



HIGHLANDS TRAVEL BASEBALL

ALLENDALE HOHOKUS SADDLE RIVER UPPER SADDLE RIVER

7U Summer Baseball Update

(Please pass this message along if you know of potentially interested families)
In cooperation with the USR Recreation Commission

We at HTB hope this email finds you and all of your families well. At the 7U age level, many of you do not have familiarity with Highlands Travel Baseball yet. HTB is a travel baseball program with teams comprised of players from Allendale, Ho-Ho-Kus, Saddle River, and Upper Saddle River. We offer a summer program for the 7U age group and spring/summer & fall programs for ages 8U up through High School, working closely with our town's recreational programs as well the Northern Highlands Regional High School Baseball.

As you may have read or heard from your coaches, Governor Murphy on Friday [announced the return of non-contact outdoor youth sports effective June 22](#). Baseball was specifically mentioned in the live briefing. While we wait for complete details from the NJ Department of Health regarding safety standards we are excited to share our offering of a 7U summer program this year! Please be mindful that a lot of things have to fall into place but we wanted to communicate our intention as early as possible.

Typically, at the 7U age level HTB enrolls our teams in the NEBAS league in their 7U/8U coach pitch program. While that league is fantastic and we have had amazing experiences there remains uncertainty with start dates and guidance. Considering league uncertainty, timeframe, and lack of a recreational coach pitch season this year, we are looking to keep our 7U program in house with intra-program practices and games! We hope to make it a fun learning experience for our kids and give them a chance to get out and play some baseball. Details are below:

- **Eligibility:** Your child is eligible if 1) **their birth date is between 9/1/12-8/31/13 OR 2) their birth date is between 9/1/13-8/31/14 AND he/she is in 1st grade. THIS POLICY IS FIRM.**
- **Schedule:** 6 week program aiming to start the week of 6/22/20 and wrapping up the week of 7/27/20. We plan to have (2) sessions a week – (1) weeknight & (1) weekend. The first week or two will be clinic/practice type sessions to get the kids back into the game and teach positions as well as experience some coach pitch. The last (4) weeks will feature intra-program games where we will follow the NEBAS baseball rules which include real outs, real scores, and is a small step up from recreational baseball which will get the kids ready for competitive travel baseball in the future.
- **Team Structure:** We expect to divide kids into teams as small as 6 or 7 to allow for social distancing.

- **Location:** The games will be held among the (4) town facilities (USR, HHK, SR, Allendale) as to allow HTB to control the cleanliness of the fields.
- **Uniforms:** Helmets with protective face flaps, shirts, and hats will be provided. Pants, belts & socks will be required but responsibility of each player to provide.
- **Fees:** Fees will be communicated with the registration (and ensuing communication) by the weekend.

There will be state baseball guidelines forthcoming and we will adhere, at a minimum, to those guidelines. A couple items for this age group that we expect to put in place regardless of the guidelines are outlined below:

- While the fielding team is in the field, coaches will be in the field keeping them in positions and distanced from each other. Seven positions will be played (1st, 2nd, 3rd, SS, and (2 or 3) outfielders). Only a coach will be at the mound pitching.
- While the batting team is at bat, players will sit with their family. Only the batter will be at the plate and the on deck batter will be in the on deck box or circle.
- There will be no catchers or plays at the plate. A coach may enter the backstop to return passed pitched balls but there will be no coach catching.
- There will be no shared equipment (helmets, bats, gloves, hats, etc...) Each child should bring a bag with their equipment and bats and leave them with their parents on the sidelines when not being used.
- A waiver will be provided to sign before any child can step on the field.
- Social distancing will be required for all players and spectators on the field and player/families must be spaced 6 ft. apart when batting
- We may only mandate masks if state and or local rules require them.

Registration & Volunteers! We are hoping to open registration this weekend. Stay tuned for a followup message from us. While we are trying to provide as much information as we can at this time, let us know if you have questions. And if you are interested in volunteering for this program (we need volunteers!) please let us know. Email us with the subject line "**7U Baseball**" at highlandstravelbaseball@gmail.com.

Formed in 2017, Highlands Travel Baseball encompasses all 4 towns comprising Northern Highlands Regional High School – Allendale, HoHoKus, Saddle River and Upper Saddle River.

We encourage parents to volunteer as a coach, assistant coach, team parent and helping with the field maintenance. Donations are welcome - we are a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Stay tuned for more information or visit us at

www.HighlandsTravelBaseball.com

- field info, registration/donation links, our sponsors and more -

Please email us at highlandstravelbaseball@gmail.com with any questions.

Highlands Travel Baseball

Allendale · HoHokus · Saddle River · Upper Saddle River

Copyright © 2017 Highlands Travel Baseball Association, All rights reserved.