



BATTER UP!

GRADE-LEVEL BASEBALL LEAGUE

IMPORTANT DATES

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| Feb 12 | Registration opens |
| Apr 5 | Registration deadline |
| Apr 9 | Mandatory Coaches' Meeting for Mustang and Bronco
6:00pm @ Ironworks Branch |
| Apr 16 | Mandatory Coaches' Meeting for Shetland and Pinto
6:00pm @ Ironworks Branch |
| TBD | Pre-draft skills evaluation (Mustang and Bronco ONLY) |
| May 9 | League Drafts (Mustang and Bronco ONLY) |
| May 12 | All players should have been contacted by their coach by this date |
| May 20 | Practices may begin this week |
| Jun. 3 | League games begin |
| Jul. 25-28 | End of season tournament |

COMMITMENT TO CHARACTER



CORE VALUES

Caring - We expect athletes, coaches, officials, and parents to remain committed to their team, teammates, themselves, and the integrity of the sport while at practice, before, during, and after games, and at all times. Sports, at their core, are about commitment.

Honesty - We are dedicated to an equal and fair standard. This happens when athletes, coaches, officials, and parents are honest at all times. In the end, cheaters never win and winners never cheat.

Respect - We expect all athletes, coaches, officials, and parents to be treated with dignity at all times. The experience is the focus, not the outcome.

Responsibility - We hold athletes, coaches, officials, and parents responsible for their actions. It is vital that everyone is following the rules and conducting themselves with, Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility at all times.

THE FOUR PLAYER VALUES

Caring - I will demonstrate caring to my sport and my teammates by practicing and playing to the best of my ability at all times.

Honesty - I will live out honesty by playing by the rules; I won't complain to the officials.

Respect - I will be respectful to my teammates, the coaches, and the officials by treating them how I would like to be treated.

Responsibility - I understand that actions have consequences and I pledge to take accept the consequences for my actions at all times.

THE FOUR COACH VALUES

Caring - I will show my players I care by being prepared for practices and games.

Honesty - I demonstrate honesty by upholding the rules, regardless of the outcome.

Respect - I will respect each player and strive to help players' development individually and as a team. I will ensure that all players are respected by myself, teammates, and parents. Ensuring everyone has equal opportunity to learn and develop is one of my most important roles as a coach.

Responsibility - I understand the responsibility of being a coach and the impact my choices have on players and parents. I am a role model for all players and parents, and I will not only follow the rules-I will uphold them at all times.

THE FOUR PARENT VALUES

Caring - I will show my player that I care and support him/her by encouraging development both on and off the field/court.

Honesty - I will be a good role model for my player and their teammates by demonstrating honesty, regardless of the outcome.

Respect - I will respect all players, teammates, coaches, and officials at all times and understand that

this level of play is focused on fun, fair play, and development.

Responsibility - I understand that my player will demonstrate the same level of responsibility I have. Therefore, I will follow the rules and policies for the sport in which my player is participating, and will accept responsibility for my actions.

FAQ's



What age groups does YMCA baseball serve?

Our baseball leagues are for players ages 5-12.

How do I determine my player's "league age"?

Register your child based on their age as of MAY 1ST. No player is allowed to play up or down a division.

What do the programs cost?

LEVEL	COST (members)*	COST (community)*	GAME NIGHTS
Shetland	\$80.00	\$110.00	Mon, Tue, or Thu
Pinto	\$95.00	\$125.00	Mon & Wed
Mustang	\$110.00	\$140.00	Mon & Wed
Bronco	\$125.00	\$155.00	Tue & Thu

**There is a multi-child discount. If you are registering more than one child from the same household, you will receive \$10 off of EACH registration. You must register in-person to receive this discount.*

When does registration begin and where can I register?

Registration officially opens on February 12th. You can register online at statelineymca.org/baseball, on the Y app, or in-person at the Ironworks Branch or Roscoe Branch of the Stateline Family YMCA.

What baseball programs are offered for each age group?

Shetland (ages 5-6): This league is a mix between coach pitch and t-ball. This league plays once a week and follows the guidelines of our other baseball programs. We use soft core safety baseballs to reduce the fear of injury and increase player enjoyment. This league consists of boys and girls who are put on a set team for the season. Shetland teams can expect to play a minimum of 8 games. Each player receives 5 pitches from their coach, and if they do not put the ball in play a tee is used. Games are 1-hour in length and held on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday with a start time of 5:30pm or 6:40pm.

Pinto (Ages 7-8): This league is coach pitch to allow for more "hittable" pitches at the plate and more action in the field. Each player can receive up to 7 pitches from their coach. If the batter does not put a live ball into play after 7 pitches, an out is recorded. Teams are formed by the YMCA. Each game is about 75-minutes in length. Games will be held mostly on Mondays and Wednesdays with a start time of 6:00pm.

Mustang (44/60) (Ages 9-10): This is a player pitch league. Games are played on diamonds with a 44' pitching distance and 60' bases. There is no leading off, and no stealing until the ball crosses the plate. Teams are formed through a coach draft. Games are usually about 90-minutes in length and held on Monday's and Wednesdays with start times of 5:30pm or 7:30pm.

Bronco (48/70) (Ages 11-12): In this division, games are played on diamonds with a 48' pitching distance and 70' base paths. Players may lead off and steal as they would in a regular game. Teams are formed through a coaches' draft. Games are usually about 90-minutes in length and held on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a start time of 5:30pm or 7:30pm.

What does the player fee cover?

Each player's fee covers only a portion of the expenses we incur to operate our leagues (team equipment, uniforms, umpires, grounds crew wages, grounds keeping equipment, concession stand supervisors, janitorial services, etc.). We cover the rest of our operating expenses with support from a combination of sources, including our donors, team sponsors, on-field advertisers, concession stand operations, and tournament hosting activities.

Is my child on the same team he/she was last year?

No. Each child will be assigned to a new team. This is done so kids have the opportunity to play for other coaches and meet new kids in the program.

- Shetland and Pinto: The YMCA will put together teams based on school/area as much as possible. Requests will be considered at these age groups, but not PROMISED.
- Mustang, Bronco, and Pony: These teams are put together by a coaches' draft. No requests will be considered for these age groups; whatever team a player is drafted to is the team that they will play for.

What is the Pre-Draft Skills Session?

All of our teams, ages 9-12, are formed by a coaches' draft. The skills session puts all participants through individual drills while our volunteer coaches observe and take notes. The following week all coaches will meet with the YMCA Sports Director and have league drafts. Drafts are not on-site or in front of players or parents.

We encourage ALL participants to show up to the pre draft skills session, as this will help coaches' draft process and help us get teams as balanced and fair as possible. Also, it is a good opportunity to get extra practice in and learn drills. Players will need to bring a bat and glove to the skills session.

With that being said, even if you miss this skills clinic you will still be drafted onto a team. THE DATE OF THIS SKILLS SESSION IS TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Do parents need to volunteer in the concession stand or in any capacity?

Our concession stand is fully staffed, so you can sit back and relax while watching your child's game! We do however, depend on volunteer coaches for our program. Our program is a very large program and the need for motivated and dedicated volunteers is constantly growing. If you are interested in coaching, please contact Kobe Hollenbeck at khollenbeck@statelineymca.org.

All coaches are required to attend a mandatory coaches' meeting, where we will share how our program works, rules and regulations, and practice drills:

- **Mustang and Bronco Coaches' Meeting: April 9th - 6:00pm @ Ironworks Branch**
- **Shetland and Pinto Coaches' Meeting: April 16th - 6:00pm @ Ironworks Branch**

Does my player need to buy any equipment to play?

The YMCA supplies all our teams with balls, 4 batting helmets, and catcher's gear. We also supply all our players with a team uniform consisting of an MLB-themed T shirt, hat, pants, and socks; coaches receive an MLB-themed T-shirt and hat.

YMCA players generally supply their own fielding gloves, batting gloves, bats, shoes/cleats. We strongly encourage players also bring their own batting helmet. Please label personal equipment so that we can return it to the proper owner should your child happen to misplace it during the season!

When is uniform pickup?

The complete uniform will be given to coaches this year to handout at practice.

When is picture day?

Picture Day is TBD

Does the YMCA cut any kids?

No. If you register for YMCA baseball, you will be placed on a team. Please note, however, that we do have limits to the number of players who can play in each league; we will close registration for those leagues as they are filled.

How many games do the teams play?

- Shetland: teams play roughly 8 games.
- Pinto, Mustang, and Bronco: teams play at least 12 games.

Since our leagues have an end of the year tournament, the exact number of games for each team depends on how well the team does in the tournaments. Rain outs can also affect the final number of games a team plays although, we make every attempt to reschedule any rain outs. This year the only weekend that games will be scheduled on the weekends, is during our end of season tournament. Which runs from July 25th through July 28th.

Does every player get to play?

Yes! In all leagues every player on the team roster must have at least one plate appearance and play three consecutive outs on defense in each game.

When does the season start, and how long does it last?

Practice will begin the week of May 20th. Games will run June 3rd through July 28th. Once games begin, teams will generally play two games per week. Shetland will have 1 game per week. We do our best to schedule our games so that certain leagues play on certain days of the week, but we cannot promise that this will always be the case.

How often will my player's team practice?

We believe one of the most important factors in player development is regular team practices. For that reason, we encourage our volunteer coaches to practice with their teams as often as they can, subject to our guidelines that each team **MUST** practice at least once per week during the season.

Because each of our coaches have unique job situations, and because the practice fields in our area are limited, it is impossible for us to tell you exactly when your player will have practices during the season.

Where are the games played?

All league games are played at the YMCA Youth Sports Complex located at 3301 Prairie Ave. in Beloit.

Do games occur on the weekends?

Season games are not scheduled on weekends. We will have end of season tournament from July 25th through 28th that will involve weekend games.

The only other time a weekend game might be played is if there is a make-up game that needs to be played. We do our best to schedule our league games so that they occur on certain days during the week, but since the number of teams in each league fluctuates from year to year, we may not always be able to do this.

What times are the games?

The baseball games are usually scheduled to begin at either 5:30pm (Mustang, Bronco, and Shetland), 6:00pm (Pinto), 6:40pm (Shetland) or 7:30p.m (Mustang and Bronco).

What is Your Refund Policy?

All refund requests will be at the director's discretion.

- Before practice begins: a full credit on your account will be permitted.
- Once practice begins: a 50% credit on your account will be permitted. This is due to the fact that uniforms are already ordered, and teams have already been formed by this time. All refund requests are subject to the director's approval.
- Once games begin: no refunds or credits are permitted.

BAT REQUIREMENTS

The bat must be a baseball bat which meets the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat) as adopted by Little League. It shall be a smooth, rounded stick, and made of wood or of material and color tested and proved acceptable to the USA Baseball Bat standard (USABat).

Specifications:

- Non-wood and laminated bats used in the Little League (Majors) and below, Intermediate (50/70) Division, Junior League divisions, and Challenger division shall bear the USA Baseball logo signifying that the bat meets the USABat USA Baseball's Youth Bat Performance Standard
- All BPF 1.15 bats will be prohibited
- The bat diameter shall not exceed $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches for these divisions to play.
- Bats meeting the Batted Ball Coefficient of Restitution (BBCOR) standard may also be used in the Intermediate (50/70) Division and Junior League divisions. Additional information is available at LittleLeague.org/batinfo

Shetland and Pinto:

- Any little league approved bat for baseball or T-ball
- Not be more than 33" in length; nor more than $2\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter
- Wood bats: not less than fifteen sixteenths inches ($\frac{15}{16}$ " in diameter at its smallest part ($\frac{7}{8}$ " for bats less than 30"). Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed 16" from the small end

Mustang:

- The bat may not exceed 33" in length; nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter
- Wood bats: not less than fifteen sixteenths inches ($\frac{15}{16}$ " in diameter at its smallest part ($\frac{7}{8}$ " for bats less than 30"). Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed 16" from the small end

Bronco:

- The bat may not exceed 34" in length; nor more than $2\frac{5}{8}$ " in diameter
- Wood bats: not less than fifteen sixteenths inches ($\frac{15}{16}$ " in diameter at its smallest part ($\frac{7}{8}$ " for bats less than 30"). Wood bats taped or fitted with a sleeve may not exceed 18" from the small end