend tournaments and those tournament weekends may vary depending on team & competition level. Additional tournaments may come with additional cost.
At the conclusion of the LSFBL regular season, there will be a single elimination tournament that runs through approximately the last week of July.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Minimum Play Rule:</td><td>Each player present in uniform at the start of the game must play at least three (3) innings defensively in a regular scheduled game. Each team shall bat its entire line up.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Refunds</td><td>Full refunds may not be issued after a certain point if a player needs to withdraw from the team. This will be on a case by case basis depending on what expenses have already been incurred for the program.

Please note that if a tournament or the exact number of regular season games aren't played due to weather, refunds will not be issued out to participants. We will work with coaches to find an alternative option</td></tr>
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