

# Spring-Klein Sports Association

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## Blue Book Youth Baseball Program Information



2025 Edition

[www.sksa.com](http://www.sksa.com)

Spring-Klein Baseball  
22418 Rothwood Drive, Spring, Texas 77389  
Fax: 832-201-8893

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## **Welcome to Spring-Klein Sports Association**

The Spring-Klein Sports Association (SKSA) is a non-profit organization based in Spring, Texas with facilities at the Rothwood Complex, Klein Park, and Collins Park. The Spring-Klein Youth Baseball program is designed to offer the youth of our community an opportunity to participate in organized team sports regardless of their skill level. SKSA offers both league and tournament opportunities.

The SKSA Sports Board is our governing body and has the ultimate responsibility for overseeing the operations and finances associated with Spring-Klein Baseball. The Spring-Klein Baseball Board manages the day to day operations associated with running our league.

SKSA is a volunteer based organization and our board members are parents and coaches just like you. Our league could not function without our volunteers. Spring-Klein is actively seeking volunteers for board positions, coaches, team parents, scorekeepers, sponsors, etc. We want to encourage you to do your part to serve the youth of our community and take an active role in your child's baseball experience.

### **Mission Statement**

The goal of Spring-Klein Baseball is to provide a healthy environment for the youth of our community to learn fundamental baseball skills while teaching values like honesty, integrity, and respect to help our players be good citizens. This is accomplished when our parents, coaches, and league officials work closely together to train our players on traditional baseball skills (hitting, fielding, and throwing) as well as by teaching them by example with good sportsmanship, by playing by the rules, and being respectful of an official's decision. All coaches, players, and parents have the ultimate responsibility of helping SKSA work towards achieving that goal.

### **The Story of Spring-Klein Baseball**

In the summer of 1955, Cruze Reynolds and Elmer Lemm put together a baseball team from the Spring & Klein communities to play at the Cypress Fairbanks League. At the time, Spring and Klein were mostly made up of farmers and dairymen and the area was sparsely populated. It took boys from Spring and Klein to have enough to field a single team and thus, Spring-Klein Baseball was born.

Many of the names on our early teams are easily recognizable. They were; Vic Bailey, Jack Dean Bartels, Roy Benignus, Caleb Hassler, Glen Huffsfiedt, Charlie Langston, Mike Langston, Gary Lemm, Jack

Reynolds, Buddy Ray Roth, Donald Schindewolf, and Perry Schindewolf.

The next year, four PeeWee league teams were formed with the players from various ages. These games were played behind the Doerre Brothers Store at the corner of Kuykendahl and Spring Cypress. As the league grew, it purchased land on Spring Cypress. They built one field the first year and then added three more fields shortly after. When the fields were completed the league deeded this land to Harris County, which is now Klein Park. Our league has played baseball under many league affiliations over the years from Texas Teenage Baseball to AABC, PONY, USSSA, and most recently Nations Baseball.

By the late 1970's, the fields at Klein Park were outgrown. Some Spring-Klein board members took a big personal risk and purchased land where our Rothwood facility is today so Spring-Klein Baseball could continue to grow. With the help of many volunteers, they built four fields with no grass and in the early years, Rothwood was known as "The Dust Bowl". Thanks to these gentlemen and many who followed, Rothwood now has 13 fields and we are glad to say are all covered with grass.

Spring-Klein Baseball currently has a total of 22 fields (14 at Rothwood, 4 at Klein Park, and 4 at Collins). Over the last 52 years Spring-Klein Baseball registration has grown to well over 3000 players per year. There is an asphalt path making its way around the park to help provide easy access to any field. Our lighting project was completed during the spring of 2004. That plus our field maintenance program clearly makes our Rothwood complex one of the premier baseball parks in our area.

Over the years, Spring-Klein Baseball has become the home of many great World Series and championship teams. We are very proud of our league and all of our successes and we look forward to you and your player adding to those great memories as we continue to move our league forward.

## **General Information**

SKSA maintains this document periodically and it will provide you with general information about our league. For the absolute latest information, always reference our website ([www.sksa.com](http://www.sksa.com)) as you will find the latest contact information and the most accurate communications, game schedules and scores, and tournament information.

If you have issues, please make every attempt to resolve it through your manager and team mom / parent as they are your primary point of contact. If they cannot help you, send your league coordinator an email. Have patience and remember they are volunteers and they will respond to your email as quickly as possible.

Also, anytime you are at one of our baseball complexes, you can notify any board member on field duty. You can easily recognize them by their "SKB" caps.

## **Volunteers**

SKSA is a volunteer based organization. We depend on volunteers like you to fill roles within our league and we want to encourage you to contribute at whatever level you can. There are various volunteer opportunities from helping with field work day, to equipment or uniform hand out, to serving on a baseball committee or board. Our managers and coaches, team parents, scorekeepers, are all volunteering their time. To volunteer today, please contact [Baseball@sksa.com](mailto:Baseball@sksa.com) or notify any board member. This is your league and we encourage you to take an active role in helping us improve your child's baseball experience.

**NOTE:** All team volunteers must register online and complete an annual background check. The background check is executed as part of the online registration which is mandatory. Any volunteer that is on the playing field or in the dugout ("inside the fence") must wear their identification badge at all times. Any volunteer without a badge will be removed from inside the fences. SKSA will provide each team with 2 volunteer badges free of charge. Any additional personnel wishing to be inside the fences will need to pay for a background check and associated badge at a cost of \$25 per badge.

## **Sponsorship and Fundraisers**

Spring-Klein is a non-profit organization and sponsorship and fundraisers are critical for our success. We have a several fundraiser activities scheduled during our spring season. These are critical for us to reach our financial goals. These fundraiser activities are required.

### **Team Sponsorship**

All Metro and Senior league teams are responsible for recruiting a team sponsor. The team sponsorship fee for the 2010 spring season is \$375 and \$150 for the fall season. All sponsorship fees are tax deductible. If a sponsor has not been identified by the deadline, team parents will be required to pitch in and pay the team sponsorship fee. Team sponsors will receive a plaque with your team's picture to proudly display at their business. The sponsorship fee is mandatory, even for teams that choose to provide their own team name and uniforms.

### **Spring Team Basket Raffle**

As part of the spring season each team is responsible for building a team basket and turning it in for the basket raffle which will be conducted on Carnival Day. The baskets should be built on a theme and have a minimum value of \$50. The team parent or manager will organize the creation of the basket and turn-in by the posted date. Details will be provided at the manager and team parent meeting. No alcohol or chocolate (or other melting candy) should be included in baskets.

### **Carnival Day**

Every year SKSA hosts Carnival Day for the youth baseball programs. It includes a parade for all teams, bouncy houses, obstacle courses and other fun activities for the whole family, basket raffle, team pictures and a train ride. We have a special game for the Superstars and many vendors on site with various product. It is a great time for the whole family and we encourage everyone to come out and spend the day with us. Each team is required to provide volunteers to help staff Carnival Day activities, failure to cover volunteer shifts will result in forfeiture of the team's next game.

### **Team Pictures**

Team pictures are another source of fundraising for our league. We will schedule team and individual pictures during the spring and fall seasons. We ask that all players participate in these events as a portion of the proceeds will go to SKSA to help cover team sponsorship plaques.

## Baseball Divisions - Levels of Play

Spring-Klein Baseball hosts recreational and preformed leagues in the fall and spring. Players are classified into divisions based on the player's age and skill level. SKSA is not affiliated with any national organization. The registration and classification of each player is at the sole discretion of the Baseball Board

### Metro Baseball (recreational)

The Metro division is considered our traditional or recreational class of baseball. This division accommodates players from ages 5 through 14. In order to ensure all players receive fair playing time, league guidelines require managers to bat their entire roster every game and play all of their players in the field a minimum of every other inning. Our fall season for the Metro division is considered instructional and there will be no individual or team awards.

#### Registration

- Each player is required to register each season
- Player registration options are online (see link below) or and in person at our Rothwood facility on select days prior to the season start.
- Registration details:  
<http://www.sksa.com/registration-baseball/>
- Spring-Klein hosts a spring, summer and a fall league for this division.

#### Age Cutoff

- April 30th is the formal age cutoff. For birth dates May 1 – August 31, players can "play up" one age group so they can play with classmates.
- Exception: For convenience purposes, players will be allowed to "play up" one age group upon request if they have an older sibling playing in the older division. Contact your league coordinator for details.

#### Team Formation

- League Formed Teams – Recreational team rosters are formed by the league coordinators by grouping players together based on their school, subdivision, and geographic location. Special requests will be allowed during registration. **NOTE: Not all special requests can or will be honored.**
- Friendship Teams – These are preformed recreational teams in the Metro divisions. The goal of "Friendship Teams" is to provide teams with the ability to maintain a core group of kids at the recreational level so they can improve their skills as a unit and

advance to the next level as a team.

## **Metro Division "Friendship" Team Overview and Guidelines**

All Friendship Team rosters are reviewed and approved/denied by the Baseball Board. The Board evaluates applications using various criteria to ensure fairness and maintain the integrity of the league. This is a non-exhaustive list of factors that the Board considers in evaluating rosters. However, these are not binding on or determinative of the Board's final decision. The guidelines are provided so that an applicant may ascertain whether his/her proposed team complies with the basic elements that comprise a true Friendship Team. **Teams formed by an organization or "academy" thru a tryout or other selection process are not eligible to participate in Metro Leagues. Teams found to be violating this policy may be removed from the league with no refund issued to any individual.**

### Guidelines

1. The SKSA Baseball Board reserves the right to modify the Friendship Team Rules and Guidelines at anytime to protect the integrity of the Metro (recreational) program.
2. The Friendship Team manager must submit a manager's application per the stated deadlines.
3. The Friendship Team manager MUST submit a roster with a maximum of 9 in 5-8U and 9 in 9-15U. SKSA board reserves the right to review this on a case-by-case basis if deemed appropriate. **The manager's child is automatically included on the Friendship Roster in addition to the 9 roster players (total 10)**
4. The league WILL add players from the recreational pool to all approved Friendship teams. All Friendship Teams will have a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 13 players (5-8 yr old) and a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 12 players (9-14 yr old).
5. Each player on a Friendship Team must separately register, agree to the medical consent and liability waiver, and pay his/her registration fee prior to the close for regular registration. **NO TEAM/GROUP REGISTRATIONS.**
6. The Friendship Team manager shall submit his/her proposed roster to the appropriate age group coordinator by the designated deadline for the applicable playing season. The proposed roster must include the following information: (1) players names; (2) dates of birth; and (3) teams/leagues each player played for during last 2 seasons. If a player has not registered and paid by the close of regular registration, that player is not guaranteed a roster spot on your team and that

- position may be backfilled by the league.
7. Players that are not listed on the friendship roster and request a coach that has submitted a friendship roster will NOT be placed on that team unless the coach submitted less than a full 9 player roster.
  8. Friendship Teams are required to pay the standard Metro team sponsor fee.
  9. The league will issue a standard team uniform to Friendship Teams.
  10. Friendship Teams are allowed to use custom team names (non-SKSA assigned names), however the Friendship Team is responsible for supplying its uniforms to all players. Friendship Teams are responsible for providing non-league issued uniforms to any backfilled player at no cost to the player. SKSA WILL NOT reimburse the team or reduce the registration fee for the uniform costs.
  11. SKSA will issue the Friendship Team standard equipment as issued to other Metro teams.
  12. A Friendship Team roster SHALL NOT include more than 4 players from any Select/AA team that finished the previous spring or fall season with a 500 or higher power rating.
  13. A Friendship Team can ONLY include one player that ranked as an Elite/AAA player during the previous season.
  14. Coaches attempting to circumvent friendship roster guidelines may be subject to disciplinary action by the Baseball Board. Actions such as only submitting 1 sibling instead of both will cause the submitted sibling to be removed from the friendship roster and placed on a different team. The same will take place if a coach fails to include his registered assistant coaches child, the child and coach WILL be placed on a different team.

### Games & Practices

- Games are typically played Monday through Saturday
- Weekday games are held as early as 6:00 PM and as late as 8:15 PM for ages 9-15 and as early as 6:00 PM or as late as 8:00 PM for ages 5-8.
- Make up games are scheduled as availability allows with Friday being the primary makeup day.
- Metro teams typically play less than 20 games during the spring season and 10 games during the fall season. The summer season is 10 games with no post-season.
- The spring season concludes with a post season tournament play for all registered teams. The fall season will have a post season tournament for the top 4 teams in each age group.
- Practice location and times are determined by the manager.

***"More kids playing more baseball."***

- Managers are encouraged to limit team activities to no more than four team events per week (e.g. 2 games & 2 practices, etc).

### Uniforms & Equipment

- Spring Uniform – Each player will receive a jersey and cap.
- Summer & Fall Uniform – Players will receive a shirt and a cap.
- Team Equipment – Spring-Klein furnishes all game balls and batting tees in T-ball age groups. Catching equipment may be available upon request
- Other Equipment – Players are responsible for furnishing bats, fielding gloves, batting gloves, baseball cleats, personal batting helmet, etc.

## **Select Baseball**

The Select division provides a more competitive level of baseball for players of ages between 7 and 14. The key difference in the Metro and Select leagues is all of the Select teams are preformed teams and they usually play both league and tournament games. There is also a noticeable increase in the level of competition and commitment required to participate in this division. Select includes three divisions of increasing level of play which are Select, Elite and Premier. Some Select Leagues will be designated as "Open" which allows for any division to participate.

### Registration

- The Select League team registration is done through the website of the sanctioning organization for the league. Leagues may be Sanctioned through USSSA, Perfect Game or any other organization determined by the Board
- Teams must be registered with the sanctioning organization and all rosters are submitted and tracked on those websites.
- Deposits are accepted to hold a spot in the league until the deadline
- Spring-Klein hosts a spring and a fall league for this program

### Team Formation

- Select is a preformed league and managers form their rosters independently of Spring-Klein
- Parents and managers enter into independent agreements together
- Managers may hold player tryouts and openly recruit players
- SKSA will host a player showcase (tryout) before the season

### Uniforms & Equipment

- Select teams are responsible for furnishing their full uniforms
- Select teams are responsible for furnishing their own equipment
- SKSA will furnish baseballs for league play.

## **Klein Mustangs**

The Klein Mustangs are the Select organization affiliated with SKSA. The Klein Mustangs allow for a competitive level of play in both leagues and tournaments throughout the year. Players may come from within the SKSA program or be chosen from outside our area. This is a highly competitive level of play with teams being formed completely by open or private tryouts. Selection to a Mustangs team is completely at the discretion of the Klein Mustangs coaching staff. Higher level Mustang teams may be coached by our professional, paid instructors. See [www.sksa.com](http://www.sksa.com) for more information on the Klein Mustangs program.

## **Seniors Baseball**

This division accommodates players ranging from 16 to 18 who are interested in advancing their baseball skills and those who have the goal of playing for their high school team. This division is governed by The Official High School Baseball Rules of the National Federation of State High School Associations.

### Registration

- Player registration is offered on our website or at our Rothwood Baseball Complex during "In Person" registration.
- Spring-Klein hosts a spring and a fall league for this division.
- Spring Season – Players are not eligible for the spring season if they are active on the roster of a high school

### Team Formation

- Spring Season
  - Preformed teams are allowed, including Select or Academy teams
  - Non-Preformed teams will be formed using the same procedures as the Metro leagues
- Fall Season
  - Preformed teams are allowed, including Select or Academy teams
  - Teams may include high school baseball team players
  - Non-Preformed teams will be formed using the same procedures as the Metro leagues

### Games & Practices

- Spring - Teams play 12 games and an end of season tournament for all teams
- Fall - Teams play 10 games with an end of season tournament for the top 4 teams
- Practice location and times are determined by the manager.

## **Superstars Program**

The SKSA Superstars program is a very special program for our players with disabilities. It is open to all individuals of all ages and any disability. The Superstars league is only open during our spring season. This program provides these players with an opportunity to experience a fun and non-competitive environment to enjoy the great game of baseball. Spring-Klein recruits teams from our older age groups to help assist the Superstars during their games.

This is truly a wonderful program. These players are inspiring to watch and we encourage everyone to come out and cheer these players along. Keep checking the Superstars webpage for more details on game times and dates.

<http://www.sksa.com/baseball/registration/>

## Spring-Klein Executive Baseball Board

Position	Name	Email Address
Baseball President	Dustin McDonald	<a href="mailto:baseball@sksa.com">baseball@sksa.com</a>
Executive Director	John Carroll	<a href="mailto:executive.director@sksa.com">executive.director@sksa.com</a>
Select Baseball President	Jesse Stinson	<a href="mailto:Select.president@sksa.com">Select.president@sksa.com</a>
VP – 9-Seniors Metro	Mike Ayers	<a href="mailto:vp.914@sksa.com">vp.914@sksa.com</a>
VP – 5-8 Metro	Andrew Crowe	<a href="mailto:vp.58@sksa.com">vp.58@sksa.com</a>

## General League Information

### Game Rescheduling Policy

Weather and approved school activities are the ONLY reasons a game will be rescheduled. Makeup games will be rescheduled for the earliest reasonable date. Fridays evenings and Sunday afternoons will be used for rescheduling games.

### Weather

Rain out information will be posted to the website. Teams are expected to arrive at game time or risk forfeiture unless a cancellation notice is has been posted on the website. Additionally, email communication will be sent to all registered participants

### Game Stoppage

SKSA staff are onsite during all games. Staff are trained to manage weather, lightning and field conditions. SKSA staff, in consultation with the umpires, will determine when and if a game stoppage is necessary.

Should a stoppage be required during a game the following procedure is used for determining a reschedule:

- Games that have not completed 1 full inning of play will be completely restarted from scratch at a later date as if the game never happened.
- Games that have reached the “half-way” point will be considered an official game.
  - 5 or 6 inning games - Home team ahead after 2 ½ innings or behind after 3 innings
  - 7 inning games – Home team ahead after 3 ½ innings or behind after 4 completed innings
- Games that have been completed 1 inning but less than an official game will be rescheduled to play to completion. The game will

begin exactly where it was suspended. Any player that was at the original game but cannot attend the continuation will be skipped with no penalty. Any player not at the original game but that can attend the makeup will be added to the bottom of the batting order.

### **School Activities**

For a school activity to qualify, it must; 1) be an academic related activity, and 2) prevent the team from fielding the minimum 8 players. For consideration, the team manager must submit a written request to the league coordinator at least seven days prior to the event.

## **Team Manager Information**

The primary responsibility of the manager is to serve as the team leader on and off the field and for teaching the great game of baseball while helping players learn strong character qualities like honesty, integrity, fair play, and sportsmanship. Managers are expected to lead by example. They are held responsible for their actions as well as those of their players, coaches, and parents.

All Metro manager applicants will be closely screened and required to pass a background check. The Spring-Klein Baseball Board reserves the right to reject any applicant. Qualified candidates will be approved and assigned teams based on their volunteer record with Spring-Klein. Volunteer history and seniority will be used to settle assignment conflicts.

Managers can only manage one pitching age team per season. They are responsible for scheduling and conducting team practices. The manager must participate in all managers meetings during the season.

Failure to comply with any of these obligations may result in a candidate being denied a team in the future.

## **Refund Policy**

SKSA recognizes that situations may occur that require a child to need to withdraw from the league. Since a significant amount of resources must be expended prior to the season actually beginning, every instance of an expected registration being withdraw has a negative effect on the league. The following refund policy is in effect beginning with the 2025 Spring season. Please use these guidelines for seeking a refund. Not following this process or providing incomplete information will delay our ability to process of your refund.

Refund policy:

All refunds are subject to a \$25 administrative fee that will be withheld from the refund amount

Prior to registration closing: 100%

Once registration has closed: 50%

Once teams have been formed: No Refund

To request a refund:

1. Send an email to [KristinSKSA@gmail.com](mailto:KristinSKSA@gmail.com) with a copy to [Baseball@sksa.com](mailto:Baseball@sksa.com)
2. In the Subject line provide the word Refund along with the player's name and age group (example: Refund/John Smith/10U)

3. In the body of the email, please provide the following information:
  - a. Player's First & Last Name
  - b. Player's Age Division
  - c. Reason for Refund
  - d. Registration Fee, Discounts, Fundraiser Fees Owed, etc.
  - e. Parent or Guardian Name Requesting Refund
  - f. Mailing Address Receiving Refund (if paid by check)

### **Disputes**

The SKSA Vice President of Finance will resolve all disputes with regard to refunds in conjunction with the Spring-Klein Baseball Board.