



To: USR Parents and children ages 7u-10u

From: Upper Saddle River Baseball Board in conjunction with the USR Recreation Commission

Subject: The formation of Highlands Travel Baseball

This year the Upper Saddle River Baseball Board took proactive steps to enhance the Travel Baseball experience for its Baseball players by leading the way to merge the four sending districts of Northern Highlands (USR, Allendale and HoHo-Kus, Saddle River) into a singular Travel Baseball program. This new entity will be known as Highlands Travel Baseball. As a board, we are very excited about this new program.

All the towns felt a strong desire to provide a better travel experience for our players by offering a more competitive and comprehensive travel program.

Beginning with the Spring season of 2018 and age groups that include *7u, 8u, 9u and 10u USR children will have the option to try out for Highlands Travel Baseball – USR Travel Baseball will continue to exist for 11u and 12u only in 2018 and 12u only for 2019.

Travel Fees are as follows:

- 7u = \$375
- 8u/9u/10u Spring and Summer = \$550
- 8u/9u/10u Spring only or Summer only = \$450

We expect multiple teams at each age group and from the 8u teams thru 10u there will be A and B teams (assuming we have enough players). 7u will consist of teams that have equal talent.

In order to qualify for an A team each participant must be eligible to play Spring and Summer – If a child can only participate in the Spring or Summer that child will be placed on a team that plays for just that season. For example – If a child can only participate in Spring due to summer commitments then they are not eligible for the A team – The same for Summer only players.

While this is a change we feel it is the best route forward for our collective Baseball programs and one that will provide a better experience for all players going forward.

We are attaching a few Frequently Asked Questions, but as always you can e-mail usrbaseball@gmail.com with questions, please also provide a contact number you can be reached at as well. A Highlands Travel Baseball registration announcement is forthcoming which will include a Highlands Travel Baseball website.

- **Will this be a separate registration site from USR Baseball?** Yes, Highlands Baseball will have a new website and registration will take place there for Highlands Travel Baseball.
- **Do I still have to register for Recreation Baseball?** Yes, you will now register your child for just Recreation Baseball thru the USR website (www.usrbaseball.com) and pay a separate fee for just recreation (fees are on the website, a communication from USR Baseball on registration will be forthcoming as well) – In addition all participants from each of the sending districts will be required to enroll in recreational baseball – USR mandates you attend 75% > of all recreation games to be eligible to play travel (this rule has not changed)
- **What is the commitment level required?** In the Spring and Summer Baseball will expect that Baseball be your child's top priority in terms of sport played. There will also be winter training sessions scheduled appropriately in and around the other winter sports. Spring Baseball starts in late March to early April pending weather. Summer Baseball starts in mid-June and ends in mid to late July.
- **Will we be getting new uniforms?** Yes, there will be a mascot change as well from the USR Cardinals to the Highlands Bulldogs.
- **Will the uniform be included in my fee?** Yes, like before the fee will be all inclusive, but you will have one for Rec and one for Travel.
- **When will registration and tryouts be taken place?** Travel registration and tryouts will be communicated in the next few days payment is due upon registration
- **How will tryouts be evaluated and Coaches decided?** Tryouts will be evaluated by independent trainers and or coaches not affiliated with that age group – teams will be formed and parents and players notified within a few weeks of the final tryout date – Coaches will be based on the pool of coaches and decisions made by the Highlands Travel Baseball board.
- **What about Cooperstown for my child's age group?** The good news is we now have multiple bids to Cooperstown and should be able to send more than one team each year, this in turn provides more boys the experience to play at the home of Baseball.

- **What about 11u, 12u and 13/14u Travel Baseball?** 11u and 12u will be staying with their respective towns because it was felt that those teams are closer to their Cooperstown year and we did not want to disrupt those age groups – There is a chance we will also have a 13u an 14u or combined team – The Highlands Travel Baseball Board is working on that as we speak.
- **Who are our representatives from USR on the Highlands Travel Baseball Board?**
 - Frank Barker (President USR Baseball and President of Highlands Travel Baseball)
 - Jim Canariato (Vice President USR Baseball)
 - Ron Dario (USR Baseball Attorney)
 - James DiPaolo
 - Craig Hollander.

If you have any further questions please send them to usrbaseball@gmail.com – Happy Holidays!